

Rotary



Bulletin for Gloucester

Vol. 67 No 36 Rotary Club of Gloucester Inc. 26th April, 2016.
Club 17925, District 9650 Chartered 17th May, 1950.

Secretary Don McLeod
secretary@rotarygloucester9650.org.au

President Sharee Abeysekera
sharee.gloucester@helloworld.com.au

Treasurer Vicki Collett
vcoombes54@gmail.com

District Governor Maurie Stack, Rotary Club of Taree on Manning
RI President 2015/2016 K.R. Ravindran (Ravi) Rotary Club of Colombo Sri Lanka

Ring or email Ray Martin's Office for apologies and to include guests before 10am Tuesdays
Phone 65582200 or email rms@midcoast.com.au

Coming Meetings and other Functions.

Fri Sat 22nd/23rd April	Opera In The Church. Uniting Church Hall Cowper Street Gloucester Time 7pm. Helpers for the door needed. Tickets on sale @\$40. Gloucester Health Food, Webb Bros.
Tuesday 26th April	'Town Planner – GSE team member' - Speaker Aaron Kelly
Sat Sun 30th April/ 1st May	Motorcycle Muster Expo at the Gloucester Show Ground
MAY BOWEL SCAN MONTH	BOWEL SCAN SELLING MONTH Outside the Pharmacy. Monday 2 nd till Tuesday 31 st or until sold. 250 Kits @ \$15 each. Roster to be finalised.
Tuesday 3rd May Partner's Night 6.30pm for 7pm	Ida Sevon's Farewell Presentation. Ida will be presenting her Safari Tour.
Tuesday 10th May	"Legacy At Work" the Victoria Saunders story
Tuesday 17th May	Fellowship Night and Board Meeting Night
Tuesday 24th May	"High School Debate" Night.
Tuesday 31st May	"Transition To Retirement" Seminar.
FORWARD PLANNING	
Tuesday 7th June	"Unsung Hero" Award presentation night
Tuesday 14th June	Fellowship Night and Board Meeting Night
Tuesday 21st June	Wingham Rotary Club Changeover
Tuesday 28th June Partners Night	Gloucester Rotary Club Changeover Dinner. Sharee to Ash
Tuesday 5th July	Possible Christmas in July at Stroud Pub with Dungog Rotary John W.
Sat Sun 10th / 11th Sept	Gloucester Mountain Man Tri Challenge Event

President Sharee Report :-

The Taree Conference on the weekend was fantastic. It was held Taree Entertainment Center. This center was actually built and ran by volunteers. It was very well designed. 380 people registered for the conference. On Friday night, 410 attended. There were a few last minute booking! There were many highlights. One of them was watching our Ashleigh on stage, wiggling to the classical music and playing with the bells. (See photo below)

Gloucester Rotary Club was successful last year in taking out the Vocational Service award for the "Night with Teachers Award" and "Members Attending Conference Award". This year, we also took out 2 Awards. Vocational Service Award was presented to us again for the "Unsung Hero Award". (John Read was most surprised as President Sharee presented him with the award). Congratulations John! And the second award went to Denver Webb for coming in first in the Mens Golf Tournament.



Rotarian Brian Dixon Report on the upcoming Opera In The Church: -

Thank you to all the members and friends that have made contact to help out this coming Friday and Saturday night. We were still hoping to sell more tickets to this event. Due to the timing of the event and the long Anzac Day weekend, the ticket sales are not as good as last year. So please help promote this event. 3 days and counting...

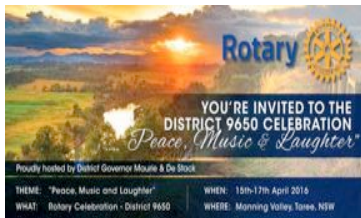
Club Service Officer Peter & Youth Service Sam Report: -

There has been more exhibitors contacting the club to signed up for a stall at the Motorcycle Expo. The promotions through word by mouth or on the internet and Facebook have been really positive. Some from as far as Ayers Rock, through words of previous stall holders have contacted the club. Rotary will be minding the BBQ stations and it is expected to be very very busy. So please, if you are able to help out for even a few hours, contact us.

"Journey To Rotary" – I was asked by Pete to give a little speech about my journey to Rotary.

I was born in Singapore and came to Australia in 1986. When I started my career as a Pharmacist, my preceptor was a Rotarian. Over the years, most of the bosses I worked for are Rotarians. I remembered the Rotary Christmas cakes my preceptor used to sell at the pharmacy. When I came to Gloucester, my business partner Young was invited to the club one day by Rotarian Denver. So Young asked Denver if I can come along too. So Denver became

our mentor and he has been a great teacher and friend. Along the way, I get to meet other Rotarians that share my passion for wanting to give back to the community. It has been great!



Rotary International District 9650 2016 District Conference “ *Peace, Music & Laughter* ”



This year the District 9650 Rotary conference was held in Manning Valley, Taree. There were 13 Rotarians and partners that set out from our Gloucester Club. From the moment you drive into town, there were rows of Rotary banners lining the streets of Taree. Each banner represents the districts that come under the umbrella of District 9650. Naturally, I search for our Gloucester Banner! There were about 400 people that came to the conference.

Most of the Rotarians started arriving on Friday. There were a few events for Rotarians to partake in. If you are interested in arts, there was a painting workshop with acclaimed Birpi artist, Russell Saunders. There was a lunch cruise on the Manning River which David and I went to. It was very tranquil sailing down the Manning River, meeting other Rotarians. There was also a Golf Tournament for the keen golfers. The Welcome Dinner was set up under a very big marquee right alongside the Manning Riverbank. Our very own Immediate Past President, Brian Beesley, was the MC of the night. He got together a few Rotarians that were able to speak a different language to welcome everyone to the function. There were Swedish, French, German, and others. He also got our Rotary speaker from Africa, PDG Patrick and our Gloucester Rotarian, Grahame Stelzer singing together. During the dinner, there were numerous awards being presented to various clubs. Gloucester Rotary Club took out 2 awards. First one was for the District Vocational Award for the Unsung Hero Community Service Award. The mastermind behind this wonderful service award is John Read. Well done John!!! The second one was to Denver Webb for coming first in the Men's Golf Tournament. Well Done Denver!! Although there were a huge number of attendees from the Taree Club, they did not take out the 'Attendance Award'. Apparently, the award is present according to this formulae (No. of members present x kms travelled / no. of club members). How very clever and practical!!

Saturday Conference was held at the Manning Entertainment Centre. We were fortunate enough to be able to invite a very special Rotary guest from Africa, RIPR PDG Patrick D Chisanga. His journey to this conference has been a miracle. We were informed that PDG Patrick was unsuccessful on numerous occasions in getting an Australian Visa. The night before his booked flight, his visa still hasn't come through. So he made a disappointed phone call to DG Maurie Stack. DG Maurie said to him to give it one last try. And when he hung up the phone, he turned to his wife, Petronella, and said that he was giving it one last try, for DG Maurie. The next morning, as he was driving to work, his staff rang him and advised him that the visa for Australia has come through. Moreover, instead of the usual one month visa, he was able to obtain a 12 months visa!! He later learned that it was through the tiredless effort of DG Maurie and his team that rang up politicians and other key personnel to make this visit happen. It was truly wonderful hearing him speak so passionately about his Rotary Club in Nkwazi. He was very impressed with the projects that District 9650 were involved in. He will be taking some of the project ideas back with him. There were a lot of wonderful speakers, each presenting their Rotary projects in their clubs. It was very interesting to hear about the projects that Rotary supported. Some of these projects helped people realised that dreams can come true and most of the time, all it takes is for one person to get started. In between the conference, Deidre Stack got us exercising to songs like the YMCA. It was so much fun! Deidre also advised us that through the whole year, Rotary District 9650 had raised over \$30,000 for her project The Jack Wilson Kidney Research Program. During the conference, Brian Beesley helped raised another \$390 on Friday with the singing and the donating of the wine glass for sale. Another \$960 was raised on Saturday night through raffles and more donations. By the time the conference ended that day, Rotarians were walking away with their mind charged with more ideas to bring back to

their clubs and their heart filled with the renewed passion. Saturday Gala Dinner was absolutely amazing. We were entertained with amazing singer bands, and a surprise performance by the Undercover Tenors. There were definitely plenty of laughter and music throughout the night. I think I can safely say that Rotarians Volunteer Hard and they also party hard!! What a night!!!

Sunday Conference started off with Jackie Curran teaching us the Laughter Yoga Therapy. And PDG Patrick bid us farewell and made a promise that with his 12 months visa, he will be coming back to the 2017 District Conference at Laurieton. The conference closed with a singing presentation by special guest, Dr Jonathon Welch AM, founder of the Choir of Hard Knocks.

Below are a few photos and comments from the Rotarians that attended the conference. There are more photos on the e-news bulletin.



Sharee & Brian in his smashing pink with PDG Patrick



One very happy Ashleigh!!!

“My opinion is it was excellent in all aspects. The banquet on Saturday night was fantastic. The organising of the food service also the serving of alcohol all went well. The Undercover Tenors was a great highlight as well as Patrick Chisanga & Grahame Stelzer singing. Keynote speakers One that impressed me was the Laughter Yoga segment with Jackie Curran. Dr Jonathon Welch A.M. what a lot of time he spent with his pupils. The projects that Rotary 9650 supports are boundless. How do you choose. Also Friendship Exchange is such a great way to see the world. The RI Rep Patrick was an outstanding ambassador for Rotary and his country. His speeches were thoughtful and delivered in his beautiful resonating voice. He was the best ever RI rep I have had the pleasure to know. Petronella was also made herself very available to chatting.”
Ashleigh Hickman...



Grahame & Patrick singing ‘Old Man River’



The beautiful Marquee by the riverbank

“So many standouts, the calibre of all the presenters was exceptional. This is the first conference I have attended and was totally unaware of the amount of wonderful programmes that Rotary support. For me, Don Spencer's Australian Childrens Music Foundation really impressed, YouthinSearch, and Joining the Dots....programmes that can change people's lives. Thanks to Ashleigh, my mentor, for making sure I attended this conference, it was first class from start to finish.”

Lindy Dupree.....



PDG Patrick & his wife Petronella with Deidre & Heather



Inbound Student singing
 ‘We now call Australia Home’
 Can you see our Ida?

“Terrific conference, very professional, well organised with inspirational speakers. The two dinners and the Saturday night entertainment #^*+= WOW!!! Cheers, Grahame & Kaye Stelzer



PDG Patrick with Ida looking very Aussie in her Sydney jumper



Welcome home Linda Beesley from her year in Germany.
 Great speech promoting the Youth Exchange Program
 You tube link to her speech https://youtu.be/-_apoXZahK4

“David and I went to our very first Rotary Conference at Taree last weekend. We went along knowing a little about Rotary and the projects we supported locally and internationally. When I left Taree on Sunday, my mind was so packed with information it was buzzing all the way home!! The number of projects Rotary ran and supported blew me away!! It was amazing listening to speakers after speakers talking so passionately about the Rotary projects they are supporting. It was really wonderful listening to PDG Patrick from Rotary Club of Nkwazi. His voice reminded me of Mufasa from the Lion King!! Of all the things he said in his speech, one stands out. I quote “You can curse the darkness or you can light up a candle”. I have come away from this conference with only one thought, I am SO proud to be a Rotarian.”
 Li Meng Wong & David Francis.....



Rotarians playing musical instruments to ACMF teacher, Rachel Scott. Another great project Rotary supports. Can you spot Heather & Ashleigh??



Ashleigh with her bells!!

“Cathy and I had a great conference. After a number of years of being involved in Rotary at a District level, as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Youth Exchange Committee and more lately as District Secretary for the late PDG Rick Bowen-Thomas, we enjoyed the opportunity to renew many old friendships over the weekend. The many rotary programmes both in Australia and overseas continue to remind us all of the importance of the international organisation of Rotary. The various speakers are always an inspiration. Bring on the Tenors.”
Denver & Cathy Webb.....



Group Photo!! Only person missing was Ida.



Found her at last with her awesome jacket!!

“What a great celebration Maurie delivered? The calibre of speakers was so different to past conferences.

I believe if you go expecting to receive you will and this conference has far exceeded my expectations and truly was a celebration. “

President Sharee Abeysekera



April

Birthday Celebrations

Ashleigh Hickman 4th



Stuart & Leonie Benson 12th, Chris & Di Pritchard 19th, Bruce & France Montgomerie 27th, Ron & Marvin West 30th.

Meeting Preparation & Clean Up

Please if you do not have time to set up please let one of your team know.

April	Lindy Dupree, Ray Martin, Paul Hedditch
May	Bruce Montgomerie, John Read, Li Meng Wong
June	Karen Miles, Don McLeod, Donnelle Walker
July	Sam de Witte, Wayne Salvestro, Jane Deen,
August	Vicki Collett, Chris Pritchard, Pete Markey,
September	Ashleigh Hickman, Grahame Stelzer, Geoff Slack
October	Sharee and Ernie Abernethy, Brian Beesley
November	Denver Webb, John Faull, Brian Dixon
December	Terry Carson, Ashleigh Hickman, Grahame Holstein



Four Way Test

Of all the things we say and do:
 Is it the truth?
 Is it fair to all concerned?
 Will it build goodwill and friendship?
 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Our Executive 2015/2016

President:		Sharee Abeysekera	0427 588 158
President Elect:	PP	Ashleigh Hickman	0409 323 867
Immediate Past President:	PDG	Brian Beesley	0419 634 275
Communications	PP	Don McLeod	6558 4297
Treasurer:		Vicki Collett	6558 2099
Club Service	PP	Peter Markey	0418 633 060
Youth Services	PP	Sam De Witte	6558 1734
Community Service		Paul Hedditch	6558 1471
Vocational Service		John Read	6558 1064
International Service		Valda Barron	6558 2992

Public Officer	PP	Don McLeod	6558 4297
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