

Social networkers launched

The Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship (ROSNF) was approved by the RI Board in June, and its 488 charter members from 64 countries include 24 Australians, seven New Zealanders and one Fijian. By the first week of August, membership had surpassed 600 and was growing daily.

“Social networking isn’t just for ‘young people,” explains Simone Carot Collins, a former Rotaractor who is currently President of the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay, WA, and a member of the District 9455 Membership Committee.

“Although the majority of 20, 30 and 40-year-olds use social networks such as Facebook regularly, the over 55s are the fastest growing segment. There’s something for everyone.”

ROSNF came into existence to help demystify social networking, particularly issues around privacy and safety. More experienced Rotaractors and Rotarians assist those new to social networks such as Facebook, Linked In and Twitter to use those platforms safely and effectively, both personally and in a Rotary capacity. Under her classification of

Web Development, Simone is one of the two programmers building networking applications to make it easier to find others in the family of Rotary.

“Our latest project is a Google Map where any Rotarian or Rotaractor can add a marker for their club. Now if you are looking for a club to perform a make-up at, you can see exactly where each club in that city is and when their meetings are. In less than 48 hours, over 220 clubs were listed across the globe.”

Rotarian Prakash Saraswat, from the Rotary Club of Vasco de Gama, India, is one example of the power of social networking positively impacting his club’s work. Through ROSNF’s presence on Facebook, he has made hundreds of new Rotarian friends, and several of those friendships have already led to joint projects, helping 580 poor and needy women to lead a dignified life by providing them an opportunity to earn some money by stitching clothes.

“I got in touch with DG Leif Carlsson of D2410 who was planning a trip to Thailand during winter,” recalled Prakash. “I was able to suggest he come to Goa instead. He was tempted by the timing of the Polio NID and our District Conference. He made his two week trip to Goa, enjoyed fellowship at our meetings, dinners and conference and he had the pleasure of immunising 100 children. He went back to Sweden, contacted his clubs, and we got a Matching Grant for \$26,000 for 410 sewing machines for poor and needy women in our District approved.”

For more information about ROSNF, visit www.rosnf.org or facebook.com/rosnf. ■



DG Leif Carlsson attends to one of the 100 children he immunised in Goa, India, an opportunity that came about thanks to his membership of the Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship.

NSW yachties AGM

Members of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians and their guests assembled on the *SS South Steyne* in August for the 53rd Annual General Meeting of their NSW Fleet.

The weather was stunning with Darling

Harbour glistening in the sunshine. Thanks to PC Ray Wilson for “ferrying” many members and their First Mates to the venue on his vessel, *Glenhaven*.

Reports were presented by Commodore Janet Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer

Neville Hodgson and IR Commodore Robert Eaglesham. The “Bridge” remains unchanged for 2010-2011.

After the meeting Secretary-Treasurer Neville gave a fascinating talk on his recent visit to South Africa. ■