

# “BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER ROTARY”

**Theme for month:** June: Rotary Fellowships



D.G. MARILYN MERCER

R.I. PRESIDENT RAY KLINGENSMITH

# 9690 DISTRICT NEWS

Hello again,  
This is the Newsletter I have been dreading – my last as DG 9690. How many times I have sat down to write it. However, it is one where we can celebrate a year of achievements.

Congratulations to all clubs for the work you have done this year. There were those which achieved a Presidential Citation (some with Distinction) and many others which deserved it, but they had concentrated on other activities which were equally valuable.

Two clubs recently received notification, that their application had been successful and will begin RI pilot programs on 1 July 2011. This was no mean feat as 1300 applications were received and only 200 clubs were selected per pilot from the 34 Zones of the world. The **Rotary Club Wetherill Park**, has an exciting opportunity to experiment with some new approaches, techniques and methods of operating (**Innovation & Flexibility**). The **Rotary Club Central Blue Mountains** was selected to participate in the **Corporate Member** pilot program. They will evaluate and measure the impact alternative membership types and club operations have on member activities, engagement, growth, retention and diversity, as well as increased service and support of TRF, and overall club effectiveness. Good luck in your efforts over these next few years and thank you for agreeing to be a part of this exciting new opportunity.

2010-11 has not been without its **challenges**. Ahead of the rest would be the news regarding redistricting followed a few weeks later by the natural disasters in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Your support has been remarkable. Thank you.

Money was sent to Christchurch to assist after the earthquake. Many clubs raised more when Queensland was devastated by floods and cyclone. We set up a **D.9690 Qld Flood Relief** account to be used when a

Queensland District Governor, Anne Brand, gave a definite project. Here is my latest email from DG Anne



*'On behalf of Rotary District 9630, we sincerely thank the ladies from the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains and in particular Sue Bell, for the generous donations of the beautiful quilts. They are in the process of being distributed to people in the Ipswich area who have lost so much*

*The Rotarians are working on the home of one family that is living in a shed in the backyard and go into the house for the bathroom and toilet. The lady is very depressed. The Rotarians and Habitat for Humanity members are striving to finish relining at least a bedroom, and also replacing windows, so that these people can at least live in their home. In speaking with Ipswich North Rotarians, they tell me that the further they get into assisting people, the more they see people who are in despair'*



Today, we have sent the 9690 cheque \$78,781 to the Rotary Club of Ipswich North. This will be used to reline houses at a cost of \$2000 per house – cost of sheeting materials only. All labour is done by volunteers.

Can you imagine the amount of **rebuilding communities** this money will do? Wonderful effort.

Many of you heard the young Teacher, **Emily Peck** speak at the Conference. She was repatriated home to Bathurst that week from her school which was 4 km from the Reactor. As a result of the bucket collection at District Conference and further donations from Rotarians we are sending \$3912.05 to the **Ohkuma Earthquake/ Tsunami Appeal**.

I have heard of many Club antics on the HAT day and the fun and funds. Some people also taxed their brains and came up with the longest **HAT w o r d** – **phosphATidylethanolamine** (24); RC Holroyd; RC Revesby Warrimbirra. The longest lists of **HAT** words (only singular or plural of any word) came from RC Revesby Warrimbirra (200); RC Central Blue (195); RC Blacktown City (193); RC Holroyd ((181); RC Lower Blue Mountains (56) ..... and a special award for Tanya Ananin (daughter of Pres. Uri Ananin RC Richmond) for her special effort. Prizes were donated by ARH and RDU Merchandising. Thank you for helping to raise the importance of mental health in our community.

I could write at least a full newsletter on **New Orleans and Houston** but I do not have that luxury. Maybe we can show this on our website.

My utmost **appreciation** goes to the Rotary Club of Hawkesbury, the District Teams and the Clubs for your support in so many ways during this challenging and rewarding year in Rotary

See you at 'District Turn Over' (Philippine for Change Over) on 2 July

*' au revoir'*

*Marilyn*



## Dudley's daze

G'day everyone.

It seems like only yesterday that I wrote the first Daze. How the year has flown and what a year. DG Marilyn has worked at a frenetic pace and I have had to keep up. She has revelled in the job as DG and, even though I admit to a certain bias, I know she has done a magnificent job. The opportunities we have had in visiting all the clubs and joining in the plethora of projects and activities has both amazed and inspired us. What a wonderful bunch of people Rotarians are. Innovative thinking, enthusiastic commitment, hard working, dedicated, are all terms I can honestly use when describing you all. So many Rotary Projects have benefited from the work of D9690 clubs. To say we punch above our weight is too simplistic. Despite this our District, along with many others around the world, including many in US, has been asked to amalgamate with nearby districts. We are, from 2013, part of the newly formed districts 9675 (Southern Sydney) and 9785 (Northern Sydney). What a wonderful opportunity to combine some 9690 blood in these new areas, make new friends and develop close relationships with clubs that were previously "over the border". Nothing much will change, the present clubs will still function as they always have, we'll just say we are from either D9675 or D9685. There is a certain sadness in the change but Rotary will move on. Districts are merely administrative entities, the essential "Rotaryness" will remain as always, with the clubs.

Looking back – the year in review – demonstrates to me that your support of DG Marilyn has been nothing short of phenomenal. No amount of hard work by Herself would have resulted in anything at all without wholehearted backing from clubs and individual Rotarians. I refuse to single out anyone or any club in particular, you will know if you are included in that group as will others around you. As always actions speak louder than words and there has been plenty of action in D9690.

We have enjoyed a great year with a Conference still talked about wherever we go, with confidence that we leave the district in good shape. We leave the DG job with a feeling of satisfaction knowing that we have given a good account of ourselves and with no "if only...." regrets.

I conclude this last Daze with a special request – please give the same support you have given us to David and his team who will probably do things a little differently but will have the same ultimate goal of a **Bigger Better Bolder Rotary**.

*Dudley*

## Here's How We Do It

### Mental Health: the attention it deserves

In a move that has mental health experts and supporters around the country rejoicing, this year's Federal Budget has allocated a much needed 1.5 billion towards mental health. Much of this funding is going towards direct service initiatives and it is great to see our country's decision makers highlighting the importance of mental health and the impact mental illness has on our society.

However, despite the boost in funding, mental health remains a big problem. The World Health Organisation states that by 2020 depression will be the leading cause of disability worldwide. Bringing mental health issues into the spotlight is helping, but more needs to be done to prevent and effectively manage a wide range of mental disorders and illnesses.

Australian Rotary Health has long been an ambassador for mental health. We've directed more than \$26 million towards health research since 1981 and now we're focusing on the mental health of young people to help reduce the burden of debilitating and costly mental disorders.

You can make a difference by donating today to help improve the mental health of Australia's young people. It's devastating to know that today, more than one in four people aged between 12 and 25 will be affected by a mental problem in any given year. In fact, it is estimated that approximately 750,000 young people's mental health needs are not currently being met. These young people are our future and deserve the support that research can provide.

To find out more about our research or to donate, please visit [www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au](http://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au) or call 02 8837 1900.



### The Law Society of NSW offers FREE talks

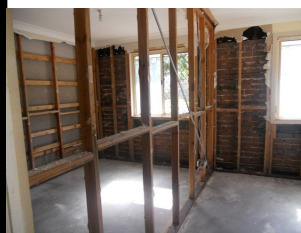
The Law Society of NSW administers a program offering free talks on the law to community groups throughout NSW at their day or evening functions. The program aims to increase awareness of the law and citizen's rights and obligations. Groups are welcome to have more than one talk per year on a wide range of practical and general interest legal subjects such as: Wills and Power of Attorney; Neighbors and the Law; Debt and the Law; Buying and Selling Real Estate; Family Law and many other topics.

Community group members find the opportunity to hear from a lawyer and ask questions, in a relaxed and informal environment, a valuable community service and excellent guest speaker resource.

To find out more about this free community legal service, please contact Sue Chambers at the Law Society of New South Wales on (02) 9926 0374 or email [sue.chambers@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:sue.chambers@lawsociety.com.au) or book a talk on line at [www.lawsociety.com.au/speakersbureau](http://www.lawsociety.com.au/speakersbureau)

Club members may then look at all the information on the Speakers Bureau and the full range of topics available and then if desired, book a talk straight away.

### More photos from the assistance for the floods



# Can Rotary Make a Difference?

## **RAWCS Medical Project Caluya Island, Antique Province, Philippines**

As this is the last newsletter of this year, DG Marilyn has allowed me some editing privilege by asking me to give an update on a recent RAWCS Medical mission I was privileged to be a part of.

This was my first ever adventure into another part of Rotary that I had heard of on many occasions, even enlightened to hear others speak of their passion and enthusiasm about RAWCS, but never been a part of.

I thought I'd had a great time meeting people and feeling that I was making a difference, having been allowed to previously ride a pushbike around the country side, ably assisted may I add, by fellow Rotarians to raise funds for another wonderful Rotary program ARH: However to be allowed to take that same enthusiasm, again with the company of fellow Rotarians and throw into the mix, volunteers from the local community in Rotary's name; then witness, not only third world areas but see that those people are justifiably proud of what they have (or may not have in some cases), opened up a whole new image in both my heart and my eyes.



In what was 10 days of our time, we witnessed 1261 men, women and children receive medical treatment, minor and in some cases major surgery, including dental and optical, be prescribed medicines, vitamins and knowledge to help, was uplifting; I'd even go so far as to say miraculous, (if only in a laypersons mind).



Along with three fellow Rotarians from my club, two other Rotarians, both Doctors, and a Doctor and two nurses from Australia, ably assisted by volunteers from the Philippines, we were able to really "make a difference".

Conditions were to say the least not five star, (maybe minus 2 star would be more to the point). The travel to get there and back was both awkward and primitive at times, but in hindsight it was a life-changing opportunity.



I can only offer my sincerest thanks first and foremost to being a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Blacktown City, RAWCS for allowing those of us that went the chance to participate in this mission; and the beautiful people of Caluya Island for giving myself a whole new perspective on life and its values.



If ever the opportunity to participate in a RAWCS mission comes your way, take my advice; take a while to sit back and look at the opportunity, then give consideration to giving it a go.

I did and will do so again in the future. Service is a wonderful opportunity granted to each of us as Rotarians; Service to those that need it in areas that you least expect it is a chance taken far less frequently.

Melvin Gray (Mel), Rotary Club of Blacktown City.

## ***Great Rotary Whitewater Duck Race 2011.***

Penrith Whitewater Stadium - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

This has to be one of the best fun fundraising events ever with thousands of numbered yellow ducks streaming down the Whitewater Course at Penrith.

*The winning duck is worth \$1000.00 cash!*

Consolation prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place are also awarded

Organised by the Rotary Club of Kurrajong North Richmond this very successful community event offers non profit organisations a golden opportunity to very simply raise funds for their special projects at no initial cost!

*Ducks are easier to sell than raffle tickets !*

Duck ownership certificates are \$5.00 each with \$3.50 immediately available to the selling organization. Each certificate entitles the holder to one numbered duck in the race. The organization selling the most certificates will win

\$500.00

with any extra funds after expenses are met returned to all the selling organizations.

**Application forms for books of 20 certificates are available by phoning 02- 4571 2578 or 02-4573 1690**

**or email [wendax@bigpond.com](mailto:wendax@bigpond.com)**



**DISTRICT  
9690**

For changes in Club information and items for the District Governor's Newsletter contact Newsletter editor Melvin Gray

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**Rotary District 9690 Changeover**  
**District Governor Marilyn Mercer to District Governor Elect David Cook.**

You, your partners and friends are all invited to join us at the Penrith Pace-way. Station Street Penrith. on Saturday 2nd July at 6.30 for a 7.00pm start.

The cost is \$35 for a two course dinner and there will be a cash bar.

The event also includes the Rotaract district changeover.

RSVP Joan Dennis by 20th June  
[lowerbluemaountains@rotarnet.com.au](mailto:lowerbluemaountains@rotarnet.com.au)  
or 0247 350310

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.rotary9690.org.au](http://www.rotary9690.org.au)

**Cabramatta Rotary Club has changed its venue and now meets at**

**Cabra-Vale Ex-Active Servicemen's Club**  
**1 Bartley Street, Canley Vale 2166 6.00 for 6.45pm**



**VALE:**

Kerry Baker Rotary club of Blacktown City, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Chairman Born 6th February 1945 passed away 13th May 2011

Peter Mortimer Rotary Club of Kurrajong -North Richmond



**Welcome to our newest Rotarians**

Thank you for agreeing to join us in doing good in the world.

- |                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Maravic Malano | Rotary Club of Blacktown City       |
| Louise Smith   | Rotary Club of Liverpool West       |
| Trudy Ho       | Rotary Club of Liverpool West       |
| Stanley Noal   | Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains |
| Pamela Noal    | Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains |
| Brian Sayah    | Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains |
| David Clark    | Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains |
| Peter Revleas  | Rotary Club of Strathfield          |
| Adrian Risi    | Rotary Club of Strathfield          |
| Rod Rimes      | Rotary Club of Strathfield          |
| Terry Munsey   | Rotary Club of Windsor              |
| Mike Horton    | Rotary Club of Windsor              |

Welcome to you all.

**D.G Marilyn's diary dates**

**June**

- 5 Upper Blue 10th and Ch'O
- 7 Pride In Work KNR/Hawk
- 14 RC City of Sydney meeting
- 15 RC Penrith POoTY
- 16 2014 Convention Meeting
- 17 Vietnam Vision Dinner
- 19 YEP Briefing
- 20 Probus Richmond (am)
- 20 RC Cabramatta POoTY (pm)
- 24 RC Windsor Ch'O
- 25 DG 2013-14 Interviews 9685
- 26 DG 2013-14 Interviews 9675
- 27 RC P'matta City Ch'O
- 28 RC Padstow Ch'O
- 30 RC Hawkesbury Ch'O

**July**

- 1 RC Lower Blue Ch'O
- 6 RC Mt Druitt Ch'O
- 16 RC Liverpool West Ch'O
- 24 RC L'pool G'way Christmas Spectacular

