

# District 9650 Weekly mailing update 21

6 December 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>

## December is The Family of Rotary Month.

Part of a comment from Peter Dahdah in the Taree club's bulletin: "December – Family of Rotary Month – focuses our attention on what Rotary really is to all of us members – one big family. "And what's a family?"

"You, all of you, are part of my family by being fellow Rotarians. "December in Rotary is a time to focus on our families, to involve them in our Rotary service, and to challenge ourselves to do even more for those in need. Because there are so many families waiting our help, we as Rotarians cannot look away. We cannot, must not, will not rest until all children everywhere have the chance for a long and healthy life. "That must be our Rotary Family aim. And that's what Rotary is all about. And that's Rotary's Polio- Plus."

## Secretary

### ✓ **AG Cluster 3 for remainder 2009-2010 Rotary Year**

#### **Sent to Cluster 3 Presidents & Secretaries and District Management Team from DG Neville Parsons**

Following discussions with AG David Mayne over this last week in relation to some personal family matters and the resultant demand on David's time and his ability to fulfil the role of AG Cluster 3 David has agreed to stand down early from his role as Assistant Governor, Cluster 3.

As a result of this I have appointed DGN and current District Club Administration Director Barry Hacker to stand in as Cluster 3 AG for the balance of this Rotary Year.

I thank Barry for accepting this responsibility and I ask that Barry now liaise with the cluster 3 Presidents and Secretaries in terms of the next Cluster Meeting and the Agenda and focus for such.

On your behalf I have extended our support and best wishes to David at this stressful time and have offered our support should he need it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further clarification re this matter.

I ask that the clubs now refer any Cluster matters to Barry Hacker who I know will provide great support and experience in this role of AG till end of this Rotary year.

- ✓ 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.

### ✓ **CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS for DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2012-13**

#### **Closing Time & Date: 4pm Friday 19 February 2010**

In accordance with the requirements of the Rotary International (RI) By-laws Article 13.020 and the Code of Policies of RI District 9650 Inc Article 4.05.2, your District Governor is seeking suggestions from the District Clubs for consideration for the position of District Governor for 2012-2013. The successful candidate will follow Jo Wilkin (2010-2011) and Barry Hacker (2011-2012) as District Governor of District 9650.

Nominations are to be in the hands of myself, the District Secretary at 9 Marsden Crescent, Port Macquarie 2444 by **4:00pm Friday 19 February 2010**.

When considering suggestions for District Governor, attention is drawn to Rotary International By-laws Articles 15.070 through to 15.090.

The Nominating Committee for Governor will meet on Thursday 11 March 2010 to consider the selection of a suitable candidate for District Governor Nominee. Laurie Barber, District Secretary.



## Celebrating World AIDS Day 2009

“My name is Alice and I am health.” When asked to describe a future without HIV/AIDS, that is how twelve year old Leah Wonoro, an HIV/AIDS orphan of Cura Village, Kenya, began her drawing. We hope that you will join Leah and the other Orphans and Vulnerable Children who live in the Cura Rotary Home and attend Primary School; the youth of the Valley View Academy in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya; and Rotarians For Fighting AIDS as we honour World AIDS Day 2009 by imagining a future of hope, a future free of HIV/AIDS and a future made possible through the power of Rotary. Cura is a rural village, located just outside

of Nairobi, in an area of great poverty where many children have been orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. For more than 15 years, projects, grants and support from Kenyan and International Rotarians have improved living conditions for everyone in the area and allow 63 of the region’s orphans to live in a safe, sheltered environment. In the village, these youth attend primary school, enjoying clean drinking water and plentiful food. Thank you, Rotarians!

Cura’s orphaned children achieve academic levels far beyond standards set by their peers. They believe that healthy futures with happiness and success are possible...for them ...and their entire country. They can see better tomorrows and Rotarians worldwide are helping make those tomorrows a reality.

**“This is our country. It’s so beautiful. Everybody is health there and no AIDS in our country.”**

Leah Wanoro, Age 12, Cura Village, Kenya when asked to imagine a world without AIDS.

## Australian Rotary Health update

Dr Ian Blair has submitted his findings as a result of receiving the Stephen Buckley Motor Neuron Disease Research Grant. Stephen Buckley was a young Coffs Harbour City Rotarian who died recently from motor neuron disease. Three research grants into motor neuron disease were issued as a result of the \$60,000 raised during Laurie Barber’s year as district governor. A subsidy from Australian Rotary Health doubled this \$60,000 to \$120,000. One grant went to Dr Ian Blair, the Nancy Parfitt grant (named after Glenda Barber’s late mother, from Inverell) went to Dr Bryce Vissel and the Mary Jane Douglas grant (named after the late Mary Jane Douglas from Narrabri) went to Professor Matthew Kiernan. Dr Blair’s report was in three parts – a 50-word brief statement, a 200-word statement and a more formal detailed report. His 50-word statement said: “We aimed to identify genetic variations that cause or confer risk to motor neuron disease. Cutting-edge genetic techniques were used to screen Australian MND patients. New changes in recently discovered genes, TDP-43 and FUS, were identified. This provides new genetic insight and will facilitate development of cell and animal models of MND.” The full report is available from district chairman Paul Ying of Tamworth and ARH regional coordinator Laurie Barber from Port Macquarie. Bryce Vissel will be a guest speaker at next year’s district conference.

## Vocational Service

- ✓ A reminder for Vocational Services chairpersons, Presidents, secretaries, Uncle Tom Coble and all ... With the approach of longer breaks and fewer club meetings it's time to start thinking about **Applications for District Awards** - of which there are two in Vocational Services which will be awarded at Conference:

District Award to Clubs for outstanding Vocational Services project/s - the PDG Kevin Hardees Award - see page 17 of your *Vocational Service Director's KwickStart Manual* - or see the same information on the 'Vocational Service' section of the District web page - follow the link to 'Rotary Awards for Vocational Excellence' which is located above the list of committee members. Applications (on Club letterhead) close no later than Friday January 29th 2010.

Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence - pages 7 - 8 of your *Vocational Service Director's KwickStart Manual* and 'Vocational Service' section of District web site. Nomination form is available on the 'Vocational Service' section of the District web page - follow the link to 'Rotary Awards for Vocational Excellence' which is located above the list of committee members. Applications close no later than Friday January 29th 2010.

## ✓ A financial update from General Secretary Ed Futa.

I am happy to report continuing improvement in the financial picture for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation since my last communication on 8 September. Positive market performance this fiscal year through September resulted in investment earnings of US\$11 million for Rotary International and \$58 million for The Rotary Foundation. We are continuing to see further improvement this quarter, though the markets remain volatile.

Many Rotarians have expressed concern over the magnitude of last year's investment losses. Last year was truly extraordinary in that global financial markets suffered their greatest losses since the Great Depression. Nearly all asset classes (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.), including those in which the Foundation's assets are invested, experienced losses. The Foundation's investment losses were very similar to those experienced by other major endowments and foundations.

RI's reserve fund remains above mandated levels. The Foundation reserve has increased by approximately \$34 million since 30 June 2009, though it stands at a negative \$8 million, well below the target reserve level.

Rotary's cash flows remain positive, and we have not had to liquidate securities to operate or fund program spending this fiscal year.

Contributions to the Foundation's Annual Programs Fund dipped in the first quarter of this year, a situation that can be attributed in part to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which has already passed the halfway mark. The Trustees realize that conducting multiple major fundraising initiatives simultaneously can generate donor fatigue. Yet all are extremely important efforts that cannot be delayed. Rotary must fulfill its promise of a polio-free world, but at the same time, we need to continue, and expand when possible, our worldwide educational and humanitarian efforts that are supported by the Annual Programs Fund. Fortunately, many Rotarians realize the great needs that both of these initiatives are meeting and remain generous donors to our Foundation.

Investment returns, reserve funds, and contributions are only part of our financial picture. Controlling costs remains a top priority for Rotary senior leaders and the Secretariat staff. Currently, operating expenses and staffing levels remain under our tight 2009-10 budgets for both RI and the Foundation. Expenses related to travel have been cut substantially. Many committees are meeting via teleconference and webinars, and staff travel has been reduced considerably. Your Secretariat staff and Rotary senior leaders continue to monitor spending and explore ways to further cut costs without significantly reducing service.

Based on the improvements in Rotary's finances as summarized above, at this time the Board of Directors and Trustees have decided to

- Maintain the Foundation's three-year investment cycle and the current District Designated Fund/World Fund 50-50 *SHARE* ratio
- Preserve District Designated Fund balances at full value and provide more flexibility for districts to use these funds
- Temporarily modify Rotary's existing investment policies to provide more flexibility in managing our investments during this market recovery
- Request the Investment Advisory Committee to accelerate its review of the investment and spending policies for both the Annual Programs Fund and Permanent Fund to address liquidity needs and risk tolerance
- Continue to reduce operating expenses throughout the organization

Finally, I invite you to view the 2008-09 audited financial statements for both [RI](#) and [The Rotary Foundation](#), which have been successfully completed with unqualified opinions from our independent auditors and approved by both boards. In December and January, every club will receive a copy of the joint RI/Rotary Foundation annual report, which will also be posted on [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). In addition to financial highlights, this publication features compelling stories and photographs that vividly illustrate the remarkable range and value of Rotarian service worldwide.

Sincerely, Ed Futa