



## FROM THE DG

Well, here we are nearly 10% of the way through the Rotary year, and it's already been quite a ride.

The District Changeover saw 130 people enjoying a stylish Rotary High Tea as we transitioned from the 2024-2025 leadership team to the new team for 2025-2026. IPDG Sue sums it up admirably in the changeover report!

I have also been getting to as many of your changeovers as I can, but even though I've driven 4,000 km in the last 3-4 weeks, I still didn't get to as many as I would have liked to. I'm experiencing at first hand the breadth and diversity of our district.

The next exercise in breadth and diversity is my official club visits. I am very much looking forward to meeting each and every club in the district over the next 11 months, and I hope to see most of you before the end of this calendar year. To that end I have sent an email to each of the clubs in Queensland asking your clubs to propose a good date for the DG club visit. As of writing this message we have locked in visits for over 20% of the mainland clubs. DGE Ian Hope and I are planning to visit Papua New Guinea twice this year for club visits – in November and May and I am looking at options for the Solomon Islands and Nauru.



On the 20 July I had the privilege of attending the District Interact Conference which also celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Interact for the Interact of St. Aiden's Girls Anglican School. It was wonderful to see such a professional event put on by the committee – it made me proud to be a Rotarian. It was also inspiring to see the enthusiasm, commitment, and above all, solid achievement by Interact clubs around our district.

# UNITE FOR GOOD



Almost everyone has heard the 2025-2026 presidential message: “Unite for Good.” This is one of those messages that can be interpreted in many ways, and it is a great mantra for meditation. The message was coined by former Rotary International President Mário César Martins de Camargo, and with this message he called on Rotarians to embrace growth, service, and connection, asserting that Rotary’s greatest asset is its people. Unite for Good underscores the power of human connection—welcoming diverse members, collaborating on service, and partnering strategically—to expand Rotary’s impact across communities worldwide. There will be a number of events and practical initiatives throughout this Rotary year that will encourage strategic collaborations. Some of them you might already be aware of, and some of which will emerge as the district team executes them in the year ahead.

On 25 May this year IPDG Sue Mulraney kicked off an extremely important membership initiative for Rotary in our district. PDG Stephen and his wife Carol O’Connor presented a workshop entitled “Membership Action Plan” at District Headquarters in Bostock House. Just over 70 Rotarians took part in workshop sessions designed to teach us how to recruit new members, engage and retain the members we have, and generally to become the clubs that our prospective members would like to join. This plan (and framework) was developed in District 9790 in Victoria and has been in operation for over a year there. Clubs that have participated in their workshops and follow-on program have typically seen about a 20% increase in membership.

Following on from the workshops clubs there is a multi-year action program with mentoring and coaching from the District, and other sources. The program entails a number of simple, practical, and measurable steps and actions that clubs can take to increase their membership fitness. In order to take part in the action program, clubs need to have had at least one member attend one of these workshops, and District will invest most effort and help in those clubs that are already helping themselves by following the membership action framework.



By popular demand, the introductory workshop is being repeated on 9 August at the Hope Centre in Rothwell. You can register now by scanning this QR code or by clicking on this link: <https://rotary9620.org/events/membership-action-plan-workshop/>.

I attended the workshop on 25 May and loved it. I’ll be attending the workshop on 9 August and strongly recommend it to all club executives and indeed all Rotarians interested in revitalising their clubs.

Another important Rotary workshop is the Rotary Leadership Institute. This is a 2-day workshop where attendees experience a “Rotary 101” experience, learning about Rotary’s entities, core values and processes as well as gaining some understanding of the vast array of opportunities for service and leadership within Rotary. This workshop, despite its name, is especially suitable for newer Rotarians. The course runs several times per year, and the next RLI event will be run on two Sundays on the 31 August and 14 September. There will be more publicity to follow very shortly.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon in person either at the workshop or at official club visits or at one of the hundreds of Rotary events throughout the year, either to renew old acquaintances or meet new friends.

Together in Rotary Service,

Mark Williams  
District Governor 2025-2026





# Membership Action Plan

Engage | Strengthen | Grow

Presented by: PDG Stephen O'Connell & Carol O'Connell

**The Challenge:**

Growing membership and engaging members is one of Rotary's greatest challenges — and greatest opportunities.

**The Solution:**

The Membership Action Plan (MAP) is a dynamic three-year framework, filled with practical steps and real-world strategies, to help Rotary Clubs grow, engage, and thrive.

**Carol  
O'Connell**



**Stephen O'Connell**

Past District Governor  
9790



**Engage:** Build a vibrant, inclusive Rotary experience by meeting members where they are.  
**Strengthen:** Fortify your club's structure to create momentum and sustainability.  
**Grow:** Discover practical growth strategies suited to today's world.

**Why Attend?**

- Engage in fresh conversations
- Strengthen your club's foundations
- Grow with confidence and a clear action plan
- Discover the most up-to-date strategies and real life examples of success

9.30am registration for 10.00am start  
Saturday 9 August 2025  
Hope Centre, 19 Buchanan St, Rothwell

**LEARN MORE**



0432 756 487

[miw@rotary9620.org](mailto:miw@rotary9620.org)

# DISTRICT CHANGEOVER REPORT

## Rotary District 9620 Changeover High Tea *Sunday, 6 July 2025 – Victoria Park, Brisbane*

District 9620 Rotarians and guests gathered on Sunday, 6 July for the Changeover High Tea, held in the Ballroom at Victoria Park. With sweeping views and a golden winter afternoon as the backdrop, the event was a celebration of reflection, recognition, and renewal.

From the moment guests arrived—greeted with sparkling bubbles, and smiles, —the atmosphere was one of warmth and camaraderie. Dressed in classic High Tea attire, attendees filled the room with colour and conversation. Tiered platters of delicate treats and steaming cups of tea and coffee along with a few extra glasses of bubbles, the tone was set for an afternoon that celebrated the very best of Rotary District 9620 during the past year.

At the heart of the event was the ceremonial handover from outgoing District Governor Sue Mulraney to incoming District Governor Mark Williams.

Sue recognised the commitment of the district team, club presidents, and tireless volunteers who together made a profound impact across our communities during the year where we shared the Rotary International theme: “The Magic of Rotary,” and built meaningful connections through service.

It was a pleasure to be able to recognise outstanding Rotarians for the impact that they had made throughout the year – each selected by their Cluster Area Governor

Congratulations to the following amazing Rotarians:

Abbey – Francesca Sala, Boroko Rotary, Arawa Community Corps

Banerjee – Win Salmon, St George

Boyd – Andrew Rodgers, Brisbane Centenary

Dochterman – Frank Sauter, Brisbane Taylor Bridge

Huang – Mary Kearney, Kenmore

Kenny – Greig Lee-Archer, Caloundra Pacific

Kinross – Paul Harcombe, Redcliffe Sunrise

Renouf – Alina Graham, Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention

Risely – Ian Cameron, Mitchelton

Stenhammer – Paul Swinburne, Beenleigh

Wilkinson – Jenny Ryan, Lockyer Valley



### How do we truly measure impact?

Is it in the dollars we've raised, the projects we've delivered, or the sheer number of lives touched? Or is it something deeper—an unspoken certainty that we've made a difference, even if that difference changed just one life?



The truth is, impact wears many faces.

It lives in the community grant that helped a struggling school build a garden. In the child who received a warm jacket. In the family that now has clean water. In the volunteer who, through Rotary, felt seen, valued, and connected. Each of these moments tells a story of service—but together, they speak of something greater.

Behind every milestone stood something just as powerful: the unwavering commitment of our members. Through every act of kindness, every project completed, and every challenge overcome, our Rotary community lifted one another—and countless others—with quiet strength and shared purpose.

This past year, impact meant showing up. Again, and again—with generosity, grit, and heart. Whether clubs staged a major fundraiser or quietly packed hygiene kits in a local hall, you helped shape a legacy of service that stretches across generations.

But behind every milestone and moment of change stood something equally powerful: the unwavering support of fellow club members. Our Rotary community lifted individuals up—making great service not just possible, but personal.

Throughout the Rotary year, our Rotarians didn't just count impact – they lived it.

### **Mark was officially welcomed as District Governor for 2025–26**

As District Governor for 2025–26, Mark Williams steps into leadership with a clear and compelling vision—one rooted in connection, compassion, and community. Aligned with the Rotary International President's theme, "Unite for Good," Mark's message is simple yet powerful: when we come together with shared purpose and open hearts, we create lasting, meaningful change.

Under his guidance, District 9620 will focus on strengthening the bonds between clubs, amplifying collaboration across projects, and deepening our collective impact. Mark believes that Rotary's magic lies not just in what we do, but in how we do it—side by side, across cultures, generations, and communities.



Whether it's responding to local needs, championing global causes, or nurturing the next generation of leaders, Mark's vision calls us to lead with empathy and serve with unity. It's a call to remember that no act of service is too small, and no dream too bold, when we truly unite for good.

As we begin this new Rotary year, Mark invites every member of District 9620 to be part of something greater than themselves—to unlock their potential, support one another, and embody the values that define us.

Together, we *Unite for Good*—and in doing so, we discover the very heart of Rotary.



*IPDG Sue Mulraney*

# D9620 INTERACT CONFERENCE 2025

On July 20, 2025, we gathered at St Aidan's Girls Anglican School in Corinda, to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Interact Clubs throughout our District at the D9620 Interact Conference 2025.

Held annually, the Conference is a celebration of each Interact Club's projects and endeavours in the past year, culminating in the Interact Showcase Presentation which takes the form of a three-minute elevator pitch.

The day was alive with inspiration as clubs shared stories of their incredible projects, including the Noosa District School's Sleep Rough fundraising event, Mount St Michael's Got Talent, and the Krispy Kreme and Zooper Dooper Drives from Redcliffe State High School. Mansfield State School were the winners of the 2025 Interact Showcase presentation and Albany Creek State High School won the inaugural Photo Competition prize which their Action photos in a collage of their annual Breast Cancer cricket match fundraiser!



Students from 15 High Schools across Queensland and Students from Interact Clubs in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, heard from our amazing guest speakers Christine West from the Moreton Bay Wildlife Hospital, entrepreneur, Consolate Kabaliza, Ryan Chapman, founder of Yellow Dive Australia, and Bernie Wilson from D9620 Rotary Youth Exchange. Consolate grew up in a culture where women typically didn't dream of being athletes or owning businesses. She spoke to students about how she defied expectations and founded a thriving sportswear brand and how she learnt to develop a growth mindset. Christine spoke about her amazing advocacy for the Moreton Bay Wildlife Hospital, that could have fund-raising and volunteer opportunities for Interactors and Rotarians. Students heard from The Honourable Sam O'Connor, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth and heard about his journey as a young person in public service.

Students also found time to be in the sun with Rotary Youth Transition Seminar in an engaging breakout session. A highlight of this year's conference was the House of Friendship. Students enjoyed engaging with our record 15 exhibitors and learning more about amazing Rotary programs and initiatives such as Rotaract, D9620 Rotary Youth Exchange, School Kits for Congo, Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group, ROTATE, Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment, Teacher in a Box, Food Plant Solutions and BeefBank – Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive, Australian Rotary Health and more.

This year held special significance as we celebrated 40 years of the Interact program at St Aidan's Girls Anglican School, highlighting the dedication of both students and teachers. A special mention to Keith Rogers, Graeme Buntain and all members of the Rotary Club of Jindalee for their longstanding support, and to Kristen, Nat, and Kate from St Aidan's for their crucial role in organizing the conference.







Sunday was a celebration of growth, commitment, and the steadfast dedication of every school and Interact Club to serving their communities. The Interact Committee are especially grateful to DG (and former Interactor) Mark Williams for spending the day with our amazing Interactors. Special thank you to IPDG Sue Mulraney and DGE (and former Interactor) Ian Hope and to all Rotary Clubs who sponsor Interact Clubs for your valued support of the program.

*Myles Waugh, D9620 Interact Vice-Chair & Communications Director*

Probus Clubs around the world owe their existence to the wife of a Rotarian in England.

To quote from “The Story of Probus” a book written in Australia by Paul Henningham in 2006 – “In 1965 Harold Blanchard of the Rotary Club of Caterham in Surrey, England, retired from the workforce and – as he told it - trying to be helpful in the kitchen, got under his wife’s feet. She gave him to understand that his presence in her domain was less than welcome and she was only thankful that he went to Rotary luncheon once a week. She then added: ‘Why can’t you do something for the wives of retired men who are not Rotarians?’

“Though spoken in jest, Judy Blandards’s simple question sowed in her husband’s mind the seed of an idea, which soon germinated and rapidly grew into a plan.

“His Rotary Club of Caterham adopted Harold’s proposal and a meeting was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1966, with 42 prospective members, who unanimously agreed to form a club – and the name adopted was *Probus* - an amalgam of the “pro” in “professional” and the “bus” from “business” – which is also the Latin word for probity and virtue.

“The inaugural meeting was held on March 2, attended by 35 members. So began the world’s first Probus club.”

Now Probus has spread to around 27 countries, 4,500 clubs and 300,00 members thanks to this Rotary initiative.

So, what is Rotary? Founded in 1905 in Chicago, by an attorney named Paul Harris who called a meeting of three business acquaintances, initially just for fellowship and friendship beyond his own professions. They met casually at first by rotating meeting in each other’s offices – and hence the name Rotary. They soon expanded their circle of friends and after a while decided that it would be good to do something useful in their community by combining their resources and built the first public toilet in Chicago.

The concept of this club soon spread to forming other clubs, so now over 46,000 clubs and 1.4 million Rotarians around the globe.

Rotary International, with headquarters in Chicago, is one of the largest service organisations in the world. Its stated mission is to “provide service to others, promote integrity. And advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders”. It is a non-political and non-religious organisation and membership is by invitation only.

## THE ROTARY PROBUS CONNECTION

## **What is the Rotary International policy on Probus?**

Rotary clubs may, at no cost to RI, organise and support PROBUS clubs as a worthwhile community service activity.

PROBUS is not a program of Rotary International. As appropriate, the general secretary shall share information about PROBUS clubs with Rotary clubs through existing RI publications. The general secretary shall refer clubs interested in sponsoring PROBUS clubs to the PROBUS centre in their area.

## **Rotary Clubs have what they call “Five Avenues of Service”**

They channel their commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

- Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society. Learn more in [An Introduction to Vocational Service](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#).
- Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest. Learn more in [Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects](#).
- International Service exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
- Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#).

Through Probus, Rotary clubs have an excellent opportunity to enrich the lives of the senior members of their communities, keep them active through fun, friendship and fellowship, and reduce the growing problem of social isolation.

After 57 years, Probus as child of Rotary has now become independent, and although some Rotary Clubs still support or form new Probus clubs, overall Probus globally is making a new life for itself.

## **Yes, we have a new Probus Club in SE Qld**

The Probus Club of Windsor was formed at the Windsor Bowls Club on Friday 25 July with 36 members from an attendance of 61 who attended.

Tersa Emblen was elected as President, Dina Scott, Secretary, John Forster as Treasurer and Joanne Battle as Welfare Officer. Other positions on the Management Committee will hopefully be filled at the August meeting on 22 August, 2025. Further meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.

The Windsor Bowls Club members were very welcoming and provided morning tea and good AV facilities as part of their venue hire.

Over 80 people had expressed interest in either attending or asked to be ‘kept in the loop’. What is interesting is that approximately 70 of these were aware of the meeting through seeing the Facebook advertising by Probus South Pacific. Five had seen a poster, the others word of mouth.

Of those not able to attend, and a number of those attending, but not joined, have advised that they will join at the August meeting, with several also indicating they will bring a partner or friend to join as well.

So, the future looks promising for a club of 50 or more.

*PDG Merv Richens*



# Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive, the experience

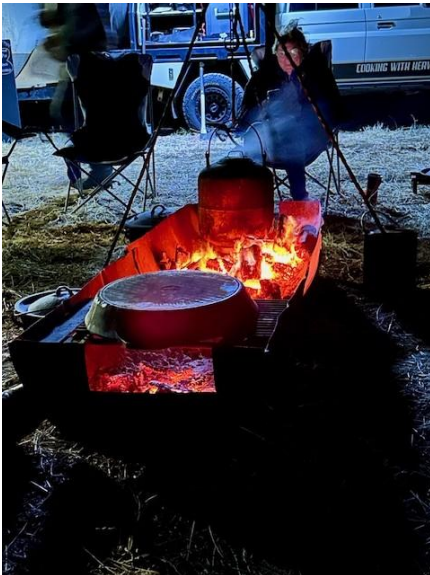
Back in 2006 the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary had a visit from Bob McMillan from Foodbank that mentioned they needed more meat to be able to provide balanced meals to those in need. This was the spark that developed into BeefBank being started, evolving into a Registered Charity in 2016, and consistently providing over 100,000 meal portions of meat each year.

That brings us to late 2023 where another idea to raise awareness of the plight of food insecurity together with raising funds to increase the supply of meat led to holding a Charity Cattle Drive. After many months of planning and hard work, the event was launched in late May from the camp draft yards at the Stockman's Hall of Fame in

Longreach with the Governor of Queensland Dr Jeannette Young opening the gate for 1,688 cattle to start their journey along the "long Paddock" to Roma.

I was fortunate enough to tag along with the cattle drive for a week in late May and early June joining the mob just outside Barcaldine. This is the furthest West that I have been in Queensland, previously only getting as far as Roma.

As soon as I drove my Ute into the camp I was welcomed into the cattle drive community, consisting of our Operations Manager Chrissie Nott, Cattle Drive Chairman Bim Struss (remember him from the Toowoomba Conference), the championship winning camp oven cooks, the Drover and his family, Volunteers, paying participant drovers and passing Grey Nomads. I helped with the daily routine of moving the camp on average to 10-15 km per day packing up, moving then setting up all that it takes to accommodate and feed around twenty people learning new skills and making many connections, people, and fences.



Together with our team were the community from Barcaldine welcoming us with open arms into their region. We were entertained watching the State of Origin (NSW won that game, yeah), Tania Kernaghan and Jason Owen concert, a wonderful meal cooked by the mayor and his wife and the highlight for me a visit to "Clover Hills" station where again this group of strangers were welcomed like family.

The time went too fast, and I had to make my way back to Brisbane, I longingly follow the progress of the cattle drive wishing I were still there. Cannot wait to get back along the stock routes in Western Queensland, raising funds to

reduce food insecurity, having fun, making friends, and hopefully making a difference.

*Craig Carson (who used to do pony club in his younger days)  
Brisbane Centenary*





# The Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive

My journey began in Barcaldine, on the first leg from Barcaldine to Blackall on the evening of 29 May. I joined the cattle drive as a guest drover for the next four days, starting the journey from the local showgrounds!

For the next four days, it was early to bed and early to rise! The daily ritual of waking up by 5:00am to pack up the swag and gear



to load them into the Utes, camp oven breakfast at 5:30 and ready to saddle and mount the horse by 6:30 each day. With a belly full of food, you were ready to muster the 1,680 head of cattle along the next 10 km stretch to the next campsite.

The cattle would be watered in the morning and allowed to graze while slowly walking along the stock route. At lunchtime, the cattle were penned up to prevent them from being spooked while the drovers had some lunch. This routine was repeated in the afternoon. The days were long, and the bum was sore after sitting in a saddle for up to five hours at a time! The reward was the delicious meal that awaited us each night in camp, cooked over the open coals. After a big day and with the nights starting to get cool, it was usually bedtime by 8:30pm.



The views of the sunrises and sunsets were spectacular; the tall stories told around the campfire each night were entertaining; the stars shone bright in the night sky, and the views of the back of the horse's head and rear of the cattle were common sights for four days. The "once in a lifetime experience" was amazing, just like the country hospitality that was extended to the group by the local mayor who hosted an evening at his family's property – all in the name of charity! All of this would not have been possible without the many sponsors and volunteers, and to them, I say thank you! The cattle drive has certainly raised awareness of

food insecurity in this country. Come and join us on the next cattle drive event!

*PP Pat Smith, Rotary Club of Sumner Park*

*You can check out the Facebook page for more details & photos: The Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive (A Beef Bank Ltd Initiative)*

**Watch for the August edition of DG News for the story of culmination of the Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive. This epic cattle drive finishes in Roma on 6 August.**





"Poets Corner" will be a feature of this year's DG News. Here is the first poem by Leon Misfeld, RC of Caboolture. It received a Special Commendation at the International Convention in Calgary.

## MAGIC OF ROTARY TO ME

A man bought food from our Rotary stall,  
He looked at his change as though things were amiss,  
Then he passed it back and smiled to us all,  
Saying "Rotary can make good use of this."

We prompt spontaneous generosity -  
That's part of the magic of Rotary to me!

In its local district, its local town,  
The Rotary Club plays a pivotal role-  
It lifts the spirit when feelings are down,  
As local improvement is part of its goal.

We strive to improve our community -  
That's part of the magic of Rotary to me!

Rotary International then takes the stage:  
A major player in improving world health;  
It promotes world peace and alleviates rage;  
It tackles poverty and helps create wealth.

RI wants mankind to be free -  
That's part of the magic of Rotary to me!

In the fight against polio and other huge tasks,  
Our Foundation sees that financing is just.  
Philanthropists and public respond to its asks -  
Like the man at the stall, in Rotary they trust.

We belong to a world leading charity,  
That's part of the magic of Rotary to me!

In Rotary, there's people from all walks of life,  
From princes, great leaders, to folk in the street.  
We all work together for a world with less strife,  
In concert with those we'd not otherwise meet.

We broaden our views of humanity -  
That's part of the magic of Rotary to me!

Rotary helps us to do good, large and small,  
To challenge world problems and help children next door  
But fellow Rotarians are the keys to it all -  
Banding together, we achieve so much more.

Achieving great things with friends is the key -  
That IS the magic of Rotary to me!

*Leon Misfeld*  
**2025**  
*Commendation*

**Rotary**  
Poet of the Year



**Presented**  
*by*

**Rotary International**  
**President**  
**2024/25**  
*Stephanie Urchick*



*On behalf of Graham Ferguson, The President of*

**Rotary**   
eClub of Innovation



## BOOVAL TOOL BASH


Booval Rotary Club has contact with people in the area of Outback Queensland that has been flooded and they say that they can't find their tools to work with, so Booval club picked up the gauntlet and has activated "tool bash". Members have collected a large number of tools and offers are still coming in. They are waiting to hear back from a transport company which hopefully can move crates/pallets when they have spare space. The containers will go on a truck to Quilpie where their contact will distribute them from there. Currently about six crates are being packed. This flyer has been sent to many local clubs.

*Graham Keidge PHF, President RC of Booval*



### ROTARY CLUB BOOVAL

( IPSWICH )

#### TOOL BASH FOR WEST QLD



WE /THEY NEED YOUR HELP WITH TOOLS .  
THE FARMERS HAVE LOST THEIR WORK TOOLS  
AND NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE .

HAVE YOU SOME TOOLS THAT  
YOU NO LONGER NEED IF NOT CAN YOU SUPPLY  
SOME NEW ONES.

WHAT TOOLS , SPANNERS ,DRILLS, SAWS, SCREW  
DRIVERS , STILLIONS , LEVELS ,IF IT IS IN A TOOL  
SHOP THEY HAVE LOST IT. ROTARY CLUB BOOVAL ARE  
COORDINATING WITH A LOCAL TEAM OUT WEST.

PLEASE CONTACT GRAHAM 040 888 4357  
BEVAN 0419 643 348  
TO ARRANGE PICK UP /DELIVER Y DETAILS

## D9620 Interact Painting Workshop Fundraiser

Guests with little experience in painting had the chance to do something new in a relaxed atmosphere under the guidance of Tanya. Tanya has completed an art major as part of her teaching degree and mainly works in acrylic. Her style of painting is vivid and colourful, and inspired by a long-held love from a gardening family. One of Tanya's recent works is currently part of the Royal Queensland Art Society's "Wild Things" exhibition.

On Saturday 14 June 2025, the D9620 Interact Committee held Painting Workshop Fundraiser to assist with the operational costs of the D9620 Interact Conference 2025. Guests enjoyed the three-hour workshop with Brisbane artist Tanya Burkitt painting their own version of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers".



By supporting the D9620 Interact Conference 2025, the guests helped to bring young Interactors from across Queensland together for a day of inspiration and development! Guests also got to hear from Consolate Kabaliza, a speaker of the conference. Thank you to all those who attended.

*Myles Waugh, D9620 Interact Vice-Chair & Communications Director*

## **\$35,000 donated to Toowoomba community by Rotary**

The Rotary Club of Toowoomba North has donated \$35,000 to eight local organisations, including \$20,000 to Base Services thanks to a successful David Hack Classic in May 2025.

David Hack Committee Chairperson Desiree Franke said she knows each of the donations made will make a big impact to the people supported by the recipient organisation.

“This year the club decided we wanted to make a real impact to at least one community organisation in Toowoomba and we decided this year it would be Base Services who provide essential services and supports for people who are doing it tough,” Ms Franke said.

“We were also pleased to have raised enough money to support other local community organisations including Apex, the Leukaemia Foundation, Blue Care, Angel Flight, the Australian Industry Trade College, Darlings Downs Scouts, and Dance Stars – all of which make a real difference in the lives of the people which they support and serve.

“I would like to thank the people of Toowoomba and those car enthusiasts who showed their vehicles for another successful David Hack Classic, which has been running for 25 years now. Your attendance has helped the Toowoomba North Rotary Club raise these much-needed funds.”

Major donation recipient Base Services owners Tif and Nat Spary said they were grateful to receive such a generous donation.

“At the moment we are fundraising to support an expansion of our service as we have outgrown our current location, so this donation will go towards this so we can continue our support services,” Ms Spary said.

“Support like this donation from Toowoomba North Rotary will contribute to providing a safe, welcoming space and expand our services to meet the holistic needs of people sleeping rough or doing it tough in our community. Together, we can create a day space to get people off the streets and provide them with the support they need to rebuild their lives.

“Thank you to Toowoomba North Rotary for this donation and for the people of Toowoomba for supporting the David Hack Classic.”

Other recipients sharing in the \$35,000 donation include:

- Apex Toowoomba - \$4,000
- Leukemia Foundation - \$3,000
- Blue Care - \$3,000
- Angel Flight - \$2,000
- AITC - \$1,000
- Darling Downs Scouts - \$1,000
- Dance Stars - \$1,000



The David Hack Classic will be back in 2026 and is scheduled for Sunday 17 May 2026. Stay up to date with all the details of next year's events by liking the Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/davidhackclassic](https://www.facebook.com/davidhackclassic)

*Desiree Franke, Chairperson of David Hack Committee*

# Grand Movie Night Out!

Join us for a fabulous Sunday afternoon at the movies as we roll out the red carpet for 'Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale!' - Follow the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s. As the beloved cast of characters navigates how to lead Downton Abbey into the future, they must embrace change and welcome a new chapter.

- Sunday, 14th September
- 4:00 PM sharp
- Event Cinemas, Loganholme
- \$25 per person (includes raffle tickets!)

All proceeds go to the Rotary Club of Loganholme's Christmas Hamper Appeal, helping bring Christmas cheer to local families doing it tough.

Come for the glamour, stay for the cause – and help us make a difference this festive season!

Tickets Via : <https://events.humanitix.com/loganholme-rotary-movie-event>

For further Information please contact:

Sharon Hansen

PH: 0410 592 766

Secretary

Rotary Club of Loganholme

# FUNDRAISING MOVIE NIGHT

DOWNTON ABBEY  
- THE GRAND FINALE



September 14<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm  
\$25 per person (Incl Raffle Tickets)

SHOWING AT

Event Cinemas  
Logan Hyperdome

TICKETS



Rotary Club of Loganholme

Proceeds to our:  
Christmas Hamper Appeal







# TOOHEY DONATION OF HOSPITAL HYGIENE PACKS

In June 2025, members of the Rotary Club of Toohey gathered at a Club Meeting to package bags full of soap, shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant, comb, toothbrush, tooth paste and mouthwash to donate to the Queensland Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital in Coopers Plains. With the help of a Rotary Foundation District Grant, the Rotary Club of Toohey was able to deliver the packs to the Hospital in late June 2025.

The hygiene packs are distributed to patients in need by the hospital's Eat Work and Engage team. The hospital's emergency room assists many patients from lower economic background who

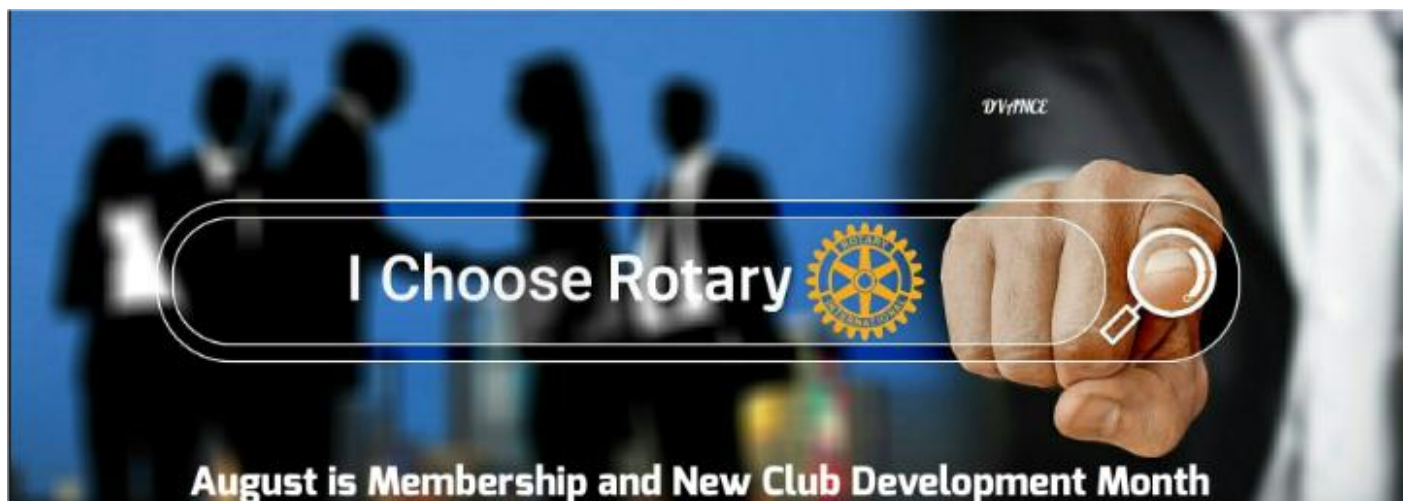
when admitted do not have hygienic items available to them.

On the day of the donation, the hygiene packs were quickly distributed to those in need. The Hospital commented on how appreciative there are of this donation as the hospital is unable to provide these items and it lets patients, some who have no family or care, know that they are cared for.

The donation of Hospital Hygiene Packs by Rotary Club of Toohey was made possible by a Rotary International District Grant.



*Myles Waugh,  
Charter Secretary,  
Rotary Club of Toohey*



# Wewak Rotary Community Corps Education Project

Sacred Heart Brother's Joinery Shop, after the recent presentation, said work has already started on the final 45 desks. Two more schools in the province will benefit under the WRCC and RD 9999 New Zealand School desk project partnership.

Urita Primary School is situated in Maprik District, approximately eight hours' drive from Wewak, the provincial capital of East Sepik with a student population of 500 students from grades one to eight.

The Wewak Rotary Community Corps has made another significant contribution to education in East Sepik by presenting another 20 high quality school desks to Urita Primary School in Maprik District.

This brings the total number of desks sponsored by Rotary District 9999 New Zealand to 70 with Wewak Hill Primary School already receiving 30 desks, Parom Primary School 20 desks and now Urita Primary School 20 desks.



Despite being a level 5 school, Urita Primary still faces challenges in providing quality desks for its students.

The Wewak Rotary Community Corps has partnered with Rotary Clubs of Invercargill, East, South, North, and Sunrise Rotary District 9999 New Zealand to support education in East Sepik.

This donation is part of the Corps' ongoing efforts to improve educational infrastructure in the region, demonstrating the power of community support and international cooperation.

## FOUNDATION FILE

### District Grant 22-29 Rotary Club of Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention

The Rotary Club of Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention is an E-Club which was only recently formed.

The UN in April 2021 identified Asia as having the highest number of drownings in the world.

At the request of the Chiang Mai International Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach and the Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin; the Global Water Safety & Drowning Prevention Rotary Club put together a team of four, highly trained and skilled accredited aquatic professionals from Australia. They travelled to Thailand to deliver the Swim Australia Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety certification to local swim teachers. They also worked with partners to develop a



program for children in underprivileged communities to receive water safety & swimming lessons free of charge to ensure every child can swim before they finish primary school. The program included training for Learners with a Disability to provide a broad understanding of working with children with varied abilities in the water.

The benefits of this project are multi layered.

- Primary goal was to reduce the number of preventable deaths in the region by teaching children water safety & how to swim.
- To engage with education and local government authorities to introduce water safety legislation which includes aquatic education as compulsory in the school curriculum.
- Creating employment and developing business in underprivileged communities.
- Reducing the cost of trauma to the community experienced through the number of deaths by drowning.
- Create generational change over time to ensure water safety & aquatic education filters into the workspace and jobs where people seek employment on and around the water.
- On average two children die every day by drowning in Thailand. This training will provide employment for teachers and save lives by teaching children to swim.

The financial contribution to this project came from several sources.

- Input by stakeholders (Rotary & other sources) – \$6,550
- Input by GWSDPRC & members – \$10,950
- Total Request for Grant - \$5,000

#### **Total cost of Project \$22,500**

The training was conducted across two locations, Chiang Mai and Phuket. Each area was managed by a local Rotary Club who would also oversee the learn to swim program for children post project completion.

#### **Project Results**

- qualified 116 teachers across four courses & three locations
- trained 65 without a qualification in Chiang Mai - 29 teachers were trained in the Swim Australia Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety (SAT) and 29 in CPR
- 14 teachers of babies & toddlers and 11 for the learner with a disability were trained





## **District Grant Rotary Club of Wynnum Manly District Grant 22-04**

The article below is a précis of the club's grant application and final report.

The Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly has previously done small scale projects with remote villages in Timor Leste. The club has supplied and arranged installation of 100 Solar light kits to the remote village of Fatumakerek, in Timor Leste. However, this number of lights was not sufficient to provide a single light in each of the village dwellings. The lights allow them to cook in the evening with light and without an open fire inside the home for hours on end, and for those who can, to read or do schoolwork.

The village of Fatumakerek still required an additional 40 solar light kits to ensure all dwellings in the village will have at least one solar light. There were three other even more remote villages beyond Fatumakerek. These are the villages of Amanun, Lakenu and Makukurian.

With the assistance of this District Grant to supplement the funds being expended by the Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly, this proposed project enabled solar lights to be installed in the poorest and most needy households in the three extremely remote villages of Amanun, Lakenu and Makukurian, as well as completing the installation in all the remaining houses in Fatumakerek.

Local currency in Timor Leste is US Dollars. In total, with \$10,000AUD, 150 Solar lights could be provided across the 4 villages, providing night-time lighting and significant other lifestyle improvements (see below), benefiting approximately 200 people per village, thus a total of around 800 people – some of the poorest people in the country. The light kits have a predicted life of about 10 years before needing to be replaced. The villagers will be responsible for selling additional crops to raise money for any replacements as needed. With this and the training of locals in the maintenance process as needed, the project will be fully sustainable.

### **Outline the Benefits and how the project meets Community Needs**

Without electricity in the village, life is a simple affair, consisting of growing or gathering/hunting enough food to feed the village, cooking, and providing a safe place to live and sleep. The provision of the solar lights provides benefits to the community and individuals within the village in many ways including:

- It removes the need for wood fires in the house providing light to see in the evening. This will subsequently remove smoke from the home, having significant health benefits, as well as dramatically reducing the risk of items catching fire and potential for burns injuries from open fires for prolonged periods. Fires will still be necessary for cooking, but the timeframes they will be needed for are significantly reduced.
- The villagers will also not have to scout for timber to burn to get light, which will be a bonus for the environment with less carbon released into the atmosphere as well as trees being able to grow into more substantial trees.
- Children will be able to do lessons or homework at night, enhancing their education and their ability to contribute to the village and/or broader community.
- When needed, night-time medical and childbirth needs can be delivered much more safely.
- Village people will be able to work in the fields or in other roles longer, now that they can prepare meals etc. under good light.
- Villagers report less trouble from vermin with light at night.
- The village chief reports that the villagers can enjoy life much more with this simple benefit.
- The villagers were overwhelmed that other people cared enough about them to provide these lights – something we would almost consider to be a necessity of life. This has given the village a healthier outlook on the world and life in general.

The solar light kits consist of a solar panel, battery, 1-2 light bulbs, and the wiring/clips/tape to connect each to each other. The components of the kits will be purchased within Timor Leste from local supplier/s, most likely in Dili. This

ensures that the country and businesses also benefit from Rotary's generosity, with payment going directly to the local businesses from the Rotary Club of Dili.

It is anticipated that the project will supply 150 solar light kits, though actual numbers of individual components may depend upon supply availability, specific situations within the individual villages, and installation options at each dwelling.

It is also likely that there will need to be some small cash payments made by the Rotary Club of Dili for consumable items such as fuel for transport vehicles, meals for drivers of transport, local labour to act as drivers and to install the lights etc. PP Graciana will oversee all these payments and ensure value for money and suitable prices are paid. RC Wynnum and Manly has previous experience with this process and has absolute faith in PP Graciana's ability to ensure value for money and that the money will be spent appropriately.

The solar lights project will be delivered by Rotarian PP Graciana da Costa Herculano and members of the Rotary Club of Dili. She will organise the purchasing, logistics of getting the lights to the remote villages (by car/truck or whatever means is appropriate given time of year and conditions). From her home in Dili, it is approximately a 4–5-hour drive, on sub-standard dirt roads and tracks to reach the village of Fatumakerek. Care is required to ensure that this happens outside of the wettest part of the season as the roads become less passable during wet weather. During the initial project Wynnum and Manly did, the villagers walked 3-4 hours (15-20km) each way in the rain just to collect a sack of rice and other food staples.

A significant component of the installation process is providing several individuals within the village with the skills and training to be able to manage the ongoing maintenance of the lights. This makes the project very sustainable, as the ongoing maintenance can be undertaken from within the village. There is minimal if any expected ongoing maintenance costs, and the training takes about an hour. The village chief will select a small number of persons to hold these key roles.

The on-the-ground connection with the Rotary Club of Dili, and the enormous contribution of Rotarian and Past President Graciano, ensures that this project will be delivered according to the plan, budget, and timetable.

The project was monitored in Australia by Wynnum and Manly Past President Bob Rose, and 2022-23 International Services Director Dianne Catto.

The Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly contributed \$5000 AUD to this project and received a similar matching amount from the district, to form a total of \$10,000 AUD for the provision and establishment of 150 solar lights in four remote villages in Timor Leste.

### **Project Budget**

Purchase of 150 solar light kits (including solar panel, battery, wiring etc, worth \$60-63AUD each).

Purchased from local supplier/s in Timor Leste (likely Dili).	A\$ 9500
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Transport to site, installation, and village maintenance training.	A\$ 500
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Total Project cost	A\$ 10,000
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Above you see the Light, Solar Panel, and Storage Battery.

Several clubs have supplied the Solar Light Kits to third world countries in Asia with the assistance of District Grants.

This grant connected with the Rotary Club of Dili, and having the presence of a local Rotary Club in the area is a significant bonus. Also, the purchase of the components locally builds goodwill and supports the local economy.

The District Grants Chairman will be notifying clubs who applied for 24/25 grants, on the grants committee decisions soon.

**It was disappointing that only around 17% of clubs applied for grants this year. I would like to see the non-Australian Clubs in our District putting in for District Grants. Please consider putting in an application for the 2025/2026 year. If you require any assistance, please don't hesitate in contacting me.**

(Contact Details ([rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com](mailto:rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com)) 0414321419.

## BRISBANE RIVERCITY ROTARACT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Our annual Rivercity Changeover event has come and gone, and what a night! Last Saturday, our club members and friends came together to celebrate our 2024-2025 achievements and officially welcome our 2025-2026 board, as well as celebrating a significant milestone: 10 years of the Rotaract Club of Brisbane Rivercity!

It was a heartwarming night to see our amazing members and friends recognised, and celebrate President Susita and her 2024-2025 board. Bring on next year!



### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of the DG News for the 2025-26 Rotary year – where we UNITE FOR GOOD!

I hope you noticed our “Poet’s Corner” on page 11. This is a spot where we would like to share original poems, on a Rotary theme each month. So, if you are a poet, please send me your poem so we can include an original poem in each edition.

Please submit articles (interesting and visual) to the DG News Editor, Win Salmon at [newsletter@rotary9620.org](mailto:newsletter@rotary9620.org) by 27 August for the (next) second edition.

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

