



Rotary



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Edition 4

District 9810 News

February 2018

District Governor's Report

Welcome everyone to another New Year!

But in the Rotary year it is the continuation of all those projects we have bubbling away, back to "Service Above Self" after a short break of enjoying more time with our family and friends.

However, over the last few weeks I have approved many District Grant applications. From the 12th December until the 5th February I have awarded Clubs for 6 projects in Australia, 1 in Uganda, 1 in Kiriwina Island, 1 in Tanzania and 1 in Indonesia. The projects were over a range of different areas. The Australian projects were granted to Fund students to Kingston Council's Junior Mayor & Councillors' program; Provide an ECG Machine for Casey Hospital; Help fund mental health first aid courses for City of Monash school teachers; Provide logistics support for Knox City students to attend the 2018 ANZAC service; Fund four selected students to attend schooling at the CIRE Community school; Organise and conduct a community forum on family health. The International projects were granted to Fund supplies for a 5-student medical team to Suubi Clinic; Provide costs for on-site construction of 100 2-seat desks for primary schools; Fund 4 semesters of Batchelor of Law course for a student at Makumira University, Arusha; Provide and distribute impregnated mosquito nets for communities on Sabu Island.

Also, on the 17th January a Global Grant was approved for the establishment of Tertiary Educational Curricula to reduce violence against women and children in Timor Leste.

Just viewing these 11 projects for the Christmas-New Year period shows our charity of choice, The

Rotary Foundation never stops, especially when you realise there are another 536 Districts throughout the world who too would also be awarding a variety of grants.

The Rotary Foundation provides the money for these Grants from the Annual giving that Clubs in the District made 3 years previously.

This month being February, has seen the R1 exchange rate strengthen from \$1.32 to \$1.24 so now is a great time to make your payment goal to the Annual Giving Fund. By paying now you get the benefit of the stronger dollar plus have more to spend on those other Club projects with which you are involved.

We have two Youth Service Seminars coming up in the next couple of weeks. A great event for Clubs to get their new members and those passionate members for youth programs to attend. The presentations by the past youth program participants will inspire your members to get involved and support our youth programs.

2nd-4th March, yes, the dates of the District Conference in Bendigo! Please check out the website <http://www.9810rotaryconference.org.au> and register. Especially the first-time attendees where the District is providing a lunch with the Guest Speaker, Anette Løwert who is a Past District Governor and also the partner of the RIPPR (Rotary International Presidents Personal Representative) Per Høyen, at no cost to first time attendees.

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Continue to “Make A Difference” in all your Rotary endeavours and Karen and I look forward to seeing everyone in Bendigo.

Best wishes,

Malcolm



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Editor

Welcome to the fourth (late) newsletter for the Rotary year 2017-2018.

There are not so many articles in this edition however there is extended coverage of the D9810 NID team's trip to India in January; the report and photos showing what a fulfilling and rewarding trip it must have been.

It is projects like this that make Sandra and I feel proud to be Rotarians. This feeling has been enhanced recently by the support received during a stressful period. Please see Sandra's short note below.

The next newsletter is due out on 20th April with cut-off for articles on 1st April.

Gordon Pyke
Editor



This edition of the District Newsletter has been delayed due to the passing of my mother on 17 February 2018.

The Rotary family has been such an amazing support during this time via thoughts, words and deeds. The love that has encompassed our family will be remembered forever.

Sandra Pyke
RC Monash

National Immunisation Day

For some years I have listened to and been moved by the experiences of those who've travelled to India to participate in the annual National Immunisation Day (NID) in Moradabad. While I've wanted to share that experience, this has been the first opportunity I've been able to do that.

From the time we landed in New Delhi on Friday 19th January, I **loved** being in India and treasured so many different experiences and people. The kindness and humanity of those we met along the way will live in my memory for a very long time.



We had a week exploring New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur before meeting up with others from our District as well as two from D9820 and leaving in two buses for Moradabad on the morning of Australia Day, which coincidentally is also Republic Day in India.

The journey took about five hours with a stop for a delicious variety of Indian food at a Roadhouse on the way, as well as a brief boat ride on the River Ganges a little later before finally arriving at the hotel. We were welcomed by local Rotarians including two people destined to play a major part in our local experiences, Sudhir Gupta and Dr Arief Khan.

The next day we participated in the annual parade which precedes the NID – its purpose is to remind people of the NID and there were hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds involved. It was huge, colourful, noisy, exciting and very energetic. It would have been impossible not to have been caught up in the enthusiasm of it all. The school students in their uniforms shouted their 'keep India Polio free' messages regularly, very loudly and energetically. In the areas with such parades, it would have been impossible not to have been aware of the immunisation day or its importance! It was a fascinating and very encouraging experience to share.

That evening we attended the briefing held by the World Health Organisation and all the cooperating organisations, including Rotary. The attention to detail in the planning was most impressive and clearly we were part of a mammoth operation.

All hands were on deck the next morning as we went to our allocated positions and worked with Rotarians, health workers and others to begin putting those two precious drops into the mouths of the children and babies. It was actually quite difficult to be accurate with the tiny mouths of sleeping babies so the assistance of either their mothers or the health workers was invaluable in our success. The morning passed in a blur of little mouths, smiling parents, painting pinkies purple and checking other pinkies for purple. I imagine all our team members would have had similar experiences in their various locations.

In the afternoon we visited a village and a school where Rotary clubs in our district have been active with water and sanitation projects. The welcomes, performances by students and the enthusiasm of everyone involved was heart-warming and almost overwhelming.

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National Immunisation Day

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The next two days had a similar pattern – going to country villages in the mornings to continue the ‘house to house’ follow up to ensure that all the children had been immunised. The local health workers had voluminous records and knew which houses had young children and what was needed – they are such an impressive group of people who clearly work very hard in the best interests of their local communities. The afternoons were committed to visiting rural areas where we saw the results of our clubs and district partnerships with clubs and districts in India to provide health and educational opportunities to areas which might otherwise not have them.

It’s hard to put into words the impact of seeing the results of all of that planning, work, commitment and support of so many international organisations, Rotary clubs and Rotarians in our district and beyond. Over the years I’ve heard about it and been impressed by the depth and breadth of the work but there is nothing quite like seeing only part of it to be ‘blown away’ by the reality and deeply appreciative of the work and contribution of so many to improving the lives of others. We are most fortunate to have such amazing partnerships and have had such opportunities.

Carol Lawton
Past District Governor
(RC Montrose & District)



Clockwise from Above Left:

The parade forms up.

Quick(?) march!

Keep up at the back!

National Immunisation Day



Left:
The work begins.

Below:
Has your pinkie been painted purple?



Above:
Another successful dose.

Right:
RI Pres Ian looks pleased with your work Carol & Gaye.



Projects Around Moradabad

PDG Carol mentioned in her excellent report that the NID team had the opportunity to inspect other great Rotary projects around the neighbouring countryside.

Here are some examples of those projects:



(Looks like the medical van has had a narrow scrape or two!)



(Note: RC Clayton.)



(What's it matter - 'm' or 'n' amongst friends?)

Projects Around Moradabad



Polio Eradication Tribute

Searching around to fill a little space I came across this quirky article from <https://www.rotary.org/en/news-media/news-features>:

Rotary's innovative tribute to polio eradication in India breaks Guinness world record.

To eradicate polio in India, Rotary members displayed impressive coordination and commitment. So it should come as no surprise that Rotary members in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, were able to mobilize more than 40,000 people to create the world's largest human national flag. The tribute to the polio eradication effort qualified as a Guinness World Records-breaking achievement.

(This event occurred in 2014. There are several youtube videos on line. One of them is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckdcgvVfY3U>)

Interplast Changes Lives!

Prue Ingram, Interplast Chief Executive Officer, thanks Rotary District 9810 for its support of Interplast Australia & New Zealand.

"In the 2016-17 financial year, Rotary stood by us as we delivered 81 program activities across 27 locations within 17 countries. While this is an amazing achievement, we continue to receive more requests from our local partners for surgical and training visits than we can fund.

Rotary has significantly contributed to changing the futures of thousands of people and hundreds of communities across the Asia Pacific, through surgery and training. It is a comfort to know that Rotary shares our goals to build sustainable health systems in neighbouring developing countries across the Asia-Pacific region".

On behalf of the District 9810 Interplast Committee, I thank all clubs involved in developing activities and organizing special events to raise funds for those in need of medical treatment and support through Interplast.

One coming special event is the **Interplast Golf Day**, which is a partnership between the Rotary Club of Mordialloc and the Woodlands Golf Club. **The Interplast Golf Day will be held at 12.35pm at the Woodlands Golf Club, White Street, Mordialloc on Friday 6 April 2018.** Enquiries to Barry Donaldson, details are in the District Directory.

Remember that your support of Interplast provides surgery for those who would not otherwise be able to access it, and deliver training and mentoring activities developing the skills and knowledge of local medical professionals in the developing countries that are visited.

Thanks for your support,

PP Liz Guiver

**District 9810 Interplast Chair
(RC Warrandyte-Donvale)**



InterplastTM

Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives
in the Asia Pacific region

Days for Girls - Press Release

People travelling around Erica Avenue in Boronia recently will have noticed a hive of activity in the former Aussie Disposals store.

A new venture will be commencing early in February. Days for Girls Charity Workshop space and Here & There Makers social enterprise shop has set up home in the rear half of 139 Boronia Rd.

Days for Girls is a **feminine hygiene program** providing quality, sustainable solutions to girls and women in need all over the world. Without access to hygiene products in many countries in the developing world, girls can miss up to eight months of schools every three years and much more likely to drop out altogether. Days for Girls help address this issue in three ways. Firstly our **local grassroots teams** and chapters sew washable sanitary kits designed to last upwards of three years. Secondly we distribute our kits directly into communities in need either ourselves or more often through partner organisations. An essential part of our distributions is the **provision of reproductive health education** and lastly we support and train overseas communities to start their own self sustaining **micro enterprise supplying their local community** with DfG kits.

The Ferntree Gully Chapter of Days for Girls was started by Michelle Gates 2014 with kit sewing days originally held in Michelle's home. As word spread of this worthwhile project more people wanting to improve the lives of others came on board and larger premises had to be found. Glengollan Retirement Village opened their doors to us for the next 18 months until redevelopment there necessitated another move; this time to the Ferntree Gully Guide Hall. Michelle said "We are really excited to open a permanent workshop space as it will give the opportunity for more people to get involved as we will have workshops three days every week as well as one Saturday per month to begin with. The new space will enable us to increase our kit production from 1,200 kits per year to our goal of 2,000.

That is 2,000 individual girls and women's lives we can impact with more dignity, education and opportunity.

With Michelle's drive and enthusiasm and the help of family, friends, Days for Girls volunteers and members of The Rotary Club of Boronia (a long-time supporter of Days for Girls) the premises have been transformed into a pleasant bright work area.

Here & There Makers is a social enterprise that will be selling zero waste, upcycled, fair trade and handmade products made both locally and globally. All profit for the enterprise will support the work of Days for Girls Ferntree Gully Chapter.

An official opening was held on Saturday 10th February. If you missed it then you are welcome to come along to a sewing day to experience sewing workshops in action and learn more about our work as well as check out our locally and globally produced eco-friendly, fair trade and handmade products.

Contact Michelle for further information on 0434 007 743 or michelle@hereandtheremakers.com or ferntreegully@daysforgirls.org

Contact Glen Tippet on 0478 904 929 for information on Rotary Club of Boronia.

Heather Anderson
Days for Girls volunteer
(RC Boronia)



Toronto Convention



23 - 27 June 2018

A couple of notes from the RI Convention website (<http://www.riconvention.org/en>):

Online registration

Register by 31 March to take advantage of the pre-registration discount.

Convention Hotels

Hotel demand and prices are rising due to a separate event Toronto is hosting. We encourage you to book your hotel room as soon as possible.