



Rotary District 9675

District Governor's Newsletter February 2018



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT
9675
2018 CONFERENCE
MARCH 2ND – MARCH 4TH**

**PARKLANDS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE,
MUDGEE.**

EVENTS PROGRAM

FRIDAY – MARCH 2ND

12.00 PM ONWARDS - CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

2.00 – 4.00PM ROTARY TRAINING SESSIONS

4.00 – 6.00PM 'A TASTE OF MUDGEE'

6.00 SPEAKERS

**JOHN GERM, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS
REPRESENTATIVE.**

LOCAL HISTORIAN

DINNER

AUSTRALIAN BUSH DANCE



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Calendar

February 2018

Peace and Conflict Prevention /
Resolution Month

PET's 18th February 2018

March 2018

Water and Sanitation Month

Mudgee 2-4th -District
Conference

17th March-Peacebuilding
Conference – Sydney

April 2018

Maternal and Child Health
Month

PET's 2- 7th April 2018

SATURDAY MARCH 3RD

8.00AM ONWARDS -CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

9.00AM DG STEPHEN BRITTEN – CONFERENCE WELCOME.

SPEAKERS-HIGHLIGHTS

KEN SUTTCLIFFE 'POLIO SURVIVOR'.

JACOB STEIN 'WINE MAKER OF THE YEAR'.

GEMMA SISIA 'SCHOOL OF ST JUDE'

MIKE BRADY 'JINGLE & SONG WRITER'

STEPHANIE WOOLLARD 'SEVEN WOMEN PROJECT'

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH 'PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS'

6.15PM DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT -AUSTRALIAN RURAL EDUCATION CENTRE.

SUNDAY

7.00AM BREAKFAST IN LAWSON PARK MUDGEES

8.30 AM WE REMEMBER-

9.00AM DG STEPHEN BRITTEN WELCOME

PCYC CEO DOMINIC 'PARTNER WITH ROTARY'

ROTARACT PRESIDENT JUDITH MOGI 'WORKING WITH ROTARY'

LOUISE AZZOPARDI 'RYLARIAN AND WORLD SKILLS FINALIST'

DR GILLIAN HICKS 'LONDON SUBWAY SURVIVOR'

DGE SUE HAYWARD 'INTRODUCING DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2019'

RIPR. JOHN GERM 'CLOSING REMARKS'

'THANKS & CLOSING REMARKS'.

12.40PM LUNCH

The Theme Dress for Saturday Night is Country Dress.

Please Note Saturday Dinner Booked Out



Mudgee Mascot- Mudgee March Hare

Message from the District Governor

We have all welcomed 2018. I hope you have all had a good festive season. Often when the year starts we all think “here we go again”. The weather is hot and some have to return to work.

I wanted to start the year by producing my Club talk. I said I would do this and hopefully it will inspire you all in the year ahead. We are doing exceptional work in Rotary and the good we do in the world should be enough to inspire many.

To start with Martin Luther King had a dream and so do I.

I have a dream that

- 65 Million people presently displaced by conflict are no longer displaced
- That we have sophisticated mechanisms with skilled people to resolve conflict

I have a dream that

- 795 million people that do not have enough to eat have enough to eat.
- That many Countries without enough food today have developed sustainable agriculture

I have a dream that

- By 2030 everyone has access to safe water and hygiene. This is building on the 23 Million who have water today because of Rotary and the 21 Million who have access to adequate sanitation because of Rotary

I have a dream that

- No mother or child dies in child birth due to lack of equipment or access to adequate medical knowledge and that;
- Cancer screen is available for all

I have a dream

- That polio is eradicated in the world and we are acknowledged along with our partners for this also
- We are well on the way to other medical wins such as curing some cancers and eradicating malaria

I have a dream that

- Literacy education is available to all and there are high literacy levels in the world. Also we have contributed to reducing the 122 Million or the one in nine presently illiterate in the world today.

I have a dream that

- We continue with the great community work we do presently and then some.

These are the things in our vision in Rotary and they are inspirational and very worthwhile. They are amazing causes and all fall out of the areas of focus of our Charity (foundation) and our community work.

Now lets talk about the organisation

I recently sat through a talk by Past International President Bill Boyd. He stated that RI had done some research into Rotary and the conclusion was that Rotary was unique. It was Unique because of a number of reasons. He focused on the size 35,000 odd Clubs, in most Countries of the world. He also focused on the fact that Rotary was persistent and what Organisation had fought a disease like Polio for over 30 years. The consultant found that astonishing. He also commented that the Consultant found our Classifications provided unique diversity and skills. Finally he focused on our Values. The Consultant pointed out that we care for humanity and people trust

us with their money, children and their lives. They gave as examples amongst other things the donation of the Gates Foundation and donations to polio plus, youth exchange and our work with in health water and sanitation amongst some of the economically challenged Countries. So I think that is a cue for you all to say that we have a unique organisation that we must nurture.

A case for change

I saw the statistics on membership in our District recently. I think our District had a net loss of 83 members since July 2016 a decline of over 5%. Our Clubs are aging and a little under a quarter of our members are women. These will not be easy things to turn around quickly. This is not the trend throughout the world and Rotary is growing in a number of Countries. It is probably because we are one of the lucky Countries blessed by our situation.

But this is not what I want to focus on. I want to focus on tell the stories- telling people what we do. Telling the people about what we did in the local park. About the teacher education program we supported in Timor. About the piece of Medical Equipment we bought for the local hospital. The youth we sent to the Rotary leadership course and how it changed their lives. About the work we do in mental health. I can go on and you can as well.

When was the last time you told someone what Rotary does.

Well if we don't -who will.

Tell the stories

We have amazing Stories to tell. People relate to these human stories and I have been telling many of them as I move around. I want to tell some of the international stories and about the focus of the foundation.

In the Rotary foundation there are also 6 areas of focus. They are as follows:

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Saving mothers and children
- Supporting education
- Growing local economies

So I will focus on two areas of these to highlight what the foundation does but my dreams in the beginning highlight what the focus of the foundation is.

Under providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene

We strive to provide the world with clean water and with adequate hygiene.

These two alone kill many people in the world.

Peace and Conflict

Conflict and violence displace millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians.

Rotary refuses to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

How Rotary makes this happen is:

Through our service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, our members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

But our greatest fight is against Polio

Some of the older Rotarians say they turn off when we from District talk about Polio. They say that because we have been doing it for 30 years but it is an incredible story and people not so familiar with Rotary really relate to this and the job is not done. They should be proud what they have done because they have been making the difference. So many are alive and not suffering infliction because of the efforts of the past.

When we started there was 350,000 cases in the world annually across many nations. Till a few days ago to date this year there had been 6 cases across only 2 Countries. No other organisation can claim such a large struggle and success over this terrible disease.

Australian Situation

We have been very bad in Australia in attracting foundation money. Most global Grants are to fund overseas areas of focus. Some great work of Rotary Clubs is as follows. As a teaser I will tell you about a campaign that will be the subject of foundation money in Australia. I will be asking Clubs to get behind this.

But even though there has not been a funded Global grant aimed at Australia. Each year we get back in the District a third of what is put in that is spent in the District on great community projects.

I would also like to acknowledge we have significant increase in giving in the last few years overall in the District.

Trachoma?

Put simply, Trachoma is a bacterial eye infection, not unlike the common 'pink-eye' or conjunctivitis. Repeated reinfection, combined with the body's immune reaction, often has devastating consequences.

Both eyes are usually affected and the scarring leads to irreversible blindness – usually when a person is between 30 and 40 years old but it can effect children and young adults.

In Australia, trachoma remains endemic in a relatively small number of remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. However, Australia is the only developed country in the world where trachoma is endemic. It does exist in undeveloped Countries.

What are you doing?

You are supporting all of the above through the foundation.

Well your Club is doing amazing things in the community. The work Rotary does in the community is significant.

I am asking everyone to consider how we remain sustainable Clubs into the future- These are some of the things you can do

- Do do the Club Health Check- Do it anomously
- Consider if you have a professional face
- **It's about a Team**
- I think you should consider why people join rotary and are you doing what they want. I think you are in a perfect situation to provide some of this:
 - Like business connection
 - Developing Leadership Skills
 - Developing Public Speaking Skills
 - Promoting the significant benefits of being a global organisation- there is a Rotary Club in most Countries of the world. You are welcome at any of them
- Are you warm and inclusive when someone visits
- The Clubs in the District are living in a City and District undergoing a great deal of change. What I think is that they need to do is to adapt to the changing world around them and I am challenging them to do this.

You know it is Ok to look back in the past and remember but we must not stare at the past. I think a lot of Clubs do this.

- Have an agenda for the meeting
- Balance between some form to the meeting and not too much
- Do we engage new members-don't sit them in the corner saying they have to earn their stripes
- Have you thought about satellite Coffee Clubs to engage the more youthful to join
- Have you considered affordability?
- Have you thought about whether you seem desirable to join
- We must be careful our Clubs are service clubs and not just fund raising clubs. (expand)
- Are your projects engaging- if you are looking for projects speak with the chairpeople in the District they are only a phone call away.

I have tried to provoke some thought today. I am saying this to everyone. A strong active Club can turn around very quickly.

As a Rotarian you contribute to the causes in the world including resolving conflict. In doing this you can be as you are. Not having to give up any of your beliefs or the fabric of what makes you. We only ask in Rotary that you live by one test- the four way test:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

What a great ideal to live by and a test that we can apply in everyday life. We are free to have a diversity of views and belong to, work towards the ideals and focuses of Rotary. Rotary can help us to focus on the causes that we want as a Rotary community to focus on.

I wanted to highlight here that if we can tell the community what we stand for and the ideals I write about here, then I think people will want to belong to our Organisation.

I do have a dream that Rotary can help the World to live in perfect harmony, to share its resources equitably and not waste them, can be considerate of others and their points of view, can give a hand up when someone is in need, takes people as they find them and not having prejudices, rules compassionately and in the interest of all and that we are seen to cares for humanity and the welfare of all. These amongst others things are the things that we must communicate through the personal stories. So people can understand that we are about service and service above self and we work together to make the world a better place.

But in closing

During the past 100 years, the Foundation has **spent** \$3 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

All I can do is ask that you all tell the stories of what we do and support the foundation because "Rotary is making the Difference." I hope you support me in my dream and that it is your dreams as well

Sydney Peace Conference

The Resolution of Conflict and Violence in the World is one of the focuses of our Foundation. Sydney will host one of the 6 PEACE Conferences around the world.

The Chair of the *RIPPC 2018 Host Organising Committee* **Chris McDiven AM** has comment as follows:

This is one of a series of six presidential Conferences Rotary International President-elect Ian Riseley is convening during the 2017- 18 Rotary year.

The goal of the Sydney Conference is to bring together academics, political leaders, businesses, community leaders and peace activists to explore building peace, and discuss how we can work together to prevent and resolve conflict from an international and local perspective.

The Conference will focus on economic and community development, as it relates to peace. We will look at the underlying causes of conflict including poverty, disease, lack of water and food security, and the lack of education. The economic cost of conflict within a country and a community will be highlighted.

The local hosts for this conference are Rotary District 9675 and the Rotary Club of Sydney. The Conference will also highlight the areas in which Rotary does its most significant work.

Rotary International President Ian has sent this message

Dear Peacebuilders,

I am pleased to invite you to the great city of Sydney on 17 March to explore the important topic of economic and community development and related local, national, and international peacebuilding opportunities. Hosted by Rotary District 9675, the organizers have planned an outstanding program featuring inspirational speakers, breakout sessions and networking opportunities to recommit our efforts addressing economic and community development challenges. We'll discuss the causes of economic instability, the intersection of sound community development and reconciliation, and opportunities to create peace and mitigate conflict through collaborative approaches to service projects. You will leave the conference motivated to expand existing efforts or initiate new ones locally and abroad.

I look forward to joining you in Sydney for the fourth of six peacebuilding events we are holding around the world, as we come together to Make a Difference by discussing challenges and identifying opportunities to address some of the most pressing concerns of modern times.

Sincerely,

Ian Riseley President

Rotary International

The Conference is to be held at the Sydney Town Hall

17th March 2018 please visit the following web site for Registration and further information:

<http://rippc2018.com.au/>

Polio Update

02-Jan-2018, World Health Organization

Please scroll to the end for a summary of officially reported cases.

New wild poliovirus cases reported this week: 1 (onset in 2017)

Total number of wild poliovirus cases in 2017: 21

Total number of wild poliovirus cases in 2016: 37

New cVDPV cases reported this week: 0

Total number of cVDPV cases in 2017: 86

Total number of cVDPV cases in 2016: 5

Officially reported wild poliovirus cases as of 02 Jan 2017

Total global cases in 2017: 21 (compared with 35 for the same period in 2016)

Total in endemic countries in 2017: 21 (compared with 35 for the same period in 2016)

Total in non-endemic countries in 2017: 0 (compared with 0 for the same period in 2016)

· Afghanistan: 13 cases in 2017 (compared with 12 for the same period in 2016), onset of paralysis of most recent case: 03-Dec-17

· Pakistan: 8 cases in 2017 (compared with 19 for the same period in 2016), onset of paralysis of most recent case: 15-Nov-17

· Nigeria: 0 case in 2017 (compared with 4 for the same period in 2016), onset of paralysis of most recent case: 21-Aug-16

· Total global cases in 2016: 37

· Total in endemic countries: 37

· Total in non-endemic countries: 0

Please refer to the attached weekly global update for country-level details of 2016 cases.

- New on www.polioeradication.org

Since this Report there have been 3 cases in 2018

Serving the District and Rotary

District Governor

Stephen Britten

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