



Rotary Matters

July 2021 DG Newsletter



Dear fellow Rotarians, partners and friends of Rotary

Welcome to our second year as District 9510.

I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this District as the second District Governor for 9510. It is a privilege to follow immediate past District Governor David Jones and Lyn. Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's theme this year is "Serve to change lives".

This theme encompasses the Rotary Moto "Service above Self". Shekhar challenges us to do projects that impact our community and lift the profile of Rotary. Jenny and I plan to visit all 84 clubs in our District during the next 9 months. I will be encouraging clubs to investigate ways to better promote their current projects and explore opportunities for projects that will impact their communities and raise the profile of Rotary. Shekhar believes the opportunity to engage in projects can lead to membership growth.

The year ahead is important as we start to come out of the pandemic and return to some kind of normality. There will be several events again this year. Our conference will be held in the Barossa, 1st to 3rd April 2022. We will also be doing the BT-50 Polio Ute relay again this year.

The Ute will be available for a longer period with each club this year starting on world polio day in October. However, should you have a promotional need for the Ute before October, speak with PDG Bob Cooper who is taking care of this project.

Rotary Matters will continue as our official monthly publication. Thanks to Euan Miller (Norwood) for continuing as Editor and thanks to Graham Fussen (D9510 online) for the production. PDG David Jones has agreed to continue with Rotary classifieds. Contributions should be sent to District Secretary David Fenton.

Welcome to all the Presidents for this Rotary year. Jenny and I are looking forward to working with you as is our District Leadership Team. Let's move ahead together and serve to Change Lives.

Yours in Rotary
DG Jeff Neale

**"WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE MAGIC
TO SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES"**



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

District Changeover

The first, almost normal, changeover was held on July 4 at Sfera's Function Centre at Modbury before 380 guests. Apart from the toasts having to be taken sitting down and no singing (no drinking or eating standing or singing allowed under the COVID SAFE plan) the proceedings went along as normal.

We celebrated PDG David's and Lyn's year and he acknowledged a long list of Rotarians who had helped make it so successful and presented a number of Paul Harris Fellow awards.

Lenard Sciancalepore was inducted as the District Rotaract Representative followed by the induction of DG Jeff and Jenny Neale.

DG Jeff, in his address, identified a number of priorities in the plan for the district this year. In response to the RI President's motto 'Do more, grow more'; membership growth was highlighted including a focus on the 'backdoor' (retention) and establishing new Rotary and Rotaract clubs. He also stressed the need to get more diversity in clubs by going out and seeking people from vocations not currently represented.

He also wanted clubs to focus more on public image and encouraged each club to appoint a Public Image Director. Finally he suggested the district may offer a new program of District Grants for club projects using reserve funds.



PHFs to PDGs Jerry Casburn and Bob Cooper for the drought relief project



District leadership team 2021-22



Induction of DG Jeff Neale



Toast to Rotary International

At each club's changeover, a Toast to Rotary International is given. *Below is the toast given by PP Tom Whitworth at the RC Mitcham's changeover.* This is the club of the PDG David Jones.

2020-21 has been both a momentous and difficult year for the Rotary Foundation. On the positive side our district member and club giving to the Annual Programs Fund of the Foundation exceeded the target of USD100 per member. Only a very small number of districts in Australia achieved this target. There was also a 40% increase in the number of projects funded world-wide this year (over 2019-20) which was an amazing achievement given COVID-19. On the negative side, however, the World Fund (provides matching funds to District Designated Funds) ran out of money twice in January and June this year. In January projects were only able to be continued to be funded by the emergency transfer of funds from other parts of the RI budget. However because funds ran out again in June, 3 club projects sponsored by D 9510 seeking funds had to be turned down and advised to reapply in 2021-22.

Tom's Toast gives a good perspective on what each Rotarian and each club can achieve and why we should support our Foundation.

When President Barry asked me to propose the toast to Rotary International, I was mentally digesting the budget handed down by State treasurer so my immediate thoughts on the toast were influenced by matters financial: spending on fighting disease, saving women and children, investing in infrastructure and growing the local economy, and spending to support the needy, on education, & on community services that provide our hygiene, sanitation and water supply. Interestingly, if you add protecting the Environment to those items, you encompass Rotary's 7 areas of focus.

Then I thought about the debts to be incurred and who would pay and that led me to thinking of compound interest. RI succeeds through the magic of compound interest – the interest that's poured into it from more than 1.2 million members world-wide in about 35,000 clubs like this one, in over 200 countries.

If I tried to toast 1 club at each weekly meeting – doing 45 per year, it'd take me 777 years and 9 months! If each of our 45 members did it, it would still take 17 years and 3 months to toast them all.

I'd like to remind us that Rotary International isn't an entity "over there", it's here, in the next suburb, city and State, Territory, Province. There's even a Mitcham Rotary club in Victoria! I joined this club last century. In my time, I've seen how much one suburban Club can achieve. Locally we've helped to equip a ward in the current Women's and Children's hospital, bought a Community bus for the local City council, physically worked on innumerable local projects as well as those overseas, donated tens of thousands of \$\$ to overseas aid and provided goods, equipment, books through Rotary programs.

In a quick summary, the Rotary Foundation began with \$US26.50 in 1917. Through Compound Rotarian Interest the Foundation was able to award \$86,677,399 to those areas of focus in 2018.

From our own little suburban Club came Australia's Indigenous Rotary Health Scholarship. The idea was championed nationally by SA, which then awarded support for one medical student. There are currently 82 awardees listed on the website. That's the magic of Rotary's compound interest.

Polio Plus began from the interest of Australian Rotarian Clem Renouf in eradicating the scourge of polio in 1985. The campaign actually began in 1979, its aim was to immunise 6 million children in the Philippines. Now more than 2.5 BILLION children have been vaccinated across the globe. That's the magic of Rotary International compound interest.

Whenever you are involved in any of the club activities, think of the multiplying effect that 35,000 clubs have had through Rotary world-wide.

RI President 2021-22, Shekhar Mehta

RI President 2021-22 Shekhar Mehta
Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar
West Bengal, India

Mehta, an accountant, is chair of the Skyline Group, a real estate development company he founded. He is also a director of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada-based organization.

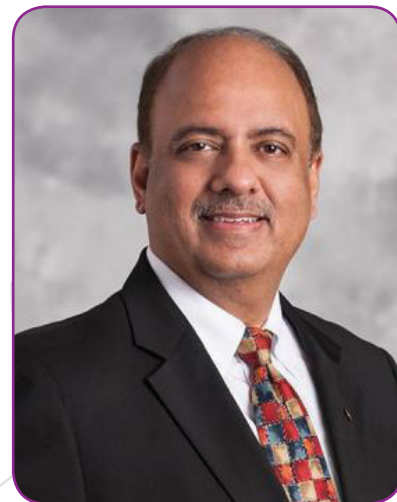
Mehta has been actively involved in disaster response and is a trustee of ShelterBox, UK. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, he helped build nearly 500 homes for families affected by the disaster.

He pioneered a program that has performed more than 1,500 life-changing heart surgeries in South Asia. He is also the architect of the TEACH Program, which promotes literacy throughout India and has reached thousands of schools.

A Rotary member since 1984, Mehta has served Rotary as director, member or chair of several committees, zone coordinator, training leader, member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, and district governor. He is also the chair of Rotary Foundation (India).

Mehta has received Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards.

He and his wife, Rashi, are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



Send your Rotary Classified to
secretary20-22@rotary9510.org
by **7th** of the **month**

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QUICK-SMART
MAZDA SERVICE

Clean Water for Villages in Rural Sri Lanka

In early 2017, the Rotary Club of Adelaide (RCA) began its relationship with the Rotary Club of Kandy to develop projects of benefit to the people in rural Sri Lanka, targeting the areas to the east of Kandy. Deprivation has been a feature of life there, further intensified by the long civil war with the Tamil Tigers. People in the area live in small villages from 200 to 600 households and derive most of their income from small scale farming. Water quality is variable and consequentially, Chronic Kidney Disease has become endemic - shortening lives and affecting the social and economic fabric of the region.

RCA's first project in the region facilitated the installation of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Filtration Plant in Kudjuwatte – a village of 300 households. Funded by the RCA budget, and overseen by RC Kandy member Dr Amal Karunaratna, this was designed as a first step to achieve project deliverables and demonstrate effectiveness.

With the support of District Grants to match RCA funds, more ambitious water projects were undertaken. In 2018/9, Hobariyawa, a bigger village, requiring more water to be 'cleaned' each day was selected, and in March 2019, a 14000 litre/day RO plant was commissioned in the town.

In 2020, an even more complex project was implemented. Pimurattewa, a large village, with an existing but not-operating RO Plant, had an intermittent water supply at best. In addition to suffering poor water quality, for many months each year water was trucked in owing to its ephemeral supplies. Adding complexity, the village was long and narrow, so access to a single point of supply was problematic for most villagers.

The solution provided for two clean water sites in the village – one at either end. This was done by refurbishing the existing RO water plant, installing a new plant and supplying each with continuous water from a bore.

Each plant is located on the grounds of the local Buddhist Temple. Local villagers supply the materials and renovate/build the shed which houses the plant. The local village Head Monk takes responsibility for coordination, equitable water distribution and on-going maintenance.

Our 2021 project (our fourth) at Sri Saddharmaramaya, Aralaganvila, a village of 400 families was completed in March 2021. The project delivered both a tube well (water bore), drilled and connected to a new filtration plant and an additional water tank. Sri Saddharmaramaya temple had a suitable building for the filtration plant which was cleaned, and provided adequate space for the plant and tank. The plant was installed in this building and connected to the bore supply.

Going forward, and after COVID, plans are being developed to identify all the villages in this region of Sri Lanka in a more systematic fashion with the idea of a long-term plan to support them all. Both RCA and RC Kandy are grateful for the support of the District and want to build on their strong and developing partnership for the betterment of those in rural Sri Lanka.

Geoffrey Millar
Vice President
(Community Services)
Rotary Club of Adelaide



The filtration plant at Sri Saddharmaramaya (yellow building) is about 20 m from the village road and easily accessible. The tap from the storage tank is positioned outside the building making it easy for residents to fill their containers. They generally turn up in three wheelers with large water cans.

Clean Water for Villages in Rural Sri Lanka - continued

The coloured area indicates the region in which Chronic Kidney Disease is endemic. It is here that the Rotary Club of Adelaide and partners have installed water filtration plants in 4 villages. Combined with water bores, villagers now have access to pure, clean drinking water all year around.



left is the shed being readied in 2018 for the filtration plant in Hobariyawa. Under the supervision of the Head Monk, temple grounds make an ideal community venue for the filtration plans allowing access for all.

right - Head Monk at Hobariyawa with Amal Karunaratna from the Rotary Club of Kandy at the opening celebration for the plant.



Children are the long-term beneficiaries of our filtration projects.

Every filtration plant installed has an opening ceremony involving the whole community. This picture is from 2019 Covid has delayed the ceremony at Sri Saddharamaya although the clean water is flowing.



Maitland provides further drought relief

The **RC Maitland** funded a movie night for the pastoralists and other locals in the Flinders region. The letter of thanks for the \$2000 donation and onsite support is published below.

Alpana Station PO Box 11

BLINMANSA5730

Monday April 12

To Maitland Rotary Club

RE: Blinman Movie Night Sunday April 11th

Dear Hugh,

Can you please pass on my sincere thanks to all members of the Maitland Rotary Club for your support for the Blinman Movie Night held yesterday afternoon and evening, with a special thanks to those Rotarians and their partners who travelled up for a few days' stay to support us on the night, yourself for all the liaising and follow up, and to David Amery who thought of the drought-stricken Blinman community and first informed me of the opportunity to apply for funds for a drought-relief activity. I am also grateful to Bob Cooper, Rotary Australia, for his support and understanding.

With the funding provided by Maitland Rotary Club and Rotary Australia through the SA Districts Drought Relief Project (RABS) we were able to organize a movie night for locals and visitors showing an animated kids movie Coco from 5.30pm and an Australian movie Three Summers from 8.30pm. There were also games, movie snacks and a free evening meal provided between the movies.

The costs associated with holding the event came in under the \$2000 budget we requested from SA Districts Drought Relief Project (RABS). Fourteen people from Maitland, seven visitors from other places, and nineteen locals were there on the night; 34 adults and six children altogether. We raised \$337 on the night from donations, games and the sale of snacks. We received a \$50 donation the next day from a family visiting the area from Melbourne who couldn't attend but wanted to support the cause of air-conditioning the Blinman Town Hall, bringing the total raised to \$387. The main aim of the night was not the fundraising however but for the Blinman community to have a chance to go out, see a movie or two, and have some fun. I believe we achieved this aim.

This event was originally timed for last year as a drought relief event but COVID 19 caused the re-schedule and we held the night twelve months later. Thank you for the flexibility to be able to carry over the funding for twelve months. Over the last twelve months we had some rains in August and September that grew some stock feed for the first time in four years. We then had a big flooding rain in late January this year. We are still waiting to see if we receive any autumn or winter rains before we declare this drought officially over, but conditions are definitely improved from this time last year. There is still however a long road to recovery ahead for this area.

All those who attended the movie night last night had a great time with very positive feedback received. The weather was cool but calm and the recently painted town hall was a wonderful venue. We had a bit of fun with the games, and the curry and rice meal provided by the Miners Crib Bakery Cafe was very well received and delicious. Thanks again to you all for your support that helped to make the Blinman Movie Night happen.

Sally Henery

Blinman Progress Association

Movie Night Organiser



Generator for a Covid ward in Telangan State India

The **RC Edwardstown** purchased a generator to supply a newly established COVID 20 bed unit in India. This was facilitated by Rotarian Neetan who comes from that State.

The Telangana state is under some lockdown restrictions which has delayed the delivery of the generator but the team went ahead and opened the COVID centre on 15th May. The patient inflow has slowly begun. The COVID ward is equipped with oxygen beds, including non-invasive therapy beds; the patient care is provided by a specialists' team headed by critical care consultants and dedicated staff. The medical group currently is providing care for mild to moderate COVID-affected patients with low to average viral load.



D9510 helps fund Give Every Child a Future

Through the District Foundation Committee, USD15000 has been given to the R100 Give Every Child A Future project. This project is training health workers across the Pacific to protect the next generation of children from rotavirus and pneumococcal disease, and women from cervical cancer.

To roll out these vaccines, it is important that health workers have the training to administer the vaccines and can communicate accurate information to communities to build their trust. Over the last month, UNICEF and its government partners have completed training in Tuvalu and Tonga. The remaining countries plan to complete their training by August.

This education program is complementing the COVID-19 vaccine roll out which is of vital importance as the number of cases are starting to grow in the region.

Once all training is complete the pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines will be delivered in communities, followed by the HPV vaccine later this year.



Give Every Child A Future - Our Australasian Centenary Project

Queen's Birthday Honours

Graham Hall OAM was a former member of **RC Marion**. If Rotarians know of any others who received honours **Rotary Matters** would be pleased to publish them.

Campbelltown Art Show

As we come out of COVID-19 it seems Rotary events are attracting more and more people. This year's Art Show hosted by the RC Campbelltown held from May 15-22 attracted so many that the club ran out of raffle tickets and catalogues!

More than 800 members of the public attended to see and purchase the paintings, pottery, porcelain and Aboriginal art on display. Each day a demonstration of a particular form of art was presented to provide ongoing attractions during the week. Through a combination of exhibit fees, entry fees, commissions on sales and the raffle the club cleared a profit of over \$13000.



Irymple's 50th Jubilee

RC Irymple celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first meeting on 15th May at its long-time meeting venue – the Mildura Workingman's Club. However because of Victoria's COVID-19 outbreak, numbers had to be restricted to 32 so partners, and members of other Mildura clubs, could not be invited to the celebrations.

Nevertheless the club members present enjoyed a brief history of the club and its achievements.

The club is now focused (fingers crossed) on holding a bigger celebration to mark the chartering of the club on September 11.



Mt Barker gives children the gift of the joy of play

Every year in Australia, millions of dollars of good quality school and council playground equipment is sent to landfill. By our standards, these playgrounds have reached the end of their life. They might just be a bit faded and worn, but they are totally safe and still comply with our safety standards. At the same time as we are sending these playgrounds to landfill, there are children in developing nations who have never experienced the joy of a playground for building their physical skills and having fun.

Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds (RORP) was started by Rotary in Melbourne in 2019 and despite the COVID restrictions, they have since recycled 50 playgrounds. The RC Mount Barker has been working with Victoria to launch and lead the project in South Australia.



Anembo Park playground. This was the first playground disassembled from Mt Barker and sent to the Philippines

The program collects unwanted playgrounds from councils and schools and sends them to disadvantaged overseas communities. It started with a single playground for a girls' school in Sri Lanka and has since sent playgrounds to Timor Leste, the Philippines and Tanzania, as well as Sri Lanka. Locally, playgrounds in Mount Barker and Murray Bridge have been recycled for a village in the Philippines.

Mt Barker works directly with councils and schools to obtain playgrounds at the end of their life. It then liaises with Rotary clubs in developing nations to identify need and then Rotary volunteers survey, repair and disassemble the playground so they can then be shipped for installation by a local Rotary club or community volunteers in the recipient nation/location.

When the club obtains a playground it conducts a safety assessment. It then photographs and labels every component and create a disassembly and a reassembly plan. Rotary volunteers then descend on the playground with wrenches and grit to undo every bolt and separate every piece. (These playgrounds have been out in the weather for close to 20 years, so it needs a lot of brute strength and copious WD-40 to complete the job). Once the playground is in pieces, Council contractors come and remove the concrete footings and heavy components. It's then carefully packed and wrapped before going into storage prior to despatch. Any missing or defective components are replaced and repaired. The disassembled playgrounds are stored and exported by Donations in Kind at Edinburgh Parks, where Mount Barker has constructed a purpose built shed. When the playground arrives in the recipient nation, local volunteers rebuild the playground according to the plan prepared and then provide evidence of the build and use.

The success of the project relies very much on the local intelligence and relationships of Rotary Clubs throughout the District. Mt Barker wants local clubs to liaise with their local Councils and schools about playgrounds that may become available and when they learn of an opportunity, they should engage the RORP SA team to set it up. The team deals with contracts, legalities and logistics and then supports the local club in harvesting and preparing the equipment.

Get in touch with the RORP SA team via Mark Clemow of the Rotary Club of Mount Barker on 0414 238 604 or email rorpsa@gmx.com



Reassembling a playground at Ampara, Sri Lanka