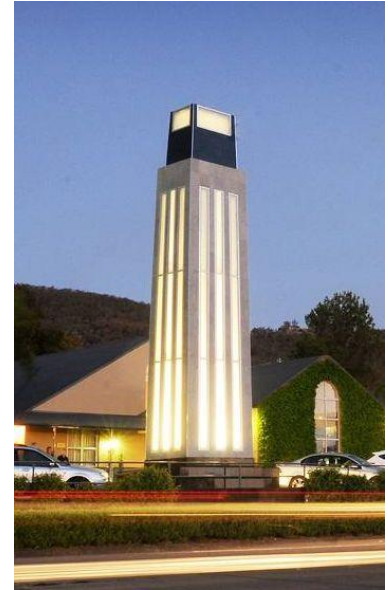




Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light

2017 2018

District Governor:	Bob Ryan	0409 457 705
President:	Michael Smith	0408 230 211
Secretary:	Michael O'Connor	0437 593 479
Treasurer:	Deb Barnes	0411 770 552



Good Friends
Never Say Goodbye
They Simply Say
"See You Soon"

**Farewell luncheon for Jim and Carmel Raymond on 4 March at GoonooGoonoo station
Special time at Post Office Hotel on 9 March.2018**

Meeting 1393

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Quote; As I have grown older I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing off everyone is a piece of cake.

An interesting discussion on the proposed merger of our district with Rotary District 9670 this week.

The discussion was led by PDG Jane Bradford, one of the most "experienced" Rotarians in our midst.

I thank Jane for her efforts in explaining the situation in more detail so all members could make a more informed vote.

The overwhelming thought from members appeared to be that there seemed no positive reason or case put forward for a yes vote.

Many members appeared sceptical about the proposal.

A vote was held and all members present cast their vote for the NO vote.

No members were in favour of the proposal to merge the two districts.

I report that I have today sent the voting form off to the District Governor and Secretary to record your club's vote.

Don't forget **Jim Raymond's send off** on the 4th of March at Goonoo Goonoo

See Phil Penman for details

Good news re Careers Expo, Marina has secured \$3000 worth of sponsorship from Greater Northern Skills Development Group for this year.

Well done Marina and I believe Charles Impey has assisted her with this so thanks Charles.

We have a number of our big projects coming up soon

Those committees are working hard re funding and logistics, please lend a hand where you can when the time comes or even now!

Good to see **Alan Coates** at this week's meeting and we thank him for his continued support of the Science & Engineering Challenge

Something dear to his heart, Cheers Alan

If you have some spare items in your business that may be appropriate for prizes on the upcoming Hunter golf trip Please see John Worldon or Rob Clifton.

See you at the raffles at the PO or at next week's meeting

Kind Regards

Michael Smith

GSE team is now reduced to 4 members. Can you help with transport on 28 February to 1 March?

WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY	21	Ray McLaren "Materials, Madonna & Energy "
	24/25	Pres Elect Training Day
	28	Ashleigh Dallas & Mitch Soree
Feb 27/March	3	RYAG Sheep at Walcha
	4	Goonoo Goonoo station
	7	Judy Biffin- international Tent Pegging
	9	Post Office Hotel
MARCH	8 to 11	District Conference
	17-24	RYLA at Yarrahapinni
APRIL	6-22	NZ tour
MAY	26	District Assembly at Gunnedah
JUNE	16	Change over Dinner

Science and Engineering Helpers required

19-03-2018	Monday 2:00pm – 5:00pm	5 volunteers required
20-03-2018	Tuesday 8:30am – 3:00pm	16 volunteers required Years 9-10 high school
21-03-2018	Wednesday 8:30am – 3:00pm	16 volunteers required Years 9-10 high school
22-03-2018	Thursday 8:30am – 3:00pm	16 volunteers required Years 5-6 primary school
23-03-2018	Friday 8:30am – 3:00pm	16 volunteers required Years 5-6 primary school

David Hinwood

0418 667 768

"Your Forefathers worked hard, and died hard to make this empire for you." Lord Robert Baden Powell

"For evil to triumph it is only necessary for good men to do nothing." Edmund Burke 1729-1797

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with.

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

DISTRICT 9650 – DO WE MERGE OR NOT MERGE?

Why is RE-DISTRICTING / Merger suddenly being discussed and Clubs are being asked to vote “Yes or No” to a merger with District 9670 – this is the District below us that goes down to the Central Coast, includes Newcastle and surrounds and out to Dubbo and beyond?

This Re-Districting / Merger has been discussed with the District Governors, Elects and Nominees over the past few years because the membership in both Australia and New Zealand has dropped markedly over the past 15 / 20 years. We had a membership of 53,000 plus back then – this has now reduced to 37,000 members and still dropping and as at 1 July last year Rotary lost another 2,000 members – between New Zealand and Australia in our District we lost 59 members.

We can provide various reasons for these losses

- the electronic age,
- working longer hours,
- cost of living generally continues to rise more rapidly than income
- the arrival of E-Clubs which has not resulted in the anticipated increase of membership
- and finally – how many of us – Rotarians – have actually invited another person to attend a meeting and join Rotary?
- All this has been mentioned before

Rotary International (Chicago) wants sweeping changes to be made – if we (Australia and New Zealand) can get our house in order by 30 June this year ready to implement these changes on 1 July 2020 or 2021 – we can avoid being told what our mergers will be.

This brings us to the present day – **NOW** – each club in our District 9650 has received this URGENT email and requires all clubs to respond back to our DG Bob Ryan by Thursday, 1 March – Yes or No to a merger with District 9670 – below us.

Clubs should not sit on the fence and not vote either way because that will be accepted as a Yes vote (just like the proposed train strike in Sydney recently – a text was sent to every member to respond “yes or no” – some state they did not receive, others didn't bother replying and the “Yes” vote won because a negative (sit on the fence) vote was accepted as a “Yes” vote).

Our District has received a lot of unnecessary information which is just causing confusion and frustration. Hopefully you have all bothered to read **DISTRICT 9650 – DO WE MERGE OR NOT MERGE** repeated in the Weekly ENews – so you should be familiar with what I have already spoken about.

Why is OUR District allowed this special privilege to vote for or against a merger? Because we have just over 1500 members and growing – we are apparently the fifth largest district in Australia – two in Melbourne and two in Sydney are larger than us. That should impress all of you – we – District 9650 – lost only 59 members at 1 July last.

2..

Some twenty odd years ago when this discussion came up before – We (Australia and New Zealand) argued that Districts over a certain size would / should be able to vote whether we wished to merge or not.

Our DG Bob Ryan remembered this at one of the Re-Districting meetings and our Sydney Head Office (RISPAPPO) had to research this and it was found to be correct.

Why is this allowing our District to vote for or against a merger? Any District with 1100 members or less does not have the right to vote and will be merged with another District with no further discussion. The District below us had 1120 members and had lost since 1 July last year some 50+ members and are very keen to merge with us so their argument will most likely be to vote “Yes” to a merger with us – District 9650. DG Bob Ryan noted at the weekend that D9670 now has 1108 members – still have the right to vote which surprises me as it is so close to the 1100-member mark.

These proposed mergers are causing considerable concern around Australia – specifically because there has been no discussion within clubs or districts about these proposed mergers – all discussions have been between the District Governors, Elects and Nominees and RI Director Noel Trevaskis states he has a Task Force of Rotarians he has been working with covering all ages, male female etc and it is working well. As far as I can assess – none of the DG’s etc have met with this Task Force and I have no idea where they are from.

Our District, as will the District below us – will be appointing the next DG Designate at our approaching Conference and the change-over will take place at 1 July 2020 or at the latest 1 July 2021.

However there has been little discussion between the two Districts – similar situation for the other two Districts and the merger of three Districts about District finances, organisational practices, logistics for these proposed mergers and, of course egos – alternately we could have a full-time CEO who will manage all the day to day running of the combined Districts – **who pays for this** – what staff will the CEO require – **where does this spending stop?** and so it goes on.....

After this weekend’s training and District Finance and Management meetings – our District is asking for an extension of time. As a District we are financially sound and we are not keen to see these funds absorbed and used within another District so we are seeking the legalities of having a Trust Fund administered by, possibly past District Governors, so these funds can be used for what was “Our District”. This cannot be finalised before the end of this month so what does this mean for D9650.

We still require every Club to vote and return their form to DG Bob Ryan by the end of this month – again it is essential to remember if a Club does not vote – it is automatically treated as a “Yes” vote. If our District votes “Yes for a merger” – we will merge whether we wish to or not and we will have a new District number

3...

However, because of the membership numbers – if we vote “No to the merger” we should remain as D9650 and it would be difficult for Rotary International not to accept the District’s decision.

When we returned from Darwin Institute we had the basic breakdown of the mergers to take place in Australia – that lasted about a month and there have been many changes since then – Orange and Dubbo will transfer to us plus Bourke – No – Orange deals south so they will transfer that way and so on and on.

We were to merge with the District above us which included Glen Innes and Tenterfield across to Grafton and south. This had more chance of working than what is being offered now – Lismore and north were staying with a Qld district. That also changed.....

I guess the best example of this is Glen Innes – very keen to be transferred back to us – voted to transfer to our District – the District above us agreed and have now changed their minds. We are still treating Glen Innes as our Club but.... I am also not certain about Bourke being added to our District – it was – it wasn’t – it was - it might go to South Australia like Broken Hill

Currently New Zealand has four Districts – the South Island will definitely become one District and the North Island is in lots of discussions as both Districts have just over the 1100 members and Rotary International apparently wants them to combine.

Why the apparent rush to finalise mergers by 30 June this year? We currently have an Australian RI President Ian Riseley and we have a Rotary International Director – Noel Trevaskis. It is believed if we can have these proposed mergers in place by 30 June this year – Rotary International will leave this to us.

However, if we are still in heated discussions and 30 June passes – then Rotary International can – with no further discussion – just state what mergers are going to happen.

Our current District Governor has the confidence in our District that, with the membership we have and the fact that new members are continuing to be inducted into our clubs as can be seen in the Weekly ENews, that we – District 9650 – could successfully stand alone and continue to grow.

As Rotarians, please think carefully about your club’s decision – the District will have to abide by the majority decision.

It is important that every club in District 9650 must vote either YES or NO and return the form to the District Governor by email – ryanmb@westnet.com.au – by **Thursday, 1 March 2018**.

PDG JANE BRADFORD

D9650 – 2005/2006

14 February 2018



Jane was introduced by Terry Robinson and Thanked by Ian Howle. Her full address has been published.

The Mens' Health Education Van will be in town on 5 & 6 March. It will need a venue and some helpers. No medical knowledge is required as a helper as this is a first response van and blokes will only be assessed and referred to GP if needed.

Green Dream

John pulled up at the traffic lights when a truckload of turf went by. He said to his mate, "I'm going to do that when I win Tatts Lotto."

"What's that?" asked his mate.

John replied, "Send my lawn away to be cut, so I don't have to do it."

Davo is drinking in the Wheelabarraback Hotel with a dog beside him. In walks a stranger.

"Does your dog bite?" the out-of-towner asks.

"Nope," replies Davo, and goes back to his beer.

The stranger reaches out and pats the dog, which promptly bites him viciously on the hand.

"I thought you said your dog doesn't bite," screams the newcomer.

"He doesn't," says Davo. "That's not my dog."

	Wednesday 21 February West Diggers 6.30 for 7am	Wednesday 28 February West Diggers 6.30 for 7am	Wednesday 7 March West Diggers 6.30 for 7am
Topic	Ray McLaren Materials, Madonna, Energy	Mitch Soree PP Ashleigh Dallas	
Door Team	Steve Hawkins Maureen Thornton	Ron Allen Barry Biffin	Elizabeth Gill Laurence Hearne
Meeter & Greeter	Robert Sharp	Helen Tickle	Peter Bell
Welcome	Tom Hellmann	Brett White	John Fogarty
President Assist	Dennis Johnson	Louise Matthews	Peter Hyde
Visitor Assist	Marina Lawrence	Brodie Shields	Graham Dooley
Corporal Assist	Les Jacob	Ian Howle	Peter Leonard
Bulletin Notes	Bruce Hemmett	Julian Smith	Phillip Heffernan
Introduction	Bruce Hemmett	Julian Smith	Phillip Heffernan
Vote of Thanks	Robert Clifton	James Treloar	Lesley Hood
60 seconds			
PO Raffle	16 February	23 February	2 March
NOW @6.30	Sue O'Connor/Michael Smith	Michael Smith Michael O'Connor	Graham Dooley Michael O'Connor
	9 March	16 March	23 March
	Graham Dooley Phil Heffernan	Phil Heffernan Paul Stevenson	Paul Stevenson Jane Bradford
Corporals for February		Corporals for March	
Mitchell Soree & Brian Thompson		Phil Penman & Steve Massey	
Birthdays, Anniversaries and Inductions			
Members Birthdays	Valerie Hellmann 25/2		
Partners Birthdays	Susie Stevenson 25/2		
Anniversaries			
Club Induction	John Fogarty 27/2 (10 years) Terry Robinson 25/2 (14 years) Elizabeth		
Attendance	65%		
Make-Ups	nil		
Visiting Rotarians	Sam Peacocke (Dubbo) Allen Coates		
Visitors	Naomi Blakely		
Heads & Tails	Brett White		
Raffle	John Worldon		

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotary Grace

O Lord and giver of all good
 We thank Thee for our daily food
 May Rotary Friends and Rotary ways
 Help us to serve Thee all our days

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Tamworth—First Light

Meets Wednesday morning,
 6:30 for 7:00 am at
 Wests Diggers
 Kable Avenue
 TAMWORTH NSW 2340
 Phone: 02 6766 4661

Club Officers and contact details

President—Michael Smith

president@tamworthfirstlight.org.au

Secretary—Michael O'Connor

secretary@tamworthfirstlight.org.au

Other Clubs meet:

Monday	Tamworth West, West Tamworth Bowling Club, 6:30pm
Tuesday	Tamworth Rotary Club, Service Club, 6:15pm
Wednesday	Tamworth on Peel – (Calala Rotary), Calala Inn, 6:30pm
Friday	Tamworth Sunrise, Sanctuary Inn, 7:00am