



District Governor's Update



2015 has started with plenty of activity for Rotary. Well done to all the clubs that participated and organised Australia Day activities in their local communities.

I had the opportunity to spend a day at RYLA recently and what a wonderful experience it was. Congratulations to Graham and Rose Price and all the team that works so hard for months to provide this excellent youth program. It certainly is a week of fast paced activities and amazing speakers to help our young people learn life skills and be the best they can be.

Thank you to DGN Michael Irving who spent time at RYLA to review the program on behalf of district. Many of the young people will want to tell their clubs of the skills they learned at RYLA so I hope you all have an opportunity to enjoy their club presentations.

Many clubs are planning a significant event for Rotary's 110th Birthday in the week of 23rd February; I wish you all well with those and urge Clubs to take a peek at what your neighbour Rotarians are doing and join them in Lighting Up Rotary.

Details of screenings of our movie, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, to raise funds for End Polio Now are shown on page 5, so please come along, bring your family and friends to support this event and have a few laughs.

Speaking of which, it is just over ten weeks to Conference and I look forward to seeing many of you there. There are still 150 rooms available in town so book yours and register at –

<http://e.mybookingmanager.com/D9640Conference2015>

Come along for a great Goondiwindi experience !

Have fun as you Light Up Rotary for our special 110th birthday celebrations.

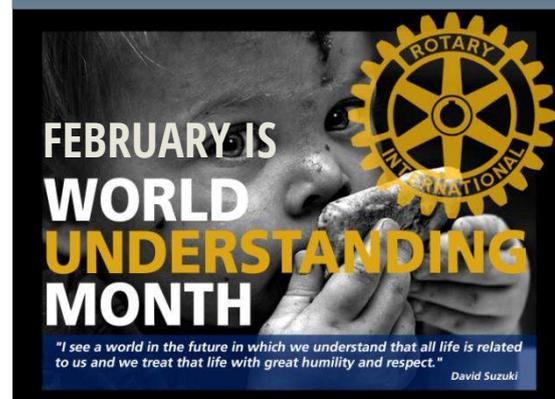
Yours in Rotary

Wendy

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Rotary Monthly Theme



Showcase Postponed

The Showcase Day scheduled for the 22 Feb has been postponed. The revised date will be notified in due course.

New sponsors needed for RAWCS project in Indonesia

Sponsors are urgently needed to help impoverished children in Indonesia receive a better education. Sponsorship costs just **\$110** per year.

Project # 36-2009-10 Indonesia was initiated over fifty years ago (1964) by the late Cyril Richarde, a charter member of Rotary Club of Southport (1945). Cyril visited Indonesia numerous times to establish a close liaison with the Salvation Army in Indonesia. They have operated the program in Indonesia from the outset. It was one of the first (FAIM), later to become RAWCS, projects.

At its peak this project provided funding for more than four hundred students, all from impoverished families. Sponsorship enables students to buy school books, stationery, and items beyond their normal resources. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors a number students have been able to continue on to higher education institutions and university, some with distinction.

In 2014 a total of **\$29,032** was donated to this project. Currently **277** children are sponsored by **171** sponsors and applications have been received from a further **58** children urgently needing sponsorship.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a child should contact the project manager, Tony Pritchett via email at tp@pritchetts.com.au. Donations to RAWCS Ltd are tax deductible

Rotary Club of Southport also hope to formalise an agreement with Rotary e-Club Jakarta Gunawarman as co-partner in the future management of the project. Their involvement will facilitate better surveillance and auditing processes in Indonesia.

ROMAC has changed and saved lives of over 400 children

From humble beginnings with only one child - Fiji's Anand in 1988 - today ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) has proudly changed and saved the lives of over 400 children and their families. In excess of 12 countries in the Oceania region have benefited, with the top three being Timor Leste (95), Fiji (52) and PNG (46).

An enormous effort has been made by ROMAC's dedicated Rotarian volunteers, the hospitals, the

volunteer surgeons and their medical teams throughout Australia and New Zealand plus the wonderful carers who often also accommodate the children.

One of our most recent patients is little *Otto* (see below) who arrived from Nauru with his mother Gianne for treatment for a hole in the heart surgery.



His heart wasn't pumping as well as it should, he had trouble breathing and his condition limited his ability to grow and develop. At 18 months old he weighed only 7kgs and was even too weak to crawl! Thanks to ROMAC and the medical team Otto put on an extra kilo, has proper circulation and is now full of energy!

Other recent children include five month old *Gelina* with a complex medical problem. At mum Marcelina's request we arranged for her to be baptised before returning home to Dili where she now is able to live a normal life.

Keleka was critically ill with heart failure. We had to arrange for a specially equipped ambulance to pick her up on arrival. Following urgent surgery she was able to return to her remote Samoan village for a family celebration! Baby *Tavaleana* was born without a working oesophagus. He would have starved to death if ROMAC hadn't urgently flown him here for intravenous feeding until he was strong enough to undergo a series of life saving operations.

ROMAC could not continue its humanitarian mission without the continued support of Rotarians and their Rotary clubs. ROMAC's overheads are minimal - no paid staff, no office - so every dollar donated is worth many times more. Plus it's comforting to know that your donations are spent here in Australia.

If you would like ROMAC to speak at your club please call ROMAC's District 9640 Chair Jill Ellis on 0415 753 713 or email hjellis@onthenet.com.au. To make a donation either visit www.romac.org.au or call Jill.

First new members for 2015

Meet the first Rotarians inducted in 2015 for District 9640. Murwillumbah Central Rotary was the last club to host the DG visit on 20th January and Wendy had the honour of inducting three new members.



In photo (Peter Kelly, Diane Kelly (partner), President Judy Mason, DG Wendy, Joyce Price, Don Price and Membership Director David Vickers-Shand)

Thank you from G.O.D.

Charles Warrell (Governor's Official Driver)

As the District Governor's partner I chose to support Operation Cleft for my partner project for 2014/15. Thank you to the many clubs and individual Rotarians who supported this amazing program. After completing 54 official DG visits a total of **\$20,484** has been received, enough to fund operations to restore dignity to **82** affected children in Bangladesh. Thank you everyone for your generosity !



Murwillumbah Central President Judy Mason and Charles with a cheque for \$1000

Vale



Arthur Harris PHF

News has come through recently of the sad passing of Arthur Harris PHF. Arthur was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Palm Beach. He was the inaugural Chairman of the Rotary Club of Palm Beach Antiques Fair at Jupiter's Casino – now proudly in its 28th year.

Arthur's initiative, skill in business, his interests in antiques and the new Casino being built at the time brought together a fine and high profile annual project for the club and for Rotary. The Rotary Club of Palm Beach has raised almost \$1M in its life time, in no small part due to the proceeds of the Antique Fair.

Arthur's PHF was only the second in the club after the Inaugural President.

Arthur was a quietly spoken, kind and thoughtful person - a true gentleman. Pam, his wife, who was equally highly regarded by club members, sadly passed away just last year.

Ed Parker

Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Kingscliff passed away at age 103.

Ed was a tireless worker for Rotary and the Kingscliff community.



Ed produced a handwritten foolscap ledger (see above) with the history of the Kingscliff Rotary Club since 1970. In it each year of Rotary is recorded with interesting events noted, office bearers and relevant stories of the year. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Cruising Rotarians

The Fellowship for Cruising Rotarians has just been approved by RI and is Facebook based. However, Rotarians who are not Facebook users can also join and receive emails from time to time. The Fellowship will be working to get cruise lines to formalise Rotary meetings on board, as well as provide Rotarians with a forum to share information and establish contact with other cruising Rotarians. To join either send an email to cruisingrotarians@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CruisingRotariansFellowship>.

Rotary Foundation News

2016-17 Rotary Peace Fellowships

Applications for the 2016-17 Rotary Peace Fellowships are now being accepted and although applications do not close at District level until 31 May 2015, it is never too early to give consideration to possible sources for potential candidates and making initial approaches to ascertain interest.

Our District has an enviable record of nominating successful Peace Fellowship applicants and we are keen to continue our run of success. The timeline for applications is –

- Applicants must submit their applications to the district by **31 May 2015** to seek endorsement
- Districts must interview and submit their endorsement forms to The Rotary Foundation by **1 July 2015**

The 2016-17 Rotary Peace Fellowship application is now available on the Rotary Peace Centers website, featuring links to new resources that are available for Rotary members as well as applicants. Remember, Rotarians play a key role in guiding potential applicants through the process and connecting them with their local clubs and districts for endorsement.

For assistance please contact District Peace Fellowships Chair, Ray Higgs (mobile 0411 697 999 or emailrayhiggs9640@gmail.com)

Paul Harris Society Dinner

Current Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, Ian Riseley has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker at our District Paul Harris Society Dinner planned for Saturday 9 May 2015.

Ian was Director Rotary International 2006-2008, Treasurer Rotary International 2007-2008 and Trustee Rotary Foundation 2011-15 and we look forward to welcoming him to District 9640.

With such a high profile speaker we are looking at expanding the dinner to include Major Donors and Bequest Society members.

Invitations to the dinner will issue in due course but in the meantime, Paul Harris Society members should note the date in their diary.

Rotarians considering joining the District 9640 Paul Harris Society or The Bequest Society should contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Neil Jones (0418 663 740 or email njon8522@bigpond.net.au)

Yamba Family Fun Day

On 18 January, in conjunction with Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club and Clarence River Council, Yamba Rotary held a Family Fun Day that included a sandcastle building competition. A great day was had by all, with plenty of publicity before the event and already afterwards in local papers.



For a day which is all about supplying the community with a free fun event on our beautiful beach we still managed to make some money (\$317) thanks to the BBQ crew and some donations from the car park.

District Conference 2015

[Register Now](#)

Registration for the Conference is now open online at <http://e.mybookingmanager.com/D9640Conference2015> so register now to assist with our planning for a wonderful conference in Goondiwindi from 17 – 19 April.

There is still accommodation available at many of the motels, hotels and caravan parks. With all accommodation bookings please phone direct to the motel and mention Rotary to secure a booking.

For enquiries please contact the following people –

Enquiry Type	Name and Contact
Accommodation	Peter Cory (0429 495 975 or gpcory@me.com)
Booths	Wayne McCosker (0428 713 678 or btcgoo@qld.chariot.net.au)
Silent Auction	Chawki Gazal (0410 002 403 or chawki@akgaz.net)
All Other	Guy Nosworthy (0427 771 490 or guynosworthy@crediflex.com.au)

Australia Day Award for Byron Bay



Club President Barb Upson-Shaw receiving the award

The Rotary Club of Byron Bay was presented with the **Byron Shire Community Event of the Year** for their "Bravehearts Presentation"

As one of the Byron Bay Rotary Club's main annual projects, they undertook the task of presenting and paying for all expenses for the Bravehearts program to be reach all schools and children aged 4 to 9 years in the Byron Shire.

The program is run by Bravehearts in Brisbane and aims to 'abuse proof' children by teaching them through song, story and crowd participation, the skills to keep them safe from sexual predators of any kind.

The program was started and instigated by Past President David Dwyer and the club has been working with the remarkable Bravehearts organisation since July 2009 and together they have reached a total of 7,000 to date in the shire.

YEP – Outbounders for 2015

The 2015 outbound Youth Exchange Program (YEP) participants were at Lennox Head recently to attend their last orientation camp before going on exchange.

We wish all the students the best on their YEP journey !



YEP – Rebounders from 2014



As the 2015 Outbound YEP participants prepare to depart, our 2014 participants returned home in January. Participants pictured above and their clubs & exchange locations are –

Front Row (L-R)

Nathan Robinson	Maclean	Germany
Emma Gardner	Warwick Sunrise	USA (NY)
Molli Devine	Warwick Sunrise	Brazil
Kelly Baker	Surfers Paradise	Austria
Tegan Dee	Surfers Paradise	Germany
Olivia Ireland	Gold Coast	Belgium
Isabelle Franich	Surfers Paradise	France

Back Row (L-R)

Reilly Pickering	Yamba	Denmark
Ruby Doolan	Warwick Sunrise	Belgium
Chantelle Bongers	Stanthorpe	Denmark
Jake Hinds	Grafton	Japan

Fundraising @ The Movies

A number of clubs around the District are conducting screenings of the movie *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* to raise funds for End Polio Now or other charities. Details are –

Location (Date & Time)	Contact Details for Tickets	
Warwick 25 Feb (6:30pm QLD)	Emma Lancaster 0431 513 270	
Lismore 26 Feb (6:30pm NSW)	Gae Ferris 0412 742 095	Terry Brown 0427 500 610
Tweed City 1 Mar (3pm NSW)	Diana Traversi 07 5534 2819	
Ballina 1 Mar (6:30pm NSW)	Neil Bambrook 0408 388 010	
GC Arts Centre 1 Mar (6:30pm QLD)	Brian Pearson 0408 758 399	

Rotary International President's Message | February 2015



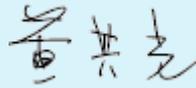
As president of Rotary, it's my job to encourage and inspire Rotarians wherever I meet them. It's also my job to listen to what they have to say. Whether it's a successful project or a challenge to overcome, a great Rotary Day or a new idea, I want to hear what Rotarians are thinking, doing, and planning. So whenever I travel, I ask my hosts to talk to me about their clubs. What's going well, where do they see a need to improve, and what can we at RI headquarters do to help?

The answers are always interesting and often surprising. Sometimes I have a suggestion or an idea to contribute; sometimes I am able to make a connection that will move a project forward. Often, I go back to Evanston with ideas and insights that help guide us in our decisions. But what I value most about these conversations are the stories I hear – the stories that, taken together, tell the story of Rotary.

In Atlanta, I attended a Rotary event honoring teachers and heard story after story about the gift of literacy and how it transforms lives. In Istanbul, I attended a wheelchair race and learned how Turkish Rotarians are working to improve the lives of people with disabilities. In Lima, Peru, I talked to a former Rotaractor who waited nearly 20 years to be invited to join a Rotary club, and heard about how returning to Rotary has transformed her life.

I've heard stories that have made me laugh, and stories that have moved me to tears. I've heard stories of how our service changes the lives of others, and how it changes us as Rotarians. When I hear these stories, I can't help but wonder: How many other lives could we change for the better by bringing more people into Rotary? And how many more people could we bring into Rotary simply by sharing our own Rotary stories?

In this Rotary year, I ask all of you to do just that: Share your Rotary stories. Tell them to your friends, on social media, and through Rotary.org. Our Rotary stories are what inspire us, and what encourage others to join us; they help light up our service, as we work to *Light Up Rotary*.



Gary C K Huang
President 2014/15

2015 Rotary International Convention



Whilst the first early bird deadline of December 15th has already passed you can still save up to USD 50 on Convention Registration by booking before 31 March 2015 !

www.riconvention.org

2015/16 Rotary Theme Announced

Using their talents, expertise, and leadership, Rotary members worldwide are asked to be gifts to the world this upcoming 2015-16 Rotary year.

"All of you have been given so many gifts. And you have now been given this great gift: one year to take all your talents, all your gifts, everything that you are and can become -- and Be a Gift to the World," said RI Preseident-Elect K.R.Ravindran





Calendar of Activities

Mark your diary for the following key dates, including training dates. Don't forget you can get more details on these events as well as what else is going on, via the District Website.

Date	Details (Location)	Type
Feb 15	Rotary Leader Institute Course B – Part 1 (Broadbeach)	Development
Feb 22	AG / District Chair Training	Training
Feb 25	Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (Warwick) #	Event
Feb 26	Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (Lismore) #	Event
Mar 01	Rotary Leadership Institute Course A – Part 3 (Broadbeach)	Development
Mar 01	Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (Ballina, Tweed City & GC Arts Centre) #	Event
Mar 04 – Mar 08	Bavarian Music & Beer Festival (Tenterfield) (for bookings email karen@tenterfieldinsuranceagencies.com)	Event
Mar 07	New Horizons Ball (Hotel Mercure) (for bookings visit www.trybooking.com/114264)	Event
Mar 08	Rotary Leader Institute Course B – Part 2 (Broadbeach)	Development
Mar 14 – Mar 15	President Elect Training – PETS (Ballina)	Training
Mar 21	Model United Nations Assembly – MUNA (Tweed Heads)	Youth
Mar 28	Denmark GSE Team Launch Luncheon (Happy Valley, Stanthorpe)	-
Mar 29	Rotary Leader Institute Course B – Part 3 (Broadbeach)	Development
Apr 14 – Apr 17	Ride for Rotary Health (Glen Innes – Goondiwindi) (for bookings visit www.gtoc.com.au)	Event
Apr 17 – Apr 19	District Conference (Goondiwindi)	Conference
May 02	Opera in the Vineyard (Stanthorpe) (for bookings visit www.trybooking.com/106025)	Event
May 07	Danish GSE Team Farewell (Gold Coast Arts Centre)	-
May 15	Antiques & Collectible Fair (Alstonville)	Event
May 22	ROMAC Trivia Challenge (Gold Coast Arts Centre)	Event
May 22 – May 24	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment - RYPEN (Bornhoffen)	Youth
May 24	District Assembly (Xavier Catholic College, Skennars Head)	Training
Jun 28	District Changeover	Event
Jul 26	Opera at the Channon (Northern Rivers) (for bookings visit www.operaatthechannon.com.au)	Event

See story on page 5 for booking details.

