



Rotary District 9455 District Governors Newsletter



DG's Newsletter – January 2016

Sent to All District 9455 Rotarians on email

A very warm welcome back to all of you and your families from what I hope was a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year break.

Unfortunately for many the New Year has brought tragedy and disaster with the terrible bushfires around our country. Many of you and your Clubs have already offered and given wonderful support, both hands on and financial. I am truly grateful to all of you. You have quickly demonstrated how Rotary gets involved and helps those who desperately need our support. The Rotary WA Bushfire Appeal fund has been set up for ongoing trauma counselling and support well into the future, as well as addressing immediate livestock issues. It is interesting to note that Rotarian Michael Wright from the West Perth Rotary Club has been engaged to supervise the massive job of cleaning up Yarloop.

The District Board has voted to send \$ 10,000 from the District Disaster Fund to help the Rotary WA Bushfire Appeal.

Has your Club considered seeking out, interviewing and nominating a suitable candidate for a Rotary Peace Fellowship or any of the other programmes offered by our Foundation, e.g. Scholars, Vocational Training Teams? All details can be found on Rotary.org – under the Rotary Foundation.

I have been helping Clubs promote some of their projects in this newsletter, and will continue to do so, if requested.

This is a project espoused by Silvia Shrubbsall of the Matilda Bay Rotary Club – Safe Schools, Safe communities –

“Every day more than 500 children lose their lives in traffic crashes and thousands are injured globally. Most of those accidents occur in developing countries where motorcycles are the main means of transport and children helmet usage is extremely low. The Rotary Club of Matilda Bay and partners, are implementing the project – *Safe School, Safe Community*, in Bangkok from May 2016. The project aims at providing road safety education to children and related adults, increasing public support to stricter Highway Code enforcement and donation of helmets to school children in a low economic area. Clubs are invited to participate in this life-saving project for which a Global Grant application is being prepared.”

If this is of interest to you or your Club – please contact Silvia – SilviaShrubbsall@gmail.com

I'm not sure if you are aware that the District Youth Exchange Committee has a Youth Exchange Trust. This is specifically designed to allow suitable students who meet all the criteria for Youth Exchange, but whose parents are financially disadvantaged, to be able to go out on Exchange supported out of the Trust. The scrutiny of the students and their situation is rigorous to ensure that the money is used wisely. If you have a suitable student for future Youth Exchange intakes who you believe could benefit – please don't hesitate to contact Norm de Grussa, the District Youth Exchange Chair.

I would like to share a message with you from Past RI Director Ken Collins. “This year could very well be one of the greatest in Rotary's history as we inch closer to seeing the last case of Polio anywhere in the world. Figures for 2015 show 72 cases in two countries (53 in Pakistan and 19 in Afghanistan) down from 500,000 cases in 150 countries when we began our efforts in 1985.

Even if we do see our last case this year we will still need to immunise every child born in the world for the next three years to fully eradicate the scourge of Polio, and this will require an estimated US\$ 5.5 billion.” Ken is the Zone Coordinator for the “End Polio Now” campaign.

This has been extracted from his appeal to all Australian Governors, and I simply ask that you and your Club still seriously consider helping us eradicate Polio, THEN our great organisation can move on to the next challenge. It might pay to remember that before immunisation became available, Polio killed more children in Australia than any other childhood infectious disease. We simply do not want this to happen again.

As you know Rotary Down Under is the Rotary magazine that most of us receive. I have heard many complaints that it is hard to get articles published, and for a long time this has been true. The management and editor have recently changed, they are keen to publish more from all Clubs. So I encourage you to keep trying – but a few tips would be – to keep the article short and succinct, ensure the photos are active and fun, and use a catchy headline – “Snake bites Man” is common news, but “Man bites Snake” would raise a few eyebrows.

I am extremely pleased to advise that PP Vern Wheatley of the West Perth Rotary Club (donor to the All Abilities Play Space and supporter of the Great Waiters race) has been awarded an OAM honour. Also honoured is President Nominee of the Dalkeith Rotary Club, Craig James. I apologise if I have missed anyone, but these are the only two that I have been informed

about.

On Australia Day, Past President Don Rolston was announced as a Premiers Australia Day Active Citizenship Award Winner. Don has served the Geraldton community, and the Geraldton Rotary Club actively for over 30 years in many, many different ways.

Congratulations to Vern, Craig and Don.

The Rotary 4 Way Speaking Contest Semi Finals and Final are coming up, and if anyone would like to hear these wonderful young people speak you would be very welcome. The first Semi Final will be held at the Rotary Club of Mount Lawley meeting at the Mount Lawley Golf Club on Monday February 22, 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. The second Semi Final will be held at the Matilda Bay Rotary Club meeting at the Matilda Bay Restaurant on Wednesday March 2nd, 7.00am for a 7.20am start.

Contact details for these events are :-

Mount Lawley Club is PP Geoff Russell Tel 0418 924 775 email geoffrussell@inet.net.au

Matilda Bay Club is PP Yvonne Hart Tel 0419 929 830 email mousetrails@bigpond.com

The District Final will also be held at the Rotary Club of Matilda Bay on Thursday evening 7th April – 6.00pm for 6.30 pm at the Matilda Bay Restaurant. This is the Thursday before the start of the District Conference – an ideal lead in to the Conference and an extra add-on bonus for those who want that little bit more.

This leads to the District Conference – please consider joining us for a weekend of fun, friendships, new Rotary information and inspiring speakers.

Friday evening – 8th April – Social evening at Hale School – John Inverarity Music & Drama Centre Wembley Downs – a great opportunity to make new friends and meet up with old friends.

Saturday Conference – 9th April – same venue at Hale School – speakers include – 2014 West Australian of the year Robert Isaacs, Donna Cross on Cyberbullying, John Inverarity, Professor Anthony Whitehouse on Autism – future possibilities for Autistic children at School, University, in the workplace and on the sporting field, Gemma Sisia from the School of St. Jude's in Tanzania with one of the school's first graduate students, and much, much more.

Saturday evening Gala Dinner – 9th April – Rendezvous Hotel – Scarborough – good food, music, dancing & fun.

The cost for THE WHOLE CONFERENCE is only \$ 195 per head. Bookings may be made on line through the website. There are different booking options available. We would love to see you and your partner there. Non-Rotarians are also very welcome if they want to hear some of the speakers or join us for the whole event.

Please consider, come along and be inspired.

Every month we have a meeting of what we call the G Train – this is separate from the District Board. The G Train is made up by the Immediate Past Governor, the current Governor, District Governor Elect and District Governor Nominee. The purpose is really to discuss what is happening in the District, plans for the future, how we can better support our Clubs and other issues as they arrive. This helps provide continuity of purpose and vision – so that we are all on the same page.

Kerry and I wish all of you and your families a wonderful 2016.

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