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## THE GUARDIAN

From the desk of  
**District 9670 Governor**  
Graeme Hooper  
Issue 7: **February 2020**



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

December and January have been a tumultuous two months as we cope with bushfires that have swept our nation. Everyone of us has been impacted in some way with family or friends living through terror, loss, evacuations, as front line "furies", volunteering in support teams in emergency response centres, or as animal rescuers.

I applaud the many Rotarians who have given their service during this fire season, particularly those on the front line, and at a time when we would all have preferred to have been enjoying the holiday season. We are very fortunate in our District to have been spared from the catastrophic fury unleashed across many parts of our nation.

The Australian Rotary District Governors quickly established a Bushfire Appeal through RAWCS and donations are welcome via: <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/68-2019-20>. A team of District Governors will decide how these funds are to be distributed during the recovery phase and I will advise when the criteria is available.

Whilst some parts of our District have seen some rain, the Outer West is still a dust bowl. I would encourage Clubs to continue supporting our ongoing Drought Appeal via: <https://rawcs.org.au/disasters/>. Water supply is becoming a major issue.

I sincerely thank Earl Heckman, Rotary Club of Maitland, for his assistance to temporarily fill the position of Assistant Governor for Zone 7; and welcome Pam Dean-Jones, Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise, officially to the position effective 1 January.

Sadly, PDG John "Toby" Glass passed away prior to Christmas after a long battle with cancer. Toby is affectionately remembered for his dedicated service to our District, the Rotary Club of Newcastle, and his profession.

DGE David Roach and Amanda have travelled to the USA in preparation for their year ahead and to hear how Rotary International World President Elect Holger Knaack is going to lead the way as "Rotary Opens Opportunities". Please support David as he prepares our District and Club leaders to take us forward. Please give consideration to nominating for the inaugural District Governor role of our new District in 2022-23. Interviews will be held weekend 14-15 March. Please contact me for further information.



YEP Chair, Pam Wellhan, and DG Graeme & Sue at Sydney International Airport, farewelling the 2020 Youth Exchange Outbound students, accompanied by some of the current Inbound students.

Our theme for February is Peace and Conflict Resolution. What a great opportunity to focus on your local community. This will also feature as one of the key themes at our upcoming District Conference.

Conflict and violence displace millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians. We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary programs provide training to foster understanding and provide communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

As the year cranks up for the remaining five months, please let Sue and I know of any special projects you would like us to participate in. As Presidents-Elect begin to focus on their upcoming year ahead, please also let us know of your Changeover dates. Rotary is about service and being "People of Action".

Remember to register for our "Breaking Through Barriers" District Conference via: [www.trybooking.com/ZWHT](http://www.trybooking.com/ZWHT). And if you haven't been to one before, it's a fabulous way to further your Rotary knowledge, make connections, and to re-connect. The organising Committee are really putting in the hard yards to bring you an amazing program. Sue and I look forward to seeing you there.



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# Rotary District 9670 CONFERENCE

20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

## Breaking Through Barriers

Belmont 16s  
Lake Macquarie



Rotary  
District 9670

# Competition time!

## \$500 Hamper

Courtesy of:



Register for District 9670  
Conference before Feb 29th at  
5pm to go in the draw to win a  
\$500 gift hamper!

To help whet your Conference appetite, here is a sneak preview into some of our guest speakers:

**Brad Webb** – CEO, Samaritans

**Katie Brassil** - Executive General

Manager Approvals, Sustainability and Corporate Communications, Centennial Coal

**Charlie Allen** – Director of Partnerships, Institute for Economics and Peace Ambassadors and Rotary Peace Fellows

**Scott Bevan** – Author, journalist, broadcaster and biographer

**Dr Freya Jephcott** - World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), including field epidemiology for two of the recent Ebola outbreaks

**Mike Greenslade** – CEO, ShelterBox Australia

**Disaster Recovery Report**

**Entertainment** – Australian Army Band Newcastle

D9670 Conference Speaker bios are now on the conference website:

<https://www.rotary9670conference.com.au/our-speakers>

Conference Dinner:  
**1920's Theme**



Conference Chairman: Ed Wilson • [asterwil@bigpond.com](mailto:asterwil@bigpond.com) • Mob: 0407 411 173

Conference Secretary: Eleanor Cunningham • [eleanorcunningham55@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorcunningham55@gmail.com) • Mob: 0416 258 461

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors...





# Membership Update from DG Graeme

The 31st December always shows a downturn as Clubs review their membership with members resigning for various reasons.

Sadly, the Rotary Club of Myall Coast handed in their Charter resulting in a loss of 13 members. I am confident that several members will re-join another Rotary Club in the near future

Eleven Clubs lost members, including four with a net loss of two each.

Congratulations to Dubbo Macquarie, East Maitland and Newcastle Enterprise who had a net gain of three members.

In total, 15 clubs showed a net gain in membership.

Clubs who are highly visible partnering in their communities are having great success.

The challenge I gave to Clubs during my visits, "Are you just a fundraising Club, or do you genuinely engage and partner in your community?" is as relevant today as it has ever been.

Rotary connects us locally and globally.

Myall Coast RC following their AGM



# Isda's Column

Puppies on holiday mischief have returned to get back to action. Did you read in the Lost and Found that Lilli really did get lost? She literally ended up in the pound at Brisbane Airport! How, defies my imagination. Then, George from Toronto, he's been lost in cyber space for months. Been wondering where he's been. Bet he's got some exciting adventures to tell stories about including fighting fires, but maybe another time. Jasper from Morisset, apart from getting us both into big trouble, he went and sussed out penguins of all things in the deep south. Kula from Salamander Bay, she got to be ship's captain. Bella from Rylstone-Kandos, she got kidnapped to the International Assembly in San Diego and then somehow managed a trip around the world in 80 minutes including various stopovers ... I mean, go figure!



Isda and Jasper (Morisset RC) ...so how do we get out of this one?!

Now down to business. DG's Conference is really looming. All you guardians out there need to busy yourselves and crank up your cameras 'cos my guardian Sue will be pestering you soon if you haven't at least sent us one photo each. She wants to show these off at Conference for all to see. If you haven't yet registered, there's a big hamper up for grabs if you register in February.

Please tell all your friends to book for our fundraising concert complete with raffles and lucky door prizes. Ticketing is now available to the general public at \$25 per adult: [www.trybooking.com/BHYXG](http://www.trybooking.com/BHYXG) Better get cracking. Lot's to do.

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



...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.



**INTEGRA**  
SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA



Rotary International Convention

**"Aloha Rotary"**

**Honolulu • 6-10 June 2020**

Check out the promotional video here: <https://vimeo.com/313026044>

Register at: <http://riconvention.org/en/honolulu>  
Katrina Henningham (& Craig) RC Warners Bay  
E: [convention@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:convention@rotary9670.org.au)

Register NOW – and Join the FaceBook group: [D9670 Convention 2020](https://www.facebook.com/D9670Convention2020) to find lots of ideas for accommodation, tours and other things to do while you're in Hawaii.

## RI News

### RI President Elect 2020-21

Interview from the Rotary International Assembly at San Diego - John Hewko, CEO, is chatting live with President Elect Holger Knaack about his theme and vision for Rotary's future:

<https://www.facebook.com/rotary/videos/194418204942847/UzpfSTEWMDAwNTIxODE3NTM0NzpwSzoXMTkxMTU3NTk0NDA3NDk4/>

### Rotary Brand News

Here is the link to the latest Rotary Brand news for the information of Clubs:

<http://msgfocus.rotary.org/q/12G9gJBYSIwGDiR4KaeBQAta/wv>

# Drought Report...

## Cobar

### Fodder delivery

The third road train of fodder was delivered to the two drop off points on the Bourke Road earlier in December.

Farmers allocated this fodder were contacted and asked to pick up from their drop off point. Some very appreciative farmers out there!!!

A big thank you to Gulf Horizons Foundation, Flash Market, and Eye Candy Motor Sport, for their continued support for our farmers.

*Gordon Hill, Cobar Rotary Club*



Fodder delivery at point property, 'Dijoe', Bourke Road



Unloading fodder at point property, 'Rest Down', Canbelego



Loaded up at Nymagee

## Drought Update... Scone

What a wonderful and thoughtful surprise in our mail! We appreciate the payment off our rates. We have been appealing to the UHC for some consideration for farmers at this hard time but it has fallen on deaf ears.

Glad you heard!

*Many thanks, David and Paula*

Dear Lindy,

I am writing to say a big thank you to you and the Rotary team at Scone. Yesterday we received your letter letting my husband and I know that you had paid \$200 off our rates bill. This is such a generous gesture and reminds us of how lucky we are to

be a part of this amazingly supportive community. Thank you for bringing the Christmas cheer to our little farm.

Wishing you and the rotary club a very Merry Christmas and hopefully some New Year rain!

*With thanks, James & Kylie*

Dear Lindy,

We wish to thank the Scone Rotary Club for their contribution toward payment of our Upper Hunter Shire Council rates.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

*Regards, Hamish and Sharlie*

*Thank  
You*

**RDU SUPPLIES**  
Licensed Rotary Brand Distributor

RDU Supplies are again offering D9670 the opportunity to sell their merchandise at our District Conference.

RDU Supplies offer 10% commission to run the booth.

If your Rotary Club is interested, please advise by direct email before Friday 14 February:

**g o v e r n o r 2 0 1 9 - 2 0 @  
rotary9670.org.au**

If more than one application is received, DG Graeme will determine by lucky draw.



# Rylstone-Kandos Bushfire Report

The Rotary Club of Rylstone-Kandos was involved in providing catering support to the Rural Fire Service [RFS] at the Rylstone Showground where a Fire Control Base was established on Christmas Eve 2019, following the official declaration of a Fire Emergency. This continued for 22 days from Boxing Day afternoon and we served over 2700 meals

While we're quite proud of what our little Club has done, it cannot compare with front line duties. Various groups of community volunteers were extensively involved. Without warning one morning, more than 30 people on Strike Teams from Dubbo, Nyngan and Trangie arrived together at 8.30am requesting breakfast on the basis they had heard they'd get, "a proper feed at Rylstone".

From the eight local RFS Brigades, some firefighters were on the fire line for 76 days straight! They came from all over Western NSW including: Broken Hill, Cobar, White Cliffs, Bourke and Wentworth. They included: National Parks workers; heavy

equipment operators; plant and water tanker drivers; RFS Control staff – "anyone dressed in yellow", as one RFS Controller put it. We also catered for evacuees.

Rylstone was threatened by the Kerry Ridge fire a few kilometres north, and Kandos by the Palmers Oakey/Turondale fire to the immediate southwest. Both communities were also very close to the Gaspers Mountain fire, just east of us.

Our thanks are extended to: A "Friend of the Club", the Dubbo Bangladeshi Community, and NSW – Central West Muslim Association, for their monetary donations organised by AG Steve Cowley.

Any funds received by us in addition to the above direct compensation from RFS will be used for the relief effort that now commences. Some five tonnes of donated goods from Mona Vale and Dee Why areas will be used in hampers for both fire and drought affected people.

*Klaus Keck, President*

*Rotary Club of Rylstone-Kandos*



Rylstone-Kandos RC members taking a breather in the kitchen with Andrew Gee MP (in green shirt)

## Rylstone-Kandos Annual Christmas Carnival

Silvana, a female Neapolitan Mastiff show dog weighing 65 kg, is our Club's "reindeer substitute".

She pulls her wagon full of lollies and gifts for the children.

Santa, who is a Friend of Rotary aka Max Mosher, is there too.

Silvana's handler is Nancy Keck.



# The Drought Continues...

Over the past few months, several areas have had good rainfalls, while other areas have missed out. Some western towns are also enduring, on average, a dust storm every week.

Thanks to donations from individuals and organisations, the District Drought Relief Fund has a small amount of money available to distribute to drought-affected areas. These funds should be spent within these drought-affected towns, to assist businesses, who also suffer in a drought. To receive the funds, please complete the Registration form or contact Nicole Shanks to receive a copy.

Rotarians, should also consider taking a trip out to drought-affected areas, or if you can't make a trip, consider purchasing items online that are from the bush.

Please don't stop donating funds as farmers and towns still need your help: <https://rawcs.org.au/disasters/>

*Nicole Shanks, Rotary Club of Dubbo West District 9670 Drought Fund Administrator*



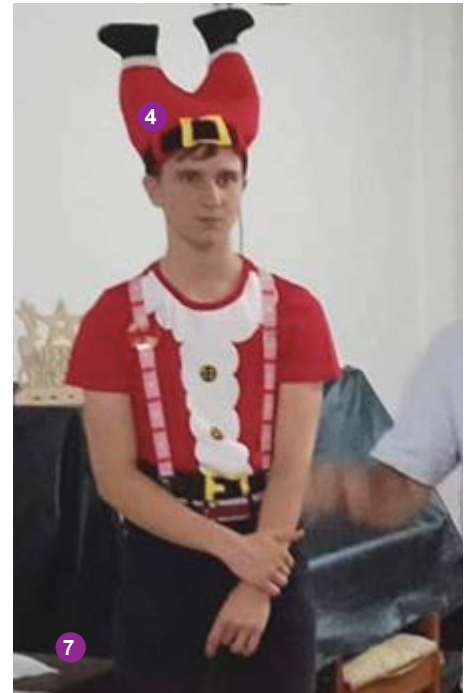
Photo from: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jan/20/huge-dust-storms-hit-central-new-south-wales>



# Christmas Wrap-Up



1. Isda & Sunny (Singleton Sunrise RC) Xmas pressie wrapping for the elderly; 2. YUM YUM ... now that's what you call an ice cream or two;



## Dubbo RC & Macquarie Homestay

Dubbo Rotary Club preparing to give a little cheer for Macquarie Homestay visitors visiting hospital or seeking medical treatment over Christmas.

Christmas can be a lonely and stressful time, especially when you are in a big town seeking medical treatment a long way from your loved ones. A number of patients receiving treatment in Dubbo and staying at the Macquarie Homestay in Tony McGrane Place, had a little extra cheer on Christmas Day thanks to the Rotary Club of Dubbo.

The Rotarians from this Club banded together and packaged a small selection

of festive treats to help make their stay in Dubbo a little brighter for Christmas Day. The thoughtful packaging of individual serves reduces waste and rubbish that would normally need to be disposed of. All of these goodies were placed in a high quality fully sealed storage container that each of the recipients can take back with them for use at home. Woolworths at Delroy have kindly contributed to these packs.

Pictured is President of Dubbo Rotary Club, Lyn Wicks (centre) and her assistant Peter Judd (right), showing off the special treats to Rod Crowfoot (left), Managing Director of the Macquarie Homestay.





# Vale



## John Vilks

On Friday 17 January 2020 we lost one of our most esteemed members; Rotarian, Past President, Treasurer and Paul Harris Fellow, John Vilks.

John was a dedicated family man and long-standing member of the Rotary Club of Cardiff. He was generously supported by his wife Judy in Club activities and John's daughter Danielle and son Darren, also volunteered with the Club over the years. A wonderful example of 'Team Vilks'.

John was President for four years over the almost 38 years of his membership of our Club. He was our Treasurer for many years too.

John was also involved in the Youth Exchange Programme - both inbound and outbound. John and Judy maintained close contact with the host family that his daughter Danielle stayed with in USA. They still visit Australia annually to catch up with the family.

John and Judy for many years hosted the Melbourne Cup Night at their home. The mystery sweep and many raffles raised much needed funds that were distributed to the local community. John's spit roast was always a big hit. Judy's desserts were legendary, and no one ever went hungry. The ambience around the pool always made for a great night.

If you asked who instigated the charity auctions, the sale of linen from the 'back of a truck' (all legal of course), the car rallies and many of the other fund-raising 'firsts' at our club, and the answer would be - John Vilks.

John, along with his great friend and neighbour John Lovett, were the undisputed 'BBQ Meisters' of our Club. They were always hard at work at events like the Cardiff Main Street opening, Halloween, the Truck Awareness Day at the Newcastle foreshore, Ronald McDonald House catering, and assisting Rotary Club of Wallsend Maryland with their Bunning's BBQ's.

When he had free time, John loved to go fishing. If you wanted to know about fishing the rivers for Murray River Cod, then John Vilks was your 'go to' man! John also had a keen interest in pistol shooting and knew a lot about rifles. In fact, he knew a lot about many things. John was always quiet and unassuming, but always managed to surprise us with anecdotes and facts about so many diverse subjects.

These are just a few of the things that we remember about John and what he did for our Rotary Club and the wider community of Cardiff. He will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

*Eleanor Cunningham, Rotary Club of Cardiff*



## Evan Rogers, Rotary Friendship Exchange with D9USA

Peter Judd from Dubbo... we received some very sad news from our wonderful Rotary friend from Minnesota, Cynthia Rogers, that her kind and gentle husband, Evan Rogers has passed away from complications of his battle with diabetes on the 13th of November. She is coping and has sent me the attached email":

## PDG Dr John (Toby) Glass

Most Rotarians would remember Toby Glass as a keen, enthusiastic Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Newcastle, or as a PDG of District 9670, or as a dedicated long-time member of District 9670 Youth Exchange Program, or as a Board member and sometime Committee Chairman, of Eastern Region Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS).

Toby was a Rotarian for over 42 Years. He was President in 1983-84

and again in 1995-96, then lately, Treasurer. He was District Governor in 1992-93.

He was a Paul Harris Fellow with two Sapphires and was the recipient of a "4 Avenues of Service" Award.

Should you be in the medical profession you would remember him as a prominent Rheumatology Physician in private practice in Newcastle. He was a member of the Royal Australian College of Physicians.

He was a clinical lecturer in the Newcastle Medical School and was engaged with the postgraduate Training of Rheumatology Trainees.

But I remember Toby as best friend and travelling companion! Toby and Pat and Anne and I travelled many hundreds of kilometres together in a series of brand-new SUV's, as Toby had a passion for the latest and best.

We travelled to rural centres all over NSW to RAWCS Meetings four times a year for almost 15 years! We also did some big adventures to Perth across the Nullarbor Plain and to Adelaide and home via Uluru. The pinnacle of adventurous travel was two weeks on a 64 ft long Narrow boat in England on the canals around Stratford.

For many years we met with our wives each Saturday night to go to the movies or share a meal and watch videos, then on Sunday morning for breakfast to discuss "Stuff"... among them, Rotary things associated with activities happening whilst he was Chairman and I was his Secretary.

I will miss him as a true friend, as will countless others.

*PP Ted Lewis OAM, Rotary Club of Newcastle*

In lieu of flowers, District 9670 has given a donation to Hunter Medical Research Institute

*From Cynthia to Peter Judd:*

*"The next piece of news is much more difficult and please forgive me for not having shared this sooner - I just didn't know how- after an amazing trip of a life time, Evan and I returned home, both tired and under the weather- not unexpected after the pace that we set but- Evan died on 13 November - complications of his diabetes- I was in CA for work when he became ill and was blessed to be able to get home to say good bye- I have thought so many times of how to tell you and just didn't know how- he loved every minute of our trip and we truly had planned to come back to see you again- I am heartbroken but moving forward one step at a time through the love and support of family and friends and not the least, the grace of God- the time we spent in Australia and the friendships forged will always be dear to my heart- please stay in touch - I think of you often, especially with the news of the devastating fires." ...Cynthia Rogers*



## Lost and Found

**Found:** Where was I the day after Remembrance Day with me still proudly wearing my red poppy I got from Dungog RC? Thought the Merriwa Rotarians would have figured this one out, but they must have been too busy figuring out red socks. DG's road map and Merriwa Club visit photo told you my whereabouts.

**Lost:** Only Lilli got lost, really lost! But Jasper, he just got us both into big trouble! How did we get out of that "box" trailer at Morisset's Christmas trailer raffle? I expect whatever you tell me would be possible, so a reward is guaranteed by lucky draw.

Send your escapism theories to Katrina by **23 February 2020** at:

[districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au)

## Congratulations!

To **Jen Dowdy**, Mudgee Sunrise RC, and **Geoff Hurt**, Toronto Sunrise RC, who are the lucky winners for our **Conference Earlybird** registrations lucky draw.

**Jan Colmer** named Narrowmine *Citizen of the Year*.

January Conference registration lucky draw winner of **\$250 hamper**, courtesy of *Everything Floral*, Wallsend, is **Vicki Lovegreen**, Rotary Club of Belmont.

**D9670 Conference Speaker bios** are now on the conference website:

<https://www.rotary9670conference.com.au/our-speakers>

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



Graeme is always losing Sue in airports because he goes plane spotting while she goes and has retail therapy ...and now he's taught Isda what to do as well!



## Classifieds

### Notices

- ◆ Clubs who received trophies at the 2019 Forster Conference, please make arrangements to have them returned to DG Graeme urgently.
- ◆ Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) applications close Wednesday 12 February - contact Howard Bridgman, District RLI Chair, 0425 281 387
- ◆ Clubs wishing to nominate to operate RDU Supplies at District Conference - contact DG Graeme up to Friday 14 February
- ◆ Presidents, AGs and Chairs meeting - Friday 14 February, Club Maitland City
- ◆ Area Representative on District Management Committee (DMC) 2020-21 - nominations close with District Secretary Geoff Alderdice: [secretary@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:secretary@rotary9670.org.au) by 15 February 2020 - Presidents and Secretaries have nomination forms for Club Representative for their particular division
- ◆ "Breaking Through Barriers" District Conference 2020 - register during February and go in the draw to win a \$500 hamper: [www.trybooking.com/zwh1](http://www.trybooking.com/zwh1)
- ◆ District Governor 2022-23 for new District - application closing date is 1st March - contact DG Graeme for information - interviews 14-15 March 2020, possibly in Port Macquarie

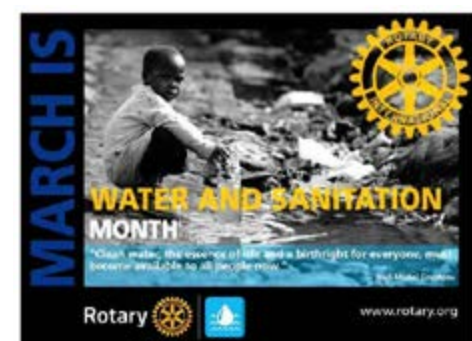
- ◆ District Conference Sunday 22 March 2020 - In Memoriam - please send details with a good quality photo of Club members who have passed away since District Conference 2019 to Katrina Henningham: [hello@katrinahenningham.com](mailto:hello@katrinahenningham.com)
- ◆ Club Changeovers in 2020 - if your Club has a special request for DG Graeme and Sue to be present at your 2020-21 Changeover, please advise the date ASAP direct to: [governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au) - please also note DG Graeme and Sue will be contactable but unavailable 4 June - 8 June, and 25 June - 28 June
- ◆ 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 March District Governor's Newsletter is **Sunday 23 February 2020**

## Positions Vacant

The following District positions are still waiting to be filled. If you consider you have the right skill set, please contact DG Graeme to express your interest: 0417 203 603 ...or... [governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au)

- ◆ Donations In Kind (DIK) Coordinator
- ◆ Rotarian Action Groups Coordinator

## Rotary Themes: February & March





# Getting to Know Your Youth Exchange Students



**Fredrik Skaarup** receiving his yellow belt from Sensei Mark in December.

**Home Country:** Legoland (Denmark)  
**Host Rotary Club:** RC Wallsend-Maryland  
**Where are you going to school:** Jesmond Senior High, Callaghan Campus  
**Favourite music:** Pop music, and Dakke dak  
**Favourite movie:** The very best movie would be "Olsen Banden"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Be with friends, go to beach, read book, sport and sleep  
**What do you like most about your Exchange:** All the wonderful people I've met and the connections I have made and will have for the rest of my life  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Scotland. I have a friend there I want to visit. After I want to go all over the world

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** Get a Go-Pro and a surfboard, go to Fiji and then save, invest and share the rest. + Get new, preferably waterproof, phone.  
**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 will buy LAMINGTONS!

**Gabriela Faggioni Nascimento** at "Walk for Polio" day with Katrina and Craig Henningham, Warners Bay RC

**Home Country:** Brazil  
**Host Rotary Club:** RC Warners Bay  
**Where are you going to school:** Warners Bay High School  
**Favourite music:** That is a hard question I do like a lot of songs, but I think my favourite one is "Free Falin" by John Mayer  
**Favourite movie:** "The Notebook"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** I like to stay with my family and friends, read and listen to music  
**What do you like most about your Exchange:** The fact that I am in another culture and getting to know other people and making a lot of friends with people from different parts of the world  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Egypt, because the local history enchants me.

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** I would travel around the world to know a lot of different countries and cultures and I would make a beneficent institution for people in need  
**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 buy chocolate, more specific... Tim Tams!



**Kaja Korczyńska** with "The Bird" emptying out Rotarians' pockets

**Home Country:** Poland  
**Host Rotary Club:** RC Belmont  
**Where are you going to school:** Belmont High School  
**Favourite music:** I don't have a favourite song, but I like Polish and American rap  
**Favourite movie:** I don't have a favourite movie, but I like "Mamma Mia" and "Dirty Dancing"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** I like spend time with my friends and make makeup  
**What do you like most about your Exchange:** The fact that I constantly learn new things, skills and make my dreams come true  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Australia was my dream place earth, now I would like to see Columbia after returning home because

these places are different from my country  
**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** Invested  
**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:** Salty caramel popcorn



**Kity Petráňová** proudly putting her Rotary apron to work

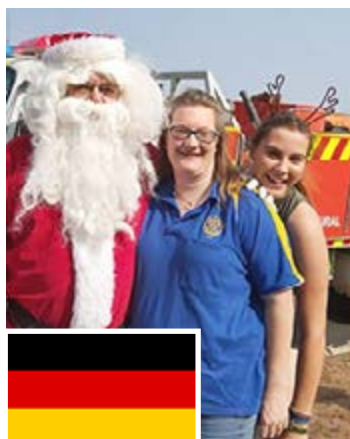
**Home Country:** Czech Republic  
**Host Rotary Club:** RC Newcastle Enterprise  
**Where are you going to school:** Hunter School of Performing Arts, Newcastle  
**Favourite music:** Computer games soundtracks  
**Favourite movie:** Marvel movies  
**What do you like to do in your free time:** Walking my doggo in the forest, going for coffee with

friends, or playing the piano  
**What do you like most about your Exchange:** That it changes me so much and I really learn a lot, not just about the world around me, but also about myself  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Mongolia. I would love to see the great plains and wild nature and people, the remaining of the great kingdom that used to be there  
**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with**

**it:** Right now, I would donate money for fighting the bushfires but other than that, I would totally travel to a poor country and try to make some lives better  
**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:** Surely a cheesymite roll from Baker's Delight and some ice coffee with it.



# Getting to Know Your Youth Exchange Students



**Manon Lilli Zoehner** complete with reindeer ears, with Santa and Peta Luke, President & host mum, Merriwa RC

**Home Country:** Germany

**Host Rotary Club:** Central of the universe (Merriwa)

**Where are you going to school:** Merriwa Central School (like, in the Central of the Universe!)

**Favourite music:** Pop music to dance in every situation

**Favourite movie:** "Spider Man"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Eating, sleeping and sometimes sport

**What do you like most about your Exchange:** I like how much I learn about myself and how I want to be. Also being inspired by other people's kindness

**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** I wanna see the whole world because I want to meet so many different people and learn from every single one

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** Travel and maybe trying to become an actress in Hollywood  
**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 buy the meat pie from the Merriwa Bakery, because they are the best in the world (ask everyone)

**Nea Heiskanen** with her new Aussie Christmas pal "somewhere" close to Hunter Valley Gardens

**Home Country:** Where Santa Claus is from (Finland)

**Host Rotary Club:** RC Maitland-Greenhills

**Where are you going to school:** Maitland Grossman High School

**Favourite music:** RnB & HipHop

**Favourite movie:** "Grease", "Mulan"

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Hang out with friends and listen to music

**What do you like most about your Exchange:** My host family and friends

**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Japan because it's so beautiful and I love the culture and the

language

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** Travel and give some to my family and friends

**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: Tim Tams!



**Philippe Léon** out for a bike ride with first host Dad, Tony Rae

**Home Country:** Italy

**Host Rotary Club:** RC Mudgee Sunrise

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

**Favourite music:** Indie-rock music

**Favourite movie:** "Narcos" on Netflix

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Hang out with friends  
**What do you like most about your Exchange:** The people I've met  
**What is your dream place in the world to visit and why:** Other than Australia, Greece, because I'm passionate in classical literature

**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it:** Donate to help those that are not as lucky, then buy some rentals

**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: Meat pie everyday after school with some mates

## YEP Aussie School Fun

Kity is from Czech Republic and is a student at Hunter School of Performing Arts. Kity likes to be creative and, as a part of her Year 10 studies, undertook some work experience with "Everything Floral", a florist shop in Wallsend. She learnt a few tricks of the trade, under the guidance and instruction of business owner, Alyn Miranda, a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland. Kity is sure to take this experience and new skill set home with her.





# Out & About with the District Governor



DG Graeme presenting outbound YEP student Sophie Holle with her official blazer.



DG Graeme taking some time out prior to Christmas admiring Maori watercraft known as Waka on Mahia Peninsula, North Island, NZ



MHERV: Martin McGrevy, Charlestown RC, filming MHERV in action for the Zone 8 Video Competition.

Movie stars are: RN Rob Woolley, being greeted by Trevor Lynch, and Judy and Geoff Hicks, East Maitland RC. Onlookers in the background are DG Graeme and MHERV coordinator Adrian Payne, Warners Bay RC.



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## District Governor's Conference Dinner

[www.trybooking.com/ZWHT](http://www.trybooking.com/ZWHT)



Conference is creeping up quickly ...and we have a special treat for you on Saturday night!  
Keep guessing - stay tuned over the coming days for our reveal.

## District Conference Friday Night Concert

Australian Army Band Newcastle  
Supporting Integra Service Dogs

Tickets included in selected conference packages or as a stand-alone purchase!

Package booking: [www.trybooking.com/ZWHT](http://www.trybooking.com/ZWHT)

Stand-alone booking:  
[www.trybooking.com/BHYXG](http://www.trybooking.com/BHYXG)







# Adventures of Isda and Her Friends...



1. Kula at the helm on Kula Spirit;  
2. Kula and her pups; 3. Isda and passport stamped;

4. Isda all at sea and off the grid; 5. Bella (R-K RC) sniffing out food at Myakka State Park, Florida; 6. Bella (R-K RC) having a stop over in Bolivia while going around the world in 80

minutes at International Assembly, San Diego; 7. Bella (R-K RC) Stowaway or hijacked by lots of koalas; 8. DGN Amanda making friends with Aamal from Bahrain while Bella checks out what's on offer. Amanda is also modelling her new scarf; 9. Bella (R-K RC) and a



## District 9670 “Breaking Through Barriers” Conference DRAFT Program

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: 10:00am-4:00pm each day**

Time	Activity	Location
10:00am – 4:00pm	MHERV	Belmont 16s Carpark

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Welcome**

Time	Activity	Location
6:00pm	Welcome to Lake Macquarie / Friendship / The Rotary Foundation BBQ	Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park 24 Paley Crescent, Belmont South

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Day 1 | Registration / Concierge / Rotary Expo: Open 7:00am**

Time	Activity	Location
12:00 – 7:00pm	Registration Opens	1st Floor Foyer, Belmont 16s
1:00 – 2:30pm	<i>“Rotary Speed Dating – have a chat”</i> – Youth Protection / Insurance / Governance / Club Runner / My Rotary / Social Media – <i>free range time</i>	Macquarie Room
3:00 – 4:00pm	<b>College of Governors</b>	Macquarie Room
5:00 – 6:45pm	Welcome Cocktail Party	Quarterdeck / Terrace
6:30pm	<i>Auditorium doors open</i>	
7:30pm – close	Clr Kay Fraser, Mayor of City of Lake Macquarie, Official Opening and Integra Service Dogs Australia Fundraising Concert with Australian Army Band Newcastle <b>Please be seated by 7:25pm</b>	Auditorium

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Day 2 | Registration / Concierge / Rotary Expo: Open 7:00am**

Time	Activity	Location
7:00 – 8:15am	<i>Fast Starter Breakfast with ...</i> <b>Mike Greenslade</b> , CEO ShelterBox Australia <i>“We go to the ragged ends of the earth” - how ShelterBox overcomes barriers to the delivery of effective aid</i>	Macquarie Room
8:30 – 10:30am	<b>Conference Opening</b> Flag Parade, Welcome to Country, Introductions, Roll Call, Housekeeping - <b>please be seated by 8:25am</b> <b>Millabah Dance Group</b> Hunter School of Performing Arts <b>Richard Jones</b> , CEO Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service <i>Helicopter rescue – taking on the challenges of the future</i> <b>John Hewko</b> , General Secretary and CEO Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation <i>Rotary 2035 – what our organisation will look like</i> <b>Rotaract and Rotary Panel Discussion</b> <i>Mind the gap – making Rotary service attractive for younger generations</i>	Auditorium
10:30 – 11:00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Quarterdeck / Terrace
11:00 – 12:15pm	<b>Dr Freya Jephcott</b> , Research Fellow, Cambridge University <i>Fighting Epidemics– emergency responses and long-term systems planning</i> <b>Scott Bevan</b> , Writer, Journalist, Broadcaster <i>Finding words, changing lives; Telling stories about people making a difference</i> <b>Mike Greenslade</b> , CEO ShelterBox Australia <i>Presentation of ShelterBox Champion Awards</i>	Auditorium
12:15-1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Quarterdeck / Terrace



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Day 2 | Registration / Concierge / Rotary Expo: Open 7:00am**

Time	Activity	Location
1:00 - 2:00pm	<b>Jen Barron</b> , World Centre Manager, Kusafiri World Centre, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) <i>Partnerships with Third World Countries</i>  <b>Libby Bleakley</b> , Former NSW and AFP Police, Rotary Club of Blackheath <i>Timor Leste – overcoming barriers to reduce youth crime</i>  <b>DG Graeme Hooper, Awards and Presentations</b>	Auditorium
2:30 – 3:30pm	<b>Jen Barron and Youth Exchange Students</b> <i>Leaders of Tomorrow</i>	Marquee
2:30 - 3:30pm	<b>Resolution Session (tentative)</b>	Macquarie Room
2:45 – 4:30pm	<b>Excursions - as per your nominated choice of three –</b> <i>Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service / Museum of Art and Culture / Explore our Coast – register at Conference</i>	Be at your location at 2:45pm
6:00pm	<b>Pre-dinner Fellowship</b>	Auditorium
6:30 – 11:30pm	<b>District Governor's Conference Dinner "1920's"</b>	Auditorium

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Day 3 | Registration / Concierge / Rotary Expo: Open 8:00am**

Time	Activity	Location
7:00 – 8:15am	<i>Fast Starter Breakfast with ...</i> <b>Gordon Hill</b> , Rotary Club of Cobar <b>David Ringland</b> , Rotary Club of Dubbo South <i>Natural Disaster Response and Recovery</i>	Macquarie Room
8:30 – 10:30am	<b>Katrina Henningham</b> , Rotary Club of Warners Bay <i>In Memorium</i>  <b>Charlie Allen</b> , Director of Partnerships, Institute for Economics and Peace Ambassadors, and Rotary Peace Fellows <i>Developing strengths to deliver positive peace. What makes a difference?</i>  <b>Brad Webb</b> , CEO Samaritans <i>Social change in our region – who is affected and what does it mean for Rotary?</i>  <b>Katie Brassil</b> , Executive General Manager Approvals, Sustainability and Corporate Communications, Centennial Coal <i>Economic transition and the future of the Hunter – impacts, opportunities and the role of service organisations</i>  <b>Victoria Baudinette</b> , President, Hunter Rotaract <i>The Rotary we see in the future – responding to the challenge – a perspective from the young</i>	Auditorium
10:30 – 11:15am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Quarterdeck / Terrace
11:15 – 12:45pm	<b>Raffle Winners announced</b> <b>DG Graeme Hooper, Awards and Presentations</b> <b>TBA</b>  <b>Pam Wellham and YEP Inbound Students</b> <i>Our Rotary Experience</i>  <b>DGE David Roach</b> <i>Conference 2021</i>  <b>DG Graeme Hooper</b> <i>District Update / Closing Remarks / Conference Close</i>	Auditorium
1:30 – 3:30pm	<b>PDG Janette Jackson</b> <i>The Rotary Foundation – lunch provided</i>	Macquarie Room