

“The Future Of Rotary Is In Your Hands”

FROM WHERE I SIT; THE MONTH IN REVIEW



D.G. PAUL REID

R.I. PRESIDENT JOHN KENNY

9690 DISTRICT NEWS

By the time most of you are reading this the District Conference for 2010 will be done and dusted. Whilst numbers are a little down on previous years, mostly due as so many of you have told me to the economic downturn.

Those who attend are guaranteed of “The Greatest Time on Earth” as the conference committee and members of Holroyd club have put in a magnificent effort. I take this opportunity to express both mine and Julia’s thanks for what you have done for us.

March is Literacy Month and whilst we all have our own interpretation of literacy here is Rotary’s take on what Literacy means to itself.

Traditionally literacy is defined as a person’s ability to read and write. It can also include functional abilities such as using a computer, understanding how to prevent certain diseases, or reading signs in a market.

Literacy empowers people and is essential for community development. Literate populations are more likely to

- Develop economically
- Live healthier lives
- Live more peacefully

Nearly 800 million people across the world cannot read or write. Women and girls account for approximately 65% of this group.

Rotarians throughout District 9690 carry out numerous projects to reduce the incidence of illiteracy.

Examples of these programs are;

- Provision of school equipment and books to Fiji, Timor and Vanuatu

- Shoe boxes of pens, pencils, pads and the like to outback schools.

- Books and supplies to under funded country school libraries.

Club partnering with outside Literacy groups

Many of you will be aware of Julia’s passion for Literacy and of her volunteer work in this area.

It is through this passion that grew the idea for our 2009-10 District project namely support of the Book Buzz Program.

Book Buzz is conducted under the auspices of the Indigenous Children’s Literacy Project and is simply the provision of first reader book kits to outback indigenous communities.

Through the supply of these kits young children, not only those first starting school are now given the opportunity to learn to read, and over the life of the program it has also had the added benefit of not only the children but in many cases their parents and other family members learning to read.

Rather than reinvent the wheel Julia & I decided to join with the Fred Hollows Foundation who are proud partners in the Book Buzz program.

Our aim is to raise funds to assist with the purchase of as many packs as possible. The cost \$140 per pack.

To date a number of clubs

within our District have donated funds in support of the project and others have promised their support before the end of this Rotary year.

The Rotary Foundation Chair Glen Estess Sr., wrote in the latest issue of Rotary Down Under;

“Those who cannot read and write, whether they be children or adults, are cut off from important information in ways too numerous to count. They are less likely to be healthy and more likely to be poor.

And perhaps most critically, parents who cannot read are more likely to raise children who cannot read – perpetuating the cycle of illiteracy and poverty.”

Whilst we are all to well aware that there are a plethora of projects seeking our support, we have selected Book Buzz as the District Project for 2009-10 and any assistance you may wish to give will be much appreciated.

Every first reader pack we are able to purchase will enable this cycle of illiteracy and hopefully poverty to be broken.

Donations can be sent to District Treasurer John Ching made out to D9690 Literacy project.

We look forward to your support.

Paul



LEADERSHIP COURSE

The Rotary Leadership Institute will run part 2 and 3 on 18 April 2010.

Please contact Jennifer Scott to book on 47572974

or scottadr@optusnet.com.au

Rotary Leadership 1 will be held again late in July date to be advised.

Presidents meeting update

ROTARY FOUNDATION AWARDS

Recognition of fundraising for clubs was made as Banners were presented to the following clubs in their efforts for the Rotary Foundation.

Burwood	\$283.78 per capita
Padstow	\$176.96 per capita
Liverpool	\$169.97 per capita



Also at the Presidents meeting Julia had her sock tree on display. Remember she is after as many pairs of socks as is possible to fill the tree, (preferably black).



POLIO PLUS

A special report filed by Barry Antees.

“I have finished day three of immunisations, last two being mop up days of the National Immunisation Day (NID) have been going house to house in the slums giving doses to those children under 5 who do not have the purple little finger. The numbers are amazing. 174 million children in the three days, some 2.3 million health care workers and volunteers overseen by 55,000 supervisors. I am traveling with a Rotarian group from Australia (7) Finland (3) Argentina (2) Americans (21) we have also meet in Chandigarh another 4 Rotarians from Jersey Island (UK). The two parallels of life here are extreme, but the education program is brilliant there is no opposition to the Polio drops. All we do when we are at the front door of the house or hut is to say Polio and out come the children, mind you the children are some times not too fussed about being tilted over by strangers and told to open their mouths, but at least this gives us a clear opening of the mouth.

Our Rotarian hosts are very giving, as it is wedding season here we have been invited to a wedding each night here sometimes even two in one night”.



SHELTERBOX

Phil Smith from the Rotary Club of Richmond has recently handed over District Representation for Shelter Box to the Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains. For "show boxes", purchases and inquiries please contact;

Peter Hartley on 4757-3480 or Tom Hickey on 4757-1473, or email them; pghpubs@tpg.com.au, thehickey@bigpond.com.

Central Blue will be working with a few other Clubs in the District to share the workload.



Rotarians can take pride in the way that Shelter box has assisted as field stations and accommodation in the recent devastation of Chile in the earthquake.

Padstow Receives A Community Service Award

The Rotary Club of Padstow were delighted to receive an Australia Day Award for "Community Service by an Organisation" from Bankstown City Council. The award was presented by Mayor, Councilor Tanya Mihailuk at their Australia Day Ceremony at Garrison Point, Georges Hall. One of 6 Organisations nominated for this Award we were recognised with a framed nomination certificate and a magnificent glass trophy.

The citation read by the Deputy Mayor at the awards ceremony is as follows;

"For the past 52 years the Rotary Club of Padstow has been actively involved in the community raising funds for local, national and international causes. Their Members typify the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". Last calendar year alone the Club contributed \$7,000 to Bankstown Hospital; \$5,000 to the Sarah Hilt Foundation; 4 shelter boxes for overseas aid; sent 4 local schools for Rotary Youth Driver Awareness; sent 4 local students to Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; sponsored East Hills Girls High Formula 1 Project. The Club also provided a great Community Day with Padstow on Parade in October 2009 and Carols by Candlelight at Playford Park in December 2009."

Congratulations President Julie and the members of Padstow

Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds.

PDG Bill Dethlefs, National RAM Chairman recently reported.

Malaria is a disease of the blood that is caused by a parasite transmitted from person to person by certain types of mosquitoes.

Worldwide, it causes around 350 to 500 million illnesses and more than one million deaths annually; in Africa alone it kills a child every 30 seconds.

Children who survive may suffer from learning impairments or brain damage. Pregnant women and their unborn children are also particularly vulnerable to malaria, which, during pregnancy, is a major cause of mortality, low birth weight and maternal anaemia. And while we know malaria is preventable, the lack of resources, coupled with a climate very hospitable to the deadliest strain of malaria, has made the disease a leading cause of death in areas such as the Pacific Region, Asia and Africa.

In addition to the human toll malaria exacts, the **economic and social impacts are also devastating**. Moreover, malaria disproportionately affects the rural poor who can neither afford a bed net for prevention, nor access appropriate treatment when they fall sick.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recognises 25 April (Anzac Day) as World Malaria Day. RAM believes that we should also develop this concept as an opportunity to promote what Rotary in Australia is doing about this devastating disease.

We have selected 30 April as the date on which due recognition should occur. We have named this day in Australia, Malaria Awareness Day. However, we intend that the awareness campaign will occur mostly during the whole of the week commencing 26 April.

To ensure success we encourage clubs to get involved in whatever manner they choose.

Please check our website www.ramaustralia.org for ideas as to how your club may be involved in Malaria Awareness Day.

The key element is public awareness of this dreadful disease.



Sad News

John Engisch, a long standing member of Bankstown Rotary Club was seriously injured on the harbour in a yachting accident last Saturday.

April is Magazine Month

**R.I. PRESIDENT JOHN KENNY
D.G. PAUL REID**

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***The Future Of Rotary Is In Your
Hands***

We're on the Web!

www.rotary9690.org.au

CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

Should you have any alterations to the District Directory details could you please send the correction to D.G. Paul or editor Melvin Gray and they will be included in the next issue of the District Newsletter.

D.G. Paul's diary

19th — 21st March Conference at Forster
30th April Presidents meeting
District Chairs reports to Presidents

A thought to ponder

**The nicest thing about the future is
that it always starts tomorrow.**



District Membership

CLUB	1-Jul-09	Change	28-Feb-10
Bankstown	11		11
Blackheath	16		16
Blacktown City	53	3	56
Breakfast Point	27	-2	25
Burwood	43	-4	39
Cabramatta	15	1	16
Central Blue Mount	23	2	25
Chester Hill	13	-2	11
Concord	36	11	47
Granville	20	-2	18
Hawkesbury	17	2	19
Holroyd	35		35
Katoomba	22		22
Kurrajong/Nth Rich	18		18
Liverpool	30		30
Liverpool Greenway	32	-3	29
Liverpool West	25		25
Lower Blue Mount	56	-1	55
Mount Drutt	18		18
Nepean	27		27
Padstow	43	-4	39
Parramatta	27	-2	25
Parramatta City	31	-3	28
Parramatta Daybreak	15		15
Penrith	34		34
Penrith Valley	44		44
Prospect	8	2	10
Revesby Wirrimbirra	0	20	20
Richmond	44	-4	40
Springwood	33	1	34
St. Mary's	21	-2	19
Strathfield	63	-2	61
Upper Blue Mount Sun	20	-3	17
Wallacia/Mulgoa Valley	12	1	13
Wetherill Park	34	-5	29
Windsor	39		39
Total	1005	4	1009

Welcome our latest Rotarians

Congratulations and welcome to each of you. May your membership with your new club be exciting and full of great fellowship.

ANDREW DUCLOS Rotary Club of Padstow

SANDHIVA REDDY Rotary Club of Padstow

DENIS ANADE Rotary Club of Mt. Drutt