LEAD THE WAY

9640 District Governor's Newsletter

Vol. February 2007

FEBRUARY IS 'WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH'

Our theme for this month to my mind seems so appropriate at this time. We live in a period of history when violence, terror, war, and the failure to consider our fellow human beings are almost common place and appear a way of life to many. These issues are exacerbated by global warming and its consequent effects on weather, causing the extremes of floods, fires, and droughts. It is increasingly difficult for us all to completely understand the world in which we live.

Australia is often described as "The Lucky Country", although in these times of such extremes in behaviour and natural disasters, it may be hard to appreciate.

Through Rotary International we should realise that our fortunes are far greater than many others in this world and most of us are able to give assistance, rather than rely on the charity of others for our own well-being and comforts.

We should take comfort that here in "The Lucky Country", whilst droughts, floods, and fires may torment us just now, we are extremely fortunate when compared to those who live in the Middle East, Africa and many other parts of the world. Let us all try to understand our world offers us so much more – we are indeed lucky!

IN THE FAST LANE

What a month January has been — here I was thinking it was a month for Rest and Relaxation, but in reality the fast-lane pace has continued.

The news of the month was without doubt the recognition of Rotary International President Bill Boyd by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Elsewhere in this edition of *Lead The Way* details are provided. When Suzanne and I became aware of the news, we sent an email to Bill and Lorna, with our and the District's congratulations.

Remarkably, within 12 hours of sending our email we received the following reply from Bill:

Dear Doug & Suzanne,

Thank you for your email of congratulations on the award of the Queen's Service Order.

Lorna and I feel very honoured to be recognised in this way, and we are particularly pleased at this recognition of Rotary.

We appreciate your message.

My regards,

Bill

During January I was able to complete my official visits. The Murwillumbah visit had been unfortunately long delayed, but it was worth the wait, as I was presented with a cheque for the Rotary Foundation and promised a second for a like amount for the Polio Plus campaign. Funds are still urgently required for this project so that it can be finalised. You will recall that in November, I appealed to Presidents and Clubs for a special effort to assist in funding the last stages of the program. To date only two or three cheques have been received — more would be gratefully accepted and put to really good use.

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

This last week, I invited all Club Presidents to register for a Presidential Citation for their Club for this Rotary Year. A pre-condition for the achievement of the citation is a net increase in club membership of **one** member by April 1, 2007. You will see from our membership statistics in this edition there a number of Clubs who have some work to do in this area. To assist, the District Membership team have organised a Membership Forum at the Robina High School on Sunday 4 March. Details will be advised by Chairman Stan early this week.

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>

LEADING THE WAY IN 9640

Plans are also well advanced for the establishment of at least one — and maybe two — new Clubs in this Rotary year. Our challenge is to restore our membership levels to former years. Our rate of loss has exceeded world trends in recent years and we should all aim to correct this position. It is a real opportunity for us all to LEAD THE WAY.

The Rotary Club of Broadbeach received a visit from their sister Rotary Club of Kasaoka in Japan. It was an occasion when a group from

that Club returned to express appreciation for the Broadbeach attending the 50th anniversary of the Kasaoka Club.

During the month Surfers Paradise West Rotary Club, my Club, changed its name to the "**Rotary Club of Gold Coast Central'.**

RYLA week

This week has seen the start of **RYLA** — a little disappointing in that we only have 61 attendees — we were hoping for 80 plus but this will in no way reduce the impact or quality of the program. The opening was Saturday 2 February and it really went off with a big bang. Much is planned for the remainder of the week, including the Rotarians visit on Tuesday 6 February .

Certification of Rotary Clubs for Youth Programs urgently requires the attention of us all — to date we still have no Club certified in District 9640.

'It's Not Rocket Science"

Certification of Rotary Clubs for Youth Programs urgently requires the attention of us all — to date we still have no Club certified in District 9640, although I am told that many are very close. We really need to get this behind us.

"It's not Rocket Science" as John Anstey constantly reminds me, but quite simply meeting the requirements of our State Laws.

Our objectives are simple: we want to ensure that our processes ensure the absolute safety and protection of youth programs. DGN Tony Hayes has been appointed the "Chairman of the New Generations and Certification Committee" for District 9640 in this current Rotary year and he will be only too pleased to assist you with any issues you may have.

YEP teams

Saturday and Sunday the YEP team met with the Rebounders from 2005-2006 to debrief on their experiences from their year abroad.

Much was learned and Suzanne and I had the opportunity to meet with them and also attend a YEP leadership meeting.

One cannot be but impressed by the dedication and commitment of the YEP Leadership team — their efforts are really fantastic.

Well my space has run out — DGE Brian and Carol are returning from San Diego USA from their Governor training as I put this article together. If you visit the Rotary International website at **www.rotary.org** you will be able to get an appreciation of what is to come next year.

In the meantime there is much to be done to finalise this Rotary Year — and we still have four months work left — so let us "LEAD THE WAY" into the new year, ensuring that we achieve all our objectives and plans first.

Yours in Rotary service

Douglas

Donations *In Kind*

ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE

District Governor Douglas and Suzanne visited the Donations in Kind warehouse at Wacol in Brisbane recently to review the current program there. They came away, as everybody does, rather overawed by the volume of work all our Clubs in Northern Region send to them. We handle a truly massive amount of work at present and are currently sending away three Shipping Containers (20 footers) every fortnight up to the islands. Along with the mountains of books, all the medication, crutches and walkers, etc. there are a number of new features to capture the imagination.

As always with Rotary Projects little things carry a lot of weight. A suggestion from New Guinea resulted in a Birthing Kit drive and every week a few of the ladies work at making these kits up and packing them to forward them up there. Many village women there have their babies in their huts and death of the baby and the mother from blood poisoning or tetanus is common, perhaps 10% of village births. A DIK birthing kit is a simple parcel containing a plastic sheet for the mother to recline on, a small cake of antiseptic soap, rubber gloves, a sterile scalpel to cut the cord, a few maternity pads, a little clean linen, twine to tie the cord, etc... There is a program to educate the village women and in the area this is being trialled there has been a 50% drop in deaths of this kind I believe.

The high volume at present comes from the release of well over 1000 replaced hospital beds by Q. Health. It is wonderful to be able to send them up north but it is a strain on physical resources and on finance- freight costs last 12 months about $200,000. Keep those Club donations flowing and please try to make it a minimum $1,000. Pharmacies can send useable medications through their Brisbane warehouses; put them in a carton marked Rotary and send them off with their delivery driver. Now is a good time too to watch out for school desks and school textbooks. Don't forget library books, especially for kids, but of good quality please. The scrappy residue of book sales days doesn't really fit the need.

Please arrange the pick up and delivery of donations other than medications. Deliveries go to the Rotary DIK warehouse at corner of Wolston Park Rd. and 2nd Ave Wacol in Brisbane. Receiving day is Thursday morning between 8 a.m. and 12 noons. PDG Bill Waterfield manages the warehouse activity, his phone is 0732010741, and his e-mail is <billnann@bigpond.net.au> if you have difficulties.

Computers have an expert team these days at Hendra High School in Brisbane. Get their details from <www.computers4kids.com.au> and see what a good job that team is doing too.

We could do with some extra hands on the 9640 DIK Committee so if you want to help please phone me on 07 5533 2705.

Peter Davidson, Chairman,
Donations in Kind Committee, Dist 9640.

Peter Davidson (above) at the warehouse at Wacol, while visitor Suzanne Geekie (right) manages to control one of the donated folding beds.

Donated stock of tinned foodstuff (left).

EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF continuity

RI President William B. Boyd announced yesterday [29 January 2007] at the 2007 International Assembly that his successor, President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, will continue to emphasize four key service areas — literacy, water management, health and hunger, and the family of Rotary.

Wilkinson's choice of emphases follows the lead of Boyd and other recent presidents who worked to create a consistent focus over the last few years. This trend helps clubs continue their work in areas important to Rotary from year to year.

"These basic needs have been at the forefront for Rotary's efforts for several years now, and I hope that will continue," Wilkinson told an audience of district governors-elect at the 2007 International Assembly in San Diego. "With clean water, good health, and the ability to read and write, so many of the people who need help will have the ability to help themselves."

Boyd agreed saying, "These are areas that build on each other, with each being a prerequisite for the next."

In addition, placing emphasis on the family of Rotary — which includes Rotaractors, Youth Exchange students, and Rotary World Peace Fellows — helps ensure Rotary's viability, so clubs can continue to do service projects, said Wilkinson.

During his worldwide travels as president this year, Boyd said he has seen repeatedly how all types of projects in the areas of literacy, water management, health and hunger, and the family of Rotary have "opened up a world of possibilities for their beneficiaries. Everywhere, we saw the truth of President-elect Wilf Wilkinson's theme, Rotary Shares.

By continuing to focus on these areas over time, Rotary clubs can maximize the impact of their service projects, Boyd said.

The district governors-elect agreed.

"Emphases definitely help our clubs to focus," said Bill Pettus of the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole Supper, Wyoming, USA.

"[The continuity with last year] allows us to build on what we started, and continue that focus into this year and into the future," said Mary E. Martin, a member of the Rotary Club of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA.

Antoinette Tuscano, Rotary international News

30 Jan 2007

President Bill Boyd explains why continuity will help to further Rotary's service

President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson (right) will continue the work of RI President William B. Boyd and other recent presidents in four key areas of service

Queen's Service Order Award for Bill Boyd

Queen Elizabeth recently bestowed Rotary International President William Boyd (Bill) with the Companion of the Queen's Service Order Award.

The award is given to New Zealand residents who have served as a valuable volunteer to the community, whether in elected or public office. The queen appoints 30 people each year.

Boyd was awarded the honour for his work in the New Zealand community, which he has served as a Rotarian since 1971. He has also served in his community as an elder and youth leader in the Presbyterian church, scout master, secretary of several school committees, and 30 years as a rugby referee with the rugby union.

An awards ceremony will take place later in the year, after Boyd completes his term as RI President. He will receive a citation for service to the community as well as a badge and a medal.

Extract from report by Lisa Baker in Rotary International News

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Thirty-one years ago, Muhammad Yunus, then a professor of economics at Chittagong University in Bangladesh, discovered a harsh reality of extreme poverty: The difference between self-sufficiency and virtual slavery is much smaller than one might think. In the village of Jobra, he found, it was just a few cents.

While talking to a bamboo-stool maker, Yunus learned that the woman purchased her supply of bamboo on credit, for roughly 25 US cents, every morning. Lacking the money for even a single day's supply of bamboo, she would never be able to repay the loan. Throughout the village, Yunus found many in similar straits. Their total debt? Twenty-seven US dollars. Yunus did what was, for him, the natural thing: He paid their debts. The new entrepreneurs quickly turned a profit, his loan was repaid, and microcredit was born.

The idea of giving small loans to the very poor was a revolutionary one, and it has had revolutionary results. In 2005 alone, 100 million microcredit loans helped people in 130 countries. Today, Rotarians are involved in more than 60 microcredit projects around the world. In 1999, Yunus was honored at the RI Convention in Singapore. In October, he received the Nobel Prize.

The simple principle of microcredit is also a principle of Rotary. Small changes can become great changes, and a seemingly inconsequential act can have tremendous consequences. Just as 25 cents in that Bangladeshi village meant so much more than merely a quarter of a dollar, the prosperity of an unnoticed individual or village has international implications.

As we enter World Understanding Month, we are reminded by Yunus' achievement that we can never know every consequence of what we do. His loan of $27, given in compassion, led to far more good than he could possibly have imagined. Our Rotary work also leads to benefits we'll never see: new friendships, new connections, warm feelings among people who may have little in common.

Poverty, as we know too well, is a tremendous obstacle to peace and stability. So, every intelligent act of generosity, every project that helps others to lead better lives, is also an act of hope. We Rotarians share the belief that love for others does make a difference. Each small act of kindness, from one human being to another, brings us closer to each other and to the kind of world we hope to leave to our children.

We may think we are only helping to equip a school, supply a clinic, or build a well for a faraway community. But in truth, what we are doing is helping to build a better, more stable, and more peaceful future.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International

ARHRF

Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative

It is generally recognised that many mental health problems start from an early age. With this in mind the ARHRF has joined with a number of other bodies to introduce a preventative program into primary schools. It is felt that if we can increase the support and assistance for students at risk of experiencing mental health troubles we can reduce the incidence of anxiety, depression and behavioural disturbances before they become major problems in later life.

We know that early signs of mental health problems can be detected in young children and that protective factors for student mental health can be enhanced plus mental health problems are easier (and more effective) to treat at an earlier age before problems become entrenched.

Stage I (late 2006 to end 2008)

One hundred and one primary schools across Australia, representing a broad cross section of government, catholic and independent schools (both metropolitan and non-metropolitan) have been selected to participate in the initial evaluation that commenced in September 2006, with a completion date of December 2008.

Rotary clubs in the targeted have been asked to become involved with the schools in the program. This is a long term project which could eventually become part of every school's curriculum.

The Federal Department of Health and Ageing

beyondblue: the national depression initiative

The Australian Psychological Society

The Australian Principals' Association Professional Development Council.

Joy Gillett CEO
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund
ph: (02) 8837 1900
fx: (02) 9635 5042 <www.arhrf.org.au>

Australia Day Award for BRUCE MACDOUGALL

The awards were announced 24 Jan at a ceremony at the Gold Coast Arts Centre. Mayor Ron Clarke praised all category nominees."Many residents work tirelessly for the community without any formal recognition," he said."It's satisfying to see them acknowledged for their dedicated service." Bruce MacDougall was recognised for Achievement. He has been in Rotary for 25 years and is a past president and life member of the Gold Coast and District Wood Turning Association. Bruce's achievements include setting up the association's library and being a mentor to many aspiring wood turners.

sent by Lorna and Derek Tigwell of Mudgereeba from the Gold Coast Bulletin

INTERNATIONAL *UNDERSTANDING*

and peace through YEP

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people — regardless of nationality — desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for our children and ourselves.

Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. This plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

This year, more than 8,000 teens will see the world the way it is best seen — from the inside out — through the Youth Exchange Program.

Over the period 15 January to 1 February our District alone has had 23 students depart for their overseas exchange, 23 students return from overseas after completing their wonderful 12 month exchange and 4 students arrive to start their exchange in our District.

Every club involved with YEP can be proud of their achievements in working towards a better global and cultural understanding in our world.

Please give consideration to your club becoming involved in this very important Rotary Youth program in 2007. Each club was sent a form asking for their support in 2007 – please complete this form and send it back to the YEP Committee so they can commence their important work on behalf of our District.

Denise Payne, Secretary, 9640 Youth Exchange Program,

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2007

We are now more than halfway through the year and I trust matters are proceeding well at club level. If progress is not so smooth, and you do need assistance, District officers are available to help you.

This month I would like to address the matter of insurance of registered vans and trailers used by clubs in their fundraising efforts.

Recently one club lodged a claim for the theft of a registered trailer and we discovered in the process that clubs are not covered by District insurance for registered vans and trailers. At the same time we also found that some clubs had taken out separate insurance for their vans and trailers.

In order to rectify this difficulty, and to provide some economy of scale to clubs who already have insurance, a survey has been sent to all clubs requesting information regarding vans and trailers so that we can seek a quotation for insurance cover. Your prompt reply would be appreciated on this matter.

Also sent out is a number of risk analysis documents which have been provided by the insurer. Please use these documents, if you do not already do so, for all fundraising events where you will have significant numbers of the public in attendance.

These documents properly used will assist in raising awareness of potential difficulties and in avoiding potential future difficulties.

If you need fresh copies let me know.

Enjoy your Rotary; have much fun in the midst of our hard work, and be a shining example in how to " Lead The Way ".

Yours in Rotary
Steven Gill

WHAT IS ROTARY ...

AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

Yes we all know what Rotary is and what Rotary does, we all do our little bit each and every week by turning up for dinner and to any of the projects that the club has going when and where possible.

But does this answer the bigger question that is now facing all Rotary clubs in this the 21st century and to me that is:

WHAT IS ROTARY AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

To put it another way I suppose it's :

WHY DO I WANT TO BE A ROTARIAN?

The past year and a half has been somewhat of a rollercoaster of a ride for me on a personal level. I have been asked to do things that I would not normally have done, to step out of my comfort zone so to speak.

Rotary has allowed me to grow within myself to gain confidence in my own abilities and to deal more easily with people on a personal and professional level. I have achieved a great deal of satisfaction knowing that what I have contributed has helped so many people less fortunate than myself.

Through Rotary I have the had privilege to be able to put into practice and to continue practising the concept of Bryce Courtney's book The Power of One. That's how it started -- with just ONE small group of men wanting to do something, anything to help and make a better life for their fellow man in a time of despair and hardship, to make a difference.

So here we are in the 21st century; 1.3million plus Rotarians and all with the very same aim in life that started with just the POWER OF ONE, one man's dream, his commitment, his drive to make that difference to his friend's neighbours ... and eventually to all mankind.

So why do I want to be a Rotarian?

Simple really : **P H F** (look familiar?)

P for the privilege that Rotary has given to me to be of service to my fellow man

H for the honour of being counted as equal among my fellow Rotarians

F for the fellowship and friendships that I have had and made in Rotary

For the bigger question ...

Rotary is a lot of things to a very diverse group of people but the end result is still the same it is a way for them to make a difference and sense out of this crazy world we all live in.

What Rotary means is that we all have a responsibility to each other and to the rest of the world even if they don't want it; we as Rotarians will always be there waiting to be of service to our fellow man.

I have been brought up on the saying "Charity begins at home"; I feel that that is where we have to plant our garden, so to speak.

If we plant well in the community we live in then so shall we harvest well.

We need to be seen doing more for the elderly, underprivileged and in general those less fortunate.

Not necessarily in a financial sense; we have a whole host of expertise in our club that could be offered to the community under the Rotary umbrella — building advice legal, insurance etc.

Just something to think about.

Yours in Service

Bob Rogers

[The above was written by Bob Rogers of Murwillumbah Central, after discussion at a club meeting on the subject of membership and published in the club's weekly newsletter "The Spirit".]

invitation

Lismore Party invitation

from Robyn Arnett, Joanne and Scott Cooper

Are you coming to our Party?

The Rotary Club of Lismore will celebrate 75 years of community service on 24 February with a dinner dance. Tickets $50 per person – please contact 66221696 for details

9640

ROTARY FOUNDATION news

February 2007

MATCHING GRANTS

These are humanitarian grants approved by TRF, when two or more Clubs or Districts, in two or more countries, form an international partnership to provide aid to the under-privileged in poverty stricken areas. Grants must be for US $5,000 minimum, up to US $25,000 and the project must have significant Rotary involvements.

The Rotary Foundation offers funding assistance for Matching Grants by increasing a Club's donation by 50% and a District's donation by 100%. Since 1965, 24,000 Matching Grant projects in 167 countries have been funded at a cost of more than US $257 million. In 2005-06, 2,016 new grants were approved for projects in 126 countries, being an outlay of US $33.1 million.

This year, our district has finalized two Matching Grants – 1) Water wells in Togo for over US $17,000 and 2) Sporting equipment and clothing for an orphanage in Biysk, Siberia for more than US $20,000. Both are awaiting TRF approval.

We are now circulating details of another project, being the need to establish a reliable source of water for a public school of 1,437 students in Kabwe, Zambia. This project was identified by Rotarian Yannick Martin of the Yamba Rotary Club and we can join the Kabwe Rotary Club to assist in funding the water supply, expected to cost over US $30,000.

Yannick will be at our District RF Experience on 11 February and will personally appeal for the assistance of our Clubs. Those Clubs wishing to be a part of this third Grant should bring their cheque, payable to The Rotary Foundation, to the Experience to present it on the day and be recognized.

CLUB DONATIONS TO TRF

Club Presidents are also reminded that they will be able to present any available TRF donations at the Experience and also be recognized by their peers. This is a great opportunity for Clubs to show their support to OUR charity.

The District Rotary Foundation *Experience*

at Tweed Heads,
Sun 11 Feb 2007 9.30am DST

We hope to see many Rotarians and Friends of Rotary at this important meeting. We promise an informative and entertaining program with plenty of opportunities for fellowship and meeting new friends.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

The Rotary Foundation recently celebrated a historic milestone, when 34 individuals, one from each RI zone, were recognized as together representing the one millionth Paul Harris Fellow.

One million Paul Harris Fellows means US $1 billion has been contributed to Foundation projects doing good in the world. Unfortunately, no Rotarian from our District was amongst the 34 above; however, the following Rotarians were recognized in the first half of this Rotary year and assisted the Foundation in reaching the one million mark.

Michael Jones	*Ballina*
David Johnston	*Ballina-on Richmond*
Linda Jackson	*Beaudesert*
Frank Adorjan	*Broadbeach*
Jens Krause	*Byron Bay*
Tony Lines	*Coomera Valley*
Jill Ellis	*Gold Coast Central*
Peter Collins	*Grafton*
Chris Wheelahan	*Grafton*
Greg Yeates	*Grafton*
Desmond Harvey	*Grafton Midday*
David Thompson	*Grafton Midday*
Sandra Doumany	*Hope Island*
Nick Fry	*Hope Island*
Sue Nunn	*Lismore Central*
Kay Pallot	*Hope Island*
Jennifer Wilmink	*Jimboomba*
John Snape	*Maclean*
John Commens	*Murwillumbah Central*
Peter Sochacki	*Murwillumbah Central*
Ken Bonython	*Parkwood*
Mark Kent	*Parkwood*
Kay Nicol	*Southport North*
Donald Gaske	*Stanthorpe*
Robert Paskins	*Stanthorpe*
Warren Walmsley	*Surfers Paradise Central*
Sandra Head	*Warwick Sunrise*

On behalf of the District Rotary Foundation Committee and DG Douglas, we thank you for your commitment and support.

Doug Brown

Blue Care at Parkwood

Blue Care Southport Surfers Paradise nurses are better equipped to care for cancer patients at home thanks to a $5400 donation from Parkwood Rotary Club for the purchase of two continuous ambulatory dose delivery (CADD) pumps that slowly administer medication to cancer patients.

Blue Care Director of Nursing, Sue Burgess said because the portable units release pain-killing medication slowly and continuously, it is more comfortable for the patient and side effects such as nausea and anxiety are minimised.

Ms Burgess said Blue Care was grateful to Parkwood Rotary Club for generously donating the money to purchase the pumps.

"We have a reputation on the Gold Coast for providing excellent palliative care services, which can now be extended to more people in the community," she said.

Parkwood Rotary Club President Mark Kent said they felt the donation was a practical way of improving the lives of local people with cancer.

"We are proud to support Blue Care and their palliative care services which support people with life threatening illnesses at home," he said.

Blue Care is a non-profit organisation that cares for and supports 11,000 people everyday through nursing, allied health, residential aged care and respite services.

While Blue Care receives some government funding, the level of care extended to the Queensland community would not be possible without generous supporters.

Mark Kent, President Parkwood Rotary

Mark Kent, President of Parkwood Rotary Club and Sue Burgess the director of Blue Care being presented with a CADD pump (above) and Shirley Daly (right) who received Parkwood's Pride of Workmanship award.

DG Douglas and Councillor Rob Molhoek (below) join Mark and Sue at the the presentation.

17-20 June 2007
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RENDEZVOUS
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake City International Convention will be in June this year. If you plan to attend to please let me know so that we can meet up in Salt Lake City? RI President Bill Boyd promises a great Convention at a superb location. Let's make a Rendezvous at Salt Lake City Rotary International Convention.

Douglas : email <DGRotary2007@hibusiness.com.au>

RALLY

for ROTARY

District Membership report from Stan Shneider

Rotary Clubs throughout the world are experiencing difficulty in holding, let alone expanding, membership numbers. At the first day of this current Rotary Year, only 1411 members renewed their membership in our District 9640 — a loss in excess of 11% in a single year. District Governor Douglas Geekie recruited a panel of experienced Rotarians to form a District Membership Committee ("the Committee") and elevated it to District Management level. The Committee has worked hard to build up membership numbers in the District, with mixed results. On 31 December 2006 memberships totalled 1432, a small but nonetheless welcome result.

The Committee is concerned for the long-term survival of Rotary in this important and fast growing part of Australia. Why? Allow me to list a few of the issues it sees as crucial :

The Committee contacted every club in 9640, offering to send a representative to speak at a club meeting on the topic of membership. The response has been a deafening silence. Apathy seems to prevail in many clubs, while others apparently resent what they see as District interference. Yet almost every club expresses concern at the downward trend in membership numbers. So how do we apply the brakes and reverse this trend?

Some clubs, especially those with so few members that their Charters are threatened, have actively attempted to increase their membership. A few have had success.

A surprising fact is that there are clubs with dangerously low membership in areas containing thousands of eligible people, many of whom would make fine Rotarians. Let's be positive — clubs that throw up their arms, beat their breasts and blame everything under the sun for their lack of success, should simply try something different which just might work. The question is: what?

Look at the facts. Membership numbers are decreasing and the average age of Rotarians is increasing. Young people see no reason to join a club of senior citizens and the downward spiral continues. We need to attract younger members of our particular communities. But how?

It is a well-proven mistake to grab every passer-by and induct him or her into club membership. Personality differences have torn many clubs apart — some never properly recovering. I have been accused of preaching elitism in Rotary. I vehemently deny this — I believe we need to carefully select prospective members, introduce them into a club, then and only then, after there is apparent compatibility, induct them into membership.

There are more questions than adequate answers. We are Rotarians and should justly be proud to be so. One of the obligations we accept when we join Rotary is to ensure the ongoing good health of the entire organization. It is therefore not an option, but our *obligation* to ensure that membership levels are not only maintained, but increased by the induction of first class candidates from all walks of life. Again the question is : how?

WE MUST RALLY. The issues are so important that we need to discuss them in an open forum. At the request of the Committee, District Governor Douglas is convening the following:

EMERGENCY MEETING
of **Club Presidents, Club Membership Directors**, and all other interested Rotarians **from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon on Sunday 4 March 2007 at ROBINA HIGH SCHOOL**.

More specific details will be made known to participants in good time. In early February, a member of the Committee or an Assistant Governor will contact every Club President to urge participation. It is essential that we know how many will attend, so Club Presidents, please have your information ready when you are contacted.

Lead the Way, because this is the future of Rotary in our District.

Stan Shneider

DISTRICT 9640 MEMBERSHIP

DECEMBER 2006

PLUS & MINUS

In the black? You have increased your membership.

In the red? Your membership has reduced.

In the blue zone? No change.

	Attendance			Membership		change
Rotary Club of	*Nov-06*	*Dec-06*	*Yearly*	*1/7/06*	*31/12/06*	
Allora	80.00	72.00	75.66	12	14	2
Alstonville	86.66	87.00	87.59	23	22	-1
Ashmore	82.00	85.00	86.16	38	39	1
Ballina	84.12	77.42	83.29	33	38	5
Ballina-on-Richmond	70.00	78.00	69.13	25	25	0
Beaudesert	93.00	90.00	91.00	26	28	2
Boonah	84.61	78.32	82.57	40	45	5
Broadbeach	61.11	61.00	64.44	54	52	-2
Broadwater-Southport	76.56	69.79	76.07	28	32	4
Burleigh Heads	57.00	66.70	60.93	25	31	6
Byron Bay	63.40	85.00	78.83	8	9	1
Casino	84.44	86.12	76.67	20	21	1
CoolangattaTweed Heads	60.00	60.00	66.80	23	22	-1
Coomera Valley	76.00	83.33	65.66	26	25	-1
Glen Innes	75.00	83.37	75.44	31	31	0
Goondiwindi	86.00	51.00	76.20	24	23	-1
Goonellabah	72.00	72.00	77.66	23	25	2
Grafton	80.00	80.00	85.72	25	27	2
Grafton Midday	88.00	74.00	74.00	29	26	-3
Hope Island	77.47	49.29	64.16	35	40	5
Iluka	79.60	87.80	84.66	10	11	1
Jimboomba	63.46	61.45	66.00	27	26	-1
Kingscliff	61.00	80.94	79.00	13	12	-1
Kirra Currumbin	89.00	89.00	81.67	12	12	0
Kyogle	89.20	86.70	87.70	13	13	0
Lismore	72.50	76.00	81.83	22	21	-1
Lismore Central	68.75	69.00	70.00	16	16	0
Lismore West	98.88	98.13	98.66	43	44	1
Maclean	83.35	76.34	85.16	48	48	0
Mermaid Beach	87.50	88.80	80.33	24	23	-1
Mt Warning AM	84.70	78.67	83.83	26	24	-2
Mudgeeraba	64.29	85.71	77.00	24	24	0
Mullumbimby	73.34	81.00	77.96	21	21	0
Murwillumbah	81.00	83.00	76.80	36	36	0
Murwillumbah Central	84.31	82.00	92.66	37	32	-5
Nerang	96.00	89.40	89.40	20	20	0
Palm Beach	56.94	94.43	75.16	23	24	1
Parkwood	66.00	63.00	60.00	26	24	-2
Robina	80.00	80.00	80.50	11	12	1
Runaway Bay	73.57	72.55	74.66	41	37	-4
Southport	69.00	67.00	69.40	42	44	2
Southport North	74.40	85.18	69.67	22	22	0
Stanthorpe	66.46	76.56	73.66	44	45	1
Summerland Sunrise	58.82	58.00	62.96	15	17	2
Surfers Paradise	57.81	63.54	59.00	36	35	-1
Surfers Paradise Central	60.00	56.73	58.66	53	53	0
Surfers Paradise West	84.00	78.00	76.10	28	29	1
Surfers Sunrise	67.59	70.11	71.80	30	29	-1
Tamborine Mountain	89.58	72.22	77.17	11	12	1
Tenterfield	75.00	89.70	81.66	21	22	1
Tweed Heads South	92.60	80.00	80.05	17	17	0
Warwick	72.30	73.80	69.91	17	18	1
Warwick Sunrise	77.00	71.00	68.66	18	19	1
Yamba	77.00	83.30	77.15	16	16	0
Totals				**1411**	**1433**	**22**

Nominations for District Governor 2009-2010

As your District Governor, I am inviting clubs to submit suggestions for the office of Governor for the Rotary year 2009-2010 for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Please be advised that the deadline for receipt of such suggestions by the nominating committee chair is 15 March 2007.

The qualifications required for a candidate to be selected as Governor-Nominee are detailed in Article 15, Clause 15.070 as set forth in the "Manual of Procedure 2004" on page 223. The duties of a Governor are detailed in Article 15.090.

Please direct all enquiries, in writing to DG Douglas Geekie, 3189 Riverleigh Drive, Hope Island, Queensland 4212.

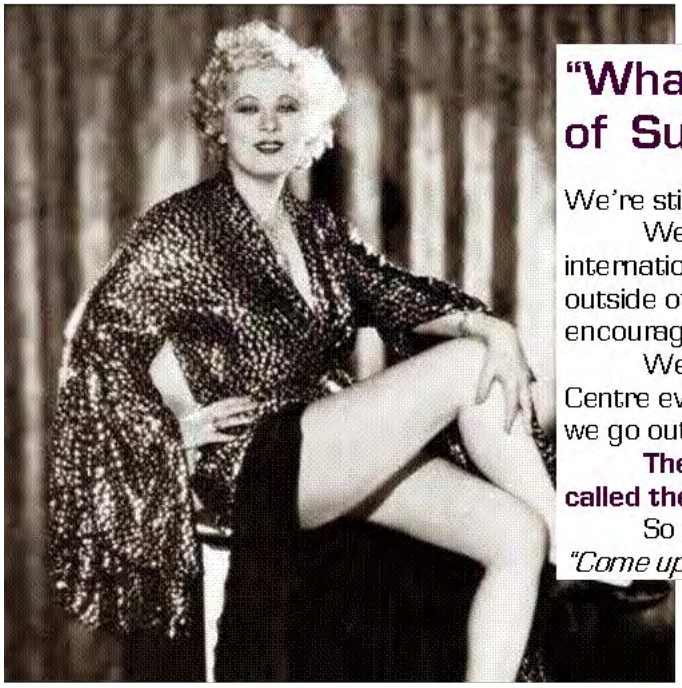
DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2007

It's not too late . . .

We have extended **the Paul Harris Discount package deadline to 22 February** to enable everyone to take

advantage of a great deal.

There is not much time left to take advantage of this special offer – so . . . *act now.*



"Whatever happened to the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise West?"

We're still around.

We're still helping those less fortunate than us locally, nationally and internationally. We're still organising fund raising events both within and outside of Rotary, and we're still enjoying many social events, often encouraging others to join us.

We're still having fun, relaxed meetings at the Gold Coast Arts Centre every Thursday at 6:00 for 6:30 ...well, most weeks as sometimes we go out and have a bit of fun somewhere else!

The only thing that has changed is our name. We're now proudly called the Rotary Club of Gold Coast Central.

So when you want to enjoy a make-up, think of Mae West, smile and *"Come up and see [us] sometime!"*

The Rotary Club of Gold Coast Central
Service, friendship & fun!

TENTERFIELD BEERFEST

Join us in celebrating our Beerfest and Tenterfield German connection.

Tenterfield Members have been immersed in arrangements for the 33 piece Brass German band to arrive. Their two performances in Tenterfield are the only public appearance, please do not miss out on this opportunity.

The citizens of Tenterfield have helped out with the hosting of the 44 persons coming from our Town Partnership in Germany for their stay in Tenterfield.

We have sub committees organizing the German and Australia food so we have something for everyone's taste buds and another committee organizing the beer and wine. The local wine growers are supporting the Beerfest by showcasing their excellent wines; Tenterfield has become an excellent wine growing region.

The music will be the highlight of the festival with two concerts for the local school children and the elderly in our nursing homes, the concert on Friday 23 February at 7.30pm at our famous School of Arts and then the big party night at the Memorial hall starting 6pm. Sunday a Franz Schubert Mass at the catholic church this will be an unique occasion.

The special Brass Band consisting on 33 full blooded musicians playing under the Baton of Eddie Mikusch, playing traditional brass music plus rock & pop music.

Pre book to get a reduction in cost, phone 02 6736 2426 for bookings. *Christine Foster, Secretary Tenterfield Rotary Club*

ROTARY WEBSITES

Some useful Rotary websites, compiled by Bill Pavey, Webmaster of Parkwood Rotary Club

RI President Bill Boyd's monthly message:
http://www.rotary.org/aboutrotary/president/boyd/messages/archive.html

RI President Bill Boyd's Travelogue and monthly photo gallery:
http://www.rotary.org/aboutrotary/president/boyd/index.html

Messages from Rotary Foundation Chair Luis Vicente Giay:
http://www.rotary.org/foundation/chairman/archive.html

Rotary eLearning Center:
http://www.rotary.org/training/elearning/index.html

Training Manuals:
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/training/district_assembly.html

Rotary's Guiding Principles:
http://www.rotary.org/training/elearning/rotarys_guiding_principles_files/frame.htm

Rotary Fact Pack:
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/support/publicrelations.html#fact_pack

Programs of The Rotary Foundation:
http://www.rotary.org/foundation/programs.html

Rotary Australia World Community Service - Northern Region:
http://www.rawcsnr.org.au/

About PolioPlus:
http://rotarnet.com.au/users/9/96452/polioplus210106.htm