

Tweed Torch

Newsletter of 2014/15 District Governor, Wendy Scarlett

Edition 3 | September 2014



District Governor's Update

The rain has been so welcome so we hope that you have had some good rainfall in your area. Spring has arrived with the beautiful warmer weather and so many club signature projects are happening over the next few months.

From Coomera River & Coomera Valley's First Night at the Proms, Broadwater Southport's Kokoda Challenge, Parkwood's GC 100, Lismore's combined clubs' Opera at the Channon to many local agricultural shows where Rotary helps out with the bar and feeding the show goers. The events are varied but the commitment and energy of all who participate is fantastic.



Thank you to the Rotarians who start planning 6 – 9 months before the event and drive it, thank you for the Rotarians who look after the many aspects of the event along the way and thank you to those who come along and bring friends to help on the day. Our events raise funds but they also raise our profile in the local community.

Have you planned for your Rotary Day? Photos and short articles are most welcome so we can showcase your club.

Don't forget Friday 10th October is Hat Day – time to dust off those wonderful headpieces and raise some funds for Australian Rotary Health.

Congratulations to the Ride For RYLA team Julian Buttigieg, Andrew Nolan and Glen Gorton who encouraged us all to vote for them on Sunsuper website and won the most votes so have secured \$5,000 for RYLA, fantastic effort. They have been very active in speaking at so many clubs in our district to raise awareness of the great outcomes for young people who attend RYLA.

Wishing you success in your Rotary endeavours for Youth Month as you Light Up the next generation of Rotarians.

Charles and I are honoured to be invited to travel to Taipei, Taiwan for an 8 day homestay Rotary Friendship Exchange as one of 16 couples from across the world. This exchange is to celebrate National Day of Republic of China and to congratulate RI President Gary Huang on being the first Taiwanese to take the office of RI President. This is an amazing opportunity so we thank the clubs who have changed their DG visits to enable us to travel to Taiwan

Wendy Scarlett
District Governor

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Snapshot of the Month



The Governor's Official Driver (G.O.D.), Charles, pictured above whilst on the job

Youth Month

In this month's edition we celebrate Youth Month with an article from District Youth Chair, Simone Wong as well as looking at the launch of two new Interact Clubs within our District and a report on the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) finals.



Youth Month Article

Simone Wong, District Youth Chair

District 9640 has some of the best Youth Programs available. The programs overall promote career growth, life skills, goal setting and leadership skills. Whether candidates are exploring science, public speaking, engineering, human rights or politics, they are growing their own ability to be excellent contributors and leaders in their communities.

For Clubs, these programs provide a number of responsibilities and even more opportunities. Responsibilities to maintain and assist in the growth of these programs and opportunities for increased community connection and new membership possibilities.

It is essential to support the work of these programs by finding and sponsoring young people to attend them. Clubs find many ways to reach out to the wider community to source their candidates. Connections with local schools, community and youth organisations, local businesses, Interact and Rotaract Clubs and links with "friends of Rotary" all provide the opportunity to find excellent candidates.

It is vital, that once we have sponsored these young people that we retain their engagement with our Club. It is not enough to have them just come back and speak. We should be searching for ongoing opportunities to involve them, and their extended families and friends into Rotary.

In addition to providing a wonderful opportunity for young people in our community to develop and grow skills, we are opening ourselves up to many potential members – school teachers, family members, community leaders, local business people.

Clubs that sponsor Earlyact, Interact and Rotaract Clubs have a golden opportunity and huge responsibility. The natural progression for students to move from Club to Club and through the youth programs should not be overlooked. Wouldn't it make our lives easier and create the best relationships with young people in our District if we all worked to this model?

I encourage Clubs to look at their connection with young people in the community during this, New Generations Month. Can your Club consider sponsoring an Earlyact, Interact or Rotaract Club? Can you develop better communications with teachers at the local school who can put forward excellent candidates for the programs? Can you invite families of these young people to join Rotary?

Finally, can your Club add just one more candidate to your sponsor list, or can you get involved with a program you may not have participated in before?

The youth are the future of Rotary and they have so much to offer.

Interact Club Charters

With more than 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, Interact is one of the fastest growing areas of Rotary service and two new clubs were chartered in our District recently.



Stanthorpe State High School Interact

On 11 August, students, staff, friends and parents of Stanthorpe State High School joined the local Rotarians to celebrate the Charter night of Stanthorpe State High School Interact Club. Sixteen students were welcomed as the founding members of the Interact Club.

The school has a long history of support with the local Rotary Club, with students representing the school and local community through the Youth Exchange Program, RYPEN program and combining for fundraisers to support the school's Breakfast Club, California Trip and Italian Immersion Program.



Coomera Anglican College Interact

On 19 August, an excited group of students from Coomera Anglican College assembled with their teacher and Principal to welcome members of their sponsor Rotary Club, Hope Island.

They have 54 members already and have completed a winter project collecting warm clothes and bedding for the Anglican Crisis Centre at Surfers Paradise for the homeless. The crisis centre has been supported by the Rotary Club in past and members supported the students in this endeavour.

They have also had a fundraiser at the School with a Pancake day and have many more activities planned.

Tweed River High does us proud at MUNA Nationals

PDG Graham Jones, Counsellor for MUNA Nationals

What a thrill it was to accompany Joel Kelleher and Joel Schramm-Eyre from Tweed River High to Rotary's National Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in Canberra over the weekend of August 15-17. The "Joel team" representing Israel had already won our District MUNA competition in March of this year.

There were 25 teams in the National MUNA finals-many of them winners of District competitions in Eastern Australia. The weekend started on Friday afternoon with a visit to Australian National University (ANU) where the participants toured the university and heard about its special features and courses. The MUNA debates on Saturday and Sunday were held in the chamber of Old Parliament House which is now known as the Museum of Australian Democracy (MOAD). What a magnificent setting it was for a United Nation Assembly with its special grandeur, stately furnishings and poignant historical memories. On Saturday afternoon everyone had a special treat with a visit to Government House followed by the MUNA dinner at Bruce College, ANU. While His Excellency, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC was not in attendance at Government House we were well looked after by one of his aides-de-camp who described the role and duties of a Governor-General as well as taking us on a tour of the majestic rooms on the lower floor.

The MUNA Assemblies were a credit to all of the young people involved. They entered fully into the "nip and tuck" of the United Nations debate with splendid public speaking, strong rebuttals and often a touch of humour. Representing Israel meant that our Joel team was constantly in the action and as you can imagine often "under fire". They did a wonderful job and I was impressed by their teamwork, carefully thought out strategies and well-delivered speeches and arguments. Although they did not win the competition, several other counsellors commented on the excellence of their efforts. I am sure it will be a memorable weekend for both of them and hopefully the first of many experiences with Rotary.

We are all indebted to the Rotary Club of Canberra Sunrise for organizing this unique event and ANU and other sponsors for making it all possible. A CHALLENGE to our own Clubs: please consider sponsoring a team from a local high school into next year's District MUNA on Saturday March 21, 2015. It is one of Rotary's great activities for our Youth.



At the Airport before heading off to Canberra



"Joel" team at Government House



We graduated from MUNA Nationals!



YEP Student Julie Roepstorff enjoys a great (Sun) day

Julie a YEP student from Denmark (pictured left with Clint Ford from Hope Island) recently enjoyed watching the Gold Coast Suns play in the AFL. She picked up the rules quickly and got into the strategies of the game and even tried an Australian meat pie. As an aside, Denmark has actually had a competitive AFL competition since 1991 and now boasts seven teams from as far wide as Jutland and Sweden.

With over 260 seniors and 100 juniors participating annually, DAFL is one of the largest Australian football competitions outside the English speaking world.

What's going on in Group 3 ?

Alstonville

Recently was involved in providing lunches for some 750 high and primary school students at the Science & Engineering Challenge at Southern Cross University. A number of ex-primary school library books were collected and sent to the Solomon Islands with HMAS Labuan on its decommissioning tour.



President Elva Fitzell & PDG Richmond Manyweathers assisting with the loading of these books. Courtesy : Ballina Advocate

Ballina-on-Richmond

The Club held its very successful Fine Wine and Food Fair in July. This was a very successful event with local Seabird Rescue being the main beneficiary with an \$8000 donation. A further \$2000 was donated to the President of the Ballina Surf Club, Kris Beavis and was presented by President Wayne Crawford (see below)



Byron Bay

Is very involved in supporting the Suns AFL team by selling raffle tickets at the games. This has resulted in the Club providing a number of balls to Byron Bay Public School and Byron Community schools to encourage health activity in the playground.

Mullumbimby

Is working with the local community to raise funds to update a kitchen in a house donated to the community by the council. The Club requires \$5000 to undertake this work which will be used by the local youth predominantly for cookery classes. The Club will again be conducting the "Walk in Pink Slippers" on 21 September to raise funds for Australian Rotary Health to support childhood cancer research. The idea came about as a business operator in Brunswick Heads lost a child some years ago to cancer. He has donated 3000 pairs of pink slippers to be purchased at the start with gold coin donations. The walk will commence from the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club 10am (only a 15-20 min pleasant flat walk) finishing at the Brunswick Heads sound shelter. A Rotary sausage sizzle will follow.

Goonellabah

Wilson Park Special School are now convinced that DreamCricket is great and will be assisted by members of Goonellabah Rotary in spreading the good news to the other schools. Kadina High School Year 10 students got involved managing each station and wanted the program to continue. The Club is planning to provide more equipment and support to the school to further promote this program.



Ballina

The 22nd Annual Duck Race will be held on 5th October from 11.00am with entertainment from 10.00am. Ducks are \$2 each with a total of \$800 in prize money. Proceeds will be made to local and Rotary charities. The Ducks are released in a bundle usually from a fishing trawler from a specially designed cage – a finish line is established and the water marshals determine which duck crosses the finish line first. For further information, please visit [_](#)

<http://www.rotaryballina.org/images/duckrace2014.pdf>

The Club is also organising a Mobility Day Expo for people with disabilities on 18 October at Missingham Park. Suitable entertainment will also be provided.

District 9640 Gift Shop



Alstonville Rotary is inviting clubs within District 9640 to purchase the 'District 9640 Gift Shop', owned and run by the club over many years.

The shop has a good name, attends all YEP events and camps, is called upon by Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Group Study Exchange and attends each District Conference. The shop has also worked with the YEP committee to supply uniforms and gift packs for outbound students.

Current stock is valued at over \$3600 wholesale with a retail value of over \$6,000. Shop goodwill, current stock and all display items now only \$3,300

The shop is being sold as the shop coordinator is moving interstate and other club members are not in a position to take over management. Please contact Sue Lloyd on **0429 395 336** if your club is interested.

Multi District Seminar

On 17 August, District Governor Wendy Scarlett and Charles led a D9640 team at a Membership and Public Relations Seminar for Districts 9550, 9570, D9600, D9630 and D9640. District Governor Elect (DGE) Anne Egan and Jeff, District Governor Nominee (DGN) Michael Irving attended supported by many of our Clubs including Southport, Surfers Sunrise, Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Stanthorpe and Membership Director Margarita Rickard. District Membership Extension Chair Sandy Doumany and Sam attended from Hope Island.

The location for the day was Caboolture and was very well attended, with Rotarians travelling from Cairns and Townsville in the north and south to Mt Warning.

The day had less Speakers and had rotational tables for group discussions, each table with key options to discuss. There was great opportunity for input, and the results will be collated and distributed to attendees. This was the first Multi District Seminar and was so well received from attendees I am sure will be held again next year.



Monthly Club Spotlight Casino

Casino Rotary was chartered in August, 1938 and currently has sixteen active members ranging in age from 19 to 82. Special mention should be made of our youngest member and RYTS Awardee, Luke Kingsford, who was inducted at our recent changeover and has already been actively involved in several Club activities. Along with the 22 year old Scout Symons, who is known to many of you via her vibrant Facebook updates, and a Club President under 40, our demographic has certainly changed in recent years!

The Club is involved in several local activities, the most significant of which in recent times has been 'Bale Out a Farmer' which allowed us, through active partnerships with the Northern Cooperative Meat Company and Richmond River Express Examiner, to raise in excess of \$15000 along with donations of 245+ hay bales (valued at over \$20000) which were distributed to local farmers in immediate need of stock feed.

Our other regular projects include: Graffiti Removal Day and catering for Beef Week (our signature event featuring our 'famous' barbeque and chip van!).

Local community groups which receive our regular support include: Uniting Care Transport Team; Windara (supported workplace for people with disabilities); Volunteer Rescue Association.

The Club also engages with our local high schools, Northern Cooperative Meat Company and Salvation Army to support their initiatives within Casino and surrounds.

Check your preferred contact number

As mentioned in our first edition, our District Website contains an electronic directory of members. It also includes a District Organisation Chart allowing you to view the contact details of members of various committees. All records contain a phone number (visible only to Rotarians who log in) but did you know that this is based on your 'preferred' telephone number as listed in our membership database (ClubRunner)?

By default this is your home number but as most people use mobiles first these days if you need to change the default please talk to your Club Administration officer who should be able to show you how.

Where's Wendy ?

DG Wendy will be visiting the following clubs during the second half of September and October --

September		October	
18	Coolangatta-Tweed	4 -	Taiwan Visit
19	Broadwater-Southport	15	
22	Grafton	20	Murwillumbah
23	Yamba	21	e-Club NextGen
24	Grafton Midday		Hope Island
25	Maclean	22	Mermaid Beach
29	Kirra-Currumbin	23	Coomera River
30	Southport	28	Mudgeeraba
		29	Ashmore
		30	Burleigh Heads



Check out the District Calendar on our website for more information on events !

District Date Claimers

18 Sep 14	GSE Team Member Applications Close
21 Sep 14	Pink Slipper Walk, Brunswick Heads
27 Sep 14	GSE Host Club Applications Close
5 Oct 14	22 nd Annual Duck Race, Ballina
10 Oct 14	Australian Rotary Health Hat Day
19 Oct 14	Ride for Polio (Brisbane to Gold Coast)
24 Oct 14	World Polio Day
25 Oct 14	Kyogle Bush Turkey Ball
4-8 Mar 15	Bavarian Music Festival and Beer Fest
14-17 Apr 15	Ride for Rotary Health (Glen Innes to Goondwindi)
17-19 Apr 15	District Conference

Important 2014/15 Training Dates

22 Feb 15	Assistant Governor / District Chair Training
14-15 Mar 15	President Elect Training (PETS)
24 May 15	District Assembly (one only)
28 Jun 15	District Changeover

Rotary International President's Message | September 2014

Gary C.K. Huang



One of the great privileges of being president of Rotary International is having the chance to visit so many parts of the Rotary world. Usually I travel to participate in Rotary events; speak at Rotary clubs, conferences, and institutes; and encourage Rotarians in their service. But as president, I am responsible for all branches of the Rotary family. This means that it is also my privilege to support the service of Rotary's youngest generations: our Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotary Youth Exchange students, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards participants.

When I see the work Rotarians do, I am always impressed, always excited, and always inspired. When I see the work of our New Generations, I am all of this – and frequently I am surprised as well. Not by the quality of their work – for I have learned to expect great things from them – but by the creativity and ingenuity of their thinking. I look at what they have done and think not just "What a great job!" but "What a great idea!" Because every generation sees the world in a unique way, and every individual has a unique point of view. Faced with the same problems, we arrive at different solutions. This is why, in Rotary, our diversity – of culture, language, expertise, gender, and age – is our strength.

In Rotary, we try to take the long view in our service. We aspire to serve in ways that will make a lasting difference, that will continue to have an impact after our participation ends. Our younger generations, in my experience, share this sentiment, and apply it globally, by focusing on environmental issues in new and innovative ways. When I became a Rotarian, environmental issues were barely on our radar. To young people today, these concerns are front and center. Their perspective is a valuable contribution to the world of Rotary service, and it is one that we should all encourage and support. Just as they are learning from us, so should we be learning from them.

The young people who are serving in Rotaract and Interact, and participating in Youth Exchange and RYLA today, are the Rotarians of tomorrow. When we support them, we are supporting the future of our entire organization. We are helping to train the men and women who will be the club presidents, district governors, RI directors, and RI presidents of tomorrow.