



## **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019**

**Presented at District Changeover on 30 June 2019**

Now is the time to celebrate the year of 2018-2019 and to rejoice in the achievements of the Rotarians of District 9710.

To say that it has been a privilege to hold the position of District Governor is an understatement. It means that I have been able to hear of and see some of the wonderful projects that have been undertaken by the district clubs.

In all parts of the world there are people who are grateful to these clubs – in Asia, Africa, South America, and Oceania, and more especially within Australia. I am particularly proud of the way clubs have met the challenge of the drought and helping those who have been so adversely affected. Each of these clubs contributes to the estimated 58 million hours given in service through Rotary.

In addition, there has been the ground work, led by Steve Hill, preparing the district for its merge with District 9700 so that we become District 9705 in 2020.

I wish I could claim to be responsible for all of this good work, but I have to say it is due to the leadership and initiative shown within each club by Rotarians who are motivated by a desire to make life better for other people. Their compassion, drive, imagination and vision are qualities that are exhibited by so many individual members and all through the year I have been amazed by the club projects.

But it is not only the work that is done to make the world a better place that is a strong characteristic. There is also the fellowship that exists among the members and being involved at a district level means that I have found so many Rotarians with generous hearts who have welcomed me.

So it is time to say a heartfelt thanks to so many:

- The District Board and Finance Committee - Steve Hill, Julia Pedler, Rosemary Everett, Peter Ford, Michael Moore, Monica Garrett and Bill Seelis
- Noel Trevaskis, Bob Greeney and Phil Armstrong – my gratitude for your wisdom
- Andrea Conti for editing the District Bulletin each month
- the District Committee Chairs
- the club Presidents and their club members
- and so many others who made my year as DG a wonderful experience.

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Extra special thanks go to my own club of Cooma who have been so supportive during the year. I am really looking forward to spending a bit more time on home territory.

Lastly, my everlasting gratitude goes to all the members of my family both in Canberra and Queensland for their unstinting love, support and hospitality, and I thank Sue, Phil, Colton and Keira for being here today.

People have asked me if it has been a good year for District 9710. I am not the best judge of that but I know that it has been a fantastic year for me, so if I can measure the year by my own enjoyment, then it has been a very good year.

To the incoming and continuing office bearers in clubs, committees and district I offer my very best wishes for your endeavours in 2019-2020.



## **DISTRICT 9710 DISTRICT AWARDS 2019**

**Presented at District Changeover on 30 June 2019**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS**

#### Rotary Club of Gerringong Sunrise – Skin Care Checks

This is a combined project with the Rotary Club of Kiama and aims to provide free skin care checks for the detection of skin cancer in our local area. We are targeting members of the public who are at risk of skin cancer and who are less likely to seek medical advice, e.g. males aged 30 plus who are engaged with outdoor activities.

There have been over 400 people screened in Gerringong and Kiama over the last three years and significantly increased community awareness of the need for regular skin screening. The referral rate from our skin screening program to the participants personal GPs has been just under 30%.

#### Rotary Club of Cooma – Nijong Oval Cricket Nets

To provide practice nets at Nijong Oval. There were no nets available for junior cricket in Cooma, thus putting them at a severe disadvantage in the district competition. Some children have had to travel two hours to access a similar facility

Using a \$26,000 grant from the Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund, this project has delivered a much needed facility. Junior cricketers from 4 to 16 years will be able to access better coaching and their skills and enjoyment will be greatly increased.

#### Rotary Club of Pambula – Community Carers Accommodation Project

The aim of the Community Carers Accommodation project is to provide affordable, accessible on-site accommodation at the South East Regional Hospital for use by people pre / post hospital admission, and for carers and relatives who need to be close while their loved one is in hospital.

The Carers Accommodation project in the Bega Valley was an initiative of the Rotary Club of Pambula and made possible through collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Bega and Merimbula and other service Clubs including Lions, Lionesses and CWA.

The facility offers 12 motel style rooms and a communal building containing full kitchen, dining and lounge amenities and is being well utilised, with great feedback; cost per night is \$46. Sustainability for the project has been achieved through an MOU with the local health service, whereby they have assumed responsibility for bookings, cleaning and ongoing maintenance; a governance committee remains in place to ensure ongoing collaboration between the health services, service clubs and community representatives.

**WINNER: Rotary Club of Pambula – Community Carers Accommodation Project**



## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS**

### Rotary Club of Woden Daybreak – Mercy Ships

Woden Daybreak aimed to raise the profile of, and funds for, Mercy Ships which became a Rotary Foundation Strategic Partner in 2011.

Woden Daybreak and Daana Restaurant held pay-as-you-wish, pay-it-forward dinners for Mercy Ships. Two sittings were attended by 120 people. The members of the Canberra College Interact club helped serve the meals. The club financially assisted nurse Danniele Hunter to complete her second tour of duty and she was the guest speaker at the dinner. *City News* published a feature on Mercy Ships and the event at Daana Restaurant.

Following Danniele's second tour of duty, Woden Daybreak held a public event at the Southern Cross Club. Danniele spoke to a group of 60 attendees.

### Rotary Club of Moruya – Storage Facility and Intensive Farming Project, Arturo Island – Timor Leste

The Timorese Government provides 1000 bags of rice to the School Feeding Program annually. For many years, much of this rice has been destroyed by weather and animals due to lack of suitable storage. Part of the aim of the project is to provide suitable storage to protect this rice.

The intensive farming project is to provide fences, pens and water for the extensive farming of pigs, chickens and ducks.

This project has provided storage to ensure that the rice provided by the Timorese Government is best utilised and not wasted. It also provides training and protection for the intensive farming of vegetables and animals to benefit the local community. A comment has been received on how fat the ducks are now looking following the project! This project has been carried out with the financial support of a District Foundation Grant. Without that financial support it is unlikely the project would have progressed.

### Rotary Club of Bomaderry – Women Empowerment through goat farming - Nepal

Goat farming is a profitable business with a low investment because of its multi-functional utility like milk and meat that are very nutritious. Goat farming is the main source for generating income in rural areas of Nepal. When the local women are provided with locally adopted hybrid goats along with training in goat management and production including housing, feeding, health care and record keeping, it will enhance and increase the family income which will help to raise the family condition and better invest in education for children and health.

The animal management record systems in place will provide continued monitoring and feedback to the local Rotary Club to prove sustainability. Recipient goat will breed and increase the number which they manage for a long time thus no further funding will be required.

**WINNER: Rotary Club of Moruya – Storage Facility and Intensive Farming Project, Arturo Island – Timor Leste**



## **VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS**

### Rotary Club of Bega – Bega Rotary Business Breakfast

The Bega Rotary Business Breakfast (BRBB) is an initiative of the Bega Rotary club which unites members of the Bega business community and organisation to members of the Bega Rotary Club.

This initiative provides a valuable source of membership for Bega Rotary whilst simultaneously addressing needs of the group and community organisations.

The credibility of Bega Rotary continues to grow with the community through this initiative. Debrief meetings held by attending Rotarians after each breakfast have identified this activity as a most appropriate cost effective way forward for Bega Rotary. Bega Rotary will continue (in a changed form) as a result of the implementation of this initiative. Courage and passion to be inspired to try something not previously attempted has yielded results that have far exceeded our original hopes.

### **WINNER: Rotary Club of Bega – Bega Rotary Business Breakfast**

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## **EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### Colin Dunn – Rotary Club of Pambula

Colin has been a longstanding member of the Rotary Club of Pambula and is widely respected as an outstanding Rotarian. He is a Paul Harris Fellow +1 and has held numerous positions on the Board, including President, Vice President and Secretary. This year he has also been Counsellor for our Youth Exchange student.

Colin has led the catering committee for the club for many years. This represents a huge amount of work, and includes menu planning, organising supplies, rostering volunteers and overseeing events as they occur. Colin's regular catering commitments include the Clubs monthly markets, weekly catering at the local holiday park through the Christmas and Easter School holidays, and late night Christmas shopping events. There are many one off events that he organises and attends, including a BBQ at RYDA, the SJA Multi-cultural day and refugee hosting events. Colin has been innovative with his catering team, moving past the standard sausage sizzle to include theme nights with Greek, Italian and Spanish menus. Funds generated by these catering events are the backbone of the Club and underpin the Clubs ability to make significant financial contributions to many community organisations.

Colin is often the first to put his hand up to volunteer at Club activities and uses his business connections and networking skills to create opportunities for the Club. He is on the Board of the Bendigo Bank, involved with the Bureau of Accessible tourism and the SE Youth & Arts Fund.



## EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH SERVICE

### Maureen Manning – Rotary Club of Batemans Bay

To serve the community is one thing, but to do it for a sustained period is another. RYPEN in our District has been well served for 17 years by Maureen Manning, and the camp held in May of this year was her last.

Maureen has attended the camp twice a year over the 18 years and assisted many, many young people reach their potential by her enthusiasm, organisation, devotion to the wellbeing of others and through her care and compassion.

The camps have averaged 60 students. That is 120 a year. Therefore, over 18 years more than 2000 young people have benefitted from 'Service Above Self' which Maureen has displayed. And many came back as Counsellors so to experience it again.

Maureen built a great team around her, and their work and support was tremendous and has to be valued, but for 18 years her leadership and devotion has been amazing.

Our Club congratulated Maureen and one member put his thanks like this,

*“Three of us here are teachers and ran camps. We knew our students and their idiosyncrasies, and we planned for them. But twice a year, for 18 years, you have taken unknown children on camp, and given them an experience that they have enjoyed and been excited about. We owe you so much, as do all those young people. Congratulations you deserve great recognition for your efforts”*

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## EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

### Shirley Hayes-Cornish – Rotary Club of Moruya

Shirley is dedicated to making a difference in the world – especially in third world or emerging nations. Shirley is the driving force behind the Rotary Club of Moruya's projects in Timor Leste and in particular the storage facility and intensive farming project on Arturo Island carried out in 2018-19.

Shirley has also become active in Mindanao Poverty Relief Action and has travelled to the Philippines with her husband John as the lead act in a training program 'Awareness of Sexual Health'. It lasted from 4 to 21 February and visited 14 high schools and reached over 3000 students and staff with one of the main education focusses being the reduction in teenage pregnancies. This follows Shirley's visit to Papua New Guinea presenting on the same topic – protection against teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Most of these efforts by Shirley and John, have been self-funded and they are both attending the Hamburg Convention to promote this program with a stand in the House of Friendship. This was initially self-funded by Shirley and John but the Rotary Club of Moruya has now contributed to the cost of the stand. Shirley only travels overseas to participate in programs where she can benefit others. A true example of "Service Above Self".



## **KEY INTERACTOR OF THE YEAR**

### Jared Grant – Interact Club of Batlow

Jared has been a member of Interact for 5 years and is currently the Club President.

He was International Director and supported events with exchange students in Tumut and Tumbarumba and spent time with the YEP inbound students at their Tumut weekend.

He was Community Director and attended Camp Interaction where he was successful in gaining a certificate in Volunteering. He has consistently applied the lessons learnt at this camp to planning events for the Interact Club.

As President, Jared has led by example. He always attends every meeting and events with a positive attitude and a willingness to do the hard work.

For three years, Interact has supported the community bowls tournament by providing the BBQ for 80 people over 14 weeks. Jared has been chief cook and bottle washer for the three years. His leadership encouraged so many members to attend. He introduced a bowls team this current year and the funds raised provided 6 sets of bowls, which are used by the school for sport as well.

Some of the funds raised also went to sponsoring the establishing of a Batlow Interact Epee Fencing Club. The fencing club now has equipment foils and electronic floor mats and can support 20 fencers at once.

Jared has supported:

- Rotary Australia Day Breakfast BBQ for Batlow
- Australia Day Pool Party and Hot dogs
- Batlow RSL Monster Christmas Party
- Batlow Show BBQ
- Apple Blossom Festival BBQ
- Xmas pool party and outdoor movies
- Movie night at the Literary Institute

Currently he is planning a visit to Canberra for the group, including a visit to the Rotary Clubs of Hall and Belconnen to say thank you for sponsoring four members to attend RYPEN.

Jared's enthusiasm and leadership has expanded the membership of Interact, to include students from three schools and reach a total of 18 members and growing.

He is enthusiastic about a new project to establish an Earlyact Club at Batlow Technology School. The inaugural meeting was held on June 14<sup>th</sup>.



## **KEY INTERACTOR OF THE YEAR**

### **Rahul Jagtap – Interact Club of Narrabundah College**

Rahul Jagtap has been a member of the Interact Club of Narrabundah College since he started at the College in year 11 in February 2018. Rahul is the quiet achiever in the Club.

Whenever there is anything to be done Rahul is there participating. Whether it be helping at bake sales and sausage sizzles, running the projector during meetings, selling fund raising chocolates or coming up with ideas on fun ways to make things happen Rahul is at the forefront.

He has volunteered to attend Rotary Club meetings on various occasions so he is a familiar face to many of the Rotarians in the Club.

Rahul has skills in a number of areas and he has put these to good use in the Club. He is reliable and cheerful, attends every meeting when his timetable permits and whilst he is not a Board member his commitment to the Club and to his fellow Interact members is exemplary.

He is very modest and was surprised to hear that he had been nominated for the District Interactor of the year.



## **ROTARACTOR OF THE YEAR**

### Taylor Giggins – University of Canberra Rotaract Club

Taylor Giggins, member of the Rotaract Club of the University of Canberra, has gone above and beyond in her current board position as Professional Development Director. With the tremendous amount of work she has completed in her role, she has turned nothing into something truly great.

Taylor has provided many opportunities for members to grow and flourish by successfully managing our speaker series 'Inspired', where members are able to share something they are passionate about to develop public speaking skills for the presenter and inspiration for other.

She has successfully implemented professional development workshops at the end of each of our meetings where we are taught a variety of skills.

She is our pocket rocket, the first to put her hand up for everything and the last to leave. She is very dedicated to her friends, our club and the work Rotaract does. She truly embodies everything Rotaract and Rotary stands for.

We look forward to Taylor continuing her efforts to better our club and community in the coming year in her role as Vice President.

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## **ROTARACT PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

### Koroipita Village (Fiji)

The Koroipita Village Laptop donation was Yass Rotaract Clubs biggest project for the 2018-19 year. Rob Uhl approached the Club with this great project and the Club was more than happy to take it on.

Koroipita Village was looking for a couple of laptops to put in their computer room for the local children from around the village to further their education. Fiona Foley, Vice President of the Yass Rotaract Club, purchased two laptops with her own money on behalf of the Club (she was later reimbursed). The laptops were then given to Rob Uhl who graciously took them to Koroipita when she visited.

The club has received photos from Koroipita of the children using the laptops.



## **ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR**

### Vicki Coleman – Rotary Club of Hall

One of the greatest membership initiatives that has been undertaken in this district is the marquee we had at Floriade last year, and its success is largely due to Vicki Coleman of the Hall Club.

Having worked for Events Canberra and had the experience of staffing a marquee at Floriade previously, Vicki compiled a submission, both intensive and invaluable, for the ACT Government for consideration to be named a charity partner at Floriade.

With a small committee Vicki made it a project to have as many people as possible sign a birthday card to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> year since Rotary came to Canberra. The objective was to outdo Robert Downey Jr's record of 5339 signatures and so it was done, the result being 11,515 signatures.

The project, designed to publicise Rotary and its work, attracted visitors including 762 from 82 different countries as well as people from all over Australia. A record 112 people signed up to join Rotary, including many young people who were interested in our Rotaract clubs.

The marquee was decorated with banners showing the work of Rotary as well as a giant birthday cake, and staffed by Rotarians from clubs across the District.



Ancillary Awards presented at the District changeover included

1. Fred and Pamela Fawke's were presented with a Distinguished Service Award from Shelterbox Australia
2. The Australian Rotary Health Certificate of Achievement recognises Rotary Club's total (accumulative) contribution to the Australian Rotary Health Fund (as at 31 March 2019). Issued by the Australian Rotary Health board to thank them for the ongoing support and contribution to health research.

The following Rotary Clubs received a Certificate's of Achievement:

Bega (\$500 per member);  
Belconnen (\$3000 per member);  
Bowral Mittagong (\$1000 per member);  
Goulburn (\$2000 per member);  
Hall (\$1000 per member);  
Jerrabomberra (\$250 per member);  
Moruya (\$500 per member);  
Narooma (\$1000 per member);  
Pambula (\$500 per member); and  
Woden (\$1000 per member).