



# Rotary



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

Edition 5

## District 9810 News

April 2018

## District Governor's Report

How times flies when you are having fun! Six weeks ago, we were in Bendigo for the District Conference. What an amazing event it was. We had a fantastic venue, terrific speakers, great catering and a sensational Saturday's night entertainment. A big thank you to RI President Ian Riseley who sent his representative Per Høyen and his wife Anette Lower. They really made themselves accessible to everyone and were pleased to be involved in every aspect of the Conference.

For those that attended, they will remember I spoke about two prominent Australians, Sir Angus Sinclair Mitchell and Professor Michelle Simmons. These two Australians epitomise the theme of our Conference "Together Towards Tomorrow".

Sir Angus Sinclair Mitchell was the first Australian Rotarian to become the Rotary International President in 1948-49. He truly was a great Rotarian who is credited the reestablishment of Rotary in Japan and Germany after the end of World War 2.

Professor Michelle Simmons is Australian of the Year 2018. She led a team that developed a silicon quantum computer able to solve problems in a minute rather than a thousand years. Professor Simmons believes there is no better place to undertake research, as Australia offers a culture of academic freedom, open to ideas and an amazing willingness to pursue goals that are ambitious.

We saw many of the speakers have the qualities that Professor Simmons recognised, not only for themselves but the betterment of their fellow man.

If we as Rotarians of District 9810, want to see

our District defy the odds and grow to a sustainable level, we must not only have the qualities of Professor Simmons but also what RI President Sir Angus Mitchell asked us to do from the quote he made in 1948-49 – "Let us reaffirm our faith in a common purpose, a common conviction and a common devotion. Let us be determined to seek to understand the minds of other people and to weigh their interests alongside our own. Let us make a decision not to be just members of a Rotary Club, but Rotarians in the fullest sense".

I believe our Clubs in District 9810 relate to the above quote by Sir Angus Mitchell and have the qualities identified by Professor Simmons.

As of last Thursday, our District has used all its District Designated Funds for District Grants, which says to me many clubs have increased their humanitarian service and enhanced Rotary's public image and awareness. (Many of the Clubs have completed the harder areas to obtain a Presidential Citation from RI President Ian Riseley).

To me, receiving a Presidential Citation (which RI President Ian wants) tells your community that your Club has been accredited and received its "Roadworthy Certificate" which says you are attuned to working in and with your community and "DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD".

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I was heartened to see many of the President Elects and the District Leadership team attend the Multi District President Elects Learning & Development weekend in Ballarat preparing for their future “Together Towards Tomorrow”.

Also, a good number of the President Elects are attending another series of RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) workshops gaining a larger knowledge of our great organisation.

There is still so much happening out there in the Rotary World. Clubs are continuing with their vital projects. Community Forums are still being held to address some of the issues we have been talking about through this Rotary year.

Amid this activity we have learnt of disasters happening in 3 Districts of Zone 8 (Australia). Earthquakes in Papua New Guinea District 9600 with a death toll of 125 and 35,000 displaced persons. Fires in Western Victoria District 9870, 4 fires in the Heytesbury Region – in an area that produces 25% of Australia’s milk supply. Fires in Tathra District 9710, close to the coastal town of Bega where 69 houses and 30 caravans were lost. I am pleased to say our District donated money to all the disasters through appeals set up in the areas and better still many of our Clubs in District 9810 also followed suit.

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Best wishes and Kind Regards,

**Malcolm**

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## Editor

Welcome to the fifth newsletter for 2017-2018.

I would just like to echo DG Malcolm's comments about the District Conference. It was a fantastic experience; too many highlights to list here.

If you missed out and would like to get a taste of what went on, then check out the photos at:

<http://www.rotarybmc.org.au/category/news/albums/district-9810-albums>

(Usual brilliant effort by photographer Ian Ballantyne.)

The last newsletter for this Rotary year is due out on 15th June with cut-off for articles on 1st June.

**Gordon Pyke**  
**Editor**

# Hail to DGN Alma Reynolds

Alma describes herself as a passionate Rotarian and, as the appointee to serve as District Governor in 2020/21, she is sure to bring that passion to the role.

Alma joined Rotary in Shepparton in 2006 resigning from the Rotary Club of Shepparton in 2008 when she moved back to Melbourne.

In 2009 Alma, with husband Greg King, joined the Rotary Club of Doncaster where she served on the Foundation Committee, the club Board and as Club Secretary, becoming President in 2013/14.

Alma has also served at District level as Assistant Governor and District Secretary.



In 2014 Alma was invited to be a panel presenter at the Rotary International convention in Sydney and she remembers the event as one of her most exciting Rotary achievements.

Alma explains: “In my Presidential year the Rotary Club of Doncaster was selected as an example of a vibrant club and featured in the regional RI brochure “Be a Vibrant Club”. On the strength of that I was asked to be part of the panel for the Presidents Elect breakout session.

The session was much bigger than I expected with around 900 people in the audience. It was fantastic to think the Rotary Club of Doncaster was being held up to the world of Rotary as an example worthy of emulation.”

Both Alma and Greg are passionate supporters of the Rotary Foundation with a strong belief in its ability to make positive changes on a global scale. Early in her Rotary life Alma experienced the positive aspects of the Foundation funding model when she spent three years administering District Simplified Grants (now called District Grants).

Alma is a management consultant in her own “micro-business” and also works part time as an optical dispenser at Specsavers in Heidelberg. She holds qualifications in Optical Dispensing, Technical Teaching, Educational Administration and Business Management and has worked in the optical, educational, automotive, economic development, horticulture and timber industries.

“I see the role of District Governor as a great opportunity to use my accumulated skills and knowledge to serve the community and work with fellow Rotarians to do what they do best – be great Rotarians!” said Alma. “I am looking forward to the year as DG and to undertaking the preparation the role demands. To me it seems most important that the year is an enjoyable one for me, for Greg and for my fellow District 9810 Rotarians.”



# A Tale of Basketballs

Many items are shipped for Rotary via that excellent operation DIK (Donations in Kind) [Note to Editor: must have an article about DIK.], would you believe even basketballs; unwanted in Australia but gratefully accepted in Dili, East Timor.

Read further with an article sent by Bill Parlet (RC Lilydale):

A shipment of basketballs (47 of them plus manual air pumps) has been sent to Timor-Leste. They are currently being distributed to various schools in the Dili area, courtesy of Judite Martins of the Rotary office in Dili and Lindsay Murphy (RC Leongatha) who happened to be in Dili when they arrived.

Lindsay is a good friend of Tim Hewitt (RC Lilydale) who organised the shipment of basketballs to Dili via DIK. Rotarian Des Shiel (RC Lilydale) donated the pumps.

The basketballs were offered to RC Lilydale by the Bendigo Bank, who had sponsored the purchase of the balls for a sports club in Kilsyth. For some reason the balls weren't needed or wanted, and thus the offer to RC Lilydale.

I would like to acknowledge Melissa Guy from the Mount Evelyn branch of the Bendigo Bank who helped facilitate the donation of the basketballs to RC Lilydale.

**Bill Parlet**  
**President**  
**RC Lilydale**



## The Handover

Above left:  
Basketball labelled by Lindsay on behalf of Tim.

Above & Left:  
Lindsay & Judite presenting basketballs to schools.



# A Tale of Basketballs



Above & Right:  
Two more presentations.



## Trial Runs

Above & Right:  
Boys & Girls.





# End Polio Now - Donation

Following a generous donation by Loan Ngo, a Springvale South pharmacist, at RC Springvale City's End Polio Now fund raiser event on 5<sup>th</sup> April, Loc Lam (RC Springvale South) thought it appropriate to acknowledge this generosity in the District Newsletter along with some background information about Loan's life.

Loan Ngo's father, a Vietnamese refugee, fled to Australia with his young family in 1980 after his release from a re-education camp in Vietnam. He gave Loan some sage advice about her journey and new life in Australia: "Work hard and don't let the people down who have sacrificed their lives for you, especially the country that has given you the opportunity to be where you are today". He also taught Loan to be grateful for what you have.

Today Loan is a qualified pharmacist and owns an O'Briens Pharmacy in Springvale South. She is an active philanthropist involved in various charities. She has supported appeals by World Vision, Disability Sport and Recreation, Royal Children's Hospital, and Southern Cross Care.



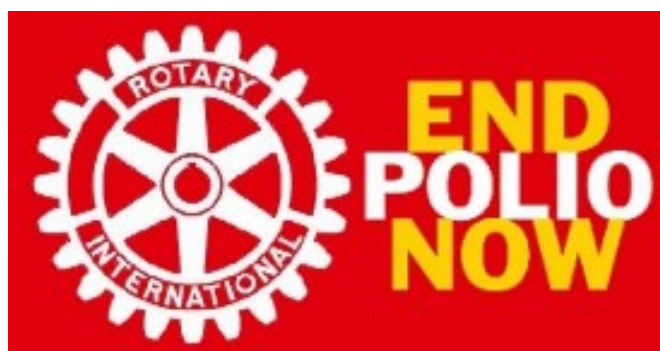
Loan's donation of \$5,132.50 was gratefully accepted by RC Springvale South, a donation for End Polio Now, a donation that will contribute towards what hopefully is the final phase of ridding the world of polio for good.

The above photo shows Loan outside her pharmacy presenting Loc with a chq representing her donation.

When people ask Loan why she does so much for the community, she has a simple answer: "the value of a person is not what you have, but what you can give."

Thank you Loan.

*(Thanks to Loc Lam for providing the information for this report, including an extract from the Southern Cross Care newsletter article about Loan. –Ed.)*



# Interplast Update

During the last twenty years, District 9810 Clubs and individual supporters have funded or co-funded the Interplast Programs in the countries listed below:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year/s</b>
Laos	1999, 2007 and 2016
Vietnam	2008
Philippines	2011
Indonesia	2010
Fiji	1997, 2006, 2009 and 2017
Samoa	2016

Well done District 9810 Clubs and individual supporters.

There is always more to be done. For example, I have just received word that we could fully fund the “Philippines Baguio Surgical” Program. Baguio is a two week full Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical program with a team of 6; 2 Surgeons, 2 Anaesthetists and 2 Nurses. We need to raise an additional \$10,000 to bring us up to the required amount to fully fund the program. If your club has funds you have allocated to, or can allocate and transfer to Interplast then would you please send it now! Let me know directly of each transfer so that I can monitor the shortfall.

## **Stadium Stomp**

On 22 July 2018 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Interplast are encouraging you to climb thousands of steps to help Interplast change futures in the Asia Pacific region. Register for this event at [www.stadiumstomp.com](http://www.stadiumstomp.com)

If your club would like an Interplast speaker then let me know and I will arrange one for you.

**PP Liz Guiver**  
**Chair, District 9810 Interplast Committee**  
**(RC Warrandyte-Donvale)**

(Members; Bob Williams, Warwick Bisley, Harvey Lane, Chris Mara, Rick Pennicott, Geoffrey Weeks and John Sgroi)



**Interplast**<sup>TM</sup>

Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives  
in the Asia Pacific region

# Why RAWCS?

Why use RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) to assist you when your Club does an overseas project or when it wishes to do a benevolent project within Australia providing direct relief to people in need?



RAWCS is set up as a national business by the District Governors of Australia so that Rotary Clubs within Australia may take advantage of the Federal Government's taxation concessions by providing a centralised reporting organisation whilst at the same time allowing the individual Clubs autonomy and ownership of projects to be maintained. The Rules of RAWCS define the authority and identify the framework.

In addition RAWCS provides a public list of all current projects including information of any assistance (Funds, Manpower, Equipment) being requested by the Project Manager.

The RAWCS programs include:

- Rotary Overseas Aid Fund
- Rotary Australia Benevolent Society
- Dick Smith Matched Funding Grant
- Rotary Australia Relief Fund

The RAWCS activities include:

- Volunteers
- Donations in Kind
- Rotarians Against Malaria
- Water and Sanitation Programs

RAWCS IS NOT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, BUT A RAWCS PROJECT CAN ALSO BE A ROTARY FOUNDATION PROJECT.

RAWCS does not compete with the foundation; it is there to benefit a club with an overseas project that can also include a Global or District grant. They can work together.

RAWCS offers an online donation facility to accumulate your funds and Tax deductibility for donations.

**Complete information is to be found on the National Website at - <http://www.rawcs.org>.**

At this site you are presented with a Main Menu with sub headings:

*Home, Donate, Activities, Programs, Regions, Search for Projects, Register a Project, Key Documentation, Contact Us.*

To find the first document select *Key Documentation – Presentations*, then select:

**What is RAWCS – PowerPoint presentation updated February 2018**

This document provides an excellent concise list of reasons for using RAWCS for overseas projects. Additional 'How to' presentations on the same page complete the learning process.

To find information on the Rotary Overseas Aid Fund, Rotary Australia Benevolent Society, Dick Smith Matched Funding Grant, and the Rotary Australia Relief Fund, Select *Programs* to find pages of information on each of these activities.

**John Gander**  
**RAWCS Southern Region Communications Officer**



# RAM Request Resurgence

## Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM)

The following report appeared in the March Issue of the “RAWCS Rambler”:

“Major players in the global struggle to eradicate malaria have recognised that we have reached a cross-road. Despite the impressive 60% reduction in the annual death toll from malaria since 2000 and the steady stream of countries achieving local malaria elimination.

Progress seems to have stalled.

Many recognise that now is the time for sustained resurgent activity to achieve malaria elimination for all time.

Bill Gates is lobbying for a 2025 date for elimination in SE Asia and the Pacific as well as urging the Australian Government to take leadership to accelerate the programs.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Malaria World Congress will be held in Melbourne (July 1-5 2018) and I have been appointed to the International Advisory Board for the Conference Committee.

The Congress is shaping up to be a very important and timely meeting at which RAM will be represented, highlighting the success of our ongoing programs in PNG and The Solomons and our commitment to assist Timor Leste to quickly achieve malaria free certification through support from a US \$240,000 Global Grant.

Also of note is the successful fundraising for the Malaria Vaccine Project which is expected to meet the \$500,000 target.”

Reporter:

**David Pearson**

**RAM National Manager**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS – PLEASE REFER TO CHAIRMAN DAVID’S NEWSLETTER (<http://ram.rawcs.com.au/newsletters>) OR YOUR DISTRICT RAM CHAIRPERSON (**PETER MCPHEE, RC MITCHAM**).



# East Timor Roofing Project

Any Rotary literature you care to read about establishing viable international projects, for example the “District 9810 2017-2018 Projects Portfolio”, will always stipulate essential criteria regarding the community need, relative stakeholders, local project partners, and the sustainability of the project.

A project which has certainly successfully ticked all the boxes is the East Timor Roofing Project (ETR), a project begun in 2000 by RC Doncaster and RC Melbourne, joined subsequently by RC Lilydale.

From its inception the operation has grown considerably and currently operates in a fully equipped factory in Bacau. Initially producing corrugated roofing iron, the factory now manufactures other roofing products, such as roof trusses and guttering, water tanks, and even grain silos.

The project operates as a fully established incorporated limited liability company in Timor Leste. The company comprises: Chairman Dr Frank Evans (RC Doncaster); board directors Bob Glindemann (RC Melbourne) and Tim Hewitt (RC Lilydale); directors Peter Manger (RC Melbourne), Richard Fowler (RC Melbourne), Bruce Parker (RC Doncaster), Ern Dawes (RC Doncaster); committee member John Turner (RC Alexandra, formerly RC Doncaster).

Manager of the operation in East Timor is Norm Bruce OAM (Honorary Rotarian RC Lilydale). Norm has been involved for over 16 years, almost since inception.



The Factory Supervisor is East Timorese, Osario de Jesus, a qualified electrician.

All other staff are also local East Timorese people who have been trained in the various aspects of the factory operations.



Find out more about East Timor Roofing at: <http://www.easttimorroofing.com>

Information for this article was provided by Tim Hewitt, who also forwarded a recent update on the operation:

Norm Bruce is moving on, having completed 16 years and 3 months of full time employment with ETR he returned to Australia on 20th April - a remarkable effort!

An example of the fine work of ETR appears on the following page with photos of the opening ceremony of a school in Buruma; the building a project of ETR (photos forwarded to Tim Hewitt by Bob Glindemann).



# East Timor Roofing Project



Photos of opening ceremony of Buruma School, including final handover of keys.  
(Look at that roof!)



# ROMAC - Joana's Story

On 7<sup>TH</sup> March 2018, Joana Dias Freitas arrived from Timor Leste, with her mother Alice, for heart surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). Joana was previously scheduled to arrive in Melbourne in May 2017 but RCH delayed admission due to bed unavailability.

Joana was 6 1/2 years old when she finally arrived and was here to have a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) procedure to rectify a condition whereby the ductus arteriosus failed to close after birth. If uncorrected, PDA may lead to congestive heart failure.

On arrival, Joana and Alice were welcomed by home hosts Dianne and Gavan McIntyre (RC of Wandin), D9810 ROMAC Chair Graeme Chester and ROMAC Timorese interpreters, Lidia Soares and Yulitta Owen.



Things then swung into action fairly quickly with Joana's preadmission appointment at RCH on 9<sup>th</sup> March involving a cardiac nurse, a cardiac Fellow, a cardiac Resident and finally her cardiac Surgeon - very thorough indeed. Her medical check detected cavities in her teeth and a subsequent dental check revealed the need for 4 extractions and 3 fillings/caps that needed to be done, and healed, before heart surgery. Her dental work was done on 15<sup>th</sup> March which resulted in her operation, originally scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March, being delayed to 20<sup>th</sup> March.

The 20<sup>th</sup> March turned out to be a long day for Joana with admission at 11am, taken for surgery at 3pm and back in a ward at 7pm. The surgery was non-invasive, with a 'plug' inserted by catheter through a small nick in her groin and placed in the ductus arteriosus to block it, thus ensuring that her blood circulated through her heart in the normal way. After an overnight stay in RCH with Alice by her side, Joana was released to go home the next morning.



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# ROMAC - Joana's Story

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Over the next few weeks Joana continued to thrive under the love and care of Dianne and Gavan and had many interesting experiences with their family, the local primary school, local farms, Rotary and Interact Clubs, Puffing Billy, Melbourne Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary. She put on weight and has grown 3cm since arrival and is a much more active, outward and confident young girl.



On 4th April, Joana had her final check-up at RCH and was given clearance to return home. She returned home on 10<sup>th</sup> April, happy and healthy with a full life ahead of her.



The work of ROMAC continues in 2017/18 with a third patient, Lucilia, a young girl from Timor Leste, currently with us for radiation treatment at the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre for a neck tumour.

At around \$25,000 average cost for each ROMAC lifesaving operation, District clubs are encouraged to support the D9810 ROMAC Committee to achieve its 2017/18 goal to raise \$50,000 to:

**'SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO ROMAC PATIENTS'**

**Graeme Chester**  
**Chair D9810 ROMAC Committee**  
**(RC Healesville)**



# Toronto Convention



**23 - 27 June 2018**

On to Toronto!!

It is just over 8 weeks until the much anticipated 2018 Rotary International Convention starts. To date there are 75 participants planning to travel to Toronto for what we know will be a wonderful experience. I imagine there are also adventures planned prior to and after the convention.

With that number going and all the activities planned, it is going to be difficult to coordinate any D9810 gathering. My best recommendation is that we consider attending the 'Rotary Australia and New Zealand Convention Welcome breakfast' on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30 for 7am at the 'Real Sports Bar and Grill', Maple Leaf Square, 15 York Street. I believe it is close to the convention venue.

The booking link is [www.trybooking.com/344494](http://www.trybooking.com/344494)

For those who wish to purchase Convention Polo Shirts, this is the link to do so is:

<http://rdusupplies.com.au/toronto-convention-ladies-polo-shirt/>

If you are registered and not receiving email updates from Rotary Coordinator Tim Moore, please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you all again, either here or there!

**Carol Lawton**

[clawton@melbpc.org.au](mailto:clawton@melbpc.org.au)

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