

“BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER ROTARY”

Theme for month: Literacy Month / Rotaract week



D.G. MARILYN MERCER

R.I. PRESIDENT RAY KLINGINSMITH

9690 DISTRICT NEWS

Hello again

What a month of highs and lows! There is so much to report that this article seems very disjointed.

Firstly I acknowledge the enormous anguish felt by our fellow Rotarians. Since December there have been floods WA D. 9450; floods Qld D.9570, D.9550, D.9630; floods Vic D9780; fire WA. D.9460; cyclone Qld 9550 and earthquakes NZ D.9970.

From my childhood I recall a song “**Look for the silver lining**”. Thank you to the many clubs of D. 9690 which are providing that “silver lining” by their continued support with the various fund raisers.

Dudley and I supported the Combined Rotary Clubs of Liverpool & Cabramatta “Queensland Flood Relief Dinner” on 26 February. It was a great evening of hospitality and entertainmentand raised in excess of **\$55,000**. Congratulations to the organisers, sponsors and attendees.

This last month we said farewell to the **Rotary Club of Prospect Inc.** Chartered on 19 May 1994, it has successfully built communities and bridged continents in that time. The total donation to TRF is \$36,000 including recognition of 25 people with PHF It is great that 80% of the final members are joining nearby Clubs.

Often we receive encouraging emails. A call for help went out from Richmond Manyweathers for people to transport books for **Ranfury**. From him “A quick note of appreciation to you and your 9690 colleagues for the responses to the Rotary Ranfury request for help. Many thanks to Peter Smith from RC Strathfield for doing the pick-up this morning and delivering to the depot. Rotary achieves when we all work together.” ...It sure does. Thank you also to Lindsay and Sharon for your offers of help.

Talking of books, have you sold your pile of “Book Buzz” guessing competition tickets, because March is **Rotary Literacy Month**?

...And what about “**Books for Babies**”. It was so rewarding to take part in this National initiative.

As I began to read the February/March **Probus** magazine, I was surprised when I saw on page 1 “Editor – Jane Campbell”. Jane passed away on 10 February. She had been an employee of RDU for 24 years (from high school) and the Probus editor for the last 11 years. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.



Jane’s name in the February/March Probus Magazine reminded me of a similar happening in February, 64 years ago. Rotary International founder Paul P. Harris was asked to write his usual February “It’s Anniversary time again, what’s in store for Rotary next year?” article. It was done ahead of schedule. When Paul lay his head down for the final time on 27 January 1947, the February 1947 issue of *The Rotarian* had been printed and was ready to be posted. Some Rotarians didn’t find out of the passing of Paul Harris until they received the following month’s issue.

Thank you to PDG Lloyd Roeveer, AGs and other helpers who organised the film night at Burwood, Parramatta and Penrith. This social evening made over \$3000 for the **Polio Challenge**. Things look promising in this regard. President Ray Klinginsmith in his March letter to DGs says “*Good news! We are finally able to announce that Bill Gates, Jr. will be a featured speaker at the RI convention in New Orleans. In fact, we are changing the Tuesday plenary session*

to an afternoon meeting to accommodate his schedule, and we expect a full house for his speech at 4:30 on Tuesday afternoon, 24 May”.



7-13 March we commemorate the founding of the first **Rotaract** club in 1968. We have three very effective Rotaract clubs in District 9690 – Burwood, Gunargarang and Western Sydney.

Three Rotary clubs have decided to apply take part in the New RI Pilot Programs to support member diversity - Rotary Club of Parramatta City (Corporate Member / Associate Member); Rotary Club of Revesby Warrimbirra (Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club Pilot Program); Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise (Satellite Club) and the Rotary Club of Parramatta City (Corporate Member / Associate Member). We wish you every success with your application.

The deadline for Clubs (Interact, Rotaract and Rotary) to submit their score sheets to me for the **Rotary International President’s citations** is 31 March.

The **GSE teams** from the Philippines and Taiwan have arrived. Let’s give them a great warm Australian welcome.

And now, finally, it is time for us to

Rock Rotary to its Foundation

Marilyn



Dudley's daze

G'day.

It is said that time flies when you're having fun and it seems just yesterday that I wrote the last Daze. The intervening time has seen the clean-up of the results of the floods in Queensland and Victoria and the horrendous results of the Christchurch earthquake. Both the floods and the earthquake have brought out the best in people with stories of incredible bravery and fortitude along with what can only be described as miraculous results.

On another much happier note the Music Box is getting fuller with clubs supporting Roy Hilton's generous deal by purchasing boxes of guitars. At this stage there are about 150 boxed guitars and numerous individual donations yet to be advised. We are storing them at DiK until ACMF can utilize them – thanks Irene.

DG Marilyn and I have had the pleasure of attending a number of Flood relief fund raising events and once again we have been impressed by the generosity of Rotarians in their support of the organisers of the fund raisers. Literally thousands of dollars have been raised and the impressive thing is that every dollar, no, every cent will go to the object of the event – no administrative costs extracted as we are volunteers – well done organisers and Rotary.

Have you read the GSE Teams' blogs? If not, you have missed out on some wonderful reporting. Go to the district website <http://www.rotary9690.org.au/>, scroll down to the GSE section which is just below our photo and click on each of the blogs – just fantastic – an excellent PR for GSE teams.

While you are on the site check out your club website. Some of them are a bit sad, some have not been updated since 2008/9, so they are really an "anti club invitation". The club bulletins which are sent to us at aidetodg@gmail.com, are as varied as the clubs themselves -there are some innovative ones and some stock standard.

I look forward to seeing you at the Rock Rotary to its Foundation conference in Bathurst

Kindest Regards

Dudley

Here's How We Do It

Rotary Foundation Alumni Dinner

District 9690 Rotary foundation Alumni Committee, in conjunction with The group Study Exchange Committee and the Rotary clubs of lower Blue mountains and Richmond invites rotary Foundation Alumni, Rotarians, friends and partners to a dinner to farewell GSE teams from Districts 3470 Taiwan and District 3860 Philippines and to welcome back Karalyn Brown and Ian Jordan's out bound teams.

Tuesday 5th April 2011, 6.30 for 7.00pm at the Penrith Pace way (Members room), Station street Penrith. Cost \$40 per head
E-mail your RSVP by 15th March 2011 to Alumni9690@hotmail.co



Congratulations on the arrival of your new baby!

To celebrate the world-wide 106th Birthday of Rotary International, also on 23 February 2011, a copy of Mem Fox's classic book 'Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes' was given to babies born in hospitals in Rotary District 9690 and most other Districts in Australia. The promotion of child literacy is a major concern and an ongoing commitment by our District. As well as the Rotary Club of Hawkesbury, the Rotary Clubs of Blacktown City, Cabramatta, Granville, Holroyd, Katoomba, Liverpool, Liverpool Greenway, Liverpool West, Lower Blue Mountains, Padstow, Parramatta, Penrith Valley and Revesby Werrimbirra were also involved.

(L-R) DG Marilyn Mercer, Pres. Margaret Fenech, mother, baby Alexandra and grandmother



Max Walker draws ROMAC's Win a Luxury Peppers holiday prize

The second draw for ROMAC's successful Donate \$1,000 and win a luxury 5-night Peppers holiday promotion was held at a sold out ROMAC fund raiser hosted by the northern NSW Rotary Club of Yamba. President Stafford Sheldon welcomed an enthusiastic crowd from as far away as Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast for a highly entertaining night. The finale of the night was Max's drawing the lucky winner - New Zealand's Rotary Club of Pukekohe.



Max is pictured with K'Chin and Gayreen (with her mum), a three year old ROMAC patient from Vanuatu who is under treatment for hydrocephalus at Brisbane's Children's Hospital.

Book Buzz Guessing Competition

At the December Presidents' meeting each Club was given a recorded number of **raffle books** with the request to sell the tickets to aid "**Book Buzz**" - the indigenous literacy project in conjunction with the Fred Hollows Foundation. **Cheques** should be made to "**ROTARY DISTRICT 9690 Inc**"

The raffle will be drawn on the morning of **20 March** at the District Conference at Bathurst.

All tickets and money needs to be returned before that time.

OPTIONS for the RETURN:

* **Post in good time** to either Literacy Chairman, Irene Little 49 Chancery Street Canley Vale 2166
or Conference Treasurer Margaret Fenech PO Box 274 Richmond NSW 2753

* **Deliver to the committee** at the Conference before Sunday morning and

Can Rotary Make a Difference?



Do you want to make your mark on medical research?

The Global Financial Crisis has left its mark on health and medical research funding agencies around the world. Local disasters such as recent droughts, cyclones, floods and bushfires also have an effect.

However, thanks to the dedication of a number of Rotary Clubs and Districts around the country, Australian Rotary Health is pleased to announce that its Funding Partner program continues to grow from strength to strength, despite its supporters many competing priorities.

This year Australian Rotary Health is delighted to welcome 12 new PhD scholars into its Funding Partner program. Researching topics as diverse as epilepsy, cancer, motor neuron disease and depression, these scholars are providing vital new insights into a number of health and medical fields important to Rotarians.

Now in its ninth year, Australian Rotary Health's Funding Partner PhD program provides a tax-free stipend of \$29,000 a year to a researcher who is conducting a study into a particular area of health. The field of choice is determined by the Rotary Club who sponsors the research project, allowing Rotarians even more influence over how their donation is spent.

If there is a field of health research that your Club or District would like to support, or if you would like to find out more about our Funding Partners program, please contact Australian Rotary Health's Research Officer, Kelly-Anne Martinez, by emailing kellymartinez@australianrotaryhealth.org.au or calling 02 8837 1900.



Showcasing Rotary to the Cumberland Business Community

Monday 7th February four Clubs of our District hosted an evening to "Showcase Rotary" at The Cumberland Business Chamber's after Five Business Networking event.

Blacktown City, Liverpool West, Liverpool Greenway and Wetherill Park were the host Clubs with the evening being held at Maurizio's Italian Restaurant in Wetherill Park. Approximately fifty Chamber members were present with Rotarians representing the four Clubs. DGN, PR/Membership Chair Keith Roffey presented a short session on Rotary International on behalf of the clubs including showing the Roger Climpson DVD. Keith tailored his presentation to the business community, partnerships and getting involved with Rotary was the direction along with the "what's in Rotary for its members" and how Rotary primarily focuses on local communities, then expanding their initiatives throughout the world.

Each Club had a table of Club information and handouts and after the presentation the Rotarians continued to network with the Chamber members. Originally the Clubs had agreed to pay the restaurant for the food and beverages as a means of sponsoring the evening however on hearing of the work of Rotary the restaurant waived the cost.

The raffle held by the Chamber was donated to our Districts Flood Appeal raising \$360.00 which was collectively matched by the Rotary Clubs.

Considering the original concept of Rotary was networking through vocation the idea of working and showcasing Rotary to the Chamber of Commerce is very relevant today and it is to be encouraged. Other clubs are considering holding similar events and already the Clubs involved have had interest in membership and partnering.



Conference 2011

Things to remember

Do not turn up without Registration.

Registration table opening times Friday 2:00PM; Saturday 8:00AM

Next round of receipts and list of those registered from your club has been sent to your President. Please check now

Any discrepancies please contact Conference Treasurer, Margaret Fenech **0414 860 991**

Don't forget your table decorations and your dancing shoes

Book Buzz Raffle tickets and money returned **before close on Saturday night at the conference**

Bring some warm clothes as the nights can be cool

Silent Auction Items in aid of the Children's Music Foundation

Personally signed CDs donated by Pat Boone

Small guitars signed by Col Joye, Bryan Brown and Rachel Ward

Silent Auction Items in aid of Fred Hollows Foundation Indigenous Literacy Program

Personally signed photo donated by Dolly Parton

CONFERENCE UPDATE - it's here, we're ready to "Rock"

**DISTRICT
9690**

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

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We're on the Web!
www.rotary9690.org.au



A thought for the month

When it is obvious that the goals you created cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps. - Confucius

GOLF DAY INVITE

Parramatta City 5th Annual Golf day

The Rotary Club of Parramatta City invites you all to it's 5th annual golf day on Tuesday 24th May at Oatlands Golf Course.

Registration is at 10.30am with play commencing at 12.00 noon.

All proceeds on the day are going to a PHD scholarship to research in to Prostate Cancer via Australia rotary Health.

Further details contact Kevin Wylie phone 9630-5855 fax 9683-3019

Email kevin@westendofficefurniture.com.au



IN THE BEGINNING

Australian Rotary Health was established as a fund to provide research grants and scholarships to researchers in various areas of health.

One of the first studies to be funded by Australian Rotary Health was a Tasmanian study, funded over eight years. It provided \$308,637 to a research team led by Professor Dwyer who was studying cot death. Keeping records for 4,200 babies born in Tasmania between 1988 and 1991, Prof Dwyer's research linked the deaths of 35 of these infants to their sleeping position.

We've come a long way since then.

Is your club ready?



Hat Day is not far away

Welcome to our newest Rotarians

- Max Law - Cabramatta
- Gary Smith - Nepean
- Hasan Sarwar - Nepean
- Jarrod Harris - Padstow
- Mark Harris - Padstow
- David Scotman - Upper Blue Sunrise
- Geoff Agnew Kurrajong-North Richmond
- Tony Orr - Blacktown City (formally at Prospect)

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

D.G Marilyn's diary dates

MARCH

- 2 Committee of the Association
- 5 Conference Meeting
- 7 RYDA dinner
- 8 Conference venue Bathurst
- 10 Inspiration Women Awards
- 11 RC Sydney Cove b'fast meeting
- 11 Sydney Convention 2014 Meeting
- 12 MD PETS Welcome
- 12 Conference Meeting
- 13 Council on Legislation Interviews
- 16 College of Governors Dinner
- 17 - 21 Bathurst Conference
- 24 DG selection C'tee meeting 9680
- 26 TRF Alumni Seminar RDU
- 28 NSW Police Special Command Awards Holroyd
- 29 St Marys POOTY
- 31 Presidential Citations forms due

