

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



DG 2005-2006
Charles Guesdon

SERVICE Above Self



of the Family of Rotary in District 9600



Part of SE Queensland



Papua New Guinea



Solomon Islands

Editors: Cheryl & Mike Ivess
P.O. Box 5170, Maroochydore BC Queensland 4558
Ph: 5443 6668 Fax: 5443 6668
E-Mail: dgnewseditor@rotary9600.org

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Time to give something in return, say the kind folk of Solomon Islands.

Districts 3220 and 9600 working together.

The small country of Solomon Islands has been in the news in recent times as a receiver of assistance from its larger neighbours Australia and New Zealand. Through the joint efforts of the three countries working in partnership the people of Solomon Islands now have peace and security restored to their island nation. So when news of the terrible devastation caused by the Boxing Day Tsunami reached the Solomons many people there felt moved to do something in return to help these victims in some way.

In the first instance the Prime Minister Sir Allan Kamekeza appointed a committee under his patronage and on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government pledged SI\$500,000. He then challenged the public to match the initial pledge. The people responded magnificently. Deeply touched by the extent of the tragedy, they gave generously, raising money through radio publicity including a telethon and several other promotional programs.



The PM of Solomon Islands Sir Allan Kamekeza presents the Government's cheque for SI\$500,000 to the RTN Tsunami Committee (with RTN Bruce Saunders standing behind the PM)

When the campaign came to an end the funds raised had almost reached their target, it was time to decide how to channel the gift in a meaningful way. An initial approach to one of the big aid organisations proved unsatisfactory. The money would go into an already huge basket and there was no way of tracking how it would be spent. Believing that the givers deserved to know that their gifts had been worthwhile, the committee then contacted Rotary to see if a suitable project could be identified.

Solomon Islands is part of District 9600, most of which is in southeast Queensland. The district's Tsunami Relief Committee had decided to focus its giving on one major project identified by PDG Alan McCray – the rebuilding of the Udayapuram Tamil Vidyalayam School in Sri Lanka under the auspices of the Rotary Clubs of Sri Lanka (District 3220). buoyed by the assurance that 100% of their gift would be used for the project, the Solomon Islands added their money (in total just over US\$112,000) to the district gift. 'Rotary's arrangement with the Standard Chartered Bank in Sri Lanka enabled the money to be transferred at the best rates and free of commission,' commented Rob Jeffery, District 9600's Governor at the time of the tsunami.

The Sri Lankans were delighted! 'The gift truly brought home the spirit of Christmas!' wrote PDG Ravi Ravindran from District 3220. Ravi served as District Governor in the same year as Alan McCray.

The money will go a long way towards the rebuilding of the school which is estimated to cost around US\$490,000. It will provide schooling for more than 260 children. And the story has a delightful twist. Now that the linkage between the two countries has been established, another bond has come to light. In the years leading up to the coup in the Solomons the education system had broken down, and at present much of the aid effort from the EU and New Zealand is going to rebuild their system (Rotary of course is in there too!).

'The people of the Solomons have valued the help they are receiving, and it makes it so much more meaningful to them to contribute in a tangible way to this project in Sri Lanka,' says Rotarian Bruce Saunders, who was on the Solomons Fund Raising committee. 'In the near future it would be wonderful to establish a connection between the Sri Lankan school and one of our own schools, thereby sealing this gesture of friendship in perpetuity.' *by Bruce Saunders RC Honiara*

3 Rotary District 9600 Rotarians get Honours.

The following 3 Rotarians from District 9600 are listed in the Australia Day Honours.

Carolyn Hauff – Rotary Club of Albion
(Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to education)

Vince Lester – Rotary Club of Sandgate
(Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community)

David Guinn – Rotary Club of Mount Hagen.
(Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to international relations.)

Congratulations

A Little R & R Story (Rest and relaxation?...hell no! It's Romance & Rotary)

article sent by Jim Ruhe

Did you ever play spin the bottle in your youth – a game in which you took a chance on receiving, or worse still giving, a special kiss as the bottle spun to someone in the circle of hopefuls? Apparently as an adult you don't need a bottle. A Rotary wheel will do. Solomon Island Rotarian Patricia, new herself to the Honiara Rotary Club, caught herself more than a stolen kiss at a Rotary meeting one night about a year ago. Fellow Rotarian, Julie, brought along a guest, an energetic and lovable forester, with a grin and a boyish laugh big enough to make Patricia's dimples deepen even more often than usual. Before she could say "Donations in Kind" Patricia's inner Rotary wheel started to spin. Without so much as a backward glance the handsome forester was coming regularly to Rotary as Patricia's "special" guest.

Forester Ross and Patricia, have just celebrated their first anniversary, "the best year of their lives, with many thanks to Rotary", announced Patricia at the Honiara Club's January 31 meeting. Giving your heart to Rotary and giving your heart at Rotary are two different things to most Rotarians but to Patricia and Ross both occur simultaneously. Rotary Club Honiara hopes that this will be so for a long time to come.

Other members watch hopefully and wonder which Rotarian will be caught next when the Rotary wheel spins another guest into the fold.

Call for Nominations for District Governor 2008/2009

"Clubs are invited to submit a candidate for District Governor 2008/2009. The appointment to be finalised by 30 June 2006. The nomination which follows a club assembly is to be submitted to District Governor Charles by 15 March 2006.

The requisite RI Form can be down loaded from the internet.

DISTRICT TEAM TRAINING SEMINAR

A training seminar for the District Leadership team and District Committee chairmen of 2006-07.

WHEN: Sunday 5 March 2006, 8.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.
WHERE: St. Columban's College, Caboolture
RSVP: Friday 24 February 2006
Cost: \$10 includes Morning Tea & lunch
TO: Eric Wood – Phone 3205 5655
Invitations forwarded by email from Eric Wood.

Training will include:

- skill development in leading discussions, giving presentations, communication with clubs, conflict resolution

Topics will include:

- the roles and responsibilities of district committees, the role district committees play in promoting club effectiveness, how to motivate Rotarians, how to guide, advise, and support clubs in achieving their goals.

Report from THE DISTRICT 9600 CENTENARY COMMITTEE 1 July 2004 to December 2005

PDG Judy Magub

The Centenary of Rotary (1905 to 2005) was an historic milestone and a great opportunity for Rotarians to show their local communities what they do and to promote awareness of Rotary.

The District 9600 Committee was set up by the DG Rob Jeffery in June 2004 to assist the clubs to celebrate this event and to co-ordinate the District Centenary activities.

The committee consisted of PDG Judy Magub (Chairman), PDG Henry Bodman, Mike Ivess, Jane Anderson and Beth Shaw. DG Rob Jeffery attended the meetings. The committee worked in conjunction with the District Rotary Awareness and Public Relations Committee.

Rotary International provided resource material including a Centennial Promotion Kit, and an informative website on the history of Rotary.

One of the most significant of the international projects was the publication of a book "Centenary of Rotary Service" *The Story of Rotary International*.

A Centennial Bell travelled around the world and started its journey at the RI Convention in Brisbane in June 2003.

The key messages from Rotary International for the Centenary were:

- What is Rotary?
- Our 100 years of service
- Rotary promotes peace and international understanding
- Rotary's top philanthropic goal is to stop the transmission of the polio virus.

At a national level, a 50c commemorative postage stamp was produced, featuring our colours of blue and gold with a figure standing on a Rotary wheel and holding a globe which represented commitments to improving lives around the world.

A Rotary Australia Centenary Exhibition (RACE) began in the National Museum in Canberra to tell the story of polio eradication. The exhibition, "A World Without Polio" travelled around Australia and came to Brisbane in late 2005.

Australia Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF), celebrated the Centenary by sending a Winnebago on a safari around Australia promoting Rotary and the work of the fund. It was welcomed to Brisbane at King George Square by the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman.

In district 9600 almost every club conducted a centenary project. These included ambitious projects such as funding a Palliative Care Unit in a country hospital and providing a new building for a Meals on Wheels Service, to numerous community activities including park and creek projects, a series of parenting courses, the planting of 100 trees, to name a few. A number of clubs got together in the western suburbs of Brisbane to create a Rotary Youth Park in Toowong.

Many clubs undertook projects connected with the history of their town or city. Some clubs gained matching grants to do Centenary projects in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The major celebration was organised by the Rotary Club of Brisbane

Planetarium on 23 February 2005. This was a multi District Centenary Dinner at the Convention Centre in Brisbane. The theme of the dinner was "The Second 100 Years" and was attended by more than 500 Rotarians and the Governor of Queensland, Quentin Bryce.

A District Public Relations Seminar was held on 7 November 2004 to give Rotarians all the materials they needed to make the most of the media and to promote their clubs during the Centenary year.

Clubs have been sent Centenary information and ideas during the past 18 months and a special Centenary Media Kit was sent to 50 media outlets in the mainland part of the district. It contained general information on Rotary developed by Bob Aitkin from Rotary Down Under and local news tailored to that local area. Local Rotarian contact details were given for all the Rotary programs. The ABC radio dedicated an edition of their *Conversation Hour* to the Rotary Centenary.

Chairman of the committee, Judy Magub was successful in obtaining a grant from Rotary International for centenary banners and posters. The three huge banners were strung across the Story Bridge, across a major road in Carindale and in Moggill Road in Taringa. The posters were produced to assist clubs with promotional exhibits in shopping centres and were distributed to all the Assistant Governors in the district for distribution to all clubs.

The biggest undertaking by the committee was the production of a book "Spinning Wheels" to commemorate the years 1980 to 2005 in District 9600. Committee members Henry Bodman, Beth Shaw and Mike Ivess worked for 3 months to produce this important record of our district. Every club in district 9600 was featured as well as the many programs and projects we have participated in over those 25 years.

The first 75 years of Rotary International service, leading into Queensland's participation, was published in 1980 and "Spinning Wheels", published in this the Centenary year, completes the record of Rotary service over 100 years. (There are still a few copies left)

We have a lot to be proud of in our district. The Centenary gave us the opportunity to showcase our achievements, to learn about our own history and to feel a sense of pride. I am grateful to the two district governors during the 18 month life of the committee, Rob Jeffery and Charles Guesdon for their encouragement and support. And I am particularly grateful to the members of the Centenary Committee for their generous contributions of time, effort and considerable skills.

from DG Charles: Thanks to PDG Judy for her efforts.

D9600 District Governor Nominating Committee 2008-2009

To: all Presidents of clubs within District 9600 and to all Assistant Governors

The Committee is comprised of The DG, The DGE, The IPDG who is the chairman of the committee.

There are 4 other nominations required for this committee. These are:

- (a) One past Assistant governor who has served in that position within the past 5 years OR
- (b) A chairman of a District committee who has served in that position within the past 5 years.

Glenda Pearce from the Rotary Club of Ashgrove/The Gap served as the Chair of the District Finance Committee in 2004/2005 and is the successful applicant for this position.

There is also a requirement for:

Three Past Club Presidents who have served a full term as President of a Club within the last 5 years.

The successful applicants for these category 5 positions are:

Sepp Schembera from the Rotary Club of Nambour served as President in 2000-2001

Mark Betts from the Rotary Club of Kingaroy who served as President in 2002-2003

Trevor Taylor from the Rotary of Glass House Mountains who served as President from 2003-2004.

I would like to thank the Presidents and Assistant Governors who assisted in the search for applicants to this most important committee. I also further seek their assistance in carefully reviewing eligible Rotarians from within their Clubs and making recommendations to the District Governor Nominating Committee for suitable and qualified members who could be considered for the future position of Governor within D9600.

Yours in Rotary service
Rob Jeffery



Greetings From The Governor.

In the Rotary Calendar February is World Understanding Month.

This is the month that the entity that we now know as Rotary International was created.

During the month DGE Mike and

wife Sherryl will attend the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego an obligatory training seminar for incoming governors. Rosemary and I benefited enormously from this training program meeting for the first time all the other governors of the Rotary Districts world wide.

New relationships were formed. A better understanding of the needs of communities in developing countries was formed. A basis of implementing solutions to possible future urgent need was developed.

A local example of the resources of this international network of volunteers if the assistance District 9600 is giving to the tsunami ravaged Sri Lankan community. Whilst Australians have always been willing to help those affected by international disasters, one of the challenges is to know the need and how to provide it as a sustainable gift.

Elsewhere in this month's Newsletter is the story of District 9600 giving to District 3220 to assist with the reconstruction of education facilities using PDG Alan McCray's network from his year a governor in 1991/92, a report from Rotarian Max Griffiths in District 9800 on work his club has just completed at Vanimo in the remote Sandaun Province of PNG, and RI's role in the International Day at the UN late last year. Multi club, multi district, multi countries in action!

Imagine a world without Rotary!

Yours in Rotary Service,
Charles and Rosemary.

DISTRICTS 9800 AND 9600 WORKING TOGETHER

Rotary Club of Carlton
Papua New Guinea Project

(An extract from Rotarian Max Griffiths' report to his Club following work in Vanimo.)

Introduction

Papua New Guinea is the eastern half of the second largest island in the world. The largest is Greenland. PNG has a population of around five and a half million people in a land area of 450,000 sq. kms. Just across the water the Northern Territory has a population of only 190,000 in a land area three times as great. (1.3 mil sq. kms). Port Moresby the capital of PNG has a population of about half a million people and the remaining five million are scattered across the rugged country in small towns and villages. Life expectancy in PNG is about 52 years and unemployment is unbelievably high. (One estimate 80%). Malaria is a major health problem but AIDS is reaching alarming levels. The country is rich in undeveloped mineral deposits but bad experiences in environmental degradation from previous mining ventures such as Ok Tedi have made the country unwilling to allow further developments. Yet the country desperately needs income from economic development.

Of particular concern and of interest to Carlton Rotary is the inability of the PNG government to establish policies and provide money for disabled children and adults. This is especially critical for the children because failure to treat

them in the early stages of their illnesses means that they become permanently disabled and in many cases die. Support services for the disabled are essentially in the hands of voluntary agencies. Among these is the Catholic Church which now constitutes about 25% of the population.

Senta Bilong Helpim

'Senta Bilong Helpim' is a Care Centre for Children with Disabilities in the Sandaun Province of Papua New Guinea of which the capital is Vanimo. The centre was established after a Darren Soni, a young boy from the Vanimo area was sent to Australia for surgery performed by Dr Elizabeth Lewis, Australia's first woman Neuro surgeon. That part of PNG was struck by a tsunami in 1998 which left most of the area devastated. Several doctors from Australia including Elizabeth went there to provide medical support for the stricken population. It's also interesting to note that the Rotary Club of Port Moresby did an enormous amount of work in assisting in the rehabilitation of the region.

The Vanimo region contained a number of disabled children who had never received treatment for their conditions. The Australian medical volunteers and the Passionate community of the Catholic Church which worked in the area came to the conclusion that something needed to be done to help these children. So a simple centre was established in a village called Waromo. Dr Lewis was later joined by Dr Murnane a paediatric specialist and Chris Blackburn a physiotherapist from the Monash Medical Centre. Together they established a Melbourne based support group called Senta Bilong Helpim Support (Aust) Inc. The three women have made regular visits to the centre to provide professional help and advice as well as raising money.

On this my first visit to PNG I was surprised at how well the centre had been developed both in the quality of its buildings and the work being carried out in them. The main building is a long timber structure erected with excellent craftsmanship by one of the Passionate brothers, Brother Martin. The building contains three large rooms where physio treatment, educational and other programs are carried out. The permanent staff consists of local volunteers who are supported by visits from professional volunteers from Australia. The centre has some good physio equipment given by Monash Medical Centre and there is a small swimming pool used for hydrotherapy purposes which was built with the help of funds from the Rotary Club of Oakleigh. Children are brought into the centre daily by two buses that were donated by the Australian support group.

What Senta Bilong Helpim Needs?

So what does the Senta Bilong Helpim need in terms of critical support? First in the absence of any government funding it needs continuing financial support from outside sources. Second it needs a new or reconditioned generator to supply its power. We discovered that the existing generator had broken down in February 2005 and the centre had been without electricity for the ensuing ten months. It meant that the centre had no light, no overhead fans, no refrigeration and no power to pump water into the hydrotherapy pool. We managed to 'borrow' a good old Lister generator which hopefully will tide them over for the time being, but a 15 kva generator is a very urgent need with summer coming on.

Third, and in the long term most importantly, the Centre needs the services of a physiotherapist to oversee and train the local staff. In this respect it is not alone. The Vanimo General Hospital which is the only such hospital in the whole Sandaun Province of 167,000 people is appallingly short of basic equipment and essential staff. One example of the urgent need for basic equipment occurred when the hospital's paediatrician had a heart attack. But because the hospital didn't have a defibrillator he died. The hospital has one simple X-ray and an ultrasound machine. There is an acute shortage of basic medical equipment. Cleaning cloths had been washed to the point that they were falling apart. The acting CEO pleaded for a computer to do his work. Despite these shortages the hospital staff is very dedicated and was extremely grateful for the work which Elizabeth and Merylyn did while they were there. Indeed if we hadn't dragged them out I think they would still be seeing patients.

Most urgent long term need

The best immediate action would be the appointment of a physiotherapist who could service both the Vanimo hospital and the Senta Bilong Helpim. Early treatment of children and adults would prevent the deterioration of their conditions and in many cases save lives. Ideally, training a local person at one of the PNG universities would ensure a greater degree of permanency. On the other hand volunteers from Australia could make an enormous contributions of my two medical colleagues to both places.

The Rotary Club of Port Moresby plays an active part in these projects especially the distribution of mosquito nets. It has just begun work in the Sandaun Province and will eventually reach Vanimo. The aim is to give 100% coverage of long lasting mosquito nets and the club will soon

be distributing them in the Sandaun Province. In 5 years time they will return and do replacement coverage. They also plan to distribute 500,000 rapid diagnostic testing kits for malaria detection and 200,000 does of Chinese medicine that has proved effective.

The Port Moresby Club also works closely with ROMAC in Melbourne. When asked to provide assistance to individuals the Club refers the person to Professor John Vince at the University of Port Moresby who makes the final decision. They are reluctant to send people to Australia unless it is absolutely demonstrated that the treatment cannot be done in PNG. They have an open heart surgical team that comes up from Australia and does about 50 patients in a few days.

Port Moresby Club has indicated its willingness to work with us to ensure that any project we seek to undertake is properly assessed and carried out in the most effective way. I have arranged for Ron Seddon assistant district governor and member of PMRC to liaise with Father Phil Smith of the Passionate Community to facilitate any assistance we may decide to give to the Senta Bilong Helpim or the Vanimo General Hospital.

My recommendations would be that we consider:

1. The purchase of a 15kva Lister generator or similar model new or reconditioned, possibly in PNG, otherwise through District 9600 in Queensland, thus saving freight costs.
2. The purchase of a hand held defibrillator possibly through the good offices of Dr Lewis's contacts at the Monash Medical Centre. It now seems likely that Monash will provide this but we could assist with the freight costs.
3. A formal link with the Rotary Club of Port Moresby with a view to making PNG a major support area for our club.
4. Encouraging physiotherapists to visit Vanimo for a period of voluntary service.

My sincere thanks to Merrilyn Murnane and Elizabeth Lewis for making this trip possible; to the Passionate Community of the Catholic Church for its generous hospitality and friendship, to the Rotary Club of Port Moresby and to the people of PNG who accepted be into their midst.

Max Griffiths RC Carlton

Rotary Club of New York at the United Nations

www.nyrotary.org

nyrotaryun@aol.com

A Service Project of the International Service Division of the Rotary Club of New York to strengthen the global partnership between Rotary and the United Nations.

Rotary International Day at the United Nations. November 5, 2005



On a summer-like November morning, while thousands of joggers were lining up in front of the United Nations for a warm-up race a day before the New York Marathon, Frank C. Collins Jr., Rotary Representative to the United Nations, hosted the very inspiring and informative Annual Rotary Day at United Nations. There were more than 500 Rotarians in attendance, as well as 200 Interact high schools students. Rotary International's President, President-elect, and Foundation Director were present as were most of Rotary International's directors and senior officers.

In his opening remarks, Frank opened the meeting speaking about how Rotary has been involved with the United Nations since its creation in 1945. In fact, over forty-five of the founding delegates and several Secretary-Generals were Rotarians. He clarified, however, that while Rotary participates in the UN's humanitarian projects, we do not get involved in the political discussions at the UN.

The program was segmented into six panels:

- Service Above Self
- Millennium Development Goals and Rotary Participation
- Hunger
- Water
- Health
- Literacy

Each panel was moderated by a Rotary Representative to the United Nations. The panels consisted of one UN official to explain and clarify what the UN's goals and needs are. Two Rotarians would then outline projects that they were doing to assist in diminishing or eradicating the poverty.

Service Above Self and the UN's Millennium Development Goals

President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar of Rotary International provided additional insight and inspiration to our organization of business and professional men and women. He stated that he is proud to be a Rotarian because we work for peace and better understanding of people. He happily announced that at that morning's Rotary International Board Meeting, new Rotary clubs in the Peoples Republic of China and Cuba were now being established. "We will now have Rotary Clubs in 170 countries", and he hopes that in the "near future Rotary will have clubs in all the countries of the United Nations".

President Carl shared his view that it is the of youth programs of Rotary that are the best way for Rotary work for peace. "If we could have every seventeen year old be an exchange student, we would have no more wars". He also noted that many poverty eradication programs are too big for any one organization to solve. Therefore, Rotary's "cooperation and continuity" with the World Health Organization and UNICEF to eradicate polio has proven to be very effective. He encouraged Rotarians to continue to concentrate their respective efforts the Millennium Goals, especially water and literacy projects. "Water is a gift a nature and we cannot produce more, the water we drink today was here with the dinosaurs". He also asked Rotarians to encourage the political leadership of the world to support the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Goals.

ROTARY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG)

He thanked Rotarians for their work and their one hundred years of service. "Rotarians stand for what all citizens need to be", and when I gives speeches around the world, I always points out to other organizations Rotary's Polio-Plus campaign as a model of public-private partnerships, he noted. Rotary International was the first of all organizations to understand the global mission that we have one world.

The Millennium Developmental Goals of 2000 are the world's shared hopes and goals. Unfortunately, they are not on track. The MDG's are the life and death struggle for the world. Twenty to thirty thousand men, women, and especially children die every day of extreme poverty. A \$7.00 anti-malaria treated bed-net will last for 5 years and protect 2 children, yet 3 million will die from malaria "The goals are sensible and achievable yet they are still bold commitments.

HUNGER PANEL

This panel was moderated by Alternate Representative to the United Nations, Sylvan Barnet (a.k.a. Mr. UN) and a member of the Rotary Club of New York. He opened the panel discussion reminding Rotarians that with the onset of the Avian flu, millions of poultry will be destroyed thereby causing a huge loss of the food supply in many countries. He also provided the following facts on the reality of hunger:

- 2.1 million African children died of hunger last year,
- 40% of African kids are undernourished,
- One-third of all children world-wide are African,
- 8 million African farmers have died over the last few years from HIV Aids,
- 10 million sub-Saharan Africans need food desperately,

Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF also thanked Rotarians for their efforts over the last twenty years. Rotary Partnerships with UNICEF "proves that miracles do happen and they have made a better world for children". More than 2 billion children have been immunized on the Polio-Plus program public-private partnership. Rotary's comparative advantage is that Rotarians are everywhere, and Rotarians are connected to, or they are, the local decision makers to get the message out.

While nearly \$4 billion has been raised, more than \$600 million of this amount was contributed by Rotarians. She also credited the Vitamin A nutrients in the vaccine to have saved an estimated one million children.

WATER PANEL

WHO estimates that:

- 4,500 children die every day from lack of access to clean drinking water,
- 288 million lack access to safe drinking water every day.

The panel emphasized that there needs to be a “pyridine shift from the old supply-driven and hardware-focused intervention to a demand-based, people-centered, and software-oriented approach on developing clean water supplies and sanitation”.

Rotary can participate in WASH in many ways:

- providing rain water collection containers,
- hygiene education,
- work with water coalitions with our coordinators around the world
- Promote and build separate gender toilet facilities.

The UN has declared 2005 to 2015 as the “Water for Life Decade”.

HEALTH PANEL

Dr. Richard Alderslade, Senior External Relations Officer at World Health Organisation spoke on the report “Make Every Mother and Child Count”.

This report documents that every year:

- 550,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth.
- Four million children die during their first day of life.
- Ten to twelve million children die before 5 years of age.
- 68,000 die from unsafe abortions.
- Malaria causes 800,000 deaths, mostly children and mostly in Africa
- 150 million are suffering from diabetes’s

Five medical illnesses are responsible for the deaths of 90 percent of children:

- 1) preterm birth respiratory infection, (most notably pneumonia)
- 2) diarrhea,
- 3) malaria,
- 4) measles,
- 5) HIV-AIDS

Potential partnerships with NGO’s are identified on WHO’s website. These problems are far too large for any one organization and we need to partnership, Dr. Alderslade noted.

LITERACY PANEL

Benita Somerfield, Executive Director of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy also serves as an advisor in “Reach out and Read, was named International Literacy Resource Person for UNESCO’s “Decade of Literacy. Since 1989 Benita wanted to thank Rotarians for their support of the Barbra Bush Foundation around the United States buying books or providing transportation or a site for the reading programs around the country.

She outline UNESCO’s ground breaking initiative “Literacy Initiative for Empowerment” (LIFE). Thirty-four countries have been identified as most needed in literacy improvement. Local governments will drive the initiative with private partnerships. UNESCO encourages Rotary to be part of this project.

CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

Closing date for items will be the **3rd week** of every month. The main part of the Newsletter is put together around the 4th week, then pieces are added. It will be published on the web the 1st week of the following month. (i.e. Items sent in February are for the March Newsletter.

	<h1>9600 District Conference</h1>	
Rotary International – District 9600		
<i>1st February 2006</i>		

District Conference – see you in eight weeks

Eight weeks from now we’ll all be gathered at the Hilton Hotel to watch Brisbane’s Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman open the Rotary 9600 District Conference introducing a range of high profile speakers and a wonderful entertainment program stretching from 31 March – 2 April 2006.

Rotarians can still receive 10 percent rebate by taking one of the conference packages before 28 February 2006.

On Saturday, you won’t want to miss the keynote speaker, Channel 9’s *60 Minutes*, Jeff McMullen, a prize winning foreign correspondent and documentary maker, who will draw on a career spanning 30 years to relate anecdotes as varied as the White House Watergate scandal, to radiation in Russia and discovering modern medical miracles.

Other speakers are: International Consultant on leadership, growth and change Catherine Palin; “Resilience, Release & Renewal – the 3 R’s for a Workable World”, business leader Deborah Truter, “What about Why – Generation Y” and columnist Frances Whiting; “Balancing Act”.

The entertainers include: Honey, a seven piece powerhouse of lush vocal harmonies; Sault Poets, an amazing performance linking voice, acrobatics and balance; the fabulous voices and musicians of Strictly Singing, featuring soprano Jennifer Parish and baritone Stewart Cameron; the Ab Fab Girls, a treat for lovers of British comedy; the elegance and grace of aerialist Allie Wilde and favourite songs from yesterday and today performed by The Famous Unknowns.

Guest Speaker Toby Ford will wrap up the conference with “When your things drop off, fall out and don’t work anymore – how will that affect our planet?”.

Closing presentations will come from District Governor Charles Guesdon, District Governor Elect Mike Gregory, and Ian Riseley who has a long and distinguished record in Rotary and will officially represent the President of Rotary International at the Conference.

The Rotary District 9600 Conference 2006 combines marvellous light entertainment with thought-provoking insights into social change, literacy and numeracy, sustainable development, resource management and disease control.

If you haven’t registered yet, do it now. You won’t want to miss out.

Go to www.rotaryclubofbrisbanemidcity.org

District 9600 Governor's Newsletter — February 2006

Col's Comments

D9600 Membership and Attendance Report November and December 2005

When the December returns closed on 17 January there were 29 out of the 73 clubs still missing. About par for the course, with 30 for each of August and September, 31 in October and 28 in November. But still far too many! I've had a look at the District 9630 DG Newsletter for December/ January and there's not a single "No Return" among the 50 clubs! I wonder how they do it? Anyway congratulations to the District 9630 Secretary and Attendance Officer Ross Kruger of the Rotary Club of Beenleigh. DG Ailsa Hay tells me Ross is a "real terrier". Perhaps I'm just not aggressive enough!

As of today, 4 February, 10 more reports have come in, thus resulting in the 19 "No Returns" for December as listed opposite. There are still 10 clubs yet to report for November; and several, in PNG especially, go back well beyond this. Efforts are under way to retrieve this far from satisfactory situation.

Assuming no change in membership for the 19 clubs yet to report for December (a fairly large assumption), the membership at the end of December was 1984, only six below the year's "start" figure (end of June 2005) of 1990. This includes, however, 10 members of the Rotary Club of Deception Bay which closed on that date. Some of these, however, have already been relocated at other clubs within the district, and indications are that most in fact will be.

Over the past 10 years the average of the 30 June totals was 2170 and the average of the 31 December totals was 2141, both figures much higher than the present membership but nevertheless reflecting a typical drop of 29 members or 1.3%. This year the equivalent drop is only 0.3%, so some encouragement may be taken from that.



Welcome to New Members

As of today, 4 February 2006, there have been eight new, rejoined or relocated members advised by clubs since the DG's January Newsletter was prepared on 10 January 2006. All of these refer to the current Rotary year 2005/2006. During the same period there were 14 termination notices received, again all for 2005/2006.

A big welcome, then, to the following new, rejoined or relocated members:

Albany Creek: John Spencer.
Brisbane Planetarium: Alastair Ward.
Caboolture: Ann Piore and Peter Piore.
Gympie-Cooloola: Leanne King.
Kenmore: David Lock.
Kippa Ring: Gena Campbell and Frances Hollywood.

Club	Club Membership			Attendance Percentages	
	30/6/05	30/11/05	31/12/05	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Albany Creek	33	35	35	67.88	70.71
Albion	15	17	17	79.02	86.26
Alexandra Headland	24	25	25	92.39	92.71
Ashgrove /The Gap	44	41	43	75.61	76.18
Aspley	42	43	44	79.07	81.70
Bardon	16	15	15	61.97	No Return
Bribie Island	23	23	23	95.24	89.23
Brisbane	69	70	67	74.51	65.00
Brisbane 4069	23	23	23	91.67	83.33
Brisbane High-Rise	46	47	49	70.74	63.40
Brisbane Mid-City	59	61	60	69.90	76.64
Brisbane North	36	36	35	64.65	59.72
Brisbane Planetarium	78	77	76	81.52	79.60
Buderim	24	24	24	95.00	90.00
Caboolture	30	28	28	79.10	80.95
Caloundra	31	31	31	72.25	78.49
Caloundra Pacific	34	36	35	76.72	70.45
Coolum-Peregian	12	9	10	80.56	88.33
Cooroy	31	35	32	99.26	100.00
Deception Bay	11	11	10	65.00	60.00
Fortitude Valley	48	49	50	80.71	76.06
Geebung	15	15	14	65.71	78.57
Glass House Mountains	21	19	19	76.32	73.68
Gympie	54	55	55	86.34	No Return
Gympie-Cooloola	47	47	47	74.44	54.81
Hamilton	56	53	53	68.83	60.60
Indooroopilly	17	17	17	74.12	52.94
Karana Downs	22	23	23	No Return	No Return
Kawana Waters	20	13	13	78.45	76.92
Kenmore	49	47	48	75.17	78.16
Kingaroy	27	22	22	76.66	No Return
Kingaroy-Taabinga	17	16	16	81.25	85.42
Kippa Ring	11	12	12	91.67	97.22
Maleny	40	39	39	75.00	76.56
Maroochydore	37	38	38	68.00	62.00
Mitchelton	24	26	25	71.87	74.67
Mooloolaba	52	50	50	77.96	75.95
Mount Coot-tha	16	15	15	80.00	73.33
Murgon	17	20	20	54.00	No Return
Nambour	36	34	34	63.81	68.12
Nambour 76	30	32	32	76.37	67.31
Newstead	20	14	14	65.79	No Return
Noosa	42	41	41	75.96	70.46
Noosa Heads	43	41	41	76.77	67.74
Noosa Heads Daybreak	43	40	38	65.00	69.07
Nundah	22	19	19	100.00	94.44
Paddington/ Red Hill	15	14	14	73.00	No Return
Pine Rivers	19	19	19	63.16	87.72
Pine Rivers Daybreak	18	17	17	60.00	70.83
Redcliffe City	50	51	51	91.13	No Return
Redcliffe Sunrise	19	19	19	75.39	50.00
Samford Valley	36	37	37	76.76	No Return
Sandgate	19	18	17	81.16	80.00
St Lucia	22	20	20	No Return	No Return
Stafford	18	19	20	75.75	57.62
Strathpine	17	17	17	87.27	96.96
Toowong B'ne West	19	16	16	76.38	No Return
Windsor	17	18	19	83.33	78.55
Woombye Sunrise	19	20	20	No Return	No Return
Boroko	26	28	28	96.21	88.09
Bulolo-Wau	4	4	4	68.75	No Return
Goroka	10	10	10	No Return	No Return
Huon Gulf	16	17	17	58.62	58.82
Kavieng	3	13	13	No Return	No Return
Kokopo	5	5	5	No Return	No Return
Lae	9	14	14	69.64	No Return
Madang	14	13	13	64.07	65.38
Mount Hagen	13	15	15	54.67	76.67
Port Moresby	43	49	49	No Return	No Return
Rabaul	6	7	7	91.30	95.24
Wewak	5	5	5	No Return	No Return
Gizo	7	8	7	No Return	61.90
Honiara	34	34	34	No Return	55.88
Totals/Averages	1990	1991	1984	76.17%	75.01%