

DG's NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 9550 - JUNE 2015



“Light Up Rotary” June 2015 – Rotary International Challenges **2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna**

I would like to thank the vast majority of Past District Governors and District Leaders for their support and advice when needed to “Light up Rotary”. This was very much appreciated. Some however did not which was disappointing.

Over the past year I received substantial feedback and observed much, which I thought would be worth sharing.

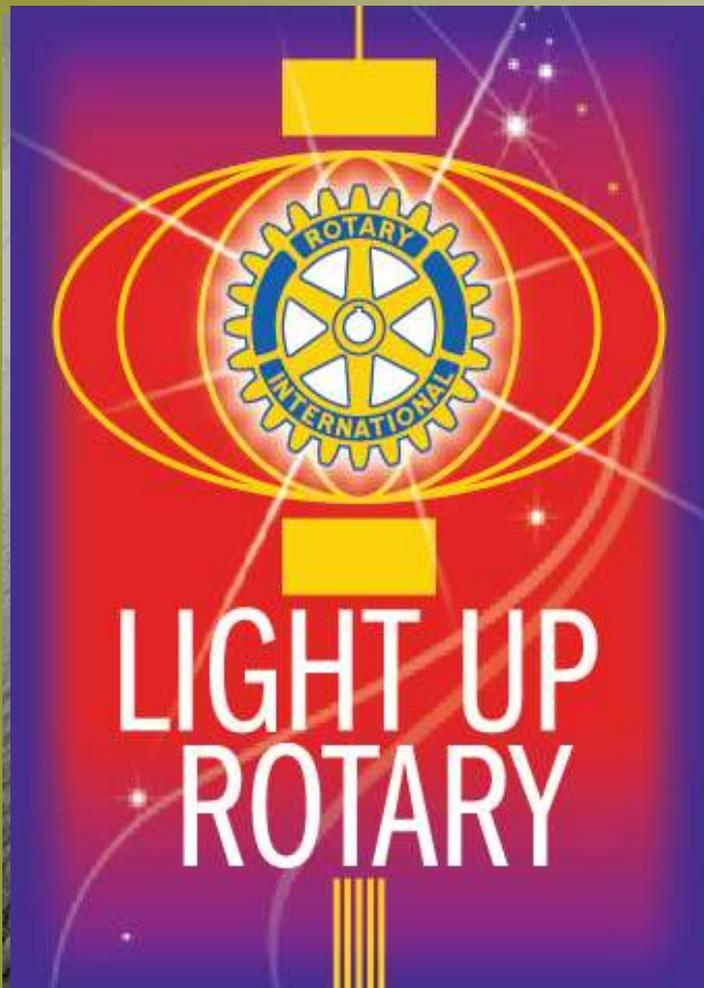
1. I met our Rotary International President Gary Huang, Past Regional Director Stuart Heal and Past Regional Coordinator Noel Trevaskis. These Rotarians were very inspirational and I consider myself fortunate to have met them.
2. Many of our leaders are in their 70's and I wonder how the age difference impacts on our ability to attract and retain the younger generation into our organisation. A question one could ask is, *“how does Rotary remain relevant with the younger generation to ensure growth in membership?”*
3. Another area of concern from some Rotarians was the large cost to operate a worldwide organisation like Rotary. As an example travel allowance for the Rotary International President was considered substantial by some. Rotary International President Elect, Ravi Ravindran has indicated his intention to focus and reduce all costs as much as possible. In District 9550 we maintain our costs as low as practical.
4. District 9550 largest budget component is training and this is similar to Rotary International. I talk from experience that there comes a time when little is actually new and the value of the training might become questionable especially for those who have attended similar training sessions many times.
5. Since the Rotary International President is a figure head role, a question that has been put to me is, *“should the tenure of Rotary International President be 4 years. This would provide substantial savings by not requiring a Rotary International Convention every year, Yearly Theme, President's travel etc.”*
Food for thought.

“Light Up Rotary” June 2015 – Rotary International Challenges 2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna

Cont.....

6. Mark Wallace recently resigned as Editor of Rotary Down Under. Mark was very good at raising issues and challenging the status quo. Unfortunately, in my opinion he will be a loss to Rotary and will be difficult to replace.
7. "Over the last few years the Presidential citation has focussed on key areas of membership, foundation and public image. The feedback received is that it ignores the bulk of good work done by Rotary Clubs which include the valuable work done within their communities which often represents 90% of what they do. There seems to be little recognition for this.
8. Along with the “Avenues of Service” and “Service above Self” we seem to have an array of awards available. Questions raised with me were “why are there so many awards?” Rotarians join to make a difference in their community and maybe do not need such an array of awards?” Agree or disagree but this is what is being said within a few clubs.
9. With so many clubs looking for membership and the change in technology which allows a far greater opportunity to assist the community without joining a specific club. The question is, “are we still relevant within our community?” and “*what initiatives do we need to embrace to ensure Rotary grows in this current environment.*”
10. As Rotarians we need to be proactive and provide feedback and suggestions to Rotary International to assist them so that their decision making is more informed. Nothing will change if members simply accept the status quo. Rotary like any organisation requires feedback so they can improve.

These are questions that need to be raised and we should not be satisfied until they are answered adequately. I fell a few days ago and have a fracture on my right arm and hope to see the specialist shortly. This reminded me that life is short and we have to make the most of it. I believe my current journey in Rotary International is now over and I will make way for younger Rotarians to take up District Leaders roles. I wish District Governor Elect Mike Woods and his team all the best in 2015-16.



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2014-15 District 9550 Action Plan (Assistant Governor) Develop Effective Rotary Clubs (AG Terry Dowling - 03/06/15)

Holiday was great.

The clubs in Mt Isa face a few basic issues which I guess is common to most service clubs in the district/state.

However we can list them as I see them;
1/ seeking to identify to branding across the country/state/district.

2/ tribalism between clubs can be an issue on occasion.

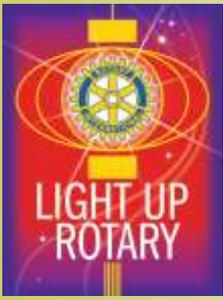
3/ transience of population is a major inhibitor.

4/ fees from Rotary are escalating and the management approach does seem quite bureaucratic. [Remember Rotary is meant to be FUN]

5/ we are a considerable distance from "the hubs" which is an inhibitor. This is in terms of visitation, training, advice etc.

Both of the clubs in Mt Isa are self-sufficient, vibrant and independent. However they could benefit from more discussion with the DG on an ongoing basis. Yes; I am aware the AG is the representative of the DG, I however feel that direct communication would be an advantage.

As it stands now the 2 clubs of Mt Isa arrange/manage/promote the Glencore Mt Isa Rotary Rodeo. This would have to be one of the largest undertakings in the state. So I guess this goes to demonstrate the level of commitment and ability within the clubs.



Presidential Message

GARY C.K. HUANG President 2014-15



June 2015 Presidential message

When I began this Rotary year as your president, I wanted us, above all, to *Light Up Rotary*. I wanted us to share with the world how many wonderful friendships and experiences we have found in Rotary, and how Rotary has transformed and enriched our lives. I knew that by telling others about Rotary, we would increase membership, build stronger clubs, and improve our ability to help people in need.

As we end this 2014-15 Rotary year, I am honored by your response and will always be grateful for how you have risen to this challenge. You have answered my call to Light Up Rotary by holding many successful Rotary Day celebrations in your communities; you have outdone yourselves in your contributions to our Rotary Foundation; and you have moved all of Rotary forward with new members and new clubs.

When I chose my theme for my year as president, I was inspired by the words of Confucius, who said, "It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness."

This year, more than 1.2 million Rotarians, along with Interactors, Rotaractors, Rotary Youth Exchange participants, and Rotary Peace Fellows, have lit their own candles in tens of thousands of communities. Together, the lights we have kindled have created a great light that shines for all the world to see.

I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your president this year, and for the hard work and dedication of our volunteer leadership and our staff members. I came to them with high expectations – and they delivered.

I also am grateful for the many friends I have made during this Rotary year, and for the wonderful visits I've had to so many places. I will always remember, with great fondness, riding on the Rotary float in the Rose Parade, watching children enjoy the Japanese drummers at the Rotary Day open house at RI headquarters in Evanston, and bicycling through the night in Colombo during the Ride to Light Up Rotary event, celebrating a polio-free Sri Lanka.

I have seen a new energy in Rotary this year, and felt a new excitement. We've seen more and more women and young people join Rotary as well – including my wife, Corinna, and our three children. I hope that in the year to come, you will continue your wonderful work to *Light Up Rotary* – and to help it *Be a Gift to the World*

Rotary



Peter L Offer

RI Director - 2015 - 2017

Dear DG Moorthy,

23rd May 2015

Now I have recovered from the 30 ½ hours journey home and my body has got back into my time line, I am starting to reflect on the wonderful time I have had with you and your District. As you know this was my first trip to Australia and I could not have had a better time than attending your District Conference. From the day I arrived it was such a welcome to see you and my host Brendon there to greet me at the airport. You arrived as strangers and I left having a new circle of friends, which is ROTARY.

I was very impressed with your conference your speakers were well chosen and your organizing team did a great job for you, with both the plenary sessions and the entertainment. The Young people from Youth Exchange and Rotaract really made the conference for me especially the young people from Timor-Leste, it was great to learn from them something of their country and the many projects they are involved in were just incredible. Plus the GSE team from India did you credit.

It was also great for me to see the work you are doing in 9550, and I was so pleased that I was able to visit your club Townsville Sunrise (although as I said on that morning ,liked your company but not your hours!) also Brendon's club Townsville Central and Mike's club Cairns Sunrise.

The fact that I was able to visit and see several of the club projects you are involved in both in Townsville and Cairns was a delight and to be able to be part of your meeting of Past Governors and the Rotaract meeting made my visit something special.

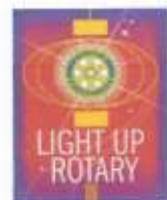
My hosts in Brendon & Roberta and Mike & Maxine were just great and I know we will remain friends for many a year. The drive with Mike to Cairns enabled me to see some of your lovely country, and while in Cairns I was able to swim with the fish out on the reef, see how high the crocodiles can jump and how many kangaroo's and wallaby's there are in the wild, plus a trip by train up to the rain forest, all of which will encourage me to return to Queensland.

Finally I know your district covers a large area which makes it difficult and expensive to travel to a conference for some, but I also know that a successful conference like yours will bode well for Mike's next year when the word gets round what a good time was had by all. My thanks to you and all my new friends in Queensland.

KIND REGARDS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter L Offer".

212 Kenpas Highway, Finham, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV5 6ND
024 7641 7695 peterloffer@aol.com www.rotaryincoventry.org





District Governor Nominee Ida Portella was inducted into the Rotary club of Mareeba in 1997.

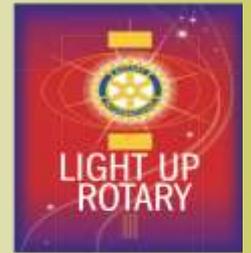


Since joining Rotary she has held positions in Club, Community, International, Public Relations, Membership Group Study Exchange Group Rep, President in 01-02 and 08-09 and Assistant Governor Group 3, from 2011-2014.

She is currently Director and Manager of Travel Experience.com in Atherton and Mareeba, has a Diploma in Travel and Tourism, Chairperson and Director of the Rotary FNQ Field days and the Mareeba Friends of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation and her greatest passion is to Direct Theatre Restaurants and Plays for the Mareeba Theatre Group, Rotary has given her the opportunity to serve her community, make amazing friends and travel abroad. Ida is honoured to have been selected by her peers to be District Governor for 2016/17; she will be committed and dedicated to this position and will look forward to with her team to ensure future growth of Rotary D9550.

Ida has been married for twenty years to Geoff Stockall, a Police Officer with the Queensland Police





Moorthy Karuna
Governor 2014-2015
District 9550 Australia and Timor Leste
21 Tandamus Court, Annandale, Townsville Qld 4814, Australia
Phone: +61 7 4775 5449
Mobile: +61 434 577 402
Email: moorthykaruna37@gmail.com

05 June 2015

Mr. Sridharan Nambiar
District Governor
Rotary International District 3202 India



Dear Sir,

Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team from District 3202 India to District 9550 Australia & Timor Leste

No doubt the Group Study Exchange team is all back home safely and hopefully their experiences as members of this team will provide them with a greater understanding of District 9550 and North Queensland. All reports are that the GSE team was well received and were very good ambassadors and reflected positively on their families, Rotary and their country.

I'd like to also recognize and thank Ravikumar (District Chair GSE/VTT 2014-15) and all those involved in District 3202 who ensured this exchange happened.

The itineraries in Townsville, Cairns and Airlie Beach which I have attached, will provide a good overview of the activities the Team were involved with. Where possible we tried to arrange vocational visits to a number of workplaces where the respective team member could talk with senior representatives within their vocational area. I believed this was well received by both the team member and the workplace concerned. The team was kept busy and we used the opportunity to show them some of the more sought after tourist locations with a flight over the Whitsunday Islands and parts of the Barrier Reef. Wherever possible we organised combined Rotary club meetings which gave the team the opportunity to interact with more club members from a broader area of District 9550.

On another matter the Global Grant Project which is to provide digital Smart classrooms in 40 selected schools in Rotary International District 3202 is something we could partner with you on to bring to fruition.

Once again please pass on my thanks to the GSE team and organisers for an exceptional exchange and hopefully we can continue to work together on the Global Grant Project.

Yours faithfully,

Moorthy Karuna

LIGHT UP ROTARY

VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM Report

How would you cope teaching at a secondary school with average class sizes of 75? How would you teach English as an additional language with a first exposure to the language at year 10?

This is the situation faced every day by teachers of English in East Timor. Districts 9520 and 9550 put together a Vocational Training Team (VTT), funded by the districts and the Rotary Foundation. This brought 10 of the best English teachers from schools across East Timor, under the leadership of Rotarian and PP Toni Favaro of the RC Dili, to the Adelaide Secondary School of English for 6 weeks of intensive teacher training. Members of the team were hosted by Rotarian families and clubs in Adelaide.

This VTT is one of the largest teams ever funded by the Foundation. It has three components. The second component consists of three teachers from the Adelaide Secondary School of English and TAFE SA spending two weeks in July in East Timor holding workshops for as many of the other English teachers as they can, as well as continuing to mentor the 10 teachers who came to Adelaide. In September a further two member evaluation team from Adelaide will visit East Timor to measure the effectiveness and sustainability of the program and to recommend further action.

Both the Ministry of Education and AusAID are acutely interested in the outcomes because many of the current policies are not working well. The current dual language policy is tetum (the mother tongue) and Portuguese. Portuguese is not spoken widely either in the community or business. Indonesian is still widely spoken and English is sorely needed in business. The current schools policy does not allow for social promotion each year. If a student fails a year he or she has to repeat the year. In reality they drop out of school. This has led to a large number of semi-literate teenagers unable to get work. One element of the VTT focused on how to address this need as well.

The program is the brainchild of Chandra Sluggett of the RC of Unley. Judging by the success of the first stage high hopes are held for the other stages and education policy changes in the years to come. It has already spawned a Days for Girls project in 9520 and a DIK container of educational materials in partnership with D 9780 as well.

A big thank you to 9550 for its financial support.

PDG Euan Miller D9520

2014-15 District 9520 Vocational Training Team Project (Article by Greg Marlow, District 9550 Rotary Foundation Chair 2013-2016)

In Timor L'este, there are four languages spoken; Portuguese, Tetun, Bahasa Indonesian and English. District 9520 decided to host a Vocational Training Team from Timor L'Este of English teachers. Applications were sent out in October 2014. In December, interviews were conducted in Dili and regional towns of potential candidates, by Bob Horth and other members of the Dili RC. Ten teachers were selected, whilst PP Tony Favaro volunteered to lead the Team to Adelaide in April/May. A second Team of four from South Australia was selected to travel to Dili in early July.

The Team from Timor L'Este arrived in Adelaide on April 15 and proceeded to Ballarat for the District 9520 Conference. Back in Adelaide, conversation sessions were conducted April 21-24 to ascertain levels of English understanding. Classes were conducted by the Adelaide Secondary School of English from April 27 until May 15. Our Lady of Sacred Heart College in Enfield and Adelaide TAFE conducted classes on May 19-20. The Team were evaluating three different systems of teaching English as a second language or ESL.

Visits by the Team were made to Sovereign Hill, Parliament House in Adelaide, the ANZAC Day march, Rotary Raceday, Government House, Port Adelaide and Renmark. They returned to Dili on May 25.

The second Team from Adelaide is due to arrive in Dili on July 5, after over-nighting in Darwin on July 4. English language teachers will be invited from rural, regional and urban secondary schools to participate in teacher training workshops at the SOLS 24/7 centres, conducted by the visiting Team. They will return to Adelaide on July 18.

Total Global Grant costs are \$50,894.00 USD, with District 9550 contributing \$5,000.00 and District 9520 contributing \$2,0447.00



**Email from Susanne Rea,
District Polio Sub Chair, 19 May 2015**

The eradication of polio is within grasp, with only 23 cases reported YTD Afghanistan 1. Pakistan 22 Nigeria 0. Nigeria has until July without a case to enter the next phase of declaration of polio free status. Following last year's success in India the world stands at a historic crossroad ...will the virus finally be beaten? Rotary has been leading the campaign with advocacy, field work and funding since 1985.

The eradication of polio is Rotary International's Primary cause and will be until the job is done. Thank you to the Clubs that have sent in the requested \$1.500 minimum contribution and sometimes more.

For the remaining Clubs please urgently send in your contribution.

We are part of Rotary International and have responsibilities beyond our shores. The Polio Virus travels without a visa and needs no passport we do not want it ballooning out of control again. Fundraising can be achieved,,if needed using our own, now global project, www.wgmeal.com for motivation and method...

It is easy! Just mix fun, friends, food and fundraising....check it out and join in.

More than 60 thousand Rotarians globally in 59 countries have funded more than 5 million polio vaccines but more money is still needed to reach OUR final goal of a polio free world for every child.

**Email from N.K.Gopinath,
Past President and Chairman, Rotary
Flame Committee, 25/05/15**

I am pleased to confirm that Rotary International has decided to accord a Ceremonial Reception cum Entree, to our Rotary Flame in the First Plenary Session on June 6.

You will all agree that this is matter of Great Pride and one, that has been made possible, by the tremendous support you all lent to its successful run around the world. It may be of interest to you to know, that the Rotary Flame, has traversed through over 35 RI Districts, before it will reach Sao Paulo and this includes the route taken by Rtn.Susanne Rea of the other most successful programme, World's Greatest Meal, or WGM in short, to whom we had lent a satellite torch to.

The tentative programme will be like this. At an appointed time, we will go in a line up the stage of the Plenary in the Convention Hall, lead by my Club's President and me, holding the Rotary Flame aloft. We will then hand over the same to RI President Gary CK Huang, after which we will all have a photo opportunity with the President. There is also an exclusive video, that has been produced of the entire route of the Flame's programme, which will then be projected for the viewing of the audience of the Rotary World. Thereafter, my Club's President will say a few words of how and why we conceived this programme and the rationale behind it.

Finally, I will take a minute to Thank you all officially, as Chair of Project RotaryFlame2EndPolio.

June is *Rotary Fellowships* Month

Rotary Fellowships

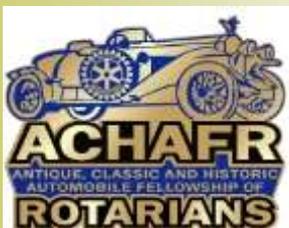
Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who share a common vocation or recreational interest. Rotary Fellowships give their members the opportunity to have fun, make new friends around the world, and enhance their experience in Rotary.

Rotary Fellowships began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in the international language Esperanto joined together. In 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary flag from their crafts, calling themselves the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians — which now holds the distinction of being the oldest continuing fellowship. The scope of fellowships has changed significantly over the years, but their purpose remains the same: to unite Rotarians in friendship and provide opportunities to enjoy favorite recreational or professional activities.

Many fellowships also use their special interests to serve others. For example, the Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians has organized cleanups of polluted rivers; members of the International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians conduct training sessions for Rotarians and others in their community; and members of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Scuba Divers join local Rotary clubs to undertake service projects on each of their diving trips.

Rotary International has established specific policies for forming a Rotary Fellowship. The RI Board of Directors evaluates each prospective group before deciding whether to formally recognize it. However, each fellowship operates independently of RI, with its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure. Membership is open to all Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors.

To learn about the fellowships currently recognized by RI, go to www.rotary.org/fellowships. You will find a listing of existing fellowships, as well as a directory that includes contact information for each group. To learn more about a particular fellowship, or to inquire about joining, contact the group directly. Members will be happy to hear from you!



These logos represent just a few of the Rotary Fellowships.