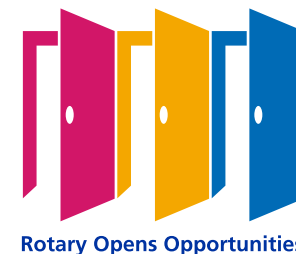


# Roach Rattlings



**D9670 District Governor  
David Roach**  
Issue 6  
December 2020 - January 2021



## From the DG's desk ...

Thank you to everyone who has asked about my health and wellbeing. I recently completed medical tests and visited my specialist. I am pleased to report that I no longer have deep blood clots in my lungs. My legs still have blood clots but they are no longer as severe as previously diagnosed. It is my desire to make some visits to clubs next year, but may not be able to visit all in person. I will make contact in the new year to negotiate some club visits.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge three clubs within our District who have received a Club Major Donor – Bronze Award from the Rotary Foundation for their contribution to our charity the Rotary Foundation of over US\$100,000 from each club. The clubs are Newcastle, Nelson Bay and Dubbo South – an outstanding effort and well done.

Leadership and Development Chair Craig Johnson has resigned his position as Chair due to his work commitments. I would like to acknowledge Craig's work and organizational ability to progress our online learning initiative which gives access to a large number of

our members across the District. Thank you Craig for your commitment and effort. I am pleased to welcome Carla Pittman current President of the Rotary Club of Dubbo who has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Leadership and Development team and I look forward to working with Carla and the team.



A reminder for all club secretaries to register their incoming boards for the 2021-22 Rotary Year on Clubrunner as a matter of urgency as these details are important to both the District and RI.

Please ensure your club membership is accurate on Clubrunner as RI and the District use this as the mechanism for the generation of dues on the 1st January 2021.

Could I also urge Club Presidents to visit My Rotary - Rotary Club Central and add your Club Goals. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to seek my assistance with this task.

I would like to thank all the clubs who have availed themselves to meet with Amanda and myself via zoom during the last 5 months. We have been impressed with the resilience, adaptability and innovative approaches to supporting each of your members and the community we serve. Congratulations and keep up the great work.

Preparations for the 2021 Virtual District Conference – Do-Goody commenced late last month with filming in Mudgee. Thank you to everyone who assisted and worked



towards what I believe to be an interesting Conference. It was decided that the Virtual Conference will be a one day event held on Saturday 22nd May. It is envisaged that it will commence around 10-30am til 12-30pm have say a 2 hour lunch interval which offers clubs and groups who have chosen to gather to have time for lunch and recommence around 2-30pm til 4-30pm. We are looking at round 20 minutes per speaker. This is an exciting initiative for our District and I believe it will be a success. Registrations and more information will be circulated in the new year.

Amanda and I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

*David Roach*

## In this issue...

Singleton Sunrise	
– What's in a Number? .....	2
Isda's Column.....	2
Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards ..	3
Month of Club Charter .....	4
Membership Matters.....	4
COVID-Safe Fundraising.....	5
Celebrating a Half-Century of Service ..	6
PDG Gerard McMillan enters Hall of Fame.....	6
Zone C Area Governor Report.....	7
Newcastle Volunteer Service Award....	7
Rotary Themes: December & January 7	
Rotary Club Of Mudgee Sunrise Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary .....	8
New Green Shoots: Our Seventh Avenue of Rotary Service.....	9
The Green and Golden Bellfrog.....	10

**Deadline for next issue:**  
**23 January 2021 • Email articles to:**  
**yezfidar@outlook.com**

# Singleton Sunrise – What's in a Number?

It was Friday 13th, and a very special day out for the Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise with not a black cat in sight anywhere. Tree planting was first up on the agenda. DGN Neville and Patti, along with IPDG Graeme and Sue, and some Rotary Sunrisers including Josie and Lily, were taking part in the Club's annual tree planting project at St Catherine's Catholic College. Three grevilleas were planted in the school's garden which, when all the trees mature, will provide a peaceful and tranquil place for people to sit and relax. The local newspaper Deputy Editor/Photographer, Alex Tigani, was on hand to capture the event for The Hunter River Times. But! There was more in store.

When all was dug, planted, but not quite watered, everyone adjourned to the Diggers to be joined by a few more Rotarians. For this small, but energetic Rotary Club, President Stacey boosted their numbers to 13 - lucky for some - by inducting and welcoming Alex Tigani into our Rotary family.



Proudly displaying their prizes are: L-R: President Stacey Munzenberger and PP Karen Stout with IPDG Graeme Hooper

And as all good things come in 'threes', President Stacy and the Club were presented with a Presidential Platinum Club Citation, a banner for being Number 1 in the District with The Rotary Foundation donations per capita, and a certificate of appreciation for financial support to the End Polio Now campaign.

PDG Gerard got in on the act too and presented DGN Neville with a souvenir District 9670 banner, and a mounted sunrise photograph as a reminder of energetic Rotarian sunrisers.

The not quite watered newly planted trees were later subjected to a drenching with a good thunderstorm thanks to the rain dance performed by Rotarian Ruth Rogers!

**Singleton Sunrise – a Rotary Club of fun, friendship, and service!**

*Contributed by: Sue Hooper*

*Top right: Many hands make light work – DGN Neville Parsons tree planting with the help of Lily and Josie*

*Right: Q. How does my garden grow?*

**A.** With Rtn Ruth Rogers doing her rain dance when a thunderstorm is looming.



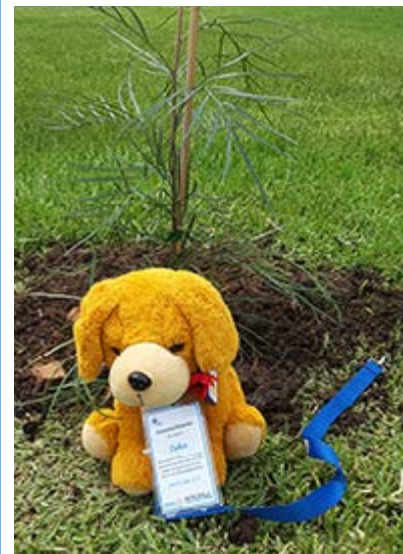
Comparing newspaper notes – L-R: IPDG Graeme Hooper, PDG Brian Coffey, No 13 Alex Tigani, DGN Neville Parsons



"No 13" Alex is in good company.

So this past month I've been around the traps, just a little bit. IPDG Graeme and Sue took me to Dungog. It was a little reminiscent of being there 12 months ago when President Bev gave me my very own poppy for Poppy Day.

Then there was this tree planting business at St Catherine's Catholic College with the crew from Singleton Sunrise Rotary Club. I even got to inspect one of the newly planted trees! And then ... PHEWEE! I nearly got puppy-napped! Maree, one of the



school staff and also a Rotarian, she loved me so much she was going to take me home with her. But Alas! My boss, Sue, she caught us just in the nick of time before we were going to be whisking away to some unknown puppy kennel.

I hope you all remembered your poppies on Remembrance Day? And hey! My mates in Canberra, Winston and Hooper, they got to meet the PM, ScoMo? That was just so special.

And remember, if you're looking for that something special for someone special for a Santa gift, maybe you could consider a donation towards helping my mates. Remember to add "ROTARY" to the name to ensure this very much appreciated generosity goes to the right account. The lovely Katrina always has the details at the end of my column.



Tree planting job done and inspection passed!

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"

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



**INTEGRA**  
SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA



# Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards

The **Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards**, which this year has been supported by District, this is an annual event to recognise those women who excel in their profession and in their 'spare' time dedicate themselves to volunteering.

As a result of this District support, we have had much interest in our District and on Sunday PDG Helen Ryan was privileged to host 3 finalists who have done amazing work and have dedicated their services, both voluntarily and professionally.

The categories for these awards are:

- **Young Inspirational Women – Urban**
- **Inspirational Women – Urban**
- **Young Inspirational Women – Rural**
- **Inspirational Women – Rural**

This year, another category was added to recognise those women who have played a vital role in the Health portfolio with the fires, drought, floods and now Covid 19; this category is:

- **Inspirational Women – Health Care Worker**

District Governor David and District Governor Elect Amanda spoke of the

pride that the District has in recognising the women. DGE Amanda worked with the committee in the selection of the finalists for our district and spoke of her pleasure in so doing.

The awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognise the enormous contribution or both Urban and Rural women in New South Wales.

**The finalists in District 9670 were:**

**Sarah Bugbird**, Young Inspirational Women – Urban, who for the last 18 years has been involved in Merewether SLSC, serving on the committee, organising community events and being the lead trainer/assessor.

**Bethany Dwyer**, Young Inspirational Women – Rural, who is a Student Learning Support Officer at Mt. View High School, is involved in the promotion and operation of the RFS and supported the Cessnock Pink Organisation.

**Sharon Thomas**, Inspirational Women – Rural, who has reached out to children from disrupted homes, helping both them and their parents, who, with her husband, fostered eight children and who also runs the Mother Goose Nursery where she mentors and trains staff.





# Month of Club Charter

As part of an initiative to promote District Clubs they will have the opportunity to highlight themselves in the month they were Chartered.

The following clubs were Chartered in October:

**Belmont** – 16 November 1949

**Cobar** – 26 November 1965



## Rotary Club of Belmont

The Rotary Club of Belmont was chartered on November 16th 1949 with 30 charter members under the presidency of Charles Wilson.

Throughout the years, the members may have changed but the goals of serving the community remain unchanged.



Standing: Gerry Wubbels, Peter Coutman, Peter Towner, Ern Alchin, Harry Eckford, Colin May, George Mowbray, Bob Stent  
Seated: Jock Wylie, Bruce Molloy, Alan Johnson, Stan May, Rod McIntosh

From the earliest years, the club supported the local community – such as Belmont District Hospital, Rotary Park at Belmont, Mollie Smith Netball courts – as well as programs for children - the Crippled Children's Association, Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and the Morton Music Award.

The club has also enthusiastically supported Rotary projects over many years – Group Study Exchange, RYLA and more recently Polio Plus, Youth Exchange, and the Science and Engineering Schools programs and has been instrumental in chartering Swansea and Charlestown clubs.

This service to the community continues with members collecting food for the Belmont Neighbourhood Centre, removing graffiti from buildings in Swansea and Belmont and supporting local and international programs.

Other local projects supported are the Westpac Helicopter Service, Lake Macquarie LAC Police Awards and the Lake Macquarie PCYC.

The Clubs members are currently trying to be more local community involved to raise the profile of Rotary, which is resulting in members having a better understanding of the community needs.



Rotary Club of Belmont – 1949 and 2020



# Membership Matters

Since the start of the year we have had 14 clubs report membership growth – allowing our numbers to plateau at 1030. Some of the losses can be attributed to record cleansing, which has been identified and supported by the clubs in my requests for demographics.

Due to the support of the clubs, we are confident that D9670 records are 100% accurate, we DO know our membership status – possibly better than any other District in the world!

However, membership is more than recruiting new members, clubs should be congratulated in how during COVID-19 they have been able to engage and retain members. As we enter the end of the calendar year, clubs need to maintain that affinity with their members in satisfying social and service opportunity.

There are 3 things you need to consider now before the end of December:



1. Ensure membership records on **Club Runner** are accurate for Rotary International invoicing and District records.
2. Update / transfer Club leadership details on **Club Runner**, for information of Rotary International, DGE Amanda and the Training Team.
3. Clubs should ensure their club and membership details are up to date in the **Rotary Down Under** database as subscription invoices will be produced from these numbers and no adjustments can be made to invoices once they are printed after figures are run on January 1. **Please note** the Rotary Down Under database is separate to the Rotary International (RI) and District databases.

There are a couple of tricks in doing some of these actions – I am happy to talk you through, put you in contact with experienced members, or run a Zoom meeting if the need for assistance is identified.

*Carol Coffey*  
District Membership Chair  
December 2020



## Month of Club Charter contd...

### Rotary Club of Cobar

The Rotary Club of Nyngan [now closed] was the sponsoring Club for Cobar Rotary Club.

A meeting to gauge public interest in forming a Rotary Club in Cobar was arranged by Nyngan Rotary in 1965.

On the 16th November 1965 the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Cobar Board was held with Warren Turton as first Club President.

The Club Charter was presented to the Cobar Club on the 19th February 1966 at a meeting held in the Cobar Masonic Hall.



Members of the New Cobar Rotary Club and their Nyngan Rotary Supporters gather following the Club Charter presentation in 1966 at the Cobar Masonic Hall



Cobar Club members at the Club Changeover in 2020 at the Cobar Bowling and Golf Club. Club President Peter Patton [1st on left] with wife Molly, 3 active club members absent from the photo

## COVID-Safe Fundraising

### Dubbo Rotary Club - Positives of the Pandemic – Online Amateur Photo Competition

2020 has seen many challenges, whether it be drought, fire, flood or a pandemic, we have certainly experienced it all.

Throughout the trials & tribulations our communities have banded together to support one another the best way we know how. With this in mind, the Rotary Club of Dubbo has been at the forefront to assist when required & have decided to bring to light the Positives of forced change by way of

a amateur photography competition, which will also raise funds for our local community.

For more details as to how to organize and operate this innovative online competition please contact Dubbo Rotary Club.



*DG David and DGE Amanda wish you and your extended families a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.*

*It is time to spend time with family and to hopefully look forward to connecting once again with our communities.*





## Celebrating a Half-Century of Service

### Salamander Bay Rotary Club honour Peter Sivyer's contribution to Rotary and the Community for fifty years of Service.

On 2nd November 1970, Peter joined the Manly Rotary Club, D9680 becoming President in 1979/80. 1980 saw the inception of the Manly Rotary Art Show by Peter. Under the direction of Peter and Pam, and a dedicated team of Rotarians and wives, this fund raiser was to continue for 26 years. Pam and Peter were both awarded "Paul Harris" Fellows for their services to the community.

Peter also instigated "Cash-a Can" in 1980 whereby Rotarians brought aluminium cans from the public and sold them to Sims Metal. Peter also became Chairman of Manly District Hospital Fund Raising Committee for 13 years, raising large amounts for hospital use.

On leaving Manly for the Central Coast, Peter and Pam were both granted honorary membership of the Manly Club. Peter then attended Terrigal Rotary Club and after moving to Paterson, in the Hunter Valley he was granted honorary membership of Terrigal Club.

Peter then joined Paterson Rotary Club, (D9670) where he eventually became president. It was during his membership at Paterson, that Peter in 1998/99 became District Governor District 9670. Peter and Pam travelled 60,000 kilometres during his D.G.

year, visiting 52 clubs meeting many wonderful Rotarians along the way. Peter and Pam attended three International Conventions which provided much helpful stimulation. It was during this time as D.G. that Peter was elected to represent District 9670 in Chicago at the Rotary "Council on Legislation" in 2001. This proved a most inspiring experience. Peter was the District 9670 Secretary in 2001/2002 receiving a "Membership and Development award from R.I.

It was also during his time in Paterson Club, Peter as Rotary International Membership Rep, chartered two new Rotary clubs - Myall Coast Chartered 18th October 2003 and Salamander Bay Chartered 21st April 2004.

Peter established, promoted a new program for Rotary called: **RELAYID** (*Rotary Education and Leadership Award for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities*), a programme similar to RYLA.

Peter also played an integral part in raising over \$50,000 for the Fred Hollows Eye Appeal. Rotary sponsored an Ambulance Officer John Nielsen and his team paddled in a Murray River Marathon. Peter coordinated all the Rotary Clubs along the route for donations.

Pam and Peter home hosted International Exchange students, six from Japan, one from Germany, one from South American whilst in Manly and Paterson Clubs.



Christine Walmsley Area Governor Zone C, Peter Sivyer, Peter North President Salamander Bay RC and Pam Sivyer

In 2003, Peter was mentioned in the Queen's New Year's Honours List and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his outstanding service to the community.

In 2008, Peter became a member of the Rotary Club of Myall Coast and undertook the office of President, three times. In July 2008, Peter and Pam instituted a literacy programme, named "Rotary Readers", which was a weekly one-to-one reading project with Tea Gardens Primary school students as a result of these projects Peter on two occasions was presented "Community Awards" by the Executive Director of the NSW Department of Education.

## PDG Gerard McMillian enters Hall of Fame

Gerard was recently recognised and inducted into the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame in recognition of significant achievement in the category of Community Service.

The award recognised Gerard's community involvement at local, state and national levels.

Achievements include strong leadership of the club industry being an executive member of the RCA at state level, a board member of Clubs Australia, national level, past state president of the RSL Clubs Association, past national president of the Catholic Cursillo movement, having served the local tourist association and was president for a time, many years on Singleton council's internal audit & governance committee, treasurer of the Mercy Home's fundraising committee raising \$100,000.00 within twelve months, served on the parish finance committee, the returning officer and soon to join the committee of the Mid Hunter Palliative Care Group, formally a rugby union referee and manager of representative rugby teams.

Gerard was also president of the Hunter Zone of the Club Managers Association, for five years and was also the zone president of the registered clubs association.

Gerard has a strong and enthusiastic Rotary history inclusive of D9670 District Governor in 2014-15 with the theme Light Up Rotary. Gerard also had the additional roles of Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for three years, the

charter president of Singleton Sunrise and now president elect.

Singleton Sunrise has 13 members but recently the club received a RI President's citation level three, only two awarded in the district for last year. Singleton Sunrise Rotary Club was recognised as the highest per capita giving to TRF last year for D9670 and received a certificate for the amount donated to Polio Eradication.

Gerard acknowledges his Rotary Club for nominating him for the Community Service Award. Further to Gerard's award was that he was instrumental in the initiative for the Directors at Singleton Diggers to establish a Community Chest in 1982, since that time the club has donated \$3.4m to local, state and national charities and organisations.

Gerard acknowledges the great support he has received, at work, at Rotary and within the community. As an acknowledgement Gerard believes that this is a shared award.



# Congratulations!

## Zone C Area Governor Report

### Zone C – Chris Walmsley

Another interesting and enjoyable month visiting Clubs across Zone C, sharing information about Rotary's Centenary celebrations in April 2021 and learning about the great projects that clubs are introducing in their communities.

I joined East Maitland Rotary by zoom for their District Governor visit with DG David and DGE Amanda. As this was the evening of the Melbourne Cup, members and guests wore the appropriate head gear to celebrate the occasion. President Glenda shared her club's goals for this Rotary year and the club's ongoing activities. The Christmas Trolley Dash tickets are selling well and club members have been busy in the community promoting this exciting event. It was very interesting to learn more about their Cambodia Project with the commencement of the sanitation block in the village.

Breakfast at Salamander Rotary Club is always a most enjoyable and collegial occasion. One of the special moments of the morning was the presentation of a 50 years of Rotary Service Certificate to Peter Sivyer, Honorary Member of the club. President Peter also updated club members on the progress being made on the development of the Sensory Garden and the arrival of 2 Solar Cases in PNG. Another highlight of the morning was guest speaker Dennis Corr's presentation on the history of Nelson Bay.

An invitation to join Raymond Terrace Rotary for dinner and to share a presentation on my Rotary Journey gave me a great opportunity to once again meet with President Tracy and club members. The club is enjoying being able to be out and about serving their community again at various BBQ's



and with their Furniture Trailer collecting unwanted furniture and delivering to needy members of the community. President Tracy also inducted a new member Adam Nicholas.

Last Wednesday Evening, I joined the members of Maitland Rotary Club as we zoomed in with DG David and DGE Amanda for their District Governor visit. DG David was able to bring club members up to date with District News particularly in relation to the merger of our District with District 9650 in July 2022. David and Amanda also shared information regarding the Virtual District Conference in May next year and the plans that Amanda is now working on with her conference team to ensure that the final conference for District 9670 in 2022 will celebrate our past and move us into the future.

Maitland area Presidents have been joining with me in planning our Centenary celebrations for April 2021. This has been a very positive beginning in forming a stronger Rotary partnership within our community and has led to a combined Rutherford/Telarah and Maitland Sunrise movie night on Wednesday 25th November in support of Polio Plus. Centenary planning is also being conducted within the Nelson Bay, Raymond Terrace and Paterson Clubs.

Chris Walmsley

## Newcastle Volunteer Service Award

### Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon's Volunteer Service Awards 2020

This morning – 26 November 2020 – I had the pleasure of logging onto the **Newcastle Community Awards**, held via Zoom, to see one of our Club members, Alyn Miranda, be presented with an award for his work in the Wallsend, Maryland area.

"For over five years, Alyn has been assisting and supporting homeless persons in the Wallsend area. He coordinates the purchasing and preparation of food packages and has been providing hot meals, toiletries and clothing items. In

addition, Alyn is also a member of Youth Mentoring programmes with Rotary, through the Youth Exchange Programme, a dedicated member of the Pride Committee of Newcastle, and a well-known businessman in the Wallsend community supporting local fundraising projects. Alyn is committed to helping vulnerable and marginalised people in our community and it is his compassion and dedication that is being recognised today."

*This an extract from today's program.*

Once again Congratulations and thanks for your efforts.

Phil Gorton, President  
Rotary Club Wallsend-Maryland inc.



Alyn Miranda  
Rotary Club of Wallsend Maryland

## Rotary Themes: December & January



### December - Disease Prevention and Treatment

This month also includes: *World AIDS Day* on the 1st and *International Day of Disabled Persons* on the 3rd of December

- Organise Medical Camp - Health Awareness for Eye Care / Dental Care
- Providing equipment such as Artificial Limbs, Wheel Chairs and

Calipers to the Physically Challenged Peoples i.e. Polio Sufferers

- Provide low-income, underinsured or underinsured Persons with the knowledge, skills, an opportunities to improve their diet, physical activity and other life habits to prevent, delay, or control, chronic diseases

- Initiate Actions to Prevent and control Diabetes, Heart Diseases, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors

### January - Vocational Service

During this period, clubs highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian. Special activities promote the vocational avenue of service.

- Distribute Four way Test
- Distribute Vocational Awards to



outstanding individuals, Arrange Vocational Visits

- Awareness seminar on career guidance, Organise / Arrange in Plant Training
- Start Vocational Education / Skill Guidance Centre. Start Part Time Consultancy centre
- Helping Physically Challenged people to gets jobs



# Rotary Club Of Mudgee Sunrise Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Parklands Resort, Mudgee provided a fitting venue for our **25th Anniversary Celebrations**.

The theme was silver, of course, and the walls were decorated with many Rotary banners collected over the years.

Special guests attended, including District Governor David and Amanda Roach.

President Peter Roberts held "interviews" with VIPs and members of the Club who shared their individual stories.

Bob Stanley, member of the Rotary Club of Mudgee and husband of the late Shirley Stanley shared stories of his family's time in the Solomon Islands. He spoke of how Shirley had wanted to join the Rotary Club of Mudgee but back in 1996, women were not welcome, so Shirley got together with a group of 25 other men and women and started their own Sunrise Club.

Fred Wheeler provided the background to a successful partnership between the two Mudgee Clubs and the Mid-Western Regional Council. For several years they have worked closely together, bringing the movies back to Mudgee in the Town Hall Theatre.

Margaret Barnes spoke of the successful *Clock Awards* which are now in their 10th year. More recently, Rotary has joined with the Mudgee Business Chamber and the event is now biennial and has become a prestigious event in the Region's business calendar.

Birgit Smith used her skills gained as the High School Librarian to produce an amazing Power Point presentation spanning 25 years.

There were many photographs of members past and present, newspaper articles of fundraising events and milestone celebrations, some of which Birgit uncovered in volumes of old Guardian newspapers stored at the Mudgee Museum.

Birgit was thanked by President Peter Roberts for her research and effort in pulling together lots of archived material which is now available in digital form for future generations to enjoy.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the three recipients of the **Paul Harris Fellow Awards**:

Gwenda Ingram, Club Admin Director  
Karen Wilkinson, Community Member

Joy Adams, Three times Past President and twice Area Governor – Joy received a Paul Harris Sapphire Award.





# New Green Shoots: Our Seventh Avenue of Rotary Service

## We've done a lot already – now a clear focus

Many Rotarians have a strong personal commitment to stewardship of the environment and to a lifestyle that is based on sustainable living – locally and internationally. For decades now Rotarians have advocated for the protection of natural environmental systems and demonstrated the application of environmental principles in projects designed to protect the world's biodiversity and provide sustainable and secure food and water supplies.

Rotary has now taken valuing the environment a step further, adding it to our six key service focus areas. Given sustainable environmental management involves achieving environmental, social, economic and cultural goals in an integrated way, appreciation of the environment flows through all service areas as well as standing on its own. Healthy, functioning environmental systems provide so many of the services on which our society depends. On the down-side, a degraded environment adversely impacts on people's resources for life

such as secure access to water, enough food to eat and a safe place to live.

In a time of rapidly changing global climate and clear evidence of loss of biodiversity, water security, food production and air quality, our leadership and service to sustainability and the environment could not be more important. We can all make a difference.

## What's included in Rotary's environmental service focus?

The environment is a pretty big topic and there's almost no limit to ways that Rotarians can contribute – in their own lives, their club, combined club projects, district initiatives and international partnerships.

At an international level, Rotary has established the ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group) to help focus our environmental activities. They will develop awareness and training resources, provide guidelines, foster discussion, evaluate service projects that are seeking funding from Global Grants, support partnerships and promote Rotary's achievements. District environmental coordinators across Australia can liaise with ESRAG.

## Environmental service in our district – getting started, building momentum

Many of our Clubs have a big track record of projects with a strong environmental component and a lot of experience to offer. The new service focus builds on this.

### Leadership

Our first steps towards developing an environmental service plan for our District is to appoint a District Environmental Sustainability Officer and a District Environmental Committee to provide clubs with support, information, inspiration and guidance on how to live greener and to design and deliver effective environmental service programs – locally, regionally and internationally. If you don't already have one, Clubs can appoint an Environment Director to their Board to coordinate their local activity.

Pam Dean-Jones from Toronto Sunrise Club has agreed to take on the district Environmental Sustainability Officer role. She'll report to DG David this year and DG Amanda the following year.

We are starting to build contacts with

ESRAG and with other Districts, to learn about their approach – many Districts have already established environmental committees.

Pam's background is in environmental and sustainability consulting, coastal zone management, government environmental policy and programs and community environmental projects.

### Next:

If you would like to be involved in how the District develops its Environmental Service program, please contact Pam on 0412279201 or pdeanjones@umwelt.com.au. Rotarians and Rotaractors are welcome to contribute. We'll decide on a Committee name, our District environmental goals and meeting schedule for the Committee over the next few months.

If you are a member of the District Environment Committee, you are likely to also be the Environment Director or advisor in your Club. If your club already has an Environmental Director, please let Pam know, so we can start to build up a network of contacts across the District.

Pam is happy to visit your club in

person or via Zoom to talk about Rotary's approach to environmental sustainability and how you and your Club can make a difference. Use the same contact details above to arrange this.

As our District Committee starts to build plans at the District Level, other Committee members will be keen to share our ideas and get your feedback.

Share stories about your local environment and sustainability projects with others across the District. What's special about it? Are there species that make it distinctive? What are the challenges you face? How have your projects succeeded in building awareness, partnerships or a stronger environment and community? To get things started, read about the Green and Golden Bellfrog, an endangered species that occurs in our District. We'll include information about our District environment and projects in regular District newsletters.

Look for an update and ideas in next year's District Conference program

Here are a few of the headline opportunities for environmental service suggested by ESRAG – many of which overlap:

Life on earth		The Circular Economy	Sustainable or renewable energy	Active and healthy communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity</li> <li>Restoring ecological communities with planting, weeding restoring water supply</li> <li>Sustainable production systems - where does our food come from?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building both human and ecological resilience</li> </ul> <p><b>A Clean World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution control - including contamination of water, air pollution, light, heat, plastics, invasive plants and animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life cycle management of resources</li> <li>Avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, thinking</li> <li>composting and other value adding waste management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How we generate store and use energy</li> <li>How we move around and between our cities</li> <li>Changing work patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How communities work together, sharing knowledge, ideas and energy for action</li> <li>What makes us vulnerable to change? What makes us resilient?</li> <li>Environmental diseases</li> <li>Engaged communities</li> </ul>





## The Green and Golden Bellfrog

Although once common, the vivid 'pea green' and brassy brown Green and Golden Bell Frog is listed as an Endangered species in NSW and Vulnerable nationally. The frog grows up to 10cm long and has a distinctive call – so it's a bit of a rock star of wetlands – very bright, shiny and loud!

The Hunter River catchment in our District is a key part of its remaining distribution, and most currently known populations are coastal or near coastal. Its preferred habitat includes open unshaded ponds, rush marsh (bull rush and spike rush) and creek margins with nearby grassy areas and some daytime shelter. The Green and Golden Bellfrog tadpoles eat algae and plant matter but the adults mostly

eat (large quantities of) insects. The frog is prey for wading birds and some snakes, and its tadpoles are vulnerable to predatory fish such as Gambusia.

In Greater Sydney and the Hunter, the Green and Golden Bellfrog survives in and around highly disturbed, ephemeral (filling after rain) fresh to slightly brackish water – such as the ponds on Kooragang Island, Hexham and Sandgate and old industrial areas at Sydney Olympic Park.

Conservation and protection actions include maintaining and increasing the area and connectivity of shallow ephemeral ponds (on public and private land) and reducing access by predators such as Gambusia.

### What can Rotary Clubs do?

*Here's a few suggestions...*

- Invite a guest speaker to your club from NPWS, University of Newcastle or Shortland Wetlands Centre.
- Learn about frog habitats and threats and how much wetland habitat has been lost
- If you are in the lower Hunter, contact or visit the Shortland Wetland Centre, which has historically contributed to habitat enhancement and monitoring. Learn about community based monitoring programs
- Volunteer in conservation programs in the Hunter Estuary

Wetlands National Park – or in any reserve near you – helping create or restore habitat

- Contribute to conservation programs in diverse wetland habitats across the District. These might include litter clean ups, education about storm water pollution, learn about pest species and how they can be managed; kids outdoor education programs to explore the wetland habitat
- invite local Aboriginal elders to share their cultural stories about frogs and their habitat
- Help to promote or fund programs for schools on frogs and wetland conservation

- Help disabled and elderly people to get out and experience natural areas, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature



<https://portal.frogid.net.au/frogs/litoria-aurea> (listen here)