



## Rotary District 9675



### Greetings from the District Governor

Greetings to all our Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends of Rotary

23 February is the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held in 1905 in Chicago. From an initial meeting between Paul Harris, Gustave Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram Shorey to form some business networks in a big city, it has grown into a global organisation with 1.3m members.

In this edition I continue our travelogue for the District delegation that visited India and Nepal in January. It's hard to say just how many people we met, how many hands we shook in friendship, and how many people's lives we affected.

February is Rotary's Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month or 'World Understanding Month' and I know that our travellers were touched by what we saw and will be returning to their clubs understanding more about the world and the desperate need of some people not lucky enough to have been born in 'the lucky country'.

As we continue to work in our local communities, this month, we can also focus on our international projects and connections and how we can create a more peaceful world by working at grass-roots levels with our Rotary friends overseas.

Regards

DG Sue Hayward

## Calendar

### February



**World  
Understanding  
Month**

### Literacy Month



### March

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### The Drought ... and now it's raining

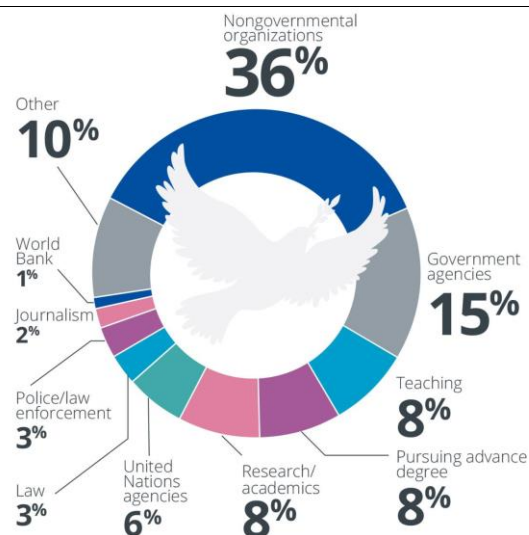
### Answers to The Quiz

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## FEBRUARY – CONFLICT RESOLUTION/ WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

February, designated as the month for World Understanding and Peace, is an occasion for us to recall the first Rotary meeting held on February 23, 1905. We commemorate it as the World Understanding and Peace Day. This is a big opportunity for every club to plan and promote Rotary's continued quest for goodwill, peace and understanding amongst the people of the world. The Rotary Peace Centres are a definite step towards this.

Each year, Rotary selects up to 100 professionals from around the world to receive fellowships to study at one of our peace centres



Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centres develop leaders who become catalysts for peace, conflict prevention and resolution. In just over a decade, the Rotary Peace Centres have trained more than 1,000 Fellows for careers in peace building, who are now working in over 100 countries. Many of them are serving as leaders at international organisations or have started their own Foundations.

*Reference - Manoj Desai - Director, Rotary International*

## ROTARIANS ON THE MOVE PART 2 – KOLKATA

Last month I reported on our Polio vaccination activities from Agra. That was an amazing experience and we thought it would be the highlight of our trip. We had no idea, however what was in store. From Agra we returned to Delhi and then flew on to Kolkata. We met with the RC Calcutta Midtown (RCCMT) and, on the Saturday, attended the District Conference. The one thing that really struck me was that the DG was urging his clubs to try to keep up with the recruitment figures being achieved in Delhi. He was saying that clubs in Delhi had recruited an average of 48 new members in the first six months of the year, but that clubs in Kolkata had only recruited 45! I'm not quite sure what to say to our Presidents....4.5 new members per club might be a good result!

The RCCMT had one of their biggest events of the year over that weekend called the Kolkata Kettle which was an arts and craft fair where artisans brought their own goods to sell. Really beautiful items were available, and I don't think there were many of us that resisted buying something authentic.

Next morning, we had an early start and drove for about 3 hours to the Sri Ramkrishna Ashram situated the Sundarbans area of the Ganges delta. The RC Sydney Darling Harbour (aka The Darlings) has been doing projects in this area for about 18 years and we had the chance to revisit some of the projects and see new work in progress. Our main reason for visiting was to see the progress on the Paresh Rajda Health Centre being built opposite the Ashram. It was much larger than we had anticipated, and they hope to complete construction by the end of the year. It's hard for us to understand that everything stops during the monsoon which causes huge delays to projects such as these, but nothing moves fast in India. Perseverance seems to be the key word and they get there in the end. We are supplying equipment to the centre.

We then split into male and female groups and the men went to the boys' school where a fresh water well had been installed by The Darlings about 7 years ago. It was still functioning beautifully, providing fresh water for hundreds of boys.

The women drove into outlying areas and visited the toilets supplied to individual families. Each woman is responsible to maintaining her family's toilet and if it isn't kept clean then the next family doesn't get a toilet, so there's a lot of pressure on the wives. The Darlings have supplied many toilets but through global grants, with clubs in other countries, there have been hundreds of toilets installed in surrounding villages.

It was so interesting to see the reaction of the villagers as the Swami visited the villages. It's not a usual thing to have him visit and the love and reverence for him was very evident. We ended up like the Pied Piper with trails of children following us across the fields as we progressed to our rendezvous point with the cars. The Ashram grows its own beautiful vegetables and we had a delicious lunch before heading back to Kolkata.

We visited the girls' school and the agricultural research centre which has increased productivity for the local farmers.

Then it was on to Nepal...but that story will continue next month. Please see photos at the end.

## THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

For those who missed the early-bird bookings you can still book a great experience at very little cost. The Friday workshops will be informative and good fun and our speakers throughout the weekend will inform and inspire you. Friday night is our welcome event in the form of a cocktail party. Yes, it's time to party!

Saturday night is 'Glitz and Glam' so come dressed up to the nines. It's not too often now that we get a chance to get those glamorous outfits on ladies, so don't hold back! For men, dinner suit or lounge suit is fine. If you really want to enjoy the night, just book into the Travelodge on the Saturday night. No driving home, no driving back the next morning and the Bankstown Sports Club can keep you entertained after the dinner.

Don't forget to register. Click on the website link below to register and to learn more about our speakers. You'll be inspired. <https://rotarydistrict9675.org/> See you there...

## THE QUIZ



*So, what do you really know?*

- What are the POOTYs and when are they held?
- What is the topic of a District-wide discussion and vote, which is currently taking place?
- What kind of Rotarian should be considered as DG material?

*Answers to the Quiz are at the end of the newsletter.*

## ARE YOU DG MATERIAL?

It's that time of year when we are calling for nominations for District Governor in 2021-22. I know that we have a wealth of talent out there, and this is mostly made up of modest, hard working Rotarians that don't see themselves as having leadership potential. If you think someone in your club has the ability to step up, then do talk to them. I can tell you from experience that it's a wonderful thing to do, that will enrich your life as no other Rotary experience can.

## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS LIST

Our very own John Given AO was recognised for his service to the community in the Australia Day Honours list. Our heartiest congratulations John. You've certainly done a remarkable job on the POOTY Awards for many years which has turned into a flagship event for the RC Sydney and also our whole state.

Stephanie Woollard who set up Seven Women in Kathmandu and spoke at the Mudgee Conference last year was also recognised. She isn't a Rotarian, but there will be more about Seven Women next month in my 'travelogue'. Watch this space.

**... DON'T FORGET TO TALK TO YOUR CUSTOMERS ABOUT WHY YOU ARE AT BUNNINGS!**



Remember 'Smelly dollars'? That's just a silly way of engaging with your customers as to why you are raising money... but it works!

Don't be shy, or if you are, then make sure you have someone who isn't, at the front of your counter talking to people in the queue and handing out information about your club.

Those pull-up banners with pictures on them tell a thousand words, some of which should be how to contact your club. Don't leave home without one.

## THE 2023 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



### And the winner is Melbourne!

It is with great excitement that we announce Melbourne as the host city for the 2023 Rotary International Convention, the largest conference secured this century for Victoria.

**Melbourne is a Big Events City!** Set to deliver over \$88 million to the Victorian economy, the Convention is the most valuable conference ever won for the state, with the four-day event anticipated to attract more than 20,000 Rotarians from around the world. The global spotlight will be on Melbourne and how we present ourselves to the world.

**The Convention will take place 27-31 May 2023** using superb venues; Rod Laver Arena and the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. All activities and events are within the Heart and Soul of Melbourne. Over 7000 hotel rooms over 50 properties across Melbourne. Our transport plan uses our famous trams, ferries and buses to quickly and easily move delegates between venues, hotels, event and restaurants. And of course, Melbourne is a very walkable city with many interesting routes and laneways to tantalise visitors.

### What Happens Next?

Our local Host Organising Committee is shovel ready. Team members are drawn from 5 local Districts, RC Melbourne, the Rotary Foundation and the 2014 Sydney RI Convention. We will work with an International Convention Committee and staff from Rotary International based in Evanston, USA to deliver the best possible Convention. The focus of the Host Organisation Committee is on Promotion, Publicity, Welcome, House of Friendship, Events, Customer Experience, Finance and Volunteers. The current team will be expanded in coming months to add more horsepower with a broader talent pool.

Melbourne has previously hosted this Convention in 1993. And the 2014 Sydney RI Convention has fast tracked our ability to create a wonderful event. Our Sydney colleagues have shared their experiences and systems to give us a flying start.

A vital part of hosting is to have an engaged and energised volunteer team to assist all visitors during the Convention. We wish to include volunteers from all ages - so be a Rotary Ambassador for Melbourne by registering to volunteer at the Convention in 2023! Recruitment starts immediately at multiple District Conferences to be held in Melbourne and Maryborough in February and March.

In the meantime – “Save The Date” 27-31 May 2023.

In the future a dedicated website is planned for volunteer registration and other Convention information - until then please connect to [www.rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au](http://www.rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au) for progress updates.

## **THE DROUGHT UPDATE 2018.**

Abridged version from DG John Glassford D9770...

RAWCS have deposited \$250,000 into our account for distribution in our two Districts 9700 & 9710. Our Chair David Post and the committee have been meeting on a regular basis and Paul Murray has uploaded the information on how to apply for funds on our web site: Drought Relief District 9700/D9710. <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/38-2018-19>

Assistant Governor Chris Finkel is doing a sterling job at the coal face of the drought in our D9700. Project Managers are DG Margaret Hassall D9710 and DG John Glassford D9700.

Several Rotary clubs from the East of us want to Adopt-a-Town and here is the progress so far.

### **Adopt-a-town Sponsors and Recipient Towns**

<b>Sponsoring Rotary Club</b>	<b>Recipient Town</b>	<b>Nearest D9700/9710 Club</b>
Granville	Lake Cargelligo	Lake Cargelligo
Pambula	Trundle	Parkes
Drummoyne	Parkes	Parkes
Engadine	Forbes & Bedgerebong	Forbes Ipomoea
Blue Mountains	Forbes	Forbes & Forbes Ipomoea
Balgowlah	Condobolin (unconfirmed)	Condobolin
Moruya	West Wyalong	West Wyalong
Belconnen	Weethalle	West Wyalong
Euroa	Peak Hill (unconfirmed)	Parkes
Wallacia/Mulgoa Valley	Oberon (unconfirmed)	Oberon

There have been many enquiries from Rotary clubs up and down the country on how to help.

As well several offers of help in various ways. One lady from Ganmain wants to deliver care packs sourced locally in Broken Hill for the School of the Air children. A truckie contacted us on setting up Adopt-Convoy for our country. So it goes on and the generosity of so many people is heartening to say the least.

Stay the course and be patient is the way forward. According to anyone who is on the land or relies on our farmers for their business tells us that this drought is not going away too soon.

Narrandera Rotary Club under the leadership of President John Gown, a farmer, called us from his header with how Narrandera are approaching the voucher system. More on this once John has finished the harvest.

At the moment our RAWCS Project has over \$290,000 in the account ready for distribution. Donations are still coming in via our RAWCS Project the latest being \$1,630 from the Rotary Club of Boorowa. Boorowa raised these funds at their Op Shop with fashion parade. Thank you, Boorowa.

Please keep sending us your ideas and thoughts. We will do our very best to reply and help you all.

### **... AND NOW IT'S RAINING!**

It's hard to believe that we are battling drought, fire and floods all at the same time! It's not news that Townsville is experiencing unprecedented flooding and, recently, loss of life. The Rotary Club of Townsville South West has registered the following Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Disaster Appeal. 74-2018-19: D9550 North Queensland Disaster Relief Appeal (RABS)

To make a tax-deductible donation go to the RAWCS website. <http://rawcs.org.au/project-search/>. Click on the Project No and then the donate button and follow the prompts.

Every little bit helps as there will be a massive recovery effort once the rain and floods dissipate and people's needs become more apparent.

## **ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ**

### **What are the POOTYs and when are they held?**

The 'Police Officer of the Year' Awards are known as the POOTYs (aka The POTYs). These are run by many clubs in our District and sometimes clubs combine to make them a larger event. Late in the year, the RC Sydney hosts one of the District's largest events, the State POOTY Awards. Clubs hold their awards throughout the Rotary year.

### **What is the topic of a District-wide discussion and vote, which is currently taking place?**

The discussion within clubs, and the subsequent vote, is to support the further developmental work to merge Districts 9675 and 9685 into one larger district. If the clubs vote 'Yes' then a working party will be established to progress the work. Once the formative work is complete, clubs in both districts will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed documents and then vote on whether the merger should proceed. Please ensure your club votes and informs the DG of the outcome.

### **What kind of Rotarian should be considered as District Governor (DG) material?**

You will have seen that nominations are being called for District Governor 2020-21. There is information being sent to all Presidents, as it is the clubs who nominate a person for DG.

This person needs to be someone who has been a Club President, who is committed to the goals and objectives of Rotary and who has extremely good communication and influencing skills. It happens rarely, but occasionally conflict management and problem-solving skills are also needed.

Leadership and strategic planning experience is essential and a willingness to put aside a couple of periods in your life where Rotary has a big impact on your time. The second half of the DGE year is very busy planning, and the first half of the DG year is taken up with Club visits. These happen from June – November and it means almost every weeknight, over a period of months is committed.

You don't have to have a partner, but if you do have one, it's important that they support your application and are willing to attend some, if not all the events you are required to attend. eg training in Orlando, Florida and ANZ Conferences in our zone.

Unlike some countries, you don't have to be wealthy and can't 'buy' your DG position in Australia by making significant donations. We really do want the best person for the job, not the person who can contribute the most financially. Having said that, being DG will cost you some money. It's hard to say how much, as it depends on how involved the DGE and DGN choose to become in their lead-up years.

As mentioned, you have to have been a Club President and it helps if you have been an Assistant Governor, and/or had a District role, so perhaps that's the next step for some of our talented people. Contact our DGN Warwick Richardson if you would like to be on his team. Other than that, enthusiasm and a desire to contribute are what count.

Until next time....



**District Governor**

**Sue Hayward & Mike**

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**PHOTOS FROM KOLKATA ... next pages** (photos courtesy of Cathy Mason)

## On the journey to Nimpith



## The Sri Ramkrishna Ashram at Nimpith in the Sundarbans



A collage of 12 photographs documenting the inauguration of a new building. The images show a red carpeted path leading to the entrance, a group of people in orange robes, a 'WELCOME DARLINGS' sign, and various interior and exterior views of the building.

## Visiting the girls' school.



## Visiting the toilets



The agricultural research centre teaching about bee-keeping, animal husbandry, crop improvement etc

