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DG Darrell and Kerri Brown:

**Merry Christmas
to you all!**

Darrell's Discourse: December is Rotary's Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

To quote Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible until it is done". How true is that when you look at Rotary's work with disease prevention and treatment!

With Polio, starting with Rotary's Polio Plus campaign from 1985, we have found that after climbing a great hill, we have found many more hills to climb. But we are nearly there. When I became District Governor, we only had 6 cases recorded this year.

When I wrote this article it had climbed to 15. When will the hills stop? Soon we all

hope but, to quote Nelson Mandela again, 'when the water starts boiling, it is foolish to turn off the heat.' So thank you to all the clubs that worked so hard in Rotary Foundation Month to raise money for Polio.

With another Rotary disease prevention and treatment campaign, RI President Ian Riseley's ['End Trachoma in Australia by 2020'](#), we as a District have embarked on another mammoth task - the [Malaria Vaccine Project](#) at Gold Coast Griffith

Christmas means something different to every person and Rotary's December theme is probably not one of them.

University. The paperwork has started as we lead into Christmas and the clinical trials commence in the New Year with **over \$290,000 raised so far**. We are just starting to climb that great hill to reach the fund raising target of \$500,000 to finish off the clinical trials. When we do our Christmas shopping this month for family and friends and clubs buy toys to give to various charities, perhaps some consideration by clubs could be given to our own District's Malaria Vaccine Project for Christmas.

Christmas means something different to every person and Rotary's December theme is probably not one of them. It can be a magical time. It tends to bring back happy memories of gatherings and charming traditions that have been passed down through the ages. Text messages and emails might have replaced the simple cards but Christmas carols, gift exchanges and family feasts are just some of the enduring traditions that make

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the season one of the world's favourite holidays. How lucky are we that we live in Australia. Others are not so fortunate. Kerrie and I wish you blessings and joy this Christmas.

Thank you for working with me for the good of

Rotary. May our combined efforts as a team achieve our goals. Now is the time to step back from our busy lives and enjoy time with our loved ones.

Best wishes to you and yours.

Darrell and Kerrie.

Let's toast the life of Past District Governor Anne Egan

She loved a glass of bubbly. At her funeral on 21st November a bottle of Veuve Clicquot sat next to her coffin. **In memory of Anne, post your photo toasting her on your Facebook page.** She would love it.

At Anne's funeral on 21st November it was said that Anne will be remembered for her love of family, her compassion, her fight for justice & her wicked sense of humour.

I will remember Anne for her wise counsel & her incredible fortitude in the face of ill health. In Nelson Mandela's words: 'Even if you have a terminal disease, you don't have to sit around & mope. Enjoy life & challenge the illness that you have.' And Anne did just that. She never complained.

We will miss you Anne.

Darrell Brown,
Governor, District 9640



Major national award for Donations in Kind (DIK)

In early November, [The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Australia](#) (CILTA) presented a major award to **Col Laurensen** (RC of Surfers Sunrise), in his capacity of chief of [Donations in Kind - Northern Region](#). Here is an extract from the institute's news bulletin:



CILTA is the leading professional body associated with logistics and transport. With over 33,000 members working in over 100 countries worldwide, CILTA holds unparalleled professional international recognition. Established in 1919, the principal objective of the Institute is "To promote and advance the art and science of logistics and transport". The Institute achieves this objective through both its membership and its educational qualifications. It is represented worldwide with more than 30 Territorial Organisations and Institute Branches. At the 2017 awards event in Sydney the category "Excellence and Innovation in Humanitarian or Defence Transport and/or Logistics" was awarded to Rotary Australia World Community Service – Donations In Kind, Northern Region.

Congratulations to Col and the many workers at DIK Northern Region!

A message from DIK Chairman Bren Milsom:

6 x 40" and 2 x 20' have been shipped since July, with **5 more loaded just awaiting funds to ship** (1 x Timor, 3 x PNG, 1 x Samoa). Average cost for shipping \$5000 – every donation helps. Contents value well in excess of \$1 million. Keep those funds coming in to help send these containers out!

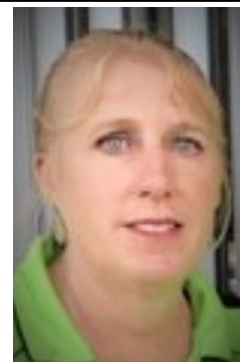
Benefactor needed. Did you realise that RAWCS Northern has to find a new premises and vacate its current premises in the next twelve months as Wesley Hospital sells the site. **Anyone with any ideas to find a spare \$1.2 million**, or a new site should speak to us at DIK.

YIR

Bren Milsom mob: 0407533048

Making a Difference: By Jodie Shelley, Ballina on Richmond Rebuilding from the Rubble - A New Year in Nepal

A building project proudly supported by the
Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond and Rotary District 9640.



On 29 Dec. 2017, a team of Rotarians from the RC of Ballina-on-Richmond and RYLA members will be travelling to "Gatlang" in Nepal. Gatlang was the second most affected village in Nepal by the April 2015 earthquake. This team of eight will be rebuilding a home in the village and also purchasing and taking to Gatlang "house packages" with enough warm clothing, blankets, shoes and cooking utensils for families of five. The team will also be distributing educational and dental supplies. Rotary Club members Clarissa Huegill and Mick Lyons, visited Nepal four years ago and were overwhelmed by its beauty and its

poverty. When the earthquake hit in 2015 they could not believe the extent of the damage and were determined to do something to be of real assistance. This project will make such a difference to the families of one of the coldest and worst affected areas of Nepal – not only will they learn new building skills for future use and learn about dental care, but one family will have its house rebuilt. Many families will be warmer and will finally have some cooking utensils and the children will have their school stocked with books



Gatlang - note the damage to the buildings, some reduced to rubble



Ballina-on-Richmond RC Nepal Team members with DG Darrell Brown: L-R: Clarissa Huegill, Mick Lyons, Darrell Brown, Andrea Laszczyk, Dave Harmon, Robyn Harmon .

and other resources. The Ballina-on-Richmond RC recently received a District Grant to help provide equipment and resources for this club project. All team members are paying their own way, but **additional funds are needed**. Donations can be made to **Richmond Inc Nepal Project Account**

BSB 062 502
Account 10515530

If you want to know more, please contact project coordinator
Clarissa Huegill on

clarissa@chuegill.com



Registrations for the District Conference 2018 are now open



Conference Chairman **Jo Gorman** and her team have been busy, beavering behind the scenes. Next March's District Conference at Seaworld is coming together nicely, thank you.

[Click on this link](#) to learn all about it, where you can also register. Attendance at the conference, including attendance to all the [keynote speakers](#) is free; individual meals and the Saturday night entertainment naturally attract a fee.

Registrations are now open.



Suzie Annelie ⁽¹⁾: RoFUNtary (FUN in Rotary)

..... Fun @ Xmas?

George Bernard Shaw once said, *"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop*

playing."

Lets connect this month with people who make life fun.....or need us to help them have fun.

Dress up and visit the kid's ward at the hospital – making someone else smile and laugh.

Every member invites one guest (half your age) to your Christmas break-up meeting and make sure they have the most fun..ever! (you will have to think like a young person – but as a group some might even join your club)

Get every member to write down their own idea fun, and put the ideas in a jar...take one idea out for the following meeting, and create that fun environment.

Visit the local dementia ward and engage people in a sing/dance along – all dance with chairs and wheelie walkers, it's a great giggle. Make them famous with a Youtube clip....its easy! Check this out for an example:

<https://youtu.be/E7DeblRcuSc>

- # FUN is contagious
- # FUN facilitates laughter
- # FUN will never be the reason someone didn't come to your club



PDG Alan Still awarded the coveted Royce Abbey Award

Well, he is one of our District's "Grand ol' men": Past District Governor Alan Still OAM, who served as our District's Governor in 1989-90, was presented with a [Royce Abbey Award](#) at a ceremony held at the [Rotary Club of](#)

[Caloundra](#), where Alan and his partner Win have moved to.

The Royce Abbey Award is named in honour of Royce Abbey, the Essendon Rotarian who served as President of Rotary International in 1988-89.

The Award was presented by the President of the Club, Peter Davis in the presence of Alan's wife Win and his son Tony, who is the current President of the [Rotary Club of Geelong Central](#).

Congratulations from District 9640, Alan! Well deserved.

Has your club got one of those 'best kept secrets'? Tell us about it! Particularly if it fits to this year's theme of 'Making a Difference'? Email to D9640newsletter@gmail.com

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Making a Difference: Hospital beds, Water security, new school kitchens to Fiji

Well, they certainly are not making a big fuss out in the bush when they talk (write) about their massive projects. Yet, here is one of the most extensive International Service projects Rotarians and volunteers from this District have carried out in recent times. Actually, it is really not just one, but three. The report of a project carried out in 2016, provided by **Steve Tancred** of the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe, was somewhat brief and to the point:

“3 projects involved 16 volunteers from Rotary Clubs Stanthorpe, Lismore, Palm Beach & Glen Innes going to Fiji. 9 volunteers were non-Rotarians, 4 had nursing qualifications. 8 days were spent working on projects. Donated educational goods and financial support from these Clubs and also from Goondiwindi, Warwick, Warwick Sunrise and Tenterfield clubs.

1) **INSTALL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

KOROVOU HOSPITAL. The Stanthorpe Nursing Home closed & medical equipment was offered to the Rotary Club who packed a container & goods were dispatched to Fiji.



Volunteers PDG David Lee and PDG Ross Smith with the nurses and workers at Korovou Hospital



District Governor Elect **Terry Brown**, himself an expert in water and irrigation, explains 'how it works' to one of the local people. Note the massive water tanks in the background.

2) **RENOVATION OF KITCHEN AT NAIYALA SCHOOL.**

The kitchen cooked for 40 students but needed upgrading. The preparation room was gutted, a big pantry was built, benches were topped with stainless steel, a gas cooker was installed, new lights & power points installed, the kitchen was painted, a BBQ was built.

3) **EXTENSION OF BORE WATER PROJECT**

Water Project at the School in 2015 was a bore sunk to produce good water, pumped into tanks & gravity fed to the school. The 2016 project connected water to teachers' quarters & school farm replacing dirty water. Now students are healthier & teachers want to work there.”

Well, if you have ever been involved in a major project, in particular one that involves the fundraising, organizing and ultimate delivery of equipment and construction work overseas, you would appreciate the hundreds of hours each one of the volunteers and fundraisers involved has invested in these endeavours.

World Peace Fellowship Candidate Fahim Rahini accepted

In the [September edition of NINE Six FOUR Oh!](#), we foreshadowed our District's nomination of two people to be selected for the **World Peace Fellowship** course 2018/19 at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Well, good news! District Chair **Ray Higgs** advised that **Fahim Rahimi** from Afghanistan has been confirmed, and **Marium Fatima** from Pakistan has qualified but, at this stage, due to limited numbers, is on the waiting list. For more details about both these candidates on our District Website [Click here](#).



**The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil,
but by those who watch and do nothing.**

Albert Einstein.

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Here is a suggestion for a Christmas present:

The 2016 [Council on Legislation](#) voted to give Rotary clubs more flexibility than they've ever had. The changes in policy affect when, where, and how clubs meet and the types of membership they offer.

5 ways to use the new flexibility

It's up to your club to decide how — and if — you want to use the new options. Start by reviewing the updated Standard Rotary Club Constitution to see which guidelines are flexible. Once you've decided what changes would benefit your club, edit your club bylaws to reflect them, and try them out. If you decide they aren't working, try something else.

Here are some examples of how your club can apply the new flexible options:

1. Change your meeting schedule. Your club can vary its meeting days, times, and

frequency. For example, you could hold a traditional meeting on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss business and service projects and get together socially on the last Friday of the month. You just need to meet at least twice a month.

2. Vary your meeting format. Your club can meet in person, online, or a combination, including letting some members attend in-person meetings through the Internet.

3. Relax attendance requirements. Your club can ease attendance requirements and encourage members to participate in other ways, such as

taking a leadership role, updating the club website regularly, running a meeting a few times a year, or planning an event. If your club is dynamic and offers a good experience for members, attendance won't be a problem.

4. Offer multiple membership types. Your club could offer family memberships to those who want to bring their families, junior memberships to young professionals with leadership potential, or corporate memberships to people whose employers want to be represented in the club. Each type of membership can have its own policies on dues, attendance, and service expectations. Rotary will count these people in your club membership and will consider them active members if they pay RI dues.

5. Invite Rotaractors to be members of your club. You can invite Rotaractors to join your club while remaining members of their Rotaract clubs. If your club chooses to, it can make special accommodations for these members, such as relaxed attendance requirements or reduced fees, as long as they are reflected in the club bylaws.

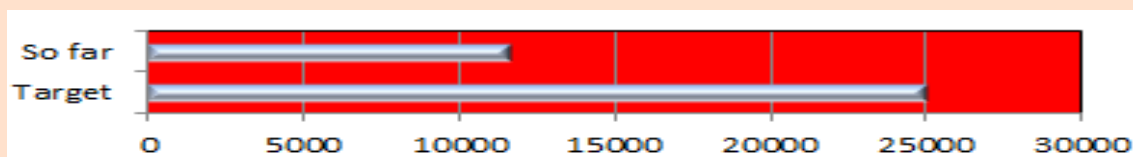
Think back to when you were asked to join Rotary: Did it make you feel good? Are you still feeling good about it?

Think back to when you were asked to join Rotary: Did it make you feel good? Are you still feeling good about it?

At the beginning of the year, DG Darrell Brown stated that one of his goals was to **double membership in our District**. When you think about it, this is perfectly achievable if every member brings another member into the club.

Whom do you have in mind to give the gift of Rotary for Christmas? Are you a Rotarian of Action?

How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown's ROMAC appeal ?



ROMAC



And what about DG Darrell's goal to raise funds for an Australian Rotary Health Scholarship? We are dragging the chain. [See Page 9](#)

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Rotary takes ordinary people...

This regular section features Rotarians from our District who have attained extraordinary achievements, in the spirit of the first Australian to become Rotary International President, **Sir Clem Renouf**, who said

"Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible"



John Mann et al: 10 years of Educating Cambodia

"I visited our main village of Chuor Ph'av in 2005 and again in 2007. They were heavily populated rural villages with no school, no sanitation or drinking water, no health care and no electricity. As the United Nations often says – 'Start with EDUCATION'."

So runs the first paragraph of John Mann's 10 page summary about his and his team's work in Cambodia over the past 10 years. He called a friend of his, **Corrinne Delahunty, a member of the Rotary Club of Beaudesert**, as well as anyone else who wanted to listen...

The plan was to build a school on Government owned land, built by locals. The premise: After it was built, no one would be paid except the Cambodian teachers, and no materials would be imported. Upon his return in 2008, John joined the Rotary Club of Beaudesert. A week later, at the District Conference in Yamba, he met **Heather Yarker** [to those of you who came in late: Heather's nick name is 'Hurricane Heather'; once she has her mind on a project, you can't help but be swept up in it... Ed.] The project was registered through RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) and they received their first donation of \$1,000 from the owners of Iluka Caravan Park. **Beaudesert Rotary** set a

fundraising target of \$26,000 for building materials for a school of three 10 x 10 metre class rooms.

Through Heather Yarker's friends in Melbourne, **'Captain's Choice Travels'** funded the entire second school and a Matching Grant funded solar electricity, books, sports equipment, musical instruments, uniforms and desks. Desks were made by the local mums and dads.

In 2011, a group of IT students of **Otago Polytechnical College** in

Dunedin, NZ wrote a website. Captain's Choice funded a third school, and between Beaudesert Rotary and Captain's Choice, they funded a 'supplement' over the teacher's salaries (about \$900 p.a., paid by the Cambodian Government) of some \$360.00 per year...

There are supporters from all over the world: France, Sweden... "We strive constantly for sustainability" John writes in his blog, "to that end we educate every single child in the district. Do I have a favourite photo out of the many thousands? Yes – this one, above – Peery teaching her mum. Remember, no one had been to school before we arrived in the villages. This scene of a child teaching parents is repeated through thousands of families".

They need another 3 classrooms, and for that they need to raise \$US 30,000.

You can [donate directly](#) or via RAWCS Australia: Search for project **Cambodia 55-2007-08**

For more info: www.educatingcambodia.com

Email: john@educatingcambodia.com



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Youth Making a Difference: Georgia Howe

Haven't we all heard somebody having a good ol' whinge about "today's youth"? Well, here is a story with which you can get back at the whinger with aplomb: This article was sent to me by **PDG Wendy Scarlett**, following her being presented with 100 Birthing Kits. They were made by Georgia Howe, an Interactor at Saint Stephen's College in Upper Coomera. Here is an article written in the college's paper:

Year 10 student Georgia Howe was fortunate to attend [eXXpectations with Dr Pauline Joubert](#) during her work experience in July. eXXpectations is a private Obstetrics and Gynaecology practice located in the Wesley Medical Centre in Brisbane. Their mission is for female Obstetricians and Gynaecologist to provide high quality healthcare for women of all ages. The week before her work experience Georgia heard through Rotary about women in Papua New Guinea who do not receive the basic level of care during childbirth due to lack of equipment. Upon realising how fortunate most women are here in Australia, her aim was to make 100 birthing kits to send to Papua New Guinea and sought donations of old sheets, towels, soap, rubber

gloves, builder's string and zip lock bags from the College and local community. A collection box was located in Main Administration at the College and the Interact Club donated some funds to purchase further products.

The Birthing Kits were packed up and delivered to Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS) located in Brisbane who were formed to support Australian Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to assist disadvantaged communities overseas. The kits were put into a shipping container and sent to Papua New Guinea along with other much needed medical supplies.

There is a good article in Saint Stephen's College's newsletter - [click here](#) and go to Page 11.





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So, Public Relations is all about TV, Radio, Newspapers?

Yes sure... But the main aim is to **get exposure!** At the last Conference, the **Rotary Club of Ashmore** won the District's **Best PR - General Award**. Their diamond sparkled in multiple facets: A Radio commercial, a newspaper article, outrageous photos (weren't Rotarians supposed to be dull, bland and very serious looking??), Bumper Stickers, Food Bins at Q-Super Centre (supporting the Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Centre) and a promo for Days for Girls in Q-Super Centre's newsletter, a stand promoting Purple Pinkie with the principal aim of erasing Polio, a donation to the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation which brought them exposure there, a joint promo with the Anglican Church, a massive social media presence with lots of videos, just to name some. And if that is not enough: their **President is dancing on a roof in Cambodia** ([see last month's edition](#) - Suzie Annelie's article).

Is YOUR club projecting the 'People of Action' theme?

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Are you male, over 50 and want to participate in a research project?

(Sorry ladies, this one is for men only... 😊) **Amy Harding**, from Griffith University Allied Health Sciences wants to talk to you! **Griffith Uni** on the Gold Coast Campus is conducting a serious study into improving Men's Bone Density through "Resistance Training" (read: pulling, pushing, lifting exercises on a specially designed machine). The program is fully supervised, so there is no risk of injury. *[Yes, your Editor has been accepted into the program! And yes, I'm still alive! No, it is not strenuous. 😊]*

Yeah right! I hear you ask. **What's in it for me?** Well, firstly, a really good feeling of assisting deep-end medical research into improving health without drugs (and helping Amy to get her PhD). If you pass the initial phone interview (just general questions to determine suitability), at the very least, you'll get a thorough bone density scan (DXA, low dose x-Ray, so not dangerous). If you are still in it, you'll be required to attend Griffith Uni (free parking) twice a week for about 1 hour to perform specific exercises under Amy's close supervision. For more details, click on this link: www.liftmor.org or call Amy Harding on **0410 616 596**, or email her at amy.harding@griffithuni.edu.au.

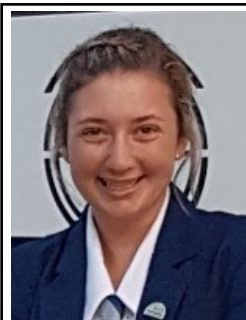
DG Darrell's Scholarship Goal: We're dragging the chain.

Remember, at the beginning of the year, DG Darrell set us a goal to raise \$33,000 for a **Scholarship via [Australian Rotary Health](#)**.

We are running behind schedule: So far, only a bit over \$2,500 has been received, albeit another \$8,000 or so has been committed but

has not yet materialized in the account. **Have you considered donating in lieu of a present?** Here are the bank details where clubs or individuals can directly pay into:

Account Name: **District 9640 PhD Scholarship** BSB **084 462** Acct No: **796 395 692**
Donations to Australian Rotary Health are fully tax deductible.



"Youth Exchange: Oh, it's just a Gap Year!" Are you sure?

Well, think again! Congratulation to our exchange student **Annika Dornbusch**, who is attending Hills College at Jimboomba, for her academic diligence

award. Annika is sponsored by the Rotary club of Jimboomba and they fund a large portion of her school fees and associated expenses so the club is very proud to get such a great return on their investment!

One of the many challenges for YEP students is adapting to the curriculum and style of schooling in Australia and conversely our

students overseas have the same hurdle to overcome. All understand the conditions of their exchange and complete assignments, do exams and participate in school activities. I think this is a first where a student has received an award.

On the other side of the world, Lily from Stanthorpe has actually done so well she has a paid position teaching at the school she attends!

Chris Thurtell, Chair, District YE Committee.

[If you are wondering: that's not a special hair-do; Annika is standing in front of the school's logo... 😊 Ed.]

What do mums and the kitchen table have in common on Christmas Day?
Both are in risk of collapse at anytime...

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