



## District Governor's Update

Wendy Scarlett, District Governor 2014 / 15

November is Foundation month and in this edition we have much to report on Foundation matters. Thank you to all clubs in District 9640 that continue to support our charity with a minimum of US\$100 per member and to the Rotarians who make individual contributions every year. The Rotary International website is a wealth of information about so many ways that we are changing lives around the world through the work of Rotary.

The past month has been a very busy one in most clubs with Mental Health awareness events, End Polio Now fundraising, Graffiti Removal and so much more. Thank you to the Youth Directors who have been sending in RYTS applications and to those clubs that have offered to sponsor students from other clubs. Great teamwork. RYLA applications are being sought now so please make sure you find those 19 – 28 yr olds who would benefit from this life changing experience.

Our DG Rotary Friendship Exchange visit to Taiwan was just amazing. Rotarians are such warm, friendly people all over the world and Taiwanese clubs made us feel so welcome. There were 15 District Governors from 12 countries - Mexico, USA, Hawaii, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, India, Egypt and Zambia. We visited Taiwan National Museum which has so many Chinese artefacts it would take 2 days to see it all.

The main purpose of the visit was to attend the 103rd Taiwanese National Day and we were certainly treated as very special guests. After the ceremony we met for an hour with Ma Ying-jeou, President of Republic of China who addressed us and then had photographs taken as a group and individually, followed by a celebration banquet. We visited Hsinchu Science Park, Taipei 101 and many other interesting sites.

We attended a special 'Light Up Rotary' event where 600 of us, children from an orphanage and sponsor Rotarians, travelled by bus into the mountains and wrote on 130cm high lanterns before they were lit and drifted to the sky. What a beautiful sight it was.

Charles and I feel very honoured to be invited and were proud to represent Australia. Our Rotary friendships have grown again thanks to this wonderful opportunity.

Yours in Rotary

Wendy

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## November Foundation Month



## Rotary Foundation Update

November is Foundation Month and I can think of no better way to start this article than to highlight that The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International has again been awarded the coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency by Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator.

The following extract from Charity Navigator's letter advising the assessment is worth repeating:

*"Based on the most recent information available, we have issued a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International has earned our seventh consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 2% of the charities we rate have received at least 7 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."*

This 4-star rating of The Rotary Foundation applies equally here in Australia and as Rotarians we can be very proud that "our charity" is viewed so favourably and can continue to confidently raise funds for, and, contribute personally to its programs.

### Every Rotarian Every Year

Our contribution level to The Rotary Foundation reached new heights in 2013/2014 and a major factor was a significant increase in the number of Rotarians making personal donations under the banner of Every Rotarian Every Year. It is fantastic to be able to report that 480 District 9640 Rotarians (38%) made a personal contribution last year. This was well above the Australian average of 21% and 30% worldwide.

Hopefully we can maintain and grow this level of personal commitment by Rotarians as well as the strong level of club contributions and Foundation Month is an ideal time for us to reflect on our charitable giving. Please keep The Rotary Foundation top of mind and help ensure "our charity" is able to continue "doing good in the world".

### Paul Harris Society

The District 9640 Paul Harris Society continues to grow with two additional members joining the society this year (by committing to contribute US\$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation annually) bringing the number of members to 22.

We thank these Rotarians for their significant contribution to The Rotary Foundation.

### Rotary Foundation Programs

It is pleasing to advise that District 9640 continues to benefit significantly from Foundation programs:

**District Grants** – our 2014/2015 Block Grant application for \$36,557 was approved in August and successful clubs are now implementing approved projects – see separate article for more detail. Contingency funds are still available to support worthwhile projects now in the planning stage. The final report in relation to 2013/2014 district grants has been completed and will be forwarded to all Clubs shortly.

**Group Study Exchange** – our Team to visit Denmark has been selected (see separate article).

**Peace Fellowships** – we have received advice that our two Peace Fellowship applicants have been successful and have been offered fellowships in the June 2015 intake at the Rotary Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (see article in next month's Tweed Torch).

**Global Grants** - we have over \$50k in District Designated Funds to support global grant applications for appropriate projects and welcome any enquiries which should be directed to Grants Sub-committee Chair Ian Yarker or District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair Neil Jones.

## New Rotary Down Under (RDU) Chair

Peter Sandercock will stand down as Chairman of RDU on 30 June 2015. Elections were held for the roles of Chairman and Deputy Chairman and the following Rotarians were elected:

Chairman - PDG John Kevan  
Deputy Chairman - PDG Neville Parsons

## District Grants 2014 /15

District 9640 applied for the maximum possible Block Grant of US\$36,557 which was approved by The Rotary Foundation and the funds received into our District Rotary Foundation District Grants account in September. Club projects included in our block grant application and for which district grants have been approved are:

**Alstonville** - \$350 to assist a local literacy program "Rotary Supporting Reading" which provides training for parents in child learning methodology. \$1,000 to assist funding scholarships including for a student with a disability to attend University, TAFE College or Trade Centre.

**Ballina** - \$800 to assist with the provision of training equipment and programs for Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC.

**Coolangatta Tweed Heads** - \$2,354 to assist with the supply of computer equipment to Tibetan schools in Chairok, Mustang Pokhara.

**Coomera River** - \$1,710 to assist with the container and shipping costs to transport medical equipment (sourced from the old Gold Coast Hospital) and educational equipment and materials to Timor Leste.

**Jimboomba** - \$1,850 to assist with renewal of entry stairs including disabled access to the Jimboomba Community Hall.

**Mt Warning AM** - \$2,354 to assist with the provision of laptop computers with wireless internet at Shree Pokhara View Point primary school to overcome continuous electricity shedding issues.

**Surfers Sunrise** - \$2,354 to assist with container and shipping costs to transport 274 wheelchairs to Nigeria for children and adults who otherwise would have no means of mobility.

**Stanthorpe** - \$2,354 to assist with the renovation and upgrading of Rotary Park, originally established in 1956.

**Group Study Exchange** - \$14,980 for District 9640 Group Study Exchange with District 1461 Denmark

**Administration** - \$1,170 to assist with the costs of Club Runner Grants module for District.

**Contingency** - \$7,840 has been retained as a contingency to support worthwhile projects which may arise over the balance of the 2014/2015 Rotary year.

Qualified clubs with projects, either local or international, ready to progress or in final development stages and which may be eligible for support by way of a district grant should discuss with District Grants sub-committee Chair Ian Yarker or District Rotary Foundation committee chair Neil Jones prior to commencing implementation of the project.

## Graffiti Removal Day



BEFORE



AFTER

A Graffiti Removal Day was held on Sunday 26th October 2014. Approximately 40 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Casino, Lismore and Lismore West and community volunteers took part. The Rotary Club of Kyogle has been involved each year and will carry out graffiti removal in November. The Rotary Club of Glen Innes will hold a similar day soon.

Across NSW over 300 sites were cleaned up. The Rotary Club of Casino cleaned two nominated sites, and in Lismore six nominated sites (a mix of Council, Private and Community property) were cleaned. Between Casino and Lismore we used approx 60 litres of paint and removed nearly 900 sq m of graffiti. This involved nearly 120 hours of community service. Casino had 15 non Rotarian volunteers and Lismore had 6 volunteers from the Balund-a program at Tabulam. Balund-a is a residential diversionary program for young aboriginals aged 18-40 and aims to reduce reoffending. The project received good publicity in the local media, for Rotary.

## Group Study Exchange Team Selected

We recently selected the GSE Team to represent our District in D 1461 Denmark in May/June 2015.

We thank Rotary Clubs throughout our District for sponsoring 18 candidates. Clubs prepared their applicants well and the quality of applicants were high. As you can imagine the selection committee had a difficult task and the selected team will represent our District with pride and distinction.

GSE is still one of Rotary's most popular programs and certainly well supported in our District.

### Meet the Team



David Hansen  
Team Leader  
RC of Stanthorpe



Dana French (29)  
Accounts Manager / HR  
RC of Jimboomba



Jamie-Lee Morgan (25)  
Accountant / CEO Business Services  
RC of Tenterfield



Andrew Brewer (25)  
Architect  
RC of Gold Coast



Gareth Hockings (34)  
Primary School Principal  
RC of Lismore West

## Guess Who ?



This past District Governor was trying to disguise himself at a recent Hat Day event.

Do you know who he is ?

## Vale Grahame Braid



Tenterfield Rotary is mourning the passing of Grahame Braid, Past President of the club, Paul Harris Fellow and wonderful club man, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October tragically in a farming accident as he was repairing a well and windmill on his beloved farm on Casino Road, Tenterfield.

Grahame was a giant of a man, in every sense of the word, a loveable big man with curly hair and beard, barrel chest and a heart of gold. There are few people in Tenterfield who have not been touched by the generous community spirit which pervaded Grahame's very existence.

Braidie, as he was affectionately known to all, was a loving husband and father, intensely proud of his children David, Cathy and Angela, just as he was intensely proud of Tenterfield, the town he called home. His community work and generosity towards the people of Tenterfield and beyond are the stuff legends are made of. Indeed, Grahame was bestowed with the honour of Tenterfield's Legend of the Bush in 2011 by the Oracles of the Bush committee in recognition of his tireless work for the community.

Braidie was also much loved for his quick and oft times dry sense of humour, particularly when recounting tales of his tag along 4WD trips in his beloved Cruiser or setting up his dear and special friend, Peter Chittick.

We can but admire the man as we acknowledge his passing, knowing that there will be a void in our Club, difficult to fill. Meetings and fundraising activities will not be the same.

Vale Braidie and take with you the grateful thanks of the Tenterfield community for a wonderful life, so well lived.

## Vale Martin Zaugg



Our District is also mourning another Rotarian, Martin Zaugg, who passed away peacefully on 20th October.

Martin was a charter member of the e-Club of NextGen and a Past President of the Rotary Club of Beaudesert (1998-99).

Our thoughts are with his wife Judith and children Jason, Benjamin and Julian.

## Vale Brian Hammill



Brian Hammill OAM, an honorary member of Murwillumbah passed away peacefully on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

He was a Past President, Past Assistant Governor and a founding father of Mt Warning AM Rotary Club. A passionate Rotarian who will be sadly missed by the Murwillumbah community.



### Club Spotlight Ballina-on-Richmond

Ballina-on-Richmond was chartered in 1986 and currently enjoys a membership of 33 members. Said President Wayne Crawford, "our club has a strong history in supporting the local community and we are proud of our achievements, having been pioneers in a number of activities and our commitment to local community organisations and projects is demonstrated through 75% of fundraising activities and monies being distributed locally".

Our signature event each year is the Fine Wine & Food Fair which introduces many visitors to Ballina and allows local producers and cottage industries to showcase their products. The proceeds are allocated to a local cause, this year the Australian Sea Bird Rescue (originally under the guidance of the late Lance Ferris) received an \$8,000 donation. This will be utilised for additional filtration systems and tanks for the green turtles that are rescued.

As early as 1990 the club was awarded the coveted Sydney Morning Herald Regional Community Award for NSW, the Ballina Shire Community Award and Rotary District 9640 Community Award for its project to beautify the approach to the airport with the planting of trees.

We are also the first club to initiate a new form of business/organisation membership to attract new members and to benefit their organisation through our leadership programs.

In 2013 we were heavily involved with the inaugural Ballina Prawn Festival. Our member Sheila Aveling, organised and ran a Dinner dance for the event and we were awarded Community Event of the Year at the Ballina Shire Australia Day Awards.



The council also announced that our Charter member, Col Lee would be honoured with an Order of Australia award for service to the community over many years.

To celebrate the 40 year anniversary of the voyage of the La Balsa rafts from Ecuador to Ballina, (which the Prawn Festival was created to acknowledge) Ballina on Richmond commissioned the building of a scale model of a La Balsa raft which holds pride of place in Ballina airport. We were privileged to have The Ecuador Ambassador to Australia, Mr. Raul Gangatina as our guest for the weekend, and he honoured us by becoming an honorary member of our club.

Joining forces with the Art Students from Southern Cross K12 school, we set out to improve the visual look of the local pump station near Chickiba Lakes and sought the guidance and assistance of local Indigenous Artist, Digby Moran. Along with the students, Digby and our members, a beautiful result was achieved in July this year.

More recently, October saw us conduct a successful Vocational evening for the local business houses with some 60 people in attendance.

We are also in the process of instigating a programme to assist those on the land who are affected by drought, not only in a material sense, but importantly to provide support of the physical & emotional wellbeing of the individuals affected.

Our club motto is "PUT THE SMILE BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY" and we intend to continue doing just that.

## Ride for RYLA – Peruvian Mototaxi Adventure



The RIDE FOR RYLA team, Julian Buttigieg (Rotary E-Club of NextGen), Glen Gorton and Andrew Nolan, have returned home safely from their Peruvian Mototaxi Adventure. The fundraising adventure, raising funds and awareness for District 9640's RYLA program, saw the team attempt to ride a mototaxi approximately 3000kms from the coastal town of Colan, to Urubamba in Sacred Valley.

On day one, the team quickly discovered the vehicle they were using was clearly not engineered for speed, reliability, comfort, long distance travel or wet weather. The maximum speed of 45kmph (at sea level, on a flat surface) quickly became walking pace as they climbed the heights of the Andes in 1st and 2nd gear with team mates having to walk beside or push the vehicle. This was provided the vehicle was not overheating, or having one of it's many rests stops with local "mechanics". After some incredible sights, experiences, and almost sleepless days/nights, the team realised they were well behind the pace they had originally set for themselves without enough hours in a day to possibly gain ground.

A meal at 11pm after a 16hr day of driving, still without accommodation, saw the boys decide the following day would see them attempt to source a truck that could carry the mototaxi closer to Sacred Valley. In an incredible turn of events, the team met an English speaking Peruvian who had lived in Australia for 4 years. This gentlemen (Mirko) helped the team with their freight requirements, and provided them with an unforgettable cultural tour of his home and city - something the team never would have experienced had they just continued driving. The realisation came about that while the team were seeing some amazing sights while driving, they weren't really absorbing or experiencing the culture and people of Peru.

The days following were filled with a partially horrifying 51 hour Peruvian bus stint, cultural sight-seeing in and around Cusco, along with an ankle spraining motorbike tour.

All were experiences that never would have existed had the team pushed themselves, possibly to breaking point, trying to drive over 15 hour days.

The team were reunited with their mototaxi, and after more repairs, drove it the 60kms (7 hours) to the finish line. The days following saw them visit Machu Picchu, checking an item off their goals list, while also wearing the very colourful RYLA shirts to the ancient city.



Maintaining their Rotary connection, while in the capital city of Lima, the team spoke at the Rotary Club of Lima Sunrise at their breakfast meetings before setting off on the adventure, and on their return. The club thought the team were crazy to set off on such a journey, but provided them with some valuable advice. They were happy to see them return safe and sound three weeks later.

The team attribute much of their goal setting, motivation, teamwork and sustained passion to lessons learnt through their involvement with the RYLA program. They have all attended and volunteered with RYLA in District 9640 and raised over \$10,500 for the program in the lead up to their Peruvian adventure. They have currently sourced 6 awardees to attend the 2015 seminar and will continue to raise funds and source additional awardees in the coming months. The team will also be speaking at RYLA 2015 about their RYLA, Rotary and Fundraising experiences.

If you'd like to see more photos, videos, and the daily blogs from the Peruvian adventure please visit the RIDE FOR RYLA Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/rideforryla](http://www.facebook.com/rideforryla)

You can also email the team at [rideforryla@gmail.com](mailto:rideforryla@gmail.com)

## Rotary Friendship Exchange

to Rotary District 7280 - Pennsylvania - USA in August 2015



Would you like to enjoy the hospitality of Rotarians in District 7280 Pennsylvania USA? From a geographic perspective Pennsylvania is located in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States, and the Great Lakes region. The state borders Delaware to the southeast, Maryland to the south, West Virginia to the southwest, Ohio to the west, Lake Erie and Ontario, Canada to the northwest, New York to the north and New Jersey to the east.

You can be part of up to a twelve person team to participate in this great Rotary experience of friendship and hospitality from 1 to 15 August 2015 in District 7280 Pennsylvania USA.

## Parkwood Youth Night

Family involvement is big in Parkwood Rotary. This includes not only partners but many children and at least three families have high involvement with children attending most meetings. This proved to be a real bonus when the Club decided to hold a meeting with a difference during October and had the children of members takeover the meeting.

Every part of the meeting was in the hands of our youth ambassadors and they did a marvellous job as they looked after the registration and welcome, acted as Sergeant at Arms and chaired the meeting for the night.



This exchange could provide a great opportunity to see the area displaying its Autumn colours and to even extend the travel experience within Canada, or the USA, either before or after the exchange.

The incoming visit to our District by Rotarians from District 7280 is planned to occur in November 2015 and clubs of outbound team members are expected to host the inbound team, during their 14/15 days experience within District 9640.

Requests for a Team Membership Application and Participant Questionnaire should be directed to RFE Committee Chair Reg Norvill on 07 5524 2297 or 0427 943 678 or email: [regn@ozemail.com.au](mailto:regn@ozemail.com.au)

Completed Applications are to be submitted for consideration by the District Rotary Friendship Committee by Wednesday 10 December 2014.

Further information on Rotary Friendship Exchanges can be found in the RFE Handbook at –

[www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/rfe\\_handbook\\_en.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rfe_handbook_en.pdf)

They ran a specially designed Trivia section with questions aimed at all that attended and introduced our own District Youth Chair Simone Wong who continued with the theme of the night by talking about the youth programs available through Rotary but then had the meeting in stitches with a game of Chinese Whispers with just actions.

The menu was also changed on the night to include hot dogs, fish and chips, ice creams and chips so it was a case of all out with the theme and the concept was so popular that many members had their children involved in a Rotary function for the first time. For others though, Rotary is not new with two of the people that were heavily involved in the night having attended RYLA or RYPEN in the last twelve months.

All in all, a very successful night designed to belatedly recognise Youth Month and to further increase family involvement in our Club.

## Taiwan Photos

A selection of photos from DG Wendy & Charles' recent trip to Taiwan -



## Rotary International President's Message | November 2014

Gary C K Huang, President 2014/15



Four months into this year of working to Light Up Rotary, I am more excited about Rotary than ever before. I've been to 22 countries, visited dozens of cities, and met thousands of Rotarians. I've seen amazing projects and been inspired over and over again by the terrific work Rotarians do all over the world.

And I've been privileged to be part of all kinds of Rotary events, from club meetings to Rotary institutes, from Rotary Days to Foundation dinners.

Every event is memorable. I feel especially honored when I am invited to share in club celebrations. To me, taking part in a Rotary club celebration as Rotary International president is like being invited to a family event as an honored guest. Indeed, Rotary is the biggest family in the world.

You could say that Rotary is built of service: Each project is another brick in the big building that is Rotary. If our service forms the bricks, then there is no question that friendship is the mortar that holds those bricks together. I see this every day, but nowhere more clearly than at some of the most special Rotary club events: their centennial celebrations.

Being president of Rotary International in its 110th year, I've been lucky to take part in a number of these. It is natural, when visiting long-serving clubs, to want to know what their secret is – because I have always noticed that the longest-serving clubs are also some of the most productive.

They are large, they are active, and they do great work. Not only that, but they have a great time doing it.

Of course, that is their secret: In Rotary, strong friendships and great service go hand in hand. When we enjoy our work, we want to do it. We want to work harder, and we want to work better. We look forward to Rotary meetings. Even when our lives are busy, we make Rotary a priority – because we want to see our friends, and we want to serve.

That is why Rotary is still here, after more than 109 years. In Chinese, we say:

如果人生没有朋友, 就等于没有太阳 (A life without a friend is a life without sun).

Our Rotary friendships give light to our lives, and it is Rotary friendship – as well as service – that lets us Light Up Rotary.

## Important Dates and Information

### Where's Wendy ?



DG Wendy and Charles will be visiting the following clubs on their District tour in the coming months -

Nov 10	Burleigh Heads Rotaract
Nov 12	Surfers Sunrise (AM)
Nov 12	Murwillumbah Rotaract (PM)
Nov 17	Surfers Paradise
Nov 18	Southport Rotaract
Nov 25	Robina
Dec 11	Gold Coast
Dec 16	Kingscliff

### Other District Dates and Events



Mark your diary for the following key dates., including **key 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.

Nov 9	Finance, Company AGM & Leadership
Nov 13	Federation of Yachting Rotarians
Nov 29	RYTS *
Nov 30	Rotary Leadership Institute - Part 1
Dec 3	Governor Elect Training *
Dec 5	Rotary Institute Wellington *
Dec 14	College of Governors Luncheon
Jan 8	Antiques Fair *
Jan 24	RYLA *
Feb 22	AG / District Chair Training
Mar 4	Bavarian Music Festival & Beer Fest *
Mar 14	President Elect Training (PETS) *
Mar 21	Model United Nations Assembly
Apr 14	Ride for Rotary Health *
Apr 17	District Conference *
May 2	Opera in the Vineyard
May 22	RYPEN *
May 24	District Assembly
Jun 28	District Changeover

\* These are multi-day events. Check the District website for more information.

### District Conference 2015

This year's District Conference is being held in Goondiwindi from the 17 to 19 of April, 2015.



More information about the District Conference will be available soon but in the meantime why not get your club members together and work out travel and accommodation plans and take any last minute stress out of the planning !

### Visiting another Club in the District ?



Ever thought of visiting another Club in our District? See what other clubs do at club meetings and learn about their projects and how they help their local community and the world.

To find out when and where they meet just head to the District 9640 website ([www.rotary9640.org](http://www.rotary9640.org)), select 'Clubs' on the top menu, and from the drop down click on 'Where & When Club Meet'

### College of Governors Luncheon

Bookings for the College of Governor's Luncheon to be held on Sunday, 14 Devcember at the Palmer Colonial Golf Course in Robina are now open.

Tickets are \$36 each. Attendees should visit [www.trybooking.com/GICT](http://www.trybooking.com/GICT) to book.

