



DG Wayne Morris  
Rotary Club of Honiara

# District Governors' Newsletter



## District 9600

**November 2008**

District 9600 Website:  
[www.rotary9600.org](http://www.rotary9600.org)

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## Wayne's Words

What a pleasure it was to charter the Rotary Club of North Lakes on 25 October the first Club to be chartered in our District since 2004, a thank you to Brian Kennedy and the Rotary Club of Albany Creek for ensuring this happened and of course PDG Michael Gregory for having the foresight to commence the survey. I wish President Matt and his team all the best for the future and have no doubt with the enthusiasm they have it will be a very successful club. I have asked Dorothy Butterworth President of Aspley Club to conduct a survey at the Brisbane Airport/DFO area; with more than 15,000 people working there we should be able to generate enough interest to charter a club.

This month is Rotary Foundation month and I encourage all Rotarians to make "Our Charity" their charity of first choice, only by continuing to support the Foundation can we continue with the great work we as Rotarians can do through matching grants, Ambassadorial and Peace scholars, Group Study Exchange and of course our major challenge Polio Eradication. I thank those clubs and Rotarians who have participated in the Rotary Club of Aspley wine project, over \$11,000 has been collected for Polio Eradication and a special thank you to Aspley Club, let's hope more Rotarians and clubs support it next year.

As I travel around the clubs it is interesting to hear the great work each club is doing. I encourage clubs to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve the maximum result from the projects. It is important that Rotary does partner with other organisations as we have done with Polio Eradication and now with the malaria Initiative in the Solomon Islands where Rotary is partnering with AusAID and the Global Fund, a private charity organisation, as there is no way that Rotary could do it on its own as we do not have the financial nor human resources but can do it in partnership. These partnerships will ensure we achieve RI President D K Lee's goals during the year and "MAKE DREAMS REAL."

I will be attending the Zone Institute this month in New Zealand and it will give me an opportunity to hear what other Districts in the Zone are doing.

DG Wayne

## Eradication of Polio

### NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH



Rotary Foundation Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe has identified "**Enhance Rotary's public image**" as the fourth goal of "OUR" Rotary Foundation this year. Nowhere can the ongoing achievements of Rotary International and Rotary clubs be more clearly seen than through the programs of, and the projects funded by, "OUR" Rotary Foundation. Consequently, the enhancement of Rotary's public image is quite simple when we talk proudly about everything that we do through "OUR" Foundation.

From the concept of "*an endowment fund for the purpose of doing good in the world*" to an organisation that:

- Is responsible for the immunisation of over 2 billion children against polio.
- That **will** eliminate transmission of the polio virus at a cost to Rotarians of US\$700m.
- That incorporates the world's largest privately funded international scholarship scheme.
- That annually funds over US\$100m. of humanitarian and educational programs.
- That has a Permanent Fund with a potential value of over US\$0.5 bn.

It is nothing but an enormous success story, of which every Rotarian should be inordinately proud. And by speaking of these success stories, we promote Rotary and its Foundation in our home, our workplace and our wider community.

Of course, we often hear criticism that there is insufficient publicity for Rotary and its achievements, and a demand for more promotion of Rotary in the media. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. Paid media items are enormously expensive, and proven to be of limited value for informing members of the public. And good news stories are not widely sought simply because "They don't sell papers."

Constructive promotion is, in reality, up to you and me: we must tell the success stories of Rotary and its Foundation in our local community. We can make a difference in the enhancement of Rotary's public image in so many ways: limited only by our imagination and by that of our own club-members.

Why wouldn't we be proud indeed of everything that Rotary and its Foundation has achieved?

**For more information go to:  
[www.rotary.org/foundation](http://www.rotary.org/foundation)**

## Funding Partners' PhD Scholarship

Awarded to Tim Smith from the Howard Florey Institute at the University of Melbourne in 2008. The Scholarship was awarded through a donation from the District 9650 Bowelscan program to Australian Rotary Health.



Originally hailing from Brisbane, Tim moved to Melbourne and attended Camberwell Grammar School, where he discovered his love for science. In his final year he attended the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in Canberra with the support of the Rotary Club of Canterbury. His involvement with the NYSF continued throughout his undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne where he majored in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. His honours year saw him move to the discipline of Bioinformatics. His PhD project is in this field.

**Cancer of the bowel has a well-documented genetic component and is the second biggest cause of cancer death in Australia. Curing bowel cancer depends on early detection.**

It is estimated there are over 2 million mutations in the human genome that cause disease: of these only 100,000 or so have been observed and described. New mutations are being detailed so frequently in peer-reviewed publications, the long and expensive process of putting their characteristics into a database means that patients are potentially missing out on the benefits of this newly acquired knowledge. Tim Smith's PhD Scholarship is to develop a system to make it easier for genetic mutations to be classified. He is applying natural language processing and information extraction techniques from published scientific articles to collect data on genetic variants associated with bowel cancer.

For more information on research funded by Australian Rotary Health contact Gerardine Grace on (02) 8837 1336 or email: [gerardinegrace@arhrf.org.au](mailto:gerardinegrace@arhrf.org.au)

Donations to Australian Rotary Health are tax deductible and can be sent to:  
PO Box 3455, Parramatta, NSW, 2124.  
Telephone (02) 8837 1900 email: [arhrf@arhrf.org.au](mailto:arhrf@arhrf.org.au)

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE

### **Rotary District 9600 Conference NEW GENERATION OUR FUTURE**

**27th – 29th March 2009  
The Events Centre – Caloundra  
(Caloundra Civic Centre)**

This is an opportunity to be

- updated on the projects of Rotary,
- be entertained and informed by fantastic speakers,
- **Speakers include – Evonne Cawley and Fred Hollows Foundation**
- renew Rotary friendships and forge new ones,
- **Child Minding available.**

Host Club – Rotary Club of Mooloolaba

Watch this space for more changes and additions

## NYSF NEWS

### **NYSF students Government House reception.**

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) students from Rotary Districts 9600, 9630, 9640 and 9570 selected to attend the forum in Canberra in January 2009 attended a reception at Queensland's Government House on Monday 6 October 2008.

Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor Queensland, made each member of the 60 strong audience feel welcome, firstly with a humorous and knowledgeable address, after which the Governor moved around the room to meet every student.

Her Excellency noted that each student's selection for NYSF showed that they already were achievers in their chosen field, and then went on to outline some specialities that may attract them in their future careers.

The Governor then suggested that some present may even be Nobel Prize winners, or failing that seek to gain an Ig Nobel award.

The Ig Nobel awards are a parody of the Nobel Prizes presented each year in October by Harvard University for real achievements that "first make people laugh, and then make them think".

Her Excellency noted a number of winners, including research that showed the crackle of a potato chip was directly related to its freshness, so that digitally changing that crackle could convince the eater the chip was fresher than it actually was.

NYSF is fully residential and takes place at the Australian National University, Canberra, where all activities are supervised by student staff and Rotary counsellors.

The intensive program offers training in time management, interview skills and public speaking. It is directed at Year 11 students who are thinking about a career science and engineering and related disciplines, so they can make more informed decisions about their future life.

NYSF continues after January with university seminars and industry site visits and builds a long-term network of people with common aims.

Rotary has to choose from 2000 applicants Australia wide to fill the 288 available places at two NYSF forums from 5-17 and 19-31 January 2009.

*For further information*

*NYSF Contact: Derek Jones – 0413 516 165*

*Media Contact: Ted Latta – 3300 1020*



*Photo: Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland, (centre front) and Geoff Burchfield, NYSF Director, (front right) with the 2009 NYSF participants on the steps of Queensland's Government House.*

## STORM THE STAGE! 2008 QLD Takes Perth by Storm!!

By: Jan Lawton

*Storm The Stage!* National Final was held on Saturday 20th September 2008 at the Burswood Theatre in Perth. Twenty finalists came from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland to perform before a panel of 3 judges.

Queensland Finalists were:-

Drama – Riley Nottingham and Talia Rowley

Musical Theatre – Hannah Macklin and Rebecca Adams.

I had the pleasure of escorting these four finalists to Perth, accompanied by our Queensland Arts Director James Gauci. After a rather bumpy flight and two attempts at landing we finally arrived at the Burswood Holiday Inn in Perth to commence our *Storm The Stage Experience*. The competition is sponsored by the Rotary club of Cannington and a wonderful team of Rotarians. The Program was very full; it kept everyone involved, sleep deprived and very busy for the next 3 days until our departure on Sunday 21st September.

Western Australian Arts Director Sonja Plummer met the finalists on the Thursday afternoon, and from that moment on, she took all the finalists on an arts journey that they will never forget. Hours of meticulous preparation with stage placement, lighting, sound, orchestra rehearsals for the musical theatre performers and advice for the drama performers.

Friday we were all taken for a tour through WAAPA: The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Then lunch and photo shoot at Kings Park. Following dinner there was video recording of the performers, interviews and more stage work.

Saturday – FINALS DAY. Final placing for the stage performances; with the afternoon taken up with a full dress rehearsal. All of the young performers were too busy, too nervous and too excited to eat their dinner that night. Preparation with hairstyles, makeup and costumes commenced about 4pm to ensure all was ready for the National Final at 8pm.

The curtain rose and *Storm The Stage 2008* was underway. Performers presented their best; each one of the 20 finalists was excellent. The quality of their performances was lifted so much from this whole experience. The judges were impressed by the quality of the performances, and choosing the two winners (one from each category) was challenging. After much deliberation, finally they announced the winners.

The National Final Winners are:

TALIA ROWLEY from Queensland – Best Drama Performance

CALLAN KNEALE from Western Australia – Best Musical Performance.

The Don Briggs Encouragement Award went to CANDACE WISE from Tasmania. Three very lucky and excited finalists.

After the curtain fell, we were all invited to an after-show party to enable the finalists to meet and thank the sponsors of this event. We all returned to our accommodation where I had organised a number of pizzas to be delivered, along with some party food and soft drinks. They were so excited and on such a high, that some partied into the small hours of the night or should I say morning. Riley did not sleep at all – he saved his sleep for the flight home that afternoon. All of our Queensland finalists are now safely home and back following their lives as one would expect them to do. Except that life has changed forever for them from this great experience.

The *Storm The Stage* experience is always an interesting journey for those who enter. From the heats to the QLD Finals, and finally to the National Final. To give young talented people the opportunity to display their talent on

stage and assist them to achieve excellence is a privilege. The benefit that Rotary and *Storm The Stage* creates is unique. Who knows, we may see a future Hugh Jackman or Nicole Kidman.

Please keep the QLD finals in mind next year. You can assist by sponsoring our youth and following their performances.

Don't forget to check the *Storm The Stage* Website at:

[www.stormthestage.com.au](http://www.stormthestage.com.au)

Jan Lawton

Qld Rotary Co-ordinator Storm The Stage 2008



Left to Right: James Gauci, Qld Arts Director, Riley Nottingham, Rebecca Adams, Hannah Macklin, Talia Rowley and Jan Lawton.

## Local Rotary endorses International Peace Scholar.

The Rotary Club of Ashgrove/The Gap has endorsed the application of Ritu Shrestha as a Rotary World Peace Scholar.

The final decision whether to sponsor her as a Peace Scholar will be taken by Rotary International in November 2008.

Ritu, who now lives with her husband, Laxman, in Paddington, recently addressed the Ashgrove/The Gap Rotary Club, telling of a childhood growing up in land locked Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world. The two peaks of the Nepalese flag represent a landscape crisscrossed by many rivers, and encompassing eight of the world's 10 highest mountain peaks.

Ritu went on to tell how she was fortunate enough to achieve the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Kathmandu University and a Graduate Certificate in Development Practice from the University of Queensland. She speaks three languages Hindi, Nepalese and English.



Photo: Ritu Shrestha & husband Laxman, RC Ashgrove President, Rolf Mitsdorffer, President of the Qld Nepalese Assoc, Kamalayan Shrestha.

She has worked on programs involving campaigns for Children are Zones of Peace (CAZOP) and humanitarian support for internally displaced people in Nepal. Nepal has 26 different ethnic groups.

Ritu's address was supported by the President of the Queensland Nepalese Association, Kamalayan Shrestha.

Rotary created seven Centres for International Studies in 1999, situated at Universities in Tokyo Japan, Paris France, Buenos Aires Argentina, West Yorkshire England, California USA and the University of Queensland Brisbane Australia.

If accepted as a Peace Scholar, Ritu's first choice is to complete her Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution at the International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo Japan.

All Rotary World Peace Scholarships are for two academic years and include round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room, board, and other limited expenses.

Following completion of her degree, Ritu will commit to a career devoted to national and international co-operation and cross-cultural understanding.

For more information, visit: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## **YOUTH EXCHANGE TURNS 50 IN AUSTRALIA**

What a thrill it was to meet and here from the first ever Rotary Youth Exchange student to Australia. John Rogers was just 14 years old when he arrived in the small agricultural town of Myrtleford in the alpine region of northern Victoria, and until recently, the centre of Australia's tobacco industry, larger even than northern Queensland.

For the first time in fifty years, John Rogers returned to Australia, and helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rotary's Youth Exchange Program in Australia. Since 1958, in excess of ten thousand young Australians have gained insights into world peace and understanding by experiencing an educational and cultural exchange in another country, living with families under Rotary's global umbrella. In excess of another ten thousand young people from other countries have learned to become Aussies, as they have shared in the lives of thousands of Rotarians across Australia.



Australia's first Rotary Youth Exchange Program student, John Rogers from Scottsbluff, Nebraska, with D9600 YEP Chair Russ Stephenson and committee members Merrilyn Stephenson and Marjorie & Ron Goward. They joined members and friends of the Rotary Club of Myrtleford in D9790, John's host club in 1958, to celebrate 50 years of YEP.

Now retired from a distinguished career as a research haematologist, John related wonderful stories of his several-day journey from his home in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, to Australia via Denver, San Francisco, Hawaii, Fiji, Sydney and Melbourne, and met at every stop by Rotarians .... And his slow six-week trip home by boat. At the celebratory dinner, John introduced the elderly surviving members of nine of his twelve host families, and described the emotional reunions he had experienced in the preceding days.

John paid tribute to his father who challenged a Rotarian friend in Nebraska to devise an experience which would open the eyes to the world of young people in the insular America of the 1950's. "My youth exchange experience in Australia opened my eyes to the possibilities of the world, but especially the possibilities which were open to me," John said. "If only every young person could have that same experience ... what a different world this might be! And this is just one of the things which Rotary does.

Thank you Rotary".

**Please send articles to:**

**[dgnewseditor@rotary9600.org](mailto:dgnewseditor@rotary9600.org)**

**Deadline for articles – The last week  
of the previous month.**

**Articles must be approved by  
DG Wayne first, before being sent to  
the editor.**

**Articles can be sent to DG Wayne via  
email: [wayne@msca.com.sb](mailto:wayne@msca.com.sb)**

## District 9600 Membership and Attendance Report for September 2008

Club Name	(Latest)	30/6/08	30/9/08	%	Club Name	(Latest)	30/6/08	30/9/08	%
Albany Creek	(32,Jul)	33	N/R	N/R	Noosa		41	37	57
Albion		14	15	84	Noosa Heads	(39,Aug)	40	N/R	N/R
Alexandra Headland	(20,Jul)	23	N/R	N/R	Noosa Heads Daybreak		33	31	68
Ashgrove/The Gap		39	37	68	Nundah	(14,Aug)	14	N/R	N/R
Aspley		43	44	71	Paddington/Red Hill	(6,Aug)	6	N/R	N/R
Bribie Island		24	33	81	Pine Rivers	(20,Aug)	18	N/R	N/R
Brisbane		66	67	43	Pine Rivers Daybreak		18	17	72
Brisbane High-Rise		56	56	68	Redcliffe City		51	51	62
Brisbane Mid-City		54	53	64	Redcliffe Sunrise		15	15	70
Brisbane North		35	32	61	Samford Valley		31	31	82
Brisbane Planetarium	(71,Aug)	73	N/R	N/R	Sandgate		15	15	N/R
Buderim		26	24	58	Stafford		20	22	66
Caboolture		30	33	73	Strathpine	(11,Jun)	11	N/R	N/R
Caloundra		43	41	68	The Glass House Mountains		16	17	92
Caloundra Pacific		47	48	74	Toowong		31	31	79
Cooroy		26	22	100	West Brisbane Daybreak	(21,Jul)	21	N/R	N/R
Fortitude Valley		55	55	62	Windsor		21	22	83
Geebung		15	15	92	Woombye Sunrise		15	14	86
Gympie	(54,Jun)	54	N/R	N/R					
Gympie-Cooloola		41	40	74					
Hamilton		48	45	57	Boroko		31	33	88
Indooroopilly		20	15	71	Bulolo-Wau	(4,Jul)	4	N/R	N/R
Karana Downs		16	14	67	Goroka		8	10	46
Kawana Waters		17	16	72	Huon Gulf	(19,Jul)	21	N/R	N/R
Kenmore		41	41	64	Kavieng	(11,Jun)	11	N/R	N/R
Kingaroy		24	27	76	Kokopo	(11,Jun)	11	N/R	N/R
Kingaroy-Taabinga		17	17	62	Lae		18	15	58
Kippa Ring		15	16	88	Madang	(13,Jun)	13	N/R	N/R
Maleny		39	38	66	Mount Hagen	(7,Jun)	7	N/R	N/R
Maroochydore		33	33	66	Port Moresby		42	41	54
Mitchelton		20	20	81	Rabaul	(7,Aug)	7	N/R	N/R
Mooloolaba	(51,Aug)	51	N/R	N/R	Wewak	(10,Jun)	10	N/R	N/R
Murgon		20	18	77					
Nambour		46	48	68	Gizo	(10,Jun)	10	N/R	N/R
Nambour 76		29	26	77	Honiara		45	43	63

**Total Membership: Jun 1888 Jul 1865 (P) Aug 1860 (P) Sep 1865 (P)**

### Welcome to the following new and relocated members advised in September:

Bribie Island  
Paul Dargusch  
Merv Harrison  
Sandi Smith

Kingaroy  
Wayne Bushell  
Geoff Speed

Lae  
Steve McNeily

Caboolture  
Steve Attrill  
Mark McAlpine  
Kristian Wale