

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

D9670



November is Rotary Foundation Month

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DG Greg's Reports.....

Welcome to November which is Rotary Foundation month.

We as Rotarians have a wonderful opportunity to directly effect an organisation which does so so much in our world to help those in real need. When we give to the Rotary Foundation we know that the effects will be far ranging and positive. By our generous nature we bring dignity and hope to lives who need it most and fulfil our goal of doing good in the world.

Bill and Melina Gates were so generous in 2007 when they donated \$100 Million to the Rotary Foundation to assist the eradication of Polio and asked Rotarians around the world to match the grant. In 2009 they donated a further \$255 Million and asked Rotarians all around the world to raise a further \$100 Million as another match. Well it is great to know that Rotarians have now donated \$102 Million and need only a further \$98 over the next 2.5 years to reach that goal. I would like each of our clubs to consider organising a project that would raise \$1000 this Rotary year as their 2009-10 contribution to this appeal.

Friends, I would be less than truthful if we indicted we were not bitterly disappointed that Rotary International President John Kenny was unable to visit District 9670 due to illness. All were very exited at the prospect and many Rotarians from around the complete district were travelling to Panthers for the joint Rotary meeting. Well that disappointment was not completely necessary as we were privileged to meet and fellowship with Past RI President Glen Kinross from Queensland. Glen was RI President back in 1997-98 and has been a Rotarian 50 years next August. A man of Scrupulous Honesty, who believes in a fare go for all and Vocational excellence. He spoke with great passion about Rotary and left all of the 500 people at the Rotary meeting with no doubt about his beliefs in the principals expounded by current RI President John Kenny. To PP Ted Lewis and PDG Tony McKenzie our sincere appreciation for your efforts in organising such a wonderful function. One which will be remembered for decades to come.

RI Director PDG John Lawrence from Brisbane chose Newcastle for the inaugural Zone 8 Rotary Institute and the Local organising committee was ably led by chairman PDG Don Whatham. He worked tirelessly with the organisers to produce one of the best Institutes on record. IPDG Alex McHarg did a wonderful job as Sergeant at Arms which allowed the operations to flow smoothly. This was the first Institute when Assistant Governors were invited to attend plenary sessions and also assist with the organisation each day. Rotarians were made welcome to plenary sessions and the dress circle of City Hall was utilised at all sessions. I would like to thank our Assistant Governors for the way they responded to requests to assist Guest Speakers, transport speakers to and from Newcastle Airport and attend special functions. This was another opportunity to

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elevate the profile our Assistant Governors. The efforts of our district Rotarians allowed District 9670 to show in an excellent light.

Don't forget our Rotary Foundation Seminar to be held at Singleton RSC on 21 November. The seminar will commence at 9.00 for 9.30 and will be a very informative opportunity. Please make every attempt to have some of your club members attend this very important event.

And remember **“The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands”**

Your friend in Rotary

Greg Bevan

Assistant Governors

Continuing our series to promote the recognition of our Assistant Governors, this month we highlight a Rotarian from our Golden West, **Geoff Smith** from the Rotary Club of Narromine. Geoff is in his second term as an Assistant Governor and serves on three other District Committees, such is his dedication to Rotary. Geoff is a tireless worker for his club at Narromine, for the District in any capacity and is Conference Chairman for DGE Don Stephens in 2011. Geoff and his lovely Partner Jenny make a wonderful team.



In 1943, I was born in Dubbo where I spent my first 21 years, attending North Dubbo Primary and Dubbo High where I gained the Intermediate Certificate in 1958. I joined a firm of Chartered Accountants and my main work was audit and taxation returns. An audit led to an offer to join a stock and station agency as the book-keeper and assist at the Dubbo saleyards. I joined Farmers and Graziers where I spent 13 years in various places, Sydney, Albury, Wagga, Tumut and Jerilderie, the last two as Branch Manager. In Wagga I was the principal cattle auctioneer for two years. I was sent to Jerilderie to clean up a massive stock fraud by the previous manager who was convicted of the crime and sent to twelve years in Goulburn. The Company wanted to send me back to Sydney for specialised management training but I refused and left for Canberra with my wife and young daughter. I had several licenses so I had no trouble obtaining a position with a large real estate company and within twelve months I was the manager of a new office in upmarket Manuka. I was offered a position with a large building society to manage their branches and agencies and I spent three years in this position before an offer came to be the Finance Officer of the second largest credit union in Canberra. The GM was in failing health and I eventually became the GM of the Police Credit Union for over 5 years. St George Building Society came to Canberra and head hunted very heavily and I was offered the District Lending Managers position that I held for four years.

I became frustrated with office work so I returned to real estate and eventually obtained my own Ray White franchise until I sold out for semi retirement in 1997. I was attracted to Defence Housing to run their newly established sale/leaseback program in Canberra as a self employed consultant and I did this until I left Canberra in 2004 for Narromine where I have been employed at Narromine Transplants, a large tree nursery.

I obtained a Diploma in Financial Management by correspondence from UNE whilst I was employed at the credit union.

On the sporting front I represented Dubbo, Albury and Wagga at Country Week in hockey and I played first grade in first division in Sydney with and against several Olympians. I won a C Grade NSW Country Doubles Championship in badminton and played the game at a high level until I was in my forties. I played lawn bowls at no1 Pennant and I was in teams that won 4 pennants to No 1. I played first grade cricket in Dubbo and Wagga as a batsman/wicket-keeper. While in Dubbo I was a sports journalist on hockey and cricket for the Dubbo Liberal working under the guidance of a professional journalist.

I am the founding father of a four part mixed choir in Canberra called The Gospel Folk. This choir is over 100 strong and regularly performs throughout Canberra and the Southern Highlands.

I have three daughters, one married with three children. Two daughters live in London and the third lives in Sydney. All have university degrees. I was married for 34 years and my former wife lives and works in Canberra. My only sibling is a younger sister who lives in Dubbo.

CHRISTMAS SALE 2009

Supporting



- **Rotary ShelterBox Project**
- **Medical Equipment for Goroka Hospital - Rotary Australia**
World Community Service Project RAWCS
And Hunter East Timor Sisters Project

Quality Handmade Treasures

- Christmas gifts, ornaments
- jewellery
- textile art
- paper crafts
- lots more great gift ideas



Featuring East Timorese hand woven items and 2010 calendars
Saturday 28 November 8.30am – 4.30pm
11 Kilpanie Road, Lambton
Or shop online at www.empresswu.etsy.com

Contact Wilma Simmons, phone 4957 9253 / 0407579253 wilmasimmons@hotmail.com

Please note on sale day : We do not have credit card facilities, cash or cheque preferred but arrangements can be made for direct deposit, credit and lay-by.

Membership Seminar

District 9670



Sunday, 14 February 2010

Singleton

All clubs are encouraged to participate. – important issue for all Rotarians and clubs.

More details later

Contact Wilma Simmons

Phone 0407579253

wilmasimmons@hotmail.com



CLUB	Current	Oct	Oct
	M'ship	%	RANK
ADAMSTOWN/NEW LAMBTON	29	84.00	10
BELMONT	26	58.83	31
BENNETTS GREEN	0	0.00	#N/A
BOURKE	10	75.00	15
CARDIFF	10	90.00	3
CESSNOCK	26	82.00	12
CESSNOCK WINE COUNTRY	0	0.00	#N/A
CHARLESTOWN	33	72.13	21
COBAR	11	75.00	15
DENMAN	0	0.00	#N/A
DUBBO	28	72.84	20
DUBBO MACQUARIE	25	71.00	23
DUBBO SOUTH	40	68.13	24
DUBBO WEST	40	84.03	9
DUNGOG	0	0.00	#N/A
EAST MAITLAND	0	0.00	#N/A
KURRI KURRI	19	75.00	15
MAITLAND	0	0.00	#N/A
MAITLAND SUNRISE	39	83.29	11
MERRIWA	0	0.00	#N/A
MORISSET	29	79.00	13
MUDGEES	20	55.35	32
MUDGEES SUNRISE	0	0.00	#N/A
MURRURUNDI	0	0.00	#N/A
MUSWELLBROOK	21	61.90	26
MYALL COAST	22	75.29	14
NARROMINE	0	0.00	#N/A
NELSON BAY	59	87.08	5
NEWCASTLE	60	59.42	30
NEWCASTLE ENTERPRISE	30	65.00	25
NEWCASTLE SUNRISE	0	0.00	#N/A
NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	24	91.00	2
NYNGAN	0	0.00	#N/A
PATERSON	0	0.00	#N/A
RAYMOND TERRACE	19	60.61	27
RUTHERFORD / TELARAH	28	89.56	4
RYLSTONE / KANDOS	15	75.00	15
SALAMANDER BAY	0	0.00	#N/A
SCONE	9	92.00	1
SINGLETON	44	72.00	22
SINGLETON ON HUNTER	22	74.00	19
TORONTO	38	59.99	28
TORONTO SUNRISE	25	86.00	7
WALLSEND / MARYLAND	20	86.25	6
WARATAH	18	84.40	8
WARNERS BAY	15	53.80	33
WARREN	0	0.00	#N/A
WELLINGTON	34	59.56	29
WILLIAMTOWN	0	0.00	#N/A

Also from the District Governor

- Please keep in mind:- return your Attendance figures to Attendance Officer Tim Holmes
- Please forward your Bulletin to our Bulletin Assessment Officer Bruce Wilson and Me.
- If you can see your way clear to make a small donation to the "Stryker Drill Appeal".
- NYSF Chair John Bennetts is ecstatic with the quality of Students in the program this year.
- Our membership Seminar will be conducted by our wonderful District Membership Chair Wilma Simmons in February 2010. This will be well worth your time to attend.



District Newsletter

This newsletter is your way of communicating with a wide audience of Rotarians and Partners in the district. Send information on club events to the editor by 8th of the month (MS Word or Text, Photos in JPEG) Publicise your events Let us know about your success

DISTRICT WEB SITE

Read this newsletter.
Check club and District events.
Check Club member information.
Link to RI, RDU, YEP, RYLA.
See the District profile.
ALL AT www.rotary9670.org.au

District 9670 Conference

Cessnock—19 to 21 March 2009

Hi folks, As you may be aware the District Rotary Conference in 2010 will be held in Cessnock from Friday 19 March through to Sunday 21 March. The Conference Committee is asking for your participation, if your Club can assist, to make this a Conference to remember.



In the Conference program we are setting aside a number of 3 minute spots for Rotary clubs to present a comedy skit to entertain the attendees and earn your Club some money. The winning skit, judged by the RI Presidents representative at the Conference, will earn that club \$300. To participate we would need a DVD or video of your skit in order to judge its suitability by the end of November. You can add final polish later!!

There are also a number of 10 minute (max.) slots in the program for Rotary clubs to make a presentation about a special project the club has carried out this year, or in the immediate past period, that would be of general interest to those attending the Conference. This is an opportunity to let our Rotary District know what clubs are doing by way of special projects. Again we need the details by the end of November to allocate the spots.

Please discuss these matters with your clubs ASAP and assist us to make this Conference one to remember.

If you have any questions re these matters please contact me at this e-mail address, or by phone at 0409986102. Mail can be sent to PO Box 4070 Fingal Bay 2315.

Yours in Rotary, Bill Flett, Conference Secretary.

Early Notice

District Governor, 2012-2013 Rotary Year

This is an early reminder that we will soon be starting the process of nominating the Rotarian to lead District 9670 in the 2012-2013 Rotary Year. Why nominate and not elect, well the confirmation of the various DGs for all districts is part of the formalities at the International Convention. The DGs for 2010-2011 were confirmed at the International Convention in Birmingham this year.

Members of the Nominating Committee will be sort in the near future. This Committee will be confirmed in March 2010 at the District Conference in Cessnock, with a call for nominations for DG 2012-2013 being made shortly after. Now is the time to consider which Rotarian in your Club should be the one to lead the District or to be one of the Nominating Committee. Any Rotarian wishing to be considered for the position of DG for 2012-2013 should not be a part of the Nominating Committee, the structure of the Nominating Committee is listed below.

Structure of the Committee

Membership of the District Governor Nominating Committee shall be structured as follows:

The District Governor and the Immediate Past District Governor at the time of the election of the committee.

The District Governor for the ensuing year.

A representative, elected from each of the ten Zones of the District.

If an Assistant Governor is to be interviewed for the position of District Governor, then he/she shall not be member of the District Governor Nominating Committee.(refer RI By-Law 10.030)

IPDG Alex McHarg

Convenor DG Nominating Committee

alexander.mcharg@bigpond.com or phone 0409 321 403



Obesity & Mentally Ill Adolescents

Professor Valsamma Eapen
University of New South Wales
Australian Rotary Health Mental Health Evaluation Grant

Obesity, the 6th major risk factor for the world's burden of disease, is associated with a range of metabolic disorders that start early in life. Young mentally ill people are particularly vulnerable to weight gain and metabolic changes. Patients with severe mental illness tend to have elevated rates of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Professor Eapen's study, for teen patients on antipsychotic medication in three adolescent inpatient units in the Sydney South West Area Health Service, is evaluating:

- a health promotion and preventive lifestyle intervention program
- the impact of the program on weight gain and metabolic changes
- overall improvement
- treatment adherence and
- quality of life

These young people are simultaneously affected by the emotional distress and social impairment linked to their mental illness. Early intervention can have a significant impact on long-term outcomes and recovery rates.

This study is the first to address the issue of 'antipsychotic medication-induced weight gain' and related effects in adolescents. Findings will provide valuable information about the effectiveness of this program. The early intervention strategies could become an integral part of the comprehensive management of these vulnerable patients.

For more information on research funded by Australian Rotary Health, contact:
Gerardine Grace - (02) 8837 1900 or
email: gerardinegrace@australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Donations to Australian Rotary Health are tax deductible and can be made online at: www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au or sent by snail-mail to: PO Box 3455 Parramatta, NSW 2124.



www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au



Rotary Australian World Community Service Eastern Region

China Wenzhou
Project no 51/2008/9
Alliance for Smiles
31st October-14th September 2009

Rotary Districts represented were D5020 D5010 D3190
D3180 D9670 D2490

Sponsorship for this mission was from Philanthropist Mr Howard Chong Mr Colin Wong and The Smile Train. The Site was The 2nd Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou in conjunction with the Wenzhou Medical College.



Bill and Lyn at Work

The 42 team members can from Britain USA Canada Chile Norway Israel China Malaysia Belgium India and Australia.

The first day of pre clinic we processed 240 patients and operated on 152 children with cleft lips and palates during 7 days of solid operating. The population of Wenzhou is 8 million and although this is referred to as the most affluent city in



Lyn and Patient

China there are many very poor people who have no access to medical treatment.

Wenzhou Hospital was up to date with all modern medical equipment but lacks trained personnel .The Chinese were eager to learn and to assist in anyway possible.

This was Alliance for Smiles second mission to Wenzhou and there are still many lips and palates that need repairing.

The Board and Founders of Alliance for Smiles were present to oversee the opening the first Treatment Centre for Cleft Lips and Palates in China .So now with the supervision and financial support from Alliance for Smiles the people of Wenzhou have an ongoing facility to meet their needs.

We were accommodated in a 4 star hotel and entertained as only the Chinese know how. At all times we felt safe and secure and walked from the hotel to the hospital.

This again was a very successful mission making many dreams real by a group of like minded people from different parts of the world in service above self.

Wonderful friendships were formed and I proud to be part of this International Rotary family

Lyn Thorpe
Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise



Bill at Work



Hunter Homelessness Connect Day
9.00am–2.00pm, Thursday 26 November 2009
Newcastle PCYC, Curley Road, Broadmeadow

At the Hunter Homeless Connect Day, people who are homeless, struggling, doing it tough, or at risk of homelessness, will find a one-stop-shop of free services, activities, entertainment and stuff to take away.

As at 7 September, the following has been offered for guests at the Hunter Homeless Connect Day:

Free Stuff to take away

thanks to

Limited numbers of:

Street Swags
Birth Certificates
Phone Cards
Blankets
Toiletries and personal items

Mission Australia
Dept Births Deaths and Marriages/Dept Premier and Cabinet
Centrelink
Wests Executive Inn
ATO, FAHCSIA & DEEWR staff, Rotary Australia

Still needed:

Donations of quality shoes, clothing, books, food hampers

Free Food

All day BBQ
Fresh Fruit
Tea and Coffee
Cakes and pastries

TAFE, NSW Sport and Rec
Awabakal
PCYC
TAFE

Free information and Services

Legal Services
Debt Management
Housing information
Aboriginal Services
Human Services
Welfare & Emergency Relief

Legal Aid
State Debt Recovery
NSW Housing, DoCS, Compass Housing
AEOP, Awabakal
Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support Agency
Samaritans, Mission Aust, Newcastle City Mission

Free Health and Personal Services

Haircuts
Shoulder and neck massage
Manicure and Pedicure
Clothing alterations
First Aid
Showers

TAFE
TAFE
TAFE
TAFE
Red Cross

Free activities

Internet Café
Street Soccer
Boxing
Bag or box making
Entertainment

Samaritans
PCYC and NSW Sport and Rec
PCYC
TAFE
Wesley Newcastle City Mission, TAFE,

Thank you also to Dept Sport and Rec for venue costs, NSW Police for promotion, Dept Corrective Services for setup and pickup assistance, PCYC for venue and storage, NHHIN reps for coordination

For further information or to offer assistance contact:

Nicola Hirschhorn – Centrelink – 0402 949 854 or Nicola.nk.hirschhorn@centrelink.gov.au

Pam Fitzgibbon – NSW Dept Premier and Cabinet - 4927 8799 or Pam.Fitzgibbon@dpc.nsw.gov.au



Many people in the Hunter are doing it tough, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, due to relationship breakdown, mental health issues, financial troubles, illness and dependency.

You, your business, organisation or group can make a difference and help open doors for people in tough times by being part of Hunter's first Homeless Connect Day.

What is Hunter Homeless Connect?

Hunter Homeless Connect is a community event bringing together government and non-government agencies, businesses and community volunteers, on one day and at one location, to provide free appropriate services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

The objectives of Homeless Connect are to:

- Provide a sense of community with an inclusive, welcoming environment and quality activities and services
- Provide access to free appropriate services to homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless, on one day and at one location.
- Engage and increase the collaborative involvement of homeless consumers, businesses, not for profits and other service providers, governments and individual volunteers to work together to create solutions to end homelessness

What you can do! Hunter Homeless Connect Day needs:

- Donations of new (or *as new*) shoes and clothing (including work clothes, and clothing suitable for job interviews)
- Non-perishable food for take-away hampers – eg, long life milk and cereals, **ring-pull** tins of tuna, baked beans, soup, fruit, tomatoes, braised steak or similar meals; 2 minute noodles, rice or pasta, pasta sauce; vegemite, peanut butter, a tin of Milo, tea bags, coffee, biscuits.
- Financial or in-kind support to assist with Homeless Connect Day costs (eg printing/promotion costs)

Does your organisation provide services to people who are doing it tough (eg employment, housing, welfare etc)?

Register now to provide your service at the Homeless Connect Day!

Does your business sell products or services that people in need simply can't afford or easily access (eg legal, health, clothing, toiletries, shoes, food etc)?

Ring now and offer to donate your service or product at the Homeless Connect Day!

Does your group care about people in crisis or experiencing difficulty (eg service club, socially responsible corporation, philanthropist or volunteer)?

Find out how you can help homeless and at risk people at the Hunter Homeless Connect Day!

CONTACT:

Nicola Hirschhorn – Centrelink – 0402 949 854 or Nicola.nk.hirschhorn@centrelink.gov.au

Pam Fitzgibbon – NSW Dept Premier and Cabinet – 4927 8799 or Pam.Fitzgibbon@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Hunter Homeless Connect: A community coalition of the Federal, State and Local Government, Non Government Organisations and Business and Community Groups in the Hunter Region. Opening doors out of homelessness, building lasting partnerships, raising public awareness of homelessness in the community, and providing a vehicle for community involvement in addressing the issue of homelessness.