

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



District 9600 Newsletter

Building On A Solid Foundation



MARCH 2009

“The world would not be where it is without Rotary and it won’t get where it needs to go without Rotary.”

- Bill Gates

Humanitarian Grants Budget

Due to the global economic downturn and volatile investment climate, RI and TRF, like many charitable organisations, must make some difficult decisions in response. At their January 2009 meeting, the Trustees reduced the Humanitarian Grants budget by US\$16.3 million for the 2008-09 Rotary year in an effort to minimize the impact of unrealized losses to Foundation assets. Matching Grants and Volunteer Service Grants will be most immediately impacted by this decision, while District Simplified Grants and 3-H Grants will not be impacted in 2008-09.

The Foundation will continue to approve complete MG applications that meet all requirements on a first-come first-serve basis until the remaining budget has been committed. Once the budget is committed applications will be processed as follows:

- Any applications that have been received by TRF and are currently pending will be kept on file, and subsequently reviewed after the start of the new Rotary year.
- Any new applications that arrive after the budget has been fully committed will be returned to the sponsors, and they will be asked to re-submit them after 1 July 2009 for consideration at that time.
- Any grants that have already been approved will not be affected and will be processed for payment.

At this time, the budget for VSG’s has been fully committed for the 2008-09 Rotary year, and no further applications will be accepted.

For D9600 this means that one VSG has been cancelled and up to ten MG’s (including all five from our TRF Seminar) are now in doubt and may not be funded. The Duke of Yorks water supply, Adopt a Village, and DIK are the ones most likely to be cancelled. This funding shortfall will probably continue into next year and therefore the number of matching grants offered at the 2009 TRF Seminar will be reduced. It is our understanding that those Districts participating in the pilot program of the **Future Vision Plan** will get funding priority, which gives us yet another reason to be a part of the process.

The Trustees will review the Foundation’s financial forecast at their April 2009 meeting and approve a Humanitarian Grants program budget for 2009-10.

OUR FOUNDATION IS THE KEY

DG Wayne, DGE Walter, DGN Eric, and Myself are unanimous in our view that D9600, as a “TRF super-user District” needs to be an active participant in the pilot program so that we have influence over the final outcome. Survey Forms have been sent out to all Clubs and we urge you to vote: **YES, our Rotary Club supports the Districts application to participate in the Future Vision Plan Pilot.**

“Our mission is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. That’s what the **Future Vision Plan is all about. This will all be made possible because of your efforts and the efforts of Rotarians worldwide to help improve our Foundation.” – Ron Burton, Vice-Chairman, Trustees of The Rotary Foundation.**

YOUR CONTRIBUTION
TO OUR US\$125 MILLION
ANNUAL GOAL CAN
MAKE DREAMS REAL.



We cannot stop giving, especially in times of economic challenge and crisis.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS
ROTARY WORLD PEACE FELLOWS
SEMINAR

Saturday 23 May 2009

UQ Centre University of Queensland

RI EXCHANGE RATE

The exchange rate for **March** is **1.54**



Rotary Clubs light up the world to end polio



Iconic landmarks, including the Colosseum, the British Houses of Parliament, the Sydney Opera House, and South Africa's Table Mountain, are providing a dramatic backdrop for Rotary's **End Polio Now** message, which is being projected onto each site in celebration of [Rotary's 104th anniversary, 23 February](#). Rotary clubs around the world are encouraged to share this news with their local media and describe how they're celebrating Rotary's birthday.



UQ Peace Fellows at National Mediation Conference

I feel extremely grateful to have this opportunity to expand my academic understanding of Peace and Conflict Resolution through graduate studies at the University of Queensland as a Rotary World Peace Fellow, and to connect with so many wonderful Rotarians around the world. As I look to this last academic semester, I have the following goals:

To successfully complete my final semester at UQ. Having already written one master's thesis in 2001 for my Master's in Non-profit Management, I have chosen not to write a thesis at UQ. After many discussions and much reflection, I feel that coursework here will provide me with a more direct link to learn and enhance skills, knowledge, and understanding of key issues impacting the successful building of peace and resolution and transformation of conflict, than a semester's research would, for me personally. The benefit of learning from multiple lecturers, as well as engaging in robust discussions with my largely international fellow students, is attractive, and an experience I am looking forward to as I inch closer to this last semester of study.

To participate in Rotary Club-level and District-level activities, including actively promoting the Rotary World Peace Fellowship to possible candidates and supporters.

To assist in the presentation of an excellent Rotary World Peace Fellows' Seminar on 23 May 2009 (Rotarians and friends near and far, please consider yourselves invited!).

To foster a smooth transition for incoming Fellows at the University of Queensland. Particularly for those who have been working for a number of years, transition to academic life is not entirely straightforward. I would like to be a resource and sounding board, as best I can, to alleviate any hiccups for Fellows in transition.

To grow my professional networks and activities through the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non-profit Studies at Queensland University of Technology, and Tom Stodulka, a local mediator.

To enjoy friends, colleagues, and the natural wonders that abound in Queensland.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my work here as a Rotary World Peace Fellow, or if you would like a presentation at your Club. Please accept my most sincere thanks for your support of this wonderful opportunity.

Kind regards, **Janelle Weissman** (*at right in photo*)
UQ Rotary World Peace Fellow, Class VI

"The Rotary Foundation D9600 Newsletter"
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