



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



# Rotary District 9700 Newsletter



JUNE 2012

## THANKS D9700 FOR A WONDERFUL ROTARY 2011-12

Jean and I want to say THANKS to District 9700 for a wonderful Rotary year.

For us it has been an exceptional and exhilarating experience and one we will reflect on for many years.

We have experienced the unique fellowship of Rotarians and partners at all levels of our District and this has made the year most rewarding.

The support we have received and friendships made among the District Board, Assistant Governors, Presidents, Committees and Club members has been at times, humbling to us.

With your support, this has resulted in our District achieving extra-ordinary accomplishments for our local and international communities.

We can all be pleased with, and proud of, our combined achievements throughout the year as together we have strived to 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity'.

Best wishes to DG Greg, Lyn and the District Team for 2012-13.

This is the final Newsletter for the 2011-12 Rotary Year, SO...

on the readers' behalf, it is appropriate that I thank the team who have brought you the District Governor's Monthly Newsletters for 2011-12.

Our THANKS to:

- Editor – Ian Davison
- Taking the Mystery out of Rotary Acronyms – Nan Stevenson
- Electronic circulation – Paul Murray

Also the newsletter could not have been as comprehensive if it were not for Presidents and Bulletin Editors providing photos and copy.

*Ian Simpson  
District Governor 2011-12*



### HERE'S SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU PROUD TO BE A ROTARIAN

Thanks to Wagga Wagga Rotary, Jacob Watson a wheelchair bound 11-year-old with muscular degeneration now has greater independence, freedom and many options at High School next year.

The gift of a motorised scooter opens a new world of opportunity that able bodied people take for granted.

"The scooter is lots of fun and my two brothers keep asking me if they can have a turn" Jacob said after receiving his gift from President Barry Francis.

*"Catch me if you can!"  
Jacob Watson shows off his new 'Freedom Machine'.*



## RI ZONE DIRECTOR STUART HEAL REFLECTS ON 2 YEARS AT RI BOARD LEVEL

“As I write my last monthly comment, I am reflecting on my two year term as your RI Board member.

“Sadly, I finish the role somewhat disillusioned with the governance structures within Rotary.

“I am more than somewhat saddened as I watch next year’s Board reverse so many decisions taken over the past two years and sadly, in my view, those reversals are of some of the more progressive decisions.

“Five items proposed for the next Council of Legislation by one or other of the last two Boards have been withdrawn by next year’s Board already, and two others significantly altered to completely change the direction of the initial thinking.

“I might be guilty of trying to interfere with democracy but as I reflect on these reversals I feel our direction is becoming even more conservative.

“Clearly, a number of initiatives that have come out of a very hard working Strategic Planning team are being reversed or are under threat.

“I hope the brand revitalisation plans remain intact.

“It clearly illustrates to me the problem with a new leadership team every year in Rotary.

“We often claim this is a strength



of the organisation. I will take some convincing as we continue to zigzag our way through various strategic issues and constantly fail to tell our fantastic stories to the world.

“However, my enthusiasm is immediately fired up again as I see the great work being done in clubs and districts all over our zone.

“A weekend working with all 10 districts in the Philippines was a great tonic immediately after the

last board meeting.

“They get it there!!!

“Rotary is on a roll in the Philippines as it is in many clubs and districts in Australia and New Zealand.

“It is the work we do and the fun we have in our clubs that matters and no matter what goes on at Board level those clubs and districts will continue to thrive”.

*Photo: Stuart Heal, Past RI Board Director*

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## 2012 ROTARY PHOTO CONTEST



Congratulations to John Glassford of Coolamon Rotary, placed in the 2012 Rotary Photo Contest.

Noted photographer and 2012 judge, Harry Benson says, “This close-up of a gorilla, intently gazing at a twig as if reading a thermometer, is amusing and catches your eye.

It is a quiet moment in time that will not happen again”.

*Photo Highly Commended – Gorilla in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda*

# ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

Rotary was founded on fellowship, a concept that has been expanded internationally through the Rotary Fellowships, groups that bring together members from different countries and cultures to enjoy a shared interest.

Rotary Fellowships are groups of Rotarians and partners who join together to:

- Share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities
- Further their vocational development through acquaintance with others of the same profession
- Make new friends around the world
- Explore new opportunities for Rotary service
- Have fun and enhance their Rotary experience

In addition to fostering lifelong friendships, Rotary Fellowships keep members active in Rotary, sustaining their interest and further inspiring commitment.

To quote The Dog from the comic

strip 'Footrot Flats', there are 'Lots & Lots' of Registered Rotary Fellowships.

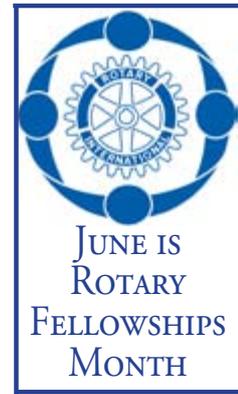
They encompass a variety of vocations and recreational pursuits, ranging from professional to sports interests and hobbies.

Every Fellowship is a way to extend international fellowship, friendship, and service.

In addition to offering members an



*Susan & John Glassford in Bangkok to support Rotarians for Fighting AIDS (RFFA) Action Group*



opportunity to share their passion for a particular interest with like-minded Rotarians, many individual fellowship groups enable members to use their hobbies or skills to serve others.

Consider joining a Rotary Fellowship that addresses your interest.

There are more photos taken at the Bangkok Conference of friendship groups on the next page. I hope these excite you to think about joining a group.

*Ian Simpson*

*District Governor, 2011-12*

## HERE'S JUST A FEW ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS



Some of the usual and more unusual displays at the Bangkok Convention shows the range of interests in Rotary Fellowships

1. ShelterBox – a Rotary Partner Program
2. International Fellowship of Rotarian Convention Goers
3. Environment Fellowship of Rotarians
4. International Chess Fellowship of Rotarians
5. International Fellowship of Rotary-on-Stamps
6. Rotary Global History Fellowship (An Internet Project)



# Dream Cricket ...



Eight successful Dream Cricket clinics have been held in the District this year in Bathurst, Orange, Parkes, Cootamundra and Young.

According to District Coordinator John Hamblin, around 400 children have enjoyed participating in the clinics that are supported by local High School students.

Dream Cricket provides primary school students who have a disability with an exciting and fun time through their participation in a game of cricket.

Gala Days are planned for Orange, Cootamundra, Wagga Wagga and Griffith in term 4 this year.

Congratulations to all those Rotarians who have participated in Dream Cricket. Its a truly wonderful project and brings joy to many children.

This is what one parent thinks about Dream Cricket.

Dear Mr Hamblin,  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, fellow Rotarians, school representatives, NSW Cricket reps. and Young Public School for including our daughter in Dream Cricket.

Our daughter Ruby who attends St Mary's Primary School, participates in Dream Cricket last year and was extremely excited to be invited again. Ruby had a great day and with a big smile on her face told us she will make a good cricketer. She cannot <sup>want to</sup> play more Dream Cricket. The opportunity to play a team sport is essential for her confidence and self esteem. Ruby has had vision in one of her eyes and has been advised by her ophthalmologist not to play team sport with a ball because if she was to damage the good eye she would be left with little sight, so therefore Dream Cricket is the perfect option as it controlled and safe.

Ruby has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy we believe she has "challenged abilities". NOT a disability, maybe physical weakness... Thanking you all again for such a perfect day and teaching cricket to the children. I am sure Sir Donald Bradman would be proud. We ~~think~~ think DREAM CRICKET IS AWESOME!!

# NEPAL FRIENDSHIP PROJECT DOES GOOD IN THE WORLD

There are three main aspects to this District 9700 Project being coordinated by Bathurst and Orange Daybreak Rotary Clubs:

- Maintenance of the Bal Mandir Naxal Children's Home for 250 children to the age of 18 in Kathmandu (a Rotary – Mitrataa Partnership);

- Teacher Training Program to enhance the skills of Nepalese teachers through running week long workshops for 60 teachers in April 2012, including 20 teachers from remote Mountain areas of Nepal; and

- Health professionals enhancing children's disease prevention and treatment through education of house mothers' in Dental and First Aid care.

A number of Rotary Clubs throughout District 9700 have donated funds and provided or promised working parties to support this RAWCS project.

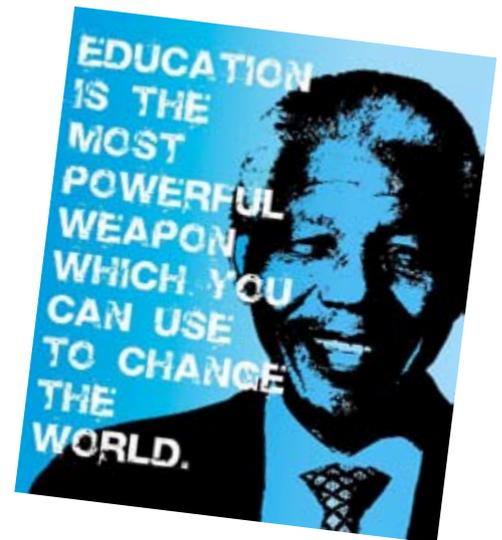
What people involved have said

This was an exciting, fantastic and at times overwhelming experience summarised by the following statements:

- A belief that this 'cause' will make a difference through the opportunity to use my professional skills to help others.

- To work with Rotary on an International project that is very worthwhile.

- Absolutely daunting on the first day; Whatever I expected it was more than I expected; By the second day absolutely impressed



by the sense of hope, engagement, care and responsiveness of the children and houseparents (at the orphanage)

- The keenness of the kids in tooth brushing!



*Photo above - Teacher training team & interpreters take a break in the village*

*Photo right - The simple joy and fun of finger painting*

# ROTARY DOING GOOD IN NEPAL



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*Photo 1. Working on the orphanage nursery  
2. Learning to clean teeth  
3. Teacher training Class photo in Kathmandu  
4. First Aid class for house mothers and senior girls  
5. Work completed and ready for the babies*



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# OUR WONDERFUL WORLD OF ROTARY

## GARDENS DEVELOPED AT GRIFFITH HOSPITAL

In a move to brighten the entrance to the Oncology Unit and Maternity Ward at the Griffith Base Hospital, the Griffith Rotary Club has completed another project within the city.

The garden will provide a more pleasant approach for those attending the oncology and maternity areas.

The work entailed the installation of a permanent automatic watering system, a lawned area, gardens, crushed granite paths and decorative shade trees.

As a focal point a sandstone statue entitled "Maternity" has been installed.

This was carved and donated by Griffith Rotarian Noel Hicks.

*Photo - Griffith Rotarians Renzo Rovere and Noel Hicks place 'Maternity' on-site*



## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES FOR CHRISTCHURCH NZ

Christchurch NZ residents will soon have even more access to library services, with City Libraries receiving two new mobile library vans which should be operating by October.

The Mobile Library service connects the community with Christchurch City Libraries by:



■ Providing regular services to areas that have fewer libraries facilities; and

■ Promoting access to library services through community events and activities.

Since the earthquakes, the existing Mobile Library bus has been unable to reach some parts of Christchurch because of its size.

The vans, which provide a portable social, recreational and learning space, will help fill the gap left in library services after the earthquakes forced the closure of a number of Libraries.

One of the advantages of the new, smaller mobile library vans is their ability to visit these places.

One van has been funded by donations from a partnership of Australian Districts, including from D9700 and a Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation.

The other van was funded through a partnership with Rotary International and the Cotton On Foundation.

*Photo - Mobile library bus operating in Christchurch NZ*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We hope you enjoy Rotary as much as we enjoy having you!

Susan Taylor – Forbes Ipomoea

Paul Parry - Parkes

Bradley Gill - Griffith East

Don Wilkinson – Young

Tim Macgillicuddy – Wollundry Wagga

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

Congratulations to Rotary for recognising hard working members of clubs and communities with the award of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Sue Armstrong - Grenfell

David Dixon – Grenfell

## AND A BIG CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

Graeme Fleming of Orange Daybreak awarded the Public Service Medal in the Queens Birthday 2012 Honours for outstanding service to Local Government, Cabonne Shire Council.

