



THE GRAND HOORAH!

OUR FINAL "LEAD THE WAY"



After initiating, with the valued assistance of Carol Cheshire, twelve *Lead the Way* newsletters, I thought that a 'Grand Hoorah' edition would be appropriate to finalise the year. After all, old habits die slowly, and this will serve to wind up a happy and successful year.

Rotary is Alive and Well in District 9640 and over the past 12 months, we all, as members of our District, certainly did "LEAD THE WAY" to make a difference in our world.

I am often asked what has been the best or most memorable part of the year as your Governor. It's a question that I can't really answer — but what I can do is share with you the joy and excitement that Suzanne and I experienced over the year. Let me try!

At the beginning of the year, as I visited all clubs for the first time, I referred to the fact that Rotary achievements are all about club *members* and *clubs*, not the District and not Rotary zones or, for that matter, the Rotary International Board. I now realise how correct this observation was and this has been more than vindicated by the wide and varied projects that have been generously delivered by you all in this almost-completed Rotary year.

I also, at those initial meetings, referred to the 'emphases' of our Rotary International President,

Fun and games at the 9640 Rotary Foundation Experience Feb 2007



Bill Boyd. You will recall that he encouraged us to have projects that include:

- **Literacy**
- **Health and Hunger**
- **Family of Rotary**
- **Water**
- **Public Relations and Image**

And of course Club membership and Club Administration were paramount in the suggested areas of focus.

Our District has, by and large, met President Bill's requests to focus on his emphases.

As at the end of May, clubs have reported a net growth in membership in excess of 36, and it appears that the efforts of my two District Governor Representatives — PDG Heather Yarker and PP John Commens — will result in chartering two new Rotary clubs in our District; one at the Coomera Marina Precinct and the other at Pottsville. Our total membership will therefore have a net increase to the order of 70 members.

A significant majority of District 9640 clubs have embraced the new Club Leadership Plan recommended by Rotary International and the Plan has been implemented in whole or part.

At the District level we led the way by organising our Leadership Team with the same organisation structure, to simplify reporting — I believe that this really made life easier for us all and promoted much better communication lines.

The plan also increased focus at club level on our charity 'The Rotary Foundation' — with the result of the initiation of matching grant programs to the value of US\$145,000. The contributions to 31 May 2007 (total of annual giving, restricted and permanent fund) amount to US\$114,413 with many promises to be delivered in June. This is good news indeed.

Your club projects over the year have been outstanding by any measure and you should be congratulated on your achievements — "Well Done!" And may you continue with your enthusiasm and ability to make a difference in our world as long as possible.

Douglas I Geekie

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

ph: 07 5510 8033 / fx 07 5510 8404 / mb: 0412 55 45 44 / em <DGRotary2007@hibusiness.com.au>





*Beach to Bush youngsters prepare for the Outback, Nov 2007;
Antiques Galore at the Grafton Club's fundraiser;
Benowa Intercat Club;
Shelterbox presentation to the May District Conference*

Examples of these projects include:

- The **Beach to Bush** and back: a youth water project by Surfers Paradise Central Club,
- Our **23 Youth Exchanges** including the inclusion of Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- A significant **Eco Project** initiated by the Rotary Club of Beaudesert.
- A new **Driver Reviver** facility at Goondiwindi
- An ever increasing support to **ROMAC** by clubs and Rotarians in the District.
- The rebirth of the **Kingscliff Club** which was threatened by a possible handing back of its Charter after 37 years.
- The enormous **fund-raising efforts** of all clubs to ensure that they made a difference in their local and the global communities.
- Rotary volunteers visiting Thailand resulting in a **new school** for a community in need
- Two **group study exchanges** – one with District 6900 and the other with District 5000 – both were most successful.
- An outstanding **District conference** with nearly 700 in attendance.
- Our **youth programs** of MUNA, RYTS, and RYPEN delivering great opportunities for young people in our communities.
- Establishing 3 new **INTERACT** clubs.
- Chartering 2 new **PROBUS** clubs for senior citizens in our communities.
- Clubs funding in excess of 30 **Shelter Boxes** for the Solomon Island victims.
- Constant support for **RAWCS'** programs particularly Donations In Kind.
- A **RYLA** program that provided our younger generation with an enormous opportunity to recognise their own real potential.

And so many, many more projects delivered – too many to mention.

I would like to recognise the special effort and commitment of all Rotarians who participated in District Responsibilities and Leadership roles. There are simply too many to recognise individually.

However, special mention is made of those Rotarians who served on the District Leadership Team and the Rotary International District 9640 Limited Board of Directors. The efforts of our District Secretary PP Steven Gill are outstanding – his commitment, advice, availability, and support will be appreciated by Suzanne and me forever.





Goondiwindi Rotarians complete the Driver Reviver Centre;
 RYLA Experience 2007;
 ROMAC booth at the RI Convention in Salt Lake City;
 PP Jenny Horton receives her Service Above Self Award for Polio Plus.



Each year the District Governor is supported by a team of Assistant Governors who give freely of their time and experience to assist the Governor and Clubs in their allocated Cluster. This year is no exception and we have enjoyed the support of 9 Assistant Governors who have given freely of their time and experience. A special vote of thanks to this group of committed Rotarians.

The year has been one of significant change for Rotary in many respects. The incorporation of District 9640 and Rotary International's directives for the "Certification of Clubs for Youth Programs" have been issues that were both challenging and demanding. The 2006-2007 Leadership Team addressed these issues with vigour and professionalism. They are issues, that to some, are contentious, but good corporate governance and the need to maintain the highest standards of care and responsibility for our young people are matters that can never be disputed.

Our organisation, both at the Club and District levels, comprises only volunteers. Much has been done and there is so much more that we would like to have done; however, twelve months is a short time — particularly when operating as a voluntary organisation. These opportunities now pass to the new incoming team, in the interest of continuity. I wish the team well in their endeavours.

I cannot overemphasise how much I have enjoyed the year with all its experiences, despite the significant amount of travel (approximately 100 eight-hour days spent driving around the district) and the constant receipt of emails (at least 16,000 received, not to mention that number that I initiated).

Together, Suzanne and I have had the privilege to meet most Rotarians in the District and gain an appreciation of the many and varied good works and significant commitment that you individually make for your local and the global communities. You certainly make a difference.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve with you and LEAD THE WAY. You have done it with distinction.

During the next Rotary year, please continue to "LEAD THE WAY" and, with District Governor Brian Wheatley and Carol, show that "ROTARY SHARES". Our best wishes to all and may Rotary throughout the world continue to grow and prosper.

Yours in Rotary service, *Douglas, Suzanne*
... and the Cats.



Suzanne's Page

As this is Douglas' last DG newsletter, Suzanne wishes to write a personal note to all her Rotary friends — both two-legged and four-legged. This is her page.

RI President Bill Boyd's theme for this Rotary year 2006 – 2007 was 'Lead the Way'. His monthly themes of Membership, New Generations, Vocational Service, Rotary Foundation, World Understanding, Rotary Fellowship and Literacy, also highlighted the importance of the Family of Rotary. I decided to adopt this theme and in this last newsletter thought it might be fun to describe our immediate family.

Jaffie Jaffa is a beautiful chocolate brown Burmese. An absolute extrovert. Without doubt (so he thinks) the most knowledgeable Rotarian cat in the district.

He performs many tasks for district 9640, for example

He wakes the District Governor (very) early every morning to ensure all emails can be read and addressed promptly.

- He reads all the club Bulletins (sitting on Suzanne's lap)
- He can probably quote the *District Directory* verbatim, and knows exactly where to look in *The Manual of Procedure*.
- He meets and greets all visiting Rotarians
- He insists on attending all meetings and discussions re Rotary held in the Geekie house. His contributions are loud and vigorous

Jaffie, like most of us enjoys cuddles, in fact he *demand*s lots of them.



Tiggie Tiger, a 'domestic' long haired ginger and white cat, is shy and introverted.

He is probably less interested and less knowledgeable regarding Rotary activities and issues.

- He prefers not to attend meetings nor read emails.
- Equally he does not interrupt phone calls.
- He has, however, selected that one of his responsibilities is to sit on 'his' stool at the kitchen bench, supervising the making of coffee and tea.
- His other self-appointed task is to sit on top of his scratching post and observe all and everyone.
- Although superior, or do we mean timid and shy, he has made good friends with those Rotarians who visit frequently.

His favourite cuddling place is on top of the scratching post a nice place to snuggle and hide in Suzanne's shoulder.

In addition to these two furry people in our immediate family I have made many four-legged friends during this year of travel.

It would be impossible to name all my new friends, so please don't be offended if you are not mentioned. Here are a few (in no special order) Dolly, Jessica, Molly, Kroger, Mandy, Brandy, Mr Beau, Coffee, Scallywag, Jedda, Winston, Alf, Jasper, Missie, Claude, Indiana, Betty and Mimi and of course Topaz.

I would like to conclude by thanking you all (both two and four-legged) for being part of the Rotary Family and Family of Rotary, and making me always feel so welcome and part of YOUR family.

Suzanne Geekie



WANTED

URGENT

Donations in Kind WAREHOUSE

As of 22 June there was still no sign of a replacement for our DIK warehouse at Wacol which we have to vacate by 15 July. There was talk of an extension for 6 months but only on the condition that a lot of work be done to the site for Occupational Health and Safety to ensure the Government could not be liable for any conceivable risk that might crop up. We don't have that sort of money to throw around for a short term fix.

Many people will know that DIK grew from a practice of some Clubs, teaming with their local doctors and pharmacists, collecting medication to send it to various contacts in the medical missions in the Pacific Islands. Over the years it has grown through natural progression and amalgamations to be the huge multifaceted service it is today.

It is a service that takes a good deal of management energy. DIK (Northern) as we are combines the work of, particularly, Districts 9600, 9630 and 9640 with help from many Clubs throughout Queensland and all the Clubs in New Guinea. The medical people involved with DIK at present feel we should do what we can to restart the medication side of the work, on a smaller scale perhaps, as soon as we can but there is no obvious way to do so right now.

The situation at the moment is that donations of all kinds for DIK cannot be accepted. This will confuse a lot of donors perhaps and it would be wonderful if Rotarians, when refusing donations, with regret, assure our friends that we are doing all we can to find alternative premises in Brisbane. We would be very happy if donors could hold their items for us but we cannot offer any hope at present that we would take them in the near future. Unless someone is on really close terms with the good fairy!

The Rotary Club of Rocklea has proposed that Rotary should buy industrial land and build a suitable warehouse. They are very serious about it but it would be a huge undertaking. The warehouse from which we are departing is about 2,500 metres sq. plus a hardstand area of about 3000 metres sq., where shipping containers are handled and loaded.

THE ROTARY PIG

A new tradition

The Rotary Pink Pig is very special. She is sent to Rotarians in the District who are unwell, either at home or in hospital, and in need of some TLC.

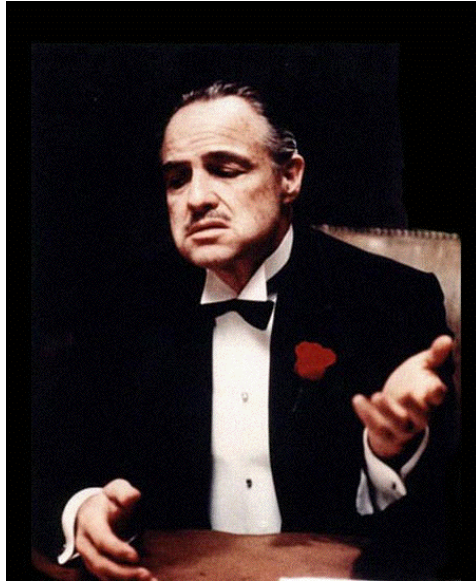
Miss Piggy passes on love and best wishes from all members in District 9640 and, hopefully, can assist in a quick recovery.

If you receive a visit from Miss Piggy, you can, when you are well again, either continue to look after Miss Piggy until you hear of another Rotarian who needs her attention or, if you prefer, you can send her back to the District Governor's wife.

Suzanne Geekie

Peter Davidson

Rotary International **DOUBLES** Annual Fees



*Paul Harris IV announcing the price hike at RI HQ
Dateline June 23, Chicago*

In a surprise announcement, Rotary International (RI) today informed 1.5 million Rotarians that it was doubling its annual fees. Paul Harris IV, RI Financial Director and great, great grandson of Rotary founder Paul Harris, described the huge increase as 'unfortunate but a realistic reflection of the times.'

Whilst Mr Harris denied that the increase related to the recent contentious 43% increase in management salaries – 'this long overdue salary increase merely reflects managements desire to live a better, more luxurious lifestyle' – he said that it was an integral part of the new RI 4-Way Survival Plan that included the controversial If You're Young and Rich We Want You membership drive. 'With aging Rotarians and a declining membership,' he said, 'if we want to survive and grow we must attract younger, richer members.'

He quoted recent market research that revealed the targeted young and rich enjoyed showing off their wealth, and that if something was too cheap they wouldn't be interested. 'Just look at the massive increase in sales of Prada, Rolex and those gorgeous, sexy red Ferraris,' Mr Harris said, 'If we want to attract these people and guarantee the survival of Rotary we must cater to their desires.'

In keeping with the 4-Way Survival Plan, Mr Harris announced that clubs would be encouraged to move their meetings to 5-star hotels and all meals would have to be a minimum of three courses.

He also announced that the Rotary Foundation had agreed to finance the construction of 77 exclusive 'country club style' Rotary Clubhouses in capitol cities. Whilst he refuted there was a conflict of interest with the construction company he owned that won the building contracts, he emphasised that not only would the pokie machines cover monthly running costs, they would also eliminate the need for sausage sizzle fund raisers. 'It's a win/win situation, an offer you can't refuse,' he quietly mumbled.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr Harris confirmed that Rotary International would be upgrading its name to Rotary Exclusive. The full text of the announcement can be downloaded from www.rotary.org/feeripoff.smokescreen

Phil Rosenberg, is the official underpaid, overseas reporter for Lead The Way

LETTER from the EDITOR

Carol Cheshire

Dear Rotarians of 9640,

We editors are traditionally quiet, reserved, back-room bodies; happy to be heard but not seen. On this occasion, I break ranks to say a big thank you for all your positive comments throughout the year.

I've had a ball reading of the exploits and events of the various clubs. As a relatively new chum in Rotary, I've been amazed at the wealth of talent and generosity we have in the District. Forgive me, please, for singling out a handful for special mention:

To Bill Pavey, my website guru : you will be always on my Christmas e-card list.

To Dr Phil : your wit and infectious joie de vivre are a medicine that makes the Rotary world la vie en Rose.

To Ian Wilson : each month your numbers came up trumps and, thanks to you, were easy to set out.

To Nan Baldwin : your calm, commonsense and patience with my endless questions, almost kept me sane.

And to DG Douglas : as we both prepare our feathers to become mere dusters, your faith in me has moved me to say : it's been an honour ... and great fun.

*Happy New Rotary Year Everyone,
Carol*

Why are we called Rotary?

And what do dunnies, Siamese twins, the Gang of Four and 50's doo wop have to do with it? Professor Phil Rosenberg, IAMN, BS, reveals the true story behind the name.

Once upon a time, before rap music, mobile phones and when your only choice of breads was either white or stale, young Queensland lawyer Paul Bjelke-Petersen-Harris was in his office,



desperate to go to the bathroom and not looking forward to using the old, weather-beaten, outside dunny!

"What this building needs," he thought to himself as he kept uncomfortably crossing and uncrossing his legs, "is a damn fine men's toilet."

So Paul called a committee meeting (a taste of things to

come!) with three of his fellow tenants and a new dunny was built. It was so impressive that men from as far west as Good 'n Windi, south as Graftonandon, north as Hopeless Island and high as Hey Mr Tambourine Mountain regularly drove there just to use it! Alas this caused unexpected problems as, in those pioneer days, cars often broke down.

Subsequently the Gang of Four (as they now called themselves) decided to distribute a list of reputable motor mechanics to service these cars. They found four good ones nearby on Caville, Bundall, Ashmore and Upton Avenues; this list became known as *The Four Avenues of Service*.

The garages were so popular that the inevitable competitor arrived in the form of Siamese twins Paul and Eenhans On, *joint* partners



in a rather disreputable garage with the ingenious name of One Asian.

To promote their business they took a photo of themselves draped in an Australian flag for a brochure, but were in such

a rush that they only had time to dictate the information to the printer over the phone. As their English wasn't very good the printer, who unfortunately was hard of hearing, misheard their dictation; instead of printing *One Asian run by Paul and Eenhans On*, the brochure was printed as *One Nation run by Pauline Hanson!*

One Nation was very successful because they specialised in the two most popular cars, the Holden Battler (below) and Ford's sporty Race IST.

However, the Gang of Four became very



concerned when they discovered that One Nation rather than repairing was ruining people's cars.

To counter this problem they placed ads in The Gold Coast Billabong advising car owners to always ask first, if the mechanics were being truthful in their assessments; second, were they quoting a fair price concerning parts and labour; third, will it build good cars with better steering, and fourth, would One Nations mechanics fit the safe 'Concerned' brand tyres?

It worked.

Soon everyone was referring to this questionnaire as *The 4-way Test*.

But back to those dunnies.

The Gang of Four realised that society needed more decent dunnies, and within months they had built 54 'damn fine' ones, managed by six AG teams that rotated their responsibilities.

They had now outgrown their Gang of Four name, and as the teams 'rotated' they decided to call themselves The Rotators.

Fortunately, when they printed their brochures they used the same hard-of-hearing

printer as One Nation and instead of printing The Rotators and sounding like a 1950s American *doo wop* group, he mistakenly printed *Rotary*.

So now you know the truth.

