

# District 9650 Weekly mailing update 18

15 November 2009

From **District Secretary PDG Laurie Barber**

Prepared and Edited by Publicity & Public Relations 2009-10 Director Ken Hall and circulated to all Club Presidents and Secretaries.

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Please ensure this information is available to all interested members of your Club.



Please Note that all prior editions of this weekly news together with the Monthly District Governors Newsletter are available on the District website at <http://www.rotary9650.org.au/Newsletter.htm>

## ✓ **November is The Rotary Foundation Month. Director PDG Harry Durey**

- ✓ The Rotary Centres for International Studies in Peace & Conflict Resolution are located in six selected university centres world-wide. The 2 year program provides these exceptional students with a Masters program in conflict resolution, peace studies, international relations and related topics. A three month program aimed at middle management is also available in Bangkok. Graduates are already making their mark in international agencies world-wide. The program is now seeking major donations and endowments in order to become self-supporting. All Rotarians should be aware that Jeremy Tarbox from Kempsey is our International Peace Scholar studying in Argentina.

**For more details check the RI website: [www.rotary.org/foundation](http://www.rotary.org/foundation)**

## Club Secretary

- ✓ District Rotarians are being urged to consider buying Christmas cards distributed by Australian Rotary Health. The cards, in several designs, cost \$1 each. The Rotary Club of Waverly has managed this project for the past 15 years. In this time, more than \$660,000 has been raised and donated to Australian Rotary Health. All cards are printed in Australia. Rotarian Fred Hay has been a long-time supporter of the project. You can make orders on the form sent with Rotary Down Under this month, or contact the Rotary Club of Waverley, PO Box 3004, Syndal, Victoria, 3150. Most people buy cards anyway, and this is a good way of supporting a valuable Rotary project at the same time.

## ✓ **Club Literacy Projects**

Clubs will be aware that one of RI President's John Kenny's emphasises for this year is Literacy.

I realise that a number of clubs have embarked on some excellent projects in their own communities and in overseas countries.

It would be appreciated if clubs could briefly advise me of their literacy projects and, if possible, send me a photograph if available.

My email address is [jnadj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jnadj@bigpond.net.au)

PDG Neil Adamson

District 9650 Literacy Coordinator.

- ✓ **Attendance Reports are available for review on the District website at <http://www.rotary9650.org.au/District.htm#ATTENDANCE OFFICER>**

## Publicity & Public Relations From the Office of Prime Minister Rudd

### ✓ **AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES OFFERING HOSPITALITY TO INDIAN STUDENTS**

The Government today announced a national initiative - *Home for Dinner: Australian families offering hospitality to Indian students* - that will provide a positive experience for Indian students studying and living in Australia and strengthen community engagement with international students.

Rotary, through its districts and clubs in Australia have agreed to implement the initiative through an *Australia-India Rotary Club Friendship Program*. The program will see Indian students and community members offered the opportunity to establish positive links through shared informal dinners and barbeques hosted by Rotary members in their local area.

Rotary will have their club members invite an international student living in their area around for dinner. The program will be facilitated by partnerships with Indian student groups and Rotary.

John Lawrence, Rotary International Director from Brisbane said this was a positive initiative and it had the full endorsement of Rotary, which has a proud history of welcoming and hosting young people from all over the world. Globally every year 12,000 young people travel on Rotary student exchanges to experience another culture. This move is in line with one of Rotary's objectives of building goodwill and promoting world peace. Australia welcomed over 400,000 international students last year from more than 190 countries last year. These students make a real contribution to Australia's multicultural diversity, the academic life of our institutions and people-to-people linkages across the world.

Students have made it clear - through the International Students Roundtable hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister in September, as well as through other forums - their sense of belonging within the community is vital to their social and educational experiences in Australia.

The *Home for Dinner* initiative is a simple idea which will put students in touch with their neighbours and local community, and will help build a shared sense of understanding and appreciation between international students and the Australian community.

## International Service

### ✓ **POLIOPLUS PROGRESS (October 2009) IN FOUR ENDEMIC COUNTRIES**

✓ **Pakistan:** International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert Scott travelled to Pakistan in August 2009 to confer Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award on President Asif Zardari, who recently affirmed his commitment to the cause of polio eradication. Zardari also appointed his youngest daughter, Assefa Bhutto Zardari, as the Ambassador for Polio Eradication. Assefa is Zardari's daughter with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and she was the first child vaccinated by her mother during the launch of the country's immunization campaigns in 1994. A stamp has been issued to commemorate the appointment.

✓ **India:** The number of polio cases in India is down, and they have successfully eliminated all but 1 genetic lineage of the type 1 polio virus, the most dangerous and paralytic strain of the virus. The Indian government recently renewed its commitment to wiping out the disease by pledging \$650 million in domestic funding to the cause over the next 3 years. The new bivalent vaccine holds promise as a tool for addressing persistent outbreaks in the last infected areas of India.