



Rotary



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Edition 6

District 9810 News

June 2018

District Governor's Report

I feel very privileged to have served as Governor for District 9810. This is the first time in the history of our District that the Rotary International President has come from District 9810. Also, I feel very humble that I am one of five District Governors in Australia to have served in the same year there has been an Australian Rotary International President.

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

What an apt theme. I remember attending a lunch where many of us attended the Whitehorse Club in Burwood East, where RI President Elect Ian was asked on several occasions what his theme would be. He taunted us all the time, sprouting it here and there but everyone just thought it was part of his address.

When the theme was announced in San Diego at the International Assembly, everyone was puzzled for a moment, then realised we had been Making a Difference forever, then the room erupted into shouts of joy, applause and acceptance for recognising the simplicity of it all.

The message this year has been to Support and Strengthen Clubs, Focus and Increase Humanitarian Service, Enhance Rotary's Image and Awareness.

Support and Strengthen Clubs

This year has continued with Re-Districting hanging over our heads.

Currently we are at 1117, however the good news is the RC Manningham has set up a Satellite Club with 11 members and the RC Nunawading is

currently recruiting young alumni and others for their Satellite Club, currently around 8 members.

These two actions will hopefully get across the line for 2018-2019 along with several more inductees before June 30.

Also, across the board many Clubs did retain their members for which I sincerely thank you.

Apart from the growth of Satellite Clubs to increase our membership, another growth area is to tap into the parents of all our Youth programs sponsored by the Clubs. Once we have the engagement of the young people we must be better communicators to their parents to show the benefits of these youth programs and the other important local and international projects we do.

Focus and Increase Humanitarian Service

I believe all clubs really grasped this directive. You all do humanitarian service in your community and internationally. This was evident by many clubs getting involved in District Grants, Global grants, local projects, international projects and especially the take up by the 20 Clubs of the matching District and Bill Gates grants for Polio Eradication. Thank you.

There is still time to give or give more before the 30th June, so we can rid the world of this terrible disease. Currently there are 10 cases this year, 2 in Pakistan and 8 in Afghanistan.

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Enhance Rotary's Public Image and Awareness

Again, many Clubs have built, renewed and updated their websites. Also, many Clubs have actioned their Facebook pages informing their members and communities of their achievements. Not forgetting local newspapers and radio that some Clubs feel is a more direct medium to their local communities.

While I have enjoyed being your Governor in all its complexities, three events stood out. One the Chartering of the Interact Club at McKinnon Secondary College sponsored by RC Benthleigh Moorabbin Central with 190 members; the Chartering of the EarlyAct Club at Coldstream Primary School sponsored by RC Wandin; the District Conference. My Committee did a fantastic job with every detail and the quality of the speakers was sensational.

Congratulations to Bianca Lobo who will be the Chair for Rotaract Australia in 2018-2019. I am sure this position will give Rotaract in Australia and District 9810 a greater profile.

Presently we are seeing many members travelling to Toronto for the Rotary International Convention to celebrate with and honour "our own" RI President Ian Riseley. We thank Ian and Juliet for being Rotarians in the fullest sense and leading our great organisation to a greater prominence throughout the world. We thank them for spreading the word throughout all their travels across the globe, that Rotarians see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, where we see a world that could be better and that we can make better. We wish Ian, Juliet and all of our District attendees a sensational Convention. Safe travels to all.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all those Club and District leaders that have contributed their time, talents, attributes and passion to deliver positive outcomes.

We must now of course look forward with enthusiasm to enhance our offering and **Be the Inspiration** in our communities, as Rotary gives us the opportunity to build the world we want to see.

Karen and I wish Russell Gurney and his team every encouragement to pursue this ideal under the leadership of Incoming RI President Barry Rassin.

Most of all, Karen and I really enjoyed meeting you, either at the Club Visit or another event. Meeting people with a passion to Serve Above Self is most inspiring. We thank you all for your friendship, kindness and hospitality as we moved around the District. You have all certainly ensured that we both enjoyed our special year of service and had a year to remember.

A big thank you goes to Gordon Pyke for producing the District newsletters to an extremely high standard of publication.

Farewell and may I encourage you all to strive to continue in your pursuit of **Rotary: Making a Difference**.

Malcolm Chiverton
District Governor 2017-2018

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ROMAC - Lucilia's Story

On 17TH February 2018, Lucilia Soares arrived from Timor Leste, with her half-sister Santina, for treatment for a nasal phasogege carcinoma (throat tumour) at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC). Lucilia had just turned 9 and had been receiving chemotherapy at the Dili General Hospital but now needed radiotherapy to stop the spread of the tumour.



On arrival, Lucilia and Santina, were welcomed by home hosts Robyn and Ken Disting, D9810 ROMAC Chair Graeme Chester and ROMAC Timorese interpreter, Yulitta Owen.

Things then quickly swung into action with Lucilia's preadmission appointment at RCH on 19th February involving her supervising Oncologist, Dr Michael Sullivan (RCH), RCH Oncology Nurse Jayne Harrison, PMCC Dr Greg Wheeler and RCH Dr Julie Cayrol. Follow-up medical checks and scans found that Lucilia required dental work (4 extractions and 2 caps), a chest infection requiring hospitalisation, and a neck brace fitted as the tumour had infiltrated and weakened two of her neck vertebrae.



Finally, on 13th March, Lucilia commenced her radiotherapy at PMCC for 6 weeks, Mon-Fri. Interspersed, she had weekly appointments with Dr Sullivan, Dr Wheeler and Dr Michael Johnson, her RCH Orthopaedic specialist.



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ROMAC - Lucilia's Story

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Outside of her hospital visits, Lucilia continued to thrive under the love and care of Robyn and Ken and had many interesting experiences with their family and friends, their church (where she joined the choir), the beach, a farm, the Ballarat Wildlife Park, the Aquarium and the Melbourne Zoo. Robyn also included her into an ESL class she gives for refugees and Lucilia proved to be a quick learner. Also, as the Dustings had some previously arranged family commitments which took them out of Melbourne, she spent time with other host families Yulitta and Tref Owen, Margaret and John Mason (RC of Bentleigh Moorabbin) and Dianne and Bill Sides (RC of Clayton). To say the least, Lucilia was well cared for by her extended D9810 ROMAC family.



In late March, it became evident that Santina had family matters that were worrying her so ROMAC arranged for her to return to Dili and Lucilia's mother, Carlota (now medically fit to travel), to come to Melbourne.

Lucilia's treatment continued and all was going well until 17th April when the expected side effects of the radiotherapy kicked in with extreme soreness of the throat and significant burns to the skin on her neck. She was hospitalised for treatment and released 4 days later after one last radiotherapy session. After subsequent scans, Dr Sullivan determined that she was disease free and, when her radiation burns healed, she would be cleared to return home.

On 7th May, Lucilia had her final medical appointments at RCH and was given clearance to return home. She will, however, have two more chemotherapy treatments in Dili and, to ensure that her vertebrae heal properly, her Orthopaedic specialist, Dr Johnson, requires her to wear her neck brace until December when she will return to RCH for scans to determine if the vertebrae have healed, or if surgery to fuse them is required.



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ROMAC - Lucilia's Story

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On 13th May, Lucilia and Carlota flew home. After 12 weeks with us, Lucilia returned home disease free and with a good prognosis for the ultimate repair of her neck vertebrae. She is an intelligent young girl and through ROMAC's help she now has the prospect of a long and bright future.



During the 2018/19 Rotary year, the D9810 ROMAC Team hosted three patients from Timor Leste (Patricio, Joana and Lucilia) for a total of 25 weeks. All returned home happy and well, due in no small way to the 24/7 commitment of our wonderful ROMAC volunteers and the dedicated medical staff of our Melbourne hospitals.

However, there are currently 73 children on the ROMAC waiting list and, at an average cost of \$25,000 per ROMAC operation, District clubs are asked to support the D9810 ROMAC Committee's **2018/19** goal for our clubs to raise **\$50,000** to:

'SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO ROMAC PATIENTS'

Graeme Chester
Chair D9810 ROMAC Committee
(RC Healesville)

Editor

Welcome to the 6th and last edition for 2018-2019.

You have just read a heart-warming story about Lucilia and the work of ROMAC.

Read on for more great stories, from Rotaract, Inner Wheel, Days for Girls, and more.

Initially I thought I may be light on for stories as Rotarians in the district are busy getting ready to head off to Toronto, or have already done so.

Sandra and I are leaving Sunday, 17th June. We hope to catch up with all District 9810 Rotarians at the convention.

Thank you to all contributors to this edition.

You have me as Editor for another year, so a reminder that the next edition is due out on Friday, 17th August with cut-off for articles on 1st August.

Gordon Pyke

Editor

District 9810 Charitable Services

Club members who attended our D9810 District Assembly in May, will recall a comprehensive presentation by PDG David Alexander on Rotary District 9810 Charitable Services, the local project arm of our district, with tax deductible / public fund status.

This is an update on MICH, one of the local projects running under Rotary District 9810 Charitable Services.

MICH Joint Venture - Project Update May 2018

This is a joint venture between Manningham Inclusive Community Housing Inc (MICH is a volunteer group in the City of Manningham) and Rotary District 9810 Charitable Services (RCS). It is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manningham.

The objective of the project is to assist young adults with an intellectual disability (ID) to gain the necessary life skills required to transition from the family home to independent living in a home of their own. The priority is aimed at young adult men and women living at home with aging parents who are becoming less able to continue full time parenting and require relief. Some of these young ID adults are very capable of living independently, with a network of support, after a programme of skills development.

Accommodation

With the assistance of Community Housing Victoria, corporate developer Mirvac and local volunteers, MICH has arranged for 4 adults to move into 2 new town houses in the Mirvac Tullamore Estate in Doncaster: Settlement 1 June 2018. Tenants are expected to move in during June.

MICH is now working with other organisations, to locate other appropriate housing. A project proposal has commenced; draft MoU prepared; planning a mixed equity proposal plus a yet to be funded carer's apartment.

Transition Skill Development Programmes (all projects are ongoing)

MICH volunteers in conjunction with ID professionals have developed transition programmes to assist ID adults gain skills before they commence independent living. The programme will take 3 to 9 months to complete, depending on skill gaps and needs. The Tullamore transition tenants and family have completed the transition programme and they have met regularly ahead of moving into the dwellings. Another unexpected benefit has occurred where planning is advanced for two tenants of Tullamore to commence a 3 month work trial on 2 July 2018 with Mirvac in the Landscaping and Construction Departments.

"Towards a Better Life" is one of the MICH programmes where four participants are currently in Phase Two of the programme. Other participants have recently completed a Community Kitchen programme. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Paul Mee
Chairperson
MICH Joint Venture
(RC Manningham)



Rotaract - News

District Governor Elect Russell Gurney has been breaking new ground in inviting our Rotaractors to be a bigger part of District events!

As incoming District Rotaract Representative I was most excited to be given the chance to address everyone at the plenary session at District Assembly. In my speech, I emphasised how similar Rotaract is to Rotary (only a bit more flexible and cost-effective) and how we should be helping each other as we are the one organisation. Rotarians bring a wealth of experience, and Rotaractors bring not only technology and social media skills... Many of us are young professionals who *will* be leaders in our fields. The following quote seemed to resonate: "We may or may not be the future of Rotary – hopefully we are – but we *are* the leaders of the future whether you like it or not, so you may as well invest in us now." Let 2018/19 be a year of collaboration between Rotary and Rotaract.

We also had a record number of Rotaractors at the Rotary District Changeover thanks to the Rotary Club of Doncaster's Challenge to Lead Program. Current District Rotaract Representative Tegan McWilliam spoke of her amazing achievements this year: in bringing the clubs together through a number of fun and successful District events; in ensuring we have a professional image by purchasing lovely banners and other marketing resources; and in facilitating our participation in Rotaract at a national level. Tegan has truly led by example and I certainly have some big shoes to fill!

Thank you Russell for including us, and we are extremely excited to work with you this year. Together we can ensure our organisation continues to flourish in its mission of "service above self".

Kai-Xing Goh
District Rotaract Representative 2018/19
(Rotaract Club of Whitehorse)
kaixinggoh@gmail.com



Clockwise from Top Left:
Kai-Xing addresses the District Assembly.
A crowd of Rotaractors at the District Changeover.
Tegan hands over to Kai-Xing.
Kai-Xing - New DRR!

Rotaract - Communications

I sort of fell into social media marketing, content creation, and digital marketing. What does that even mean? I wouldn't have been able to tell you just a couple of years ago. I'd never been interested in my parents' professions in IT because I thought it was the complete opposite to my interests. Then, I picked up photography and discovered blogging. I quickly created a Wordpress website and an Instagram account, and that led to me learning about influencer marketing, and from there it was an easy step to content creation. So, I've learnt on the go from blogs and webinars, making a million mistakes, but in the process finding something I love doing that I never expected.

As the incoming Communications Director for Rotaract Australia in 2018-19, I had the joy and pleasure of presenting on branding and social media as part of a weekend of leadership training at the Vic/Tas Training Institute, which included Rotaractors from Tasmania for the first time. Club leaders focussed on learning how to lead our clubs to create impact in our communities, with presentations on topics like IT, media releases, and wellbeing, as well as breakout sessions for some of the roles Rotaractors have (Treasurer, Secretary, and the like).

Part of my role is in the digital marketing side of things. I'm the one creating the content that I then post on the Rotaract Australia channels, usually according to a content calendar planned weeks in advance, and always in line with our broader marketing strategy. Of course, that's among many other things.

Social media plays a crucial role of our long-term marketing and branding strategies, and everyone in the Rotaract/Rotary family needs to embrace this. The wider community has become increasingly digital, both in terms of the channels we use (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn), as well as the amount of time we spend using them, and it's only going to become an even more integral part of our lives. So, I've been interested in how to "hack" social media so that we can increase our influence online. Not only does that mean getting an audience in the first place, but more importantly, an engaged one.

And that means we have to look at social media differently. It's not just posting when we remember to. Social media is social. Just like we would with TV or newspaper ads, we can use social media to tell our stories and build relationships with our community, and even better, it can now be international!

As my story in the opening paragraph demonstrates, when we start with why, and share positive narratives about us as Rotaractors or Rotarians, we are better placed to increase our online influence. I cannot emphasise enough how integral that is to our public face. There are thousands of little tips I could share to change the way we use social media to enhance or change our image.

But the most important thing is to think about the stories we tell other people about ourselves. What is our story? Why do we do what we do? Why should other people care?

Storytelling through social media. It's how we captivate and engage audiences. It's emotional. People connect to people, not brands. Reinforcing the messages behind Rotaract/Rotary and what we stand for builds our story.

If you'd like to learn more about what I do, or want to share experiences with me, feel free to drop me a line at: netania.lim@rotaract.org.au.

Netania Lim
Communications Director, 2018-19
Rotaract Australia
(Rotaract Club of Monash)

Rotaract - Training

Here are some photos from the recent Rotaract Vic/Tas Training Institute mentioned by Netania in the previous article.



Wandin Inner Wheel - Days for Girls

DG Malcolm redirected an email to me from Russell Hayes (RC Wandin) with a request to put the attached article in the newsletter. The article was from the Upper Yarra Mail. It featured a report on the Wandin Inner Wheel Club and their Days for Girls (DfG) sewing team led by Lorena Hayes, Russell's wife.

After sending Russell a query he subsequently included a report with his reply. The report is from ODA (Opportunities of Development thru Art) in Siem Reap, Cambodia, whose students at their free English schools were the recipients of the DfG kits.

Russell's email, the newspaper article, and report from Cambodia reveal a great story about the work done in Australia and Cambodia for DfG. I have included the newspaper article and part of the ODA report, but first some background from Russell's email:

"This request from Malcolm arises because I received a report from Shirley Hawe at ODA in Siem Reap Cambodia in respect to fifty DfG kits we had sent about three months ago. These kits had been made in the Wandin East workshop including fabrics donated by local business Dollar Curtains and Blinds and the key person in arranging all these fabrics is Tim Hewitt longstanding member at RC Lilydale. I sent the Shirley Hawe report to Tim and he decided to send it on to many including Malcolm ... When I heard this I sent him the report about the Wandin East team and the write up by Kath Gannaway for the paper is excellent as she spent a couple of hours with us and then also did her own research to come up with a very worthwhile overall report and we thought a great photo in my barn."

By Kath Gannaway

The whirr of sewing machines and overlockers is a pretty even match for the chatter that comes from the loft where the women of Wandin's Inner Wheel Club do their bit as part of a menstrual movement called Days For Girls.

Inner Wheel is aligned with the Rotary Club of Wandin.

The team of six is part of a larger pool of volunteers who meet regularly to put together colourful and functional menstrual health kits for girls in countries where managing the monthly cycle is not only a personal hygiene issue, but an impediment to education and opportunity.

The international movement, now active throughout Australia, began in 2008 in Kenya when its founder, Celeste Mergens, identified the debilitating impact that not having access to the most basic feminine hygiene products was having on girls in a local orphanage.

She learned that girls were sitting on cardboard for several days each month, often going without food unless it was brought to them. In other parts of the world, girls and women resort to whatever is available to manage their menstruation. Their resourcefulness is admirable and amazing!

Disposable pads proved unsustainable so the first safe, washable and long-lasting alternatives were designed and made under the Days for Girls banner.

Lorena Hayes who leads the team said the design had changed over time to meet individual cultural and environmental conditions in communities in different parts of the world.

The huge difference that having practical and accessible hygiene solutions is making in breaking the cycle of poverty and assisting girls and women to live their lives with dignity is one of the drivers behind the success of the movement.

There's a justifiable sense of pride and hap-

piness in the women that doing something so basic for their sisters can be such a life-changer, not only in overseas communities but in some parts of Australia.

The sewing room is a hive of activity with a well-established production line that involves cutting and sewing the components, including shields, liners and a drawstring bag. Panties and other items are included, along with a menstrual chart and instructions.

The atmosphere is friendly and fun, and there's always plenty to do in the loft.

The Wandin team is made up of Inner Wheel members and others from all around Yarra Ranges - and they welcome new helpers.

If you can help, email wandineastvic@daysforgirls.org. To learn more of the Days for Girls movement, visit www.daysforgirls.org/australia.

See more photos at mailcommunity.com.au



Soap and washers are part of each kit. 180132



Colourful material makes the kits an accessory as well as a necessity. Lorena, Faith and Pauline on the job. 180132

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Wandin Inner Wheel - Days for Girls

Continued from Page 10



Lobby work for (from left) Coby Van Weeghel, Lorena Hayes, Shirley Aumann, Pauline Barnett, Val Corbett and Faith MacDonna c. 160132.01

Pictures: Kath Gannaway

“Dear Lorena and your wonderful team,

We can't thank you enough for the 50 Days for Girls kits you managed to send over to educate and distribute to girl students in 2 of our 8 ODA Free English Schools. The Days for Girls format is so complete in conveying knowledge about their bodies, and also the safety aspects about self defence, trafficking, etc.

There is a trained team of presenters attached to Green Gecko NGO in Siem Reap (Tnai Samrap Srey which is the Khmer translation of Days for Girls) and 2 of our ODA teachers, who teach at these 2 ODA schools and who have studied the presentation book, also assisted the local accredited team ... It is a wonderful gift you have given these girls – one that will last for 3-4 years and the knowledge accompanying, will stay with them all their lives.

Keep on with your wonderful works.

Shirley Hawe”



District Recognitions

Congratulations to the following clubs that were awarded a Recognition Certificate at District Changeover:

RC Doncaster

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Manningham

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Templestowe

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Rowville – Lysterfield

Recognitions – Club Building, Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

“Outstanding Rotary Club in 2017-2018”

RC Warrandyte Donvale

Recognitions – Club Building, Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

“Outstanding Rotary Club in 2017-2018”

RC Monash

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Box Hill Central

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Ferntree Gully

Recognitions – Club Building, Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

“Outstanding Rotary Club in 2017-2018”

RC Bentleigh Moorabbin Central

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Hampton

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Wandin

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

RC Emerald & District

Recognitions – Club Projects, Club PR and Communications

Check out the photo on the next page...

District Recognitions



DG Malcolm with the happy recipients.



While on the subject of the District Changeover here are another couple of photos highlighting the “main event”.

Congratulations to Malcolm (and Karen) for a fantastic year.

Welcome Russell (and Shelley) into the role.



Check out more photos from the night, Ian Ballantine's fine collection at:
<http://www.rotarybmc.org.au/district-9810-changeover-june-2-2018>