

# District 9650 Weekly mailing update 24

10 January 2010



From District Secretary PDG Laurie Barber (4 pages)

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

e-mail : [khmail@bigpond.com](mailto:khmail@bigpond.com)

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>

## January is Rotary Awareness Month.

### Secretary

- ✓ Australian chairman of Australian Rotary Health, Noel Trevaskis, will speak to the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. Noel comes from Goulburn. He will make a special visit to Port Macquarie for that night. This will be a special occasion. Port Macquarie club extend an invitation to partners and other clubs to attend. Noel was a brilliant speaker at the Armidale conference a few years ago. He has had mental illness that caused some domestic problems and has made a national name for himself in the field of ARH and mental health.

Noel is also the Rotary International Regional membership coordinator.

- ✓ ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE RATES - Due to the recent movements in the Australian dollar against the USD the AUD was changed from 1.08 to 1.10 for January 2010.

Australia	AUD	1.10	0.90909091
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- ✓ Jim Booth has resigned as President of the Rotary Club of West Tamworth. As from today Phil Chaseling has taken over as president. His details are as follows:

Address: 23 Forest Road, Tamworth.

Tel: 02 67 618 228 0435 021 205

Email: [qualitygame@hotmail.com](mailto:qualitygame@hotmail.com)

### Community Service - Bowelscan

- ✓ **The District commends the recent report forwarded to Clubs on the BOWELSCAN project, and wishes to highlight a number of points.**  
**Rotary District 9650 continues to be the largest distributor of Bowelscan kits. Our District is one of the few Districts which run a District Program and have saved 100s of people over the past 20 years. Further, D9650 has, with all Rotary Clubs help, contributed over \$250,000 to PhD scholars through Australian Rotary Health and Universities. Our Dollar is matched to increase to \$500,000 of research. In 2009, 23,000 Bowelscan kits were distributed around the District. Out of the 18,496 returns, 299 were positive (54.8% male and 45.2% female).**  
**The 2010 campaign commences on 6 March and ends on 31 March. Posters and brochures will be distributed to Clubs at the end of January or early February. Costs for the kits to the Public will be \$8. The District strongly endorses the Bowelscan project and the benefits it provides to our communities. For further enquiries, please speak to your Rotary Club Bowelscan Co-ordinator or the District's Bowelscan Committee Chairman, Kevin Sharp.**
- ✓ Through a suggestion made to it recently, Australian Rotary Health now has "gift cards". You can order this on line or by mail with personalised messages. The minimum amount of each card is \$20 however the amount of the donation is up to the donor. There is a range of cards and the inside message can be changed. Chief executive officer Joy Gillett said Rotarians and others could see the website [www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au](http://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au) and look at "gift cards" on the home page.

## Biography of Noel Trevaskis

Goulburn Resident and Mental Health Advocate Noel Trevaskis Elected Chairman of Australian Rotary Health. Noel Trevaskis OAM is a man on a mission.

The Goulburn resident and acclaimed mental health advocate has been elected Chairman of the Board of Australian Rotary Health, the largest independent funding body of mental illness research in Australia.

A Rotary District Governor in 2005/06 Noel has had a long association with Australian Rotary Health and he is particularly driven to champion mental illness research and education.

Over twenty years ago Noel spent five months in hospital being treated for depression. The illness took a terrible toll on both him and his family.

Noel's mission now is to help as many people with a mental illness as he can. He has travelled Australia recounting his own experience with depression and how he has managed his recovery.

Life in rural Australia has been very tough for years. The drought has contributed to numerous cases of depression and suicide as families struggle to survive.

"It is so important to seek help yet many people struggle on without treatment, fearing the stigma attached to depression" Noel said.

"Mental illness is an illness. It's just like any other illness and the good news is it is treatable" he emphasised.

"I want to help destigmatise this illness by bringing it into the open and giving people with depression the hope that they can recover, just as I have. That is also part of the mission of Australian Rotary Health and I am very proud to Chair this wonderful organisation".



### Ron Denham writes:

On April 18, 2010, Rotarians and others around the world will come together in *the largest event ever held* to raise awareness of water and sanitation issues. Many cities will be hosting a run/walk of 6 km - the average distance women and children in Africa walk each day to get water - together with concerts and water villages.

Worldwide, the Run for Water is organized by Live Earth. Each region of the world has a charity partner to benefit from the money raised. Wasrag is one of the charity partners. This event is a golden opportunity for Rotary Clubs to raise funds in support of clean water!

In some of the world's largest cities, the run/walks will feature concerts and water education activities.

**But to maximize this opportunity, we need your help.** There are two main ways to help:

1. If you live in one of the cities that will be a race site, we need leaders to encourage participation by Rotary clubs and to help make the event a big success;
2. If you don't live near a race site, there is still a big opportunity. Any club in the world can register with Live Earth and host a "[Friends of Live Earth](#)" event. We are encouraging clubs that do this to share any funds raised 50/50 with Wasrag - that means the club keeps 50% and the other 50% is donated to Wasrag.

Ron Denham is asking people to contact WASRAG, but as I (Peter Rostron) am responsible for the South Pacific area through my involvement as Board Member of WASRAG, I have the task of finding a Rotarian who is prepared to take on the role of Rotary coordinator for the major events which will be held in Melbourne. Live Earth has a professional Event Director in Melbourne, and the Rotarian who accepts the WASRAG role will be working with Andrew O'Loughlin and me. Please advise me directly if you can assist. My contact details are: Peter Rostron, Phone 08 8264 2964 or by fax 08 8396 3887 or e.mail [pee.kays@bigpond.com](mailto:pee.kays@bigpond.com)

- ✓ **ShelterBox** Bulletin - Posted by Leslie Diefenbach Hall ; With initial assessments estimating more than 30,000 people displaced in Malawi, disaster relief charity Shelterbox was quick to get a team and aid on the ground within hours. 200 Shelterboxes containing tents, blankets, water purification equipment, cook stoves, and other survival equipment arrived on Sunday December 27th. The IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross) estimates that the most recent quake killed two people and injured 171. Eighty-one of these were sent to hospital with serious injuries. Initial assessments indicate that 4,800 households have been affected, although the government is using a figure of 6,000 households in its assessments and planning. This means that at least 36,000 people have been directly affected. Updates will be posted on [www.shelterboxusa.org](http://www.shelterboxusa.org) as they come in.

## **RAWCS Eastern Region 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Taree**

The RAWCS Eastern Region Notice of Meeting is being hosted at Taree on 6/7 Feb. Perhaps this may be of interest to some Cluster 4 members especially the 2 – 3.30 Training session on Saturday which will showcase D9650 RAWCS projects and perhaps the 4PM general session where various projects from throughout Eastern Region will be discussed/promoted. Of course attendance at any time is welcomed.

### **ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE LTD: EASTERN REGION. NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING ETC, TO BE HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010, AT "CLUB TAREE" 121 WINGHAM ROAD, TAREE.**

From: Ted Lewis OAM, Secretary, 18 Karoola Road, Lambton, NSW 2299

Tel: 4957 1095; Fax: 4957 5995; E-mail: [lewisted@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lewisted@ozemail.com.au)

You are invited to the RAWCS Eastern Region meetings to be held on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010

#### **SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**

**Venue for Afternoon Sessions:- Club Taree**

##### **1. Training Session 2.00pm to 3.30pm:**

Training Session for new and existing District RAWCS representatives presented by District 9650

##### **2. Special Management Meeting 2.00pm to 3.30pm:**

Available members of the Management Committee to meet to discuss development matters with an agenda distributed in the week before the meeting.

#### **SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**

**Venue : Club Taree**

##### **9.00am –The General Meeting of RAWCS Eastern Region.**

The Agenda for the General Meeting, together with associated Business Papers will be mailed to you before 16<sup>th</sup> January.

### **RAWCS PROGRAMME – Building a Learning centre in Khao Thalu, Thailand.**

The Rotary Club of Armidale has a RAWCS Programme running at the moment in Thailand which we are just about to actually start building. Our Club is unable to provide all the volunteers for this project so are inviting any other Rotarians (or non-Rotarians) in the District who might be interested in either putting together a team or joining a team to let us know.

The Rotary Club of Armidale are in the process of building a Learning Centre at a small school in the southern Thailand village of Khao Thalu and are now looking for volunteers to help with this project. The Club believes the project will take about 16 weeks to complete and is hoping the slab for the building will be laid in mid January.

This would mean that volunteer teams should be able to start around the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

At the moment the Club is calling for expressions of interest from Rotarians within the District who may like to be involved with this project. The time spent away will be either 7 or 14 days, depending on the response from Rotarians.

We believe the cost for the volunteer programme would start at around \$1600pp for a one week tour or \$1900 for 2 weeks.

Again the cost depends on the standard of accommodation chosen by the volunteer (this is limited), whether they wish to twin share or room alone, availability of flights, and how many volunteers there are in each team.

Due to the fact the village where the accommodation is situated is approx 2 hours from the nearest airport and a 45 minute drive (each way) to the village where the Learning Centre is being built we will need to hire a vehicle for the duration of each tour. (The cost of this is covered in the amounts quoted above).

We now really need to know if there is any interest from Rotarians in the District to assist with this programme so we can start organising dates and group numbers.

Below is a rough outline of the dates we are looking at. It would be greatly appreciated if members, who are interested, could let us know if they are able to do a 7 day or 14 day programme. Depending on the response we receive, we may only offer 14 day or 7 day programmes or we may be able to offer a mixture.

Please contact President Vicki Kembery on [vickikembery@hotmail.com](mailto:vickikembery@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

6 Feb -13 Feb; 13 Feb – 20 Feb; 20 Feb – 27 Feb; 27 Feb – 6 Mar; 6 Mar – 13 Mar; 13 Mar – 20 Mar; 20 Mar – 27 Mar  
27 Mar – 10 Apr\*; 10 Apr – 17 Apr; 17 Apr – 24 Apr

\*Due to this being the time of a Thai Festival this period would have to be a 14 day trip due to availability of accommodation and flights.

## ROMAC Update

Now, more than ever, ROMAC needs your club's support to continue saving children's lives  
PLEASE consider donating now to ROMAC - it will make a difference and save the life of an underprivileged and deserving child

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to remove yourself from what is the normal day to day experience and ask "Why should you?" Rotarians are caring individuals, and they and their Rotary clubs generously donate to deserving causes, many that they have no control over. Whilst some are admirable, small local organisations, others employ professional staff and often use slick, multi-media campaigns that siphon off up to 80% of the donations.

ROMAC, however, is run entirely by caring Rotarian volunteers just like you, plus every surgeon generously donates their time and expertise. This means that all the money you donate not only goes to benefit our children, it's also spent right here in your country - see 'is ROMAC a local or...' story below. These underprivileged children are from humble backgrounds and remote areas. Some are shunned by their local communities. A few have no choice but to go begging on the streets. Too many might have died, but a fortunate few are saved by caring Rotarians who organise these 'forgotten' children's sometimes desperate journeys to a new life.

Unfortunately, whilst ROMAC has no shortage of potential patients, it does have a shortage of funds. Yet, sadly, only a relatively small percentage of Rotary Clubs donate to Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC), a Rotary International, multi-district approved program run entirely by Rotary volunteers.

Last year alone ROMAC brought 31 underprivileged and deserving children for life changing operations to Australia and New Zealand. Without you we will not be able to continue saving as many children's lives as we want to.

***Now that you know how easy it is for you to save a child's life, please, please, please don't wait till the end of the financial year to send your donation.***

***If you are able to donate \$1,000 now, more if you can, to this Rotary humanitarian effort, you will forever have the gratitude of our 'forgotten' children and their deserving families. Thank you.***

ROMAC is a Rotary International, multi-district approved program

It's run entirely by Rotary volunteers

Last year alone ROMAC treated 31 children with dignity restoring and/or life saving surgery

**ROMAC has been affected by the Global Financial Crisis and is urgently seeking donations of \$1,000, more if possible, from Rotary clubs**

The demand for our help is stronger than ever but, sadly, this year we'll have to reduce the number of children we help.

But we will continue to work hard to find beds for them...if we have the money

**ROMAC has impressively generated more nationwide publicity for Rotary than any other Rotary project**

**To find out more about ROMAC, here's who to contact...**

**Rob Anderson, 5 Charlotte Court, Coffs Harbour 2450. (Page 123 District Directory)  
D9650 ROMAC Chairman; [misnbazl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:misnbazl@bigpond.net.au)**

**The full newsletter for further information is located on the District**



Photo by Rob Anderson ROMAC... and after ROMAC