

DG's NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 9550 - OCTOBER 2014



“Light Up Rotary” October 2014

– Australian Rotary Health 2014-15 District 9550 DG Moorthy Karuna

INI AND I ENJOYED, HAD FUN AND HAVE COMPLETED ALL THE DG'S CLUB VISITS. WE MET MANY GREAT ROTARIANS AND FRIENDS OF ROTARY WHO WERE VERY FRIENDLY AND HOSPITABLE.

We also had the opportunity to attend the Tully Rotary Club's “Take a Kid Fishing Day” which we enjoyed and had fun. After 9 years this could become a **SIGNATURE PROJECT** for Tully Rotary. This year, there were 126 participants ranging from toddlers to teenagers. Geographically Rotary International District 9550 Australia and Timor Leste is one of the most diverse Rotary Districts in the world, covering 1.5 million square kilometres. I have travelled more than 20,000 kilometres, and would like to thank the Assistant Governors for accompanying me to the DG's Board Meetings and Club Meetings.

I ENCOURAGED ALL CLUBS TO BE FLEXIBLE, AND TO EMBRACE CHANGE (THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX), HAVE FUN AT CLUB MEETINGS/WORKING BEES AND BE INCLUSIVE NOT ONLY WITH EXISTING MEMBERS, BUT ALSO TO POTENTIAL AND NEW MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, ETHNIC AND FINANCIAL BACKGROUNDS ETC.

Since feedback is the breakfast for champions, I would like to report that less than 10% of the clubs in District 9550:

- requested not to change the day of the meeting (for example Tuesday, which happens to be the most popular meeting day in District 9550)
- requested not to take part in the “happy clap”
- did not consider the District Governor and Assistant Governor as their guests during the DG's Official Club Visit
- were very serious and did not appear to have fun during club meetings, were very strong in tradition and set in their ways, and even had directors' reports that were time consuming and irrelevant to guests and the occasion

The following are some of the concerns raised at DG's Board Meetings:

Existing Members

Currently, the Australian economy is not doing well (mini recession). There are some Rotarians who have lost their jobs and others are facing financial difficulties with their businesses. What could Rotary International and Rotary Clubs do to look after these members?

Younger Members

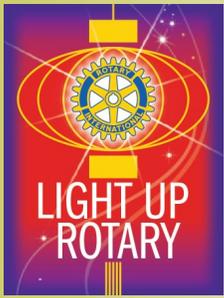
To address a fast changing world and to survive for the next 100 years, Rotarians are expected to be part of the change (think outside the box). Since Rotary is targeting younger people to join Rotary, perhaps Rotary should encourage younger members to undergo training and take up the challenges of becoming Club President and Rotary International President?

Limited resources

With limited resources, would it be more practical to utilise resources towards worthy Rotary Programs/Projects and have a more significant Rotary District Conference and Rotary International Convention, perhaps every three or four years?

PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH HAT DAY ON FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER AND WORLD POLIO DAY ON FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER RESPECTIVELY. REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN BOTH AT MEETINGS, WORKING BEES ETC. BECAUSE IF YOU ARE HAVING FUN AND ENJOYING YOURSELF AT ROTARY, IT WILL BE EASIER TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO BE INTERESTED IN AND JOIN ROTARY.





Presidential Message

GARY C.K. HUANG President 2014-15

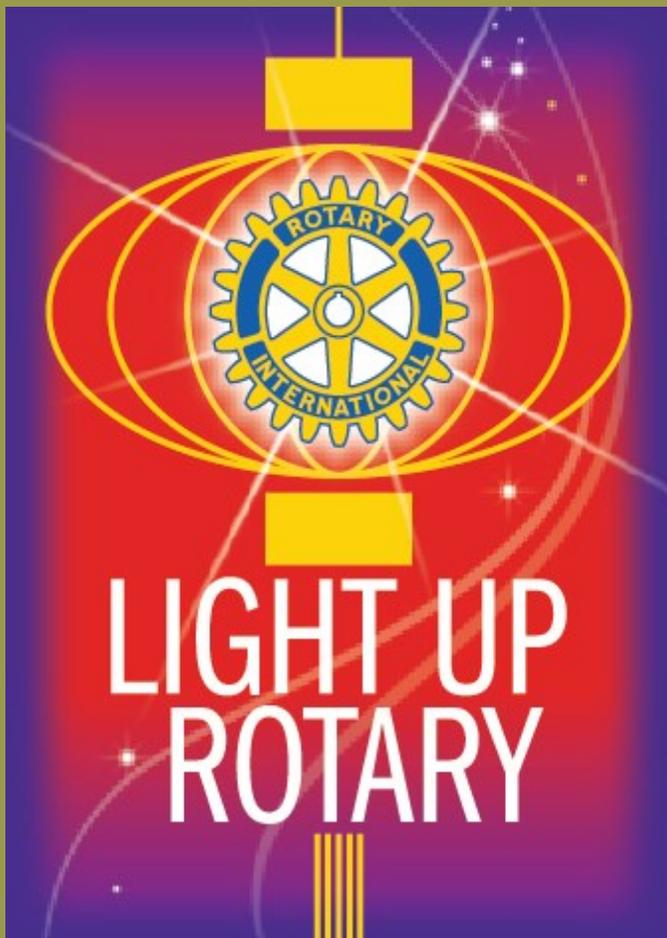


In October 1914, Jonas Salk was born – a man who would change world history by inventing the first effective vaccine against polio. When the vaccine was introduced in the United States in the 1950s, polls indicated that polio was one of the nation's two greatest fears, second only to the fear of atomic war. And with good reason: In the 1952 U.S. polio epidemic, 58,000 cases were reported, with 3,145 deaths and 21,269 instances of permanent, disabling paralysis. Globally, polio paralyzed or killed up to half a million people every year.

Soon after the Salk vaccine was created, Albert Sabin developed an oral version, allowing tremendous numbers of children to be immunized quickly, safely, and inexpensively. In 1985, Rotary's PolioPlus program was born, with a simple goal: to immunize every child under age five against this crippling disease. Thanks in large part to the initial success of PolioPlus, in 1988 the 166 member states of the World Health Assembly unanimously set the goal of global polio eradication. At the time, the idea was breathtakingly ambitious, and many called it impossible. Today, we are closer to this goal than ever before, with only a few hundred cases of polio reported per year, and just three remaining endemic countries. We are on track to achieve full eradication by 2018 – if we can keep up the momentum that has brought us this far. And this month, we will mark World Polio Day on 24 October, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Salk's birth.

I ask you all to Light Up Rotary this month by doing whatever you can to shine a spotlight on our efforts to eradicate polio. Call your government officials and let them know that polio eradication matters to you. Go to endpolionow.org for inspiring stories about Rotary's work, and share them on social media. And make the best investment you'll ever make, by donating to polio eradication right on the endpolionow.org website and earning a two-to-one match on your contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

When we eradicate polio – and we will – we'll have brought the world into a better future, and Rotary into a better future as well. We will have proved ourselves, as an organization, capable of great things. And we will have given our children and grandchildren a gift that will endure forever: a polio-free world.



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

Thank you Greg.....our next result should bring up the \$900 K. We are This Close!

That would mean that a D.9550 originated project has kicked serious goals though we are blessed with powerful friends globally....as the cause of polio eradication is to the forefront of Rotary Cairns.

I was just told this morning to be available Monday at the Rotary Club of London in Mayfair. A BBC Cameraman has been hired to make a Promotion for us...I have to Guest Speak again and others will be interviewed about polio including of course my Global Partner Mukesh Malhotra. We will hold an impromptu WGM too.

RIBI < Rotary in Britain & Ireland Incoming President Eve Conway 2016/17 a TV Producer for the BBC, has decided that RIBI will fund the Presentation. Eve is a serious friend to our Project. The project has been offered great support and for those of you not on Facebook I will be in India for three weeks and then North Carolina for WGM.. Such a thing is beyond our wildest imaginings when our Board approved this Project a year ago. We registered our 49th country this morning, the Solomon Islands and our 620 event....Darwin Sunrise was 619.!

As Your District Polio Chair I do beg you to please keep joining in...our District led the world last Rotary Year and I would really like to maintain the momentum.

www.wgmeal.com. events of any size are sincerely appreciated.

I am writing in support of Greg's PowerPoint and wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of DG Moorthy Karuna, Zone via PDG Joanne Schilling, District 9550 Foundation Chair Greg Marlow and all of my Club Cairns Sunrise led by President Brent Kelly.

Thank you all for supporting this Project and I wish to acknowledge the other 46 Members of our Team including AG Merewyn Wright and Videographer Robert Burgers from Airlie Beach Club.

Susanne Rea,
PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair
03/10/2014

President's Report – The Sunbeam 3rd October 2014

Brett Whitbread, President Townsville Sunrise

We are all aware that times are pretty tough in Townsville. Some are doing it tougher than others. If you see another of our members that are down in the dumps or are struggling, don't forget to ask him how he is. It's more important than ever that we support each other.

District Communications

Paul Ryan, District Secretary

As District Governor I am attempting to try and bring some clarity of messaging to our membership which requires, wherever possible, a limit on the number of emails and newsletters being circulated within District D9550. To this end I have requested the following:-

That the District Governor's Newsletter be the only newsletter generated in District 9550 and circulated to Rotarians which will contain the pertinent information required by the Rotarians. Those who currently use an individual newsletter forward their inclusions to the District Governors Newsletter Editor to be included in this publication.

That information requested to be circulated to our Clubs be channelled through the Assistant Governors and it will be those people who will ultimately communicate to their Presidents and Secretaries and then to the club membership.

Emails need to be succinct in content and if a response is required by the sender then this be done as quickly as possible to avoid follow up emails which can lead to confusion.

That those who have accepted District Leadership roles in the 14-15 year and who will be absent from the role for various reasons provide adequate notice to the DG so he may make alternative arrangements if considered necessary.

District Grant 2014 / 2015

Greg Marlow, District 9550 Rotary Foundation Chair 2013-2016

I'm writing to all members of our District to advise that our application for a District Grant for this year has been approved by the Rotary Foundation in Evanston.

The total amount available this year is \$ 47404 US dollars. Converted to Australian dollars at the official rate for August of \$ 1.07 it was \$ 50722.

The successful Clubs were:

District 9550	\$ 10 145	Proposed Group Study Exchange Team
Atherton	\$ 2 255	Outdoor shelter
Ayr	\$ 3 500	Aged care facilities
Cairns Southside	\$ 2 257	Youth program equipment
Cairns Sunrise	\$ 3 000	Sewing machines in South Africa
Charters Towers	\$ 3 000	Prosthetic hands
Katherine	\$ 1 000	Road safety
Magnetic Island	\$ 2 255	Building renovation
Mount Isa Southwest	\$ 2 500	Literacy program
Mundingburra	\$ 3 800	Nepal hearing project
Tennant Creek	\$ 6 000	Solar lights for Indonesian village

Townsville Central	\$ 2 255	Vietnamese orphanage
Townsville Daybreak	\$ 3 000	Educating Calvin
Townsville Southwest	\$ 2 255	Community bus
Townsville Sunrise	\$ 2 500	Rotary Youth Leadership Award seed
Tully	\$ 1 000	Main street walkway

The Grants subcommittee received 16 proposals from Clubs around District 9550. Four Clubs applied for a second grant. In addition, a contingency of 20 % was set aside for a proposed Group Study Exchange team. **A total of 21 applications were received**, which was up on last year's 11 grants to 10 Clubs.

PDG Ian Lomas and I decided to notify the four clubs with two applications, that they could have one, and to choose which one. There was one application that was funded by a corporate sponsor, and therefore fully funded.

Two applications were for District activities; Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the Rotary Youth Exchange program. After a month of discussion, it was determined that the RYE program had enough funds to run their activities and that Clubs should be funding the second exchange student from Timor L'Este to Brazil. The grant for RYLA is to set the program up for the next three years.

DG Moorthy, Ian and I also looked at the contributions made by the applicant clubs over the past four years, and whether they had set Foundation goals for contributions.

Again this year, we had to **scale back the allocations** to the applications, which will disappoint some clubs. It would be nice to fully fund all the applications, but we don't have the finances to do that. With more clubs applying for a District Grant, there comes a time when limits need to be placed upon the process.

Turning to the proposed Group Study Exchange, DG Moorthy has been trying to partner with another District overseas since attending the International Assembly at San Diego in January this year. If a match can be found, then a visit time will need to be established, and a Team selected. The money is available.

Currently, **there's no deadline on this**, however if the Exchange doesn't go ahead, then the contingency funds **can be made available for further District Grants**. I already have one late application from the first round. We're yet to figure out the process, but it's likely to be a second round of applications.

Any questions, please contact either myself at FoundChair@d9550rotary.org.au or Grants Sub-chair PDG Ian Lomas at FoundGrants@d9550rotary.org.au