



BE THE INSPIRATION

District 9810
Melbourne, Victoria

Edition 6

District 9810 News

June 2019

(Immediate Past) District Governor's Message

The 2018-19 year has drawn to a close. There are Club celebrations aplenty with many more planned over the coming weeks as people transit back from the Hamburg Convention.

Shelley and I continue to be inspired by the energy of our members and the breadth of work undertaken by our Clubs. There is so much to celebrate.

At the recent District Changeover, 240 people joined together in the spirit of friendship to celebrate outstanding Club achievements, to recognise individuals who have provided exceptional service beyond their Club, and to welcome incoming Governor Shia Smart. It was another calendar highlight.

We congratulated the following on the night:

CLUB AWARDS - D9810 RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE

- **Club Projects, Club PR & Communications Excellence:** RC of Monash.
- **Outstanding Rotary Club (Club Building, Projects, PR & Communications Excellence):** RC of Box Hill Central, Emerald & Districts, Lilydale, Manningham, Mont Albert & Surrey Hills, and Templestowe.



CLUB AWARDS - GOVERNOR RECOGNITION

Club Building and Inspirational Service to the Community. RC of Beaumaris, Knox, Maroondah, Mitcham, Monbulk & Districts, Moorabbin, Mt Waverley, Rowville-Lysterfield, Springvale City, and Wandin. Waverley was also recognised post Changeover.



RI REGIONAL SERVICE AWARD FOR A POLIO FREE WORLD

In recognition of significant active personal service toward the goal of polio eradication:

PDG John Barnes and Gaye Barnes.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS - D9810 FOUNDATION RECOGNITION

For outstanding service in promoting The Rotary Foundation and its goal of world understanding and peace:

PDG Brian Martin.



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There are five other awardees who were not able to make the event. These will be presented and communicated in due course.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS - D9810 RECOGNITION

District Distinguished Service Award

PDG Jenny Coburn



District Meritorious Service Award

Keith Anderson, Salwyn Shahine and Wil Cornelissen



Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

Graham Richardson, Sue Cornelissen, Gloria Hargraves, Gordon Pyke, Barrie Vickers and Malcolm Chiverton. Mick Willis received his recognition at his Club changeover, and there are two others who will receive theirs in due course.

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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS – ROTARIANS AGAINST MALARIA [RAM] RECOGNITION

District RAM Chair, Peter McPhee, presented Shelley with a Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding support and promotion of this cause.

Peter also presented a cheque for \$4K on behalf of the RC of Benthleigh Moorabbin Central. This Club was both the first to donate and surprised everyone by also being the last. Thank you!



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Shelley was able to declare that through Club and Club member generosity, just over \$34K was raised across our District. Thank you!

DG Russell also made a personal presentation to Shelley by recognising her as a Paul Harris Fellow for her outstanding support over the past three years as a crucial half of *Team Gurney*.



TRANSITION FROM PAST TO NEW

Everyone joined in welcoming incoming Governor Shia, with Duncan and Flynn, and the Home of the District Governor banner changed hands from Doncaster to Mont Albert and Surrey Hills.



DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CALLOUTS

Our District has so much to celebrate as we continue to punch well above our weight in so many areas. To comment on a few:

YOUTH SERVICE [YS]

We are the envy of so many other Districts who seek to leverage our approach to Early Act, Interact and Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment [RYPEN] to name a few.

YS Chair Daryl Moran, with YS Deputy Chair Salwan Shahine, worked with Club leaders on growing the family of Rotary with three Earlyact Clubs, and three Interact Clubs being chartered during the year. There are many more in progress as we work toward creating a clear pathway to Rotaract, and the Rotary of the future.

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ROTARACT

These amazing leaders are our valued partners in service. One of the highlights from the recent RI Council on Legislation was the elevated recognition of Rotaract.

This formal change broadens the definition of membership in Rotary International to include Rotaract clubs. The change is intended to increase the support that Rotaract clubs receive from RI and to enhance their ability to serve.

We have always had a close and special relationship with our Rotaractors, and we started the 2018-19 year by including the Rotaract Changeover as part of the District changeover. This “new tradition”: continued this year as we all congratulated Kai-Xing Goh on her leadership and welcomed Netania Lim as 2019-20 District 9810 Rotaract Representative.

Both had recently returned from the RI Convention in Hamburg and we all look forward to hearing more of their stories.



Some great news related to Rotaract Club of Manningham being chartered during the year.

Welcome to Charter President Amelia Murtagh, and all the new Manningham team!

Congratulations Michael Ellinger (Rotaract Chair), Kai-Xing Goh (District Rotaract Rep), and the Presidents of their sponsoring Rotary Clubs; Manningham, Doncaster and Templestowe.

I also congratulate Bianca Lobo who has just completed her term as Rotaract Australia President. We are so proud of you Bianca!



CLUB GENEROSITY

Club support for Rotary causes, community causes, and natural disasters continues to be nothing short of inspirational as we all know how hard Clubs work to raise funds.

Whilst our Foundation and Polio fundraising was down on prior years (the USD / AUD rate was part of the reason), contributions to Australian Rotary Health, Rotarians Against Malaria, Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children, Interplast, and Rotary Australia World Community Service projects were strong.

Club, and Club inspired, support for the NSW / QLD Drought Appeal saw around \$100K contributed by our District. An amazing effort. Support for the QLD Floods and Indonesian Earthquakes was strong too.

On the subject of raising funds, the 2018-19 Stamps activity resulted in \$8.6K being contributed to the End Trachoma 2020 project. Carrol (and the late PDG Eric) Farmer have done an amazing job over the past 28 years generating some \$122K over that time. Carrol has now handed over the mantle of this fundraising activity to Camille Rogers (see page 48 of the new District Directory).

GOVERNANCE

One of my key priorities centred around protecting the young people in our care, and our Rotarians. No surprise that significant time in this area was invested in both my DGE and DG year and there were a whole series of actions, and roles created to deliver on this commitment.

I am grateful for the Club support in this area, and for the hard work and leadership David Tolstrup (the inaugural Governance Director in our District), Ken Mirams, Daryl Moran, and John Brownlee.

I also thank PDG John Barnes who worked closely with Youth Exchange (YEX) Chair Tim Bray, Secretary Barrie Vickers and the wider YEX committee.

I am pleased to report that there are no known incidents. However, as we read in the press, incidents sometimes lay dormant for some years before being reported.

We must always remain vigilant and I encourage all Club and District leaders to be satisfied and confident with their respective processes and procedures, and their adherence to District policies.

MEMBERSHIP METRICS

This was another key priority and our goal for the year was to increase our District membership to 1,200; a net increase of two members per Club.

We were tracking exceptionally well up until the first week of June. At that time, we had increased by a net 40 members to 1,165 across our District. 108 new members were added, of which half were female. Our District female ratio increased from 30% to 31.5% which compares well against the Australian average of 28.3% and RI average of 23%. Imagine if this was 50 / 50. On the downside, we lost 68 members during that time, including dear friends called to higher service.

Then in the last two to three weeks of June, we lost 57 Rotary colleagues across the District, so we are now 1,109 members and unfortunately close to being compulsorily redistricted.

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There is usually some form of year-end churn as people call time on their service, but only each Club knows the reason for this extraordinary turn-around. It's a reminder that we all need to work hard on our "Rotary product" to secure our future.

I sincerely thank the innovation and untiring dedication of PDG Malcolm and PDG Jenny in working to deliver the growth strategy this year.

STREAMLINING DISTRICT PROCESSES

A Technology Committee was formed this year to oversee our District's digital strategy and provide support to Clubs.

The first phase was the launch of a new web presence from July 1, 2018. The second phase was the synchronisation of our District member database and the RI one. We eventually got there, although there are some residual challenges, but it will save us all some work.

I thank Peter Dalwood and Gus Rozycki, and they have more innovation in the pipeline. Stay tuned.

MULTI DISTRICT CONFERENCE

This was a bold initiative with significant risk. Conferences are challenging enough let alone involving four Districts. There was no real precedent to leverage, so our team wrote the book.

I sincerely thank all Clubs for their support, and from member feedback, it delivered on its intent to inspire and connect Rotarians across the state and to showcase "What Rotary Does" via a large House of Friendship.

Our District punched above its weight with our contribution. and I would like to thank our Conference leadership, Wil Cornelissen, Graham Richardson, and Sue Cornelissen for their outstanding work to make this a success.

I am pleased to report that it also made a small surplus.

CLOSING ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank everyone for their support during the year.

I would also like to specifically thank the 2018-19 Club Presidents, Kai-Xing and our District Rotaract team, the hard working District committee leaders and committee members who volunteer to help outside their Club, the District Support Team (which includes our 12 Assistant Governors), the District Board, and the District's College of Governors.

I would also like to thank my own Club for their support (thanks Sonja ++), as well as PDG Tony Monley, PDG Jenny Coburn, PDG Malcolm Chiverton, PDG Bill Tierney, and of course, Shelley.

Thank you to Newsletter Editor Gordon Pyke for once again pulling all this together.

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Shelley and I have been privileged to serve Rotary in this capacity; representing you, working with you, and doing our best to “*Be the Inspiration.*”

We wish you every success in the years ahead and wish incoming Governor Shia and the incoming team well in the year ahead as “*Rotary Connects the World!*”

You have all been an inspiration to us and we look forward to seeing you around the District and to keeping in touch.

Russell



Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours

Whilst Rotarians serve without expectation of reward, its always nice to see formal recognition of our members in the Australian Honours System.

Congratulations to the following known OAM recipients:

- Ern Dawes – RC of Doncaster. For service to the community
- Geoff Limmer – RC of Box Hill Central. For service to the communities of Whitehorse and Maroondah

Apologies to members that may not be listed here. Please let our Editor know for a future edition.

The District Directory provides guidance on this (page 11) and our liaison officer, Alan Rae OAM, would be only to happy to offer advice.

Called to Higher Service

We have all lost many dear Rotary friends this year, including PDG John Glenn and PDG Eric Farmer.

PDG John was District Governor in 2002-03, and PDG Eric was District Governor in 1997-98.

Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of all those Rotarians who were called to higher service. All have influenced where Rotary is today and have had an impact on the good done in the world.

2019 Ride for Research

A big thankyou to everyone who took part in the 2019 D9810 Ride For Research through Gippsland.

It was a remarkable effort raising \$44K for Australian Rotary Health this year, with over \$1.1 Million being raised over the past 34 years.

Congratulations to all riders and the team who worked tirelessly for twelve months to ensure the ride was a success and everyone completed it safely.

The 2020 Ride For Medical Research will be held March 15 – 20. Come along and enjoy the ride. A tour through the vast wheat plains of Western Victoria past the painted silos, back through gold country, a diverse, majestic and beautiful landscape. Click this link to find out more <http://rotaryrideforresearch.com/>



Some of the riders and support crew minutes before taking off from Nar Nar Goon.
(From RC Boronia FB page.)

Club Merger News

On June 26, the RC of Oakleigh, RC of Clayton, and RC of Huntingdale merged to form the RC of Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale.

Over 100 people were present for this historic event including past RI President Ian Riseley and PDG Juliet, DG Russell Gurney, DGE Shia Smart and DGN Alma Reynolds.

It was a fitting celebration of Clubs that have provided an avenue for service for a combined 148 years. The cumulative Rotary service of all the members of this new Club total almost 900 years.

Please join in wishing Charter President, David Park, every success as he leads this new Club in securing its future through growth, an increase to the diversity of their membership, as it continues to help build better communities here and overseas.



Pictured L-R: Pres Ian Phelan (RC Oakleigh), Pres John Breisch (RC Clayton), Pres Anne Mooney (RC Huntingdale), DGE Shia Smart, PRIP Ian Riseley, DG Russell Gurney, Charter Pres David Park (RC Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale)

50 Year Service Celebrations

Congratulations to the following members who are understood to have reached this significant service milestone during the past year:

- Ern Dawes
- Peter Flude
- Alan Gray
- David Greenall
- Mick Matthews
- Geoff Taylor
- John Zeigler

50 Year Service Celebrations

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As Rotary in Australia and New Zealand approaches its 100th anniversary in 2021, it is inspiring that we have so many of our members with this incredible service achievement.

Apologies to any member not listed here. Please let the Editor know for a future edition.

Happy 65th Birthday RC Belgrave

Yes, the oldest Club in our District turned 65 on 17 June and celebrated in style with over 80 guests, members, and past members.

Originally chartered during Rotary's 50th Anniversary year, the Club has made a huge difference in their local community over an extended period.

Interestingly, the RI President that year was Herbert J. Taylor. That name may sound familiar as he was the author of what became the "The Rotary Four Way Test".

Far from retiring, the Club has ambitious plans for growth, connecting even more with the local community, as they head toward their 75th anniversary.



Left:
DG Russell presenting Club President
Kathie Thomas with a letter from RI President
Barry Rassin congratulating the Club on this
significant milestone.

Rotaractors at RICON Hamburg

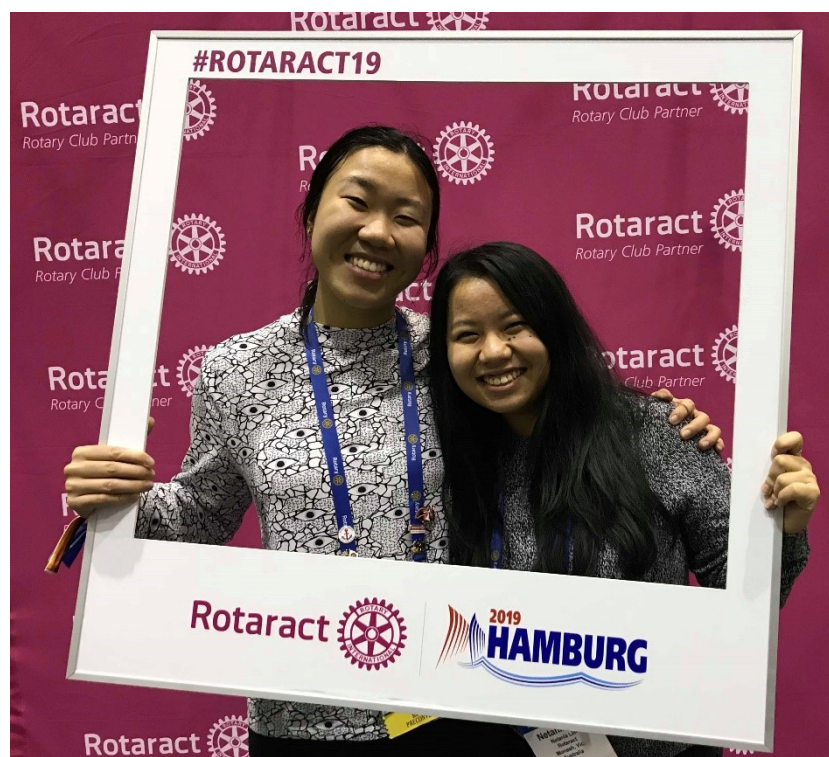
2018-19 District Rotaract Representative Kai-Xing Goh (Rotaract Club of Whitehorse) and I, as the 2019-20 District Rotaract Representative (Rotaract Club of Monash), were incredibly privileged to attend the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. Having spent six months in Europe last year, I didn't expect to return quite so soon, but the opportunity to attend a Convention with something like 26,000 other people from the Rotary family was too good to pass!

The enthusiasm and energy of the Rotaract Preconvention and the evening events held by the Host Organising Committee was both infectious and unforgettable. It is something incredible to be able to meet Rotaractors from different countries with different backgrounds and stories but with one common purpose – to make the world a better place for future generations. Between keynote speakers like Chris Wells on “dogoodery” (his RICON speech is available here: <https://vimeopro.com/rotary/hamburg-international-convention/video/340503705>), breakout sessions on varied topics like positive peace, engaging Rylumni, joining Rotary, and joint projects, as well as plenty of opportunities for networking, there was no lack of things to learn and discover.

The Rotary International Convention itself was equally enjoyable, with general sessions on leadership and integrity, service, and, diversity and friendship, and almost a hundred workshops to choose from too. A favourite of mine (whom I've heard speak a couple of times previously) was a fellow Australian Daniel Flynn from Thankyou (<https://vimeopro.com/rotary/hamburg-international-convention/video/340012048>).

One of the things that stood out to me was the fact that a John Hopkins University survey found that Rotarians give 45 million volunteer hours, worth \$850 million, every year. That's an incredible statistic, but it's not just about the numbers. We have to use what's in our hands to make a difference. We have to look to the future and ensure we're ready for change. And to do so, we have to invest in our future leaders. Each of us have the capacity to influence others, and that is our individual power, which together, enables us to serve and give to others.

Netania Lim
District Rotaract Representative
(Rotaract Club of Monash)



Farewell to Our 2018 Inbound Youth Exchange Students

How time has flown! We say thank and farewell to our wonderful exchange students who fly out on July 6. They have all been such fine ambassadors for their respective countries, their families, their sponsoring Rotary Clubs.

Their mindfulness and hard work over their time here also raised over \$10K for *Backpack Beds for the Homeless*. An amazing effort, making a real difference for some of our most vulnerable people (See report on this in the next article. –Ed.).



Left to right:

Lea (Switzerland), Jade (Brazil), DG Russell, Phillip (Germany), Guilia (Italy),
Lynn (Germany) and Gabrielle (France).

Special thanks to our hard working D9810 Youth Exchange committee, host Clubs (Bayswater, Bentleigh Moorabbin Central, Ferntree Gully, Lilydale, Manningham, Mordialloc, Templestowe and Warrandyte-Donvale, and of course the host families.

BackpackBed.org

Backpack Bed®
for Homeless



D9810 Rotary Youth Exchange students have made an **IMPACT** by fundraising to give homeless persons a Backpack Bed

Individually, their amazing efforts have raised a total amount of **\$10,388**, which has provided **96 Backpack Beds** to give dignity to homeless persons in the areas of their host clubs. These have been distributed to various service providers since the start of winter. The students were firstly encouraged to become more aware of the problem of homelessness and then to use their own initiative to raise funds so as to provide a Backpack Bed for someone in this situation. With support from their host clubs, host families and others events included a Bush Dance, Billabong Party, Film Night, Sausage Sizzle, Hamper Raffle and other means. It was **Service Above Self**

A former Rotary Youth Exchange student, Tony Clark, RC of Glen Waverley who went to Finland in 1992, founded Backpack Bed for Homeless.

- *"Being a Rotary Youth Exchange student was the best year of my life. It helped me develop many of the life skills necessary to start this charity. Thank you to my fellow Rotary Youth Exchange students working with Backpack Beds for Homeless to save homeless lives"* Tony Clark, CEO & Founder

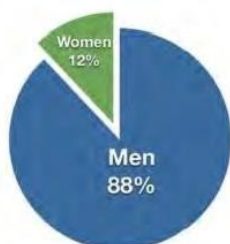
Backpack Bed for Homeless

- Not for profit charity
- Established in Australia
- Distributing Backpack Beds around the world
- Backpack Beds have been used to assist homeless in 8 countries
- Awarded Australian Human Rights Award
- Backpack Bed has been awarded 7 international product design awards

How can you or your Rotary club help?

Donate the cost of one box of 4 Backpack Beds @ \$420
That provides dignity and potentially saves 4 homeless lives
Those can be distributed by a local welfare agency in your club's area
For further information > BackpackBed.org

Continue the initiative of Rotary exchange students to make a difference



Total 116,000 homeless people on any given night.



MUNA 2019

MUNA was held on the weekend of May 4-5 as part of Rotary District 9810's ongoing commitment to Youth Development.

The prestigious venue was the Legislative Assembly of Parliament House, Melbourne. District 9810 is the only Rotary District to hold MUNA there and for the past 17 years we have been accorded this privilege through the sponsorship and support of Murray Thompson MLA and Bruce Atkinson MLC.

The purpose of MUNA is to encourage young people to learn about other nations; to understand and appreciate the workings of the United Nations and to increase international understanding and goodwill.

MUNA provides students with the opportunity to develop their public speaking and debating skills through informed and researched comment on their allocated country and international issues. It helps foster friendships with students from other schools within the region.

About 80 Year 11 students compete, in teams of two, representing up to 40 UN member countries. They debate on matters of world political and social concerns, developing their ability to see issues from another country's point of view and from a global aspect.

It gives them a unique opportunity to debate in Parliament House, the highlight of the weekend according to most attendees. It is a wonderful backdrop for the colour, energy and enthusiasm of the students, many in representative National costumes.

Some History:

MUNA was introduced to Australia in 1980. It was first held in District 9810 in 1998-99, through the initiative of the late PDG Ian Riseborough. It has been held every year but one since then.

It was conducted for the first three years by the RC Forest Hill, then by the RC Glen Waverley, now by a District MUNA committee. In the early days of no email all correspondence was by post!

Ron Brooks was MUNA's first Chairman and organiser and was involved for many years as Secretary General, along with Peter Morgan.

A National MUNA is held in Canberra each year to which winning teams from each Rotary District are invited to compete.

This year the event and MUNA committee were proficiently chaired by Sarah Byrne. As usual, the weekend was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for all – organisers, participants and observers. It was inspiring to watch such a fine group of young people in action.

The winning team, representing Russia, were Box Hill High School (BHHS) students Rose Hensher and Thomas White. They were sponsored by the RC Forest Hill. The team will be attending the National MUNA held in Old Parliament House in August which will be another interesting and rewarding experience.

Attending, mentoring and working at the event were Aashna Shah and Thomas Yakubowski, 2018 winners, also from BHHS and also sponsored by the RC Forest Hill.

All competing students were excellent representatives of their schools and the Rotary Clubs, as well as being impressive delegates for their countries. They are all to be congratulated for their commitment and dedication.

Notable attendees this Year: DG Russell Gurney, DGE Shia Smart; Secretary Generals MUNA President Sarah Byrne, Jevan Bouzo, Joshua Sim; Carol Lawton 9810 Learning & Development Chair; Murray Thompson MLA & Bruce Atkinson MLC; MUNA Committee and friends, Rotaract colleagues - and the wonderful students and their supporters.

Glenys Grant
MUNA
(RC Forest Hill)

MUNA 2019

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*'The MUNA program provides a great opportunity for educational enrichment and training for keen minded secondary students with a global perspective on contemporary issues.
I pay the highest tribute to the vision, initiative, ongoing commitment and financial support of Rotary International District 9810 Members in making our world a better place.'*
Murray Thompson, MLA



Victorian Indigenous Remembrance Service

On May 31 each year, there is a service at the Shrine of Remembrance honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women.

This service was started in 2006 by Sam Halim (RC of Healesville) where, for the first time in Australian military history, Aboriginal soldiers who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice to Australia were honoured.

DG Russell Gurney, Shelley Gurney, and PDG Malcolm Chiverton joined Sam, and other Rotarians, and some 200 other people, at this years' moving service.

Rotary thanks Sam for his leadership in helping recognise the service and sacrifice of those who could have been "forgotten Australians".

Please mark your diary for May 31 next year so that Rotary can continue to lead the way to a more inclusive community.



Looking for Inspiring Speakers?

Apart from a welcoming atmosphere, a key aspect of any Rotary Club meeting is the speaker program. This adds to a Club's vibrancy and Club Program Co-Ordinators are one of our unsung heroes.

Sometimes a Google search works wonders, as does a referral from a member, or another Club.

It's well worth keeping an eye on what other Clubs are doing, even outside our District. Three Clubs in a neighbouring District that may provide food for thought include RC of Balwyn, RC of Brighton, and RC of Melbourne. Should you be over that side of the City, those Clubs (and of course more) are always well worth a visit. Who knows the contacts and project connections that you may be able to make.

Looking for Inspiring Speakers?

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Two specific guest speakers that may be of interest include:

- Colleen d'Offay (Chair Ugandan Projects – RC Brighton) who is hosting an inspiring visitor from Uganda from 1 July through to 8 September. Check out the website <https://yimbauganda.org> and contact Colleen via email cdoffay@bigpond.net.au.
- Janet Hay (RC of Camberwell) who is a thought provoking and engaging speaker on Microfinance and Social Business. Janet would be familiar to those that attended last year's Peace Conference in Sydney, or the one earlier this year at the MD Conference in Melbourne. Janet can be contacted via email on janethay1122@gmail.com.

Our First “Member at Large”

Moinul Islam was recently inducted as a member of the RC of Box Hill Central after being the Bangladesh Country Manager for the Operation Cleft Australia Foundation from 2014 to 2018.

Moinul participated in Club meetings via Skype from Bangladesh and recently arrived in Australia on a special visa looking to work in regional Australia in the Community Development area. He is currently in Darwin and will short come down to regional Victoria.

Moinul is our District's first “member at large” as he lives outside the Club area, and he will join in, and contribute to Club activities electronically. Moinul also has the added distinction of being recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow on his induction night for services to Operation Cleft in Bangladesh.

Please join in wishing Moinul every success with his new life in our county, and with his Rotary service.



Interplast - Australia & New Zealand Update

The Gift of Surgery helps Aye Aye to rebuild her family's life in the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar, with the assistance from Interplast Australia & New Zealand

Aye Aye had slipped and fallen, bringing a large pot of boiling sticky noodles down on her leg. During four months of rest she endured great difficulty lying down and performing daily personal care tasks. At this time, her mother became sick, and Aye Aye neglected her own wounds to care for her mother. As a result, a huge ulcer formed on the back of her knee.

Local surgeons supported by an Interplast surgical team worked together to excise the ulcer and repair the wound with a skin graft. Unfortunately, because of scarring, she won't have full range of movement, although her walking will improve, Dr. Michael Leung said. *"Once healed, she will be free from pain."*



Aye Aye, her husband and six year old son, are so thankful that they have conquered their first – and biggest – obstacle with the help of Interplast and the local surgeons. With the gift of surgery, Aye Aye and her family can now begin the healing process.

"Everyone has been so generous, and we are so thankful that Interplast has helped us," Aye Aye said.

Di Gillies has left Interplast Australia & New Zealand. Ana Galvez, a former Rotary Peace Scholar, has been appointed to the new position of Rotary Engagement coordinator.

Liz Guiver
District 9810 Interplast Chair
(RC Watrandyte Donvale)

Committee: Brian Hodgson, Harvey Lane, Peter Lewis, Geoff Weeks & Bob Williams