



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9780



Hello for the month of April: that is “**Magazine Month**” this is the month when all Clubs are asked to submit any news worthy items to the RDU magazine , more on that shortly.

I cannot go further without thanking one and all for the amazing experience we all shared over the Conference weekend. The list of people to thank is listed in the hundreds, but can I offer our, very kind thanks and warm regards to you all for attending , for without you there is no Conference. To our PRID Dr John Thorne and Shirley, to our fabulous Committee, who as all would know have worked for two years to put this weekend on, and didn't it show, and to our helpers , speakers, camera men AV operator, Sponsors, in particular TGM our Major sponsor, and of course that fantastic centre at Mercure. You will see that there is an insert dealing only with the, Conference so I wont go on , but thank you all very much for your support. Ted and Pat

Back to the present Magazine Month, it was in only October 2008 that our very own magazine, Rotary Downunder had its 43 Birthday, and in fact celebrated the 500 Issue of that Splendid Magazine that month.

RDU Founding Editor was PDG Paul Henningham, in the early years was responsible for laying the foundation for what we have today, and of course an institution in his own right is the ever popular Bob Aitkin who has been in charge now for 25 years.

Most would be aware of these facts, and we now have a world class magazine it is worth devoting time to the areas that have made our mag the good thing it is.

Highlights can be dangerous as some will be forgotten or overlooked, so I wont go there , but there has been no part of our historical background left un covered by RDU, and this very largely attributable to two factors the members and the editors. We get to hear some wonderful tales of Rotary exploits from some members and by the time they are in print, we have not just a report on a program but usually a stunning story that captures and holds our attention. One would not be fair if the Chestnut Brigade were not mentioned, as these Rotarians seek change by operating through the print media of the magazine, but in fairness they bring to us areas of concern, two I can name are acronyms and membership, there is not many issues that these subjects are not brought up, but this is healthy and good, and keeps these various issues on the boil, and as in all Rotary life you can agree or disagree without starting a war, it really is a wonderful example of democracy at work.

Our Editors have been men of Vision, Paul Henningham, and Bob Aitkin have great writing skills, and above everything else were/are communicators. Synonymous with Paul was Past Rotary International Vice President, Ken Scheller, Ken was an orator to charm the fruit off the vine, but was also an administrator of note and highly respected by senior leaders within RI.

And so the experiment that started with suggestions by the Rotary Clubs of Newtown N.S.W. and Bayswater Victoria, in 1965 with the cries of “ it will never work” ringing in their ears, it began. Then in 1975 the accolade came with RI approval for Rotary Downunder, as a regional magazine. We have been well served Bob is as comfortable speaking to the RI President as the newest Rotarian, and is again a wonderful communicator and pen man.

And so we have been lucky, but still it is us the members that contribute to our Magazine that makes the difference, how often do we read items of interest written from a Club somewhere in the world or an event or program, we are kept up to speed by our magazine, so next time it is delivered to your home or Club, have a read and consider what you might be able to contribute, it is one of, if not the best communication tools at our disposal, its a bit like an oversized club bulletin really, so can we recommend that you use it and enjoy it, Great, thank you

Ted.

ROTARY DISTRICT 9780 NEWSLETTER

FROM D.SECRETARIES DESK:

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Rotarians:

Rtn's: **Kon Archon**, Rty Club of Wendouree Breakfast, **Dr John Paton** From Ocean Grove. **Kate Johnston** and **Tony Pearson** both at the Rotary Club of Kerang, **Mal Jones** St Arnaud, **Peter Barnwell**, and **Lili Gocentas** both from Rotary Club of Corio, **Graeme Arthur** Rty Club of Horsham East, **Dr Norman and Noelene Castle** both from the Rotary Club of Stawell.

Called to higher Service:

PP **Ian Whitty** Rotary Club of Swan Hill, **Dr Syd Giddy** of Wendouree and **Fred Prosser** of Millicent.

District Directory Changes:

The boot, has been delivered to **Horsham East** on 4 March 2009, from **Dimboola..**
Page 72 of the D Directory, **Mathew Kelson** has a new e-mail address mathewkelson@gmail.com
President John Calinin, of Ocean Grove also has a new e-mail address and that is johncalnin@bigpond.com

GSE TEAM D 9780/5020:

On March 23, the GSE Team from our District, left for D 5020, Western Washington State in the US and Vancouver Island Canada. The Team leader, Jerry Leech, leads Jane Charles, Andrew Matheson, Tim McDonald and Shana Read, of course we saw our team along with the D 5020 Team as well at District Conference last 13,14 and 15 March.

They have a Blog site which they plan to update while overseas, so if any member wants to follow their trek while o/s you can visit the site on, <http://www.rotary9780gse.blogspot.com/>

For those who wish to involve themselves in some interesting reading the Team 5020 also has a blog that address is <http://gse-d5020-d9780.blogspot.com/>

RYLA DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Would like to hear from any club in the district that would be interested in being the host club for the RYLA seminar 2010.
Involvement would be in the way of providing a host mum and dad to attend the 7 day seminar, and liaising with the district committee regarding the seminar.

If your club would be interested please contact either the RYLA District Committee Chairperson – **Michael Boyd** email: mipcj@bigpond.net.au Phone 55626544 or secretary **Kate Williams** email katewilliams@hotmail.net.au Phone 55624164 for more information.

CONFERENCE 2,8/9 REPORT:

What an outstanding Success.

I am writing this as I might in a journal, personal, so you may have to forgive an almost feather duster, now and again..

Already many times it has been pointed out that the success was a matter of team work, and one does not need to be a genius to see, how this affects our daily lives as Rotarians, we came away astounded, happy, reinvigorated even renewed all because of a successful conference. yet there is another less visible or perhaps not quite so tangible plus, it was the lesson that we all saw unfold before us on the 13,14 and 15th March '09.

We were guided down a certain path, and along that path I wondered about the Team responsible for the logistics of this whole thing. Alone or in isolation, they could not have achieved this success, but they didn't work that way, they worked together, and achieved, hence the lesson for us all, "working together to achieve a goal."

I know I'm biased, '**but didn't they do well**', I am just so proud of them all. I will relate a little story. After the event and pack up, the team were invited to a small get together, to celebrate and unwind, as they arrived there was the usual hubbub of voices discussing the just finished conference, then a strange thing happened, the room started to quieten down and soon the team were silent staring straight ahead, unseeing, then silence, they were again as one, totally emotionally and physically fatigued. It was over, something that this group had worked for, so hard and so long had finished, the full stop at the end of a sentence. They had formed such a bond that they were all even feeling the same emotional letdown, it lasted not more than a few seconds, but was so profound, that nothing needed to be said.

I don't profess to understand the psychology of such moments, but I don't remember being that close to any group of people ever in my life, as I was then, with them. That's the story of a very special group of people, who gave up a great many things in their respective lives, so that we could enjoy a superb conference.

Friday evening, everyone was a little nervous, The RYE Students had the tough Gig to get the show underway but did it brilliantly and the words to the song was very special, the nerves started to settle, A brief hello and talk from PRID Dr John Thorne AM, further eased our tensions with his easy relaxed style fitting our plan to have everyone relaxed, then Gabi came on to speak, we knew all was well, she is just so popular as well as being a very astute lady, she was able to give us an insight that no one else could have, and was a dynamic start to the conference. Then drinkies, I was standing very near the bar at one stage and put a glass down and thought how well that went down, and walked away, I had to keep myself nice, and ready for the Saturday, even at this time a number of people were talking about the start to the show, and Gabi, there was a buzz in the air and it felt good..

And so we looked to Saturday, Club role call by MC PP Chris Quinn, he might have missed his true calling, what a sensational job he did. This was followed by the in Memoriam, the placing of the roses in our wreath of honour for those who has gone on to higher service, and to those who lost their lives in the "Black Saturday fires", was a sombre note but again the delegates were wonderful in their active participation, then we were off and running with various presentations and the key note speaker Gillian Franklin of the Heat Group, what a stunning lady, and her presentation was equally so, and after more presentations from Membership, and International, we had the amazing Peter Drysdale, who has given his life to the Rotahomes Project for the poor in Fiji.

And so off to lunch, with nonstop chatter about the morning, what extremes they were Gillian and Peter but such dynamic personalities that it had become a breathtaking morning, people expressing views and chatting, again the place was abuzz.

The next test was to come after lunch in the breakout sessions, we had such a great Friday followed up with an outstanding Saturday morning, these sessions might dampen the day. But as the afternoon moved on there was no slackening of standard in the breakouts at all. How could there be, with the likes of Peter Drysdale, Allison Roe, Brig Douglas Ball, Professor George Kannourakis, Chris Doulis, Kaylene Baird, and there were others, unfortunately that I did not get to see or hear.

But suffice to say the breakouts were so substantial to more than hold their own, and add to the amazing day that had unfolded before us.

A couple of hours off for the delegates, in preparation for Saturday night. This evening was sponsored and run by the Rotary Club of Ballarat South, their MC was cheeky, irreverent and brilliantly funny and totally in charge, and what a job he did P.P. Dave Gibb, we also needed to thank Dave for his art works of the keynote speakers, used as presentations, his work will be all over Australia, and in some famous places as well, and on top of that we were entertained by the Ballarat Arts Council, Pipers, Jazz band with Graeme Vendy, many attractive and talented local ladies to sing to us, then we had that clowning hyperactive dynamo Susan Carew.

A note, at this stage is in regard to the Mercure and Staff, that venue and its people and food were instrumental, in this whole presentation, getting those meals out, maintaining a good humour was a grand effort and they too played their part in the overall success of the Conference.

When thinking back on that day, one was totally blown away, it was all the adjectives I used before, and more it was a kaleidoscope of talent, energy and vitality, that was a shot in the arm of all who where there, one of the really great days, that stays with you long after it is done and dusted.

And so to Sunday, we started with Reflections, with just over one hundred in attendance, [by count] and that number was a great start for Rev John Furness, who gave us an outstanding start to the day. Sunday can be a day of some difficulty for organizers, but after some presentations, and a fantastic Foundation presentation to PDG Ken and Margaret Broadbent we were off and running again.

We were then treated to both our own and our visiting GSE teams, what fine young people they all are and we can be very proud of them. The presentation by the Team from 5020 appeared low key but extremely well put together and was a showcase of their work, families and the country, but very clever at the same time. The GSE Crew were to be followed by, Tim Sullivan, Historian and director of the Gold Museum, Sovereign Hill, again another different Key Note Speaker the variety had been outstanding, and Tim did nothing to diminish that at all, some very interesting stuff there, interesting as I say about the Aboriginal contact on the Gold Fields.

DGE Chris followed with his presentation for 2009/10 and its all in our Hands, Chris emphasised the theme for 9/10 and the presentation was brilliant, I felt for the sheep though, we are already looking forward to 2010. Hmmm no angle parking, the Club members, obviously don't get to town often!!

PRID John made his final remarks, I was a little nervous about what he might say about us and our Conference, but I needn't have worried at all, top marks all round, It was about that time that I realized what had been achieved and from that moment my emotional state was in charge and I was having a battle.

To go back a step the resolutions put forward by PDG Ray Welsford, were all passed some by acclimation, and I was very pleased that that happened. We also had the announcement of the Loot in the Ute, \$3800 odd and the RYE Student raised an additional 720? plus Dollars, that enabled them to donate 2 Shelter Boxes, What sensational efforts on both scores, and again thanks to all for the efforts and donations.

Then the moment that finished me off, young Jack Stacey, what a talent, and deep down what a frightening and difficult world that 11 year old boy, must live in, but he is proving again that anything can be achieved if the desire is present, and the heart willing, and thanks also to PP Kathy Rivett for bringing Jack to us. Off to lunch and away home. Tired, happy, sorry even sad, that it was all over for another year. I would like to thank all of those Rotarians that made themselves known to me and congratulated us on the conference, it was most appreciated.

To each and everyone who contributed and or attended, conference, hundreds of you and your partners, 'Thank you'

Ted Gaffney DG 9780.

ROTARY DISTRICT 9780 CONFERENCE – 2009

A celebration of Rotary's place in the world. Last weekend Shirley and I were given the rare privilege of representing the President of Rotary International, DK Lee and his wife Young at your conference. What a delight!

The conference was excellent and indeed was a show-case for the widest range of activities that make this world a better place for many people. It was well attended and well conducted. The venue was user-friendly and all participants valued the week-end while sharing their enjoyment and energy for Rotary.

As an aside, it strikes me that from week to week a member of any Rotary club just might believe that all Rotarians do is – laugh a lot, eat a lot try to raise money and even waste time. Active attendance at a District Conference such as the recent one in Ballarat would have to change a member of a Rotary club into a "believer" – a true Rotarian.

Of course, there were several outstanding key-note speakers. However, I was just as impressed with a couple of presentations that highlighted the magic that dozens of clubs are doing in our local communities and even overseas. These were moving stories and show exactly how, by taking small steps, Rotary in this District is dramatically changing the world.

Thank you for the chance to share your celebration of life in Rotary and keep 'dreaming' while rolling up your sleeves to make it all happen. On behalf of Shirley and myself, a genuine 'thank you' for your very warm hospitality.

To everyone in the District and their families – Enjoy your Rotary, put families first but do believe that Rotary is keeping its promise to do good in this world.

JOHN THORNE
Past Director of Rotary International



We have a great number of people who we could thank, as I said somewhere before there are literally hundreds, we can't name every single one and for that we apologize, but the list of those below, will give some small idea of some who assisted, in running the **"Dream Conference 2009"**

Conference Committee

DG Ted Gaffney

Chair Jessie Harman.

Secretary Margaret Robinson

Treasurer Robert Short

Committee:

Kathy Rivett, Robyn Boyd, Phil Roberts, Rob McDougall, Darren Trigg, Bruce Clark, Judy Dennis, Cathy Roth, Leon Nash [2007], Joel Montgomery [2007]

M.C. Chris Quinn

Clubs involved:

Ballarat South, Ballarat East, Ballarat West, Young Ambition, Wendouree, Wendouree Breakfast, and Stawell.

Major Sponsors: TGM Ballarat, City of Ballarat, Ballarat University, Telstra.

Conference Supporters: aag Property Consultants, BEST, CeCC, Kwik Kopy, Small Dog, Fletch print, colour field.

Ted Lovett, Elder

Cr Judy Verlin, Mayor of the City of Ballarat

Keynote Speakers:, Gabi Hollows, Fred Hollows Foundation, Gillian Franklin, The Heat Group Peter Drysdale, Rota Homesin Fiji, Susan Carew, Funny Business, OWN Empowerment Tim Sullivan, Gold Museum Sovereign Hill

Breakout Speakers: Nick Lanyon, Ron Smith, Claire Prascevic, Cathy Roth, Douglas Ball, Kaylene Baird, George Kannourakis, Peter Drysdale Chris Doulis, and Allison Roe.

AG Services, Jessie Harman, John Roth, Cheryl Rapson, Jim Allen and Ken Haines

Rotaractors, DRR Kathryn O'Connor and Friends

Rotary Youth Exchange Students, and Committee

GSE, Team from 5020, Canada and the US

GSE, Team from 9780, Australia

MC Saturday evening, David Gibb

The Ballarat Arts Foundation. Graeme Vendy, Inc, University of Ballarat Pipe Band, Jazz by Martelle Hunt, Clare O'Connor, Callum Gracie and Sam Boon, and Music Theatre .

Jack Stacey.

Friends of Sovereign Hill.

Photographers, Kevin Williams and Bruce Ridland

AV, Craig Butterworth Sound & light Concepts.

And all the respective partners, husbands wives etc, This list may also give some idea of the magnitude of the task to organize and run a District Conference.

Then we must thank you all for attending, we hope you enjoyed the "Dream Conference, 2009"

DG Ted.



UNIFIED ROTARY DISTRICTS OF VICTORIA BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROGRAM
STATEMENT OF INTENT

As stated just before conference I was to put out a statement of what the 5 district governors had been up to pertaining to recovery processes throughout Victoria, please find below a statement from PP Mev Connell the elected chair for the Unified Victoria Districts Recovery Group, on this matter.

Introduction:

The five Rotary International Districts in the State of Victoria (Commonwealth of Australia) have agreed to cooperate closely regarding the implementation of Bushfire Recovery activities undertaken under the banner of **Rotary**.

It is the general intention that Rotary support shall be provided on the basis of “greatest need” and, for the purpose of making comparative assessments, no territorial boundary shall be recognised within Victoria. Equitable attention to the needs of all bushfire affected communities and their residents shall be a fundamental consideration. In arriving at decisions regarding allocation of funding to projects, the managing committees shall apply the principles enunciated in *The Four-Way Test* of Rotary International.

It must be recognised that the funds available from Rotary sources for utilisation on Bushfire Recovery activities will be limited; therefore, allocations to projects will have to be carefully managed. Districts and clubs will be encouraged to leverage the impact of funds made available by providing value adding inputs such as labour and technical expertise.

Management:

The Program shall be managed by a Unified Districts Committee consisting of one representative from each participating district. The district representatives shall be appointed by their District Governors. In recognition of the very substantial donation of funds to the D9800 Bushfire Recovery Fund promised by District 9830 (Tasmania), the present Governor of that District has been invited to join the Unified Districts Committee and has accepted. Additional non-voting members may be co-opted by the Chair of the Committee to undertake special duties such as “Communication” and “Public Relations”. The Chair of that Committee shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of the five Governors from the RI Districts in Victoria.

Each district shall also appoint a Committee to coordinate Bushfire Recovery activities within its customary territory and maintain contact with the Unified Districts Committee. The Unified Districts Committee shall largely depend on the District Committees for Situation Reports, and all project funding requests should be communicated via these Committees. Each district shall endeavour to coordinate the activities of its clubs in a general sense and aim to provide regular reports to the Unified Districts Committee on progress with the Program.

Fundraising:

Each district shall be responsible for raising funds to enable Bushfire Recovery activities to be undertaken. The funds raised by each district shall remain entirely in the control of that district but the total amount collected by each district shall be revealed to the Coordinating Committee of the Unified Districts to assist planning aimed at achievement of equitable distribution of funds between districts.

It is understood that some districts (Donor Districts) shall be net donors of funds to other districts and that some districts (Recipient Districts) shall be net recipients of donations from other districts. It shall be the responsibility of Recipient Districts to propose projects to Donor Districts when seeking funding support; such proposals shall be submitted in a form acceptable to each Donor District.

It is noted that each district shall be responsible for the proper management of funds raised as specified by Consumer Affairs Victoria (Department of Justice) under the provisions of The Fundraising Act 1998.

Bushfire Recovery Funds donated into Trust or Foundation Accounts endorsed as *Deductible Gift Recipients* by the Australian Tax Office shall be subject to the provisions applicable under such endorsement in terms of their dispersal: control of such funds shall ultimately rest in the hands of the relevant "Nominees".

It is to be expected that when funding support is sought for any project, a comprehensive submission will have to be tendered via the Unified Districts Committee to the District Committee that controls the available funds. It is also important to note that if funds are granted to support a project there will be an attendant requirement on the Recipient Party to report on progress of the specific project until its completion, and to account for proper utilisation of funds provided.

It is recognised that Rotary Clubs located near to or within fire affected areas will wish to respond to the local needs and while they may not therefore make a contribution to any District Bushfire Recovery Fund that should not preclude them from seeking financial support from such a Fund to enable Bushfire Recovery works.

Communication:

One of the great strengths of Rotary is its network of clubs and the ability to communicate through these clubs with the communities they serve. In evaluating Bushfire Recovery projects that Rotary might best address, it is considered to be essential to sound out the views of the communities in the affected areas. This important communication work should be done by clubs located in or proximate to the fire affected areas. Information gained should be passed to the relevant District Committee and, if appropriate, to the Unified Districts Committee.

Free flow of information on what is happening and what is required in terms of assistance shall be very important to the management of the overall Program and the level of success achieved.

Public Relations:

It is intended that the involvement of Rotary in the general Bushfire Recovery Program shall be transparent. Public relations work concerning Rotary involvements of any description shall be very important and all districts and clubs are to be encouraged to cooperate in this integral aspect of the operation.

Nominated members of the Unified Districts Committee:

At the date of this statement, the nominated members of the Unified Districts Committee are:

District 9780 - Past President; Bob Barry
District 9790 - District Governor Peter Gilbert
District 9800 - Past President Mev Connell – Chairman
District 9810 - Past District Governor Brian Foley
District 9820 - Past District Governor Janet McCahon
District 9830 - District Governor Michael Perkins

The Committee will be supported in terms of public relations and communication by Jill Weeks from the Rotary Club of Hawthorn.

It is intended that a small Secretariat will be established to support the Unified Districts Committee.

Mev Connell,
Chairman – The Unified Districts Committee.

Thanks Ted.