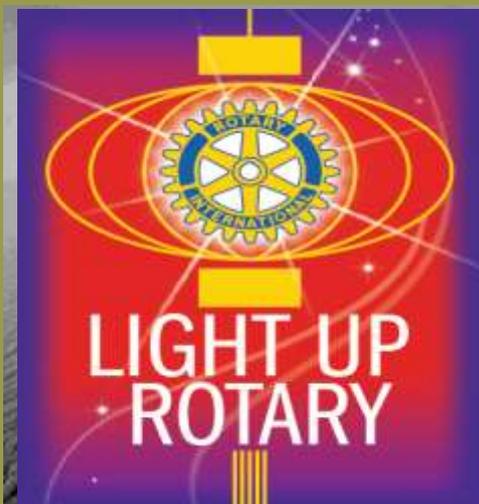


DG's NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 9550 - AUGUST 2014



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Rotary Foundation – District 9550 giving in 2013/2014 ends well for most.

District 9550 Rotary Foundation Chair Greg Marlow

For the Rotary year just ended, contributions from District 9550 totalled \$ 202727.33 ! This was made up of \$ 2000 to the Endowment Fund \$ 65142.05 to Polio Plus and \$ 135585.28 to Annual Programs. On a per capita or per head basis, Annual Programs was \$ 130.62, a slight improvement on \$ 128.22 the previous year.

There were seven clubs in the District that contributed more than \$ 10 000. **Congratulations** go to; Darwin, Townsville Sunrise, Tennant Creek, Darwin South, Mount Isa, Mareeba and Cairns Sunrise. Our goals for 2013-2014 were \$ 67500 for PolioPlus or \$ 1500 per club, and \$ 175000 for Annual Programs.

Considering there were **16 clubs that made NO contribution to PolioPlus**, that would have been an extra \$ 24000 ! There were **12 clubs that made NO contri-**

bution to Annual Programs, which would have meant an extra \$ 24000 !

District 9550 has a Strategic Plan that asks for 500 members being Every Rotarian Every Year donors. In 2013-14, we had 288 EREY members ! Achieving that goal would have meant an additional \$ 21200 to Annual Programs.

What does all of this mean ? There are some clubs punching well above their weight. There are at least 12 clubs who should be examining themselves and their Rotary Foundation goals and making every effort to make a contribution. I know who you are, and I'll be contacting your club president to ask them how they can improve.

This District should be able to achieve at least \$ 250 000 in total giving each year, easily. If we all pull together and make a commitment to our charity.

“Light Up Rotary” July 2014 - Club Visits **2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna**

Up until the 24 July 2014, I had visited 12 clubs in Darwin, Katherine, Dili Timor Leste, Nhulunbuy (Gove), Thursday Island, Airlie Beach, Proserpine and Ayr. I also visited Rotaract clubs in Aileu and Dili, Timor Leste. I have travelled more than 11,000 kms and it was great to meet Rotarians, friends of Rotary and Rotaractors who were friendly, hospitable and respectful. My wife Lini accompanied me to most of the club visits.

On our first club visit to Darwin South Rotary there were lots of fireworks in Darwin, because it was Northern Territory Day. What a great way to welcome 2014-2015 Rotary Year with the theme ‘**LIGHT UP ROTARY**’! Darwin Sunrise had their Changeover Dinner in a Chinese Restaurant which started with a traditional Chinese Lion Dance. A member from Darwin Sunrise Rotary requested Lini to wear a sari to their club meeting. One of their members, also dressed in a sari welcomed members and guests in a traditional Indian style with a welcome light. Proserpine Rotary had lit up candles in their meeting venue during my club visit.

Most clubs agree that working as a team is important and members did the “Happy Clap”. Most boards were familiar and understood the following protocol:

- District Governor and Assistant Governor were guests at their board and club meetings.
 - Presidents/Secretaries have been asked to communicate with their Assistant Governors.
- In addition to club weekly bulletins, the DG’s monthly newsletters which have relevant information should be forwarded to members.
- A few clubs have Annual Reports at Changeover Dinners (please refer to an example in DG’s Newsletter). A Club Plan with a budget indicates the club’s intentions at the start of the year and the Annual Report reflects the achievements for the year. These give a snapshot of the club to new/potential members.
 - Trainings in District 9550 have been motivational to Club Presidents and Board Members and have encouraged them to keep up with the changes in the Rotary world.
 - Clubs and Rotarians are encouraged to support Rotary Foundation (Rotary’s own charity) and End Polio Now (Our largest World Health initiative).
 - Fun is a very important ingredient that should be part of all meetings and social events.

If Rotarians enjoy Rotary, they will not hesitate to introduce their friends into Rotary. Since July 2014 is Projects Month, I stayed a few nights in Dili Timor Leste and together with Dili Rotarians I visited more than 10 projects. Rotary is an international organisation and if possible I encourage you to get involved in an international project like assisting Dili Rotary, Timor Leste or through Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) or The Rotary Foundation Grants.

With all your support, I am hoping to implement small improvements to “Light Up Rotary”. Please make a diary note that the 2015 District 9550 Conference will be held in Townsville from Friday 01 to Sunday 03 May 2015.

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

On Wednesday 18 June 2014, when I got back from my walk there were 2 ambulances outside my neighbour’s house. I found out that my 50 year old neighbour passed away. This reminded me that life is too short.

My wife Lini, daughter Karminee and I enjoyed a half day boat trip to Katherine Gorge with breath taking views. I had a great dinner with a Rotarian at Outback Lodge Nhulunbuy. On Friday 18 July 2014, the service on Qantas flight from Cairns to Thursday Island was excellent. So far the best hotel I stayed was the Grand Hotel in Thursday Island.

In addition to our club visits, we appreciated the meaning of the Rotary Family when Rotarians organised a fishing trip to Corroboree Billabong in Darwin and an informal dinner at the Trail Boat Club Darwin. We did not catch any fish, but had a great time and sighted some crocodiles and a few authentic birds. I really enjoyed the home hosting in Dili Timor Leste, informal lunch in a member’s house in Dili Timor Leste, and the overnight trip to the Cooperative Café (Timor’s Coffee Wet Processing Facility) and the Guest House in Maubisse Timor Leste. A friend of Rotary took me on a half day trip around Nhulunbuy. We visited Yirrkala, Gunyangara (where we saw people making Yidaki - didgeridoos), Catalina, Galupu and Wallaby Beach (houses with asbestos being occupied).

A Rotarian in Darwin mentioned that he might be able to help Rotarians find employment. It makes me happy that Rotarians in District 9550 are looking after their mates, especially those who are having financial difficulties due to economic downturn. Rotary International District 9550 Australia and Timor Leste should be proud because the Rotary Family is alive and well....

remember **Life Is Too Short!**





Rotary Youth Leadership Awards District 9550



RYLA PRESS RELEASE

Sometimes it's difficult for Rotary Clubs to find candidates for many of the great Youth Programs offered by Rotary, such as RYLA.

'Rotary develops our future leaders'

Rotary is currently seeking nominations from young people aged 19-29 years for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). Nominations close on August 29th 2014.

Do you want to change your life? Do you want to change the world? Have you tapped into your true potential? Would you like to meet new friends, find inspiration and motivation, and experience life from a different perspective? If this is you, don't miss the opportunity to be part of RYLA 2014

RYLA is part of a unique youth program sponsored by Rotary International which works with young adults from a variety of backgrounds to promote the development of personal and professional leadership skills.

RYLA offers an exciting combination of energetic team leaders, motivational speakers, self-development activities and three days of interaction and fun. Awardees take three days away from their usual work or study and are given a real opportunity to step out of their 'comfort zone' and push beyond their personal boundaries in a friendly and supportive environment. The life tools, confidence and personal development gained are invaluable to the individual participants and are qualities that can be taken out of RYLA and back into daily life and work.

If you already know someone who has been to RYLA, you will have seen the difference that this unique program makes. This year, it could be you.

Employers, why not invest in your most valuable resource and the potential future leaders of our country? RYLA will benefit not only your employees but also your business. Rotary welcomes you as a full or co-sponsor of RYLA.

Motivated individuals, organisations and companies can contact the President of the Rotary Club of *[insert name]*, *[insert President's name]*, on *[insert telephone number]* or RYLA District Chairman - Steve Jenkosky on (0408) 771-677.

For more information visit our website at <http://www.d9550rotary.org.au/> and following the links to Youth Service - > RYLA