



DISTRICT 9690 ROTARACT NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, 2009-10

I can't believe that the first few months of the Rotary year have come and gone already. It has been a busy few months for Rotaract in District 9690. It has been great to see the enthusiasm shown for Rotaract both among Rotaractors themselves and Rotary Clubs as well.

Congratulations to Burwood for holding a very successful youth mental health forum last month and Burwood Festival. While over at Gunargarang, preparations are being made for a volunteering trip to Sri Lanka planned for January. Another successful RYPEN camp was held in September with many Rotaractors involved throughout the weekend. RYPEN provides the opportunity for Rotarians and Rotaractors to work together in partnership and it is great to see this partnership continuing.

Interest meetings are well underway for two new Rotaract Clubs in our District. Well done to the Rotary Clubs of Blacktown City and Wetherill Park who have been busy publicising, organising and running these interest meetings. I would also like to thank the Rotaractors from both Burwood and Gunargarang who have attended and assisted at the interest meetings. The interest meetings for a new Rotaract Club have been going really well with a good core group of interested young people attending regularly. They already have plans to assist Wetherill Park Rotary Club at the Club's Annual Carols by Candlelight and to help coordinate a gift donation Christmas tree in a local shopping centre. If any other Rotaractors are free on the 12th December, please come along to the Wetherill Park Carols and help us to advertise Rotaract. We will be having an information booth as well as people in Rotaract T-shirts walking through the crowds. If you would like more information or are available to help on the night, please send an email to rotaract9690@yahoo.com.au.

Keep up the great work!

Alana Wilson

District Rotaract Representative

BURWOOD ROTARACT NEWS

Mental health forum

Our first mental health forum was successfully held in September this year. There were approximately 50 people present, with the community appearing very happy for such an event being held. This project could not have run without the hard work and motivation of Gavin Douglas. The forum included a panel of five people, consisting of mental health professionals, carers and consumers. The members of the panel spoke on a range of topics and then answered questions during later discussion. There were also 9 consumer groups at the forum, which set up stalls and provided information about services available in this local area. As a club Burwood Rotaract are very interested in running the mental health forum annually.

Christmas Social Meeting

The Christmas social will be 26th November at PJ Gallaghers, Parramatta, all are welcome.

Burwood Festival

Another successful Burwood Festival has been completed. This year money was raised for Rivendell Adolescent School's drama work shop. Burwood Rotaract will be donating \$500 to their program. A member of the school will be coming to our November meeting to receive the cheque and speak to the club about the school, mental health and their drama project. Once again, we manned a stall next to Burwood Rotary, with their customer base leading to increased drinks being sold. This year was warmer than last year so our soft drink sales went through the roof. We attempted to sell coffee, however due to weather and poor marketing we sold less coffee than we would have liked. We have brainstormed some improvements for 2010 and are looking forward to fine tuning our drinks stall. The festival provides us with an opportunity to interact with the community. It was fantastic to see many people walking by asking about Rotaract, we even had a few names on our interest sheet.

Ruth Erickson

Burwood Rotaract Club

GUNARGARANG ROTARACT NEWS

Well well, the year progresses and so do we.

Our Sri Lanka project is well underway with our team members getting vaccinated, paying off tickets and preparing for the work ahead, including visiting as many clubs as possible in the district to ask for donations.

We'll be seeing the completion of our Oral Health Care Project this month with our guest at October's meeting being Maria from the Special Needs School in Merrylands. Maria will be picking up the packs then.

As a part of Gunargarang's Professional Development we are having guest speakers at some of our meetings. So far we have booked for November 2nd Peter Fehon "The Seven Secrets to Success in Business", 1st Feb Judith "Past Times Tours", and on 1st March Dina Hayes "Lifeline: history of, the services in West Syd, how we connect with our community, and help that can be provided in West Syd".

Rotary is in our hands – Onward and upward.

Amanda Woods

President Gunargarang Rotaract Club

Gunargarang Going To Sri Lanka

7 members of the Rotaract club of Gunargarang (Amanda, Dave, Greg, Heather, Nat, Nick, Tara) + Solomon from Burwood are planning to travel overseas to Sri Lanka in January 2010. During this trip we plan to stay at and help out the Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund (KKCF) an orphanage. A large portion of the contribution we will be making will be teaching; of English, computer skills and manual labour skills. This is merely a transfer of skills and knowledge on a basic interaction level, in addition to making repairs, renovations, building furniture, planting and erecting fencing.

Teaching of English will make up a large segment of our work. We'll be teaching the locals and orphans, in both formal and informal settings. Largely we will be teaching pronunciation and conversational English. Damien Bartholomeusz, a KKFC Representative, believes that once the word spreads in the region that people are coming to teach English groups of 40 or more people will gather. We will also be teaching basic computer skills to the locals. The computer skills we all have acquired through our education and daily lives, the skills we take advantage of each day are skills that could help the locals with education and employment. We have teachers and business consultants accompanying us.

The Hall at the orphanage requires some repairs; once these repairs have been completed the hall will be used as a community hall. The Green House at the orphanage requires prorogation which will give food. No required knowledge is required for these tasks. The library that is already there requires repairs to the building and some bookcases and they also require more bookcases. For the tasks that require basic manual labour, we will be making repairs and renovations we will also be imparting our knowledge on the local community so that in future they can help themselves. Knowledge that we take for granted in our daily lives is knowledge that the locals could be using in their daily lives to improve their area and country.

The agricultural project requires the erection of a fence, we are working with the knowledge we have in this area, the fence is required so that those things that are planted are safe from animals and thieves, in addition to keeping the children in. The season in which we will be visiting will be planting season, we will be able to both help with the planting and to teach and supervise the locals. We have farmers accompanying us and helping us along the way.

Gunargarang Rotaract Club Inc Invites the Rotaract and Rotary Clubs of D9690 (and beyond) to attend the Annual Club "Training Day"

In short, it's the "Blue Mountains Historical Highways Hotel Appreciation Tour"

Training Day is set to start at Mt Victoria Station at approx

10:30am on November 21st 2009.

During the day there will be many different games with fantastic prizes, this is a great time to get to know some other people within Gunargarang and your welcome to bring friends along as well.

All participants are urged to check the weather forecast and to dress appropriately, as last year we has a snap change in weather which resulted in a horrific snow storm, which was enjoyed by all that attended.

During the trip down the mountain we will be stopping at six Hotels throughout the day, if you are unable to be at Mount Victoria for the first stop you are welcome to join us at any point throughout the day, you will just need to check the training ticket, which will be released around the start of November.

The day is set to reach the last hotel around 6pm on the night, where we usually have something to eat. For further information on this event, please contact the club via email: gunargarang@yahoo.com.au.

Dave Mahoney

Gunargarang Rotaract Club

DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP STAND

The Rotary District Conference will be held in Forster from 19th-21st March Next year. It would be great to have a large group of Rotaractors at the Conference. The early bird discounted fee for the Conference ends in November. So get in quick for a cheaper rate.

Rotaract will be having a stand at the District Conference in Forster next March. We need volunteers from each club to put together a poster on their Club's activities. Our Rotaract Club's are doing some fantastic stuff and it would be great to be able to share this information with Rotarians from our District at the Conference. Please send an email to rotaract9690@yahoo.com.au or let a District Board Member know if you are interested in helping out. Don't forget we will also need some volunteers to man the stand at the Conference.

CALENDAR

2009

Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 2nd Nov	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
Burwood Club Meeting	7pm, Thur 5 th Nov	Burwood RSL Club, Burwood
Rotaract District Board Meeting	8pm, Tue 10 th Nov	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 16 th Nov	Blaxland Tavern, Blaxland
Gunargarang's Training Day	Sat 21 st Nov	Starts at Mt Victoria
PRISCA	Mon 23 rd Nov	Burwood Rotaract
Burwood Xmas Social	Thurs 26 th Nov	PJ Gallaghers, Parramatta

Burwood Club Meeting	7pm, Thur 3 rd Dec	Burwood RSL Club, Burwood
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 7 th Dec	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
Rotaract District Board Meeting	8pm, Tue 8 th Dec	Parramatta Leagues Club
Wetherill Park Carols	Sat 12 th Dec	
President's Meeting	6:30pm, Fri 4 th Dec	Panthers, Penrith
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 21 st Dec	Blaxland Tavern, Blaxland

2010

YEP Whitewater Rafting	Sat 20 th Feb	Penrith Whitewater Stadium
District Conference	19 th - 21 st Mar	Forster Services Club
International Convention	20 th - 23 rd June	Montreal, Canada