



**District 9640
Governor 2002/2003
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www.rotary.org
<http://rotary9640.org>
<http://rotanet.com.au>

Brisbane Convention
www.rotary2003.org

From the Governor's Desk

Everybody knows the parable of the Good Samaritan where a man is beaten, robbed and stripped. He is ignored by respectable people as he lies on the road.

Only a foreigner, of different race and religion bothers to help. He provides his time, money and friendship.

Margaret Thatcher once noted that we would not remember this story if the Samaritan only had good intentions – he gave much more than that.

This tale is about who our neighbours really are.

The interesting thing is to put ourselves, not in the place of the Samaritan so much, but in the shoes of the injured man.

If you are the helpless recipient of such love from what you might have thought the worst person you know, how can you possibly keep living and thinking the same way?

You learn you have neighbours you did not imagine.

I see our work in Rotary in the same light as the response provided by the Samaritan. Though - there are 1.2 million of us!

As your servant, as District Governor for the ensuing year, I am bowled over by the remarkable work done by Rotarians in our

District. Working with you makes me want to be a better person.

I look forward to working with you all in fellowship this year – in our families, in our vocations and in the community, both locally and across the world.

Ross Smith

District Goals 2002/2003

I have prevailed upon our Club Presidents, this year, to particularly focus upon the following goals as they and their Directors prepare plans for the 2002/2003 year.

- **Membership Consolidation and Growth** – the aim to be decided by the club.
- **Polioplus** support to the extent of \$A130 each or the equivalent at club level.
- **The Rotary Foundation** support to the extent of \$A100 each or the equivalent at the club level.
- Planning ahead for a significant, local, community project to recognise **Rotary's Centenary** in February 2005.
- Initiating or continuing at least one project in each of the four **Avenues of Service**.
- Attendance at the **District Conference** - 6, 7 & 8 Dec 2002
- Attendance at the 2003 Brisbane Rotary **International**

Convention 1, 2, 3 & 4 June 2003.

"Brisbane – the place to be, in 2003!"

RI President 2002/03

An earnest young man diligently sweeps the floors of his fathers' company...Th manager of a logging company rides an elephant through a dense forest...Thailand's foreign minister meets with Khmer Rouge guerillas in the jungles of Cambodia...The Thai deputy prime minister addresses an audience of hundreds at a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

These are snapshots from the life of 2002/2003 RI President Bhichai Rattakul – our first president from Thailand. He has learned each of these from the bottom up – his approach to his new role. "The grass-roots Rotarians know what is in the best interests of their clubs and communities" he said.

He and his wife Charoye have been married for 56 years. He was a District Governor at 38 years of age in 1964 and has been a member of his Rotary club in Bangkok since 1958.

He is a person of immense grace, humility and diplomacy.

He will represent us very well indeed, right around the world.

“Sow the Seeds of Love”

“When we use our hands to ladle soup into a bowl, our eyes to read a book to a child, our arms to comfort someone who is sick, it is then and only then that we understand the true meaning of Rotary” said RI president Bhichai Rattakul.

“When service is inspired by our own experiences, we do not simply write a check; we write Rotary into our lives.”

“We will reap a bountiful harvest in our families, in our vocations, in the community and across the world.”

“I believe in personal service, not purse service.”

RI President
Bhichai Rattakul

Polioplus Eradication

Scientists have only eradicated one human disease from the planet to date – smallpox.

Rotary International together with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has committed to eradicating polio from the planet by our RI centenary – 2005. Yet, Polio is a more elusive enemy than smallpox. Some 200

people can be infected before a case of paralysis finally signals an outbreak.

As long as it exists anywhere, polio threatens children’s lives.

The number of new polio cases has fallen 99% since 1988. Yet, 99% Polio eradication is never enough. That final 1% is the toughest challenge.

Until we reach the last child, we will never end the suffering. We can’t stop now.

We Must Act Now!
Meeting our fundraising goal is essential if we are to eradicate polio.

Our final Polio Eradication Campaign is designed to raise \$US80M which will be multiplied thanks to generous matching funds from the Australian Government, The World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Donations to the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust are Tax Deductible.

Fulfill Our Promise! Eradicate Polio!

In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that I report on the tragic deaths of Rotarian Graham Mockridge of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise and his wife Josie.

They lost their lives when a light plane crashed soon after take-

off from the Portuguese seaside resort of Cascais on 3 July 2002.

Graham was a most experienced pilot and loved nothing more than to catch up with the fellowship of Flying Rotarians. He and Josie had just attended the International Convention in Barcelona this year.

Graham was a most committed Rotarian and humanitarian, a wonderful father and a well respected local business man. Josie was a keen golfer with Burleigh Heads Golf Club and a proud and wonderful mother and grandmother.

Our thoughts and wishes are with Graham and Josie’s children, grandchildren and friends in their sorrow as they come to terms with this tragic loss.

RI Membership Growth

I am delighted to report that the latest data available from the Global Quest for 2001/2002 for new Rotarians is outstanding.

It appears that the annual result from the quest is at least 50,000 new members net.

There is more need on this planet of ours than there are Rotarians available to fill it.

This is the one and only pressure on us to seek out potential Rotarians. We must keep up our Global Quest.

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth”

Muhammad Ali

Paul Harris Fellows

Ian Mulligan – Lismore West
Neville Woodforth – Boonah
Alex Horden – Broadbeach
A Sapphire pin - **Ray Sieffert** – Lismore West
Dick Holland – Broadbeach

New Members

A warm welcome to:

Neil Gray – Ballina
Adam Wyborn – South Grafton Sunrise

Literacy Month

Sow the seeds of literacy this month - in a local school or with an adult migrant .

Remember - the person who “forgot their glasses” may be concealing a lifelong difficulty.

DG Official Visits

July 16 Kingscliff
July 17 Mermaid Beach
July 18 Mullumbimby
July 19 Br’dwr S’port
July 22 Tweed Hds Sth
July 23 Mudgeeraba
July 24 Surfers Sunrise
July 24 Nerang

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