



DG Newsletter Issue 38

2 April 2016

Dear Rotarians and Friends of District 9520.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE TIME

Liz and I have had the great pleasure of attending two District Conferences in March.

D9685 held their Conference in the National Convention Centre in Canberra beginning on Friday 11 March and concluding with Dinner at the Institute of Sport on Saturday night.

DG Gina Growden (who hails from Pt. Lincoln) and her Committee put together an excellent program with some of the highlights being:

- Rob Pennicot, a fisherman from Bruny Island, Rotarian identity and now the boss of a large ecotourist based Foundation.
- Dr Happy (Tim Sharp) son of Gina's husband PDG Harold Sharp – an inspiring speech on how to run your life.
- And the dinner – come dressed in sporting attire, allowed people to visit the iconic AIS and play on all their wii-sport toys.

District 9500 held their Conference in the Barossa starting on THU 17 March. Local identities abounded - the Governor Hieu Van Le, Maggie Beer, Keith Conlon, Dr Toby Coates, Dr Suren Krishnan and Glen Cooper but to name a few.

The highlight, however, was Michael McQueen, a Rotary luminary and membership guru. He flew in and out the same day and guess who had the pleasure of driving him to and from the airport? None other than our own Membership hot shot Mark Huddleston. Try and guess what they talked about!

And that brings me to RENMARK!

For all of those who have registered – thank you.

If you haven't, then make up your minds soon. We are close to the 450 mark and there are space limitations in both the Chaffey Theatre and the Renmark Community Club.

I would hate anyone to miss out but we do need an accurate fix on registrations by mid April. We have to print the Conference booklet to include the names of all registrants. And the caterers need numbers in advance and will not be able to accommodate 'latecomers'.

The support from the Rotary Club of Renmark has been given freely in the true Rotary tradition and I thank their Conference Chairman John Bassham and President Barry Hurst for all their good work.

APRIL - CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH MONTH

I know from first hand experience the tragedy that surrounds the death of a baby or of a mother or both. In our world of advanced medical care, this is a rare event.

Imagine places in the world where infant mortality is 10 times, even 100 times more likely than here.

Much can be done and many Clubs are involved in the preparation and packing of birthing kits.

It is another case of..."either you can do something or you can do nothing"!

'Days for Girls' with its emphasis on women's health and education provides a vehicle to move onwards to reproductive health and then child and maternal obstetric health. More and more Clubs are adopting this program and, if you want to learn more, come to the Renmark Conference and see for yourself!

HAVE YOU PUT SAT 14 MAY 2016 INTO YOUR DIARY

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION DINNER

You may never have the chance again to hear two Rotary 'heavyweights' on the one program!

Past RI President Bill Boyd is a renowned speaker – he does so with grace and charm and what he has to say is captivating.

Ian Riseley from the Rotary Club of Sandringham will be RI President in 2017-18. He will be the fourth Australian to hold this position and his wealth of Rotary experience will stand him in good stead to lead the organization into the future.

And, if you have not already saved the next day, the **DISTRICT ASSEMBLY** will be held at Unity College in Murray Bridge on SUN 15 MAY.

If the name puts you off, think of it as "**Leading Rotary Now**" – that is the terminology being used in District 9500,

Rotary is a broad 'church' that changes on a year-by-year basis. What you learned in the past has to be updated, revised, and reinvigorated so come along! I guarantee you will learn something new!

AND, ON THE TOPIC OF MEMBERSHIP

As at 22 MAR the District had 1335 members, a net gain of 15.

So often, we see the net gain looking positive, only to have Rotarians depart the scene at the end of JUN.

My fervent hope for the 2015-16 year is that we increase our membership.

When did you last bring a member in to your Club? Have a think about it and, I am not sure who coined the phrase but

DG DICK 01APR 2016



ROTARY OCEANIA MEDICAL AID for CHILDREN

ROMAC Ambassador Lydia Ko took time out from golf to visit children and their families staying at Ronald McDonald House.

Lydia is shown with ROMAC patient Clara at RMH.

Clare, aged 12 years, is from Fiji, and she is recovering from successful heart surgery to repair a damaged mitral valve. March 10, 2016

ROMAC relies on the continuing support from Rotarians to carry out restorative surgery such as performed on Clare.

Please be advised that a Promotional Letter for ROMAC has been circulated to the Secretary of each Club in our District. You can decide how best to use and possibly respond to this Letter within your own club.

ROMAC is able to provide Life Giving surgery to children and babies of our nearest Island neighbours because of the support and generosity of Rotarians and Rotary Clubs throughout the Rotary Districts of Australia and New Zealand. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs can:-

- Request your International Committee to allocate \$2,000 each year to ROMAC – it is not a big amount, but if every Club donated that each year to ROMAC, we would 'Give Life' to another 50 children every year!
- Fundraise through Club activities like a Trivia Night – ROMAC can supply the format, questions and support which will not only add a great social day or evening to your Club's social calendar, but everyone participating has the joy of helping 'Give Life' to a child who would otherwise have no hope.
- Visit the ROMAC website to learn other ways to support this life giving service. <https://www.romac.org.au/>

FORMER G-G KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 2016 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, a former Governor-General (2003-2008), is the keynote speaker for the 2016 District Conference, Renmark, 28 April – 1 May, 2016.

General Jeffery has had a long, varied and distinguished career in the military, serving in Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam (where he was awarded the Military Cross) and Papua New Guinea and in public service (Governor of WA; Governor-General of Australia).

In 2000, General Jeffery became the founding Chairman of Future Directions International (he continues as its Chairman), a WA-based, independent, not-for-profit strategic research institute. FDI has established four areas of research that embrace the following:

- Australia's role in solving future global food and water crises
- developments in the Indian Ocean Region
- future directions for Northern Australia
- Australia's energy security



Following his term as Governor-General, Michael Jeffery has been active in many areas of public policy development. In 2012 he was appointed, by then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, as Australia's first National Advocate for Soil Health, recognising that the condition of our soils must be a national priority. This appointment has been extended by PM, Malcolm Turnbull until December 2017.

Water and soils are, of course, critical to the health of the Murray-Darling Basin, of which Renmark and its surrounds are an integral part. Michael Jeffery is uniquely placed to deliver valuable insights into the theme of the Conference, "Facing Tomorrow's Challenges Today".

Robert Koehne. Chair Conference Organising Committee



The difference is that Rotary makes the difference.

Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart came to Sri Lanka for a holiday, and discovered a purpose. Kerstin (left) speaks to a nurse in the foyer of the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital in Galle Sri Lanka, a hospital largely built and equipped through her energy to get Rotary involved in this life saving facility.

Rotarians equipped the neonatal intensive care unit with modern medical equipment. More than 160,000 babies have been delivered in this hospital since Rotarians became involved.



This ultra sound machine was donated by Rotarians

The power of Rotary is expressed through Rotarians.

You can read the full story in the latest *The Rotarian*.

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/news-media/magazines/rotarian>





Second Hand Book Sale

Saturday April 9 8.30am to 4pm

448 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park.
Bus Stop 12, opposite MITRE 10 Hardware.

Homemade Cakes and Handmade Cards. FREE tea and coffee.

Nothing over \$2

Proceeds from Sale to



END POLIO NOW
and other Rotary Club Projects

www.mitcham.rotaryclub.org.au

Find us on Facebook
@mitchamrotarybooks



Nominations for Volunteer Awards.

The Government of South Australia, through their Office for Volunteers, recognise the invaluable work that volunteers, community organisations and businesses contribute to the South Australian community.

The Office for Volunteers is inviting nominations for the 2016 South Australian Volunteer Awards, to be announced at a special Volunteers Day event in June 2016.

There are a number of categories available for nominations to be made, but the category "Joy Noble Medal" is particularly applicable to Rotarians.

The Joy Noble Medal is the highest distinction for individual volunteers in South Australia, and nomination forms are available at <http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au/volunteer-recognition/south-australian-volunteer-awards>

Criteria. The selection panel will consider all nominations against the following criteria:

1. Positive community impact.
2. Contribution to the values of volunteering, i.e. honesty, equity, respect, integrity, quality and caring.
3. Leadership in the development of volunteering.
4. Commitment to the South Australian community.

Note: there is no age restriction or minimum years of service required.

Referee support All nominations must be accompanied by at least two referee statements (letters of support or written testimonials) from community organisations/individuals that have benefited from the nominated volunteer's efforts. Anyone can nominate, and self nominations are acceptable. **Correction of erratum in last week's advertisement, please note nominations close 5pm Friday 22nd April 2016.**

Excellent Accommodation Available for Renmark 9520 District Conference



The Rotary Club of Glenelg booked a large block of accommodation at the Comfort Inn Citrus Valley Motel, 210 Renmark Avenue, between 18th and 19th streets within walking distance of the Renmark Conference venue. Although Glenelg Club has a large contingent of Rotarians and partners attending, there are three double rooms still available each at \$105 per night. These rooms are available to the first people wanting them. If you would like to reserve one of these rooms please contact David Binks at dpbinks@senet.com.au

Youth Opportunity Grant

FINANCIAL SUPPORT & FULL FUNDING OF A YEAR ABROAD AS A ROTARY EXCHANGE STUDENT, WITH ALL THE INCLUSIONS OF A FULL FEE PAYING STUDENT.

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Students between the ages of 15 and 17 at the time of exchange departure.
- students who will return to secondary school study after the exchange.
- Citizens or permanent residents of Australia (evidence may be required).
- Students with a clear need for financial assistance.



Short-listed candidates will then attend an interview with the District Youth Exchange Committee representatives. See <http://9520.ryea.org.au/> for details.

TRIVIA NIGHT FOR FUNDRAISING

Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery



Supported by the Rotary Club of Walkerville

Saturday 21st May 2016

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Blackfriars School

17 Prospect Road, PROSPECT SA

Bookings contact Teresa 0403 306 225 or

teresa@racsrag.org

Tickets cost \$15 pp.

Lots of games and prizes BYO nibbles and drinks. Competition tables of 8 to 10 people.

Visit the new website www.racsrag.org

Ask Teresa 0403 306 225 to talk to your Rotary Club, and learn more about this important organisation.

CONFERENCE 2016 REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Full registrations 416

Social registration 14

See the website for full details.

There are 2 positions Paddle Steamer Cruise 2 Friday 29th April.

There are 2 positions Paddle Steamer Cruise Saturday 30th April.

There are many positions available on the Calperum Station Walk Tours.



Rotary Club of Berri fundraiser for International Projects.

Medindee Seedless Dried Grapes that have been cleaned and professionally packed are available for reduced cost at \$40 for a 12.5kg pack, and \$5 for a 1kg pack.

Orders can be delivered to Adelaide or to the District Conference in Renmark. Contact Robin Foley robfoley@m2data.com.au

