

District 9650 Weekly mailing update 20

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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.**

ANNUAL PROGRAMS FUND - YTD OCTOBER - \$10,683 raised and donated - -63.4% down on October 2008

- ✓ Find out how to become a supporter of the Rotary Foundation – contact Harry.
Has your Club made a donation to the Rotary Foundation yet in his 2009-2010 year?

✓ **Join us for *An International Experience* at the 101st annual RI Convention** 20-23 June 2010 — Montréal, Canada.

Explore this city known for its art, architecture, superb restaurants, and *joie de vivre*! Arrive early or stay late to enjoy the [festivals](#) taking place just before and after the convention as well as the [host events](#) and tours.

Get inspired by stellar speakers:

1. Greg Mortenson, co-founder and executive director, [Central Asia Institute](#) and bestselling co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* — Monday, 21 June;
2. Jo Luck, president and CEO, [Heifer International](#) — Tuesday, 22 June;
3. Bob Mazzuca, chief Scout executive, [Boy Scouts of America](#) — Wednesday, 23 June

Exchange ideas and make friends with other Rotarians at breakout sessions, RI luncheons, and House of Friendship exhibitions.

The convention venues are conveniently located near dozens of hotels with prearranged Rotary room blocks. All plenary sessions will be held at the Bell Centre Arena; the House of Friendship, breakout sessions, and RI luncheons will take place at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal.

[Register online](#) by 15 December to receive special pricing.

Check with Ken Hall for details of the pre-convention tour commencing in New York on 5th June 2010 and including home hosting and all accommodation for the International Convention.

- ✓ A reminder to all Clubs that AGM's are to be conducted before the end of December. Clubs are then required to forward information about their AGM to the Department of Fair Trading, including the names of their in-coming, President, Vice President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Board members and a copy of last year's financial Statements.

✓ **D9800 BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROGRAM - PROGRESS REPORT NO.4 - NOVEMBER 2009**

THE GENERAL SITUATION:

Fire affected communities are recovering slowly but steadily, as they are not all the same in character their rate of recovery and support needs vary from place to place. However, with the general post-fire cleanup program completed, there has been a steady increase in re-building activity that heralds a change for the better in the psychological outlook of residents and their communities.

We all know that "Rome wasn't built in a day": in the case of the Bushfire Recovery much has been achieved but much work remains to be done. This is an "endurance event" not a "sprint" and as the public memory of the fire recedes and government agencies and other providers progressively withdraw services and support, the affected communities will come under increasing pressure to generate their own recovery. There is a need for on-going support to be provided to the survivors and their communities; this will be influential on their psychological recovery from the traumatic experience of the February 2009 disaster. Rotary is "doing its bit" in that regard and more: we need to ensure that the effort continues through constructive involvement with the communities and other agencies that are likeminded to Rotary.

Various small to medium sized projects have been supported, some have been initiated by Rotary Clubs and others by proposals submitted by private individuals and groups. It is not necessary to comment on all of these projects; however, it will be of interest to make brief reference to a few:

- ✓ Kinglake Ranges Network Inc received funding to enable purchase of 10 marquees to be used in re-establishing the Kinglake Farmers and Artisans Market.
- ✓ Bendigo Community Corrective Services received funding to enable purchase of fencing equipment to be used by teams of offenders who are being employed on fence reconstruction tasks as part of a TAFE Course.
- ✓ Several D9800 Clubs had small "matching grants" approved for recovery project that they proposed.

- ✓ A financial contribution was made to enable the hire of a skid steer loader for use on farm fence construction work in Gippsland. That exercise involved cooperation with D9820 and D9830.
- ✓ Funds were provided to D9820 to enable construction of a cubby house at Labertouche Primary School. Two cubby houses were sourced for D9820 from the *Floriana* Exhibition in Canberra with the kind assistance of Rotarians involved there.
- ✓ Small grants were provided by D9800 and D9810 to a Fire Guard Group from North Warrandyte to support development of a fire alert communication system called *Firelinx*. It is pleasing to report that Firelinx Community Project Inc was awarded a High Commendation for the *Firelinx rapid bushfire alert system* at the 2009 Australian Safer Communities Awards ceremony held on 9 November.

✓ **In Conclusion:**

Nine months have passed since "Black Saturday" and much progress towards recovery has been made in that time. A great deal of work still remains to be done and it is expected that physical recovery progress will continue for at least a further two years; however, Rotary involvement may be largely concluded within eighteen months. It is intended that at the conclusion of each project a post audit will be undertaken to confirm execution and, where possible, to assess the value of the financial commitment to the Recovery Program. On-going direct support provided by Rotarians and their clubs will still be highly desirable for some time to come. Continued demonstration of interest in the circumstances faced by survivors and their communities will be valuable. Like the forests, the fire affected communities are regenerating; however, they still need much encouragement and more assistance.

Mev Connell PSM Chairman – RI D9800 Bushfire Recovery Committee. Donations from Clubs can still be directed to the bushfire appeal through Rotary District 9800.

- ✓ A short enews update this week – maybe things are starting to slow down leading up to Christmas.