



Collaborations

Inspiring stories from around the district ...



October 2018

District Governor David Egan | 2018-2019

<https://rotary9500.org>

The Phoenix Rises

Walk into a room full of Rotarians at any time and you're pretty well guaranteed to be met with a hubbub of voices, lots of smiles and the sense of welcome and anticipation.

Upon entering Sfera's Function Centre on the evening of Tuesday 24 July, the feeling of welcome, anticipation and excitement was palpable and enveloping, with hundreds of tiny blue lights spread across the ceiling and clever candlelight table centrepieces adding to the sense of festivity.

Rotarians, family and friends were gathering to **celebrate the successful collaboration of three clubs**, creating a new club. This was the inaugural meeting of the Rotary Club of Modbury Golden Grove. The gathering of sixty felt more like a hundred, such was the energy in the room.

It was "The Rising of the Phoenix Dinner" – the phoenix being a mythological bird that recycles its own life. When it perceives its impending death, the phoenix ignites itself into a magnificent fire, re-emerging from its own ashes – "reborn, renewed and very much alive."

It started with a conversation between three club presidents who recognised that each club was facing impending death – Modbury, Golden Grove and Makin Edge. "Each club had punched above its own weight for a long time, but it was only a matter of time before the inevitable was going to happen," remarked Inaugural President, Otto Baumgartner, in his address to the gathering.

"In our discussions **we all had the same aim – to create a strong and vibrant club**. There were no egos, no issues and we truly got together as an amalgamation and merger of three clubs – there was no take-over," added Otto, who acknowledged the support received from Graham Fussen, Chair of the Extension Sub-Committee. This sub-committee is responsible for streamlining the paperwork side of Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs and ensuring that all involved are aware of the correct processing.

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President Otto Baumgartner receiving the new club's charter from District Governor David Egan



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"We need to be the inspiration for positive change, ... facing today's challenges head on, with courage, optimism and creativity."

RI President Barry Rassin

From the DG's desk ...

*In launching this year's theme, Rotary International President Barry Rassin urged us to continue our work changing the lives of others in significant and lasting ways but also to consider **changing ourselves**, perhaps first.*

Shrinkage of Rotary in the developed world has led to a call for positive change and for us to face the future with courage, optimism and creativity.

To be more effective, relevant and attractive, we must innovate and work in partnership and unity, both within Rotary and externally.

*This first edition of **Collaborations** showcases some great examples of clubs meeting this call and as a result, serving more effectively and enjoying more fellowship and fun.*

Three of our struggling clubs recently combined "rising out of the ashes like the mystical Phoenix". Members are again enjoying Rotary and I congratulate President Otto and his team on revitalising Rotary in the north-eastern suburbs. See our lead article.

Included also are several stories of clubs working together and partnering to make a difference, the outcomes of which are inspirational and I recommend these to you.

District leaders, too, are seeking to collaborate, innovate and support clubs to grow membership, foster young leaders and improve our public image.

In addition, the new District Steering Committee is collaborating to streamline governance, structure and processes and to facilitate more diverse perspectives in decision making.

We hope to share some progress and examples of such initiatives in the next quarterly edition.

In the meantime enjoy this first edition.

David Egan
District Governor 2018/19

(Continued from page 1)

In his Toast to Rotary International, Vice President Keith Rendell pointed out that Rotary is not the bricks and mortar and staff of the administration centres situated around the world, it is the "contribution and amalgamation of individuals working together." He quoted Paul Harris, who in 1905 said: "What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine."

Keith continued: "More than one hundred years later ... reasoned and progressive changes have been made, taking into account current lifestyles and practices. Looking back over my own association with Rotary – a mere thirty six years – the old criteria seem almost unbelievably archaic and restrictive. Who knows what changes are yet to come."

DG David Egan, in response, thanked Keith "... for reminding us that Rotary International is us!" and he reflected on the quote "There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning." (Anon) "This," he said, "captures the mythological concept of "the phoenix rising" as a metaphor for these three clubs." He went on to say that RI President Barry Rassin and General Secretary John Hewko have called for leadership and innovation, not management of the status quo.

"The leaders of the Rotary Club of Modbury Golden Grove have clearly demonstrated that leadership and innovation," DG David concluded.

It was an inspirational night, served with sufficient ceremony interspersed with a soupçon of fun, accompanied by an excellent meal – heralding a great start to the new Rotary Club of Modbury Golden Grove.

"Three weeks later, it already has had an effect on the psyche of the membership. It was no secret that the clubs were struggling – there is a revived sense of purpose – refocusing on why we joined Rotary in the first place," commented Kevin Smith, Secretary and IPP Golden Grove. ■

**"We can't fall into the trap of addressing
21st Century challenges with 20th Century
solutions."**

John Hewko, General Secretary



**Vice President Keith Rendell OAM made the
Toast to Rotary International**



**President Otto presenting Members of the Inaugural
Board of the Rotary Club of Modbury Golden Grove**



*Left: Kevin Smith looking as though
distracted, was actually supervising the
raffle draw.*

Rotary Henley on Todd Regatta

It is great fun, it's iconic and it's recognised as the "oldest and craziest event in the Territory!" People come from all around the world to join in and this year, on its usual third Saturday in August, it boasted a record number of 427 participants from all around Australia –setting a new 57-year-old record.

Henley-On-Todd is the world's first and only waterless regatta, originally suggested in 1961 to be held at the airport. The Rotary Club of Alice Springs took up the idea in modified form, moving the site to the dry bed of the Todd.

The wide range of challenges and battles offered opportunities for everyone—young to old—to participate. Highlights were a three legged race, an egg and spoon race, "surf" rescue, head of the river, rowing fours and rowing eights, mini yacht races, sand shovelling, boogie board contest and the equally iconic battle boat spectacular.

Commodore Tony Jennison described the event as "... unbelievable. ... I think it's a great event for Alice Springs, we got about four to five thousand people here, we get a lot of media coverage for Central Australia and it's great for Alice Springs."

Assistant Governor, Group 10, Ron Saint commented "... when it comes to foresight, we can't thank our forebears enough. **The collaboration between the three Rotary Clubs of Alice Springs didn't just happen.** Our Rotary forebears understood the significance of the event, so they set it up for the long term."

For 57 years now, Rotary has run the iconic Henley on Todd dry river regatta. Originally there was only one Club, but as the town of Alice Springs grew, so did the number of Rotary Clubs. To spread the load associated with the running of such a large event it was wise to look at including the newer Clubs.

The mechanism used to shore up the participation of all three Clubs and ensure some consistency about the running of the event, is that the Henley on Todd is an Incorporated body. The Henley on Todd Incorporated constitution lays the ground rules for the success of the collaborative effort.

The important features of the constitution are:

- Each of the three clubs provides three members for the Board of HoT
- The three members are on the Board for three years
- One of the club members is replaced by their club each year
- The Commodore role is rotated from club to club each year
- In theory, this means that when a Board member is in their third year they become the Commodore
- The constitution ensures the funds raised are distributed to the three Rotary clubs.

That is the secret to our successful, long term collaboration in the Red Centre."

Keen participant Corey Oliver, member of the Bondi Rescue team, said they came up to Alice to have as much fun as possible. There's some interesting events that I haven't seen since I was a kid. Everyone's smiling and soaking it up, it's a great atmosphere, so why would you not want to come to the event."

If it's not already on your bucket list, now is the time to add it, book your accommodation around the third



DG David congratulating AG Ron Saint on his recognition as a Henley Hero for service to Henley on Todd



Saturday of

Inspirational Partnerships Making a Difference

A long-term partnership between South Australia's Nazareth Catholic Community and the Rotary Club of West Torrens, along with the Good Crocodile Foundation in Timor-Leste, has invested close to \$150,000 over nearly seven years to support the Timorese community of Triloka and undertake life-changing projects in the region. The latest project is providing much needed medical assistance to the community and its outlying villages through the donation of a second mobile medical clinic.

inspirational partnership," club president Maurie Howard concluded. [Read the full story here](#)



Did you read this story by your DG 9500 Newsletter Editor and Maddie Papantoniou of Nazareth Community in the August issue of Rotary Down Under magazine?

The story highlights the power of collaboration. "Our Rotary club is small in number, but we make a big difference through this

Trauma Teddies

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Adelaide and the Rotary Club of Mitcham joined with the amazing Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club of Adelaide University to knit trauma teddies.

When a number of the teddies are completed they will be delivered to the Calvary Central Districts Hospital and distributed to children who are receiving medical care.

"We had fun. We inspired each other. We learned knitting together. Sharing stories is a wonderful way to enhance friendships while working towards making a young person's life just a little bit better when they receive one of the teddies," commented DG Partner Chris Egan, who has herself knitted ten teddies.



Message from Senator Tengbeh sent on behalf of the Foya community.

"We write compliments in a spirit of gratitude to the Mawson Lakes Rotary Club through President David Hunter for the 40ft container of medical supplies and other items you donated to the citizens of Foya Statutory District this year. We are glad to inform you that the humanitarian donation is not only befitting the citizens of Foya, but also citizens of neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone and Guinea. The Foya Community Hospital is now functioning effectively because of your donation.

The young people are also benefiting from the computers. We are and will remain ever grateful to all of you who contributed to the wellbeing of our citizens, especially when our country, Liberia is experiencing "Economy Crisis". President George Manneh Weah today delivered speech to the citizens of Liberia calling on them to remain calm and patient as his government is doing everything possible to address the economy hardship in the country. Your donation was timely. Again, we say, THANK YOU for this philanthropic gesture.

In our local dialect we say: "La balika tau-tau".

*Sincerely yours in a spirit of gratitude,
Chiefs, Women & Youths of Foya
Through*

Georgia T. Tengbeh, Senator, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia"



The Purple House

Purple House is an innovative Indigenous-owned and run health service operating from its base in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

Remote Indigenous people in Central Australia are up to thirty times more likely to suffer from kidney disease. Families must move off their country and travel to Alice Springs or Darwin for dialysis treatment. Communities are left without elder leadership, families are broken and culture is weakened. Patients suffer from isolation and depression, restricted by a dialysis machine for their foreseeable future.

Based in two adjacent residential blocks in suburban Alice Springs, the Purple House is their headquarters and a home away from home for patients forced to relocate from remote communities for dialysis treatment. Patients can come in for a cuppa, to do their washing, see the GP, cook damper and kangaroo tails, or get some support.

The services provided at the Purple House include:

- Dialysis six days a week
- Social support services
- Primary health care and allied health services
- Chronic disease coordination
- Wellbeing activities
- Indigenous employment

And they try to have fun and look after each other along the way.

Now operating fourteen remote clinics and a mobile dialysis unit called the Purple Truck, Purple House is getting patients back home so that families and culture can remain strong. (Source: Purple House website.)

The Rotary Club of Alice Springs hosted the hand-over of two vehicles to Western Desert Dialysis, better known as Purple House in Alice Springs.

The donation was made possible thanks to the generous support of Rotary clubs in NT, SA, NSW and ACT, the Centrecorp Foundation and Rotary Australia World Community Service. Local businesses Sutton Motors, Peter Kittle Toyota and AA Signs also contributed substantially to the project.

Purple House CEO Sarah Brown (pictured right) and her team were thrilled to receive the vehicles at a special event in Alice Springs on Friday 10 August 2018.

The day before this event, Purple House was awarded the 2018 Telstra NT Business Award in two categories—Social Change Maker and Business of the Year, so there was much to celebrate. ■



Mike Potts (l) Pres RC Alice Springs, DG David (r) with the Bowen Brothers, two guitar playing aboriginal men who came from Gloucester with members of Gloucester Rotary, who were major donors.



(l-r) Sue Trevaskis, PDG Brian Beesley, Pres. RC Alice Springs Snr Sgt Mike Potts, Sarah Brown and Immediate Past RI Director Noel Trevaskis.

***If you want to change the world, first go home and love your family.”
Mother Theresa***

Super Challenge—Science and Engineering Challenge 2018

An initiative of the University of Newcastle (UoN), New South Wales, Rotary clubs around Australia have collaborated to ensure the continuance of this important program since its inception in 2000.

It focusses on inspiring Years 9 and 10 students to consider a future career in the sciences and engineering by choosing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies in Years 11 and 12.

The Rotary Club of Adelaide accepted the responsibility for coordinating volunteers, eventually assuming the role of managing the program in South Australia, with the engineering fraternity within the club working tirelessly to keep the program alive.

South Australian statistics alone testify to the value and importance of the program:

- 10 challenge days
- 8 schools per day (or more if small schools combine)
- 20-30 students per school
- 20 maths/science teachers per day
- 20 volunteer support “staff”
- Additional volunteers providing set up, catering, security.
- A total of some 3,000 people involved.

Nationally, the Challenge is held in every state and territory on around one hundred days—attracting over eight hundred schools and some 24,000 students and 2,500 volunteers, a high proportion of whom are recruited from local Rotary clubs and communities.

Five x 2-person teams from UoN travel the nation from Broome to Hobart, driving a large van containing all the necessary paraphernalia required to conduct the various activities.

Venues this year were Mt Gambier, Renmark, Pt Pirie, Pt Lincoln, Flinders University and the Velodrome, Gepps Cross.

In his address to participants at the recent Super Challenge at the Titanium Stadium, the Hon Dennis Hood remarked: “It is estimated that seventy five percent of the fastest growing industries require strong STEM skills, so by choosing to study these subjects, you are giving yourselves the best possible start for your future careers.”

He continued: “The Challenge is a great opportunity to hone your ‘enterprise’ skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving and creative and critical thinking.

These skills, together with a deep understanding and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics are greatly in demand already and with the increasing investment in areas such as shipbuilding, other defence related industries and space industry start-ups, having a good basis in STEM is really worthwhile.”

Ollie Clark AM, Chair SA Science and Engineering Management Committee, in thanking the members of the organising committee, paid special tribute to this year’s Event Coordinator, Ruth Conry.

He continued: “It takes collaboration on a grand scale to mount an event such as this. We thank the number of sponsors, large and



“It takes collaboration on a grand scale to mount an event such as this.”



small, including the State Government, the major energy distributors and professional associations, who contributed to the funding of the program. Each of the three major SA universities continued to demonstrate their high regard for the program by assisting in various ways. Their imprimatur helps us to attract the all-important sponsorship.”

“There is a myriad of tasks required to ensure the successful outcome of the Science and Engineering Challenge. Thanks must go to all the members of the regional and metropolitan Adelaide Rotary clubs who worked together so effectively to ensure the successful outcome of the 2018 Challenge.”

The winning school, St Peter’s College, was invited to compete at the National final (Grand Challenge) in Darwin in late October.

Rotary clubs which contributed in some way are many, representing Districts 9670, 9520 and 9500—all three Mt Gambier clubs, all five Riverland clubs, Port Pirie, Pt Lincoln, Whyalla and metropolitan clubs from both districts. Special mention must be made of Mitcham and Mawson Lakes clubs which provided barbecue lunches for the students for three days at Flinders University and the Velodrome respectively.

If your club can help with funding of if you would like further information about the program, please contact Ollie at ollie.clark@optusnet.com.au.

Footnote: You can read the Science and Engineering Challenge Newsletter September 2018 [here](#). It features an article about the rewarding experience of a volunteer at the Challenge. ■