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THE GUARDIAN

From the desk of
District 9670 Governor
Graeme Hooper
Issue 11: **June 2020**



From DG Graeme's Desk...

DG's Parting Editorial

Where have 12 months disappeared to? No one would have planned such a roller-coaster year, yet the impacts of drought, then bushfires, and now COVID-19, have certainly changed our local and broader horizons. We have had to adapt, engage, and reach out, to have impact in our Rotary world.

Incredible thanks to Clubs who have supported our smaller Western and Upper Hunter Clubs during the drought. While bushfires impacted on the perimeter of our District, several Clubs and individual Rotarians were actively engaged serving on the front line 'somewhere', or with other Emergency Services and support. No amount of 'thanks' is ever enough for these volunteers.

June is the time for us all to take stock and to ensure the incoming Board is prepared for the new year ahead, but also to reflect on achievements in the past year. Officially recognised as Fellowship month, take time out to use the freeing up of regulations as to how you can come together physically, spread good cheer, and reflect on events. Take the time while we are connected by technology to visit Clubs you have an association with in our own District, within NSW, or overseas; and even brave some more of the unknown and make new friends with Clubs you haven't yet met. And while we've been connecting online for our Club meetings, I'm very impressed with the way in which some Clubs have continued to be as normal as possible by still having "Head and Tails" and "Jolly Joker" etc. It's all about having some fun!

In planning for next year, I urge Clubs to be innovative, come together in your local areas, and co-jointly work on projects with other Clubs. One way of invigorating our organisation is to break down the silos and work as teams to benefit our local and regional communities.



One of the major outcomes of the year is to see proceeds from The Margaret Illukol Trust being put to use. Spend some time and look up the great work the University of Newcastle has undertaken in recording her life's achievements. (See article in this issue and click on the links.)

During the year, I asked Clubs to focus on four things. How did you go? It's not too late to enter your goals into My Rotary and be recognised with a Club Citation. COVID-19 has freed up the criteria. Many Clubs still need to advise URGENTLY your Changeover details: governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au

Please continue to support our very own charity, The Rotary Foundation. In your annual giving as a Rotarian, please consider adding The Rotary Foundation to your personal giving.

Our heart most thanks to Clubs and Rotarians for making Sue and I so welcome around the District. Your hospitality has added to the enjoyment of our adventures. Our plans to revisit Clubs went on hold owing to COVID-19. However, we fully intend to fulfil these plans over the coming months.

In passing on the relay baton to David and Amanda to run the last couple of laps of District 9670, Sue and I wish them well as our leaders, adapting to change and engaging with all Rotarians as we transform into District 9660 and as, "Rotary Opens Opportunities".

Out of a negative there is always a positive. "Rotary Connects the World" – albeit, it's what coronavirus has done for us. Continue to connect via technology and physically. Rotarians, are, People of Action. Keep up the great work!



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Isda's Column

And so it has come to pass, almost. DG Graeme and Sue's DG journey that is.

They might be moving on, but hey, I'm still going to be out 'n about. Remember? DGE David and DGN Amanda gave me their blessings. I told you that last time. I've got too much work to do. That coronavirus thing somehow got in our way.

That's why fund raising has had to take a bit of a step backwards. However, in these dire times, Clubs and Rotarians and businesses, have still managed to rally 'round and add to my puppy money box to help my "real furry" friends. That is just so awesome! Thank you so much everyone!

I must say though, my puppy mates have been working really hard all through the year and every dollar is closer to our target. But we pups work 24/7 and we'll continue to the end. PHEWEE! That means we won't get to put our little paws up till Conference next year!

My online silent auction, the night of the Awards Presentation, I have to say, was very rewarding. Congratulations to AG Clarice who is now a proud mum to Rotary-Anne and has a cosy handcrafted cushion. Bidding was very active and such good fun.

Who saw Axel in action on the tele? On the NBN News he was. He was right there in the thick of it in the Kurri Kurri Kitchen cooking up a storm. He was working really hard to help feed needy people because of this coronavirus thingy. He's a movie star! He even went into print in oh so many newspapers too.

It seems like Rotarians couldn't find their Wikipedias to answer my ANZAC quiz, so Quizmistress me, gets to take all ...



...bye for now.

Donations to Integra Service Dogs Australia can be made, either direct to ISDA: 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

Vale

Kevin Richard Hincks OAM

(11th March 1934 - 7th May 2020 aged 86)

Rotary Club of Belmont

Past President Kevin Richard Hincks OAM proudly recognised for 63 Years of continual service to Rotary.

Kevin commenced his Rotary Service as a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Swansea, NSW, on 26 June 1956, up to the 30 June 1998 when the Club handed in its Charter.

Kevin served as Club Secretary for five years from 1992 to 1997, and he personally contributed 42 years of continuous Rotary Service to the Swansea Rotary Club, the community of Swansea, and Rotary District 9670.

Kevin joined the Rotary Club of Belmont, NSW in 1998 until his recent passing on 7 May. He served as Club President from 2001-2002, and personally contributed another 21 years of continuous Rotary Service to the Belmont Rotary Club, the communities of Belmont and Swansea, and Rotary District 9670.



Summary:

- Member of Swansea Rotary Club 1958-1998 and President 1963-1964
- International Youth Exchange Host from 1972 for many years; escorted Rotary youth to Europe, for about 10 years from 1984
- Member, Youth Exchange Program Committee 1981-1982
- Chairman, District 9670 Youth Exchange Program Committee 1986-1991
- Chairman, Ambassadorial Scholarship Program Sub-Committee 1995



- Acknowledged with a Paul Harris Fellow plus one Sapphire for his involvement in the Rotary community
- Member of Belmont Rotary Club 1998-2020 and President 2001-2002
- Director, International Service, Rotary International, 2005-2006

Our thoughts are with his family. Kevin will be missed by all Club members, past and present, and the Swansea and Belmont communities.

*Provided by Allan Large
Secretary 2019-20
Rotary Club of Belmont*

Roach Rattlings

Congratulations to all D9670 Award winners, which were presented a few weeks ago via the weekly District Zoom meeting. These awards are in recognition of the efforts of our Rotary Clubs and individuals who have progressed the ideals of Rotary.

A special congratulations to Gordon and Therese Hill from the Rotary Club of Cobar who were named as Rotarians of the Year for Zone 8. This is a tremendous honour and is well deserved for the work and partnerships they have developed to progress the well being of their community.

BETS - (Combined Presidents & Boards Elect and District Assembly) has commenced with club boards requested to complete online learning modules via My Rotary Learning Centre.

Craig Johnson, Leadership and Development Chair, will soon release further details of training which will occur over the next few months. Initially it will be via Zoom. Please download the link to your computer, so that you are able to participate in this training. If you are unsure of what to do please seek assistance from your incoming AG or the training team. We want to be able to contact you through this technology as well as in other more traditional ways.

I will be launching the 2021 District Conference via Youtube and Facebook in early July, so stay tuned for that announcement.

In mid June, I will contact clubs scheduled for the DG visit in July to ascertain if they

will be physically meeting at this time or we can meet via Zoom. I am conscious of NSW Health regulations and do not want to compromise individuals and clubs.

Your incoming Area Governors will make contact with incoming Club Presidents soon, if they have not already done so.

A reminder that the Virtual District Changeover is scheduled for Saturday 27th June at 7pm via Zoom.

Cheers and Stay Safe
David Roach, DG
2020-21



Margaret Illukol Trust – Background and Update

Margaret Roseland Illukol was born into the nomadic Karimojong tribe in north east Uganda in 1955. She was attacked by a hyena in 1963, leaving her with significant disfigurement.

Margaret was treated over many years in Uganda before being assisted by Rotary to come to Newcastle, in 1974, for major reconstructive surgery.

Rotary Clubs and Rotarians throughout the District funded her medical care, education, and social integration.

She attended St Joseph's College, Lochinvar; and graduated in General Nursing from Gosford District Hospital in 1984.

She later worked at Royal Newcastle Hospital and John Hunter Hospital, and graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing from University of Newcastle (UoN) in 1996.

Margaret retained strong associations with Rotary and the families who supported her.

She died in 2015, leaving her estate to Rotary District 9670. A Trust was established for charitable purposes within the boundaries of Rotary District 9670.

Check out these links to know more about how the UoN has engaged in honouring Margaret's legacy:

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/04/03/margaret-illukol/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Illukol

<https://downloads.newcastle.edu.au/2nur/audio/morning/20191018pMareeGleeson.mp3>

Scholarship/s

The Trustee decided to honour Margaret's life by establishing an equity scholarship to students enrolled in human health studies. In accordance with the Trust Deed, the recipient/s must be living within the boundaries of D9670, and satisfy the eligibility criteria.

The District Scholarship Advisory Committee assisted the Trustee to define the scholarship conditions in accordance with the Trust Deed, and worked with UoN Alumni and Philanthropy Office staff to ensure the selection process was based on national equity criteria.

The UoN recently awarded the inaugural **"Rotary District 9670 Margaret Illukol Trust Health Scholarship"** to two very worthy recipients – one is studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences; and the other, a Bachelor of Nursing.

*PP Maree Gleeson OAM, Newcastle RC;
and PDG Helen Ryan, Nelson Bay RC*

Community Project/s

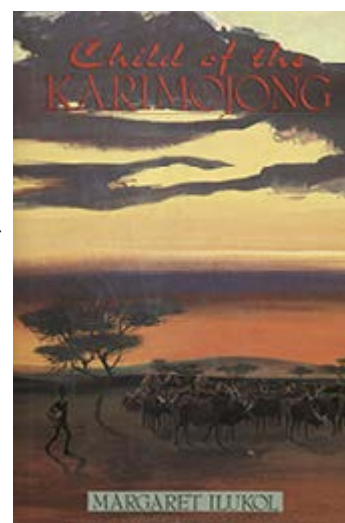
The MIT Trustee is currently determining applications for sustainable community project/s.

An excerpt from the Fly-leaf of Margaret's book:

"Child of the Karimojong is Margaret Illukol's story of struggle for survival and independence; of the traumas she faced in abandoning her nomadic tribe and, against their wishes, learning Western ways. Her remarkable story of endurance and courage is by turns fascinating, moving and inspiring, and is impossible to put down."



This image was taken from the Order of Service for Margaret's Funeral, held 5 March 2015 at Christchurch Cathedral, Newcastle. This photo was originally taken by Rotarian David Thorpe (Adamstown & late of Warners Bay), and was submitted by Rotarian Kevin Leary (Toronto RC), and used for the front cover & article in the Rotary Down Under magazine, 1978.



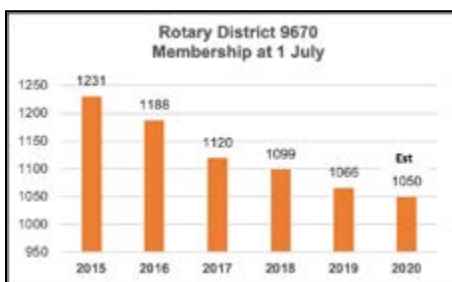
Rotary District 9670 Membership 2019-20

Much is spoken about our declining membership and statistics related to this. This year to date, we are showing a net gain of one. Unfortunately, the loss of the Rotary Club of Myall Coast accounted for 13 members, but hopefully we will see some returning soon.

Thank you to Clubs who have entered members' ages which gives a much clearer picture of our demographic. The following statistics may spur some of you on as to how you can regenerate your Clubs, or bring the service of Rotary to other communities / urban areas, as satellite Clubs.

1 Total District Membership

District numbers have tended 'down' over several years which has resulted in the need to form a new District.



2 Rotarians per Head of Population by Local Government Area

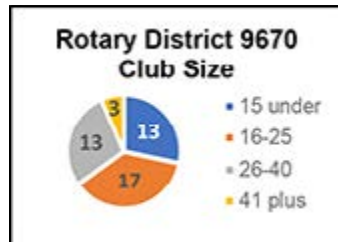
There is plenty of scope within our two major urban areas of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle to generate new Clubs and expand existing Clubs. Within our District we have a population base of nearly 750,000.

Local Government Area	Members per 10,000 population
Bourke	80.8
Warren	47.4
Dungog	38.5
Cobar	23.3
Muswellbrook	22.6
Narromine	21.3
Dubbo	19.9
Singleton	19.8
Upper Hunter	19.7
Mid-Western	18.9
Maitland	12.7
Cessnock	11.0
Port Stephens	10.5
Lake Macquarie	2.5
Newcastle	1.1

If we could achieve a ratio of 20 members per 10,000 then we would have 1,500 members. If we could emulate the rural towns at say 40 plus members per 10,000 head of population, our two key local government areas would provide 1,500 members themselves.

3 Club Size

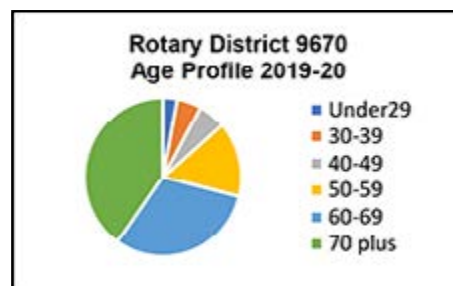
This chart shows the spread of Clubs. Nearly 30% of our Clubs have a membership of 15 or less. This puts pressure on existing members to take on Board roles.



Interesting, eight of these are located in the Lower Hunter region.

4 Age of Members

Over the past five years as Clubs have updated their Club members' ages, a slight shift in age profile can be seen.



If those with no age indicated are excluded, 71% of our membership is aged 60 plus, while only 13% are under 50.

A plea to Clubs is to continue working on in-putting ages.

5 Member Terminations

Surprisingly, Clubs do not generally have a problem in recruiting members but the rapid loss of new members is concerning. These statistics are a summary from 1 July 2016 or over the past four years.

	Terminated	Readmitted	Retention
Members as at 1 Jul 2016: 1188	481	38	62.7%
New members since 1 Jul 2016: 442	125	7	73.3%

6 New Membership over Four Years

11 Clubs who gained new members did not lose any, and included in this are four Clubs who had membership gains of 10

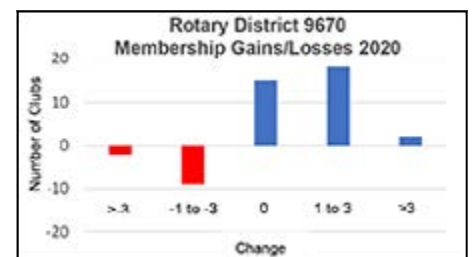
Number New Members	% Clubs
0	4.3
1-5	21.7
6-10	41.4
11-15	23.9
15 plus	8.7

or more. At the same time, five Clubs lost five or more new members inducted over the past four years. That is 50% of new members inducted.

There are a variety of reasons why this happens including disagreements in Clubs, members joining and leaving the area, or special member promotions that are withdrawn after two years.

7 Membership Net Gain this Rotary Year 2019-20

20 Clubs were active in bringing new members into their Clubs to achieve net gains for the year.



On the negative, 11 Clubs lost members and 15 reflected no change. The largest loss was nine, followed by four.

The Club with the highest net gain was eight, and another with four.

Summary

There are many reasons why our District membership has faltered, including the relevance of Service Clubs in today's society, changing attitudes of younger demographics, lack of time and commitment, Club structure, and/or meeting format.

Is Rotary relevant to today and engaging for younger potential members? There is a need for Rotary to re-engineer itself from senior levels to Club level to make our great organisation relevant to changing society trends.

Prepared by: DG Graeme Hooper, 24 May 2020





COVID-19: Helping Hands

Some examples of D9670 "People in Action" during COVID-19 social / physical distancing:

A shocking discovery sparks initiative in Kurri Kurri

<https://www.nbnnews.com.au/2020/05/09/a-shocking-discovery-sparks-initiative-in-kurri-kurri/>

Axel is a movie star!



Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri - Feed Our Community

Following on from last month's article, it's wonderful to see that Rotary is on the media radar, and Kurri Kurri RC have been a star with their "Feed our Community" project. Articles have appeared in the Maitland Mercury, Canberra Times, Cessnock Advertiser, a local aged care nurse's magazine, and NBN television (click on the link above for the video report). *Rotary "Super Heros" in action!*

As President Steve Ozimek said, "It's given some of our members who don't usually attend barbecues an opportunity to stand up and take a lead role. I'm very happy to see those members take charge and thrive."

"How a frightened woman eating cat food sparked Kurri Rotary into action" – this article and photo appeared in four regional newspaper publications...



<https://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/6748698/kurri-rotary-answer-87-year-olds-very-sad-call/>

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6749066/how-a-frightened-woman-eating-cat-food-sparked-a-community-into-action/?cs=4173>



HELP IS AT HAND: Amanda Harris and Luke Hancock get another batch of home cooked meals ready for delivery. Picture Jonathan Carroll.



<https://www.cessnockadvertiser.com.au/story/6749066/how-a-frightened-woman-eating-cat-food-sparked-a-community-into-action/>

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6749066/how-a-frightened-woman-eating-cat-food-sparked-a-community-into-action/?cs=14225>

Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise – Mother's Day

Also following on from last month, Singleton Sunrise RC continued with their annual giving of gifts to residents of local aged care facilities. Club members, including Honorary Rotarians Harry, Josie and Lillie, delivered the gifts to the residences and were later distributed by staff.

Photos – permission to print from President Wendy Love.

Left: Honorary Rotarian Harry

Right: Honorary Rotarians Josie and Lillie with Sunny



...but wait! There's more...



COVID-19: Helping Hands ...continued

Mudgee Rotary Club - The Time We Spring-Cleaned the World

Written by Louise Gibbons, a teacher from Northern Ireland. This poem is intended as a way to explain to concerned young children, in a simple way, the world's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Courtesy of the Mudgee RC, this poem appeared in their newsletter when the pandemic was at its height ... something to read to the littlies in time to come ...

The Time We Spring-Cleaned the World

The world it got so busy,
There were people all around.
They left their germs behind them,
In the air and on the ground.

These germs grew bigger and stronger.
They wanted to come and stay.
They didn't want to hurt anyone -
They just really wanted to play.

Sometimes they tried to hold your hand,
Or tickled your throat, or your nose.
They could make you cough and sneeze,
And make your face as red as a rose.

And so these germs took over.
They started to make people ill,
And with every cough we coughed,
More and more germs would spill.

All the queens and kings had a meeting.
"It's time to clean the world up!" they said.
And so they had to close lots of fun stuff,
Just so these germs, couldn't spread.

We couldn't go to cinemas,
Or restaurants for our tea.
There was no football, or parties,
The world got as quiet as can be.

The kids stopped going to school,
The mums and dads went to work less.
Then a great, big, giant, scrubbing brush,
Cleaned the sky and the sea and the mess!

Dads started teaching the sums,
Big brothers played with us more,
Mums were in charge of homework,
And we read and played jigsaws galore!

The whole world was washing their hands
And building super toilet roll forts!
Outside was quiet and peaceful,
Now home, was the place for all sports.



So we played in the world that was home
And our days filled up with fun and love,
And the germs, they grew smaller and smaller,
And the sun watched from up above.

Then one morning the sun woke up early,
She smiled and stretched her beams wide.
The world had been fully spring cleaned,
It was time to go back outside!

We opened our doors oh so slowly,
And breathed in the clean, and fresh air.
We promised that, forever and always,
Of this beautiful world, we'd take care



Why Them?

There comes a time when a teenager makes a life decision to travel on their own half way across the world. Students want to learn first-hand the cultures, problems, and accomplishments, of people in distant lands. It is a journey that broadens and deepens their lives in so many ways. They mature and take up positions of leadership in their own communities. Many will bring to their everyday tasks, a sense of the variety and complexity of life which was enriched by their youth exchange experience – the unknown.

Just the beginning ... plane / car / bus / train ... to meet total strangers, face to face, for the first time.

Rotary's youth exchange program is a powerful on-going force for understanding and peace – 13 teenagers from around the world, all totally different, but united in so many ways by a new country and adventure.

The months have passed by. COVID-19 has devastated our world. The lives and journeys of our Inbounds have also changed. However, they all stood tall and worked on over-coming the cards that were dealt to them, but overall, four students

stood out. They showed the true spirit of what it means to be a Rotary Exchange Student – *True Leadership*.

They helped their Clubs, their schools, their host families, and new friends, in anything that is possible, and achieved their best! They overcame their fear, showed true personality, and gave us, "*What is Youth Exchange?*"

So, on 13 May 2020, as a member of Wallsend-Maryland Rotary Club and YEP Committee, during our YEP Zoom meeting, I awarded four students something special - the "*Rotary Hero Award*".

L-R: Sam, Raissa, Philippe, Kity

They are: Samuel Bydal (Morisset RC), Kity Petranova (Newcastle Enterprise RC), Philippe Emil Leon (Mudgee Sunrise RC), and Raissa Moreira (East Maitland RC).

Congratulations to you all and well deserved.

Through the efforts of our Rotary Clubs and the District, I thank everyone and encourage you to join us in 2022 and be part of the journey, taking the good with the bad, and being part of a young person's life – all is worth it...

Alyn Miranda
YEP Committee
Wallsend-Maryland RC



Classifieds

Congratulations

Despite COVID-19's restrictions, during the month of May, new members continue to be inducted into our Rotary family - congratulations and welcome to all.

Club Change-Overs

If your Club has not yet advised DG Graeme of your Changeover details, this is now URGENT! Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Email:
governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au

Staying Connected

- Tune into Zoom each Thursday night at 8:00pm for a District-wide hook-up and hear from interesting guest speakers: <https://zoom.us/j/8896709670>
- To stay connected around the District, could a representative from each Club please advise DG Graeme of their Club meeting Zoom details, including the DAY and TIME.
- To show and tell and share what creative and innovative ways your Club is coping with social distancing, please send articles, and photos, to: districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au by Tuesday 23 June 2020.

Notices

- ♦ Can AG's, Chairpersons, and Program Co-ordinators, please submit their 2019-20 reports to DG Graeme by 31 May for compilation into the Annual Report. WORD doc please.
- ♦ Refer to the Weekly Connect to be kept up to date with the latest District news
- ♦ **Closing date** for DG David's inaugural newsletter, the July edition, is **Tuesday 23 June 2020**

Lost and Found

I think some Rotarians must have lost their Wikipedias. Answers to my ANZAC quiz could be any three of these: Gallipoli (Centenary) Rose, ANZAC Rose, RSL Rose, Pine, Flanders Poppy, Rosemary, or Grevillea 'RSL Spirit of ANZAC', Laurel (used in wreaths containing three red poppies).

Sadly, that was the last of my escapades. Anything I've lost seems to have reappeared over the past few months, and I seem to have gotten out of any trouble spots. But hey, I hope everyone had some fun along the way.

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Year. We would love to see similar results in 2020!

Have large numbers of volunteers? Contact us at: award@volunteering.com.au and we will send you a bulk nomination form.

Please help us spread the word about the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. We have a number of resources that are available for you to use across your digital networks and can be downloaded easily from our website.

<https://www.volunteering.com.au/volunteer-awards/>

Nominate now for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards!
volunteering.com.au



NSW Volunteer of the Year Award

Nominations close Friday 3 July 2020 at 5:00pm (AEST)

Communities across the state have relied so much on their volunteers over the past 12 months – perhaps more so than ever.

The true value of volunteering has been on display across all facets of our lives.

And so we should take the time to recognise that effort. The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are one of the largest

celebrations across the country.

The awards will continue in 2020 bigger than ever – either in virtual or face to face form.

Nominate Now!

Rotarians have worked tirelessly to keep communities and people safe and connected to vital services. Recognise your teams and individual volunteers in the 2020 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards to thank them for the incredible work they do.

In the past Rotary volunteers have received numerous nominations and Awards, including 2018 Mid Western Sydney Region Volunteer of the Year and 2018 Mid Western Sydney Senior Volunteer of the

Rotary Themes: June & July



STOP Press!

NEW DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE DESIGNATE

Transition Chair PDG Steve Hill announced that PDG Neville Parsons from Rotary Club of Wauchope was the successful candidate to be the **inaugural District Governor of District 9660**.

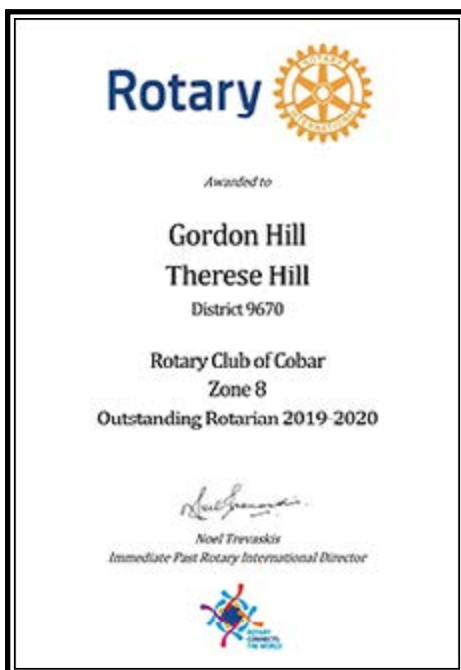
As such Neville will also be our Governor Nominee Designate. This announcement is made subject to there being no appeal from the nominating clubs.

Presentation of District Awards – Thursday 7 May 2020

It is normal practice at our annual District Conferences to present our District Awards for achievements in the previous 12 months ie from one Conference to the next. However, this year was not normal. COVID-19 brought in a new dimension to how we can do things. Therefore, we had our Inaugural Zoom Presentation of District Awards. A screen count numbered about 90 participants including exchange students, representing over half of our D9670 Clubs, plus nine golden puppies – everyone “in” for a great night “out”.

As it was not possible to actually present the hardware versions of the Awards, certificates were created so that Clubs, at the very least, had something they could share with their members. Once COVID-19 restrictions are freed up, DG Graeme and Sue will personally deliver the Awards to the recipients.

Although we didn't have the glitz and glamour of the stage, shaking hands, or special photos to record the occasion; the fun and the spirit were very much alive. Noel Trevaskis, our Immediate Past RI Zone 8 Director, attended to announce that our very own Gordon and Therese Hill from Cobar Rotary Club were the recipients for this year's Zone 8 Rotarian of the Year Award. That's two consecutive years for D9670 – Wendy Stein from Salamander



Bay Rotary Club took out the Award last year. The Award is open to Rotarians from Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

Gordon and Therese won the award for their combined team effort in working with the farming community affected by drought, for Gordon's critical incident support to the RFS during the bushfires, and volunteering in his local community



with various organisations over many years. And they both continue to do what needs to be done ...

Congratulations Gordon and Therese – we're so proud of you!

Our guest speaker for the evening was Brad Webb, CEO Samaritans. Brad gave us some insight into how COVID-19 is impacting on the needy in our communities.

The District 9670 Awards for 2019-20 are:

Shirley Stanley Memorial Award – “Presented for Club most involved in activities for youth and young adults”



Awarded to: Rotary Club of Wellington

Ted and Anne Lewis Award – “Presented to the Rotary Club for their positive contribution with Interact in service to their Community and for Rotary”



Awarded to: Rotary Club of Cessnock

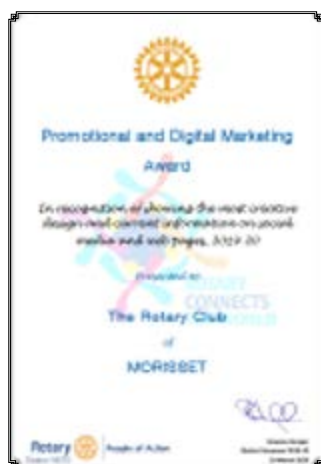
Jim Henderson Trophy “Best Bulletin” - Awarded to the Club with the highest standard and/or improvement in their regular newsletter



Awarded to: Rotary Club of Morisset

The District 9670 Awards for 2019-20 continued:

Promotional and Digital Marketing Award (Certificate only) – Awarded to the Club showing the most creative design and current information on their social media and web pages



Awarded to: **Rotary Club of Morisset**

Promotional and Digital Marketing "Merit" Award



Awarded to: **Rotary Club of Cardiff**

Preserve Planet Earth Award "Award for best Environmental Program" - Awarded to the Club with the best environmental project for the year"



Awarded to: **Rotary Club of Cobar**

Australian Rotary Health "District Achievement Award" - Awarded to the Club making the most significant contribution from one District Conference to the next



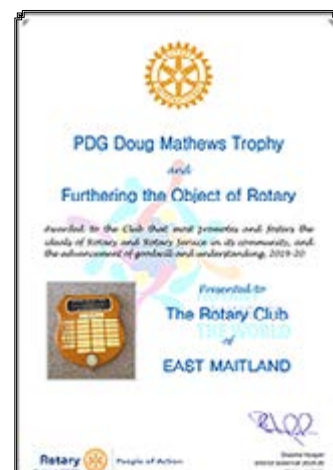
Awarded to: **Rotary Club of Dubbo South**

Certificate of Appreciation – In recognition of tireless dedication and enthusiasm for raising funds and awareness of Polio, 2019-20



Congratulations: **AG Kerry Hayes, Rotary Club of Warners Bay**

Doug Mathews Trophy and Furthering the Object of Rotary "Inter-Club District Conference Competition" - Awarded to the Club that most promotes and fosters the ideals of Rotary and Rotary Service in its community, and the advancement of goodwill and understanding



Awarded to: **Rotary Club of East Maitland**

ShelterBox Awards

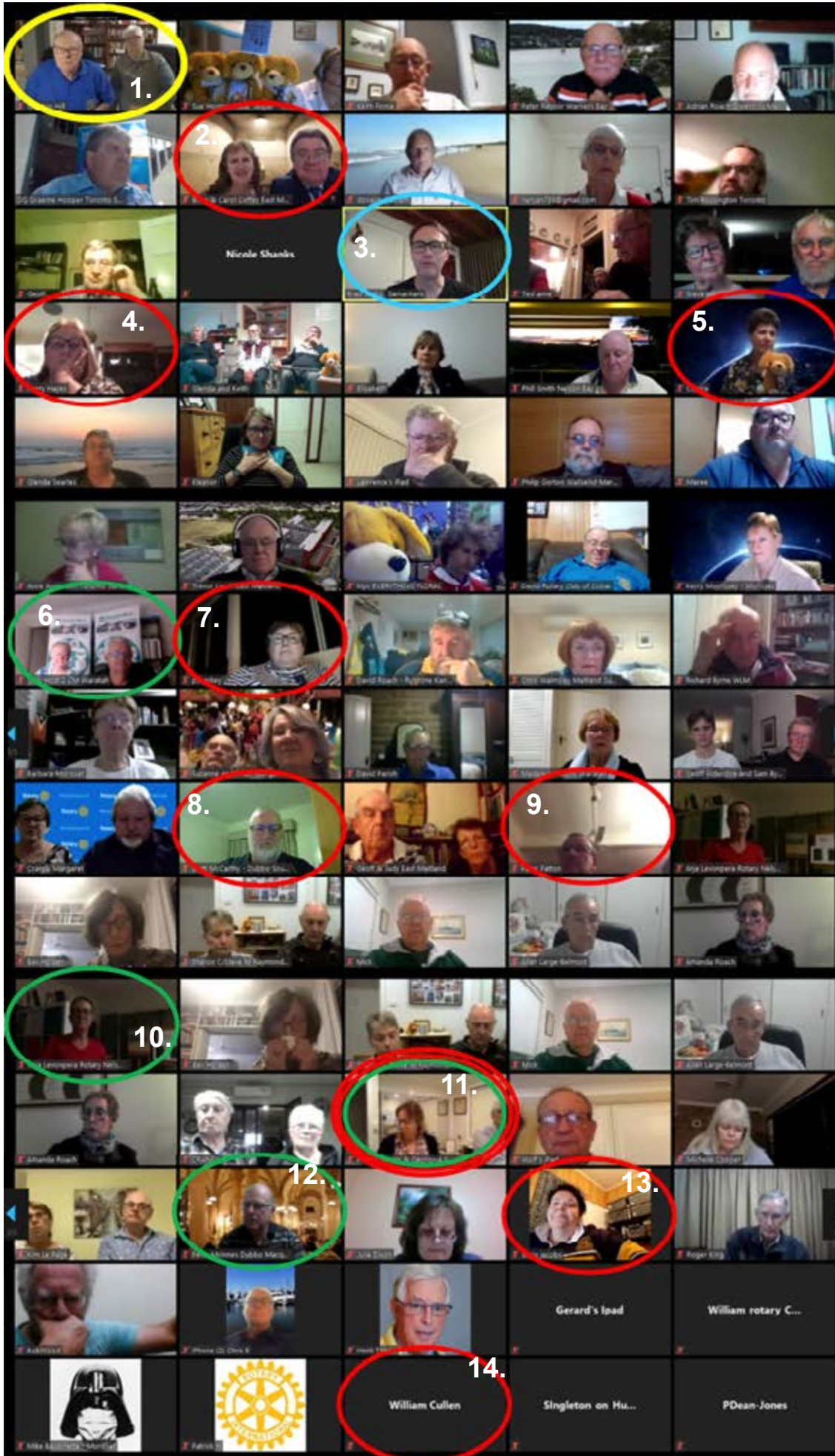


Bronze Award: For contributing \$1,000 each year for three consecutive years – **Dubbo Macquarie / Dubbo West / Morisset / Nelson Bay / Waratah**

There were no Awards for the Silver or Gold levels.

Throughout the evening, a silent auction was operating to raise funds for Sue's partner project, ISDA. Following much argy bargy with bidding, AG Clarice Hamling was rewarded for her \$170 with a cosy handcrafted cushion and a stray from the puppy litter which has since been named "Rotary-Anne". Congratulations Clarice and thank you so, so much for your very kind donation to help Isda and her friends.

The District 9670 Awards for 2019-20 attendees



1. Rotarian of the Year;
2. East Maitland;
3. Brad Webb, Samaritans;
4. AG Kerry Hayes;
5. AG Clarice Hamling;
6. Waratah;
7. Dubbo West;
8. Dubbo South;
9. Cobar;
10. Nelson Bay;
11. Morisset;
12. Dubbo-Macquarie;
13. Cessnock;
14. Cardiff;
- Wellington (apology)

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

You do know they like to travel. But did you know the dream bucket list was Antarctica?

Reaching Red Rock Ridge at 68°18' was a plus!

They've also crossed the Arctic Circle by land and sea – going as far north as approximately 71°.

The next bucket list is Svalbard, about midway between continental Norway and the North Pole, around the 78° mark.



Photo taken at Red Rock Ridge, Antarctica

Reflecting on our DG Journey...

Three years ago, our DG journey had begun
Who would know what lay ahead
Our fortunes, somewhat mixed and shed

Our travels took us to places, near and far and further still
From Darwin at the Top End, to the deep south in Hobart
Toronto and Hamburg Conventions, also on the chart

Our training wheels now in full motion, in San Diego, gone into overdrive
But our global classmates we did meet
Memories and friendships, they are a treat

The new theme released, and little dancing figurines everywhere
"Rotary Connects the World", t'was what the big boss said
Now pay attention, because we need, to earn our bread

And along comes the moment – everything comes together
About to be reality, it's what, we'd been waiting for
District Changeover, an event for the score

Pack the car and off we'd go, out there and back again
With our road map gaining traction
We're visiting our Rotarians – our "People of Action"

DG partner's project, ISDA, just adding to the mix
Little puppy Isda, who often played navigator
She always left behind, just another, fun, instigator

Kia Ora, Aotearoa
In the bonds of Rotary we meet
Christchurch "Regenerated", Rotarians there to greet

Following on close by, a visit by the boss down under
Along with some classmates, it's a privilege to be seated at, THE table
The perfect conversationalists, Mark and Gay, they are just, so affable



District Conference, two years in the making
"Breaking Through Barriers", to extend imagination
T'was on Black Friday, a tear or two we shed, coronavirus, causing cancellation



If ever you thought you couldn't manage change
Well now, change has made the change itself
A coronavirus side effect, Zoom is jumping down from the shelf



So, move over Coronavirus, and give us some space
Your hungry appetite, you're ripe for extermination
We Rotarians are strong and resilient, creating more determination

zooming ... everywhere
... for all and sundry
How and when we meet, now has a new dimension
Thank you coronavirus, you've given us a new affection



Some two point five years ago, "Kia Ora" entered "Coffey Break"
However, "Manaia – The Guardian", became our mantle
We hope you have enjoyed, the reads, the pics, and Isda's rambles



Our District 9670 stands tall and proud, programs and projects galore
Enduring pandemic, drought and bushfire
Thank you District 9670, you never cease to inspire



And so our DG journey is all but to a close, a challenging and rewarding time it's been
"Rotary Opens Opportunities", David and Amanda, good luck, when at the helm
Into the future with District 9660, steering our course, into, another realm



"Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it."
Charles R Swindoll



"Over and out, midnight, 30th June 2020"
Graeme and Sue
with love from Isda

