

DG's NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 9550 - DECEMBER 2014



“Light Up Rotary” December 2014 – Family of Rotary **2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna**

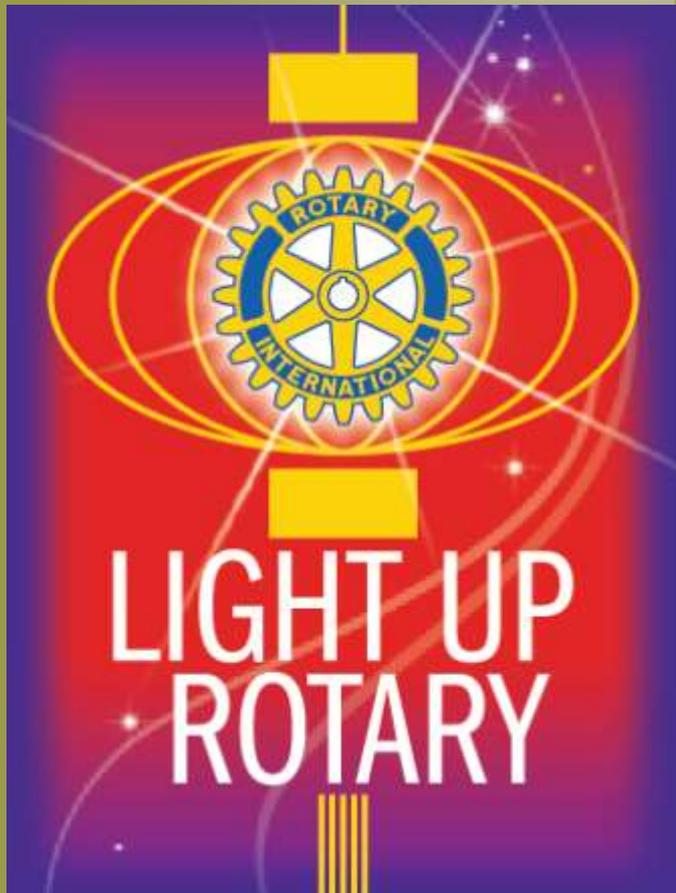
I would like to thank all the Rotary clubs and Rotarians who donated to the Rotary Foundation in November 2014 (The Rotary Foundation Month). I would like to congratulate Mareeba Rotary on their 70th anniversary celebrations. I would like to thank DGE Mike Woods for attending the Mission Beach Rotary Special Meeting for Friends of Rotary. I was informed that the Mission Beach Rotary is expecting at least 5 Friends of Rotary to become Rotarians. I would also like to thank Trent Nolan, District Internet Communication Officer (DICO) for completing 2014-15 D9550 Directory Revision 1.

In November 2014, I attended the Magnetic Island Rotary Ambassador Awards Night (similar to Rotary Pride of Workmanship) and the commissioning of the Mission Beach Interact Club. Since both these attracted non Rotarians, I am hoping that the clubs have taken the opportunity to get new members. 10 worthy recipients received Ambassador Awards and the night was casual and fun. In addition, there was on average 30 participants at the Basic Potential Rotary Leadership Seminar (PRLS) and President Elect Planning Seminar (PEPS) in Darwin, Cairns and Townsville.

Please “Light up Rotary” by recruiting new members.

The following statements are applicable to ninety percent (90%) of clubs and Rotarians:

- Past District Governors have been courteous, helpful and generous with their time. They demonstrated this by buying Lini & I coffee, taking us on a fishing trip and gave us dinner in their homes. It is obvious to me that they are keen to support us and are a great asset to D9550.
- The purpose of District and the reason it exists is to help Rotary Clubs advance the objectives of Rotary. The role of District Leaders is to support Rotary clubs by helping them to be more effective. I would like to thank Assistants Governors and District Chairs for responding to their challenges and carrying out their duties.
- Most clubs realise that if the President Elect and his/her team attend training and do their homework, they will have a dynamic president who will be able to motivate and inspire the members. In other words, members will have a great Rotary year.
- President Elects should attend PRLS, PEPS & PETS and they will be subsidised by district. Secretary Elects are encouraged to attend PRLS, PEPS & PETS, but will not be subsidised by district. Clubs are encouraged to subsidise Secretary Elects attendance.
- Team Assembly is for all Rotarians to attend, in particular the President Elects, Secretary Elects, Board Mem-



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(Cut off date for publication is the
27th of each month)

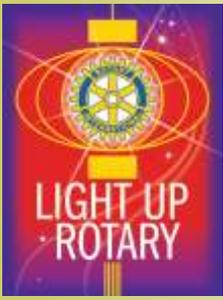
(Management Team) and incoming Club Chairs (Leadership Team). District finances only cover the subsidy of President Elects. Clubs are encouraged to subsidise the Secretary Elects and others.

Please start planning your trip to 2015 District 9550 Conference in Townsville from 01 to 03 May 2015 (only 5 months).

In Rotary, December is Family Month. After the 2014 District Governors Seminar and Institute held in Wellington New Zealand, I am planning to spend 3 weeks with my family who live in Malaysia. I still will be contactable by email, but most probably not by telephone. Please refer any queries to District Secretary Paul Ryan. Vice District Governor Tony Goddard has agreed to act on my behalf if there is anything urgent. Please remember family first, business/work second and Rotary third.

Lini & I wish you & your family a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015". Have fun, enjoy yourself and have a safe journey for those who are travelling.





Presidential Message

GARY C.K. HUANG President 2014-15



December 2014

If you take a look at the Rotary calendar, it's easy to see where our priorities as an organization lie. The Rotary year begins in July; in August we mark Membership Month, in September we celebrate New Generations, October is for vocational service, and so on, turning our attention to different topics that are important in Rotary.

It's a great idea to do this, because it reminds us to talk about subjects that we might otherwise overlook during our busy Rotary year. But we all know that every topic on our calendar – from fellowship to our Foundation – is important. All of them are part of what makes Rotary what it is, and what makes all of us Rotarians.

In Rotary, December is Family Month. Looking back on my years as a Rotarian, I have seen how important family is in Rotary – and how important Rotary can be to our families.

My wife, Corinna, chose to join Rotary just a few months ago, after many years as a Rotary spouse. All three of our children are also Rotarians. All of them joined their own club, in their own time. All of them have found unique interests in Rotary. As we have watched them find their own paths, we have been struck by how wonderful it is to have so many members of our family involved in Rotary service.

Rotary gives us something good that we can all do together. With Rotary, we always have interesting things to talk about at dinner. We are all involved in different service, in different clubs, so when we sit down together, we are talking about humanitarian needs of every kind, in every part of the world. There is always something new to learn.

Our conversations are also a wonderful way to teach our children, through our own actions, what is really important in life. They learn about what life is like in different parts of the world, and how all of us have an obligation to help others when we can. I can think of no better lessons to teach our families than the lessons of Rotary service.

I hope that in this Rotary year, many of you will encourage your family members to join Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact. Bringing your family into Rotary doesn't just Light Up Rotary – it lights up your own lives as well. “

“PDG NOEL TREVASKIS, NOMINATED AS RI DIRECTOR FOR 2016-18”

From Rotary District 9710 - District Serviette, Oct 14, Issue 4

Noel joined Rotary as a member of the Rotary Club of Goulburn Argyle in 1996; he is now a member of the Rotary Club of Bega.



During his year as President, Noel became involved with Australian Rotary Health and the program of Community Mental Health Awareness Forums. Noel was one of the most sought after speakers for the program, travelling around Australia telling his story to help raise awareness of Mental Health and to help break down the stigma attached to this illness. In 2005 Noel was recognized for his efforts to de-stigmatise Mental Illness when he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia.

He is still in high demand by all areas of media, nationally and internationally to speak about mental health issues.

In 2003 Rotary International awarded Noel the Service Above Self Award, the highest individual award a Rotarian can receive.

Noel served as District Governor for District 9710 in the year 2005-06. In 2007 Noel was the Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator for Zone 8; a position he held for two years. In 2011 he was appointed to the position of Rotary Coordinator for part of Zone 8, concluding on June 30th 2014. Currently, Noel is the Project Lead for Membership Development for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. In 2013 Noel was appointed to the Rotary International Advisory Committee for Membership Development, a position he will hold until 2016. Noel has filled the role of RI President's Personal Representative on five occasions at District Conferences.

Sue is a nurse and works for an aged nursing care facility where she works with people with dementia and does palliative care. She has always had a real passion to help and work with people who have disabilities and the aged. Sue also volunteers at a local hospital as a support person for patients with dementia. While Sue is not a Rotarian, she is involved in the Rotary Youth Personal Enrichment program for District 9710, as well as supporting Australian Rotary Health.

Both Noel and Sue have been recognised as Paul Harris Fellows.

In their free time they spend time with their family and enjoy working in their garden. Noel recently retired after a lifetime working in the agricultural industry in marketing and sales management.

Noel's appointment as a Director is wonderful recognition for his dedication to Rotary.



ROMAC
 Rotary
 Oceania Medical
 Aid for Children
 A Program of the Rotary Districts
 of Australia and New Zealand

24 November 2014

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children is a charity (under the Rotary International banner) which provides lifesaving and dignity restoring surgery to children from developing countries. To date we have treated more than 384 children for a variety of life threatening and dignity destroying illnesses.

Since July 2014 District Governor Moorthy Karuna's wife Lini has been the ambassador for ROMAC in district 9550. While travelling with Moorthy, Lini has encouraged clubs to donate to ROMAC so that more children's lives can be saved

In this our 26th year, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children for will continue to provide lifesaving surgeries for disadvantaged children from the Asia/Pacific region. Soon ROMAC will treat the 100th child from Timor and we will pass the 400th child treated. The best way to relate how ROMAC saves lives is to tell you a real life story.



Finova, was a 21 month old girl from Timor Leste when ROMAC brought her to Australia for life saving surgery. A long standing Choledochal cyst which continually threatened Finova's life. She had been treated in both Timor and Bali for recurrent episodes of jaundice but her condition didn't improve, she was extremely ill and weighted only 6.6 kilograms on arrival at the Canberra hospital.

Following an extensive consultation the doctors decided that for Finova to have the best chance of survival she should be transferred to the Sydney Children's Hospital. While there she had her abdominal cyst drained and a few days later she was stabilised sufficiently to be transferred back to Canberra hospital where the focus was on restoring her nutrition in preparation for a laparotomy and removal of her large Choledochal cyst back at the Sydney Hospital. Although Finova's recovery was slow she has progressed without incident and now healthy she has returned to Timor Leste. On discharge from the Canberra Hospital Finova weighted 8.15Kg. She is now eating and living a normal life.

To save the life of a child such as Finova ROMAC pays the hospital fees, travel and accommodation but thanks to the generosity of surgeons, nurses, ROMAC volunteers, Rotary Clubs and many other individuals who give their time and money to help save a child's life these fees are kept to a minimum. ROMAC's success over the past 25 years has given Rotary International and ROMAC a strong positive reputation in developing countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

My request to you:

Australian Patron
 Max Walker A M

New Zealand Patron
 Past Rotary
 International President
 Bill Boyd

This letter is from

ROMAC Chair
 Brendan Porter
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**Rotary Oceania
 Medical Aid for
 Children Ltd**
 PO Box 779
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Thanks to Lini and Marion Goddard before her more clubs are donating to ROMAC. Most people who read this letter will not know who I am and in all honesty who I am is irrelevant. What is important is my values; and, like you I want "To Do Good InThe World," My Rotary International route to do this is through our great Australian and New Zealand Charity ROMAC.

As we enter the Christmas season I ask you to help us save another child's life by reaching out to children from developing countries who will die without our help.

I urge Rotary Clubs to donate as much as they can to ROMAC for the next 3 years. This will assist us to bring children to Australia and New Zealand who have been waiting for a long time for lifesaving and dignity restoring surgeries.

I also ask every Rotarian to consider donating \$5 or more per month to ROMAC. People often ask me how can I make a difference, the answer is simple donate to ROMAC and we will ensure that children's lives are saved. This can be done by going to romac.org.au and filling out your details and nominating how much you would like to donate. You will receive a receipt within minutes of doing this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lini and Marion for their great service. Last year with Marion's effort we raised more than double the best funds raised ever, enough to save a child's life. I urge you to support Lini to help her raise the full cost of a surgery which would save a child's life. In our 2014/2015 year ROMAC will bring a child from Vanuatu to be treated in The Mater Hospital Townsville. The Mater and surgeon Dr Harry Stalewski have agreed to complete the surgery Pro Bono.

ROMAC is very appreciative of the support given by Rotary Clubs across District 9550. Lini knows that with your support ROMAC can save even more children's lives that is why she chose it as her special project..

We thank you for your continued support.

PDG Brendan Porter
Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children
Chairman 2013-2016
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