



Rotary District 9455 District Governors Newsletter



District Governors Newsletter July 2016



Greetings to all Rotarians from District 9455

Thank you for a tremendous welcome as your District Governor for 2016-2017. I am very honoured to be given this great opportunity and look forward to a fun filled year as we spread the word of

" Rotary doing good in the world".

Rotary International President John Germ's theme " Rotary Serving Humanity" is a theme which epitomises exactly what we as Rotarians do every day of our lives. It's an extremely powerful message and one we must get out into our communities.

Rotary President John Germ reminds us that we all have been given a great opportunity to motivate, inspire and direct our Clubs to be better, more effective and to be more ambitious in our service but that is up to each one of us. Our world president says that the effects of our work, our decisions, will ripple out all over the world to people we may never meet but whose lives Rotary will change. Rotarians is that not something we all want to see? We want to change the world for the better, forever through Rotary's service to humanity.

We are possibly looking at year that may be the greatest year in Rotary's history – the year that sees the last case of polio. We must ensure that everyone knows that Rotary has played in making this world polio free. We must get the word out to our communities about what Rotary is and what we all do as Rotarians.

Rotarians we are facing a crisis with our membership at an all time low. In order to spread the word and load we need more willing hands and caring hearts. We do need to be flexible so that Rotary service will be more attractive to younger members, recent retirees and working people. We need to ask our friends, colleagues and community members to join us in making the world a safer, healthier and better place.

This year we are celebrating The Rotary Foundation centenary. 100 years of "doing good in the world". May I ask that each one of us considers making The Rotary Foundation our charity of choice so that we can continue to do good in the world. Celebrations are being planned over the year and I invite you to join in the planned celebrations.

Trevor and I have already experienced some wonderful hospitality in these early weeks and look forward to meeting many more Rotarians, Friends and partners in the forthcoming weeks/ months. We look forward to working with you as we continue serving humanity.

Welcome To the Following New Rotarians

Cristina Mico (RC of Cunderdin)	Ivan Bennett (RC of Perth)
Michele Roget (RC of Perth)	Riann Aveling (RC of Scarborough)
Diana Barry (RC of Scarborough)	Hugh Kopsen (RC of Scarborough)
Margot Dunnet (RC of Scarborough)	Katie McKenzie (RC of Scarborough)
Sonia Fortuna (RC of Scarborough)	Chris Schooling (RC of Scarborough)
Rachel Sheffield (RC of Belmont)	Christina Trus-Browning (RC of Kalamunda)
Emily Hamilton (RC of Joondalup)	Scott Ferguson (RC of Ballajura-Malaga)
Jackie Ryan (RC of Mundaring)	Dee Potts (RC of Mundaring)
Colleen Ross (RC of Mundaring)	Allan Peacock (RC of Mundaring)
Michelle Ford (RC of Mundaring)	

Rotary District 9455 Remembers the following Rotarians who have passed away:

Tom Drinkwater (Rotary Club of Wanneroo)

Charles Arbalster (Rotary Club of Swan Districts)

Pat Roberts (Rotary Club of Kalamunda)

David Goldstone (Rotary Club of Crawley)

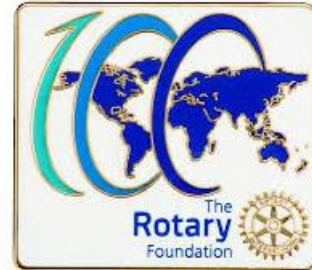
From The Rotary District Foundation Chair

ROTARY FOUNDATION DISTRICT GRANTS

There are District Grants available every year and we are about to distribute 12 Grants to 10 Clubs totalling over \$57,000 for 2016-17. Congratulations to the successful clubs.

These grants are for smaller local community or international projects addressing at least one of the Areas of Focus.

- In 2017 there will be another \$75,000 to be distributed.
- Do you have a worthy project that would benefit from extra funding?
- Applications close in May but plan well before.
- Want to know more? Email PP Geoff Russell at geoffrussell@inet.net.au



Membership:

District Membership as of 1st July 2016 was 1209. Data is indicating that membership reduced by 48 members in 2015/16 which is consistent with trends for the past 5 years.

Club Closures - The Rotary Club of East Perth and Port Hedland have now closed.

An independent survey – A survey has been approved by the Board and will commence in early September, 2016. The aim is to identify the thematic issues impacting on retention

Website – a page now available of the website links to Membership Resources and will be updated regularly.

Membership Forum – District membership Forum is being planned for Sunday 9th October. The focus of the forum will be on clubs sharing new ideas and membership development planning.

Rotary Youth Exchange From RYE District Chair Norm de Grussa

It was a surprise after receiving some 100+ Expressions of Interest (EOI) in a Rotary Youth Exchange for 2017; it only eventuated to 17 successful applicants. Interesting to note, 16 of these EOI in Geraldton became 11 applications, five of which were successful. Thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Belmont, Ellenbrook and Matilda Bay for picking up the extra students from the Geraldton clubs.

The 17 students will undergo their first Briefing Weekend 29 – 31 July.

Our current outbound students are six months into their exchange. They have settled into their host countries, although it was a turbulent start for many this year. As a result, we have revised the structure of our Outbound Briefing Weekend to make every effort to improve the resilience and commitment of the students, in order to help them overcome the initial 'culture shock'. This is always difficult, however this year, it has been extremely hard for several.

Sunday 3 July was the farewell event for our 2015/16 inbound students. A new venue this year proved to be successful, with an impressive attendance of host parents and mentors. This group of students will go on record as being up with the best we have hosted. A delightful group who we hope we will see again in the future. The student award was presented to Eva Digel from Germany, hosted by the Rotary Club of Subiaco. Over the years since its inception, this award has been viewed with mixed opinions. While introduced initially as a 'carrot' to provide positive reinforcement to encourage adherence to all Rotary Rules and Ideals as well as encouraging students to embrace the Rotary Ideal of 'Service Above Self', it has developed into a very prestigious award and I hope clubs will view it favorably in the future, and therefore nominate their hosted student if considered worthy.



Inbound students for 2016/17 have all arrived, and will undergo their first Briefing Weekend 29 – 31 July. We are looking forward to getting to know them.

It is with some sadness we announce the retirement of Doug Worthington.

As a committee member for over eighteen years, and as Placement Coordinator for many or most of them, Doug has supported and mentored hundreds of students who have travelled to or from Scandinavian countries, and in recent years he has been a regular chaperone on inbound tours. This means, that in addition to the many hours of administrative work at home, the monthly committee meetings, training sessions, and the many phone calls - with three tours a year, briefing and conference weekends as well as the annual farm stay - he has also spent over 35 days (and nights) away from his home, his family - and in the days before he retired, his work EACH YEAR - ensuring that our students have the best experience possible. In addition to all this, he has for many years taken on the role of official photographer and spent countless hours capturing a whole host of special memories. We know he won't be far away - but his contribution is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

Overview of some the Activities of Rotary District 9455's, Aboriginal Reference Group

Rotary District 9455's Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) has been operating for nine years. The ARG is unique to District 9455.

The ARG is a District facilitation group that Clubs can call upon to assist them establish strategic partnerships/alliances with Western Australian Aboriginal communities. (NOTE: The ARG voluntarily supports Clubs in District 9456 when it has the capacity to do so). The specific aims of the ARG are to collaborate with local Clubs and Aboriginal communities:

- To build respect for the heritage and culture of Aborigines;
- To foster engagement and relationships with Aborigines;
- To listen to what Aborigines want;
- To work together and take action in genuine partnership; and
- To undertake joint projects with Clubs that are of mutual benefit to ALL Australians.

The philosophy of the ARG since its inception has been to encourage sustainable projects whereby the ability of Aboriginal Communities is enhanced so that they independently care for and support their own family members. Furthermore, it has always encouraged Clubs to undertake projects that focus heavily on prevention strategies as opposed to always trying to manage problems after they have occurred, i.e. "building fences at the top of a cliff to prevent accidents rather than having ambulances at the bottom to assist casualties, because we will never have enough ambulances".

The ARG is currently supporting Clubs in regard to a range of important Aboriginal Projects.

1. Dental Health Service (*known as the Kimberley Dental Health Team*) – Perth Club and two local Clubs and a Rotoract Club and 2 Volunteer Aboriginal KDT Oral Health Officers are offering an "Oral Health Education and Treatment Service" to Aboriginal children in 16 communities in the Kimberley. The University of Western Australia's trainee dentists and their supervisors provide the dental services for up to 7 weeks annually. The program has recently been extended to the Perth Area where there are many homeless Aboriginal children who require similar assistance. In monetary terms, about \$400,000 in oral health and dental services are being provided annually. This project has been operating for at least 4 years.
2. Diagnostic Aural Service (*known as the Ear Bus Project*) – Karrinyup Club together with eight Clubs from Districts 9455 and 9456 have joined together to purchase a purpose-built Diagnostic Bus that will be used to diagnose hearing impairment amongst Aboriginal Children in many Kimberley communities. The three-year project is currently reaching completion and a hand-over of the Diagnostic Bus to the "Ear Bus Foundation" is planned for December 2016. The new bus will enable a team of volunteers under the leadership of Professor Harvey Coates to provide an effective diagnostic service to Aboriginal children in remote communities. In turn, these children will be better equipped to benefit from their educational experiences.
3. Bicycles for Humanity Project – Many Aboriginal communities have no access to appropriate transportation. Bayview Claremont Club is to refurbish second-hand bikes for Aboriginal schools in areas of need. Two-hundred bikes have been distributed in the Kimberley region through schools and Men's Outreach. Similarly, 40 bikes have been distributed in Laverton, 20 in The Ngaanyatjarra Lands School and Wanam Campus and 40 have been allocated to Punmu School.
4. Indigenous Education Curriculum – Four District 9455 Metropolitan Rotary Clubs have sponsored the development of an Indigenous Curriculum in collaboration with Murdoch University, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and the State Education Department. The pilot curriculum focuses on the "local mob" in Perth, the Wadjak/Wadjuk Noongar people's culture, history and contemporary issues and is designed as a flexible ten lesson course for ALL Year 9 students. It has been trialled successfully in four High Schools (13 classes) with both Aboriginal and Non-indigenous students and independently evaluated. It is now ready for re-shaping so that it can be taught across Years 7 to 10 on an age appropriate basis.
5. Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholarship Program – Eleven Rotary Clubs from Districts 9455 and 9456 together with one company have donated funds over the last three years so that Aboriginal Students can receive tertiary training in Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and the Health Sciences. This will enable them to offer services to Aboriginal people in remote areas. The Federal Government matches donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis and 18 scholarships have been awarded for 2013, 2014 and 2015.
6. Suicide Prevention – Scarborough Club together with 3 other Clubs have collaborated with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) to offer Bursaries to nine Aboriginals to attend a practical prevention strategies conference in Alice Springs in 2016. The aim of this initiative is to identify and develop strategies that can be used by remote Aboriginal communities to prevent suicides - in particular, amongst 15 to 35 year olds where nearly one in three deaths is registered as a suicide. This intervention model is being evaluated to determine its impact.
7. Other ARG Activities:
 - Monitoring and support of Clubs conducting projects;
 - Cultural awareness discussions and practical talks on directly engaging with Aboriginal communities;
 - Distribution of "*Manual on engaging with Aboriginal people in WA through mutual friendship and trust*";
 - Maintenance of knowledge in respect to different Aboriginal communities in District 9455;
 - Regular contact with representative Aboriginal Community Organisations; and
 - Contact with non-indigenous business, government and non-government organisations wishing to collaborate with Club Projects and project sponsors..

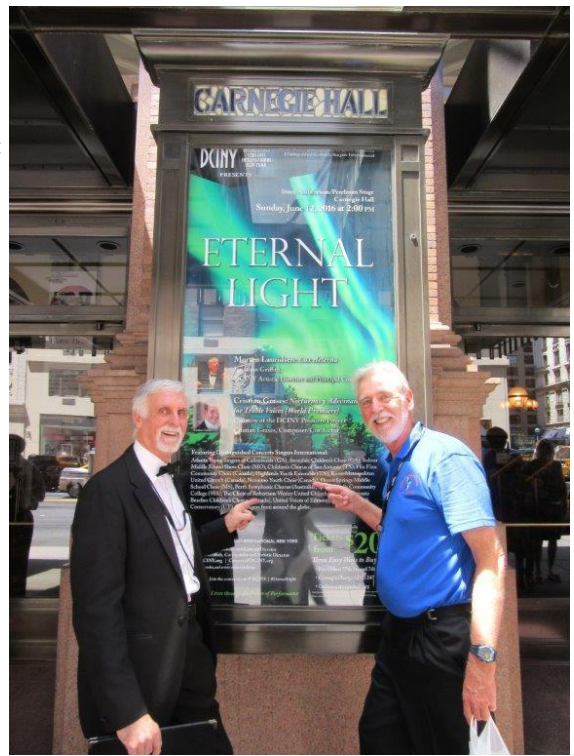
Finally, the ARG is currently working with the District and its Clubs in respect to several other important projects that are likely to be beneficial to Aboriginals and ALL Australians.

PRESS RELEASE (Colin Hughes from RC of Swan Valley)

“Our Rotarians having fun and doing good in the world”.

Rotarian Colin Hughes has just returned from a successful performance with the Perth Symphonic Chorus in New York’s Carnegie Hall . The Choir helped Rotary out with the Elvis concert earlier in the year and raised Over \$11,000 for the Bushfire Appeal.

The Perth Symphonic Chorus joined other choirs from Canada and the US to sing Lux Aeterna a modern religious suite by Lauristen who was in the audience. The choirs next performance will be at Government House on September 25th when they sing Rachmaninoffs Vespers. Tickets at Trybooking.com



Best wishes

Patricia Canning (Trevor)

**Rotary District 9455
District Governor 2016/17
Rotary Club of Ballajura- Malaga**

