



DG Newsletter – November 2015

November is traditionally Rotary Foundation Month, when we consider The Rotary Foundation and the wonderful work that is done around the world every day. Earlier in the year I asked the President Elect's to put into their Budgets an amount for Foundation of \$ 150 per Rotarian. Many Clubs make these contributions at the end of the Rotary year which makes processing the donations a mammoth task. I ask that you think about making these donations this month, commit early. The more that we all give – the more we get back to help you with your local projects.

Please remember that Past Governor Geoff Simpson and his team are willing to come to speak to your Club regarding the Foundation, the many great attributes, and the simple ways to donate, if you chose to do so. We are simply asking you to consider making the Foundation your Charity of Choice. Past RI Director Ken Collins is also very happy to come to talk to you about the necessity for us to fulfil our promise to the world to end Polio – NOW.

Has your Club considered 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 – here is the link to the Peace Fellowship, for example - [Rotary Peace Fellowship](#)

Heirisson Rotary Club had a Global Grant project under construction in Vanuatu that was literally blown away by the cyclone. Rather than see all that effort go to waste we approached our Foundation for a "top up" to bring the project back to where it was – a cost of about \$ 20,000 US. They agreed to match District Foundation Funds 50/50 – so we each put in \$ 10,000 US to help the Heirisson Club and the Club in Vanuatu.

When visiting Clubs I am often asked "what has happened to Group Study Exchange"? The answer is simple – the only difference is that the programme is no longer funded from the Rotary Foundation. Vocational Training Teams have replaced GSE in the Foundation's portfolio. However, your Club can still consider GSE, individually, or jointly with other Clubs in your Zone. The funding can come from individuals, your Clubs, or you could apply for a District Grant to help you.

I would like to congratulate Peter Durrant and Beatrice Cervi who have been selected to attend the Future Leaders Seminar in Melbourne. This was an initiative of past RI Director Stuart Heal from New Zealand some 4 years ago. It is held in conjunction with the Past, current and incoming Governors annual conference.

Old computers and phones are things that might often be left in a cupboard, forgotten, or thrown away. If you have one, or more, then you might be glad to see them sent off to be better used by the kids at Be Benevolent – see more at [-Be Benevolent](#)

Our thanks go to Past Governor Colin Thorniley and your Clubs for the magnificent effort in raising \$ 10,014 for Australian Rotary Health on Hat Day. We look forward to bigger and better things next year, hopefully with more venues to cover.

Rotary has partnered with Channel 9 – A Current Affair – successfully to help with recent support campaigns – getting some good publicity. Around the 15th to 18th of December, A Current Affair will put to air a story on Sharon Chan and how she is progressing and Rotary will be mentioned, and in fact we have been asked to be part of the programme.

On the 7th and 8th of December, A Current Affair will be shooting a story involving the Choir of Hard Knocks which will go to air on Christmas Eve with Tracy Grimshaw hosting. The story will talk about the amazing success the Choir has had in helping those socially isolated, and unemployed to re-enter society. The Choir will be doing a tour of Australia to celebrate their 10th Anniversary from March 2016 and the funds will assist them to continue their work across Australia. Once again Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) will pay an important part in sourcing funds to be placed in Trust.

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) has two vacancies for our Bi-District Committee. The Secretary's position will be vacant from July 2016, and the other position is the Chair for Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS), effective immediately. I ask that you consider nominating for, or someone in your Club, these positions – if that is where your passion lies. The positions are not onerous. For more information please contact Past Governor Hank de Smit.

To help you decide on International projects Past Governor Hank and his team are very happy to talk to your Club about RAWCS & RABS. They have an excellent presentation to give you.

On the Community front congratulations go to the Ballajura Malaga Club – just read this. "1080 eggs, 100 kilos bacon and 1000 rolls prepared and cooked at Homeless Connect today. What an achievement! Our name was all over the service provider marquee. We were mentioned by the Lord Mayor - Lisa Scaffidi." It never ever ceases to amaze me what incredible people all of you are.

Here is an opportunity for your Club, perhaps - Breast Cancer Research Centre-WA is a not-for-profit organisation based at Mount Hospital in Perth. It runs various breast cancer clinical trials. They have received kits supplied by the Sponsor companies, and are looking for Rotary Clubs to possibly get involved. Here is the email details, if you want to proceed – Veronica.vassallo@bcrc-wa.com.au

I have been encouraging your Clubs to look at Rotary Community Corps this year, here is some information.

In 1998 the RI Board of Directors officially adopted the Rotary Community Corps program although originally it was referred to as either Rotary Village Corps or Rotary Community Service Corps. All RCCs share four major goals:

- To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their community,
- To recognise the dignity and value of all useful occupations,
- To mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life,
- To encourage the development of human potential to its fullest, within the context of the local culture and community.

A Rotary Community Corps is a team of non-Rotarian men and women who are committed to their Community's long-term development and self-sufficiency. An RCC is sponsored by a Rotary club and, like Rotaract and Interact Clubs, is one of Rotary's partners in service.

Sponsoring an RCC is a great way to initiate and implement enduring service projects. An RCC may comprise an entire community where although some members within that community may qualify for Rotary club membership but choose instead to participate in an RCC because of professional or personal commitments.

It has been often stated that the best way to retain a new member in Rotary is to give that person very early on a task or a role. Recent experience in one Club in the District has shown that by involving a non-Rotarian in a project where club members are also involved, two young non-Rotarians, because they saw and were involved in a Rotary project, have now become members. By establishing an RCC, clubs may well increase membership in addition to fulfilling a need within a community.

The following link is most helpful and has all the necessary information and other links needed to set up a [Organize a Rotary Community Corps](#)

The District Community Service Director, John Lindsay has further information and can assist Clubs interested in the RCC programme.

On the Youth front I congratulate the following Clubs for initiating the development of Rotaract, Interact Clubs ...

- Hillarys – 1 Rotaract and 2 Interact Clubs
- Batavia Coast – Interact Club
- Kalamunda – Rotaract Club
- Several Clubs are also considering Earlyact Clubs

And those are only the ones I know about!!! Keep up the good work.

Rotary Youth Exchange is alive and well under your District Committee lead by Norm de Grussa. This wonderful programme is flourishing in our District led by a very able and dedicated team. We have 17 Students at present outbound to Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Taiwan, Japan and Brazil. Next year we have 21 students going to all those countries plus Poland, Turkey and Argentina. The Turkish situation will be closely monitored, naturally.

At present we have 20 Inbound Students from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil and Argentina. All of this is building World Peace and Understanding.

My sincere thanks to everyone for all that you do in our own and the Global communities.

Jerry Pilcher