

# ***DG's NEWSLETTER***

## ***DISTRICT 9550 - APRIL 2015***



### **“Light Up Rotary” April 2015 – Magazine Month** **2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna**

In these changing times one is constantly bombarded with information some of which is useful while some maybe considered interesting but not essential. Our organisation like any other, has to change to ensure it continues to remain relevant in such a dynamic environment. It therefore is incumbent on all of us to both know and understand these changes and to remain updated. In Rotary there is a myriad of communication channels by which these changes are being communicated. Our Club Bulletin, Assistant Governors Newsletters, District Governor's Newsletter, District 9550 News, Rotary on the Move, Rotary Down Under (RDU) and The Rotarian to name a few. Really there is absolutely no reason why all Rotarians should not be kept fully informed. These are valuable resources especially for our new Rotarians however it would also be prudent that all Rotarians no matter how long they have been members, also to update themselves. Who knows they may be surprised to see some of their previous views or past understanding of rules and requirements are now outdated. As District Governor and as a Rotary member I ask you to take a few minutes to read some of the articles and information being circulated. It might give ideas on how to improve membership, run a successful project etc. and even motivate you to become a better Rotarian. In addition if you visit the Rotary International Website, District 9550 Website and your Club Website, you will be able to access relevant information. If everything fails, please remember Google is your best friend to access Rotary information.

The Conference Committee has put a lot of effort to organise this year's 2014-15 Rotary District 9550 conference. It will be different. In addition to the Plenary Sessions on the Saturday there will be a number of very interesting and inspirational speakers throughout the conference. The conference scope is to “Light up Rotary” and the committee believes that this conference will certainly achieve that and hopefully those attending will leave the conference re energised, inspired and motivated.

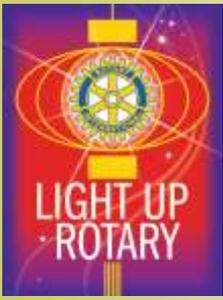
We have incorporated new ideas in the hope of not only making this conference enjoyable but to try and involve the community. Getting this community involvement and “show casing” what Rotary does not only locally but globally will attract more people wanting to join our organisation. You and your club also have an opportunity to showcase what your club has achieved or is working on. Simply provide a quality video / DVD (maximum 5 minutes) highlighting a signature project that your club has been working on or completed and we will play it during the conference.

This conference and its success depends on your attendance. Please support by attending the 2015 Rotary International District 9550 Conference Townsville (01-03 May 2015). We are hoping to get 200 or more participants, but the numbers are a bit low.

The DG's Gala Dinner is going to be a fun night with very little formality. As District Governor, I will be presenting Rotary International Awards however this will be brief. Please remember for catering purpose we are closing the registration earlier.

On a more sombre note as we approach ANZAC day, I know you will all join with me to reflect and pray for those who fought and gave their life at Gallipoli and all the other conflicts before and since. We should never forget and never take their ultimate sacrifice for granted. Our way of life in this great country of ours is enjoyed by all of us and is the envy of so many. We can never forget that this freedom has come at a huge price. So as Rotarians let us not forget and spend some time in reflection and pray.

Since it is Magazine Month, please contribute articles or at the very least read the articles that are available **AND “LIGHT UP ROTARY”.**



# Presidential Message

GARY C.K. HUANG President 2014-15



## April 2015 Presidential message

Today, there are so many more ways to communicate than ever before. In the age of video conferences and instant messages, we can work together from almost anywhere, and always be in touch; we can share our Rotary work on Facebook, on Twitter, and on Rotary.org. But there will always be a tremendously important role for the magazine that you are holding in your hands – or reading on an electronic device – right now.

*The Rotarian* is one of the oldest continuously published magazines in the world, with an unbroken publication history dating back to its first issue, featuring Paul Harris as a contributor, in 1911. Back then, the magazine was printed in black and white, and was only a few pages. The type was small, the pictures were few, and the advertisements were for piano dealers, haberdashers, and a hotel fully equipped with hot and cold running water!

Now, you can read *The Rotarian* on your phone or tablet, and regional magazines are published in 24 languages. Seventeen Nobel Prize winners and 19 Pulitzer Prize winners have written for the magazine, including Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu, George Bernard Shaw, and Nicholas Murray Butler. Every month, *The Rotarian* brings us a snapshot of the best of the Rotary world: It engages, entertains, enlightens, and inspires.

In an age of constant communication, with so many ways to find new information, do we still need a Rotary magazine? Absolutely. Because the magazine is now, as it has always been, one of the best ways to spread the word about Rotary. It has allowed me to share the fun and excitement of Rotary Days, it showcases the good work of Rotarians around the world, and it puts a spotlight on important issues affecting us all. *The Rotarian* isn't just enjoyable for Rotarians – it's a great way to boost Rotary's public image, and show the world the work that Rotarians do.

So when you're done reading this issue, pass it along. Ask yourself who might be particularly interested in this month's articles. Give the issue to a friend, a co-worker, or a colleague. Share it with someone you've invited to a Rotary club meeting. Visit [www.therotarianmagazine.com](http://www.therotarianmagazine.com) to share stories on social media, or send links through email. Use it to *Light Up Rotary* – just as Rotarians have been doing for more than 100 years.



# LIGHT UP ROTARY

District 9550 conference  
1-3 May 2015  
Townsville



District 9550 Conference, Townsville

With just over three weeks to go for the District 9550 conference the committee is gearing up to welcome you to Townsville for three days that will keep you engaged, educated, entertained and informed.

If you have not registered I urge you to sign up now for a totally new conference experience in District 9550 from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd May 2015!

District Governor Moorthy Karuna said, "Lets Light Up this conference for our members and shine a light on Rotary that will attract members of the public to our conference".

With an eclectic group of speakers for the business session and a superb themed gala dinner— Bollywood comes to Townsville!

Saturday at Rydges Southbank Conference Centre will see motivational speakers, story tellers and sporting legends that will attract you and non Rotarians.

Here is a rare opportunity to engage with two speakers of national and international acclaim. Speakers who in their respective fields of leadership, education and story telling are highly sort of after.

### **Dr Neil Carrington**

is a Leadership Master Class presenter and was the Foundation National Director of the Leadership Centre for the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). Dr Carrington was a Harvard Club of Australia Fellow 2012-13 and was awarded a prestigious scholarship to attend the CEO program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business.

Neil Carrington is the CEO of Act for Kids, an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting vulnerable children and families. Act for Kids has provided free therapy and services to treat and prevent child abuse and neglect for over 25 years.

In the past three years Neil has personally raised over \$1,000,000 for Act for Kids by donating his speaking fees from educational and corporate events.

### **Boori (Monty) Pryor**

is a storyteller, writer and performer. He was born in Townsville, North Queensland in 1950. His father is of the Birri-gubba people from the Bowen region and his mother, from Yarrabah near Cairns, is Kunggandji.

A multi-talented performer and an articulate public speaker on Aboriginal issues, Boori has worked in numerous industries, including education, film, television, modeling, sport and music. He has played in two World Masters Games in basketball competition, winning a Silver Medal for Australia in 1994.

Boori was made an inaugural Australian Children's Laureate and is in great demand as a public speaker and story-teller, and travels extensively throughout Australia and overseas year round to perform for school students and professional adult groups.

### **Bollywood comes to Townsville**

The Gala Dinner will be a night to remember. A scrumptious gourmet dinner menu set in the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Master chefs eat your heart out! We have got one of Townsville's top event caterers and while your sampling their gourmet delights be prepared for some unique entertainment surprises.

Then to top it all Bollywood comes to District 9550 Conference—Bright, colourful and vibrant rhythms that will light up the evening for one and all.

This is just not another conference. We are looking to give you an experience that will Light up your heart, Light up Rotary! We encourage you to bring your self, bring your friends and let them see Rotary shine for the future!

## MEMBERSHIP

Rotarians, during March I was able to run a special Membership Workshop at Cairns, Townsville and Darwin which was run in conjunction with PETS training on those weekends. It was great to see the commitment by those in attendance at each of the hubs to being able to provide hundreds of ideas on how clubs can increase membership within our District.

Membership levels have never been as critical and important as they are right now. Our District has been put on notice along with one other District in Australia to get our numbers up to 1100 which they should have been by last December or face the possible prospect of redistricting. As of the end of February our membership stood at 1021 members, a slight increase over the previous month. Our District Governor Moorthy Karuna had to prepare a lengthy submission on behalf of our District to Rotary International on membership in our District and what we are doing about it.

It is up to not just clubs but a commitment by every Rotarian in our District to encourage new members to join our great organisation. Many of the points raised discussed, chasing the young professional, making them welcome, giving new members a job, mentors for new members along with discounted or free membership in their first year.

I currently have a very large list of ideas and the various concepts discussed at the three hubs. If anyone would like a copy of these, please email me at [amgod-dard@bigpond.com](mailto:amgod-dard@bigpond.com) and I will forward a copy to you.

I thank those of you who turned up at the membership workshops for your attendance and input and it is great to see the many points raised will no doubt contribute to an increase in membership particularly with your clubs. Your commitment to this important area of Rotary is greatly appreciated and most relevant to our organisation as we move ahead. A major increase in membership will certainly ensure the growth of Rotary in our communities and the obvious commitment of our members towards making clubs 'Greater and Better'.

An interesting and a little sad point I make here also is at one of the hubs where a Rotarian was asked on the day of the workshop in their hub whether that member would be attending the workshop that night. The reply was that this was the first the member had heard about it. All I can say is that this is a little 'porky pie', as the event was discussed at District Leaders training a couple of weeks earlier in which the member was in attendance and it was also well advertised through Face book and DG Newsletters beforehand.

I do know that this member was heading to a major sporting event on the night with which I have no problem with. It is only the denial of knowledge of the training I have an issue with. It is also well known that the particular member is a Membership chair for their own club and I will watch with interest of the future membership growth within that club. I would suggest a visit to the 4 Way test would also be worthwhile considering again.

Yours in Rotary, Tony Goddard, District Membership Chair, PDG D9550

## PLANET EARTH 2040...

### Living Beyond our Means in a Crowded House...

2014 heralded the birth of over 180 million babies, thus keeping Mankind “On track” for the “Un-declared / Un-budgetted “Goal”” of 25% growth in the next 25 years.

Is such growth *necessary*, given that the only clear threat to the continued existence of the Human Species is mankind itself?

Is such growth *desirable*? Over 60 million babies were born into squalor or poverty, plus millions more to unfit parents, or by unplanned pregnancy, with little hope of a “decent” life...

And what of the “House” into which they have been delivered – Planet Earth? CO2 levels are on track to lift Global Warming by about 4 degrees Celsius by 2040, driven mainly by China and India’s goal of cheap coal-fired electricity to 3 billion of their population.

On the land, we have felled almost 50% of forests. The trees which used to replace CO2 with Oxygen have been replaced mainly by cattle and rice, which produce as much CO2 and Methane as all the engines on the planet. (This will only worsen as the need for food doubles by 2040.)

Ocean temperature rise is driving sea level rise of about ½ metre by 2040. This, coupled with exponential rise in ocean acidity is a breeding ground for highly toxic algae, killing mangroves and coral and disrupting breeding cycles of critical marine species.

Collectively, this degradation of natural habitats is sending about 10 000 species

of plants and animals to extinction each year – species that were here long before us.

Surely it is time for Mankind to see that *there is a problem – indeed that we are the problem*, with hugely complex and costly long-term consequences to all species, which won’t be allayed with the “Bandaids” fixes currently being mooted by Politicians and media.

Rotary is uniquely positioned to start this global conversation about population growth...

Do we have the will or the courage?

Bill Kennedy

Mundingburra Rotary



## **A Gallipoli Story by an amateur historian (Rotary Foundation Chair Greg Marlow)**

Within District 9550, we have a number of serving and ex-service men and women. There are quite a few of our 1020 members who have some connection to Gallipoli through forebears who fought at ANZAC Cove. This is just one of those connections.

In 1914, my Grandfather and three of his brothers emigrated from Devon, England to Perth in Western Australia. Six months later, King George V went to war with his cousin, Kaiser Willem II. Being Englishmen, the brothers enlisted. One joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, whilst the other three joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion. They trained at Blackboy Hill on the outskirts of Perth, boarded ships and sailed for Egypt for further training.

The brother who enlisted with the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion went ashore at ANZAC Cove on April 25. He was one of the groups who reached the furthest point inland on that first day, a hill called Baby 700. The ANZAC's never got further than on that day. They went over the top of the hill, coming across a contingent of Turkish troops. If the Australians had got through, the peninsular would have been theirs. They weren't to know how few of the Turks were actually there. The Aussies paused for reinforcements. The Turks fought back.

Uncle Bill was killed at Baby700, and is buried at the cemetery there. He was 24 years old.

Two of the brothers in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived at Gallipoli in September. Grandad was medevac'd to Port Said with dysentery (which a lot of the soldiers suffered due to the lack of hygiene and the unburied bodies. Flies were a problem). Two brothers sailed from Alexandria to Marseilles in March 1916, then boarded trains for the Western Front. Grandad returned to the frontline in March 1917. All three were wounded in action, two of them twice.

Uncle Jack was killed 29 August 1918 and buried in Peronne. He was 25 years old

The remaining two brothers went on leave in October.

The Armistice was signed at 05:00 on 11 November 1918 on a railway carriage in a siding in the forest at Compiegne, 60km north of Paris, to come into effect at 11:00. The Great War had come to an end

Lest we forget



## Lest we forget

World War 2 on the Atherton Tablelands.

Rocky Creek Igloo, situated on Frazer Rd Tolga between Atherton and Mareeba in Far North Queensland, was built at an entertainment venue in 1943 to service the troops training and hospitalised on the Atherton Tablelands. The site, which housed a mainly tented hospital, It was established as the biggest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere at this time. Medical staff nursed the sick and injured returning from the Pacific. Malaria, dysentery and dengue fever were common as well as the injuries of war. Divisions of troops were stationed in the area to train in jungle warfare needed to defend our northern shores and the Pacific.

Hundreds of thousands of troops passed through the Tablelands in the years 1943-45. The Atherton Cemetery has an extensive section of war graves marked with uniform white granite headstones.

The Rotary Club of Atherton has taken on the challenge to restore the Rocky Creek Igloo to remember and honour the significant role and sacrifice that our area and its people played during these years. The parabolic arches of the WW2 igloo are being replaced after weather and nature has taken its toll over the intervening years. The building is heritage listed so we are working to replace 'like with like' building materials. About one third of the curved iron roof has been replaced in the last 6 months. Work is progressing steadily as funds will allow.

The official launch of the project on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015 marks the beginning of public fundraising. Rotary Club of Atherton will celebrate ANZAC day at the igloo this year. Donations can be made to the project through [www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au) or EFT Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and nominating the Rotary Club of Atherton Rocky Creek Igloo Restoration.

Jo Barnes

Secretary Rocky Creek Igloo Restoration Project



## The Legacy of the ANZAC Spirit

I believe that the ANZAC spirit, epitomised on the battlefields of Turkey and France, lives on today in Australia, including within our Rotary Clubs. This spirit is often described in a range of value words, including endurance, courage, good humour, larrikinism, mateship, and egalitarian.

We can all think of people we know who exemplify these values. The Australian Army currently articulates a series of key values which include courage, initiative, respect and teamwork. My experiences, including on operational deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor, with both Australian and New Zealand soldiers, has confirmed that the current serving soldiers strive to live up to the examples set by the ANZACs.

I have found these same ANZAC qualities displayed by the members of my Rotary Club and I am sure by all other Clubs. The Club works well as a team with solid Board leadership (thanks Brett, Tony, Steve, Dave, Allan, John, the rest of you!) from active community members and they provide the opportunity for all members to contribute. The Club offers both the opportunity to display and to collectively further develop these values in our local district. The international perspective is wide within our Club and is visible through the active membership involvement in; O/S projects in PNG and Timor Leste but particularly at the hospital in Kokoda, PNG; the student exchanges to every continent including currently to Belgium and recently from Japan (thanks Doug/Brian) and the financial support provided to local Townsville people making a difference in Vietnamese orphanages.

It is however the local approach of the Club that is the strength of Rotary in my mind. While thinking and acting internationally, they are focussed locally. The support provided by Sunrise to local a Townsville and North a Qld charities, causes and projects is significant and worthwhile in the community. From local BBQs (thanks Dave), to the car raffle (thanks Steve), cleaning Australia (thanks Dobbo/Brendan) to a myriad of other works, Sunrise by itself and with other Rotary Clubs and community organisations, provides local support and community leadership.

Helping those in difficulty for more than twenty four years, as Sunrise has done, displays endurance and mateship. There are few in the Rotary family who have not heard of the Sunrise larrikins and many a District Governor who undertakes their conference speech in fear of a Sunrise 'humour ambush'. Well generally humorous! The egalitarian spirit remains strong in the Club and well supported by those in Authority in Rotary, in spite of Sunrise Rotarians attempts to make them lose their cool. The respect for all, regardless of standing, and a fearless sense of what is right and how to help, are what keeps Rotary Clubs alive to achieve the vision of Rotary.

When I march on ANZAC Day in 2015, commemorating 100 years since the original ANZACs, after 35 years military service and over 20 years in Rotary, I remember those who have served Australia. I think of the ANZACs I have read about, knew, know now and their families. I think of my grandfather, buried at Tobruk, leaving a widow and eight children behind. Throughout the services on the day, I think of the values embedded in our society and thank those who give support to those in need. This makes me think of Rotary and the Rotarians I know, providing consistent, unsung support their communities, locally, nationally and internationally with humour and mateship. I remain in awe of our soldiers in uniform and in awe of the good things that groups in communities can do when working as motivated teams. I speak from my observations of one Club but I know this good work, undertaken by great people, is consistent throughout Rotary and aligns with Paul Harris' vision. Thank you Rotary for allowing me to join and serve as best I can within your ranks. The example Rotarians set through words and deeds mirrors the values of ANZAC.

Lest we forget.

Mick Reilly - Rotary Club of Townsville Sunrise