



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



The following report and request for assistance has been sent to all Club Presidents – please support your Club in every way you can to alleviate the despair and suffering of our fellow human beings in the Solomon Islands.



SOLOMON ISLANDS DISASTER

Report from District 9600

As you are all no doubt aware, there has been a series of earthquakes in the Solomon Islands with serious disastrous effects.

Overview

Commencing Monday 2 April, a series of earthquakes, the largest reportedly registering 8.1 on the Richter Scale, struck the Western Provinces of the Solomon Islands (about 10kms deep near the town of Gizo and 345kms west of Honiara). Large tsunami waves (reports range from 2m to 10m) are reported to have struck the islands in the Western Province area of Solomon Islands and some parts of PNG.

DG Mike Gregory advises he has appointed RIDN John Lawrence to handling fundraising, IPDG Charles Guesdon to coordinate all relief and reconstruction, and DGN Wayne Morris is our man on the ground in the Solomon Islands. He reports that several thousand people in Gizo are homeless and without food, water or sanitary facilities. Whilst there are many Australian and NZ aid agencies currently on site providing assistance, the need for further aid is increasing as remote communities are progressively contacted.

Relief and Reconstruction

IPDG Charles Guesdon reports:

Currently Rotarians on the ground from Honiara and Gizo, together with personnel from the Australian NGOs AusAID, OXFAM, Care Australia, as well as NZAid are covering immediate needs.

The urgent priorities are shelter, sanitation, cooking utensils water collection and storage. Shelter Boxes, Aqua Boxes and Solar Water purifiers are in transit from the UK and South Australia. NZ has been extremely helpful.

We have established communications with suppliers of Shelter Box, Aqua Box, and Solar Water Purifiers to arrange purchase and transport of these commonalities. 200 Shelter Boxes, 200 Aqua Boxes, and 30 Solar Water Purifiers arrive in Brisbane on Thursday.



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We are processing about 150 emails received during the 2 day period following the tsunami, relating to offers of help, fundraising in conjunction with John Lawrence, establishing contact with Rotarians on the ground in conjunction with Wayne Morris, Nathan Kere and RC of Gizo's Jackie Thomas, enabling an assessment of the scope of urgent needs such as cooking utensils, shelter, sanitation and clean water.

We have contact with AusAID and DFAT with the aim of obtaining approval to use Fed Govt air transport from Brisbane to Honiara/Gizo.

Currently the aid boxes from the UK and elsewhere arrive by air in either Brisbane or Sydney, Rotary in Australia then tranships to Gizo.

We are collating offers of HR assistance for future use as Project Volunteers in the infrastructure reconstruction phase.

Later this week our "Coordination Group" comprising me, John Lawrence (fund raising), Bill Waterfield (transport and storage, DIK), and

Douglas I Geekie

Rotary Club of Gold Coast Central / District Governor, District 9640, 2006–2007

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Jack Rynn (disaster management) will meet to discuss the way ahead. To date our contact has been by phone. The last few days have been busy, with progress hampered by the Easter holiday and the absence of access to public officials.

Charles Guesdon

Fund Raising

RIDN John Lawrence, reports:

Phase 1: Easter Saturday — All D9600 clubs have been contacted and encouraged to collect in the major shopping centres on Easter Saturday. This placed quite a strain on many clubs and some shopping centre bureaucrats. Some rose to the occasion, while others will schedule collections over the ensuing weeks.



Walter Buchanan from RC of Aspley (and our newly announced DG 2009-10) collecting at the Hyperdome on Easter Saturday

Some 50 posters and display kits were designed & printed by John Miesen and then driven to distant clubs by David Kumeta of Ashgrove /The Gap (as well as managing 3 collection booths on Saturday)—an unbelievable achievement!!!!

We also asked all Australian and New Zealand Districts to help and first cabs off the rank, leading the way, were Wishart with \$1364 then a further \$700 donation and Toowoomba North collected \$1,500. We have had helpful contact with UK and Scottish clubs, especially about shelter boxes supply.

District 9600 results are still coming in by phone and mail, with the average collection by clubs averaging \$1,000. Typical results include: Mooloolaba collecting \$4,500; Ashgrove/The Gap \$4,100, Noosa Heads Daybreak \$1,064; Planetarium about \$1,500 (and were “moved along” twice in the city but plan to be out there for the next 3 weekends!); Pine Rivers Daybreak \$1,143; Aspley \$937; Brisbane Mid City \$318 (and planning more collections). Cheques from D9630 clubs received today (Tuesday) include RC Salisbury \$1,000 and RC Woolloongabba \$500. We have also received many club pledges—and

look forward to getting them all into the trust fund, then across to RAWCS-NR OAF (Western Solomons Tsunami Appeal).

Phase 2: Clubs will initiate further collections using their own arrangements, helped by the kits we provided

John Lawrence



As you can readily appreciate the situation is very serious and it requires urgent assistance from us all. I ask all Clubs to consider how they might best assist and put a plan of action in place ASAP.

You might well ask “How can we help?” Could I make some suggestions?

- **Arrange for street collections in your community.**
- **Conduct a major fund raiser for this project**
- **Arrange and conduct a series of fund raisers by your Club to contribute to the fund'**
- **Make a donation from already accumulated Club Funds**
- **Augment existing funds collected and raised by individual Club member donations (should they be inclined to do so)**

I am sure you will readily appreciate that there are endless opportunities to raise or collect funds for this real disaster need. You may well remember that at the time of the Conference in April last year our country was savaged by Cyclone Larry and in our District we managed to raise some \$41,000 to help our fellow Australians.

The Solomon islanders need our assistance now and I urge you all to assist in every way you can. Obviously there is an urgent need for accommodation and the “Shelterbox” provides an excellent immediate solution. Maybe your Club could fund one or more Shelterboxes (A\$1,250 each) and this would be a great start.

Please act swiftly and generously – the District will be seeking approval from Club Presidents to access the District Disaster Fund at the business session at the conference on Friday 13 April 2007.

I appreciate that there are constant call for the generosity of us all and here we go again – but please consider the plight of these people in this disaster zone.

Yours in Rotary Service

Douglas



APRIL IS MAGAZINE MONTH



Rotary communicates with its membership in many ways, but historically throughout the world this has been (to date at least) through Rotary magazines – in Australia this has been *Rotary Down Under* and, to a lesser extent, *The Rotarian*. Each of our clubs also has its own weekly Bulletin, which is circulated to its members. These magazines keep our members in tune with what’s happening within Rotary and when and where.

Articles and material for our Rotary communications come from both our professional reporters and, to a significant degree, from the members of our clubs (and maybe the District). Regular and reliable reports of interesting achievements and happenings are fundamental to the success of these magazines – and our success in sharing “Rotary”.

Our magazine *Rotary Down Under* tries to give us a regular review of what is happening around Rotary in Australia and New Zealand – an important part of our Rotary education.

In this electronic age debate exists as to whether a printed (hard copy) approach is still appropriate or if a move to electronic communication by email or even on the internet, would be more effective. The real issue is how we best communicate with our fellow Rotarians and whether more or fewer members would read the electronic form.

Regardless of how our magazines are produced and distributed, they can only be effective if Rotarians read them. Have you read your copy this month?

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The District conference which starts on Friday April 13 will be attended by some 600 delegates with the District Governor of District 5000, in Hawaii, Jim Varner, and his wife Nancy joining us. GSE teams from District 5000 and District 6900 Atlanta Georgia USA will be joining us and making presentations. Also attending will be all inbound YEP students, Inner Wheel members, Probus members and, on Sunday, members of Interact clubs. Truly many arms of the family of Rotary will be present

District Governor of District 5000, in Hawaii, Jim Varner, and his wife Nancy who will be at the District 9640 Conference this weekend.

The Conference committee has been chaired by Past President Neil Jones of the Broadbeach Club with committee members from Gold Coast Central, Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise Central, and Southport. The team has done an outstanding job

The program is designed to Inspire and Entertain: speakers include Professor Ian Frazer (Australian of the Year 2006), Tom Henderson creator of Shelter Box, and Chris Nunn, former head of the Australian Institute of Sport and recipient of the Paralympics Coach of the Year (1998).

All Club Presidents have been invited to present at the conference an overview of their Clubs’ major projects for the year – this will really provide us all with the opportunity to see the good works of Rotary in our District.

The entertainment program will hold interest and excitement for all.

PP Neil Jones of the Broadbeach Club receives a well-deserved PHF from DG Douglas.



RAWCS

During the month an appeal was sent to all Clubs from the Northern region of RAWCS to put a hold on the delivery of materials and equipment to WACOL because the capacity of storage had been exceeded and there is a deficiency of available funds for container freight to ship out the materials.



Clubs have been encouraged to donate to DIK to assist with freight costs. The President of Murwillumbah Central Club, Dr David Vickers-Shand responded promptly to the call for assistance with a donation on behalf of the Club. Thanks Murwillumbah Central.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAMS

Our two inward bound teams from District 5000 Hawaii and District 6900 Atlanta Georgia USA have arrived and are well into their programs. The Atlanta team have already developed a taste for vegemite.

Both teams will be attending and presenting at the District Conference. Please make the opportunity to meet and talk with the team members.



[left] DG Douglas receives a cheque from Murwillumbah Central for Donations in Kind Freight;
[above] The Atlanta GSE team arrives at Brisbane Airport;
[below] The Hawaiian team experiences an Australian Barbeque at Boonah; [lower] The Atlanta team has its first taste of Vegemite.





THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Elsewhere in this edition, Doug Brown has reported on the developments of the Foundation's activities in the District over the past month.

The value of matching grant projects in the year to date initiated by the District now exceeds US \$140,000 and this is truly an outstanding effort – the team is to be congratulated on their efforts and special thanks must go to team YARKER for their constant guidance and efforts in ensuring that the paperwork and matching parties all finessed. Many thanks Ian and Heather from all members of the District. We should all feel justifiably proud of the result.

One final task for the year remains — to ensure that our club pledges to the Foundation are achieved. It would really be appreciated if clubs could attend to this matter as soon as possible — as requested by the Rotary Foundation Luis Giay. Our target for the year exceeds US \$ 110,000 and we have many US dollars to collect at this time. I am sure Chairman Doug Brown will be in contact with you all very shortly.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you at the Conference so let's all LEAD THE WAY and "Be Entertained and Be Inspired"

Yours in Rotary Service,

A Message from Bill Boyd

Dear fellow Rotarians,

The word environment conveys different things to each of us. One person might think of green forests, oceans, and mountains, another of grassy plains and wildlife. When we consider environmental challenges, we may think of recycling or energy conservation, industrial waste, or climate change. We tend to think of issues that are much larger than ourselves as individuals, and they can seem very abstract at times.

But for each of us, our environment is literally what surrounds us: the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we walk on. Our environment is our house, our yard, our street. It is our community, our country, and our planet. The cleanliness of water hundreds of miles away can affect what comes out of

our tap. The cleanliness of the air in a distant city can and does affect what goes into our lungs. And what comes out of our cars, chimneys, and power plants affects not just our own families, but families around the world for generations to come.

Environmental concerns are both intensely local and completely global. A garbage-filled stream has the most impact on those who rely on it for drinking water, but it also damages an entire ecosystem. A heavily polluted city hurts the health of its own inhabitants as well as those hundreds of miles downwind. As we learn and understand more about the course of climate change, we become more acutely aware that there are no local decisions. Everything we do touches others.

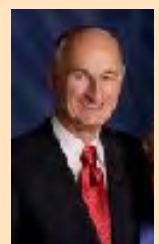
When we consider what we are willing to do and what we are willing to change to address an environmental problem, we must remember that our decisions never concern only us.

One of the lessons of Rotary is that one person can make a difference. We see this in our clubs and our districts, and particularly through PolioPlus. When we work on small projects that help only a few people, it can be hard to step back and see how we really are changing the world. It can be difficult to see how recycling a newspaper or a plastic container, walking instead of driving, or using less water can really bring a better and healthier tomorrow. But if many people make them together, those small changes will make an enormous difference to our children and grandchildren.

As Rotarians, we know very well that these small changes - these private, individual choices - can add up to something tremendous. The decisions we make may seem small, but they are nothing of the kind. I ask all of you to remember that, because you are leaders in your communities, and you have chosen to help Lead the Way to a better future. In the matter of environmental responsibility, as in all others, we must first lead by example by making the choices that will bring us a healthier tomorrow.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd

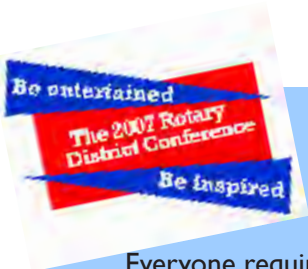
President, Rotary International





*The Canadian
Rotary Friendship
Team visit Boonah*

*At the Pride of
Workmanship dinner at
Gold Coast Central Rotary
Club on 29 March 2007,
over 100 people attended
to see 11 awardees for
Pride of Workmanship. The
awards were presented by
DG Douglas at short notice
because of illness of GC
mayor Ron Clarke.*



For On-to-Conference Rotarians, Some last-minute information

Everyone requires a lanyard to enter the venue and those not already registered will incur delays while name tags are prepared.

The Registration Desk is located on Conrad Jupiters on the ground floor — turn right at the Atrium bar and then right again.

Look for Rotarians wearing yellow Surf Life Saving shirts to point you in the right direction.

The desk is open from 2.00pm to 7.00pm Friday and opens again at 7.00am on Saturday.

The Conference begins at 7.55am sharp.

If your partner is attending, save them from queuing and collect their lanyard and conference bag at the same time.

Friday Poolside Minimal Speeches Cocktail Party starts at 6.00pm and concludes at 7.30pm

The pool is located on the lower level.

Lanyards (collected from the registration desk) must be worn to gain admittance.

Avoid potentially long queues before and after 6.00pm by registering early. After registering, relax with a coffee or beer at the hotel or perhaps make your fortune in the casino! If early enough, you could even take a short stroll up the Gold Coast Highway past the convention centre to Cascade Gardens and Rotary Park located 800m North of Conrad Jupiters.

It is the home of the world's largest Rotary Wheel embedded into the lawn at the front of the Cascades and also the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Walk where you can walk the Kokoda Track and read about the famous WWI Campaign in PNG.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the conference.

Neil Jones, Chairman Rotary International District 9640 Conference Committee

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DISTRICT 9640 MEMBERSHIP FEBRUARY 2007

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S *report*



Rotary Club of	Attendance		Membership ^{change}		
	Feb 07	Yearly	1.07.06	28.02.07	
Allora	79.00	76.14	11	14	3
Alstonville	81.11	76.45	23	22	-1
Ashmore	77.00	84.75	38	37	-1
Ballina	88.63	82.74	33	37	4
Ballina-on-Richmond	75.00	68.47	25	25	
Beaudesert	82.70	89.60	26	28	2
Boonah	80.20	82.25	40	44	4
Broadbeach	60.00	64.40	54	52	-2
Broadwater-Southport	71.88	75.02	28	32	4
Burleigh Heads	69.00	61.82	25	29	4
Byron Bay	70.00	78.83	8	9	1
Casino	69.23	75.12	20	21	1
Coolangatta Tweed Heads	50.00	63.37	23	23	
Coomera Valley	65.00	64.87	26	25	-1
Glen Innes	89.13	75.28	31	31	
Gold Coast Central	77.00	75.85	28	31	3
Goondiwindi	62.00	76.85	24	26	2
Goonellabah	70.00	77.66	23	25	2
Grafton	79.00	82.65	25	21	-4
Grafton Midday	70.00	71.30	29	24	-5
Hope Island	64.38	64.73	35	40	5
Iluka	83.80	83.85	10	10	
Jimboomba	60.00	66.14	27	26	-1
Kingscliff	85.71	80.12	13	12	-1
Kirra Currumbin	80.00	81.46	12	12	
Kyogle	91.80	85.84	13	14	1
Lismore	80.00	81.83	22	21	-1
Lismore Central	80.00	71.47	16	15	-1
Lismore West	90.28	95.87	43	44	1
Maclean	86.99	84.37	48	48	
Mermaid Beach	84.20	82.00	24	24	
Mt Warning AM	83.65	84.50	26	25	-1
Mudgeeraba	65.38	75.25	24	22	-2
Mullumbimby	80.75	76.76	21	19	-2
Murwillumbah	67.00	75.16	36	37	1
Murwillumbah Central	79.31	90.33	37	30	-7
Nerang	75.00	87.42	20	20	
Palm Beach	76.70	75.25	23	24	1
Parkwood	69.00	61.37	24	24	
Robina	80.00	80.00	9	13	4
Runaway Bay	62.50	72.23	41	37	-4
Southport	67.00	67.83	42	45	3
Southport North	73.61	70.14	22	22	
Stanthorpe	66.83	72.71	44	42	-2
Summerland Sunrise	58.55	62.72	15	16	1
Surfers Paradise	53.79	58.36	36	36	
Surfers Paradise Central	66.04	58.75	53	52	-1
Surfers Sunrise	75.86	72.14	30	29	-1
Tamborine Mountain	70.83	76.75	11	12	1
Tenterfield	83.30	82.37	21	22	1
Tweed Heads South	67.00	76.85	17	19	2
Warwick	67.00	68.75	17	16	-1
Warwick Sunrise	63.00	67.85	18	19	1
Yamba	81.25	78.37	16	17	1
Totals			1406	1420	14

This month I take the opportunity to thank both Greg Clogan from the Rotary club of Ashmore and David Armstrong from the Rotary Club of Boonah for taking the time on 31 March 2007 when the three of us gathered at Boonah to paint the District 9640 banners. This is the second time this year this gathering has occurred and it is wonderful to see the Rotary motto "Service above self" alive and in action.

From time to time we need to be reminded when, halfway across a swamp, with water up to our chests, and with whining mosquitoes around our ears and crocodiles snapping at our body parts, our principal objective in the first instance was to find the best way of draining the swamp.

So it is with the issue of responsibility – taking responsibility for ourselves and our actions, both in the here and now and in planning for the future. There are times indeed when the difficulties which surround us in pursuing a course of action seem like crocodiles, and commonsense and courage are relegated in an effort to survive.

In Rotary there are standards for every behaviour and every situation, the principal of which is the Four Way Test. In Rotary there is always the expectation that if we have the choice between meeting minimal standards and setting a new benchmark of performance, then we always, as Rotarians, strive for the higher benchmark.

If we all take responsibility for what we do and for what we believe, there is never a problem – even issues of differences of doctrine can be negotiated as a man of courage will always find it within him to confront his adversary. If, however, we surrender to the voice of a few people who, for reasons of their own, seek a lower light, then we are betraying the fundamental principles of Rotary.

From my understanding of his history, Paul Harris, from around 1912, was an ill man. He took a back seat in the operations of Rotary, yet was always there to extol the virtue of taking the higher ground and demonstrating in business and in Rotary that service above self was the preferred option. To forsake that philosophy was unthinkable and in the long term, untenable. If we all chose lower values, Rotary would cease to exist, and die.

When confronted with the choice between the higher ground and the lower ground, I urge you all to choose the higher ground. The difficulties encountered in reaching the higher ground are far outweighed by the view, and the greater resistance to drowning in a sea of apathy. Kind regards

Steven Gill



Banking Blues

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, whenever I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contract which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

[Ed: This letter was written by an 86 yr-old woman and published in the *New York Times*, sent in by the US bank manager who received it. It has been translated from US to Australian.]

Immediately after dialling, press the star (*) button for English

- #1.** To make an appointment to see me.
- #2.** To query a missing payment.
- #3.** To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- #4.** To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- #5.** To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- #6.** To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- #7.** To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.
- #8.** To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
- #9.** To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.
- #10.** This is a second reminder to press* for English. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year?

Your Humble Client,

Useful Rotary links online

Response to Pacific Tsunami: Latest news from Rotary Shelterboxes:

http://www.shelterbox.org/f_boxsent.html

Is Peace Possible?: Special Rotary Foundation newsletter from PDG Dr Eddie Blender:

<http://rotarnet.com.au/users/9/96452/rfnewsletter150407.htm>

Rotary World for April/June quarter:

http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/world/rw_0704_en.pdf

Rotarians help hospital navigate to distant shores:

http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/programs/070404_mercyship.html

eNews and Links for April:

<http://rotarnet.com.au/users/9/96452/links010407.htm>

Carol Cheshire has been commended on the launch of the new website for Surfers Paradise Central:

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/surfersparadisecentral>

Contributed by Bill Pavey, Webmaster Parkwood Rotary Club





MATCHING GRANTS

With all applications now in the hands of Evanston, our District has participated in five grants totaling US \$150,000. A superb effort for all worthy causes. However, there was a late change to the project to build water wheels in Togo. The host club partner was unable to accept this grant so it was taken over by the Rotary Club of Agadey in Niger (same district) for the same purpose.

The minor setback exemplifies the resourcefulness of Rotarians in that, when it comes to caring, there is a way to say “yes” when there are plenty of ways to say “no”.

DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANTS IN ACTION

We received correspondence from the RC of Murwillumbah Central that they were told of a humanitarian problem involving 667 Karen children refugees in the Thai/Burmese border area of Chang Mai. This region suffers severe cold winters and the children needed warm clothing.

The Club, with the assistance of a \$650 District Simplified Grant, obtained 677 fleecy lined track suits, each displaying the Rotary logo, from a manufacturer in Thailand. The suits were then delivered to the children, which doubtless kept the children warm and happy through the harsh winter (see picture)



GSE OUTBOUND TEAMS

The GSE teams to Hawaii and Atlanta will be presented at the District Conference during the weekend of 13th – 15th April. No doubt the preparation for their trips has consumed many hours and they are now ready to experience a trip of their lifetime (see photo of Atlanta team above).

The Conference will also present the two incoming GSE teams from Hawaii and Atlanta. This is a marvellous way to hear and learn about their cultures and professions.

Above all, the sessions involving the GSE teams are a great example of The Rotary Foundation at work and how your donations assist in “doing good in the world” and upholding its motto.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

This year the Conference is holding Breakout Sessions. You are all invited to participate in TRF session in the Surfers Paradise 111 room to learn more about “Our Charity”. I look forward to welcoming you all at the session on Saturday afternoon at the Conference.

Doug Brown DRFCC

