



**DG's NEWSLETTER OF  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT  
9455  
Issue 10, April 2017**



**RI President  
John F Germ**  
Rotary Club of  
Chattanooga  
Tennessee, USA



**District Governor  
Patricia Canning**  
Rotary Club of  
Ballajura-Malaga  
Western Australia



**In This Issue**

DG's MESSAGE	1
NEW MEMBERS	2
ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP	3
CLUB PROJS	6
MEMBERSHIP	8
REGIONAL INFO BULLETIN	9

Greetings to all Rotarians in District 9455

**APRIL IS**

**MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH**

*"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver"*  
Mahatma Gandhi

Rotary   [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

What an incredible country we live in where we are assured of a health system which promises equity and access for all. Our mothers and children can rest assured that the care we provide is of the highest standard. I am so proud of what we as health professionals do to ensure our communities receive the very best care, When I look at the communities I visit whilst undertaking evaluations of global grants overseas in maternal and child health I feel so very blessed knowing our country Australia is way, way up there and mothers and children can rest assured that we have first class services.

When we look at the statistics -Nearly 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. Rotary works towards expanding access to quality care, so mothers and their children can live and grow stronger. The Rotary Foundation reaches mothers and children in need by giving communities the help and training they need to take control of their own maternal and infant health care. Rotary makes high-quality health care available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger.

## DG's Message - District 9455

Rotary works to expand access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. An estimated 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation—all of which can be prevented.

As a Rotarian I am so proud of what Rotary provides - education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease. Rotary members teach mothers how to breast-feed, promote immunizations and regular checkups, and distribute insecticide-treated bed nets. Our Rotary programs improve women's access to skilled health personnel: doctors, nurses, midwives, or community health care workers. I am so proud of what our programs have done and can do.

We do amazing things and I thank each and every Rotarian in our District for your contribution. Take time out from their very busy schedule to share a few days with us in the

### **Rotary International President Elect Visit**

We were honoured to have our very own Australian RI President Elect Ian Riseley and Juliet take time out to visit us for a few days. Ian and Juliet showed how very down to earth they are and the combined district dinner meeting was most enjoyable. Thank you to all attendees.

### **Council on Legislation**

We are in the process of appointing a Council on Legislation representative for a three year term.

### **District Governor Nominee**

District 9455 is in the process of seeking out interested personnel for this position. Please contact the District Governor, District Governor Elect or District Governor Nominee for further information.

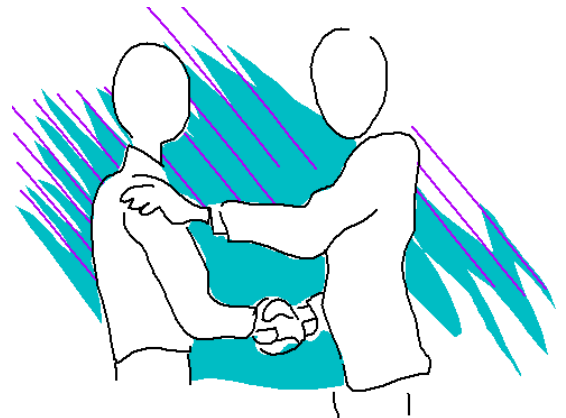
Patricia Canning  
District Governor  
District 9455  
March 2017

## District 9455 - New Members

**RI District 9455  
welcomes the following new Rotarians**

**Mike Brando - Osborne Park.**

**Kaylene Durrant - Karrinyup**



## District 9455's Aboriginal Reference Group

In the February 2017 District Governor's newsletter I provided a few tips on "*How can we engage with Aboriginal people?*" This month I will focus on the question asked by many Rotarians, "*I don't know a lot about Aboriginals and their culture, history, heritage and issues?*"

My initial response to this question is usually "*you are like most Australians!*" Most of us have grown up in communities having little contact with Aboriginal people (though in many cases we don't recognise them because they look like us). When we went to school we were taught very little about Aboriginal Culture and History. Much of our information on Aborigines came through the media and it was generally not positive. Occasionally we had personal negative experiences which reinforced general community stereotypes. When we had personal contact with them we did not know how to relate to them – we didn't know how they thought or felt and they seemed so different from us – we did not feel comfortable about starting and continuing a conversation (particularly a personal conversation) with them.

As Non-Indigenous people it has become clear that we need to talk to them to begin the development of an understanding and appreciation of them as people and to become informed about their culture.

So here are some useful facts about their many cultures.

At colonisation in 1829 in Western Australia, there were about 131 distinct Aboriginal language groups (often referred to as Aboriginal Nations) in the State. A few languages have disappeared and a few Aboriginals can no longer speak their original language. However, many people have retained significant parts of their unique languages and culture. Some Nations have many fluent speakers of their languages and much of their cultures have been retained. Different languages correlate with different cultures and cultural practices. Similarly, different environments (e.g. deserts versus colder rainy areas) usually mean different words, cultures and cultural practices. This means you can't treat all Aboriginal people as alike.

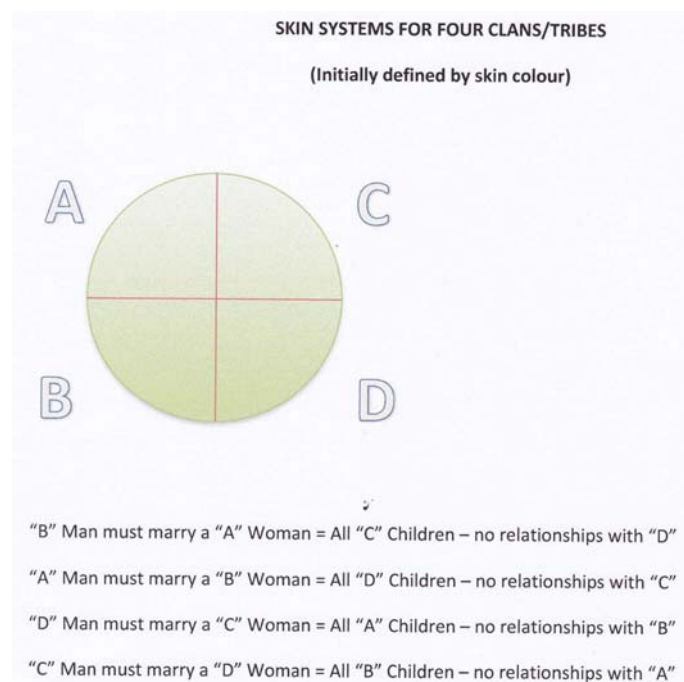
Aboriginal Culture is a verbal culture. Information is passed from one person to another through yarn-ing and story-telling. Dance, songs and art serve an important role in the transfer of cultural knowledge. A culture that transmits itself verbally is vulnerable. Removing children from families in the past meant that many Aboriginal children gained limited information about their culture, language and traditions, and how they belong within their culture. The high incarceration rates for Aboriginal men (especially fathers) also has seriously interfered with the transfer of cultural information. The absence of fathers and mothers during their children's formative years has impacted heavily on the transfer of knowledge regarding culture, heritage, traditions, languages and kinship connections. This has left many children "lost" with little motivation, much like "Lost Children from the Empire" who were moved from England after World War II to the colonies. At later periods of their life, these children spent an inordinate amount of time looking for their connections to family, as do many "Stolen Generation" Aboriginal children.

There is general agreement in the research literature that Australian history commenced at least 40,000 years ago with Aboriginal people occupying our continent. Some carbon dating research suggests that our Aboriginal history may go back 60,000 to 70,000 years, not just 40,000 years. While there is a significant amount of research which indicates that they arrived in Australia via land-bridges through Indonesia and New Guinea from Africa via Asia when sea levels were lower in the past.

Don't be surprised if you are told about events that happened apparently in the recent past but which science confirms happened many years ago (e.g. one elder talks a lot about the time they used to walk to Rottneet and how the Swan River flowed to the sea to the North of the Island – science confirms when sea-levels were lower than today (i.e. about 7,000 and certainly 20,000 years ago). In recent years Aboriginal people (especially women) began talking about growing grasses and harvesting the seed to make bread. Researchers have now found many mortars carved in rocks with stone pestles which confirm that the culture made damper 30,000 years ago, 15,000 years before the Egyptians. Some Aboriginal women still cultivate the grasses for seed and flour making. Damper 200+ years old has also been found sealed into rock storages, confirming that Aboriginal cultures were not just hunter-gather societies. Hence, Aboriginal accounts of their culture can be more accurate than first thought to be.

Most Aboriginal cultures have a seasonal system that is different from the European Seasons of summer, autumn, winter and spring. Generally, from Albany to Broome Aboriginals have six seasons that relate to the availability of food throughout the year. Each Aboriginal Nation describes their six seasons in a different way related to the different coastal environments between Albany and Broome. In desert areas the number of seasons may be as few as five, and in the Kimberley there may be more than six seasons. From my perspective, the Aboriginal seasons are probably better descriptors of Australian seasons than those we borrowed from Europe.

Aboriginal people developed a skin system of kinship connections system to ensure that they kept their culture genetically healthy some 40,000 to 70,000 years ago. Skin systems were initially used to determine relationships and marriages. From Esperance to Albany around to Broome, most of the Aboriginal cultures have a fairly simple skin systems involving four tribes. In the Kimberley and Northern Territory they have a three-dimensional skin systems with up to 16 tribes. The Skin system for 4 tribes/clans (A, B, C & D) is explained in the sketch below.



Today, many of these skin systems are no longer used to determine marriages, though they are still very important to the understanding of kinship connections and where individuals belong in their culture.

In a future District Governor's newsletter I will further elaborate on useful facts to help you gain an improved understanding of Aboriginal Culture.

### **Project Opportunities for Clubs Wishing to improve the lives of Aboriginals in WA**

An organisation called Kinship Connections Aboriginal Corporation which helps Aboriginal Youth in Noongar Country to re-connect with their people is running a Volunteer "Weed Choppers" Program where Aboriginal youth help the community (e.g. doing lawn mowing, gardening, home cleaning and car-washing) whilst they participate in their re-connection program. The aim of this program is to develop responsibility and leadership and, to develop work skills and routines. Kinship connections is looking for a **"people mover"** to move the volunteers from job to job in the community and **people interested in working as volunteers beside** the Aboriginal youth as they undertake these functions. Kinship Connections is Managed by Anne Oakley, and its metropolitan base is at 415 Acton Avenue, Kewdale 6105.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne has gained approval from Rotary Australia to establish an End Trachoma by 2020 program on an Australia-wide basis. They will be looking to WA Clubs to contribute to this worthy endeavour in the near future.

Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness globally. Australia remains the world's last developed country where it still persists. It is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia Trachomatis* and spreads by personal contact (via hands, clothing, towels or bedding), or by flies that have been in contact with the discharge from the nose or eyes of an infected person. Blindness from recurrent trachoma infections is irreversible. But trachoma is an entirely preventable disease, and infections can be treated quickly and effectively.



The World Health Organisation recognises that an incidence of 5% or less as an acceptable standard. In the recent past, Western Australia has had an incidence rate of 24% (similar to what currently exists in the Northern Territory and parts of South Australia). The Health Department's Country Health Services Teams and Environmental Health Branch have successfully reduced incidences levels from 24% to 2.6% through the use of common anti-biotics in every home in remote communities on a line North of Geraldton to Esperance between 2012 and the present. South of this line there may still be higher than acceptable incidences in Homewest Accommodation facilities where residents do not adhere to recognised hygiene standards.

In the northern part of WA, Trachoma will re-occur and the incidence will gradually increase unless preventative measures are taken. Northern Territory experience suggests that a return to a 24% incidence rate takes about eight years. The ARG is currently examining the types of preventative measures that need to be taken before recommending to Clubs how they should respond to the Rotary Club of Melbourne's initiative.

Bruce Dufty

Chair, Rotary District 9455's Aboriginal Reference Group

26 April 2017

# RC of Karrinyup Projects

Members of RC Karrinyup turned out in force for the handover and launch of WA's first community-funded mobile ear clinic at the [Stirling Farmers' Market](#). The community based market has been a major source of fundraising for the Earbus project.

The completed Earbus is the realization of a dream for Professor Harvey Coates AO, Clinical Patron, [Earbus Foundation of WA](#), who three years ago envisaged a mobile 'go anywhere' clinic capable of travelling to remote areas of the northwest of Western Australia. Thanks to the passionate 'fund, design and build' campaign of the [RC Karrinyup](#), this dream has now become a reality.

The Earbus was launched on 2 April by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Prime Minister and the new Minister for Health in WA. Final touches to the vehicle, including the application of Aboriginal children's artwork have now been completed and ensure the clinic is appealing to the youngsters it will serve.

The launch marks the operational hand-over of the bus to [Earbus Foundation of WA](#), a rapidly emerging WA-based charity, which has already had a huge direct impact on Aboriginal children's hearing and learning in the Pilbara and the Goldfields.

The Foundation's new Earbus, a medical/audiology unit on wheels designed in partnership with the Rotary Club of Karrinyup, is intended to launch the charity's work in the Kimberley once operational funding can be confirmed. In the meantime, it is expected to find its way into other regions.

Two past presidents of the [Rotary Club of Karrinyup](#) - Heather Leaney and Peter Durrant - took up the Earbus "fund, design and build" campaign with a passion. The club's Charter member Ian McDonagh led the charge to raise the necessary \$220,000 while Vocational Director Nick Nedkoff together with other Rotary Club of Karrinyup members managed the technical design and build to Earbus Foundation's operational requirements.

Earbus Chief Executive Officer Paul Higginbotham said: "Rotary's commitment to this project has been awe-inspiring. We can't wait to get this new Earbus on the road and start delivering high-quality services to more and more regions of WA."



## RC of Karrinyup Projects



Some time ago our Club was approached to assist the Mooro County Tour Group to provide seating at [Lake Gwelup Reserve](#) for members of their cultural tour groups. Mooro Country Tours is a not-for-profit organisation run in association with [Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Resource Centre Balga](#), who provide walking tours - cultural experiences with local Aboriginal elders. Participants are able to learn about local Aboriginal people and their contribution to the [City of Stirling](#).

At first the idea was to provide the design work and funding for a couple of park benches for participants; but with the enthusiasm and support of our Community Services Committee, the project (and costs) grew to include a decking area - and became financially out of reach of our budget. However, in order to complete the project we were successful in our application for a Federal Government grant through the Stronger Communities Programme. The project was completed on October 2016.

Recently the Wadjak Northside Community Group hosted a tour of Lake Gwelup Mooro Country specifically for members of our club, as a thank you for the seating facility. The tour started with an introduction at the Lake Gwelup seating facility, showing us the Lake Gwelup Reserve from a traditional Aboriginal perspective.

On a perfect autumn day, members shared a truly delightful morning with the lovely Wadjak people concluding with a delicious morning tea featuring produce from the Australian bush.



# District 9455 Club Membership as April 2017

Club ID	Club Name	Member Count @ 1 July	Member Count @ Current	Net Change from 1 July
17525	Balcatta	11	10	(1)
26656	Ballajura-Malaga	17	18	1
17536	Batavia Coast	30	31	1
84845	Bay View Claremont	25	28	3
17575	Belmont	27	26	(1)
54503	Broome	11	11	0
17533	Cambridge	18	17	(1)
17527	Carnarvon	11	11	0
17587	Corrigin	11	11	0
82883	Crawley	59	52	(7)
17530	Cunderdin	5	6	1
21782	Dalkeith	51	53	2
88079	Elizabeth Quay	0	23	23
86256	Ellenbrook	12	12	0
81032	Freshwater Bay	36	38	2
17535	Geraldton	26	29	3
24104	Geraldton-Greenough	35	35	0
27633	Heirisson	20	23	3
23632	Hillarys	31	34	3
24045	Joondalup	11	14	3
17596	Kalamunda	29	32	3
17537	Karratha	10	11	1
17538	Karrinyup	43	46	3
24079	Kununurra	31	32	1
17560	Matilda Bay	45	49	4
22931	Midland	19	15	(4)
83520	Mindarie	18	16	(2)
17543	Moora	18	18	0
17544	Morley	17	17	0
17545	Mosman Park-Cottesloe	14	14	0
17547	Mount Lawley	30	35	5
17548	Mundaring	31	28	(3)
17549	Nedlands	35	37	2
17550	Northam	15	16	1
21759	Northbridge	30	32	2
17551	North Perth	23	20	(3)
17552	Osborne Park	22	21	(2)
17553	Perth	93	90	(3)
17555	Quairading	7	7	0
17557	Scarborough	53	51	(2)
17559	Subiaco	15	17	1
17561	Swan Districts	21	21	0
29590	Swan Valley	20	20	(1)
17562	Wanneroo	15	16	1
17621	Welshpool	21	20	(1)
23486	Western Endeavour	24	21	(3)
17563	West Perth	38	34	0
17565	Wongan Hills	12	12	0
17566	Wyalkatchem	8	8	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1204</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>34</b>