

# THE GIFT OF LIFE



**Maurie Stack and his family know the trauma of an infant life hanging in the balance while clinging to the hope of an organ donor arriving to bring renewed life.**

Roughly three-quarters of the way through a liver transplant procedure, Professor Bob Jones overlooks his surgical team as they continue the process of attaching the new donor liver to the recipient.

**MAURIE** is a past governor of District 9650, and the world changed for him, his wife De and their family in March 2013, when they received news from their daughter Tammy that her new baby son, Jack, was in intensive care and appeared to have a serious problem with his kidneys.

Two testing years followed as Jack's condition was carefully nurtured until he was able to receive a donor kidney from his father, Clinton Wilson.

The good news is that Jack made a miraculous recovery and was even featured on the cover of *Rotary Down Under* in his Superman costume in August 2015.

In fact, the family recently enjoyed

a skiing holiday in Japan – the first time Tammy has been prepared to take Jack out of the country. Even then, he was subject to constant care and scrutiny, with his family watchful for signs of kidney rejection and administering anti-rejection medication morning and night.

So, it is no surprise that Maurie Stack is now dedicated to an ongoing campaign to promote DonatLife Week – July 31 to August 7, 2018 – and to use his considerable Rotary influence to persuade members, clubs and districts around Australia to recognise and support this vital humanitarian cause.

The goal is to convince 1100 Rotary clubs across Australia to partner with the

national DonatLife Week campaign and urge families to register and discuss their organ and tissue donation decisions to help save more lives.

“More than 1500 Australians are currently waiting for life-saving treatment,” Maurie said. “During DonatLife Week, we’re asking people to join the Australian Organ Donor Register online at [donatlife.gov.au](http://donatlife.gov.au).”

“Transplantation is the only treatment that is going to give a desperately sick person with liver failure or other organ failure the chance of survival,” Professor Simone Strasser from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney said. “To have the opportunity to return to a healthy and productive life is extraordinary. Every day I am astounded by the amazing impact that a life-saving transplant has on our patients and their families.

“The whole Australian community must work together to deliver this life-saving treatment. I urge people to visit [www.donatlife.gov.au](http://www.donatlife.gov.au) for further information.” •

In New Zealand, Organ Donation NZ is responsible for all deceased organ donations ([www.donor.co.nz](http://www.donor.co.nz) / 0800 436 667). Live kidney donations are facilitated by the Transplant Units in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Hospitals.



TAS DonatLife Week 2016.



Over a period of 10 or more hours surgeons and the theatre team work almost continuously with very fine detail and concentration to ensure the liver transplant surgery is a success.

The donor liver is carefully wheeled into the theatre rooms before surgeons will remove it from the esky and prepare it for transplant.



Jack Wilson is full of life since receiving a donor kidney from his father, Clinton.

