



DG Newsletter – August 2015

August is the month when we, as Rotarians, look seriously at club membership. Officially it is Membership and Extension Month. Why should we consider membership only in August? Shouldn't we consider it all the time?

Membership is not only about asking and inviting new people to join your club, enjoying the friendships that you offer, networking, having fun, and of course getting the great satisfaction of being part of making our world a much better place. It's also about looking after your fellow members; is your club fulfilling *their* expectations of Rotary and your club? Many people call this 'retention', but if we consider this as simply engaging and involving members, ensuring they are not doing too much or too little, perhaps more of your friends will stay committed and involved.

Extension means looking at where and when it is feasible to start a new club. This does not mean focusing exclusively on a new Rotary club. As a part of this process I encourage you to consider sponsoring a new Rotaract club, or starting an Interact club in your link high school, or join with another Rotary club to be joint sponsors.

I mentioned Earlyact in the last newsletter, and I talk about it when I visit clubs. Earlyact is similar to Interact, but in a Primary School. AGs Jane O'Leary and Judy Dinnison from Western Endeavour will be happy to talk to your club about this new programme in your District. It rounds out Rotary's Youth Service, the most important asset for the future.

I would like to welcome the following new Rotarians into Rotary. I and your fellow Rotarians wish you well in your journey. Remember that as a Rotarian you are welcome to visit any Rotary club, anywhere in the world, at any time.

Ballajura Malaga Rotary Club – Martin Tredwell

Belmont Rotary Club – Naveed Mirza

Freshwater Bay Rotary Club – Jeremy Foster who has transferred from Morley Rotary Club, Jen Martins – a returning member, Nelson Cruz, Liz Terracini, Liz Wharton and Graeme Prior – Honorary Member

Geraldton Rotary Club – Dan Pendlebury, Tina Pendlebury, Julie Eaglan, Peter Neal, Michelle Bentink, Lee Sice

Heirisson Rotary Club – Mathew Clarke

Hillarys Rotary Club – Elizabeth Argentieri, Fabian Borraccino, Jane Brown, Christina Jones, Chris Rees, James Tadros, Andreas Tatt, Terry Ambler, Anil Weeratunge

Kalamunda Rotary Club – Kaye Moro, Lea van Rensburg

Karrinyup Rotary Club – David Blackledge

Mosman Park Rotary Club – Jonathan Keys, David Prestney

Mt. Lawley Rotary Club – Jim Longwood

Perth Rotary Club – Brendan Watson, Bob von Felten, David Wee

Wyalkatchem Rotary Club – Sheryl Wood

Subiaco Rotaract Club – Chuxiong (Harry) Li, Ophir Wende, Ilena Gecan, Conrad Cluer, Balraj Hansra, Guy Spiccia, James Carpenter

I warmly welcome all the new Rotarians and Rotaractors into the global family of Rotary and congratulate your clubs. I'm sure that other clubs have also inducted new members – please let me know as I'd like to welcome ALL our new members – each month.

PDG Colin Thorniley and his team are ready, willing and able to come to your club to speak about Australian Rotary Health. ARH is far more than just necessary research. There are Indigenous Health Scholarships, Rural Nursing and Rural Medical Scholarships available for you and your Club to get involved in. These benefit YOUR local Community. Please don't forget Hat Day – Friday October 9th – your Club could easily raise much needed funds by simply rattling a tin at one of the metropolitan railway stations. Again PDG Colin's team will be able to tell you more. Much more information is available through this link – admin@australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Rotary Youth Exchange is continuing to grow – South Korea and Poland are new countries to join, Turkey is expanding their programme, and more countries are coming on board in South America. With over 8,000 young people every year learning about another culture, another country, making lifelong friendships, and with us doing the same – I really don't know of another programme doing more for world peace and world understanding.

A big thank-you to clubs who were able to get articles in the press earlier this month regarding DonatLife Week. You can raise public awareness of the importance of organ donation through your conversations. If you would like an inspiring speaker for your club on organ donor awareness, please

consider Peter Chwal from Donor Mate. The links are below.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jkhI5xcdek6yevf/AABv4uKP-HaV_kt6X1W-SOk3a?dl=0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Brf1INepIDs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHU766nuGj0>

PDG Peter McKerracher has provided a timely update on the Rotary WA Cord Blood Bank. The Technical Masterfile has just been submitted on all of the Cord Blood Bank's protocols and programmes to the Therapeutic Goods Administration for certification. It will perhaps take some three months to be approved, and a site visit will likely be required. So we are on the home straight! It has only taken 12 years. Cord Blood has been harvested as part of the process for certification.

I suspect many Rotarians believe that it has been up and running for some years because you haven't heard about all of the work going on in the background. A bit like the 'duck' syndrome – all smooth sailing above the waterline, but working like mad where it's not visible. Gail Lazzaro has been working like a beaver on this.

The amount of testing and recording for every single piece of equipment and every step of the procedure is mind-boggling, but it guarantees that YOUR facility will be operating at the level of world's best practice. Now fingers are confidently crossed.

Kerry and I continue to be amazed with the spread, depth and worth of all the projects and programmes that you and your clubs are involved in. We look forward to hearing of much, much more as we visit more clubs. The level of support that you are giving to your local, and global, communities is inspiring. We thank you for being a Gift to the World.

Jerry Pilcher

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