The District Conference is now only a week or so away. We have a fantastic line-up of speakers in the program covering a wide range of topics and interests. The Welcome Dinner and the Conference Dinner on Saturday have both sold out, but you can still register for the Saturday and/or Sunday sessions. I hope to see you there.

An innovation at our District Conference this year will be six break-out sessions on the Friday afternoon from 2p.m. until 5p.m. with two sessions running concurrently each hour. Some of the sessions include Membership, Building Successful Teams, and Our Club and Our Community. These sessions are open to all Rotarians whether you are attending the Conference or not. Participation will be on a first come, first served basis. To ensure your place, please book online www.trybooking.com/262742

It was great to see so many clubs represented at the recent Presidents’ Meeting on 17th February. Our guest speaker was Jessica Carroll from International House at the University of Sydney. Jessica spoke about the very strong connection that Rotary House has had with Rotary since its inception 50 years ago, a connection that most Presidents were not aware of.

Congratulations to the Rotary Clubs of Burwood, Campsie, Cronulla, Illawarra Sunrise, Mount Druitt, Rose Bay, Sydney, Wollondilly North and Wollongong for receiving Australian Rotary Health Certificates of Achievement in recognition of having now reached contribution levels of either $500, $1000, $2000 or $4000 per member. This is an amazing recognition of those clubs continued support for ARH as they build a secure base for health research in Australia for the benefit of all Australians.

On Wednesday 1st February the Illawarra Rotary Clubs held a very successful fundraiser for End Polio Now with an early release film screening of the movie “Hidden Figures”. On behalf of the Illawarra Clubs AG Sue Clarke presented a cheque for $3,215 to District Foundation Chair Paul Reid at the Presidents’ Meeting. Also at the Presidents’ Meeting District Rotaract Representative Zachary Fitzpatrick presented a cheque from Rotaract for $5000 towards polio eradication. What a great contribution to the polio eradication program.
In this very special year, the **Centenary of The Rotary Foundation**, it is to be hoped that every club in our District will financially support The Foundation. Donations to TRF fund the many worldwide Rotary projects that help to support those less well off than us; and our District gets the benefit of half the donations being returned in three years’ time for funding District Grants, Global Grants etc. When you have the funds available, please send your donation to TRF as soon as possible; do not leave it until the last few weeks of the Rotary year.

There will be a **Seven Women Charity** Screening on Thursday March 9th at Event Cinemas in Sydney. **Stephanie Woollard** was one of only six women worldwide who were recently recognised at The United Nations with a **Rotary Responsible Business Award** for transforming the lives of a group of Nepalese women.

In my visits to clubs I have mentioned that I would like to see more Rotary content in club meetings and, to assist clubs, a list of potential Rotary speakers has been put together from which to choose. This list will be on the District website [www.rotarydistrict9675.org.au](http://www.rotarydistrict9675.org.au) within the next week or so.

The bushfires which recently ravaged Central Western NSW caused devastating damage to property and livestock. The **Rotary Clubs of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise** have jointly sponsored and established a fund to assist individuals and families who have suffered loss. A fund has been established through RABS (Rotary Australia Benevolent Society), an arm of RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service), which has deductible gift recipient status. For anyone wishing to donate go to:


The **Rotary International Convention** is approaching very quickly. In the year of the Centenary of The Rotary Foundation this Convention in Atlanta, USA, should be one well worth attending, especially as you will share in the induction of **incoming RI President, Ian Riseley from Victoria**. Also, one of the speakers at the Convention will be Bill Gates.

**DGN Sue Hayward** recently attended a special presentation by the **Australian Red Cross Blood Service** where Rotary was recognised for its fantastic contribution towards saving lives via blood donations. Please consider becoming a blood donor if you have not already done so, and if you are already a donor, please ensure that you are registered as a Rotarian.

Thanks to **PDG Barry Antees** who built the relationship between the Red Cross and Rotary.
The first **PETS (President Elect Training)** was held a couple of weeks ago where **DGE Stephen Britten** outlined some of his plans for the year ahead and spoke about his experiences at the International Assembly in San Diego in January. There was quite a large number of Presidents-Elect in attendance and the feedback has been very positive. The **second PETS** will be held on 1\textsuperscript{st} April.

**District Assembly on Saturday 6\textsuperscript{th} May at Greystanes High School**, is not far away, and, if you are going to be a member of the Board of your Club in 2017/2018, you should attend this important training day to learn more about your upcoming role. All Rotarians are welcome.

*If any club or club member is planning to do project work in Vanuatu please be aware that you must have the approval of the Government Department in Vanuatu before you arrive there otherwise you will be refused entry. RAWCS is currently working on a simplified approval process for project work in Vanuatu.*

Please refer to information previously sent by District Secretary Di North.

Yours in Rotary serving Humanity,

Stephen

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**Here are a few of our Conference speakers ...**

Noel Trevaskis – RI Director

Paralympian Curtis McGrath

New Generations: Tabatha Buonaccorsi, Jayden Bregu & Judith Mogi
### CONFERECE PROGRAM – Draft Version V14

#### DISTRICT 9675 – 2017 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
10 – 12 March 2017

**NOVOTEL WOLLONGONG NORTHBEACH**

**Conference Level**

**REGISTRATION, TRAINING & WELCOME RECEPTION – Friday 10 March 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Conference Registration Open – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby</td>
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</table>

**ROTARY TRAINING SESSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2:00 – 5:00 pm | STREAM 1 – KEIRA ROOM  
- Session 1A – “What Can Rotary Offer Me – The Icing on the Cake”  
- Session 1B – “Membership – Family Planning”  
- Session 1C – “Our Club and Our Community – Our Extended Family”  
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm | 1 Hour  
- Session 1A – “What Can Rotary Offer Me – The Icing on the Cake”  
| 3:00 – 4:00 pm | 1 Hour  
- Session 1B – “Membership – Family Planning”  
| 4:00 – 5:00 pm | 1 Hour  
- Session 1C – “Our Club and Our Community – Our Extended Family” |

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 7:00 – 10:00 pm | STREAM 2 – KEMBRA ROOM  
- Session 2A – “Making Fundraising Fun – How Far Outside the Square Can We Think”  
- Session 2B – “Meetings – Stepping In and Stepping Up”  
- Session 2C – “Building Successful Teams – Budding Like Bands”  
| 7:00 – 8:00 pm | 3 hours  
- Session 2A – “Making Fundraising Fun – How Far Outside the Square Can We Think”  
- Session 2B – “Meetings – Stepping In and Stepping Up”  
- Session 2C – “Building Successful Teams – Budding Like Bands”  
| 10:00 pm    | 10:00 pm     
- Close |

**CONFERENCE DAY ONE – Saturday 11 March 2017 – Morning Sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Arrival Tea / Coffee – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SESSION 1 – CONFERENCE OPENING – Location: Grand Ballroom**

- “Call to Order”  
  Presented by MC – Rotarian Murray Kear
- “Welcome to Country”  
  Presented by Uncle Richard Davis
- National Anthem  
  Presented by DG Stephen Humphreys – Rotary Club of Camden
- “Official Welcome and Conference Opening”  
  Presented by RI Director Noel Trevaskis
- Topic: “The Future of Rotary”  
  Presented by Rotary Club of Camden
- Topic: “Motivation and Overcoming Adversity – Dust to Glory”  
  Presented by Paralympian Curtis McGrath

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 10:30 – 11:00 am | 30 mins  
- Morning Tea / Coffee and Exhibitions – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby |

**SESSION 2 – Location: Grand Ballroom**

- Topic: “Passion and Purpose (The Purple House Story)”  
  Presented by Sarah Brown – Chief Executive Officer of Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (WDNMPT) Aboriginal Corporation
- Topic: “A Quick Solution to Solving a Water Problem”  
  Presented by Helena “Bo” Morse – Disaster Aid Australia
- Topic: “Rotary Inspired Me”  
  Presented by New Generations: Tabatha Buonaccorsi, Jayden Brgu, Judith Mogi

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 12:30 – 1:30 pm | 60 mins  
- Networking Lunch and Exhibitions – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby |
More quality Conference speakers ... Professor Michael Sawyer OAM, Melissa Abu-Gazaleh, Jessie Harman & Zachary Fitzpatrick

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### CONFERENCE PROGRAM – Draft Version V14

**CONFERENCE DAY ONE – Saturday 11 March 2017 – Afternoon Sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 3 – Location: Grand Ballroom</th>
<th>Session 4 – Location: Grand Ballroom</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**CONFERENCE DAY TWO – Sunday 12 March 2017 – Morning Sessions (Only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 5 – Location: Grand Ballroom</th>
<th>Session 6 – Location: Grand Ballroom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 am 50 mins</td>
<td>Topic: “Vocational Services” Presented by Charles Milic - Director Vocational Service and VS Team</td>
<td>Topic: “About Next Year” Presented by DGE Stephen Britten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:00 am 60 mins</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Aerial Tea / Coffee – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby</td>
<td>Topic: “Rotaract” Presented by Zachary Fitzpatrick – District Rotaract Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15 am 90 mins</td>
<td>BBQ BREAKFAST – Location: Stuart Park (Northern Beachside of Novotel)</td>
<td>Topic: “Songs of a War Boy” Presented by Deng Adut - Internationally Renowned Lawyer &amp; ex-Sudanese Child Soldier</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 – 11:15 am 60 mins</td>
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<td>Topic: “Conference Wrap up” Presented by DG Stephen Humphreys</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 – 1:00 pm 15 mins</td>
<td>Morning Tea / Coffee and Exhibitions – Location: Rotary Showcase / Conference Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>CLOSE</td>
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Illawarra Movie Night

On Wednesday 1 February, Illawarra Rotarians came together to share a social event and at the same time raise funds for polio eradication. How? Another movie night!

The movie chosen this time in an arrangement between Rotary and Fox Studios was “Hidden Figures”, the story of 3 remarkable African-American women who worked for NASA and were the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glen into orbit. As an extra inducement, Rotary clubs were able to see the movie well before its Australian release date.

The evening began with a glass of champagne or orange juice and a variety of finger foods provided by some of the Rotarians. It looked good and clearly was – by movie time there was almost nothing left. We were given a promotional clip about The Rotary Foundation to show before the movie. It covered a broad range of Foundation activities and was interesting and informative for Rotarians and visitors.

The movie was excellent! It is well worth seeing if you haven’t already done so.

For us the figures were, 253 Rotarians, family members and friends attended and together raised $3216.50 for polio eradication. When you add the contribution from Bill and Melinda Gates that becomes $9649.50 which will buy about 7240 vials of vaccine!

Cronulla Rotary Club Australia Day

Cronulla Rotary had another successful year at Cronulla Beach on Australia Day cooking for the masses and raising approximately $8000 for their local charity, Response for Life, who supplies defibrillators to local schools and sporting groups. The event is run by Sutherland Shire Council and is a free community event.

Cronulla Rotary Club was extremely pleased with the support that they received on the day from other Rotary clubs in the shire, Caringbah, Gymea and Sutherland.

This project is another great example of clubs working together to support their local community.

REMINDER: Volunteer Hours
Please send to Maureen Busst
mbusst@bigpond.net.au
Mick Chamberlain – Dapto Rotary Club – Graffiti Removal Award

**Mick Chamberlain** only joined Rotary about 3 years ago after being a senior manager with RailCorp prior to his retirement. He was at a bit of a loss time wise in his retirement so a few members of Dapto Rotary Club arranged for Roger Norman from Turramurra Club to come and speak with a view to establishing the Graffiti Removal programme in Dapto.

Mick was seconded to the team. He was a little hesitant at first but with encouragement from the club members Mick took on the management of the whole project and the rest is history. All this has occurred in less than 2 years.

The project has been so successful that **Dapto is now totally Graffiti free**. The team usually “hits the streets” at about 5am. All materials have been donated and Mick has a wonderful relationship with Dulux in Melbourne so when materials are needed they are couriered overnight to Micks home.

Mick is a very worthy recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Contribution Award for Graffiti Removal Day.

**KrazykosciKlimb**

On Saturday, 18 February 2017, the Rotary Club of Campbelltown and the WSU Rotaract Club, helped push Paul Bowman in a wheelchair to the top of Mt. Kosciuszko in the krazykosciKlimb.

Bryan Doyle, President of Campbelltown Rotary said, “The krazykosciKlimb is an amazing challenge run by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance to help kids living with cerebral palsy.”

The challenge involves a team of eight working with a person with cerebral palsy to help them climb Mt. Kosciuszko, the highest mountain in Australia.

“I was looking for a challenge that we could take on with our awesome WSU Rotaractors, and the krazykosciKlimb fitted the bill,” he said.

“My friend Paul Bowman has lived with cerebral palsy for 47 years. Paul was ecstatic when I suggested to him we enter the krazykosciKlimb,” he said.
Paul had received his very first wheel chair from Rotary and wanted to help Rotary to do something for kids with cerebral palsy.

“Team Paul faced a real and gruelling physical challenge in pushing/pulling Paul, weighing in at 95kg plus his wheelchair, the 18kms up and down Mt Kosciuszko, ” he said.

The wheelchair was specially fitted for off terrain work with ropes and harness for the team.

“Even then, we had an hour delay at the start for modifications in the pit, and numerous running repairs. The terrain was so rough that two other teams had to replace their wheelchairs during the event,” he said.

“The team were absolutely thrilled to make it to the summit, but then, there was still the daunting task to get Paul safely back down the mountain,” he said.

“I was so proud of the efforts of all the team members who represented Rotary and Rotaract with honour,” he said.

Team Paul was made of Paul Bowman, Maria Thomas (sister), Kate Rigby (Medial support), Bryan Doyle, Danny Avalos, Sherie Avalos (Campbelltown Rotary), Jessica Brown, Damien Bartolo, Dalena Pangna and Revathy Menon (UWS Rotaract Club).

Team Paul has raised over $8,000 towards the $200,000 raised overall in krazykosciklimb event.


**Some important dates for your diaries:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 – 12 March 2017</td>
<td>District Conference – The Novotel, Wollongong</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 – 26 March 2017</td>
<td>Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) – Rural Fire Services, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 March 2017 (Tues)</td>
<td>District Governor 2019-2020 Selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March – 2 April 2017</td>
<td>RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April 2017 (Sat)</td>
<td>Presidents Elect Training (PETs 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 – 23 April 2017</td>
<td>Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) – Camden Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 May 2017 (Sat)</td>
<td>District Assembly – Greystanes High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May 2017 (Sat)</td>
<td>Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) - Parliament House, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 May 2017 (Fri)</td>
<td>Presidents’ Meeting – Liverpool Catholic Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 14 June 2017</td>
<td>Rotary International Convention - Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 July 2017 (Sun)</td>
<td>District Changeover – (12 noon) St George Motor Boat Club</td>
</tr>
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Seven Women Charity Screening
March 9 2017 6:30 PM  Event Cinemas, George St

Join us for a cocktail party and charity screening of Bringing the Light: The Seven Women Story this March, featuring a special appearance by Seven Women Founder Stephanie Woollard.

The film follows a group of Nepalese women as they transform their lives with the help of Seven Women. Stephanie began Seven Women at only 22, after meeting seven disabled women in a hospital in Kathmandu, struggling to make a living and enduring harsh discrimination. With her last $200, she paid for trainers to upskill the women to produce products for sale abroad.

Eleven years after the encounter with the seven women that started it all, over 5000 women have been trained and employed by the enterprise. Recently, Stephanie was one of only six worldwide recognised with a Rotary Responsible Business Award presented at the United Nations, New York.

When: Thursday March 9 2017 @ 6:30 pm
Where: Event Cinemas, George St - near Town Hall station
Cost: $40 per person. Includes welcome drink and canapé selection. Entertainment will be provided by Claire Yistelle, International Magician.

Reserve your ticket today at www.trybooking.com/257121
REMINDER: Goal Setting
Has your club set its goals for 2016/2017 in Rotary Club Central?
Go to www.rotary.org.au
Don’t forget your Rotary Foundation goals.