



Friends,

Time for a change of colour. This week is the beginning of March and it represents the next two months around Kalyan's theme logo. It also signifies how quickly the year is passing.

DGE Keith and your President-elect colleagues have just completed what, I am sure, was a very successful PETS. Is it really 12 months ago when we began the same journey with our Multi District PETS at Liverpool? That was a great start to a fantastic year and we can look forward to completing our goals over the next three months and helping those following to set and achieve their targets, with the added responsibilities of Redistricting.

Last night Carolyn and I attended Burwood Club's inaugural Business Community Awards Night. This was a great initiative of President Tim and his team and was exciting to see many businesses being awarded for their excellence in having community mindedness. I am sure Tim will take from this first time and build on it for the future.

### **Attention Presidents**

Please ensure this edition is sent on to all your club members. There is lots of important material to convey.

### **New Granddaughter**

Paul and Julia Reid announced the arrival of their brand new granddaughter, Molly Jayne, born to Melissa and Paul last Monday.

Baby weighed in at 8lb. 2 oz. and both mum and bub are doing very well.

Julia & Paul both survived the ordeal and are very proud indeed.

### **GSE Team visit**

The team from Finland arrives on Tuesday and will be taken for a quick "recce" of Sydney during the morning followed by a welcome and introductions at RDU before transferring to their first host families. I said last week that they then attend the Alumni Dinner that evening but, of course, it is on the Wednesday evening at Parramatta Leagues Club, 6.30pm for 7.00pm, \$50 per person. If you haven't already got your tickets please check with John Jackson on [jacksonoptical1@bigpond.com](mailto:jacksonoptical1@bigpond.com) to see if there is still availability.

Let's give the Finns a time to remember!

### **Toastmasters Event at Blacktown**

I remind you about the Centenary of the Titanic event being held at Blacktown Workers Club on Friday 13th April. 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**

The response to my call for help to man a Rotary display at the craft fair has not been good. We are committed to the space and the Macular Degeneration Foundation will have an ophthalmologist on the stand at all times handing out their information. Rotary will be given \$1000 as an incentive, besides which the cost of a stand at this show is somewhere around \$3000 I am told

The hours for the event are 10.00 to 4.30 pm at the Rosehill Gardens (8-11 March). They suggest 3 people at any time could man the display. We will be given 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 a small number of people I can create a roster for, including Winston Hills Rotary from D9680, but please phone me immediately if you can help out. I am surprised that not more "crafty" folk haven't seized the opportunity to save the \$16 entry fee.

### **District Conference**

Countdown now is just three weeks away and final numbers are dribbling in. Please keep up the enthusiasm within the clubs and make your decisions to register. Don't forget you can decide on when you are able to come. If you cannot fathom the **ONLINE** registration process, or you would like to discuss a specialised program, designed for you, please call me or Roger Winterburn. We can accommodate most requests so please don't miss out.

**Speakers, program and the Conference Golf Day** have already been circulated and these are also posted on the website for your information.

### **District Conference Reflections**

Clubs presidents should 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 Aloha 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

### **National Youth Science Forum NYSF**

News from our new NYSF Chair Sarah Whereat on the plans for NYSF this year. Sarah has taken over the reins from Barrie and Eileen Britten, surely very difficult shoes to fill. Congratulations and thanks to Barrie and Eileen for a job well done, and for continuing with the committee this year.

Sarah has indicated a change this year in being able to assess student interactions more, as the students Australia wide have demonstrated decreased interactions with others over the last two years. Other districts have been able to involve past students in the interviews more in this area. Sarah is planning to involve some former RLYA graduates and Rotaract members.

Dates for this year are as follows

Selection for interview meeting Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Interviews Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Orientation Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of September

Pleasing, too, is our district's role in the redistricting process, as Sarah has met with her counterparts to talk through the merger issues.

### **District Awards**

As Governor I am told by RI that 22 March 2012 is the deadline for me to report the names of all the Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, and Interact clubs in your district that qualify for the [2011-12 Changemaker Award](#). The international Changemaker Award competition will culminate in President Banerjee recognizing the best small, medium, and large Changemaker club onstage at the RI Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, 6-9 May 2012.

I have previously set **15 March** as YOUR deadline to get the information to me.

**Presidential Citation** follows but I have also set 15 March as your deadline. Please get your nominations in to me to avoid disappointment.

The Presidential Citation recognizes achievements in Foundation giving and membership at both the club and district levels. Any questions may be directed via email to [membershipawards@rotary.org](mailto:membershipawards@rotary.org)

### **Lighting up Federation Square**

Message from Howard Tong, our regional PR Coordinator, was that the lighting went very well. Here is a posting on the PR Blog

<http://public-image-action.blogspot.co.nz/>

### **Rotary Clubs of St Marys and Mt Druitt**

After much planning and Council approvals these clubs are combining to hold their first Rotary Market Day at Ropes Crossing on Sunday 25 March. What a fabulous opportunity for those attending conference and staying at Panthers on Saturday night to head home via the market and give them some support. Details of where and how are posted on the district website or contact the clubs for further information.

### **District Governor 2014-15 District 9685**

Nominations for District Governor 2014-15 for D9685 are now open. Interested parties should send an expression of interest to me immediately so that detailed response requirements can be made available by the DG Nominating Committee Chair, PDG John Cameron, D9680.

### **Contribute to The Rotary Foundation ONLINE**

Through the marvels of modern technology and our webmaster Richard, D9690 will soon have a link on our website so you can contribute to the Foundation by a touch of a button.

Remember this is one of my goals for 2011-12 to increase awareness and personal and district giving to the Foundation. Annual giving is down a bit on last year but here now is an opportunity to easily and safely add you contribution.

### **District Simplified Grants**

District Simplified Grants Chair Graham Wilson would like to advise all Clubs that the closing date for DSG's is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 addressed to him at [graham04@tpg.com.au](mailto:graham04@tpg.com.au). If you have any questions please contact Graham on 0402 409 809.

### **Coming Events**

GSE Team D1410 - Arrives 6 March  
Mt Druitt Police Officer of the Year Awards - 7 March  
GSE Welcome Dinner - 7 March  
Rosehill Gardens Craft Show - 8-11 March  
Ambassadorial Scholars Orientation Day - RDU 17 March  
Penrith St Patricks Day Parade - Penrith 17 March (See Caesar in his chariot promote the Expo)  
**ROTARY EXPO** - March 23 Panthers  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE** - March 23-24  
St Marys Police Officer of the Year Awards - 28 March  
Holtoyed Police Officer of the Year Awards - 2 April  
EASTER 6-9 April

### **DG's Diary for this week**

Monday - District Conference Committee Meeting  
Tuesday - GSE Team from Finland arrives. Airport and RDU welcome  
Wednesday - GSE Alumni Dinner  
Thursday - District Conference Committee Meeting  
Thursday to Sunday - various times at Rosehill Craft Show  
Saturday - Redistricting Steering Committee, Campbelltown, 1.30pm  
Sunday - Granddaughter's first 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*

*Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains Inc*

*12 Cox Street, GLENBROOK NSW 2773*

*Ph: 61 2 4739 5868 Mobile: 61 4 39494835*

*Email: [drcook@ozemail.com.au](mailto:drcook@ozemail.com.au)*