



Dear Friends,

As we draw near the end of Rotary Awareness Month let's see how much awareness we have generated.

I know the RYLA committee worked hard to publicise its RYLA camp and each year, I am sure, new parents gain an understanding of what Rotary is all about. Similarly the Youth Exchange students and the District YEP committee promote their events when they can. The big ticket item of the month was achieving our \$200 million challenge and promoting the fact that India has been Polio Free for 12 months. The well respected journal The Economist published a very informative article on Polio Eradication and recognised Rotary's efforts. And then there was Australia Day. Unfortunately the Parramatta Park day was a washout but the events in Glenbrook went ahead. Lower Blue Mountains estimates 6-7000 attended on the day and everywhere they would have seen Rotary's presence. The Gnome Convention was a hit once again with several "distinguished" Rotarians dressed as gnomes for the day. Nobody can say Rotary in District 9690 is a bunch of men in suits! Thank you to DGN 9685 Graeme and Lyn Davies and PDG Paul and Julia Reid for making the trip up the mountains.

The Rotary Foundation Facts

The 2011 version of the Foundation Facts brochure is now available and as usual, it's filled with interesting facts and lots of good things to talk about. The highlights of our achievements are:

PolioPlus – We may have reached the \$200 million target but the work goes on. During the year, a total of **\$76.7 million** went to polio grants.

Matching Grants – During the year there were 1,634 grants approved with program awards reaching **\$33.2 million**. These were for grants to non-pilot districts only.

Future Vision Pilot – Of the 100 districts participating in the pilot program, 95 districts received district grants totaling over **\$6.1 million** and 208 global grants totaling almost **\$9.3 million**.

District Simplified Grants – Supporting short term service activities on non-FV pilot districts, 351 grants were approved with a total program award of **\$7.0 million**.

Rotary Peace Fellows – During the year, 79 peace fellows from 42 countries began master's degrees and professional certificate studies at a cost of **\$4.1 million**.

Ambassadorial Scholarships – In 2010-11, 414 scholars from 52 countries followed their dreams by continuing their educations and gaining a better understanding of the world and program awards were **\$9.7 million**.

Group Study Exchange – One of Rotary's most popular Foundation programs saw 324 teams travel abroad with itinerary's covering vocational, educational and cultural topics. Program awards were **\$2.8 million**.

GSE Alumni Dinner

Last week I told you about the Alumni Dinner on March 7. Booking are to be made to John Jackson from Parramatta Rotary. Tel: 9629 2473 or work on 9635 8080.

District Conference

I would like to remind you again that the next deadline for Early Bird registration and to benefit from the discount of \$20 is Tuesday this week - **January 31st. Register and pay by 31st January 2012 at a cost of \$275.** More information from our website on www.rotaryd9690conference.org.au

Club Roman Standards

When Rome went to battle its army carried its standard, or banner. As a variation on a theme this year, the conference Roll Call will include clubs' standard bearers marching in with **YOUR OWN CLUB STANDARD**. There will be a Club Standards competition so get together now with your innovative club thinkers and come up with a design to slay the rest. What is your club's signature event or recognition point? It only needs a broomstick, a club banner perhaps, a unique theme and topped off with a suitable "Roman" piece. Details of how and when they will be displayed will be issued with further Conference Newsletters.

Next Presidents Meeting February 17th

The next meeting is February 17th. Invited guests are your club New Generations Directors. Please RSVP by Thursday 9 February. Presidents please inform your AG in the usual way and district leaders please let David Bamford know how many will be attending.

RAWCS

PDG Barry McConville has put together the regional RAWCS newsletter attached. This newsletter is full of very interesting information which doesn't normally get down to every Rotarian. Please ensure these Cookie's Communiques are passed on to your members for their information.

Polio Movie Nights

Remember to advertise these among the clubs and make Rotary Week something special. Details in past editions.

Presidential Citation and Changemaker Awards

I have issued a separate bulletin to club presidents and AG's

World Understanding Month

February is World Understanding Month and Rotary's 107th Birthday. What are your plans?

Coming Events for January and February

Early Bird registration for District Conference - 31 January
"Sunset on the Sydney", Strathfield Club - February 3
Interplast Dinner, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise - 11 February
Interplast Golf Day, Blackheath , Upper Blue- 12 February
New Generations Forum, Karalyn Brown - 12 February
2012-13 Leadership Team Training, DGE Keith Roffey - 12 February
Interviews for DGN D9675, 2013-14 - 15 February
Liverpool Movie Night for Polio - February 15
Presidents Meeting - February 17
Rotary Week - February 20 to 25
Charter Night Rotary E-club of Greater Sydney - Epping RSL Feb 24
Katoomba Special Event for Rotary's 107th - February 25 Carrington Hotel

DG's Diary for this week

Tuesday - GSE Team Meeting
 - Lower Blue Mountains Rotary meeting
Thursday - District Conference Committee meeting
Friday - Sunset on The Sydney, Garden Island
Saturday - Taking my wife out for her birthday.

Until next week

Enjoy Rotary and Reach within to Embrace Humanity

David and Carolyn

David Cook

District Governor 2011-12, Rotary International District 9690 inc

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