



District Governor's Newsletter

ROTARY IN JANUARY - Rotary Awareness Month

**Rotary International
District 9500
South Australia and
Northern Territory**

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District 9500 Website
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Diary Dates

February 13, 2009

Cut-off date for Resolutions for Conference to be submitted

March 27-29, 2009

District Conference
Mt Gambier

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to the 'New Year'. It will fulfil promises, heal differences and, I expect, recover prosperity, and we Rotarians will be amongst those who 'lead the way' in achieving these objectives.

Your Club Presidents have 'set the sails', to borrow a nautical term, and will follow on by 'trimming' and 'skimming' the surfaces for opportunities provided by wind shifts. You can see I have enjoyed a sailing background, but the metaphor is a valid one.

I have visited nearly every club since July,

and know the efforts and achievements that are unfolding. Please continue your good work. Some of you are now enjoying a well earned summer break and others will, no doubt, continue the comradeship, companionship and tasking that good planning can bring.

I wish you all good health and hope that you and your Clubs can gain strength in numbers and pride in achievements during the coming months.

Roberta Waterman

Rotaractor's year end party

DG Roberta hosted a Christmas party at her home for members from our newest Rotaract Club, which consists of young people from 22 different countries who have been refugees. Many of these people had faced or witnessed terrible travesties before reaching our shores and some have no family with them. They are now forging new lives and settling happily here in Adelaide.

The Club is being nurtured by the Thebarton Secondary School as well as Rotarians from the two SA Districts and representatives from both areas helped cook and entertain at the party.

The Rotaractors have bonded as group and now are willing helpers at Rotary functions such as Carols by Candlelight and Convoy for Kids where Clubs are seeking extra manpower.



PDG Kerry Brandt-Wilson appeared as a stylish Father Christmas and offered wisdom and sweets to anyone who braved his knee.



President Peter White (RC Adelaide) and Rod Falconer with some happy Rotaractors



DG Roberta with Peter White and PDG Kerry Brandt-Wilson (aka Father Christmas - see left)

The countdown is on. *Have YOU registered yet?*

Eco for the Ego...

Rotary District 9500 Conference
Friday 27 March to Sunday 29 March

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER

www.conference9500.rotaryaust.org



Introducing some of our Presidents of District 9500



Kay Doyle
Roxby District



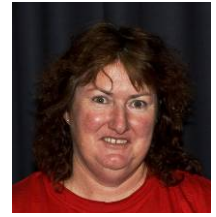
John Hynd
North Adelaide



Maureen Morton
Mawson Lakes



Jari Peltonen
Whyalla



Anthea Walker
Enfield

The future of Rotary - Youth Exchange 2009

An Exchange Student briefing was held over the weekend of 6-7 December with future outgoing students of the District 9500 Long Term Youth Exchange Program meeting at Pt Augusta to discuss and finalise arrangements before they leave our shores in January on their exchange.

Some students already here from overseas also joined us for the weekend: Beatta Lindqvist from Sweden (RC Pt Lincoln), Stine Hansen from Denmark (RC Pt Pirie), Daniela Sallman from Switzerland (RC Pt Augusta) and Sara Bouaziz from France (RC Gawler Light).

The program included a talk by a parent who has a son currently on exchange in Belgium, reports from our current inbound-exchange students as well as seminars on luggage, insurance and other necessary survival skills. A highlight of the weekend was a short talk from a former student who was involved in the program as an 'exchangee' to South Africa, in 1994.

There was also time to talk and discuss some ideas about what to expect on the exchange over lunch. Thanks to the RC Port Augusta for providing the superb luncheon fare.

The following students have made it through the process

and will be leaving Australia in the middle of January for their year long exchange.

Student	Sponsor Club	Destination
Georgia Arnold	Pt Pirie	Switzerland
Melina Benson	Port Lincoln	Denmark
Sam Haslam	Gawler Light	Belgium
Sarah Ryan	Alice Springs	France
Victoria Barker	Kangaroo Island	Germany

It was a terrific weekend and we wish these outgoing students all the best whilst on their exchange.

John Clements, Youth Exchange Committee



L to R: Georgia Arnold, Victoria Barker, Sam Haslam, Melina Benson and Sarah Ryan.

DIK brings Christmas cheer in NT

Donations in Kind (DIK) is pleased to report on the success of our challenge to support the Indigenous children in the Northern Territory with Christmas presents this year. The project been an outstanding success and while initially it was proposed to supply some 250 – 300 children in Darwin with toys, the majority of the Northern Territory's indigenous children were supplied with a gift. By early December, over 13 000 toys had been sent to Aboriginal groups in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs. The support given by Rotarians and the people of Adelaide has been outstanding. It has been accepted, so much so, that it's hoped we will be able to extend this project to encompass all of outback Australia in all Australian States next year.

Thank you to all clubs, members and associates who in any way contributed to this project and, in particular, to the members of the Rotary Clubs of Mitcham, Mordialta and Munno Para

who gave that extra support to ensure the success of the project.

We also express our appreciation and thanks to Blackwell Funerals and their staff who assisted us in collection of toys and to the staff and workers at Northern Territory Freight Lines who transported all these toys free of charge from Adelaide to the NT – a very big job in safely handling all the toys to a most grateful aboriginal community.



Australian Rotary Health



Australian Rotary Health (formerly known as Australian Rotary Health Research Fund) has a new name and logo and a new website

www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

We are pleased to announce that in 2009 a further \$1.9 million will be awarded to mental illness research through Post Doctoral Fellowships, PhD Scholarships and Research Grants. Many of these disbursements are directed towards children's mental health projects spread across most areas of Australia. Australian Rotary Health is also funding 44 mental health research projects in 2009.

Donations to Australian Rotary Health are tax deductible and can be made online at:

www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au or sent by snail-mail to: PO Box 3455 Parramatta, NSW 2124.

Christmas in Port Augusta

On Saturday, 12 December, the RC of Pt Augusta celebrated their 2008 achievements at a Christmas Dinner. It was a casual affair with guests bringing a gift to donate to Uniting Care Wesley for use in their Christmas appeal.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation of a 'Four Avenues of Service' Award to Bernard Smith. This award, the highest individual award that any Rotarian can receive, was awarded to Bernard for his contribution over many years in the four areas of Rotary Service:- Club, Vocational, Community and International. Bernard joins John Moss and Paul Smith as the only Port Augusta Rotarians to have ever received this award.



Pres. Sean Holden congratulates Bernard Smith (right) on his award



Exchange student, Daniela (3rd from left) and friends, showing off their Christmas undies!

Another highlight was when Daniela Sallman, our current Rotary Long Term Youth Exchangee from Switzerland, presented everyone with a pair of underwear briefs. Her parents own and run an 'underwear distribution business' and this was a thank you to the Rotarians from Daniela's parents for hosting her

for 12 months. The underwear was marked with a Rotary emblem on the front and provided a few hilarious moments during the evening.

It was great to celebrate the achievements of the year and enjoy the company of other Rotarians.

History Corner - Introducing a great Rotary character



"History Corner" picks up a promise made last October, when we looked at the fascinating story of William Stuart Morrow, who unknown to Paul Harris, commenced Rotary in Dublin and Belfast.

"Big" Jim Davidson is mentioned as another Rotarian who played a great role in the expansion of the movement, and the promise that his story would be told in a later 'History Corner'. This month's column will fulfil that promise.

After a career that had seen him as a theatrical manager, a member of Commander Robert Peary's expedition looking for the North Pole, a war correspondent, an Inspector General of the US Consulates from Port Said, Egypt to Tokyo, marriage finally settled him in Calgary, Canada, where he joined the local Rotary Club in 1914.

In 1921, together with Colonel Ralston, Past President of the RC Halifax, Nova Scotia, the two, as Rotary's Special Commissioners, commenced clubs in Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington and Auckland. This time he was only away from home for six months.

At the age of 66 he set out in 1928 with his wife and daughter and the grand title of Honorary General Commissioner for RI, on a journey that, according to David Shelley Nicholl in his book, "The Golden Wheel", cost him "a personal outlay of

a quarter of a million dollars, and in the end, through exhaustion, his life itself, though he gave both willingly". It was a journey that saw "Big Jim" or "Marco Polo" or "the Boy Wonder", all names of endearment by which Jim Davidson was known, either commence or lay the foundation for Rotary Clubs in Athens, Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Damascus, Bombay, Teheran, Delhi, Madras, Ceylon, Burma, the Malay States, Singapore, Java, Bali, Sumatra, Siam, Indo-China, Formosa and Hong Kong.

What a journey and what an Ambassador for Rotary. Past President "Big" Jim Davidson holds an honoured place in the history of Rotary.

Although perhaps not to the same extent, there are many early Australian Rotarians who played a tremendous part in the growth and development of Rotary – people such as Professor William Osborne, who brought Rotary to SA, General Sir John Monash, the second President of the RC Melbourne, Sir Angus Mitchell, the first Australian President of RI, and many more.

In your own Rotary Club there will be those early members, who displayed "Service Above Self" and played a significant part in getting Rotary established to what we now know.

I hope that your Club's history records have preserved the stories of these early stalwart Rotarians for future Club anniversaries and special occasions.

PP Colin Brideson OAM, District Historian

Playford news

At the recent Group 4 Clubs combined Christmas meeting, Playford Club presented Paul Harris Fellows to Ann Whitehouse and Chris Irish, for services to the club and community and through their support of their Rotarian husbands, Steve Whitehouse and Geof Irish.

At the same meeting PP Sheila Hall AM, presented a cheque to President Val Kirk to cover the costs of two Shelter Boxes. Sheila recently turned 80 and, in lieu of birthday presents, asked family members and friends who may have bought her a gift, to donate money to Shelterbox. Honorary Rotarian Isabella Greig also donated funds to purchase a Shelterbox in memory of her late husband, Gordon, a former member of the club.



L-R: PP Sheila Hall AM, President Val Kirk and Hon. member Isabella Greig

Club Changes

The Rotary Club of Barossa District's current President, Brian Eckermann, is taking 'leave of absence' from 19 January until the end of the current Rotary year. PP Veronica Semmler will step into the role as President for the remainder of the 2008-09 year.

RI President's Message

Dear fellow Rotarians,

January marks the beginning of the second half of the Rotary year. It's a time to look back on what we've accomplished so far, to assess our progress, and to renew our determination to achieve our goals in the months remaining. It's a time to discuss and evaluate the goals of our clubs as well as the goals we've set for ourselves as Rotarians.

January is also Rotary Awareness Month, a time for us to consider how our Rotary values – and our own actions – influence public perceptions of Rotary. Our strategic plan outlines five core values that define and guide us as we chart a course into our second century of service.

Service is our first value, as it should be. Our focus on service is reflected in our primary motto, Service Above Self. Through our clubs and districts, we have the potential to create better, safer, and healthier communities, one project at a time.

Fellowship is the reason Rotary was founded over 100 years ago. The friendship, the camaraderie, and the wonderful sense of doing something good together is what keeps us all looking forward to our Rotary meetings week after week.

Diversity is an aspect of Rotary that becomes more important

with every passing year. We have just welcomed to Rotary the Republic of Kiribati, which joins the more than 200 countries and geographical areas already on the Rotary map. I look forward with all Rotarians to a day when there is a Rotary club in every community in the world.

Integrity is fundamental to our organization's identity. Every Rotarian is a guardian of the reputation that generations of Rotarians have worked to build. When we maintain the highest ethical standards in all of our dealings, we strengthen the trust that allows us to serve more effectively.

But it will only happen if we show leadership, the fifth, and final, core value. Each of us must remember, with our every action, that we are Rotarians. When we are chosen to become Rotarians, and when we choose to accept that honor, we take it upon ourselves to become representatives of the entire organization.

When we are known as Rotarians, then everything we do reflects upon us all. By living by our core values and committing to Service Above Self, we build a stronger Rotary and a better world for all.

Dong Kurn (DK) Lee, President Rotary International

DK Lee's challenge to reduce childhood mortality

In a breakout session during the RI Convention in Los Angeles, the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development presented project proposals to tackle child mortality, the new RI presidential emphasis.

The best and sustainable way to combat Child and Maternal Mortality is through a "comprehensive approach" in close cooperation with the government, with hospitals and other stakeholders active in this field and in the same target area.

Child Mortality is a complex problem but each single, simple intervention to reduce child mortality is a contribution every club can make.

There are many organizations which clubs and districts can contact to seek advice locally, such as World Health Organization, UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund, and not least The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

The challenge of the new emphasis on "Child Mortality"

Our RI President DK Lee has to be commended for taking up the 'Reduction of child mortality' and the 'Improvement of Maternal Health'. There are new commitments for maternal, newborn and



child health made by the United Nations (UN). At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2008, the leaders spoke up about the world tragedy that 6 million children, 4 million new borns and 530,000 mothers die each year from largely preventable causes.

Leaders stood up and made commitments to new and renewed action and funding to improve maternal, newborn and child health and help the world achieve these Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which strive to reduce child and maternal mortality.

These MDGs call on countries to reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five, and to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters by the year 2015.

Another health MDG aims to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases including tuberculosis.

International partners also committed to the Countdown 2015 for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival initiative that focuses on 68 countries which together account for 97% of maternal, newborn and child deaths.

Largs Bay Rotarians visit Largs Bay

DG Roberta visited the Rotary Club of Largs Bay for a special night to hear from a South African couple, Mr and Mrs Harry du Plessis, about progress with an ongoing project they have supported in Siyakhlowa District. Several other clubs joined with the Largs Bay club in a matching grant last year to support this project, and they had representatives at the meeting, too. The meeting was also attended by Dr John and Mrs Helen Hepburn, visiting from the Rotary Club of Largs Bay, Scotland.



DG Roberta with visitors from the Rotary Club of Largs Bay, Scotland.

Your New Year Resolution?

POSSIBILITIES must be *weighed*

PRIORITIES must be *swayed*

PLANS must be *laid*

COMMITMENTS must be *paid*

The TIMING may be *delayed*

The COURSE must be *stayed*

and the TRUMPETS will then be *played*

Every child deserves a chance

In early November a brief ceremony took place to present a plaque to the staff of the Magill Training and Remand Centre in SA. The plaque celebrates the granting of funding from Australian Rotary Health to Professor Michael Sawyer for research into the effects of remand on the mental health of young people. The inmates range in age from 10 to 18 years and often come from broken or single family homes. Cases of second or third generation unemployed is not uncommon.

It is a sad fact that their only contact with 'normal' life is from communication

with staff of the Centre. Depression and anxiety problems, coupled with drug related dependencies, are common. Paperwork and forms often have to be explained by the research assistant, Matthew Guidolin, as the literacy level is unacceptably low.

The staff work in under-budgeted circumstances, but are committed to making a difference in helping these inmates to lead better lives. The research grant has been a ray of hope to provide data that may lead to better treatments and establish protocols for the future.



Prof. Michael Sawyer, Chair - Research Committee, Kevin Wheeldon, Manager Magill Centre and PDG Allan Wilson

Australian Rotary Health is making a difference by helping to create new knowledge through research.

*PDG Allan Wilson
Director Australian Rotary Health*

Who gets to set our priorities?



The aim of each Club in Rotary is to serve under the Four Pillars or Avenues principle. You know what they are: Club Service, Vocational, Community and International, and so when I listened to the speech given to the Rotary Club of Adelaide by Ilyasi Samba Siraji, in late December, it started a course of renewed reflection.

For those who are yet to meet and know Ilyasi – probably most of you at this stage, but I suspect you will all know him soon - he is the current Leader of the Thebarton Rotaractors Club, a group of diverse students drawn strongly from recent refugee status.

The speech was one designed to enlighten the '200 odd' members and guests, on how he recalled that Christmas was celebrated in his original homeland, The Congo, in central Africa, a country comprising both Muslims and Christians.

Ilyasi speaks several homeland tongues as well as fluent French and very good English. His speech achieved an emotional tug on the heart strings of all those present. This was no mean achievement as he held the spotlight in front of a very large and

distinguished gathering including Vice Regal patronage, both past and present. He briefed us on life as it was, how it became torn apart by civil and tribal war; how the most learned locals became corrupt, and how it has unfolded to divide both country and families (he has a brother still living a stateless existence in a warring refugee camp in neighbouring Rwanda and he has lost contact with his father). After recounting his story, Ilyasi deserved, and received, a standing ovation.

Which brings me back to my original reflection: Ilyasi is just one of sixty Rotaractors from the Thebarton Club. Many others have harrowing stories of past ordeals which they are trying to put behind them. How do we help them? Where does this fit with the Avenues of Service? These young people are our future Leaders and potential Rotarians and they are right here in Adelaide.

Where do their concerns fit with your plans? I would like to know.

DG Roberta

The Voice of Rotary

5RPH (1197AM): 7.30 - 8.00pm Tuesdays
Presented by Malcolm S Elliott (RC Adelaide)

Jan 6 PP Shirley Wright (Largs Bay)
Saving lives through Bowel Scan

Jan 13 Pres Peter White (Adelaide)
The Rotary Club of Adelaide

Jan 20 Rtn Catherine Logue (Adelaide West)
International Rotary Youth
Leadership Awards

Jan 27 Ian Fisk
Prostate Cancer

Mt Gambier - March 2009



This is a photo of the District 9500 Conference Committee for Mount Gambier, 27 to 29 March 2009. These Rotarians have been hard at work planning the various activities on offer to make your time at the conference both informative and fun.

There's still time to register for the conference and there's plenty of quality accommodation available. Please visit the conference website (see front page) for more information.

Advising RI of incoming officers for 2009/10

If club presidents and secretaries are using Member Access to advise RI of their incoming officers for 2009-2010 they do not need to complete a separate Official Directory form and return it to Data Services.

Clubs are encouraged to have their club president and/or secretary registered for Member Access to maintain all club records. Member Access is the preferred method of these records being maintained.

Any Rotarian who is an 'active' member of their club is also encouraged to register for Member Access as they do not need to be a club officer to do so. Registration has been made easier and more secure, in an effort to encourage them to do so.