



Number 52

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

When I began Cookie's Communique with Edition 1 12 months ago, (did I expect it to last?), I wanted to provide an avenue of communication which wasn't overbearing and yet gave you the basics of what needed to be relayed from many sources across our Rotary world.

The banners we used (thank you to Phil Lacey for creating them for me) took us around the Reach Within to Embrace Humanity logo of President Kalyan's theme. It certainly was a colourful theme and his message is worth repeating one more time:

"Each of us lives with our hopes and aspirations, our failings and our problems, our joys and our sorrows. When we recognise this, we understand more fully the importance of the work we do. To embrace the world, to reach out to every human being as a brother or a sister, we must first reach within - to embrace the humanity of us all. Recognise your humanity and share it with the humanity that is common to us all." Kalyan Banerjee, Rotary International President, 2011-13

I have been asked if I am glad the year is coming to an end or sad to give up the role of District Governor. It is a one year appointment and we have been extremely privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve in this way. With two earlier years leading up to the year as governor, the three years have been filled with some of the best experiences we could have imagined. Understanding this, however, means we are now prepared to hand over the reins to Keith and Margaret. Indeed those who follow us are on their own journeys already and they, Keith, Graham and Garry, Ian and Barry have begun work on their plans and aspirations which need to be given air from next week. In both ways we are sad and glad - on the one hand the experience cannot be replicated yet, on the other, we will have more time for ourselves, our family and some much needed home maintenance. I will also get back to being a member of my local Rotary club and the various challenges that brings.

THIS WEEKS NOTICES

Reach out to Africa Special Volunteer Appeals

Two special appeals for volunteers.

First, Reconstructive surgeons in Rwanda are needed. Surgeons, anesthetists, nurses and other non-medical support staff will be needed.

Past Rotary International President Raja Saboo will be organizing a group of doctors from India and would welcome surgeons from other countries to build a truly international team.

PRIP Saboo expects that the medical mission would take place some time between mid-November 2012 and be completed by mid-April 2013. The actual length of time a surgeon would remain in Rwanda would also depend upon the suitability of the host country, our own team building process and the funding arrangement. Inquiries can be sent to PRIP Saboo. rksaboo@kddl.com

Second, NID volunteers are needed. Polio still exists in this part of the world. Many children in developed countries are no longer being immunized and therefore are at risk of infection from travelers to endemic countries. The only way to eradicate this crippling disease is to immunize all children in the world. Volunteer teams are needed. No medical expertise is required. See the list of NIDs (National Immunization Days) below and consider being a part of this historic effort. You will always be glad you did. Contact Carol Pandak at RI on carol.pandak@rotary.org for more information and dates beyond December up to May 2013.

Scheduled dates in Nigeria

11TH - 14TH AUGUST, 2012 -

Sub National Immunization Plus Days (High Risk States only)

6TH - 9TH OCTOBER, 2012 -

Sub National Immunization Plus Days (High Risk States only)

1ST - 4TH DECEMBER, 2012 -

Sub National Immunization Plus Days (High Risk States only)

News from our Ambassadorial Scholar Kate Cornford

Kate has been a wonderful ambassador for us and Rotary during her Foundation Scholarship in New York. I am pleased to include her latest update;

I have now finished my Spring exams, passed (phew!) and graduated.

Graduation was a cultural experience itself! Graduation is a week-long celebration at NYU, beginning with 'Grad Alley' being a street party held for graduates and their families in Washington Square Park. On Wednesday all those from NYU who are graduating and their families attend 'Commencement' at Yankee Stadium (see photo of friends and I in robes for Commencement). This year's Commencement Speaker was Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor who grew up in New York and taught at NYU Law School prior to her appointment to the US Supreme Court bench. Needless to say the largess of this event was overwhelming. It was a sea of purple (the graduating robes of NYU!) with even the Secret Service agents who had to look after the Justice dressed in robes so as to 'blend in'!

Convocation was followed on Friday by Commencement in the beautiful art deco Beacon Theatre in New York City. Convocation is the equivalent of our graduation ceremony in Australia, with just your faculty. I was honoured to be selected as the Convocation Student Speaker and spoke in between the two wonderful guest speakers - the UN Legal Adviser to the Secretary General and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, both of whom are women. I managed to keep my speech under wraps from my family & Simon, so apparently mum's jaw hit the floor when she read the program with my name in it. The hilarious part of it all is my sister Laura deleted all her photos of the occasion accidentally, my fiance Simon's camera had the wrong settings so he has no decent photos, my dad fell ill before the ceremony and was unable to attend, so it has come down to mum's trust iPad to grab some

shots.

Since graduation I did some touring with my mum and Simon and have since relocated to London, waved at the Queen on her royal barge for the Jubilee weekend and begun work at Interights, the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights. I am working with solicitors at Interights drafting submissions for a case relating to extraordinary rendition. This work is the kind of thing that I would not be exposed to in Australia, and my training during my LL.M. year has aided my knowledge and skills enormously, so the Ambassadorial Scholarship is already paying off.

The LL.M. year itself has really flown past but I am astonished at how much I've managed to cram in, and how many opportunities it has afforded me. I really wouldn't have done anything without Rotary, so I am forever grateful - I just need to find a way to repay the trust placed in me!

I look forward to seeing all the Burwood Rotarians on December 10 for their Christmas function and other Rotarians whenever they want me to speak during the period of December 10-January 1. Warmest Wishes, Kate Cornford.

Well done Kate. We look forward to having you home in December.

Wattyl Paints Offer

Several clubs were interested in Wattyl Paints offer to provide unwanted excess stock. Unfortunately Wattyl has just advised that they have accepted an offer from an outside company to buy all of their unused stock. As such, they are unable to donate any paint to Rotary at this time. They are, however, currently developing a community involvement program which donates both product and labour and they are interested in working with Rotary to help out on some of our projects. All I can say is thank you to those clubs who expressed interest and I suggest you "watch this space".

BowelCare Program

Rotary's BowelCare (formerly Bowelscan) has asked District to support their request that Bowelcare become a recognised Rotary Program. In order for it to become a Rotary program it requires the support of at least two districts with each having a two-thirds majority of clubs in the district supporting it. Time is of the essence now with the first opportunity for clubs to meet face to face being the next presidents meeting in 2012-13. The district board has agreed that I email clubs and ask you to discuss this with your clubs in the next week or so and return an email "vote" to me with a YES or NO in support of BowelCare becoming a Rotary project.

Rotary International Surveys

Through its various research initiatives, RI seeks opinions and ideas from Rotarians and other friends of Rotary in order to make informed decisions and improvements. The Membership Experience Feedback Survey, an ongoing survey of former Rotarians and a random selection of active Rotarians, highlights the importance of club leaders also gathering input and feedback to improve the club experience. Our data shows a great difference

between whether a Rotarian stays or leaves a club depending upon communication within their clubs:

- More than 85% of active Rotarians say that their club leaders regularly seek input from members and that members feel comfortable sharing concerns with club leaders
- In contrast, about **half of the former Rotarians** report that they **did not feel comfortable sharing concerns** with club leaders **and the leaders of their former clubs did not seek input from members**

Here is a list of current surveys you might want to participate in

Website Redesign Survey

The Website Redesign Survey is part of the initiative to redesign Rotary.org and improve the experience of Rotarians visiting the website. This survey will gather valuable input from a random sample of Rotarians and help set the direction for the new website.

Contact: RI_research@rotary.org

District New Generations Programs Surveys

These three surveys are designed to ask District Rotaract Chairs, District Rotaract Representatives, District Interact Chairs, and District RYLA Chairs about the reach, impact, successes, and challenges of their district's Rotaract, Interact, or RYLA programs.

Contact: rotaract@rotary.org or interact@rotary.org or ryla@rotary.org

Rotary Program Participation Survey

This ongoing survey is regularly sent to former RI and The Rotary Foundation program participants to gather feedback about their Rotary experiences.

Contact: Contact.Center@rotary.org

Membership Experience Feedback Survey

This ongoing survey is regularly sent to a random selection of current Rotarians and all recent former Rotarians, who have recently terminated their membership, to gather feedback about their Rotary experiences.

Contact: MembershipDevelopment@rotary.org

Better Gnomes and Gardens

I am informed by my underground sources that Channel 7 will be screening a segment on Better Homes and Gardens, which they filmed at the Australian Gnome Convention in Glenbrook Park last Australia Day, next Friday 6 July. From all the time they were there in the park I expect a full hour of coverage but, more likely, two or three minutes will be good. Let's hope Rotary gets a mention.

District Changeover Sunday July 8, Marconi Club

DGE Keith and I hope to see many of you at the District Changeover next Sunday week. Get you acceptances in to Keri Sweet or Keith as soon as you can and come along and enjoy the formalities of this last changeover for District 9690. Indeed next year's changeover from Keith to each of the new DGE's of D9675 and D9685 will be somewhat different - more like a charter of a new district, so this year's is something very special.

*****STOP PRESS*****

When we came home tonight from a great day at Upper Blue's Changeover I opened my email to the news that Concord has gifted \$12,000 to the End Polio Now campaign from the proceeds of their Golf Day last week. This is fantastic news and I want to make sure my thanks are on the record for President Phil McCarthy and Concord Club members for their most generous contribution.

Coming Events

VARIOUS CLUB CHANGEOVERS - See [revised list](#) click
Katoomba RC 75th Anniversary - 25 June
District Changeover, Marconi Club - 8 July **LUNCHEON**
Rotary Success Conference, Canberra - 20-22 July
Mt Druitt Ten Pin Bowling Olympics - 5 August
College of Governors' Luncheon - 26 August
Zone 8 Institute, Adelaide - 30 November to 2 December 2012

DG's Diary for this week

Monday - Katoomba's 75th Anniversary Dinner
Tuesday - Kurrajong North- Richmond Changeover
Wednesday - Central Blue Mountains Changeover
Thursday - GSE District Committee meeting
Friday - Lower Blue Mountains Changeover
Saturday - Wetherill Park Rotary and Western Sydney Rotaract Changeover
Sunday - Liverpool Greenway Changeover

Next week your Governor is Keith Roffey

Thank you all for the journey, we will never forget the experience and always treasure the respect we were given and the privilege it was to serve District 9690 in this way.

Reach within to Embrace Humanity

David and Carolyn

David Cook

District Governor 2011-12, Rotary International District 9690 inc

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