



DG Di North & David

Welcome to the August edition of the District Governor's Bulletin.

David and I have started our official District Governor visits and I must say we are having a lot of fun. Every club we have visited so far has made both of us very welcome. Every club is unique in the way they treat this official visit, which is what makes it so interesting. Thank you to the Assistant Governors for all the preparations being made to ensure these visits run as smoothly as possible.

I would like to thank all those clubs who have made donations to **David's Partner's Project, Interplast**. We are well on the way to sponsoring the [Interplast Surgical Mission to Myanmar in November 2019](#). Thank you for your generosity.

This month I would like to acknowledge one of our longest serving Rotarians, **Kevin Bouffler** from the **Rotary Club of Padstow**.

Kevin Bouffler (pictured right cutting into the Club's 62nd birthday cake with Sandra Topp, who was inducted into the Club on the same evening) is the longest serving member of the Rotary Club of Padstow, having been inducted on 22 August 1961. Kevin was a pharmacist at his pharmacy on The River Road, Revesby. Kevin is married to Margaret who was also a pharmacist.



He has been responsible for recording attendance of members since nobody can remember when, and is upset when the attendance figure is less than 80%. He has never been persuaded to become club president but puts in great efforts in working on BBQs and other club projects. He is a regular attendee at district conferences and has worked as a volunteer at both the 1993 Melbourne and 2014 Sydney conventions and has attended several overseas conventions. He was part of the team from the Rotary Club of Padstow which visited Pacific Island countries to establish PACE (Pacific Australia Cultural Exchange) in District 9690.

Probably his most exciting moment was being made a Paul Harris Fellow by RI President Glen Kinross.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

The membership team is eager to work with District clubs in order to attract and retain their members to keep or make their clubs vital. President Rotary International 2019-2020 Mark Maloney has stated as part of his vision:

"While the club remains the core of the Rotary experience, we are now far more creative and flexible in deciding what a club can be, how it can meet, and even what can be considered a Rotary meeting. We need to be organized, strategic, and innovative in how we approach membership, forging wider and deeper connections to our communities and forming new club models to attract and engage more — and more diverse — members."

Membership is key to a stronger and diverse Rotary. Taking on board the RI President's vision, how is it possible for our clubs to be more diverse and what does this bring to the clubs?

Diversity can bring a greater richness and helps our clubs be more reflective of the community in which we connect. To assist with the generation of ideas for creating a more diverse club membership the membership team will be organising a diversity forum.

Flexibility and inclusion are also important aspects of a vital club structure. It's not enough for us to say, "We have always done it this way".

There may be a different way to ensure the member experience is more positive.

Exploring a different:

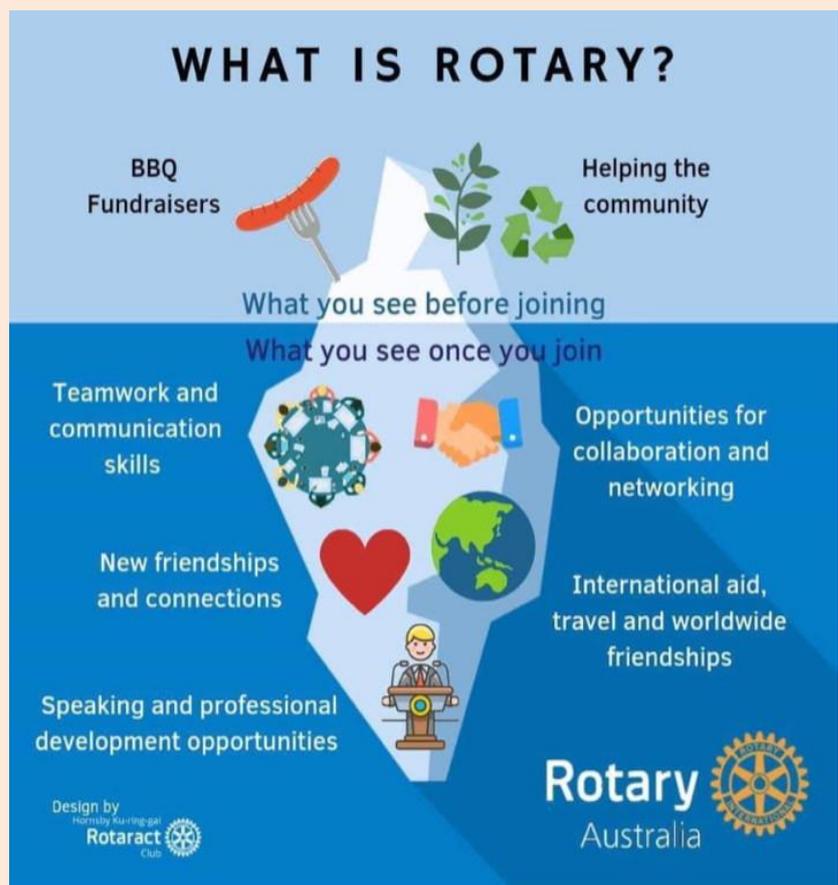
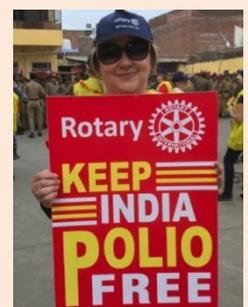
- Meeting time?
- Type of meeting?
- Type of club – passport club, e-club, satellite club?
- Club activities?

It's important for us to remember that not all solutions suit all clubs – it is not a one size fits all approach, but it is worthwhile exploring change. Ask yourself the question:

If you were a potential member today, would you join your Club?

We will never know how we can improve unless we ask ourselves some hard questions.

The membership team has already started club visits where they discuss the support available. These visits give us all the opportunity to generate ideas through discussion. This month **Rae-Anne Medforth**, District Membership Chair (pictured right), will be visiting the eastern suburbs group of clubs and the Rotary Club of Gregory Hills. She is excited and hopeful of having fruitful discussions and coming up with ideas to share. Rae-Anne also looks forward to receiving an invitation from your club. Rae-Anne is fortunate enough to be attending the Zone 8 Membership training meeting in Melbourne at the end of this month and she hopes to bring back information and experiences to share within District 9675.



By working together and sharing experiences we can be more ambitious and attractive to current and potential members. We need to be able to identify what we can do to add value to existing and potential members to retain and grow our membership.

Finally, for now – the membership team is also developing a projects database. **Sue Clark**, Community Awareness Director, will oversee this project. This will provide Rotarians the opportunity to see projects being undertaken by other clubs and ascertain whether they may suit your club, rather than reinventing the wheel. To establish this database, Sue will require the following information from each club:

- Club name;
- the project name;
- a contact person & email address for each project; and
- a very short description of the project & members' role/s.

Sue will then be able to contact clubs should she require further information. Please provide the above information to Sue via email at: ballyclark@bigpond.com

Projects raise awareness in the community enabling us to “Connect with the World”.

Presidents' Meeting

The first Presidents' Meeting for the 2019-20 Rotary year was held at Bankstown Sports Club on 26 July. It was well attended by 60 people representing 40 clubs. District Trainer, **Cheryl Deguara**, planned the evening extremely well. **AG Chris Bennecke** was a brilliant MC for the night.



Geoff Brennan from District 9685 told us about the **Vocational Excellence Awards** that will be a part of Conference 2020 in Wollongong. Please consider nominating somebody who has made a major contribution to the community. Last year District 9685 gave three Vocational Excellence Awards - to a violin maker, a linguist and an orthopaedic surgeon. With the joint District Conference with District 9685 there will be four presentations, two from each district.

Mark Anderson from The Rotary Foundation spoke about the **Polio Train Ride**, which will be held on 24 October, World Polio Day. The train ride will cover all 195 stations in the Sydney train system starting at Cronulla at 4.33AM and finishing at Tallawong at 10.52PM. *The train timetable is attached to this bulletin.*



Cathy Mason from Caringbah Rotary Club spoke about her project **Adopt-a-Town**. Many Rotary clubs have taken up the challenge and adopted towns around country NSW. The Rotary club contacts the local Rotary club and then visits the town for a few days to spend money in the town on food and accommodation as well as on food vouchers or hampers for the farmers.

Thank you to **PDG Stephen Humphreys**, who interviewed 'Andrew Denton style', **DGE Warwick Richardson** and **DGN Jeremy Wright**. The evening finished with many Presidents sharing news of events or projects in their clubs. Thank you to all who participated with such enthusiasm.



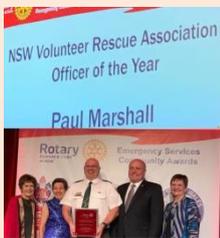
The next Presidents' Meeting will also be the AGM and will be held on Friday 15 November at Bankstown Sports Club.

RESCA

The **Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA)** presentation was held on Friday night 2 August at Bankstown Sports Club. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to say thank you to these amazing men and women who work in all sorts of conditions, taking risks every single day and seeing some unimaginable horrors – all to keep us safe. Something for which we should all be extremely grateful.

Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" because it best conveys our philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. This is the same for these emergency service personnel who continually in their everyday working lives show acts of kindness to complete strangers with the knowledge they will never be recognized. They push themselves beyond normal boundaries for the betterment of others. They put themselves in uncomfortable situations in order to help others.

A Paul Harris Fellow Recognition was presented to **Superintendent Brian Graham from the RFS** for his 8 years serving on the RESCA Committee as the Emergency Services Agency Adviser. He also travelled to Vanuatu to assist Ian Johnson on the successful VTT program.



The Officer of the year in the volunteer section was **Paul Marshall from the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.**

The Officer of the Year serving in a paid capacity was **Tony Waller from Fire and Rescue NSW.**



UNDERSTANDING THE 2019 COUNCIL DECISION ON ROTARACT

Every three years, the Council on Legislation considers proposals that determine the direction of Rotary International. The 2019 Council, which met 14-18 April in Chicago, amended our constitutional documents to include Rotaract clubs as a membership type of Rotary International.

Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the Council's action.

What does the vote on Rotaract mean?

Rotary International is composed of its member clubs. This enactment, 19-72, broadens the definition of membership to include both Rotary and Rotaract clubs. It elevates Rotaract clubs by acknowledging them in the RI Constitution and RI Bylaws as a unique membership type within RI. Rotaract clubs will still have their own standard constitution and will remain a separate club membership type from Rotary clubs. But because they will be recognized in the constitutional documents, Rotaract clubs will enjoy greater support from RI.

Are Rotaract clubs still required to be sponsored by a Rotary club?

Yes. Rotaract clubs need to be sponsored by a Rotary club to be officially recognized by Rotary International. Sponsorship of Rotaract clubs is mandated by the Board and described in the *Rotary Code of Policies*.

Does this mean Rotaractors automatically become Rotarians?

No. Members of Rotary clubs are Rotarians and members of Rotaract clubs remain Rotaractors. This does not change the separate identity of Rotaractors.

Will this change the Rotaract experience?

This will not change the club experience that Rotaractors have. Rotaract clubs will still be sponsored by Rotary clubs, and as partners in service, both clubs should strive to maintain their current relationship. But Rotaractors will have a much closer relationship with RI now that Rotaract clubs are a recognized membership type of RI rather than a Rotary program.

Does this mean Rotaract clubs will start paying dues to Rotary International?

Not immediately. According to the current RI Constitution, Rotaract clubs will pay dues as established by the Board. The Board will have to determine the amount of dues and when they would be collected. It will continue to research the best way to introduce dues and will consider what amount is fair and what products and services Rotaractors would receive in exchange. Any changes will be implemented gradually.

Where can I find the full text of the enactment?

For the exact text, refer to: [Proposed Legislation 2019 Council on Legislation](#) . See the version of enactment 19-72 marked "Motion to Amend" at the top. The Council approved this wording. All other versions should be disregarded.

Sponsoring Rotary clubs should discuss these changes with their Rotaract club. Please invite **District Rotaract Chair, Cheryl Deguara**, to your club to discuss these changes.

Financial Literacy Project

I would like to remind all Rotarian women over the age of 55 about the Financial Literacy Seminars to be held in Wollongong and Sydney on various dates in September. Please read the District Secretary's Bulletin from 26 July 2019 for all the details.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The Imagination Library helps young children, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable children, gain the skills they need to start school ready to read and learn. On average, 22% of Australian children are not ready to read when they start school, a figure that is higher in disadvantaged communities. Children who start behind their peers find it very difficult to catch up – many never do even after remedial programs.

Dolly Parton's father was illiterate and she knew the difficulties illiteracy caused. For him, she developed the Imagination Library, originally just for her community in East Tennessee, launching it in 1996. Her vision was to foster a love of books and reading in children from an early age and, so that all of the children could have books, she provided them.

The Imagination Library consists of books for children of any age from birth until their 5th birthday. Each month enrolled children receive, in the mail, a quality age-appropriate book addressed to them, together with a "tip sheet" for parents and carers. There is no cost to the family.

0 to 5 years of age are critical for brain and language development. Neither occurs automatically but results from stimulation, particularly reading, rhyming, singing and talking to a child from birth. The Imagination Library encourages parents to read to their children and by doing so, they build their child's language and literacy skills.

Parents tell us that reading books together is a very enjoyable family activity that improves family relationships.

Other results attributed to the program include improved communication, increased confidence and social skills, development of an imagination, and the ability to sit, listen to and follow a story.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is currently offered in the Illawarra and Macarthur areas and could be started in any other area. If you are interested, you could contact **Sue Clark** (email to ballyclark@bigpond.com) or **Cathie Richardson** (email to richoc@bigpond.com).

Dick Smith does it again – another \$1M to end suffering

Much-loved Aussie philanthropist **Dick Smith** (pictured right with DG Di) has once again pledged \$1 million towards alleviating the suffering of Aussies in need.

The pledge comes on the back of Dick's initial \$1 million-dollar donation to Rotary in November 2016, which helped make a difference to the lives of many Australian families and individuals suffering personal hardship.

Delighted with the scope and success of projects his original donation enabled, Dick says this second pledge is a much-needed cash injection for people doing it tough in our own backyard.



Some of the grants included drought relief and suicide prevention programs.

Grants for projects will be administered by the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society and distributed to disadvantaged Australians identified by local Rotary clubs or Rotary districts as being in need. As with the initial donation, grants will be matched dollar for dollar by clubs and/or districts.

Dick says he was thrilled to see his first million-dollar donation reach a total of \$2.5 million dollars through the matched grant funding and is hoping for a similar result second time around.

The donation continues Dick and Pip's ongoing relationship with Rotary. Dick has previously given a significant amount through Rotary towards the eradication of polio; once widespread across the globe, but now isolated to just a few small enclaves in remote regions. Dick joins the likes of world-renowned philanthropist Bill Gates as a major supporter of Rotary and its various programs worldwide.

Why go to the RI Convention? *Because it's in Hawaii!!*

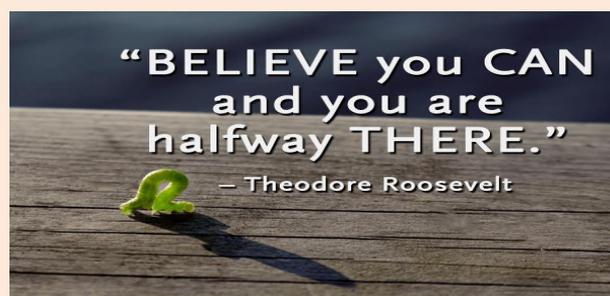
Attending the RI Convention provides us with the opportunity to meet our fellow Rotarians from all over the world. We get to appreciate the global nature of this wonderful organisation, when we are rubbing shoulders with up to 30,000 Rotarians, many of whom are in their national dress throughout the event.

We get to hear inspirational speakers and there are breakout sessions offering something for everyone – with the opportunity to learn more about what Rotary, and Rotarians, have done in the world. It's a great time to make new friends and to collect wonderful memories.



Full details of Rotary Honolulu 2020 can be found [HERE](#).

Rotary International Convention, **"Aloha Rotary"** – Honolulu – **6-10 June 2020**



Caringbah Rotary Wins Prestigious Rotary Award!



Caringbah Rotary is in the beautiful Sutherland Shire, south of Sydney. The Sutherland Shire is unique in that it is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the east (including Cronulla Beach), the George's River to the North and the Port Hacking River and the Royal National Park to the south and west.

Through their very successful Caringbah Markets, Caringbah Rotary was able to donate over \$60,000 to other community groups in 2018-2019, both locally and internationally. Hundreds of volunteer hours are also spent each year working on projects.

The Club is actively involved in supporting many local groups through donations and manpower such as Dandelion Support Network, Stepping Stone House, St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation, Care For Kids, Relay for Life, Cancer Council NSW, Sailability, White Ribbon Day, U-Turn-the-Wheel young driver training, Community Support (garden clean-ups) through the Sutherland Shire Council, the Sutherland Hospital, the Salvation Army, and many others.

Major donations are made each year to Rotary's amazing programs such as Australian Rotary Health, The Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus (End Polio Now!), Shelter Box, and the many Youth Programs.

The introduction of the Rotary Adopt-A-Town Project has now spread throughout the District. This project aims at Rotary Clubs to work to support businesses and farmers in country regions. To date, 16 Rotary Clubs have adopted towns, and the numbers are growing every day.

Caringbah Rotary currently has 45 active members and is always growing and seeking new members from the community who would like to make a difference.

Farewell Sylvania Rotary Club

On Wednesday night, 7th August, we said farewell to Sylvania Rotary Club. It is never easy to see a Rotary Club close. Over 70 people came together to help to celebrate the memorable years of the Sylvania Rotary Club.

Sylvania Rotary Club was chartered on the 7th February 1991 with 27 members. They were sponsored by Caringbah Rotary Club.

Sylvania Rotary Club was famous around the district for their smoothies. They would make fruit smoothies for the participants of *Relay for Life* as well as the *Bikes to Beach* bike ride which was run by the PCYC every September. Children and their parents would ride their bikes from Sutherland to Wanda Beach. Sylvania Rotary Club was invited to provide the barbecue as well as the delicious and refreshing smoothies at the end of the ride.

Sylvania Rotary Club has had a longstanding relationship with the local PCYC. They recently raised funds and renovated the PCYC kitchen.

Every year they held a Melbourne Cup Luncheon at Kareela Golf Club. They had a fun day where everyone dressed in their finest clothes and hats. They ran sweeps, a Calcutta and Fashion in the Field. It was an excellent day and they always raised a huge amount of money for the Sylvanvale Foundation.

Sylvania Rotary Club was a big supporter of the School of St Jude in Tanzania and Gemma Sissia visited the Club in 2016 as a way of saying thank you for all the support. She brought with her one of the first graduates from the School of St Jude, Dorice Livingstone.

Sylvania Rotary Club was always there whenever disaster struck with their bucket collecting - the Flood appeal, the Bush fire appeal and more recently the Drought appeal where they raised just over \$10,000.

Every year Sylvania Rotary Club ran their Christmas raffle and the Tree of Joy where they collected donations of hundreds of gifts and then distributed them to the less fortunate in our community.

From the Christmas raffle they were able to provide much needed funds for the Early Years Support Services in the Sutherland Shire.

Sylvania Rotary Club sponsored the Caringbah High School Interact Club.



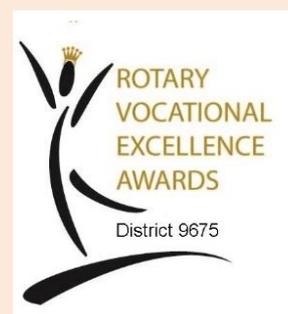
The members of Sylvania Rotary Club are a hardworking and dedicated group of Rotarians. They have achieved much over their 28 years. Thank you for your many years of service.

DG Dianne presented, on behalf of the club, a PHF to both **Donna Wallace and Wendy Davis** for their years of service to the Club and to the community. Donna worked very hard as President and Wendy equally as hard in the role of Secretary. Many of the Sylvania Rotary Club members are finding homes in either the Engadine or Caringbah Rotary Clubs.

Vocational Excellence Awards

The aims of this Award are:

- To recognise VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE of the highest order and to honour outstanding contribution by individuals or small teams of individuals for significant advancement in their vocational field in Australia.
- To inspire further enthusiasm and to give added reward to the exceptional achievers.
- To set an example to others, particularly youth, of the need to strive for VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE for the benefit of their discipline and Australia.
- Nominees should preferably reside and /or carry out their vocation within the boundaries of District 9675



A nomination form is attached to this bulletin or it can be accessed [HERE](#).

The closing date for nominations is 31 October 2019.

District 9685 has had this recognition as part of their District Conference since 1983. It's a great way to acknowledge the remarkable work being done in our communities, so we will be acknowledging two of our community members at our combined District Conference to be held in Wollongong from 20-22 March 2020.

This link will give you some more information: [Vocational Excellence Awards](#)

Special Announcement...

Congratulations to **Shekhar Mehta** (pictured right) from the **Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanager, West Bengal, India**. Shekhar has been selected to serve as Rotary International President for 2021-22. He served as a Rotary International Director from 2011-13. Shekhar has received the RI Service Above Self Award and the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.



World Polio Day

Thursday 24 October 2019 is World Polio Day.

To celebrate this event **DG Kalma McLellan (District 9685)**, **DG Tania Lowery (D9980 in New Zealand)** and **DG Dianne** will be riding the Sydney train network (all 195 stations) starting at Cronulla at 4.33AM and finishing at Tallawong at 10.52PM.

Similar train rides are planned for Melbourne, Brisbane and Wellington, New Zealand.

Please make the day more enjoyable by meeting us at your closest station, present a cheque to End Polio and say G'day. Ride with us for a while if you like. It will be fun. We definitely won't be in the Quiet Carriage.

Details of the train routes and timetables are attached to this Bulletin.

Rotary

Join the Train Ride to End Polio!

on World Polio Day, Thursday 24 October, 2019
across the entire Sydney train network – 195 stations

help raise \$1 million – sponsor a rider, run an event

- ❑ create public awareness – polio and club
- ❑ raise funds through sponsorship & events
- ❑ engage your members in a fun activity
- ❑ Rotary Citation event
- ❑ help end polio

END POLIO NOW

We will be in the fourth carriage

ACTION PLAN

The Rotary Foundation

- ❑ **Participate in ride**
 - fellowship, fun & fundraising
 - check event train schedule
 - meet us at your station
 - join the ride
 - make a contribution
- ❑ **Sponsor riders**
 - individuals \$1 per station
 - clubs \$10 per station
 - attract third party sponsors
- ❑ **Create an event**
 - tin rattle at station
 - paint pinkie purple for polio
 - purple cupcakes for polio
 - get creative!
- ❑ **Register participation**
 - fundraising event
 - as a rider
 - your contribution
- ❑ **Public awareness**
 - wear red EPN shirt
 - local newspaper
 - Facebook
 - club newsletter
 - friends of the club
 - politicians
 - local / state / federal
- ❑ **For more info:**
 - contact your District End Polio Chair
 - RISPPO
 - Mark Anderson
 - Rob Byrne

District End Polio Chair:
D9675 – PDG Sue Hayward
D9685 – PDG Bob Aitken

RI Regional Office Resource Guide for Rotary Club Officers

Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office has now provided us with easy access to a set of resources that will simplify your dealings with Rotary International. These resources include 'how-to' guides, links to RI resources, along with guidelines on who to work with at Rotary when dealing with various issues. These resources are organised in a way that Rotarians should find quick and intuitive. To get started, click this link to the [Resource Guide for Club Officers](#). Please save this PDF on your computer so that you always have ready access to it.

Grace Ramirez is our contact at the Regional Office in Parramatta and her aim is to support Rotarians to do good in the world. If you find there are additional Rotary resources to which you need easy access, please let Grace know. Email: Grace.Ramirez@rotary.org or Phone: **02 8894 9830**.

Important dates for your diary...

31 August 2019	Cronulla Rotary Club High Tea Cronulla RSL
2 September 2019	Hurstville Rotary Club 80 th birthday
20 to 22 September 2019	ANZ Conference Christchurch
23 September 2019	Mark Maloney Dinner The Deckhouse Woolwich
25 September 2019	Mt Druitt Rotary Club 50 th birthday
30 September 2019	Parramatta POOTYA (Police Officer of the Year Awards)
27 October 2019	Graffiti Removal Day
11 November 2019	The Rotary Foundation Dinner
23 November 2019	Blacktown Rotary Club – Anita Cobby Dinner
24 November 2019	Liverpool Rotary Club's 70 th Birthday
5-11 January 2020	January RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)
17 February 2020	Maroubra Rotary Club's 60 th Anniversary

Some helpful direct links to important websites...

Conference 2020 Registration	Conference 2020 Registration
District Directory	District Directory - Login
District Website	Rotary District 9675 Home Page
District Speaker List	District 9675 Speaker List
Rotary International	Rotary International Home Page
RI South Pacific & Philippines Office	Resource Guide for Club Officers

Yours in Rotary – Connecting the World

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Dianne North
District Governor