



Rotary



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Edition 3

District 9810 News

December 2017

District Governor's Report

As the Christmas festive season is upon us, spend time with family and friends. It is a great time to relax, recharge and reflect with pride to what we have achieved and will continue to contribute in the second half of this Rotary year.

Just to jog the memory, I mention the following:

Polio Eradication: We are making headway in eliminating this terrible disease. In 2013 there were 416 cases, so far, this Rotary year there has been 17 cases reported. We are on the way to zero and 2018 well may be the year we reach it.

It is important to understand that this won't mean our work is over. Rotary is committed to polio eradication until the world is certified polio free. For that to happen, we must be sure beyond any doubt that there is not a single virus left anywhere in the world. Poliovirus is very good at hiding and that is why we put so much effort into surveillance: looking not only for new cases of the disease, but for signs of the virus in waterways and sewage.

Once at least three years have passed from the last time poliovirus is found, an independent committee will certify the world polio-free. Then, and only then, will our work be done. Until then, it's vital that we keep on doing everything we're doing now: all the surveillance, all the immunizations, and all the advocacy work.

Congratulations to the 20 Clubs that took up the challenge to support the eradication of polio by contributing US\$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation and see their contribution grow to US\$7,500 with the matching grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, RI and District 9810; totalling

US\$150,000. Don't forget, if your Club missed out on this initiative, you can still benefit from the 2 for 1 offer from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the balance of the Rotary year.

ROMAC: In September the District 9810 ROMAC team swung into action again to help save a 9-year-old boy, Patricio, from Timor Leste, to have life-saving surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital. The surgery was needed to remove a tumour from the right side of the chest that had been identified as malignant and requiring 4 courses of chemotherapy.

In late November Patricio got the "all clear" to return home to Dili and continue ongoing chemotherapy but be with his family who were over the moon to have a happy and healthy boy with them.

It is the goal of the ROMAC committee to "save the lives of 2 ROMAC patients" and through Clubs and individual donors raise \$50,000 this year.

I urge you to get involved in the challenge and perhaps run an event similar to RC Bentleigh Moorabbin Central with their Trash N Treasure market; that is to run a stall to support ROMAC.

Membership: It is great to see many Clubs are exploring the opportunities of Organisational Membership and establishing Satellite Clubs. Also, don't forget the new initiatives District is proposing.

Partner Membership: encouraging spouses of Rotarians to become members of their partner's Rotary Club. Get your Club to be part of the pilot program. Contact PDG Jenny Coburn.

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Changemakers – Young Focus Club: aimed at young and enthusiastic Alumni of Rotary programs. For further details contact PP Judith Eadon.

RAWCS: Are you aware there is a Project to provide assistance to disadvantaged members of your community? Well there is, through Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG), made possible due to a wonderful million-dollar donation to Rotary Australia World Community Service by philanthropist Dick Smith. If your Club would like to know more of this initiative or how your Club can deliver humanitarian aid and charitable support through a range of projects, contact Southern Region D9810 Representative Gloria Hargreaves.

District Conference: Now we have 3 ways you can register for the Conference in Bendigo, there is no reason not to attend. Also, the new initiative of First Time Attendees Lunch, not to be confused with the PHF Cocktail Party. Two great events where you can learn more and network at the same time.

Book today at website:

<http://www.9810rotaryconference.org.au/>

DGE Russell Gurney and Shelley leave for San Diego in January for the final stage of preparation for Russell to take on the role of District Governor in the next Rotary year. This will be a fabulous experience for them and I am sure they too will come away enthused and ready to hit the ground running on 1st July 2018. I am sure the entire District wishes them safe travels.

Finally, for now, Karen and I wish everyone a Safe and Happy Christmas with family and friends and look forward to working with each of you and Making a Difference by “doing good in the world” after the holiday break.

Best wishes,

Malcolm

Editor

This is the third newsletter for the Rotary year 2017-2018.

There is the usual mix of articles in the newsletter. I particularly enjoyed reading about young Patricio in the ROMAC article - heartwarming; an article which proved emotional to read, but with a happy ending.

A reminder that articles advertising forthcoming events should be forwarded to Michael Ellinger for inclusion in the Highlights Newsletter (highlights9810@gmail.com; next edition due out on 16th January).

I do forward on such articles to Michael, although, considering there is no Highlights this month, and being the festive season, I have included RC Doncaster's Monster Games and Trivia Night (17th March). Speaking of festive season best wishes to all D9810 Rotarians and families for Christmas and new Year. The next newsletter is due out on 17th February with cut-off for articles on 1st February.

Gordon Pyke

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RCS Trust - Up & Running

After many years of leaping through tortuous legal and taxation hoops the Directors of Rotary International District 9810 Project Funds Limited are supremely proud to announce that Rotary District 9810 Charitable Services Trust [RCS] has been created and been granted Deductible Gift Recipient Status by the Australian Taxation Office.

Delivering on the vision of PDG David Alexander, Rotary Clubs in our District are now able to undertake projects in their local community and offer individuals and corporate supporters or partners in the projects taxation deductibility for contributions made to specific projects. The Trust has already received a number of such donations and has lodged submissions with a number of philanthropic organisations for additional funding for some of the projects being undertaken under the umbrella of the Trust.

Currently the Trust is assisting clubs with specific projects that fall within the criteria of the Trust and are all designed to provide a community benefit. The projects work through the establishment of joint ventures between RCS, a Rotary Club and the organisations delivering community support programs. These four projects are:

- **Manningham Inclusive Community Housing**, which is a project of the Rotary Club of Manningham.
 - The MICH Project is assisting young adults with intellectual disabilities to transition from the family home into supported independent living (often with aging parents and carers, young adults with ID in the past have been forced out of the community they know, sometimes into aged care).
 - A detailed professional assessment of the young adults' personal skills and life skills has been undertaken. Specific development needs are identified such as: using transport, cooking, independent living skills, financial management.
 - Funds external to those from the club have been contributed to this project and the implementation plan for the initial group of young adult participants is underway.
- **Community of Wellbeing – Maroondah**, which is a project of the Rotary Club of Croydon in partnership with the Croydon Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
 - The objective of the project is to build a safer and healthier community through improved wellbeing of target citizen groups in the City of Maroondah.
 - This project aims to impact 109,000 citizens across Maroondah, bearing in mind that one in five adults experience mental illness in any year in Australia.
 - RC Croydon in partnership with the Croydon Chamber of Commerce and Industry are working together to implement the internationally recognised **Plus 10 Program** in the City of Maroondah, shown to build resilience (relief) and protect against mental illness and suicide (preventing reversion into a state of anxiety and depression). The project will initially focus on disadvantaged / disengaged youth in the community as well as disadvantaged adults subject to isolation and depression (high incidence demographic). Traditional psychology has addressed mental illness from a rescue perspective; positive psychology interventions aim to not only rescue, but protect against future occurrences by building resilience and coping strategies.
 - The **Plus 10 Program** will initially focus on schools, sporting clubs and business. In Maroondah there are approximately 15,500 young people in secondary colleges and primary schools, several major sporting associations in football and netball and a large business community battling to thrive.

RCS Trust - Up & Running

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- **Montrose Men's Shed** which is a project of the Rotary Club of Montrose and District.
 - The Men's Shed movement is a well-known program providing valuable post retirement opportunities for men to engage in mutual peer group support thereby avoiding mental health issues which arise from feelings of isolation.
 - This project will enable the Men's Shed to utilise externally generated funding attracted by tax deductibility to expand their premises and thereby make their valuable program available to a wider range of men within the area.
 - There are now some 34 members and the shed operates on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with the created goods on sale at the Montrose Market in time for Christmas. The mutual support and mateship are important to those attending the shed.



- **Croydon Foodbank** which is a project of the Rotary Club of Croydon.
 - The Helping Hand Food Bank, operated by the Croydon Uniting Church, has since 1994 provided assistance to people in crisis in the Croydon community by distributing food parcels, food vouchers, Met tickets and petrol vouchers (to attend job interviews, medical appointments, court appearances etc.). More than \$130,000 of goods and services are distributed each year.
 - The purpose of the joint venture is to assist to operate the Helping Hand operation in order to obtain tax deductible donations, and be eligible to receive philanthropic grants to support the relief of pain and suffering of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons.

As can be seen from these examples the power of partnerships between Rotary Charitable Services, a Rotary Club, and external partners can do a power of good by alleviating distress within the community. Add to this the ability to accept corporate and individual financial support Rotary Clubs can now be even more relevant and effective within their communities.

Clubs wishing to explore the possibility of participating in this process need to satisfy a variety of conditions as do the projects being proposed for financial support. David Alexander would be delighted to discuss these matters with any clubs that may be interested.

PDG David Tolstrup
Chairman
Rotary District 9810 Project Funds Ltd
(RC Box Hill)

Patricio's Journey Back to Health

It started with a call to D9810 ROMAC Chair, Graeme Chester, at 9.30am on Thursday 14th September 2017 from the ROMAC Southern Region Manager, Jim Prokhovnik - 'Could the D9810 ROMAC Team take on an urgent case from Timor Leste?' Immediately, Dianne and Bill Sides (RC Clayton) agreed to be the Host Family and the RC Clayton agreed to be the Sponsor Club. As ROMAC swung into action, Patricio Soares, a 9 year old boy, with an aggressive teratoma (tumour) in the right side of his chest, had unknowingly commenced his journey back to health.

There was a strong suspicion that the tumour was inoperable and there was concern whether Patricio was healthy enough to undergo surgery, or even to travel. Eventually, doctors in Dili decided to fly him to Darwin, accompanied by a doctor, for a CT scan. The scan revealed a very large operable tumour which had deflated Patricio's right lung, severely restricting his breathing, and which had displaced his trachea, aorta and heart. Arrangements were immediately made to send him to Monash Medical Centre (MMC) for surgery.

Patricio and his father Norberto, accompanied by two doctors, arrived at Melbourne airport at 5.30pm on Sunday 17th September and were met by Dianne Sides and Graeme Chester. On arrival, Patricio's condition deteriorated markedly and his doctors, with the help of airport emergency services, stabilised him enough for him to be moved by ambulance to MMC at 7.30pm where he was admitted to Emergency and subsequently moved to ICU at 11pm. On Monday morning the MMC surgical team planned to operate that afternoon, however, in their workup, they identified serious risk factors and decided to move him to The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) at 5pm.

At RCH he was transferred to ICU in preparation for his surgery which commenced at 7.30pm. Given his medical condition, and the complexity of the operation, his father was advised that Patricio might not survive the operation. At midnight, good news arrived that the operation was successful with the anticipated complications not occurring. Norberto was able to see Patricio back in ICU at 1.30am Tuesday, 19th September.



Dr Ines Almeida, who accompanied Patricio from Darwin, stayed in Melbourne for a few more days assisting RCH and ROMAC by explaining the medical situation to Norberto and to the family back home in Dili. Patricio and Norberto also received daily support from members of the local Timorese community, particularly Carla Chung and Yulitta Edwards, both D9810 ROMAC Volunteers.

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Patricio's Journey Back to Health

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Patricio recovered from his surgery well and within a week was out of bed. His surgical wounds healed quickly, his right lung re-inflated and his appetite returned with a vengeance. Norberto assisted the recovery process ensuring Patricio kept up with his physiotherapy regime. Whilst the surgery was a success, the tumour histology report indicated markers of primitive cancer elements. Oncologist, Dr Michael Sullivan, was confident the cancer could be treated with a nine week course of low dose chemotherapy as an outpatient, with two initial cycles at RCH and another two at the Dili General Hospital, upon Patricio's return home.



Due to Host Family holiday arrangements, on discharge from hospital on 7th October, Patricio and Norberto were hosted by Phil and Kay Leck (RC Boronia) until 25th October and then Gavan and Dianne McIntyre (RC Wandin). During this time Patricio undertook his two chemotherapy sessions and had some extensive dental treatment. On a lighter note, he also had different experiences such as attending gym, exploring Ferntree Gully parks, observing kangaroos at Mt Dandenong at dusk, visiting RC Boronia, Lilydale and Wandin club meetings, and attending a Wandin Hot Rod meeting. He also learnt to kick a football and barrack for the Hawks, successfully tried trout fishing, enjoyed Puffing Billy and played with Gem the wombat at Healesville Sanctuary.



Patricio's Journey Back to Health

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Patricio completed his second cycle of chemotherapy on 1st November and returned home on 10th November to continue his care in Dili as planned. Patricio and Norberto were seen off from Tullamarine by all his host families, Yulitta Owen and Norm Casey (RC Montrose & District), who had taken over as D9810 ROMAC Chair whilst Graeme Chester was on holidays. Patricio returned home free of any cancer markers, some 5kg heavier and a gregarious happy boy with a newly learned smattering of the English language.



ROMAC is grateful for the collaboration between MMC and the RCH in managing Patricio's fraught and complicated journey and thanks medical, nursing and allied health staff of both organisations for their commitment to restoring dignity and life to children experiencing significant health conditions that cannot be managed in their home countries. The responsive and wonderful support of the D9810 ROMAC Team ensured that Patricio's journey back to health had a happy ending.

To enable us to keep on helping to save children's lives, D9810 clubs are encouraged to support the D9810 ROMAC Committee fundraising goal of \$50,000 for 2017/18 to:

'SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO ROMAC PATIENTS'

Graeme Chester
Chair D9810 ROMAC Committee
(RC Healesville)

Trachoma is the world's leading cause of infectious blindness. It is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* and creates swelling under the inner eyelid. Repeated episodes of infection lead to scarring. The scars cause eyelashes to turn inward and scratch the eye, producing intense pain made worse by blinking. Eventually, if left untreated, the scratched cornea becomes cloudy, and irreversible blindness follows.

How it spreads

Trachoma spreads by personal contact (via hands, clothing, towels or bedding), or by flies in contact with infected discharge from the nose or eyes of children's faces.

Where does trachoma exist?

Apart from existing in some of the world's poorest countries, Australia is the last developed country where trachoma still remains a problem. It isn't found in mainstream Australia, but lingers in remote Indigenous communities, where there is poor sanitation, overcrowded households and low personal and community hygiene. Young children are particularly at risk.

Trachoma in Australia

In 2009, the Australian government committed to eliminating trachoma by 2020. Since then, trachoma rates in endemic areas have fallen from 15-20%, to 4.6% in 2015. The number of infected communities fell from 200 to 50, with hotspots still remaining, mainly in and around Central Australia.

How it is managed

International and Australian efforts to eliminate trachoma use the World Health Organisation developed strategy, a combination of interventions known by the acronym SAFE: Surgery for trichiasis (in-turned eyelashes), Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvement. Australia made great progress when it began funding treatment for trachoma, however personal and community hygiene needs to be improved, otherwise trachoma will bounce back.

Preventing trachoma

Keeping every child's face clean, and ensuring functional and appropriate wash facilities are available for the community is essential. Improving hygiene will also reduce other common, serious infections.



EndTrachoma by 2020
Rotary - Building Healthy Communities

End Trachoma by 2020

Trachoma and Rotary Australia

Rotary's 2017-18 International President, Ian Riseley, wants a trachoma-free Australia in 2021. That year marks Rotary's 100th year in Australia. EndTrachoma by 2020 is an opportunity for all clubs around Australia to unite and support our least advantaged Australians.

To get involved, visit our website www.endtrachoma2020.org.au



District Conference 2020

Expressions of Interest are being sought from Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends of Rotary to be involved in putting together the **District Conference in March 2020**.

DGN Shia Smart is interested to hear from anyone (Rotarian or non-Rotarian) who would love to work with Shia in putting on the District Conference.

Shia is looking for people to fill all positions, and is wanting people who are passionate about putting on a function that will be a highlight of her year as DG.

Positions available include: Conference Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Protocol Advisor, Program, Registrar, Accommodation, Catering, Marketing, Public Relations, Sponsorship, Website developer.

Experience desirable but not necessary, just the desire to be involved and put on the best conference possible.

Anyone who is interested in being involved please contact DGN Shia Smart via email shia.duncan@gmail.com or phone 0429-039-369

Looking forward to putting on a sensational District Conference in March 2020

Shia Smart
District Governor Nominee
(RC MASH)

Wine & Cheese Tasting Returns

The 2nd of December saw Monash Rotaract's Wine and Cheese Tasting return for the second time. This year, we were proud to support End Trachoma 2020, raising over \$3,000 for the Rotary Australia initiative.

It was an incredibly successful night, where attendees tasted wines from Six Acres, thanks to Ralph and Lesley Zucarro from RC Clayton, and from Brumfield Winery, paired with cheeses and enjoyed other Christmas-themed platters.

We also heard from guest speaker Sandi Fulcher, the Administration Coordinator of End Trachoma 2020, who explained to us that Australia is the only developed country in the world with trachoma, a preventable eye disease. She spoke about the strategies and pilot programs being developed to completely eliminate the disease.

Many thanks go to the Wine and Cheese Committee, chaired by Sheamon Paldano, Monash Rotaractors who helped out in the lead up to the event and on the night itself, and to every Rotaractor, Rotarian and family and friends who attended. It was a wonderful night and we hope it was enjoyed by all.

Netania Lim
President

Monash Rotaract Club



Clockwise from Top Left:

Let the tasting begin!

Sandi Fulcher delivers the details about Trachoma and the campaign to end it.

The hard working Monash Rotaractors.

From the Bay to the Hills



2018 District Changeover

Rescheduled to Saturday, 2 June, 2018

DG Malcolm Chiverton and DGE Russell Gurney invite you to reserve Saturday 2 June in your diaries for the 2018 District Changeover to be held at Southern Golf Club, Keysborough. More details will be provided in due course.

We have brought this forward from the original date noted in the District Directory in response to feedback from Rotarians heading to the RI Convention in Toronto.

Whilst we all work hard to make a difference, even Rotarians can't be in two places at once.

Russell Gurney
District Governor Elect
(RC Doncaster)

What is teen MHFA?

MHFA stands for Mental Health First Aid. MHFA Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation focused on mental health training and research. One of their training courses has been specifically developed for teenagers.

From the MHFA website (<https://mhfa.com.au/courses/public/types/teen>):



"The teen MHFA Course teaches high school students in years 7-9 and 10-12, how to provide mental health first aid to their friends. The course was developed in response to research indicating that young people have a preference for sharing problems with peers. The course curriculum is evidence-based, informed by a study undertaken to determine the best actions a young person can undertake to support a peer with a mental health problem.

... An initial research evaluation of the teen MHFA course found that, after completing the course, participants had improved knowledge of mental health problems and their treatment, increased confidence in providing mental health first aid to a peer, and increased help-seeking intentions. Additionally, participants' stigmatising attitudes were reduced."

Now, where does Rotary come into this? Well, as for District 9810, RC Glen Waverley will be donating the proceeds of their International Women's Day Celebration Dinner on Monday, 26th February 2018 (6:30pm) to teen MHFA.

Tony Hough (RC Glen Waverley) provided some details of this worthy cause for a short article, as well as providing details of the dinner.

Keep an eye out for a flyer in the next Highlights Newsletter (due out 16th January 2018). In the meantime I don't mind giving a few details:

Keynote Speaker: Susan Alberti, AC (Director AFL National Women's League Advisory Group)

Venue: The Cabaret Room, Village Green Hotel (Cnr Springvale & Ferntree Gully Rds, Mulgrave)

Cost: \$55pp (Book via Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/337331)

Toronto Convention Update



23 - 27 June 2018

The good news is that we have 58 people registered to attend the Toronto Convention. Of that number there are 5 people who have elected to keep their names private which means I can't contact them about a District 9810 catch up in Toronto.

If you're one of those, please consider letting me know so that I can include you in in any email which goes from me to the conventioners (if that is the correct term). I will maintain your privacy if that is your preference.

PDG Carol Lawton
D9810 Toronto District Convention Chair

Invitation



Rotary Club
of Doncaster Inc.

Monster Games & Trivia Night – Rotary Club of Doncaster

A Trivia Night is being held for the Bulawayo Orphan Education (BOE) Project which is run in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Bulawayo South in Zimbabwe.

When: **Saturday, 17th March, 2018**

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm at:

Where: Ted Ajani Centre
284 Thompsons Rd
Lower Templestowe

Provided: nibbles, tea and coffee and a great band – Boomers Jukebox



Cost: \$25/head

Tables: 10 people

The aim of the night is to raise funds for our BOE project to raise funds to pay for the education of AIDS orphans in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. 1 in 4 children in Zimbabwe are AIDS orphans and unfortunately education is NOT free.



It will be a fun night – with trivia, fun games, lots of raffle prizes, dancing (if you dare) and a band playing 60s, 70s and 80s music.

It's bring your own food to share, plates, cutlery and wine glasses, plenty of gold coins, and a sense of humour, a sense of fun (and dancing shoes), **friends and family**.

You can book your table with Maria Rigoni on: mariarigoni@optusnet.com.au