



Friends,

This week we are back in Sydney enjoying a very busy Rotary Week with a lot of commitments and sharing the birthday celebrations with several clubs. I must say how difficult it was to continue with Cookie's Communique using MacDonald's free Wi-fi but thanks to David Bamford we were still able to keep in touch.

I hope there were lots of Polio pins sold or given away during the week. You know, every time I come across the polio story this week I am still blown away with the history of it, the successes we have achieved and the excitement of being just 1% away from the complete eradication. People ask about it and mention they have heard of it so we know the message is getting out there. We can also look forward to hearing Jenny Horton and Ramesh Ferris at District Conference give their views and updates on the polio message.

*****Breaking News*** - District Governor Nominee 2014-15, D9675**

AG Barry Antees from Parramatta City has today been selected as District Governor Nominee for 2014-15 for the new District 9675.

Subject to the usual period of appeals Barry will join the leadership team in a new role and we look forward to him helping the steering committee plan the redistricting process.

Congratulations Barry.

E Club of Greater Sydney

We were privileged to attend the charter dinner on Friday of this brand new Rotary Club. It was a "real" get together of the charter members and a refreshing look at what Rotary has to offer in this new format. There are now around 38 members of the club and I encourage everybody not to be concerned about district boundaries and treat this club as one of ours "in Sydney". E-club members are encouraged to get involved with their local traditional club (that's us) so don't be surprised to see a new Rotarian drop by for a face to face meeting or ask to help out with a service project in their/your community. We know how difficult it is to retain members who may have trouble keeping up with meeting attendance etc because of work or travel, so here is a way to keep them in Rotary. Encourage them to check out www.rotary-eclub-greatersydney.org or contact the president, Tony Castley [0414 801 888](tel:0414801888) for more information.

GSE Team visit

Plans are now complete for the team's hosting in the district. They arrive Tuesday 6 March and kick off with the Alumni/ GSE dinner that evening. Bookings for the dinner can be made with John Jackson on jacksonoptical1@bigpond.com. Please book and pay beforehand. Parramatta Leagues Club, 6.30pm for 7.00pm, \$50 per person.

Toastmasters Event at Blacktown

I have heard from Tom Ware, who is a Toastmaster and has spoken at many Rotary and Probus meetings. He was inviting all interested Rotarians to come along to Blacktown Workers Club on Friday 13th April. A number of Toastmasters are running an event to commemorate the Centenary of the Titanic. Quite a few Probus clubs are going to be present. The event is a not-for-profit, being run by Toastmasters International. Full details are available from the website <http://tomware.com.au>

Craft Fair - Rosehill Gardens 8-11 March

We have been offered an opportunity to share a display stand with the Macular Degeneration Foundation at a craft show at Rosehill Gardens from 8-11 March. I know this is only two weeks away but I was unsure of the requirements up until this week.

It seems the MD Foundation have offered the shared space to Rotary through our District Governor, David Anderson in Yea, Victoria.

The hours for the event are 10.00 – 4.30 pm at the Rosehill Gardens (8-11 March). They suggest 3 people at any time could man the display – the company running the show (Expertise Events) are providing 4 free entries each day and as one of these should go to the Ophthalmologist from Vision Eye Group, that will leave three free entries for Rotarians.

I have asked the clubs around the Parramatta Zone if they can help out but other clubs are also most welcome to assist. Anybody want more information please contact me in the first instance.

February District Newsletter

Last edition is attached for those people not yet able to get one from your club president. It is always also immediately available on the district website.

District Conference

Just four weeks away and I and my conference committee are getting nervous. Whilst we had a wonderful response to our early registrations, numbers have slowed down somewhat during February. I remind everyone that we'd like all registrations in by the end of this week so we have a definitive number to talk to caterers about. Late registrations are likely to be accepted but it adds more grey hairs (hard to believe I know) and very touchy committee meetings.

There is news on [Speakers, program and the Conference Golf Day](#) and the [conference Newsletter](#); please click appropriately. Could club presidents, College of Governors and all my Leadership Team please take this by the throat this week and garner more responses. There are clubs (namely Holroyd, Lower Blue and Padstow) who are making up the majority of registrations at this stage and I know there are many more in the pipeline. Rotarians can be advised that if they are having any trouble deciding whether to come or not, they can easily pick and choose what suits them and they can contact me or the conference chairman Roger Winterburn if you need help with the registration process.

District Conference Reflections

On matters relating to the Conference could clubs presidents please be reminded to get details to me of anybody from your clubs who has passed away since the conference at Bathurst. We are putting together the reflections segment and need to have time to ensure it is a fitting memorial.

Quilt Raffle for Alola Foundation

The raffle will be drawn at Conference on Saturday evening. Please ensure all books (sold and unsold) are returned to Carolyn as soon as practicable

Coming Events

Interviews for DGN D9675 – Today, 26 February
Mt Druitt 10 pin bowling – Today, 26 February
Committee of the Association meeting - Wednesday 29 February
ARH Golf Day – Riverside Oaks, Friday 2 March
Multi District PETS - 3-4 March
Rotaract Clothes Swap - 3 March
Clean up Australia Day – 4 March
GSE Team D1410 – Arrives 6 March
GSE Welcome Dinner – 7 March
Rosehill Gardens Craft Show - 8-11 March
DISTRICT CONFERENCE – March 23-24

DG's Diary for this week

Today - Interviews for DGN, D9675 2014-15
Tuesday - Hosting friends for Sweden plus Lower Blue Mountains Pride of Workmanship Awards
Wednesday - District Committee of Association Meeting
Thursday - District Conference Committee Meeting
Friday - ARH golf day
Saturday - Rotaract Clothes Swap

Until next week

Enjoy Rotary and Reach within to Embrace Humanity

David and Carolyn

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