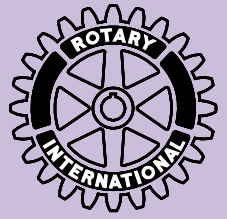




TALON TIMES



Volume 9 March 2002 Rotary District 9640



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PLANNING AND DOING

With the District Conference just around the corner, I expect that clubs are making their plans for a good attendance by members.

It is always exciting to be part of the Roll Call on Saturday morning and to witness the club spirit of those present as they make their presence known. Don't miss it.

The program has been designed to be both informative and enjoyable. The programs of Rotary and significant programs of this District will be showcased.

Whilst the breakfast sessions on Saturday and Sunday are open to everyone, I particularly encourage presidents, presidents-elect and new members to make an effort to attend the breakfast on Saturday. New members are special.

The Global Quest, which was initiated this year, is an ongoing quest for new members. We have done well so far with an increase of 54 members to 1st February based on the RI database records. This compares with a figure of 60 reported by our clubs to the District attendance officer.

The discrepancy is only small but it indicates that some clubs may not be reporting the induction of new members to the Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office at Parramatta. It is important that club secretaries do this in a timely fashion following an induction.

The Global Quest will be judged on the reports received by RI by 24th May. In comparison with all other Australian Districts we are running second to District 9710.

I encourage every club in the next two months to concentrate on bringing in those new members who are waiting to be inducted so we can get closer to the goal of an increase of 250 in the District. Really, an average increase of 5 per club is quite attainable.

It was encouraging to see that some clubs last month celebrated World Understanding month. One club, which showed initiative, was the Rotary Club of Runaway Bay.

The Rotarians invited to their meeting as special guests, people who had immigrated to Australia. The function was in recognition of their contribution to Australia. They were asked to wear their national dress and they were invited to speak and to tell their "stories". This was a wonderful, enjoyable and effective way to help the members understand different cultures and to honour those from other countries.

Whilst this year is far from over and we have much to do to achieve our goals I challenge everyone to come to the Conference, the friendly outback conference at Goondiwindi, to celebrate what we have done and to have fun mixing with old friends and making many new ones.

Yours in Rotary Service
Neil Maxwell

“Give Up a Meal” Polio Plus Partners

Since the inception of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, the number of polio cases in the world has declined by 99%. From 350,000 cases of this dreaded disease in 125 countries in 1988, only ten polio endemic countries now remain.

Approximately four million children who are walking and playing normally would have been crippled and, in some cases, would have died.

Through PolioPlus Partners, Rotary clubs, districts and individuals in polio free countries participate in the PolioPlus initiative. They do so by supporting projects such as National Immunization Days (NIDs) and surveillance activities.

The current PolioPlus Partners Open Projects List contains projects in Angola, DR Congo, Liberia, Pakistan and Southern Sudan in need of a total of US\$1.1 million. Examples of financial support of such projects are as follows:-

- US\$270 can provide 100 vaccine carriers in Liberia;
- US\$250 can provide 100 aprons in DR Congo;
- US\$270 can purchase 100 T-shirts for Angola.

Funds are required for other items such as polio specimen kits, freezers, bicycles, a four

wheel drive vehicle and fuel.

There are two video updates available from Rotary International:-

“PolioPlus: A Gift to the Children of the World” (1999) 11 minutes and

“PolioPlus – The Race to Reach the Last Child” (2001) of 4 minutes duration.

One of our District Goals this year is to have all members “give up a meal” for Polio Plus Partners.

Clubs can send their money collected in this way to DG Neil or to Treasurer Paul Gillett. Now is the time to plan this club fundraiser.

INDIVIDUALS CAN DONATE TO TRF ON LINE

Making contributions through the web is only for Rotarians.

Clubs cannot make contributions through the web. The system was designed that way on purpose.

One of the reasons is that we want to encourage clubs to send us the donors’ names at the time a gift is made. If clubs were allowed to make contributions through the web we would spend too much time making corrections. Backing the money out of clubs and then reapplying it to the individual that gave it in the first place.

*Regards
Terry Davies
The Rotary Foundation*

Mullumbimby buy Wheelchairs

Karni Liddell is the captain of the Australian Paralympic swim team and is also a five times world record holder. She was in need of a new wheelchair so the Rotary Club of Mullumbimby came to the rescue.

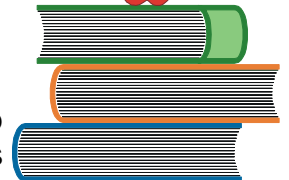
The club’s fundraising dinner with the assistance of several local businesses and local identities raised enough money to purchase the new wheelchair outright and also purchase two second hand refurbished wheelchairs for the Byron Respite Centre at Brunswick Heads.

Well done Mullum.



L-R: John Waterhouse who donated the drinks for the function, Russell Siwicki member of the Rotary Club of Mullumbimby and the auctioneer for the evening, and Karni Liddell for whom the fundraiser was organised.

IT'S TRAINING TIME AGAIN



It is now time to train the club officers for next year. Presidents Elect Training Seminar is being held on 23rd & 24th March and it is expected that all next year’s Presidents will attend.

District Assembly is planned for Sunday 19th May and again it is expected that all Club Board Members for next year will attend. We set a standard for attendance at the last District Assembly, and surely we can expect that it will be bettered this year.

These training days are critical to the proper functioning of our clubs. They provide information, fellowship and networking opportunities.

Plan to attend the seminar appropriate for you.

Orders on the Internet



Rotarians now can order R.I. Literature and audiovisual programs on the Internet by visiting <http://shop.rotary.org/catalog/> . Such orders require prepayment by credit card – Visa or Mastercard. Orders placed in this way will still be filled and dispatched by the South Pacific and Philippines Office.

In conjunction with this facility and to maintain consistency, R.I.'s new policy is that all orders have to be prepaid. Orders sent to the R.I. South Pacific and Philippines Office should now be accompanied by a cheque or credit card payment. Our literature clerk, Michelle Fuller, will be happy to calculate the total payable upon request. Until the end of March the international office will still accommodate last-minute orders without payment but Rotarians placing the order will be advised of the need to prepay in the future.

Orders for the *Official Directory* cannot be made through the Internet or be paid for by credit card. This is to protect the privacy of Rotarians and to avoid the possibility of the directory falling into the hands of individuals who wish to use it for unauthorised purposes. Please note that orders paid for by credit card will be handled in U.S. currency and the exchange rate used will be the market rate applied by the credit card provider at the time it processes the transaction.

Orders paid for by cheque will be processed at the approved R.I. exchange rate. This new policy will result in more efficient handling of orders and in significant cost savings.

Register for District Conference

Registration forms have gone out to clubs over a month ago.

However, if you can't locate a form visit our District web site for more information and to download a registration form.

Our web site is www.rotary9640.org and you will easily find the link on the home page.

District Conference Chairman Lew Verney advises that there is plenty of quality accommodation still available. However, it is important to contact Lew immediately to arrange your accommodation if you have not done so already.

Lew is expecting to receive a **Conference Registration Form** from everyone who has booked accommodation. Your failure to do so immediately will indicate that you are not attending and that you will not require the accommodation that you have booked. It can therefore be released to those who still seek accommodation.

The Conference Committee asks that everyone comply with this request. Many Rotarians want to attend the Conference and it is not fair to those still seeking accommodation for anyone to hold back accommodation that is not required by them.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chris ENGLISH
Broadbeach

David O'DWYER
Broadbeach

Vivian HOSKINS
Lismore West

Sally NEUMANN
Parkwood

Allen RICHARDS
Parkwood

Ivan POOLE
Parkwood

Alan YOVICH
Parkwood

Mark O'BRIEN
Parkwood

Brian JONES
Runaway Bay

Terry RICHARDS
Runaway Bay

Antonia BELL
Stanthorpe

Rathdowney Meeting Place

About 80 Rotarians including some partners from the Rotary Clubs of Beaudesert, Boonah and Jimboomba met at a country Hotel in Rathdowney (population 300) for a night of fellowship and the exchange of ideas.

It has been the practice for some years now for those Clubs to get together informally 2 or 3 times a year.

DGN Max Wortman attended and spoke at the meeting. He urged everyone to attend the District Conference at Goondiwindi this year. He also spoke of the goal of RI to have the world free of polio by 2005, the centenary of Rotary.

The main speaker was Father Chris Riley. He has devoted his life to helping young people get off the streets. Chris was the Principal of Boys Town in Sydney from 1986 to 1990 and left to found "Youth off the Streets".

Already 11 homes for homeless youth are up and running in NSW. Connie's Place at Greenbank, a Brisbane suburb, will be part of the fold from 1 May this year.

ROMAC Dinner brings in \$\$

Seven clubs in the Surfers Paradise and Southport area conducted a very successful dinner and auction to raise funds for ROMAC on 21st February. The host club, the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise West, held the dinner at its usual meeting venue the Gold Coast Arts Centre.

The cooperative effort of the clubs raised over \$17,000 for ROMAC and DG Neil pledged \$2,000 from funds received from the Corporate Alliance Program, specifically the affinity revenue from Citibank Visa Cards, an alliance that is now discontinued.

President Graeme Maus of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise West commented afterwards "The most important part of this event must be the Rotary fellowship, community awareness and the benefit to those less fortunate than us. It was truly a fantastic evening of Rotary fellowship and merriment".

The dinner now in its second year, is expected to become an annual event and a significant fundraising activity for ROMAC

COMMUNITY MENTAL ILLNESS FORUMS

Congratulations to the following clubs that have organised Mental Illness Forums in their communities.

Rotary Club of Kingscliff
Wednesday 6th March

**Rotary Clubs of Warwick
Warwick Sunrise and Allora**
Wednesday 13th March

Rotary Club of Beaudesert
Tuesday 26th March

The forums have been well received and as the scheme is ongoing, it is expected that many more clubs will realise the community benefit and take up the challenge.

Funding towards the cost of running the forums is available to clubs. In fact it is very unlikely that the costs will exceed the funding.

For information on running a forum in your community contact ARHRF chairman Martin Zaugg 07 55446215 email martin_Zaugg@email.com or visit the District website for a complete manual on the Forums

CENTURION CLUB UPDATE

It is likely that Rotarians do not know their "Member ID Number" or the "Club ID Number" to insert in the Commitment form.

This is likely to stop Rotarians from filling in the form that appeared in the February Talon Times.

Please leave these two lines blank if you do not have the information. Don't even try to find it. I can deal with the Commitment form without that information.

Please, please consider making the commitment to become a Centurion Club Member. - DG Neil

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

The Sydney Bushfire Appeal was well supported by our District and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity

It was particularly good to see a donation of \$1,000 from the Rotary Club of Kirra Currumbin, one of our smallest clubs but one with a big heart.

Well done everyone. - DG Neil

Youth Exchange Trust Fund



DG Neil receiving from the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe Nev Winter a cheque for \$2000 for the Youth Exchange Trust Fund to assist disadvantaged young people to participate in Youth Exchange, and another cheque for \$500 for freight for the container of books District assisted in sending to Savu Savu, Fiji.

Resolutions to District Conference

Information on the resolutions to the District Conference for consideration at the business session at 4pm on Friday the 19th April has been distributed to every club in the District.

The notice also contains information on the nominees for the position of District Representative to the Council on Legislation 2004 and how the election will be conducted.

It is necessary for clubs to appoint their delegates (or electors as they are called for the purpose of the election of our Representative to the Council on Legislation) and to instruct their delegates how to vote on the resolutions.

Notification of the names of Club Electors should be lodged with DG Neil by 1st April to facilitate an orderly process. Forms have been distributed to the Clubs.

Please direct any enquiries about the process to the chairman of the Resolutions Committee PDG Dugald Graydon, or to DG Neil.

Who Has Introduced Three New Members?

Rotarians who have proposed three or more new members this year are entitled to a special recognition pin.

Clubs, please send DG Neil the names of members who qualify for this distinction before 15th April so that at the Conference the pins can be distributed.

Thank You

from Aly's Father

Dear Sir

I am very touched to hear your news about the arrival of my daughter and my wife in Brisbane.

I am also very grateful that you and ROMAC have made arrangements for my daughter and my wife to stay with the family of Mr and Mrs Ha Nghia who are so kind to open their home for my wife and my daughter.

When we are in need of giving the best of medical care to my daughter and while we are unable to do it in Vietnam, we have been given the opportunity to enjoy the kindness of ROMAC and everybody else associated with its work for the future health of my daughter.

This trip to Australia is such an important event for my daughter and my family. On behalf of all people of my family in Vietnam, I should like to thank you and ROMAC very much.

I'm very happy that many people are now aware of the good work of ROMAC and I hope that people will continue to support the work of ROMAC to enable it to help children like my daughter Aly.

With the kindest regards from myself and my family.

Nguyen Huu Toan

My, How Time Flies

The following is part of a report from *Lynne Adams*, Ambassadorial Scholar studying at Bond University.

"I have been in Australia now for two months and can hardly believe it. It is amazing how quickly time has passed. It seems as if it was just yesterday I boarded a plane from Jacksonville, FL, stepping away from my friends, family, career and home to travel to a new and very distant land in order to create a new future and life. I can still remember the fear, excitement, hopes and even doubt that filled my mind and consumed my heart as I boarded each plane throughout my long journey. Since then I have not only seen so many new things and gained friends from literally across the world, but have become a new person as I grow from the challenges and experiences along the way.

In addition to visiting Rotary Clubs, I have also been involved in Rotaract. Bond University has a Rotaract Club I have visited often. This club is mainly involved in fundraising activities for various community organizations throughout the Gold Coast. I have also visited the Southport Rotaract Club and volunteered with the Nerang Rotaract Club as we cut out posted stamps which are sold by the kilo with proceeds going to the Rotary Foundation to cover shipping charges incurred for mailing clothing and school items to Fiji. One of my favourite ways I have become involved with the District's Rotaract clubs is through an innovative training weekend called "Top Gun." I really did have a great time. The setting was a cabin in the majestic Tambourine Mountains. Here we spent the weekend participating in different exercises that emphasized teamwork and creative thinking. I "graduated" from being a "cadet" that weekend, but gained much more than a certificate. It was a terrific way to meet 23 other Rotaract members from the district, learn valuable lessons for life as well as have the opportunity to say "hello" to District Governor Neil Maxwell.

I am doing well so far in my studies at Bond University. I have chosen to study International Diplomacy and hope to receive my Master's Degree by the end of the year. Classes have been quite challenging for several reasons. First, the calibre of students in the postgraduate program is amazing. Many, I have found, have three bachelor degrees in related fields. Also, the Australian tutorial teaching method is much different than what is presented in the States. And most importantly, my background is in Public Relations rather than political science as most in the program are."



LISMORE WEST SUPPORTS DIK

Left to Right: Rotarians Norm Robinson (International Service Director, Rotary Club of Lismore West), John Miller (chairman of Donations in Kind D.I.K. Committee Rotary Club of Lismore West), Kevin Geaghan (chairman Rotary District 9640 DIK committee and a member of Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond), and Tim Geaghan (honorary member of Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond) using Kevin's truck to collect unwanted textbooks from Lismore High School. All up about 4 tonnes of books were collected from the school.



ROMAC NEWS

In the last few weeks our Northern Region of ROMAC brought two girls to Australia for treatment.

Nguyen Vu Ngan Hang (Aly) is a 12 year old girl from Hanoi, Vietnam. She was born with a large hole in her heart and she is being assessed for surgery in Brisbane.

Rosalia Guiteres, a three week old baby from East Timor with an obstruction in her airways, was rushed to Brisbane for urgent surgery on the 8th march. She has now had an operation for the removal of a large cyst and she is able to breath normally.

These are lifesaving actions by ROMAC and thanks must also go to the Doctors, Specialists, nursing staff and the hospitals in which the treatment is carried out.

The wonderful work of ROMAC is recognised by many generous donors and recently we received a major donation from within our region making it possible now to provide significantly more help to our unfortunate young neighbours.

The efforts of our rotarians in fundraising for ROMAC, particularly those of Ehsan Davori of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise West, are very much recognised and appreciated.

PROVISIONAL ROTARY CLUB OF DILI

District 9550 District Governor Terry Lees reports that the District is working hard to have the club in Dili, East Timor, chartered as close as possible to the independence celebrations which are in May. Elections are in April.

Rotary International will not permit the club to be chartered until East Timor is an independent nation. It is currently still a UN Protectorate.

PDG John McLaren has been nominated to be the National Coordinator for East Timor through RAWCS. John is actively involved in getting things under way in East Timor.

ROTARY KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGE

The RKC between the Rotary Clubs of Allora, Warwick, Warwick Sunrise and Glen Innes was conducted recently in Stanthorpe.

Warwick Sunrise as a result progressed to the next stage with Coomera Valley club.

Warwick Sunrise Club, our youngest club in the District, has now progressed to the semi-finals with Byron Bay. Watch out everyone.

The finals will be conducted at the Conference at Goondiwindi straight after lunch on Saturday.

Below is a photo of the Warwick and Warwick Sunrise teams and the officials at the Stanthorpe meeting.



TOP GUN

The District Rotaract group recently conducted their Top Gun course at Thunderbird Park, Tamborine Mountain. Lynne Adams refers to the camp in her report. It is a course designed to develop teamwork, and creative thinking and the twenty four participants all went away from the weekend camp excited and rejuvenated.

Four of those attending came from Victoria specially for the weekend so that says something for the quality of the course.

These photos show the attendees and the attendants. Congratulations ROTARACT.



ROTARY AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2003-04

Our District is offering BOTH of the following Ambassadorial Scholarships this year:-

- an Academic Year Ambassadorial Scholarship valued at US \$25,000, and
- a three (3) month Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship valued at US\$13,000

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must have completed at least two years of University course work;
- Applicants must be proficient in the language of their prospective host country;
- Applicants must be Australian citizens or hold Permanent Residency status;
- The academic Year Scholarship is for one regular academic year of full time study
- The 3-month Cultural Scholarship is for intensive language training and cultural immersion at a language school/university;
- Rotarians or their lineal relations are not eligible to apply.

APPLICATION:

- Application must be made through a local (sponsor) Rotary Club in the applicant's legal or permanent residence, or place of full time study or employment, which must be within the boundaries of Rotary District 9640;
- Application forms and further information is available from any member of the District Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee listed in the District 9640 Directory.
- Applications close on **30th June 2002.**

Chairman Norm Robinson – 02 6689 5215

ROTARY WORLD PEACE SCHOLARSHIP 2003-2005

Our District is calling applications for this scholarship which will enable a two-year masters-level degree program in Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution and International Studies to be undertaken in one of seven Rotary Centres for International Studies established in six Rotary countries.

The Scholarships are offered on a world competitive basis. Each Rotary District may nominate one applicant to the Rotary Foundation. Scholars will study outside their own country.

For eligibility and application details please contact chairman Norm Robinson – 02 66895215

Rotary District 9640 Membership & Attendance report for January 2002 AttendanceMembership

Rotary Club of ...	This month		Year to Date				
	%age	Rank	%age	Rank	Start of Year	Present	Change
Allora	46.20	53	51.44	54	13	14	1
Alstonville	86.18	12	79.68	21	30	29	-1
Ashmore	80.55	22	78.70	23	38	36	-2
Ballina	68.75	46	77.01	26	35	34	-
Ballina-on-Richmond	80.50	23	70.83	38	24	25	1
Beaudesert	87.50	10	88.66	5	34	33	-1
Boonah	92.74	3	91.63	2	34	39	5
Broadbeach	75.50	35	82.68	8	46	50	4
Broadwater Southport	75.00	35	66.17	46	33	29	-4
Burleigh Heads	89.74	5	74.09	30	18	16	-2
Byron Bay	95.60	2	83.09	7	12	15	3
Casino	73.61	38	71.85	35	31	29	-2
Coolangatta Tweed Heads	67.00	47	69.43	40	30	30	-
Coomera Valley	77.59	30	79.29	20	26	28	2
Glen Innes	77.46	31	78.02	23	35	36	1
Goondiwindi	78.06	28	70.18	39	37	31	-6
Goonellabah	55.00	52	74.42	29	28	26	-2
Grafton	58.93	50	71.12	36	36	35	-1
Grafton Midday	75.00	36	72.38	38	27	32	5
Iluka	82.30	19	80.51	18	13	17	4
Jimboomba	86.00	13	83.64	7	19	23	4
Kingscliff	87.82	9	66.61	48	22	21	-1
Kirra Currumbin	80.00	26	81.52	13	15	15	-
Kyogle	71.00	42	63.14	50	11	12	1
Lismore	32.00	54	73.37	37	29	27	-2
Lismore Central	55.95	51	53.68	53	22	24	2
Lismore West	96.55	1	95.52	1	44	46	2
Macleay	81.52	21	83.68	6	45	45	-
Mermaid Beach	87.00	11	78.13	24	22	25	3
Mt Warning AM (Murwillumbah)	80.25	25	82.53	10	29	27	-2
Mudgeeraba	68.89	45	81.39	15	23	23	-
Mullumbinby	81.67	20	81.32	16	29	30	1
Murwillumbah	77.00	32	81.42	14	29	30	1
Murwillumbah Central	80.40	24	79.73	20	45	46	1
Nerang	88.00	8	90.75	3	24	26	2
Palm Beach	89.73	6	75.77	30	37	35	-2
Parkwood	72.20	40	73.62	35	23	24	1
Robina	69.00	44	71.00	41	14	14	-
Runaway Bay	85.71	14	77.83	26	38	40	2
South Grafton	77.70	29	74.64	31	11	12	1
Southport	70.22	43	68.29	46	40	45	5
Southport North	88.46	7	76.74	29	18	18	-
Stanthorpe	82.99	18	67.57	47	46	49	3
Summerland Sunrise	85.18	15	82.19	11	27	27	-
Surfers Paradise	63.75	48	60.03	51	64	64	-
Surfers Paradise Central	72.40	39	79.81	19	58	58	-
Surfers Paradise West	90.00	4	77.34	27	33	32	-1
Surfers Sunrise	77.00	32	55.99	52	40	40	-
Tamborine Mountain	80.00	26	82.16	12	11	10	-1
Tenterfield	84.10	17	81.19	17	25	24	-1
Tweed Heads South	85.18	15	88.87	4	16	18	2
Warwick	60.32	49	68.73	45	23	25	2
Warwick Sunrise	71.42	41	73.41	36	20	21	1
Yamba	76.50	34	73.83	34	27	28	1
					1559	1588	29

Visit the District Website...

www.rotary9640.org

If you have not looked at our district website recently you may be surprised at the amount of information that is now available.

Webmaster Roy Hornsby welcomes information for the site from the clubs and individual Rotarians
Advertise your club events! Check out the yearly planner!