



DG News

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR SUE MULRANEY

JUNE 2025 EDITION

FROM THE DG

As I reflect on this year as District Governor, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the journey we have shared together across our vibrant Rotary District.

John and I were honoured to visit each of your clubs, experiencing firsthand the warmth of your welcome, your hospitality, and your commitment to Service Above Self. Each visit reinforced how much Rotary matters in our communities and how much our members give of themselves to create lasting change.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed:

- Clubs embracing the Rotary theme of 'The Magic of Rotary' leading impactful local and international projects.
- Innovative fundraising and community events that have brought members and communities together.
- Dedicated Rotarians mentoring youth, supporting Rotary Foundation initiatives, and advancing peace and environmental stewardship.
- Strong collaboration across clubs, and networks to amplify our collective impact.

This year has shown that Rotary is strong because of you – our members, who bring Rotary's values to life daily. Your resilience, creativity, and compassion ensure that Rotary's future remains bright.

Looking back over the past twelve months we've experienced an overwhelming series of activities and achievements as we each shared 'The Magic of Rotary'

Membership

This is a question/comment that has been raised at most of the club meeting that I have attended, and it is a real concern to our clubs.

I was very excited to invite you to the Membership Action Plan Workshop on the 25th May. It was pleasing to see the representation that we had from Clubs and members and the feedback from the day is very encouraging. We need to realise that membership is the responsibility of every Rotarian and sometimes we need to look closely at our club and be prepared to make some bold decisions. We are hoping that clubs will pick up on the plan and look at ways to grow.

It is always exciting to charter a new Rotary club, and this year we have celebrated the chartering of the Rotary Club of Toohey, the Rotary Club of Toowoomba Range, and the Satellite Club of Ipswich City Western Corridor. It is wonderful to see clubs adapting to the needs and requirements of their members, embracing flexibility and fresh ideas while remaining grounded in Rotary values.

These new clubs remind us that doing things differently is not only possible but essential if we are to remain relevant and impactful. By stepping beyond the constraints and protocols often labelled as "tradition," we open ourselves to new ways of engaging members, reaching our communities, and growing Rotary's presence in meaningful ways.

Also exciting is the charter of the Interact Club of Browns Plains and the Early Act clubs at Palmview, Aspley and Deception Bay. It is truly heartening to see the next generation stepping forward, wanting to serve their communities. Their energy, fresh perspectives, and commitment to making a difference is inspiring.

Their passion reminds us why we do what we do, and it ensures that the spirit of service will continue to thrive for generations to come.



I extend thanks to all Rotarians for their unwavering support and dedication. Your passionate promotion of the “Say No to Domestic Violence and Yes to Respectful Relationships” initiative has had a meaningful impact in our communities and beyond.

This year has also provided opportunities to recognise individuals and clubs for their service and impact over the years, culminating at our District Conference, where we shared stories and saw the ripple effect that our projects have across our own communities and beyond.

A particular highlight was being able to present Albert Benfer with a “Service Above Self” Award, recognising not only his strong commitment to Rotary over many years but also his dedicated service to both his local community and global projects. Albert’s contribution exemplifies the heart of Rotary and the difference one person can make when they live the values of service, fellowship, and integrity every day.

Changeovers have now started again, with clubs handing over to new leadership—an exciting part of the Rotary year where we can build on what has been achieved over the past year while also embracing new ideas as we move into the new Rotary year.

It is a time of renewal and fresh energy, allowing clubs to reflect on their successes, learn from challenges, and continue serving their communities with enthusiasm. New leadership brings new perspectives, ensuring that while we honour the past, we are always looking forward, adapting to the needs of our members and our

communities to keep Rotary vibrant and relevant.

As we prepare to hand over to our next District Governor, I thank you for your trust, support, and encouragement. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside you.

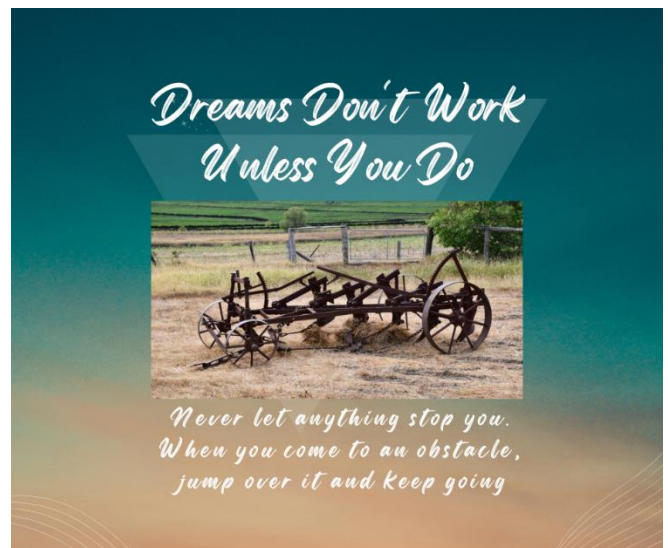
Together, we have truly **unlocked the Magic of Rotary.**

Thank you and let us continue to Serve to Change Lives in all that we do.

I look forward to seeing you at the District Changeover on the 6th July

Sue

District Governor 2024-2025



ARAWA DAYS FOR GIRLS

Dear President and Board Members,

I am writing to seek your support for the refurbishment of the toilet facilities at Tupukas Primary School in Arawa, Bougainville, a project that is urgently needed by the community.

For the past few years, Francesca from the Arawa Community Corps has been passionate about improving the conditions for girls in Bougainville through menstrual hygiene education and support under the Days for Girls program. During my recent visit, I have witnessed firsthand the significant barriers these young girls face in accessing education, especially during their menstrual cycle, due to inadequate and unsafe

sanitation facilities. Francesca has seen girls missing days of school, risking their health, and losing confidence simply because they do not have a clean and private space to manage their hygiene.

This project will not only improve the health and dignity of these students, but will directly impact school attendance, creating opportunities for these girls to complete their education and shape their future confidently.



I believe we have a real opportunity to make a difference by funding the refurbishment of these toilets in partnership with the Days for Girls program. Together, we can ensure that every girl at Tupukas Primary School can attend school safely, with dignity, and with the resources she needs to thrive.



Rotarian Rae Smart (who has close ties with the Arawa Community) would welcome the opportunity to present this project in more detail to the club and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering this request to bring lasting, practical change to the lives of the students at Tupukas Primary School.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Sue Mulraney

District Governor 2024-2025

Rotary District 9620

An Historic Step Forward: Rotary Club of Boroko Welcomes Women Members

The Rotary Club of Boroko, based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, was founded in 1967 and has since earned its place as a leading force in humanitarian work, service, and community development across the nation and the Pacific region. With a legacy spanning over 58 years, Boroko Rotary has remained steadfast in its commitment to "Service Above Self," delivering countless life-changing projects in education, health, disaster response, and youth empowerment.

Boroko ia boiboi • Boroko calling



ROTARY CLUB OF BOROKO

Throughout its storied history, the Club was known as an all-male institution—a reflection of the times in which it was established. However, as the world has evolved and Rotary International has embraced the values of inclusiveness, diversity, and equality, so too has the Rotary Club of Boroko.

In 2025—a year that marks the 50th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's Independence—Boroko Rotary Club quietly, yet significantly, embraced

a transformative moment in its governance and membership. The Club is proud to now count among its ranks five accomplished and active female members. This step, while long in the making, represents more than just a change in numbers; it reflects a cultural shift that aligns Boroko Rotary with Rotary International's global vision of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This is more than a symbolic milestone. It is a powerful statement that the Club is moving forward with the times, strengthening its impact by welcoming the talents, leadership, and perspectives of women—thereby enriching the service and camaraderie that Rotary represents.

The inclusion of women in Rotary globally was made possible by a landmark decision of the 1989 Council on Legislation, where Rotary officially opened its doors to female members. As former Rotary International President Frank J. Devlyn said at the time, "Rotary has to adapt itself to a changing world." Since then, women have become a growing and dynamic part of Rotary, now accounting for more than 277,000 members worldwide—approximately 23% of the organisation.

Today, the Rotary Club of Boroko stands proudly alongside its global counterparts in embracing this legacy of progress. The Club remains committed to its humanitarian mission, strengthened by a more inclusive membership that reflects the diverse community it serves.

Boroko Rotary continues to evolve—quietly, confidently, and with purpose. With its doors now open to all committed to service, regardless of gender, the Club looks ahead to the future with renewed energy and an unwavering dedication to making a difference in Papua New Guinea and beyond.

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Boroko or to express interest in joining, please visit our website or follow us on social media. Together, we can create lasting change—one project, one member, one community at a time.

*Brian Riches
RC of Boroko*

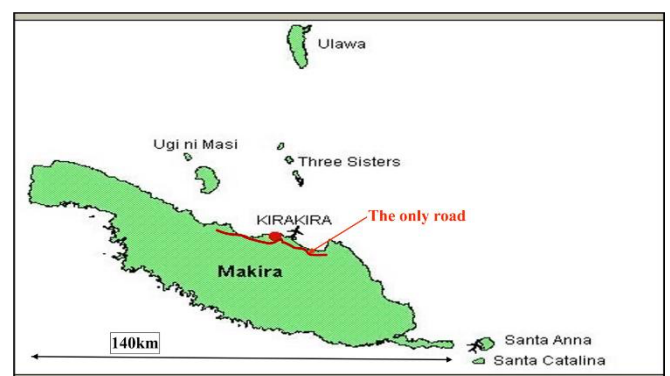
The following article tells a great story of a dedicated Rotarian putting together a network of supporters and donors to launch a project with a low cash budget to provide dental services in an obviously deprived area. It is a great Rotary story about trying to do something good.

From Vision to Reality: Help Support a Sustainable dental clinic in the Solomon Islands



Why build a new dental clinic?

My journey in the Solomon Islands began 12 years ago when I sold my private dental practice in Australia and began to assist with dental care in rural communities in Makira Province, Solomon Islands. I established a program where Australian dental volunteers provided care to school children. While impactful, it wasn't sustainable. Communities became dependent on visiting volunteers, and local dentists were inadvertently disempowered due to a lack of resources and equipment to meet community needs. This realisation led me to focus on empowering local health systems and professionals.



Makira Province consists of 9 islands - 85% population have no road access

The Challenge Ahead

In Makira Province, the dental health needs are immense. The provincial capital, Kirakira, relies on Dr. Lenstar, a single dedicated dentist, to serve a population of 60,000 spread across 32,000 square kilometres—an area half the size

of Tasmania. When Dr. Lenstar travels to rural areas, dental services in Kirakira come to a halt. With limited equipment, his focus remains on pain relief and trauma care, though his passion lies in improving the oral health of his people.

Dr. Lenstar is exceptional. A native of Makira Province, he has served his community tirelessly for four years—a significant milestone in a region where historically few dentists have stayed longer than 18 months. His commitment was further demonstrated when he attended a two-week training with Dental Health Services Victoria, funded by a grant from the **International College of Dentists**. There, ideas were exchanged about school dental services, preventive care, and working with children. The feedback from trainer **Elise Bales** was glowing:

"It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Lenstar, who demonstrated immense keenness, dedicating his full attention and asking lots of questions."

Dr. Lenstar's response to the training encapsulates his vision:

"Thank you so much for enabling me to attend this workshop. I am looking forward to reorganising my rooms to improve infection control and work with our health promotion team to deliver preventive services to our students."

*Graham McHugh
Director International services
Rotary Club of Mooloolaba*

DAVID HACK CLASSIC SUCCESS

The David Hack Classic held on Sunday 18 May 2025 was a success.



Planes and vehicle exhibitors coming together in the heavy fog that greeted us on the morning of the event. The skies had cleared by around 8.30 for our attractions to fly in.

Despite receiving almost 60mm of rain on the Friday before resulting in the aerodrome grounds being very wet and at risk of being damaged by vehicles and waking to some not uncommon Toowoomba fog on the Sunday morning, by around 8.00am, the skies cleared to a beautiful autumn day.



The Curtiss P40 Kitty Hawk flying over the Toowoomba Aerodrome prior to coming in to land. This was the first Kitty Hawk to land at the Toowoomba Aerodrome in over 80 years and was one of our key attractions for the 2025 event.

We estimated around 450 vehicle, truck and bike exhibitors came through the gates with a number of planes also flying with a many registering to be judged in 37 categories. Attractions for 2025 included a Curtiss P40 Kitty Hawk, P51 Mustang, 1945 Supermarine Mk IX Spitfire and Mark 8C Caldwell Spitfire which were all hugely popular. Also popular was a drive along the taxiway of an 1899 Winton motor vehicle. This car, one of the oldest working vehicles in Australia was used for the first mail run in Australia when it arrived here. Public attendance was consistent with around 5,000 people estimated to have attended over the course of the day.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Jag with members of the Jag Club of Queensland joining us after their own celebration on Saturday also in Toowoomba.

Of course, the 25th anniversary of the David Hack Classic was also a feature as part of formalities to present trophies and it was great to see so many people stay to celebrate this occasion with us.

We are currently in the process of finalising costs associated with the event before finalising the distributions of proceeds from the day to local charities which will occur at a presentation and appreciation evening to be held in late July 2025. We can then start planning for 2026!



The attached is a photo of (from left) Anna Carson (mother of David Hack), Annamaria Zuccoli (from our partner Aerotec and honorary member of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba North) and John Freeman (the founder of the David Hack Classic, former active and current honorary member of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba North cutting the 25th anniversary cake at this year's event.

*Desiree Franke
Rotary Club of Toowoomba North*

Western Corridor Rotary Satellite Club



On May 24th, 2025, the Ipswich City Western Corridor Satellite Club was officially chartered at a celebratory dinner, marking an exciting new chapter for Rotary in our region.

The idea for a satellite club was born from a desire to do things differently and reach more people in the fast-growing western corridor of Ipswich. With the support of Ipswich City Rotary, the vision came to life. Club President Tony Orchard and Vice President Paul Casos welcomed the proposal from Satellite Chair Kacie Howard and Secretary Jen McGarry, and the past seven

months have seen dedicated foundation members working tirelessly to formalise the club.

From the outset, the satellite club has received tremendous support and encouragement from Ipswich City Rotary. Members have been actively involved in volunteering efforts including the annual Christmas hamper drive, strawberry sundaes at the Ipswich Show, and monthly school sandwich-making projects. Social events have also played a key role in helping new members connect with the broader Ipswich City Rotary community.

The Western Corridor Satellite Club meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings at the Yamanto Tavern (6.30 for a 7pm start)—an accessible and family-friendly venue while the club awaits a more permanent home in the corridor. Meetings are designed to be time-efficient and inclusive, running for one hour and often featuring guest speakers from the Ipswich City Rotary Club to strengthen relationships and share knowledge.

In keeping with a flexible, modern approach to community service, the club has adopted a “give what you can, when you can” model, inspired by Toohey Rotary. This has been well received by those who want to contribute but may not be able to attend every meeting.



Looking ahead, the Satellite Club is focused on building a visible and meaningful presence in the community. Members are connecting with local community groups, businesses, and community development officers, with plans underway to host the club's first public event in Ripley in 2026.

If you're interested in learning more or connecting with the satellite club, please reach out via email at wcsatellite@ipswichcityrotary.com.au. We welcome all who share our passion for community, connection, and doing things a little differently.
*Kacie Howard
Ipswich City Western Corridor Satellite Club*

THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF AUSTRALIA NOMADS

Some more 'Helping Hands Across the Land' from the Rotary Nomads.

The multitude of small member generated projects are well under way with just a few holdups with regards the School Supplies for Solomon Islands.

The 'Back Packs for Blokes' has just about issued all the original stock to many locations; 'Meg's Back Packs' is well under way; 'Microlending' has commenced and may receive a top up of funds; 'School Supplies for Solomon Islands' has had a few glitches due mainly to remote school access and it may include a back pack as well as school supplies; 'Riding for the Disabled' is ongoing and two Club members are regular volunteers.

The Biogas for Nakuru project is proceeding with the grant all but approved and at least 26 units already installed. Donations for this project are most welcome.



The Nomads Peace Pole project. A Peace Pole was erected at Bedourie State School on 15th May resulting from a visit to Bedourie in 2024 by members of the Rotary Nomads. The following letter of thanks is from the Bedourie State School Principal, Mrs Danielle Carige.

'On Thursday, May 15th, Bedourie State School marked its 1st Annual Peace Pole Ceremony, thanks to the generosity of Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads and the Bedourie Amateur Turf Club. The service was held within the school grounds located next to the planted Peace Pole. Both students and Staff led the ceremony either through spoken and text-to-speech followed by a shared morning tea.

The School Officer – Grounds, Mr Stephen Carige, planted the pole and designed the dry garden around the pole. The dry garden symbolises the desert meeting the ocean.

The Peace Pole stands at the front of the school close to the main thoroughfare through town. The placement will allow the community and visiting travellers easy access to the Peace Pole Garden and its important message of PEACE. The pole has four languages – English, French, Japanese and Welsh (Gaelic) which are all

significant to Bedourie State School and township present and past.

The Peace Pole is the 391st pole planted in Australia. MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH!'

Danielle Carige

Principal

Bedourie State School



Of recent weeks, the Moore Park Beach (Chapter) of the Rotary Nomads assisted the Bundaberg Scouts by volunteering for gate duty at the local Show.

While in Bundaberg, the Club co-funded a refrigerator for the local Men's Shed.

Helping Hands, at work with other organisations.



David Field

PR/PI Director, E-Club of Australia Nomads

Rotary Club of Greater Springfield's Community Domestic & Family Violence Awareness & Prevention Project

The Rotary Club of Greater Springfield has embarked upon a significant domestic & family violence awareness and prevention agenda.

The Club's ultimate goal is to be able to fund the delivery of primary prevention programs to all students within the Greater Springfield area. Primary prevention programs aim to provide learning for children between 11 & 17 years of age to equip them with the skills they need to form respectful and ethical relationships, free of violence and gender inequality.

As part of this project, on Thursday 5 June the club hosted a public talk entitled "Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence: Lessons of Trauma, Courage & Growth." Led by Sharon Clark, a Clinical Psychologist and Director of Community Service Projects for the Rotary Club of Greater Springfield, the presentation included information about the consequences of childhood exposure to domestic & family violence, an impactful workshop about the sensory impact of an incident of domestic violence on a child, and an interview with two courageous victim survivors who shared the personal stories.



relief, rebuilding efforts, and long-term recovery initiatives.

The committee acknowledged the immediate need for assistance for families who lost their homes or suffered extensive damage to their property. Cash assistance was provided to address daily living needs while awaiting the creation and distribution of cards. Communities such as Thargomindah, Adavale, Eulo, Jundah, and surrounding areas were offered cash transfers of \$250 following the necessary governance protocols for overseeing public fund distribution. Valuable data was collected for future planning during this process and continues to be gathered.



An initial amount of \$49,000 was distributed, followed by an additional \$150,000 in debit cards overseen by Rotarians in Longreach and Quilpie. Furthermore, RAWCS has contributed \$50,000 in debit cards which are currently being distributed. Assistance has extended to house contents and essential items, including tools. In collaboration with the hardware shop in Quilpie, starter kits of tools valued at \$15,804 will be made available to those requesting them in the Adavale area, open to all regions.



Local Springfield businesses provided raffle prizes and the night's raffle raised enough funds to train a program facilitator (\$600). This takes the number of facilitator training positions able to be funded by the club to 13 so far!

If you would like to know more about this important project or want to donate to assist, get in touch with the Rotary Club of Greater Springfield.

*Sharon Clark
RC of Greater Springfield*

Districts 9620 & 9560 Western QLD Flood Appeal

Western Queensland has encountered a significant challenge as severe flooding has affected communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The long-term impact is exacerbated by the distance and isolation of these communities and the lack of resources. The funds raised are being utilised for emergency

Discussions are ongoing around how funds can be utilised in support of the mental health of these communities. It is agreed that support of community events and social wellbeing days are what is required at the moment and the committee is collaborating with communities as to how we can help facilitate these events.

The committee is working with RAWCS to plan delivery and cost-sharing of 12 Rapid Response housing pods to Thargomindah. A substantial donation of floor coverings valued at \$10,000 from Anderson's Carpets is being assessed and distributed. Much work remains as this disaster requires long-term planning and comprehension of the isolation faced by these communities.

Residents have requested caution and thorough assessment of needs before sending out supplies, as storage space is currently limited and unsolicited items have added challenges to their situation. Gratitude is extended to all clubs and individuals who have generously supported this appeal.

PDG Patrice Robinson

DISTRICT 9620 FOUNDATION COLUMN

This month we will look firstly, at a 21/22 Rotary Club of Loganholme District Grant.

First up, a little bit of background around an organisation called YFS, which stands for Youth & Family Service, and was based in Logan City and was formed in 1981. Originally it looked mainly at Housing and Homelessness Assistance in Logan. Moving forward to 2015 the R4Respect program was initiated. Alongside the R4Respect program, a similar program Men4Respect was developed for young men. Men4Respect, a program focused on young men's attitudes towards gender equality and violence prevention, was established in 2019. It was created by [R4Respect](#), a companion program, in response to research showing young men's attitudes remained difficult to shift, even after R4Respect's peer-to-peer work with young people had a significant impact. The program aims to address why being respectful is not appealing to many young men, while acknowledging that they already know what a respectful man looks like.

The local Rotary clubs have built up a long-term relationship with YFS, with these Clubs being Logan, Loganholme, and Beenleigh.

In 2016 YFS joined Federal, State and local government, businesses, organisations, and services to take up the challenge to put an end to domestic and family violence. As part of the campaign, the Rotary Clubs of Logan, Loganholme, and Beenleigh funded the production of a pocket Quick Help Guide, outlining sources of support and information for Logan people experiencing violence.

The District Grant involved sponsoring three Youth Ambassadors, with a youth-driven program based in Logan, Queensland. The cost of \$1,000 per ambassador covered the training they received as well as the cost of materials used to deliver the sessions. The \$3,000 cost of the program was covered by a \$2,000 District Grant plus \$1,000 from club funds.

The programs reach has no boundaries, through social media and other educational activities, young people can be exposed to the R4Respect messages no matter where they live.



Led by young people for young people, R4Respect/Men4Respect are education strategies to prevent domestic and family violence.

The program is delivered through educational sessions and group activities.

Learning goals:

- To better understand the facts about gender inequality and violence
- To have a clear idea of different expectations we have of gender
- To understand how rigid views of masculinity can be harmful
- To reflect on positive ways to be male and healthy forms of masculinity.

Four key messages about healthy, respectful relationships guide everything we do.

1. We all have the right to be free of abuse and violence.
2. Respect means being fair and valuing others as equals.

3. Value diversity. Value culture. Celebrate difference.

4. Negotiate through disagreements. Don't hit out.



Domestic Violence is a major blight on our modern society, and these two programs R4Respect and Men4Respect which initiate an early prevention would seem to be a better approach.

Rotary Club of Toowong District Grant 24/25 Windeward Bound Leadership Challenge

Most of the following information is from the Toowong Club's final report.

This grant provided additional funding for Baraka Lunani to participate in the Voyage from Hobart to Sydney. Baraka is a year 11 student enrolled at the St James College and he and his mother Agnes came from Kenya as refugees. He contributed over \$900 towards his trip and paid for all transport and accommodation before and after the journey.

Baraka completed the journey entering Sydney Harbour on 25 April after 11 days at sea.

The Benefits of the Voyage were identified prior to the commencement of the journey included promoting understanding, inclusiveness and learning leadership skills. Baraka admitted that he had benefited from the journey and felt that he had made some lifelong friends and developed people and leadership skills he previously had not had. His mother was asked if she had seen a change. She commented on his growth, and that after two weeks away a shy, retiring youth returned as a confident young man who was being responsible at home, was aware of other people needs and accommodating these needs. He had left home always wearing a hoodie and "trying to hide away". In the month

since he has been back – he has accepted added responsibilities at home and at school and he has not worn the hoodie once!

This adventure is about living, working, and playing with people you haven't met before. It's about becoming a member of a team, taking responsibility, giving, and taking orders, pushing yourself physically and mentally, being cold, wet, weary, perhaps sick, often frightened – and looking back on it as the most wonderful experience of your life. As a member of a leadership development program on a sail training ship, participants quickly learn that there is no one there to do things for them. There is no plumber to fix the tap, no Mum to make the bed, no council to sweep the litter, no 'takeaways' to provide a quick meal. On board there is only the 'us', the team. If something needs doing, it can only be done by you, me, him, or her; there is no "they who will do it" which shelves all responsibility. There is always something to do; spuds to be peeled, decks to be scrubbed, bunks to be tidied, sails to be set, heads to be unblocked, anchor cables to be stowed. The list is endless, and if no-one does it, it doesn't get done. No spuds peeled means no meal. Cause and effect are brought into much closer proximity than usual. Slowly the need for discipline and self-discipline is accepted. By the end of a 9-day voyage, what started as a group of 18 disparate individuals, some shy, some leaders, some nervous, a few suspicious or rebellious, and nearly all totally inexperienced young landlubbers, becomes a crew. The crew are now 'shipmates' and what each member of the team will have learned goes far beyond seamanship and navigation.

The following page details a precise of Baraka's presentation at the Toowong Club, which was included in their club bulletin.

Some of my club members (Ipswich City), partners, and their children got to have a short trip on the Brisbane River on the Brigantine STV Windeward Bound, on the first of this month. Our members were so impressed that after taking it to our board, we will provide four scholarships of \$1,000 for four students from the Ipswich Bremer High.

Rowarn also said, 'Just a quick discussion on two issues that have come up recently. I discussed with a club member whether a District Grant could be used to help fund a Satellite club and alternatively a Rotaract club. I had never come across this, however my first response was no. I

then sought the advice of someone much wiser than myself, PDG Elwyn, and he agreed with me.

'I have also had several conversations regarding the qualification to apply for a grant recently. You now must go through RI's web site Learning Centre. When having been completed the course Certificate should show the words Club Qualification. This course includes 10 modules, and the course is described as the Grant Management Seminar. However, if you had completed the course last year, then you have only to do the Grant Management Recertification 2024-25, which has two modules plus an exam. Finally, two members from your club must complete the course. If you have a problem, please call me on 0414321419.'

Rowarn Luder
0414321419
rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com

D9620 Rotary Youth Exchange Program Eurotour Highlights

I recently went on the Rotary Eurotour, and it truly was the trip of a lifetime. Alongside 42 other exchange students, I had the opportunity to travel through France (Paris and Versailles), Spain (Barcelona), and Italy (Vatican City, Rome, Naples, Florence, and Venice). I could probably write a whole book about every place we visited, but instead, I'll share a favourite memory from each city.

Paris was everything I expected—parts of it were dirty, but many areas were stunning and elegant. Of course, visiting the Eiffel Tower and seeing the Mona Lisa were unforgettable highlights. But the best moment was visiting the



Australian Embassy on ANZAC Day, where I got to vote and connect with fellow Aussies and got a coffee and croissant on my way back to the Rotary group.

Versailles was possibly one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. The gardens, fountains, and maze were breathtaking (and yes, my friends and I did get lost in the maze). Classical music played throughout the grounds, and I heard more than one Taiwanese student ask if we were in heaven.

Barcelona ended up being one of my favourite cities. The vibrant city centre and Gothic Quarter were incredible to explore. I even met a lovely local couple who invited me to return (though they gave me a phone number that doesn't work—so maybe not!).



I also braved the cold to swim at the beach, and despite freezing, I loved every minute of it.



Vatican City was packed with tourists, which made sense as the Pope had passed away just a week before our visit. We became pilgrims for a day, walking through the "Holy Doors" that only open every 25 years. I may not have been selected as the next

Pope, but it was still an unforgettable experience.

Rome was my overall favourite. Exploring the Colosseum and going on a guided tour through Ancient Rome was a dream come true. We had



amazing food, visited the famous Trevi Fountain, and even got a photo with a supposedly famous Italian basketball team.

Naples felt a little chaotic, especially in the area we stayed—it was busy, loud, and road rules seemed optional. Still, it was worth it to visit

Pompeii and enjoy authentic pizza. The waiters



there were hilarious, especially with their sarcastic jokes aimed at the American exchange student I was with. We also had a chance to go swimming again here.

We didn't have much time in Florence, but we made the most of it.

We discovered the Italian leather market, and let's just say, a lot of money was spent. My favourite purchase—and now my most prized possession—is a beautiful Italian leather purse. We also saw Michelangelo's David, though honestly, the leather stole the show for me.

Our final stop was Venice, where we had a scavenger hunt that helped us explore the city in a fun and independent way. One challenge involved getting napkins from cafés without ordering anything—my trick was simply asking politely. We also ticked off a major bucket list item: riding the gondolas through Venice's iconic canals.



This trip gave me unforgettable experiences and lifelong friendships—especially after surviving those overnight bus rides together!

Clancey Smith
2025 D9620 Rotary Youth Exchange Student - Czech Republic



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Toohey, one of the youngest clubs chartered in District 9620 for displaying the Magic of Rotary.

What a pleasure to see a new Rotary Club source such useful sets of three steel drawers to be donated to RARE. 164 of these near new cabinets were collected from a CBD address on Saturday morning and delivered to RARE at Alexandra Hills.

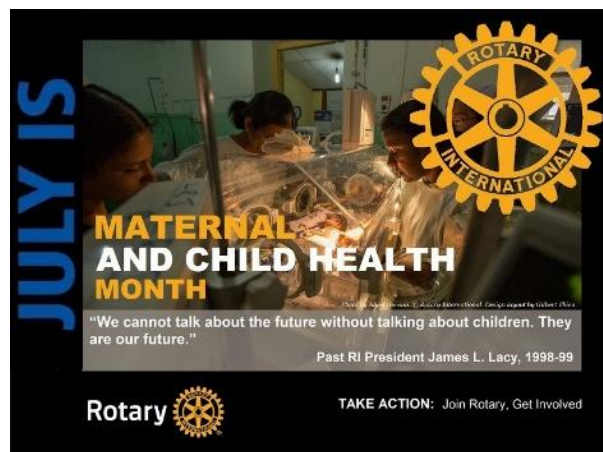


Container loading for East New Britain was in progress and some of the cabinets were immediately re-loaded into this PNG bound container.

Thanks are due to the Rotary Club of Toohey member who initiated the contact and made speedy arrangements for this magnificent donation.

These lockable cabinets will be utilised as hospital bedside tables—a great result for those receiving these most useful cabinets.

“Rotary in Action”



Francesco Arezzo of Italy selected to be 2025-26 Rotary International President

Dear Family of Rotary,

In moments of change the strength and resilience of our Rotary family shine brightest. Following the unexpected resignation of Mário César Martins de Camargo, the Rotary International Board moved swiftly and thoughtfully, in accordance with our bylaws, to ensure continuity in our mission and leadership.

I am proud to share that Francesco Arezzo of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy has accepted the nomination to serve as Rotary International President for 2025–26.

Francesco Arezzo has been a member of Rotary for more than 30 years and is a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation.

His dedication to Rotary values and vision for a better world make him a remarkable choice to lead us forward.

This transition reminds us that Rotary is more than any one individual—it is a global movement, deeply rooted in fellowship and service, capable of adapting and thriving no matter the challenge.

Now is the time to Unite for Good under Francesco's leadership, and together we will propel Rotary into a future defined by hope, action, and community.

Warmest regards,
Stephanie A. Urchick
President, Rotary International, 2024–25



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the tenth and final edition of the DG News for the 2024-25 Rotary year – where we have SHARED YOUR MAGIC!

Please submit articles (interesting and visual) to the DG News Editor, Win Salmon at newsletter@rotary9620.org by 25 July for the first edition for the 2025-26 Rotary year as we Unite for Good.



2024-25 sponsors

