



# manaia

## THE GUARDIAN

From the desk of  
**District 9670 Governor**  
Graeme Hooper  
Issue 9: April 2020



### *From DG Graeme's Desk...*

Like everyone, the past month has seen incredible change, locally and globally, and we need to adapt to our current circumstances.

Rotary District, Zone, and International Conferences and activities, have been cancelled as we come to grips with the impact of COVID-19. Keeping pace with Government changes is ongoing and by the time this newsletter goes to print, I could probably have re-written this item over and over and over.

Social interaction is a valuable part of being a Rotarian, so please use the resources we have available so that as a Rotary family, we can continue to connect. Virtual meetings via the internet may well be our new norm over the coming weeks. Contact Patrick Healey: [administration@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:administration@rotary9670.org.au) to use our District 9670 facilities for Club meetings, or as many Clubs are doing, obtain your own free Zoom.

Please keep abreast of Government announcements:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

We do not have to completely stop what we are doing in our community. In fact, it is more important now than ever, for us to be supporting each other in our local communities.

As Rotarians, we are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and now is a good time to brainstorm, engage, reach out, and adapt to the circumstances that prevail. Just because your normal projects you have been working on year in, year out, may be postponed or compromised, think outside the square and keep busy.

Perhaps you can assist other charities such as Meals on Wheels, Samaritans, Salvation Army, Vinnies, After School Care etc where their resources have diminished or their members need a break or additional support. Home delivery services become limited, so perhaps consider helping elderly neighbours with grocery shopping, delivering flowers to aged care facilities, or just dropping by for a chat. Within our own Rotary Clubs, support our older members with technology to upload programs such as, Whats App or Zoom, so they can communicate with family, friends, and other Rotarians.

It appears this virus is not going to disappear any time soon, and is likely to become much worse before it gets better, and life as we know it, can return to normal.

Rotarian small business owners, I encourage you to take up the offers the banks and trade organisations are offering for assistance - you are not a hero trying to cope alone.

Our Inbound and Outbound Youth Exchange Students are as safe and as happy as can be. Please continue to make them feel at home, supporting them through these troubled times, and continue to reinforce social distancing.

We can all still enjoy our beautiful country and what it has to offer. We only need to look outside the window and explore new ways of



doing what we as Rotarians do best, being extraordinary.

I encourage everyone to read the Weekly Connect for our District updates and for information on meeting electronically.

Join with me and fellow Rotarians each Thursday night at 8:00pm on Zoom to "Connect" and to hear a range of guest speakers and/or to just have a general chat: <https://zoom.us/j/8896709670>

If you need help to connect, please seek assistance from your Club.

Take good care of yourselves and each other, keep safe and in good health.



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# Rotary Foundation End Polio Iron Lung Roadshow ("Polly") Launch

Great night of Rotary friendship and celebration of the amazing work we all do working to END POLIO in the world. Thank you to those who were able to join us.

Wonderful guest speaker Terry Wynne shared his own Polio story, contracting Polio as a child, and now dealing with post-polio syndrome. He was in awe of the work we're doing, and offered to help in any way he can.

We heard the history of our own Iron Lung, how teams have restored it, designed a purpose built trailer for it, added resources such as TV screen and videos, and planning to send it around the state.

We now refer to the trailer as "Polly", much easier than its' long title.

When Polly travels around the state, hosted by Rotary Clubs, it can be displayed to raise Club profile, awareness that Polio still occurs, and how important that it is we continue to raise funds and work towards its' eradication, and continue to immunise our own children here in Australia.

We need the support and input of every Rotary Club, every Rotarian, to make this project a success.

For a tax deductible donation, please consider making your personal contribution NOW: <https://www.endpolio.org/donate> - together we can **END POLIO NOW!**

*Kerry Hayes, D9670 Polio Chair,  
Rotary Club of Warners Bay  
0417 485 293*



## Isda's Column

MyOhMy! ...puppy time is really flying by. Been a bit of topsy turvy time lately, and oh how the world can change in a few hours let alone a day or a week.

I hope all my furry friends are actioning their puppy social space. Which reminds me, I've had a little bit of a social time lately up until social distancing became the norm.

Kim from Greenhills-Maitland and I, we got to have cuddles with Polly in her new purpose built trailer. She's so comfy in there. Hope she remembers to put her seat belt on when she eventually heads out on her roadshow.

...and The Loop! That bike ride that takes you out and about and round about and back again. Sounds a bit loopy to me. While DG Graeme and Sue were giving directions to bike riders, I thought I might have taken a joyride on bus 2819, but passed on that idea. I might have gotten puppy-napped.

...and I didn't see any fancy doggy bikkies at the High Tea either.

I was having quite a happy time till I never got to have my stage fame. My guardian Sue, her special concert to help my friends had to be cancelled, along with DG Graeme's Conference. To bury our sorrows, Jasper came along with Truro Ted and me for a play in the park and when it was time to go home, even my leash had gone 'walkies'. In the evening, Truro Ted was so tired we left him at home, and we celebrated the Conference spirit in Belmont at the scheduled time. We had lots of laughs and we left the chocolate bikkies to our minders.



Donations to Integra Service Dogs Australia can be made, either direct to ISDA: [www.isda.com.au](http://www.isda.com.au) with your Club name or Surname + "Rotary"



DG Graeme and PDG Peter Raynor with the purpose built trailer



Official launch of D9670 Polio trailer by TRF Chair, PDG Janette Jackson



Our D9670 purpose built Polio trailer



...or, to District 9670: Your Club name + "PP19/20"

...or, via direct banking: Bendigo Bank BSB - 633 000 Account no - 167718972 with "Rotary" as transfer description; will really help all my friends.

# mherv News!

Some clubs will know that, like so many other projects, we have had to put **mherv** on hold for the time being. We had hoped to be at the District Conference in Belmont, but sadly that was not to eventuate.

We were all looking forward to meeting members from across the District and I know Rob (our registered nurse) was looking forward to renewing some of the many Rotary friendships he has made while touring the District saving the lives of so many rural and regional Australians.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all those clubs who have done such a great job hosting **mherv** on its never-ending (only pausing) travels. So many Rotarians and their Clubs have taken advantage of **mherv** being in town and used it to promote the work of Rotary and their Club to local people, while at the same time assisting Rob as 'receptionists' and 'hustlers'

to bring people to the van for a health check.

The team working in the background will be taking advantage of the pause to put in place new plans seeking additional sponsorships and streamlining processes that we use to keep the show on the road.

Barry Knowles, who was awarded a PHF Recognition by DG Brian Coffey last year for his work on the **mherv** project, is still on the team despite busy preparations for his year as President of Warners Bay Club.

Current Club President Les Corrigan is taking over from Barry as Operations Manager, working with Rob and the host Clubs.

Michael Wooler continues to work as our webmaster and technical support.

Jacqui Dann has recently joined the team and will work with Clubs to improve our publicity

effort with press releases and stories for local media.

Michael Weatherall, from Rutherford Tallarah Club, is assisting me with developing broader plans for the future, including a sponsorship for a mobile home to replace the van and the utility that are now becoming rather tired.

A special note of thanks is due to Martin McGrevy who, at PDG Brian Coffey's suggestion, is preparing a video about **mherv**. When this is complete we will post it on YouTube for all to see... it will be worth the wait while Martin and Charmaine settle into their new home.

I thank the team personally for all they are doing and have done so far for this worthwhile project, particularly Rob Woolley who spends a lot of time away from his family to be out there literally saving lives in the name of Rotary.

The other huge thank you must



Rob Woolley, Registered Nurse in the Caravan Consulting room

go to the *Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (RFBI)* for their generous support since **mherv** set out in its current form in 2017. Since then, RFBI has donated the cost of our Nursing Services. Their sponsorship includes a pledge of \$95,000 for Nursing Services for the 2020/2021 tour, which we hope will be able to set off again in August or September, when COVID-19 gets off the front pages!

*PP Adrian Payne, Team leader and District Chair - the mherv project*

## Warners Bay's Annual 'Loopy'!

What used to be the iconic **'Loop the Lake'** cycle ride around Lake Macquarie was held as usual this year on the second Sunday in March.

There was concern around 5.30am in Speers Point Park where the ride starts and ends, when it began raining. At the time it didn't feel like a shower... but around dawn it slowed and the sun came up to lift the spirits. And so it was all day, a great day for a cycle ride sunny and cool.

Around 300 riders gathered for the 'off' and left the park promptly at 7:00am with a 'flagfall' from Lake Macquarie City Mayor Kay Fraser.

The new route again proved popular with those who took the ride this year. The Fernleigh Track sector follows the route of an old coal railway line, later the 'Loop' into historical Catherine Hill Bay and the National Park as well as taking in the water

views around Swansea... all brought scenic delight to those taking part in the event.

Among the visitors on the day were DG Graeme and Sue, who took time to chat to early-returning riders and Warners Bay team members working in the Park. It's always great to see the DG at club events.

People still come from far and wide to be in it, many from as far as Sydney and the Central Coast to the south and there were three riders who had spotted the ride online and journeyed down from Brisbane.

However, sadly, the numbers are only 10 percent of the ride at its most popular. Under the guidance of President Elect Barry Knowles, the club is in a virtual huddle (no meetings with COVID-19 still in existence), considering its fund-raising options for the future. One of the suggestions is that the Loop

ride may be reinvented to more realistically reflect the numbers of people it now attracts.

For all that, Loop this year was a great ride, and thanks are due as always to the

many Rotarians and others, like Ulysses Motorcycle Club and Lake Macquarie Police Command who helped along the route to make the ride safe and enjoyable.



DG Graeme and Sue, with Isda, chatting with returning riders and members of Warners Bay RC

# International Women's Day – 8 March 2020



*A celebration of the achievements of women whether, social, political, economic, or cultural.*

On Sunday 8 March, a high tea was held to raise funds for Ladybikes, a RAWCS project of Newcastle Rotary Club led by Bruce Foley. The event was well attended and raised in excess of \$3000 for young disadvantaged women in Kenya and Uganda.

Ladybikes provides COST FREE training for these women to obtain a genuine Kenyan rider's licence, complete with personal insurance cover, to provide a taxi service and earn a sustainable income to become independent and provide for their families. The next stage of the project is to investigate the possibility of training women to be motorcycle mechanics.

A presentation on the project was given by Bruce; guest speaker, Eleni Comino, gave an inspiring speech recognising

International Women's Day; and a short Q&A was led by MC Anna Hoyles (Burwood RC) with Rotarians Jacky Gendre (Raymond Terrace RC), Eleni Comino (Morisset RC), and PDG Helen Ryan (Nelson Bay RC) in the hot seats.

For more information, visit the Ladybikes website: [www.ladybikes.org](http://www.ladybikes.org) or, contact

Bruce Foley at [bruce.foley@ladybikes.org](mailto:bruce.foley@ladybikes.org) or, to make a donation, go to: [www.rawcs.org.au](http://www.rawcs.org.au)

RAWCS Project Nos: Kenya 30-2017-18 and Uganda 71-2018-19

Rwanda is in the process of being established.



Ladybikes High Tea Q&A

## Toastmasters

At the Hamburg 2018-19 RI Convention, Lark Doley the International President for Toastmasters International, spoke about the partnership between Rotary and Toastmasters. Whilst parameters are still being determined at the international level, the Dynamic Dora Creek Toastmasters have already got underway at the "grass roots" level and were guest speakers at the

Morisset Rotary Club earlier in the year. Four Toastmasters came along, each introducing the next person and telling about what they do and demonstrating how they do it. At the end of the session, they announced a five week introductory course to Rotary members.

Two Rotarians signed up, and following

five weeks of learning tips and etiquette of the public speaking trade, Mel Fahey-Scone and Sue Hooper had completed the introductory 10 hour course. During the course, seven participants had to present an "Ice Breaker" speech, another of their chosen topic and then re-present the following week taking into account Toastmasters' comments from the previous speech, a research speech; and each week an impromptu speech.

It was a fabulous learning experience in a very positive and non-threatening environment.

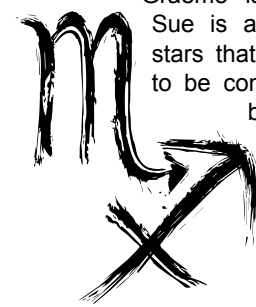
If your Club is looking for a guest speaker, why not connect with your local Toastmasters, and perhaps find out some secrets to fine tune your public speaking.



Sue Hooper and Mel Fahey-Scone

### Something you wouldn't know about DG Graeme & Sue, unless you asked...

Graeme is a Scorpion and Sue is a Sagittarian ...two stars that are not supposed to be compatible ... they've been married for 42 years!



# Roach Rattlings

## Rotarians: "People of Action"

Now is the time to fully embrace this motto.

During the last few days I have heard many suggestions of how we can maintain support for each other, and I acknowledge those who have embraced these behaviours.

1. Stay connected with Club members - call each other and see how they are going. Perhaps allocate the executive to contact members by assigning them to particular Club Rotarians, and then rotate groups through the executive each week.

2. Set up buddy pairs to check in with each other. Change buddies every so often.

3. Always have positive talks/chats.

4. Continue with your Club's newsletter. Whilst there may be limited local content, use the RI site to source positive events which have occurred and display them in your newsletter. Always be positive in what is written. Use jokes, even dad jokes. You may need to change the look of your newsletter to accommodate these strategies. Blank pages or spaces project a negative mood.

5. Take the opportunity to log onto the RI site at My Rotary, or create an account to do so, and scan the various areas of interest to you. Now is the time to visit the Brand Centre or complete training in the Learning Centre. 'Time' is now your 'friend', so why not use it for this purpose. Actual usage of My Rotary is very low across the District - we can now change this.

6. Conduct weekly meetings/chat sessions by Zoom or through the use of other technology.

7. Shop for any Club member who may need assistance.

8. Call elderly members of the community you know to see

how they are going, and if you can help them in any way. This keeps them connected and valued.

These are just a few avenues for maintaining positive relationships.

You should have also received by now the announcement via our District Secretary Geoff, that the District and the Rotary Club of Rylstone-Kandos Changeovers scheduled for June 21 in Mudgee, are cancelled.

*Yours in Rotary,  
David Roach*



## Getting to Know Your Youth Exchange Students



**Aleksander Wittingsrud Wagner** giving an "End Polio" apron a workout

**Home Country:** Re/Tønsberg in Vestfol, Norway

**Host Rotary Club:** RC Cardiff and Newcastle Enterprise

**Where are you going to school:** Cardiff High School

**Favourite music:** Rap and modern music, however I also like multiple other types of music

**Favourite movie:** "Bad Boys 1 & 2", or "The Hangover" 1, 2 & 3. I might be someone else tho.

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Hang out with friends, go to the gym and to the beach

**What do you like most about your Exchange:** Meetings loads of new people and making new relationships

**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Hawaii, Caribbean or South America, because it's warm and tropic

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** I would invest in some properties and rent those out  
**You have \$5 in your pocket to spend on food. What would you buy to eat:** • Meat pie • Vegemite & Cheese sandwich • Lamingtons • Chocolate • Ice Cream •  
**Something else – what:** I would choose some Donuts, cuz that's the best thing in the world!!

**Sinja Eilers**, sometimes known as "Zinger box", at the Dubbo South RC Welcome party.

**Home Country:** Germany  
**Host Rotary Club:** RC Dubbo South

**Where are you going to school:** St John's College, Dubbo

**Favourite music:** The Police, Queen

**Favourite movie:** "Bohemian Rhapsody"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Dancing, muay thai, hanging out with friends, to be lazy

**What do you like most about your Exchange:** To talk to many people and to create a new life

**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Always Australia ...and here we gooooo!!

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** I really don't know

**You have \$5 in your pocket to spend on food. What would you buy to eat:** • Meat pie • Vegemite & Cheese sandwich • Lamingtons • Chocolate • Ice Cream •

**Something else – what:** Probably a pizza or a caramel slice



**Alexander Ulmer** sporting his Aussie cap & Aussie version of French bread

**Home Country:** France

**Host Rotary Club:** RC Mudgee

**Where are you going to school:** Mudgee High School

**Favourite music:** Get Lucky, Daft Punk, Feat Pharrel Williams

**Favourite movie:** "Donnie Darko"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Golf, (sport) strategy video game

**What do you like most about your Exchange:** My friends  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** The Alps

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** I try to make more

money and I will see  
**You have \$5 in your pocket to spend on food. What would you buy to eat:** • Meat pie • Vegemite & Cheese sandwich • Lamingtons • Chocolate • Ice Cream •  
**Something else – what:** Sorry but I ate not French pastry during 6 months (éclair au chocolat)



## Adventures of Isda and Her Friends...



1. Isda waiting for the bus; 2. And the bus came; 3. Isda checking out table decs at the Ladybikes fundraiser; 4. Every little creature needs a free run; 5. Kenny checking all is in order for Maitland Woman of Year; 6. Isda sniffing out bugs in the kitchen at the Newcastle Show; 7. Isda & Jasper celebrating Conference without a Conference & passing on Tim Tams; 8. Jasper thinks he's going on exchange; 9. Kim & Isda giving Polly a cuddle



# Classifieds

## Lost and Found

**Found:** Disappointing nobody knows what those doors are going to open up to next year. Now that we have social distancing for the short term at least, using technology in new ways just opens up more doors for "opportunity".

**Lost:** I got to have some free range time with Jasper and Truro Ted in the park without my leash on and now I can't find it. I bet that Katrina has hidden it somewhere ...can someone please help me to find it, then let her know by emailing: [districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au) before **23 April 2020**. "Sniffer" determined by lucky draw.

## For the Conference that never was ...

Disappointing for everyone ... but if we didn't make the decision, it would have been made for us.

The process of attending to the administration of winding up some two and half years of planning is devastating and expected to be completed by the time Manaia goes to print. Sue and I extend to our Conference Organising Committee our heartfelt thanks for their endless hours and dedication they have contributed to bring you what was going to be a Rotary conference where we would dare to be different, to "Break Through Barriers", and the program was shaping up to deliver this aspiration.



## Club Meetings

Tell us how you've been overcoming your regular, normal, physical meetings in dealing with COVID-19. We want to know how innovative and creative everyone is. So we can stay connected across our District, beginning Thursday 2nd April, tune into Zoom every Thursday at 8:00pm for a District wide hook up to have a chat and welcome a guest speaker.

- Audio and Video on PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad or Android phone or tablet (Camera optional) by clicking this link and following the prompts: <https://zoom.us/j/8896709670>

- If you only want audio - any telephone (mobile or fixed line) by telephoning: (02) 8015 2088. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 88 9670 9670.

## Notices

- ♦ To show and tell your success stories, please send articles with good quality photos to: [districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au) by the due date
- ♦ Check the Weekly Connect for more details
- ♦ **Deadline** for the May edition of the District Governor's Newsletter is **Thursday 23 April 2020**

## Club Change-Overs

As we go about our normal daily lives, circumstances keep changing because of COVID-19. This will mean difficulty in holding District and Club events including Changeovers.

Our heartfelt thanks are also extended to our Rotarians and friends for supporting us by registering to attend, and to our presenters and sponsors for having faith in our endeavours to encourage and inspire others. Ironically, our international guest presenter, Dr Freya Jephcott, an epidemiologist, had to withdraw from our Conference as she was seconded to China to work with the World Health Organisation on the coronavirus outbreak.

By the time this newsletter has been distributed, Clubs will have received programs and name tags for people attending the Conference. One could not bear the thought of dumping them. Take heart in the fact they may one day be sought after memorabilia for the Conference that never was ...

The full program can be accessed on our



website for all to enjoy: [D9670 Conference Program](https://www.rotary9670.org.au/D9670-Conference-Program)

Thank you everyone for your messages of support. We have appreciated the sentiments expressed and we can only continue to move forward.

As we "ride out the storm", and beyond COVID-19, we will continue to "break through barriers".

In looking to the future, we trust that David and Amanda can now move ahead with plans for their Conference in 12 months' time.

DG Graeme & Sue

## Rotary Themes: April & May



# In Memoriam

As I think about the theme for this Rotary year – Rotary Connects the World – I think of the connections we all have made, and are making, through the vehicle that is Rotary.

Since our last District Conference, we have lost some of those valuable connections.

We call them family, we call them friend, we call them Fellow Rotarian.

Each has shared a vast portion of their lives in service through Rotary. They have set before us an example of service, of dedication, of connecting with fellow Rotarians and with the

community close by and further afield.

These precious friends have brought to Rotary their own set of skills and have shared their vocational abilities for the greater good of their respective Clubs and communities.

We take these moments, to sit in silence and, with grateful hearts, remember them and honour them.

May Peace and Grace be with you all.

*Katrina Henningham*



Geoff Dear,  
RC Mudgee



John Vilks,  
RC Cardiff



David Thorpe,  
RC Warners Bay  
(& previously,  
RC Adamstown-New Lambton)



Judy Mitchell,  
RC Nelson Bay  
(Also, a Charter member of RC  
Maitland Sunrise)



PDG Dr John (Toby) Glass,  
RC Newcastle



Brian Brown,  
RC Scone



Roger Holt,  
RC Wallsend-Maryland  
(& previously, RC Swansea  
& RC Wallsend)



Jack Kelly,  
RC Rutherford-Telarah



Len Horton, (no photo)  
RC Newcastle (Hon)



Evan L Rogers,  
Rotary Friendship Exchange  
D5610 USA & D9670



Jim Lang (no photo)  
RC Newcastle (Hon)