



D9670 District Governor  
Amanda Roach

Issue 10  
May 2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## From the DG's desk ...

*Greetings one and all!!*

I trust that you enjoyed a wonderful Easter break and celebration, as well as the long weekend associated

with ANZAC Day, and participation in any community events associated with this.

**A very big THANK YOU to all the Clubs** who were represented at the Conference Resolutions Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 20th April. This was an historic event which has allowed our District to now proceed with finalising the establishment of the 2 companies with limited guarantee to manage our 3 Trust accounts into the future: The Margaret Illukol Company Limited, plus the Algie and Thorkilgaard Youth Company Limited (for both the Lotte Thorkilgaard

Trust and the John Algie Youth Trust). The motions were all accepted by those present, so we can now move to the final stages for company set up with applications also for charitable status and deductible gift receipt status.

As a consequence of the voting this last week, you will have already received the email application for Clubs (the Members of our District) to complete and become members of each of the 2 companies. The \$10 guarantee per Club, per company (so \$20 all up to be a member of both) will be paid by District once the application is returned to me, up until late June this year. Any applications made after 30th June (and into the future) will have to be paid by Clubs, as we will not have access to any D9670 specific money after that date. So please, if your Club would like to become a member shareholder in

either or both companies, **complete the forms and return to me ASAP.**

IPDG David and I have had some enjoyable Club visits over the last month, enjoying good fellowship and friendship, as well as interesting questions and discussion. Early April, we enjoyed the Merriwa Skate Park Complex meeting – a 5 stage project that was a concept in the early 2000's, now finally completed. Congratulations to Merriwa RC for your determination and persistence! This last week saw us in Bourke where we encountered kilometres of tumble weed blown across the road in windy conditions, and experiences of emu clusters along the verge. What a fantastic, varied country our current district includes! Imagine the experiences ahead as we merge into D9660!

The Rotary theme, for the month of May, is **"Youth Service"**.

We attended some interesting youth events recently with the Science and Engineering Challenge, and we look forward to both MUNA in Muswellbrook in May, as well as RYLA at Tocal in June. Singleton Sunrise continues its work with ROTA-KIDS, going from strength to strength with community engagement. A successful Alumni BBQ event was held by Membership Chair Carol Coffey, and Alumni Chair Glenda Briggs, both from East Maitland RC. Many clubs continue to be engaged in community programs with young people which is such an important part of our work shaping a



Merriwa Skatepark opening

better global future. The eventual return of RYPEN and Youth Exchange across our new District is also something special we are anticipating.

Another very enjoyable event we attended in April was the *50th Anniversary dinner for Dubbo West Rotary Club*. It was a great gathering of present and prior members of the Club, including PDG Brian Pattinson and his wife who now live in the Southern Tablelands.

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**Deadline for next issue:**

**23 May 2022**

Email articles to: Elizabeth Friend...  
[elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com)





## From the DG's Desk, contd...

President Colin Shanks did a fine job incorporating interviews in the room, messages from previous youth program participants, loads of club memorabilia on the tables and walls, as well as very professional audio-visuals including slide shows of club activities across their 50 years. It was light-hearted and fun – a great night with attendees enjoying great fellowship! A personal highlight for me was presenting PDG Brian Semmler with his certificate as the **“Chancellor of the District 9670 College of Governors”**. Brian was District Governor in 1981-82. We are so lucky to have a considerable number of elder statesmen in our District, as well as Emeritus Members with 40+ years of Rotary service.

**My congratulations to all Clubs** on the energy and variety of programs that they are undertaking as we emerge from COVID-19 restrictions. I have been impressed by ingenuity and creativity, but also the great response to our country's traditional events such as ANZAC Day. Rotary is certainly out there, being seen, demonstrating community commitment, and having fun. Well done! I know many are planning some significant Mothers' Day events including flower sales, visits to aged care facilities, supporting women in refuges, morning teas for the more vulnerable in our communities, making and distributing cards. **WE ARE BACK!!!**

Thank you also to Clubs and individuals who have been raising funds or gathering specific goods needed for the flood affected communities and for the Rotary project supporting the Ukraine. You may have heard also that there is some wild polio virus emerging in Pakistan, so the need to keep our feet on the pedal to raise funds for **End Polio Now** is more important than ever. Should we become complacent, the ability to let this scourge re-emerge is

very real. Immunisation is an on-going need for the next generation to rid us of this problem (hopefully for good), and others we continue to support in research.

My last comment for this *Yarnings* is to invite you to please join us at the **Virtual Conference this May 28th**. This is our last Conference as District 9670 – many Rotarians have worked very hard giving their time, skill and energy to produce a quality product. Why not get together as a Club or friendship group – or indeed groups of Clubs at a venue – to watch the day of speakers and cameos (some video, some live), have coffee, nibbles, lunch – from 9am to 3pm on May 28th? **This will cost you nothing**, just register to receive the link.

Enjoy your May activities. See you on the Conference zoom!

*Amanda*

*Pictured above:* DG Amanda inducted Maggie Smith into Medowie-Williamstown Rotary Club with President Graham Giddey in the background.

DG Amanda presenting a PHF to Medowie-Williamstown member Geoffrey Hamilton with President Graham Giddey looking on.

*Pictured below:* Opening of Merriwa Skatepark - 20 years in the making.



### Virtual District Conference Saturday 28 May • 9am to 3pm

Registrations will soon be open for our Conference. Registration is free and will ensure you receive the Link to log in (via email).

There will be a mixture of live and recorded speakers, and an opportunity to reflect on the past with moments shared with a few Past District Governors. Click here to view the [District Conference promo video](#)

Why not gather in COVID-19-safe manner with club groups, with a theme of **“Black and White and a touch of Rotaract Pink”**, and watch this event.

It will be the last District Conference for District 9670.

Guest Speakers include:

- [Anita Stuhmcke](#)
- [Brian Coffey](#)
- [David Jones](#)
- [Jessie Harman](#)
- [Jordan Fallon](#)
- [Michael McQueen](#)
- [Michael Moore](#)
- [Shane Fitzsimmons](#)
- [Syann Williams](#)
- [Viv Allanson](#)

The Conference will also include **“In Memoriam”**, as well as **“Emeritus Rotary Members”** and **“Where Are They Now?”**

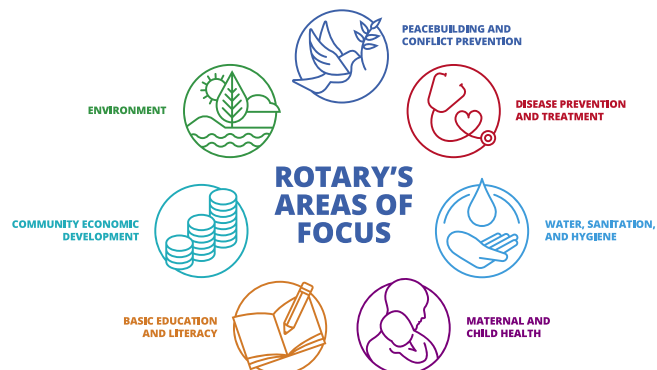
## May: Youth Service



The RI theme for May is Youth Service. Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service.

There are many Clubs in our District that are doing amazing work with youth, either on their own local projects or some further afield.

**Some of the Rotary programs in our District include:**



## Rotary District 9670



## Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is back for the final time for District 9670.

RYLA is for 18–25-year-olds who want to develop their professional skills, such as public speaking, as well as goal-setting, visioning, finances, and mindfulness/mental health. It will be a mixture of theory, as well as hands-on learning.

RYLA will once again be held as a three-day camp on 16-19 June 2022 at Tocal. However, there is a difference this time, with a series of short webinars being held at night, the week after the event, as we can't fit in everything that we want to achieve in the three days.

Registrations being released in the next few days, but spaces are limited

to 20, so you will have to be quick. Clubs will be asked to sponsor the participant, and the participant will also be required to make a small contribution to the program.

I hope that all Rotary clubs will support the last RYLA of District 9670 and able to find someone in this age group who would benefit from it.

*Nicole Shanks*

## Interact



### DISTRICT 9670 INTERACT CLUBS

Rotarians have shown a commitment to our young people through our many youth programs. Interact supports secondary school students 12-18 years of age to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self.

It has been extremely difficult over the past two years for most Interact clubs in the District to meet and carry out their projects due to COVID-19, school closures and home-schooling. It is encouraging to report the Waratah Interact Club will be reforming shortly and Cessnock High will hopefully be restructuring. We have one group in Singleton planning on forming a group in the near future. The other Interact clubs are still on hold or have disbanded directly related to the limitations within their schools.

Our Rotary clubs now have a golden opportunity to re-engage with our local high schools as we focus on a positive future.

### **Why should your club consider starting an Interact Club at your local high school?**

- Support the youth in your area in a tangible way
- Make your school community aware of what your Rotary club has on offer to staff and students
- Engage with teachers and parents (they may even join Rotary)

All you need is a little time, an interest in young people and a Working with Children number.

Forming an Interact club can be the opportunity to teach students leadership skills, public speaking,

community service and many other interesting life-skills outside their classroom commitments.

Every school is different, so each Interact club may operate under an alternative structure. Speak with the teachers to see how your Rotary club can best support an Interact club within their school.

Our team can assist you with support, resources, practical information, inspiration, and can guide you through the process.

Contact District Chair:  
Madeleine Atkins  
(Rotary Club of Waratah)  
Mobile: 0447 523 221  
Email: [madeleineatkins@bigpond.com](mailto:madeleineatkins@bigpond.com)

*...continued...*



## May: Youth Service contd

### NEWCASTLE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE 2022

It was exciting to return to our five-day Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge (SEC) in March at the University of Newcastle's Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre after a two-year break due to COVID-19.

The 36 participating schools were keen to get back to evaluating their skills in the STEMM area with encouragement from their dedicated teachers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we lost four schools this year from our usual full house of forty.



support of these Rotarians enhances the success of the program. We look forward to working with them again in August at the NSW State Final in Newcastle.

This year we attracted **1,121 participants**; 36 teams, 871 students, 58 teachers, 160 event staff and 22 sponsors.

*Our thanks to our major sponsors:* Sandoll Pty Limited at Sandoll Foundation; Lockheed Martin Australia, NSW Office Chief Scientist and Engineer, DFR, GHD and Thales Australia.

The winning school for the week was **Merewether High School** – with Lakes Grammar, an Anglican School, and Newcastle Grammar School joining them in the State Final.

Thank you to the members of the Newcastle SEC and Discovery Days Team Members, The UoN Challenge Team and to DG Amanda and IPDG David Roach for attending our Newcastle Challenge, sharing a hot lunch with our Rotarian volunteers, and enjoying Rotary in Action.

*Brian Atkins OAM*  
Newcastle Regional Chair



### What the heck is NEW GENERATIONS SERVICE EXCHANGE?

NGSE was piloted by District 9670 in 2010 and commenced globally in 2014.

- It allows young adults to have a serious well-planned opportunity to live and work in another country.
- The benefits include, learning another language, building professional skills and gaining international experience and making connections with service minded community leaders in another country, immersion in other cultures whilst giving back through service.
- NGSE is open to those aged 18-30 who have commenced further education, a cadetship / apprenticeship or professional work.

#### RYDA

- We last ran a course in June last year and over 4 days we catered for more than 450 kids. COVID-19 prevented our proposed November 2021 course!
- We are now proposing to run a course over 4 days in May but only two schools have responded! However, we will proceed on two days, 18 & 19 May, at Newcastle Showground. The course runs between 9:30 – 2:30 and features 6 sessions:

Participants spend between 6 weeks to 6 months completing an organised course of work experience relevant to their career.

They live with a Rotary selected host family and participate in activities that may include networking, relationship building, community service, professional development, and leadership training.

They can also elect to enjoy further personally funded travel before or after their agreed NGSE term.

The program was put on hold during COVID-19, but with international borders reopening, our District would love to hear from anyone interested in

- “The “I” in Drive”
- “Mind Matters”
- “Drive S.O.S.”
- “Speed & Stopping” – a physical demonstration by a driving school
- “Road Choices” – presented by NSW Police; and
- “Crash Investigators” – presented by the Headstart Group.

*Keith Finnie*



2018 NGSE inbound student Daphne Santos from Brazil meeting some locals

NGSE. Our 24 prior participants (and their Aussie Host families) certainly vouch for the amazing experiences that can result.

*Keith Bush*  
District 9670 NGSE Chair





# “Our Club” ...in 100 Words



## Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise

The Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise has a membership of 30 with a good mix of male/female with varied interests, skills and professions that support the club's many activities.

International projects include SEAK (Safari's Education Aid for Kasaala), and KIVA micro finance. The club is a strong supporter of the local GAPS (Grandparents as Parents) group and the Hope in a Suitcase program. Locally the club is involved with supporting the Maitland HealthStays Accommodation Project at the new Maitland Hospital, providing Shelterbags for the homeless, Dignity Bags for victims of Domestic Violence, and production of facemasks during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.



## Rotary Club of Rutherford Telarah

The Rutherford Telarah Rotary Club was Chartered on 8th June 1976. Over the last 46 years the Club has supported the local community in many ways.

A focus of our Club has been the support for local youth. Catering at many functions, graffiti removal and environmental tree plantings, assistance for the homeless, support the Woodberry Project, partnerships



• Graffiti removal with police and high school students and Mr Graffiti, PP Bob Parsons • Dinners for the homeless made in school canteen • High School students preparing B&E for 7:30 am breakfast • Rotary Connect and the World's Greatest Shave

## Rotary Club of Mudjee

Our Club appeals to retirees and tree changers who share a common desire to meet new friends and “give back” to their community.

Recent projects include Western Care Lodge renovation, the Youth Exchange Program, Meals on Wheels, afternoon teas at nursing homes, Maths Challenge for schools, Community Movies, Christmas Carols, Louisa Lawson Statue project, Gardens of Mudjee, and prize-giving awards at district schools.

We also support Scouts, Guides and PCYC, and other local community organisations.

Our Club has donated more than \$200,000 to projects since 1999 and, provided more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service to the community.



service projects, employ a staff of 10 local mums to prepare the Health-approved menu.

**Rotary Connect** – a student program run at Tocal College with the support of our Rotary Club. They support causes important to them like Dolly's Dream, Back Track, RUOK, Kindness Cards,

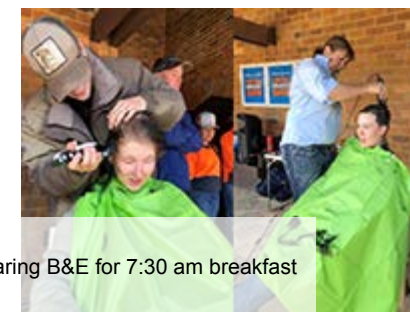
Polished Man, Blood Challenge, State of Origin Night, UV party, World's Greatest Shave – Fundraising over \$6K for these causes last year.

Our future is safe in their hands.

[For complete look at what we do click here.](#)



*Pictured, left to right:*





# Upper Hunter Project Report

## Rotary Clubs of Scone, Muswellbrook, Merriwa and Denman

Some young people from local high schools in the Upper Hunter approached Rotary for assistance with a project.

Students wanted to support five small schools, in the Northern Rivers area, that had not received as much support due to their location after the floods.

The schools include: Blakebrook Public School, Tunttable Creek PS, The Channon PS, Whian Whian PS and Nimbin Central School.

They contacted teachers and obtained a list of things that the 100 students who attend the schools might need in the future. They advertised it to their peers within their schools and collected a large number of the suggested items.

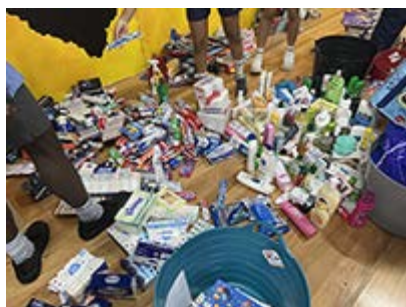
The four Rotary clubs, including Scone, Muswellbrook, Merriwa and Denman have collected them from the schools and will transport them for distribution to the Northern Rivers early in Term 4.

The reason it is so much later than most people would anticipate, is that the students have not been in their own schools and some not in their homes for all of this time.

It is hoped that they might get back to some kind of "normal" soon so we can support them.

This project may continue into the future as the young people would like to "adopt" the five small schools.

It was an excellent joint effort to bring to fruition and great that the young people thought to approach Rotary for assistance.



# Zone 8 Pilot Initiative – Regionalization

Since my last report, significant events have occurred to progress this Zone 8 Pilot Initiative. The RI Board has given *in principle approval* for this Zone 8 Pilot to progress and the Council of Legislation approved in April – “to provide for the administration of clubs in a pilot project”.

The following is an extract taken from the Council on Legislation summary of the Resolution:

## Club Administration Pilot:

- Duane Benton, a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City and a federal judge, who co-chaired this year's Council, characterized multiple items at this Council as part of Rotary's continued commitment to improving club and organizational flexibility.
- An enactment that generated vigorous discussion before passing by a vote of 324 to 150 would allow the RI Board to pilot a new regional governance structure for clubs and Rotarians.
- The pilot will be limited to Rotary Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) as well as clubs and districts in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific for a duration of six years.
- Cosponsors of the legislation – the RI Board and the Rotary Club of Merimbula (District 9705) in Australia – stated that the current regional governance structure, put in place over 70 years ago, has grown into a “significant hierarchy” with too many layers and roles.

“It is appropriate to modernize and consider new models that can enhance our efficiency, increase the ability of members to access support, and look at new ways to make volunteer positions more manageable and doable,” said Wafer, who spoke on behalf of the RI board.

Representatives who opposed the enactment argued that the plan for the pilot lacks specifics and could reduce the number of districts and put a district governor's role at risk. One representative from District 3490 (Taiwan) expressed concern that the plan could alter the autonomous structure of Rotary clubs, leading to centralized governance and decreasing localized management.

Wafer, reassured Rotarians that the districts and the role of district governors will not be eliminated while the pilot is being implemented. Following a six-year experiment, she said if the findings indicate that the existing model needs to be reverted, the role of district governors will still exist.

“This is not to force fit a new governance structure,” Wafer added. “Rather, we try to work in partnership with districts to see what works and what doesn't for a more sustainable future.”

Very soon clubs will be briefed on this proposal, and it is important to note that clubs within Zone 8 will be asked

to vote if they wish to be part of a Pilot Initiative.

The proposal does not extinguish Districts and DGs but will move some of the administrative/structural roles and responsibilities to a centralized body.

Clubs will be asked to vote either in August or September if they wish to participate in this Pilot Initiative. The electronic vote will be conducted by RISSPO and requires an acceptance of 66% of the total number of ALL clubs in a District to be in favour of the initiative.

I would like to stress failure to vote will be a NO vote. This vote is extremely important to moving Rotary forward in our Zone.

Please discuss this with your club.

More information to follow.

IPDG David



Rotary Directors at Council on Legislation  
- Vicki Puliz (USA), Venky Venkatesh (India), Valerie Wafer (Canada).



## Zone A • Area Governor Report

April has been a busy time for the Rotary Clubs in Zone A.

Dubbo South Rotary Club completed their Tour De Oro over the western region, where they rode for 6 days and travelled 1140 kilometres. Unfortunately, a couple of riders retired due to injury.

Thank you to the Rotary clubs who provided them with meals on their stop-overs. It is great to see clubs working together and collaborating for a very worthy cause. Funds raised from the event, which is estimated to be \$150,000, will go towards Macquarie Home Stay in Dubbo. Macquarie Home Stay provides accommodation to those in the country areas and surroundings who travel to Dubbo for medical assistance and treatments. The medical treatments include maternity, oncology, and renal/dialysis.

A special mention to Bourke Rotary Club, who raised \$20,000 towards this fundraiser through their Trivia Night.

The Four Rotary Clubs in Dubbo also supported Macquarie Home Stay by collaborating and working together (with other interested community organisations) to create a relaxing, tranquil, garden for the guests, where they can sit with a drink or be with others in a private setting. There was turf laid, a lavender labyrinth, and a memorial rose garden. This is part of the areas, which also included a playground for the children, that was funded by the Rotary Clubs in Dubbo.

It was great to have the four clubs combine for a common cause.

Cobar Rotary Club is still receiving excellent revenue for their can collection and depositing at the Dubbo bulk Return and Earn Centre. This is a great little fundraiser for the club, which is helping the environment and creating awareness about Rotary for the community.

Wellington Rotary Club has continued with their successful Markets and even had the Easter Bunny making an appearance in April.

The Wellington Rotary Club also had a busy Easter by providing lunch for the Morris Registers of Australia as they passed through their town as part of a national rally.

The Dubbo Clubs have also been active by supervising and assisting with this year's Science and Engineering Challenge. It was a successful event, even though some schools and volunteers had to withdraw due to COVID-19, but the clubs banded together and got the event done.

It is great to see clubs back out, being active, and helping their local community and the clubs have many more events and activities coming up.

Nicole Shanks,  
Assistant Area Governor



*Pictured left:* Brian Semmler receiving his Chancellor certificate at the 50th Anniversary dinner for Dubbo West Rotary Club.



### Rotary on the Move

#### Zone 8 Publication

If you haven't yet subscribed to *Rotary on the Move*, now is the time to subscribe to this **free on-line publication** that is brimming with wonderful ideas and inspiring stories.

For example, the last issue included articles from PDG Brian Coffey and PDG Adrian Roach.

Click here to take you to the issue and those articles. [Rotary on the Move](#)



## Zone B • Area Governor Report

Earlier this month it was great to see the **Rotary Club of Merriwa** celebrate the final stage and official opening of their town's Rotary Park. This project has been undertaken in 4 stages over the past 20 years. As the community's children's needs changed and grew, the club built another stage. By doing this it has seen the local council build a new amenities block adjacent, along with the town's *Driver Reviver Stop* to maximize the use of this project. The council will now build a walking path circulating parts of the town from this point. This shows that a club in a small town can achieve big things for its community.

**Scone Club** has taken on a project to collect school items for the children in schools around the Lismore area after the devastating floods. The Club is also working hard preparing for a big BBQ cooking weekend at the upcoming Horse Week and hopefully at the Rodeo.

**Muswellbrook Club** is also working with the Scone Club on collecting school items for the children around Lismore. The Club

has also launched its community dinners.

**Singleton Sunrise Club** has been busy working with the Rota Kids. The Club is quietly working in the community and inducting new members along the way. They will be hosting a get together for anyone who wants to come along to watch the upcoming *D9670 Virtual Conference*. If you would like to attend, please call Gerrard on 0419 995 175.

**Singleton On Hunter Club** is working on a project called *Fresh Start Project*, supplying personal hygiene items to both female and males in high school and the local community centre. This project is now gaining donations from local workplaces. In addition, the Club recently ran the *Mail Run* bike ride which was a success. They are also working hard building new frames for this year's Art Show and the members will also be placing a Phone Box Library in Townhead Park for the community's use.

**Singleton Club** been busy working at BBQs for the local council workers and the launch of the Arts & Cultural Centre.

They have had a number of varied guest speakers at their club meetings. The club is working towards their annual Community Challenge. They are also organizing a social weekend trip to Mudgee and a trip to Wangi Wangi.

**Cessnock Club** has been working on a project to supply refurbished pushbikes to needy children in the community. This project has been helped along by support from Steve Whitby from Cessnock Bikes. The club and friends came together to celebrate a green dress up night at Marthaville House for St Patrick's day.

I would suggest at these times of clubs looking for other ways to raise money and community awareness they look at the success Cessnock Club has had in getting sponsors on board and how to promote their Club.

**Kurri Kurri Sunrise** may be a small Club but it keeps coming up with great ideas. After a recent visitor to the club spoke about a youth suicide project they run, the Club is working on how they could launch similar project there. It is now working on the costing of running such a project and the implementation. So please give them your support if they come calling.

This program is looking at helping those who think hope has run out. The Club is keeping up with raising funds by doing Bunnings BBQ's and recently ran a de-stash jungle sale.

**Kurri Kurri Club** recently hosted the MHERV van and Nurse at the local Rotary Park. The Club also had a good weekend BBQing at the Nostalgia Festival along with its regular Coles BBQs and a BBQ at the local High School for Youth week.

With the success of these BBQs the Club will be making a donation to the John Hunter Children's ward.

Once again you can see we might all be out there BBQing, but we then can help a wide range of projects throughout our local communities. Please put your clubs project into the weekly Chit Chat newsletter "Beyond the BBQ".

*Phil Gorton, Area Governor*





## Zone C • Area Governor Report

This month began with a 2-day PETS training at Morpeth led by DGE Neville Parsons and team. It was a great opportunity for clubs from Zone C to meet with other Rotary clubs from Areas A and B as we move forward into the new District 9660 from 1 July this year. It was a first in PETS training as we joined online with Clubs from the Tamworth Greater Area and were led through the new District's plans and priorities as well as being introduced to District 9660 Leaders and Committee Chairs. A special thankyou to Cindy and Nicole from East Maitland Rotary for their hospitality and catering during the weekend and to our own Technology Guru Patrick from Greenhills Rotary who ensured a smooth tech transition during the weekend.

It was a pleasure to join DG Amanda and PDG David for their DG visit to Medowie/Williamstown Rotary this month. What a special occasion not only to induct new member Maggie Smith but also to recognise Rotarian Geoffrey Hamilton with a PHF+2 Sapphire Award for his sterling service to Rotary over many years. This small but growing club has a very busy long weekend ahead with 2 days of catering at the Equestrian Event followed up by providing a BBQ breakfast at Medowie on ANZAC Day. Well done, Medowie/Williamstown Rotary!

The following morning Assistant Area Governor Pam and I joined DG Amanda for her visit with Greenhills Rotary which is always a light-hearted and enjoyable event. Updated plans were shared with members regarding their Mother's Day Flowers

Fundraiser in May and as always involves all members in a great team effort. The vitality and enthusiasm of the members is a delight to witness.

Rutherford/Telarah Rotary conducted their DG visit via zoom, chaired by President Kanchan who was ably supported with the technology link by Sam Norris. Members were brought up to date with critical information regarding the upcoming merge of the 2 Districts and were also able to ask questions of our DG during the zoom session. Club Rotarians are very busy planning for their catering at the upcoming Tocal Field days and have fingers crossed for fine weather to ensure a successful 4-day event.

Paterson Rotary meet every 2nd Wednesday at the Old CBC Bank in Paterson where I joined them recently to share some District information but also to enjoy their great collegiality and a wonderful dinner. Planning is well underway for their Fireworks Night at the end of May, quite a huge task for one of our smaller but energetic Rotary clubs. Last year approximately 4,000 attended from across the wider Lower Hunter community.

This week, East Maitland Rotary conducted their Annual ANZAC Dinner with Representatives from the RSL and club members. Colonel Eric Modderman (husband of club member Cindy) was the Guest Speaker and shared information about the role he played in his deployment to Afghanistan. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but have enjoyed receiving positive reports of this important Club Dinner meeting.

*Chris Walmsley, Area Governor*



*Pictured left: Participants enjoying the 2-day PETS training at Morpeth.*

*Pictured above: RC Greenhills DG visit*

*Pictured below: Paterson Rotary Club Dinner*





## Zone D • Area Governor Report

I hope everybody had a safe and happy Easter and that the Rabbit was generous to you with its chocolate.

The movie “*The Duke*” was screened at Glendale Cinema recently as an **End Polio** fundraiser. It was well attended and an enjoyable evening. Congratulations to the organisers and the winners of prizes.

At the time of writing, we are just days away from the **Lake Mac Autumn Fair**. The organisers are nervously watching the weather and hoping for dry ground as well as a blue sky, not just on the day but during the lead up.

Promotion has been ongoing, and I’ve had the opportunity to speak to the community through three local radio stations.

There has been a tremendous amount of work put into the organising and I wish all the clubs involved a successful day and look forward to reporting just that, next month.

I’ve spent some considerable time looking through club newsletters.

I’m pleased to see that there has been a lot of support for both the flood appeal and for Ukraine.

We just never know who is going to need help at short notice, so it’s a good thing that Rotary Clubs are willing supporters in such times.

It’s encouraging to see the number of clubs that attended the **Science and Engineering Challenge** after a two-

year break. I was disappointed not to have been there this time, because it’s a most enjoyable experience.

Another great thing to see in some of the newsletters is the cross-portion of each other’s news and events. This shows great communication and clubs working together, something to be encouraged.

Two clubs in the Zone have made significant changes to their meeting arrangements.

Waratah has moved from Memories Function Centre to Wallsend Diggers. They’re also trialling alternative luncheon/dinner meetings during the winter months to support those members who find it difficult to go out at night, particularly on cold dark evenings. I plan to be at the first of the winter luncheons.

Warners Bay have moved their meetings to a Wednesday evening and can now be found at Warners Bay Sports Club.

We had an enjoyable DG visit with Cardiff Club recently. I was impressed to see nearly all the members dressed in their newly braided, orange club shirts. Cardiff also has a big part in the planning of the Lake Mac Autumn Fair, but they also have some excellent plans into the future.

Keep up the great work and remember that I’m here to help!

*Craig Henningham, Area Governor*

### Clubs Featuring In Rotary Down Under (Rdu) In May

Hopefully, by the time you read this (if you receive the Rotary Magazine via email), you will notice that this month’s edition features our District in a spread that covers several pages. If you receive it in hard copy, you may have to wait a few days to view it.

This Feature will also include District 9650 and a way to recognise a diverse range of clubs and their unique activities or stories, before we merge to become District 9660. The clubs spread from all areas of our District, including the west as far as Cobar, to the coast.

There is no guarantee that all clubs will be included in this Feature as it all depends on space in the publication.

The Clubs and their activities/stories include:

- Cobar – Drought Relief
- Dubbo – Santa Paws
- Dubbo West – Lobbying for the Cancer Centre in Dubbo
- Dungog – Vale Geoff Olsen
- Maitland Sunrise – Hope in A Suitcase
- Morisset – Making Face Masks for communities in Australia and Overseas
- Nelson Bay – Assisting Yacaaba Centre
- Rylstone-Kandos – Peace Poles in schools
- Singleton Sunrise – Rotakids
- Warners Bay and other Lake Macquarie Clubs – Autumn Fair

- Wellington – Vintage Fair
- Cessnock – Feeding the Homeless and “Scones and Cream Time”

Please grab yourself a tea, coffee, or cold drink, and take the time to read the stories about our Clubs.

We can’t wait to promote and share the clubs’ activities or stories to the wider Oceania community, as not many of them include cooking a sausage, which is usually what the public perceive Rotary Clubs do. This is one way we can change their thinking and make them more aware of what Rotary Clubs can achieve and do for their community.

*Nicole Shanks*  
Rotary Down Under Liaison



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