

South West Rocks on the Beach

Margaret Harrison writes:

On Saturday 21 January the Rotary Club of South West Rocks conducted a trial of beach matting and a floating wheelchair at Horseshoe Bay as part of a joint project with Kempsey Shire Council. Many people turned up in wheelchairs as well as two children in special prams to try out the matting and chair.



The matting gives access to the sand for prams, walking frames, crutches and those a little unsteady on their feet as well as wheelchairs. The day was a great success! I tried the floating wheelchair myself being the first time I have been able to get into the ocean for ten



years but the best sight was a young local boy being lifted into the chair and going out into the water with a huge smile.

The company who put on the day, Floating Beach Wheelchairs Australia and Beach Access Surfaces, is from Canberra and while this is not their core business they supply these items at cost as their contribution to the community.

Partner's Project: Cancer Research PhD Scholarship

Barbara Jackson writes:

Thank you Rotarians for your continuing support of The Cancer Research PhD Scholarship through the sale of Quilt and Opal raffle tickets.

Ian and I enjoyed a wonderful evening recently at the home of a Port Macquarie Rotarian, well supported by Rotarians and friends, to raise funds for the Project. We are now close to half way in our fundraising.

Please start to return the cheques and raffle ticket stubs and any leftover tickets to me at **PO Box 2, Kendall 2439**, so I can have them ready for our Conference in March.

The **cheques** need to be made to **District 9650 Partner's Project** and sent to my PO Box so I can record them and pass them on to the District Treasurer.

Many thanks for your assistance and I hope to see you in Laurieton at the District Conference in March.

Important District Dates

3-4 February

◇ YEP Rebounders debriefing

11-12 February

◇ Incoming District Management Committee Training - Uralla

18 February

◇ Public Speaking Semi Finals - Walcha

4 March

◇ Opera by the Lake

4-5 March

◇ PETS - Armidale

11 March

◇ Bush Poetry in the Saleyards - Gloucester

14 March

◇ Science and Engineering - Tamworth

16-19 March

◇ RYMARINE - Coffs Harbour Daybreak

24-26 March

◇ District Conference - Laurieton

1-8 April

◇ RYLA at Yarrhapinni

2 April

◇ Pedal the Peel Cycling Challenge

3 April

◇ Coffs Harbour Science and Engineering Challenge Dinner

7 May

◇ District Assembly - Kempsey

17 May

◇ Northwest Regional Careers Expo Tamworth

21 May

◇ District Assembly - **Armidale (note venue change)**

Visit the Calendar on the website for more details. To have your activity listed on the District Calendar, please contact Phil Hafey.

Pin of the week

"Some people's idea of free speech is that they are free to say what they like but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."

Sir Winston Churchill

JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Theme for 2017 - 2018 Announced

Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case on Monday that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, **Rotary: Making a Difference**, to incoming District Governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. "They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda".

Environmental degradation is one of the major threats listed by the UN's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change.

Riseley added, "The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern."

The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring," Riseley said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognises our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

Securing Rotary's future

In his address to the 2017-18 class of District Governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members.

Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said that it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity.

District Governor Nominations

DG Ian Jackson writes:

Nominations for the position of District Governor for our District for the Rotary year 2019-2020 are now being called for and I would welcome nominations or enquiries.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the District website and nominations will close at 5pm on Wednesday 1st March 2017. Interviews will be conducted on Friday 24th March 2017 at the District Conference, Laurieton, commencing at 9.30am.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role, please contact me. Completed nominations forms should be forwarded to me direct at **PO Box 2 KENDALL NSW 2439** by Wednesday 1st March 2017.

Please consider this important role, plenty of travel, meeting wonderful people, visiting exotic places and discovering many new ways to cook chicken.

"Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said.

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities."

Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience.

"Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

"Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions", he added, "but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future."

"We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone."

(This article is reprinted from the Armidale North Bulletin)



Fact

People who regularly eat chocolate are slightly thinner than those who don't.