



# DISTRICT 9690 ROTARACT NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, 2009-10

Welcome to the New Year. I am sure that everyone had a great break over the Christmas and New Year period and are now ready to face the next half of this Rotary year with the energy and enthusiasm that Rotaractors are known for.

Firstly I would like to welcome back our Rotaractors from Gunargarang and Burwood who spent 2 weeks volunteering in Sri Lanka during January. Everyone who had the opportunity to go had a great time, with many planning on making a return trip in the future. I am sure that the children's orphanage and agricultural farm are very appreciative of the work provided by our Rotaractors and I certainly am looking forward to hearing more stories from the trip.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly organised Rotaract Club of Western Sydney to our district. It is great to see the enthusiasm that the new members show having already completed a project collecting and distributing Christmas presents for underprivileged children. I would also like to thank the Rotary Club of Wetherill Park for sponsoring this new Rotaract Club, especially President Elect Ashley Thomas who has been the driving force behind the new club. Western Sydney Rotaract Club are holding their charter night on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, (see the Western Sydney Rotaract News section for more details), so come along and help us to welcome the new club.

Members from Burwood and Gunargarang Rotaract Clubs enjoyed a day of Whitewater Rafting with the Rotary Youth Exchange Students this month. I am sure that all who attended had a great day and it is great to see Rotaract keeping up this tradition. Thank you to all the Rotaractors who got involved and helped out on the day.

I would also like to remind everyone that World Rotaract Week is coming up very soon. It is held 8-14<sup>th</sup> March. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about Rotaract by going along to Rotary meetings and holding a club project during the week.

Keep up the great work!

*Alana Wilson*

*District Rotaract Representative*

## **BURWOOD ROTARACT NEWS**

In November 2009 we had a very successful PRISCA night, with 53 students receiving awards. Justine from master chef came along for a Q & A session which was a big hit with the kids as well as the adults. \$1526 was raised for polio plus. We had a great night and are proud

of how efficient we have become at running this event. We look forward to a bigger and better PRISCA 2010.

We had our Christmas party at PJ's in Parramatta. Due to the spread of our members, PJ's Drummoyne and Parramatta are becoming our social meeting place / our local ☺

We have all had a safe and relaxing December / January break and started afresh with a planning night in January 2010 for the year ahead. A wide range of inventive suggestions were thrown around the table, with a large focus being placed on community and international projects as well as strategies to increase membership.

In February 2010 we had our board elections. Congratulations to our board elect for 2010 – 2011: President – Ruth, Vice President (elect 2011 to 2012) – Liam, Treasurer – Ken, Secretary – Sadaya, Community – Anna, International – Solomon, Social – Aaron.

We have had a good response from Rotary Youth programs, with new members from YEP, RYLA, NYSF and children of Rotarians coming along to join our club this year.

We recently had an exciting culinary night at a Korean BBQ in Strathfield where our wonderful president Solomon regaled us with tales of his Sri Lanka Adventure.

We are well underway with planning for International Women's Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. It is a big event but we are up for the challenge.

*Ruth Erickson*

*Burwood Rotaract Club*

## **GUNARGARANG ROTARACT NEWS**

In January 2010 Gunargarang Rotaract Club's International Project was put into action. with 7 Gunargarang Members + 1 Member from Burwood Rotaract travelling to Sri Lanka to do some community service work at the St Anthony's Boys Home, a mixed gender orphanage currently consisting of 15 children, between the ages of 3 & 16. Its located in Hewadiwela, 29km from Kegalle. This orphanage is part of the KKCF (Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund). As part of the KKCF they also have land in Balangoda (Further South) which is being used as the Agriculture Project. In the near future the KKCF plan to cultivate most of the land, and sell what they grow to help fund itself, as well they are planning to build a big Shed in the middle

of the property which could be used as a training facility for locals, or the older Orphans wanting to get into the agriculture trade. While we were in Sri Lanka we visited both locations helping all we could for the time we were there.

At the Orphanage in Hewadiwela we helped by:

- Sanding down and readied the swing set.
- Dug trenches for wall foundations.
- Mixed & carried concrete for new wall.
- Sorted & Categorized library books that were previously donated, the library once complete will be available to the community.
- Assisted in English Classes.
- Taught lessons in Basic First Aid.
- Participated in Cricket, Soccer & other games with the kids, also donated a Frisbee, as it got caught in the tree.
- Donated Sheets & Towels.
- Removed old wiring and laid new cable for electricians and lights for the Montessori.
- Completely repainted Montessori including doors & windows inside & out.
- Painted a Blackboard for teaching use.
- Undercoated and painted shelving for bags.

At the Agriculture project at Balangoda we helped by:

- Digging a veggie patch, digging all the stumps up by hand
- Manually cut the grass
- Sanded and Linseed oiled shelter to protect from white ants
- Donated shoes to workers
- Brought wood for new buildings, then measured and marked the wood for the buildings.

At the agriculture project in Balangoda we climbed up one of the mountains to see how big the property actually was, and to get an idea of where the project will be in their time ahead.

While in Sri Lanka, we organized to meet with 3 of the local Rotary clubs in District 3220. Due to being there during the elections we were only able to meet with 2, where we did a presentation about how we got involved with the KKCF and the work we had achieved so far. We were lucky enough to meet with some local Rotaract + Interact members as well, exchanging emails, business cards to keep in contact for any work that may go forward in the future

*Dave Mahoney*

*Gunargarang Rotaract Club*

### **WESTERN SYDNEY ROTARACT NEWS**

The Rotaract Club of Western Sydney would like to invite District 9690 Rotaractors and Rotarians to help us celebrate the formation of our new club.

Date: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010-02-19

Location: Kokoda Room, Smithfield RSL Club

Time: 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Dress: Smart Casual

Theme: Girls in Pearls, Guys in Ties

Cost: \$40 per head for tables of 8-10 booked prior to 5<sup>th</sup> March. All others \$45 per head.

RSVP: By 5<sup>th</sup> March, to Rebecca Fry 0430 344 208 or email [rmbfry@hotmail.com](mailto:rmbfry@hotmail.com).

### **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY**

The 3 Rotaract Clubs of District 9690 are joining forces to help clean up Parramatta this Clean Up Australia Day. To be held Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Rotaractors will be cleaning up in the morning then heading off for lunch. It will be a great opportunity for Rotaractors from all 3 clubs to get to socialise together and will be especially helpful for getting to know our newest Rotaractors from Western Sydney. So come along for a great day, further details will be sent to each club.

### **CALENDAR**

#### **2010**

Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 1st Mar	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
International Women's Day	Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Burwood
Burwood Club Meeting	7pm, Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Burwood RSL Club, Burwood
Clean Up Australia Day	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parramatta
Rotaract District Board Meeting	8pm, Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Westmead Children's Hospital
Western Sydney Charter Night	7:30pm Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Smithfield RSL Club
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Blaxland Tavern, Blaxland
District Conference	19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Forster Services Club
Western Sydney Club Meeting	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	? Club Marconi
Burwood Club Meeting	7pm, Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Burwood RSL Club, Burwood
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
Western Sydney Club Meeting	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	? Club Marconi
Rotaract District Board Meeting	8pm, Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Leonay Golf Club, Emu Plains
Gunargarang Club Meeting	8pm, Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Blaxland Tavern, Blaxland
Western Sydney Club Meeting	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	? Club Marconi
President's Meeting	6:30pm, 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Panthers, Penrith
International Convention	20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Montreal, Canada