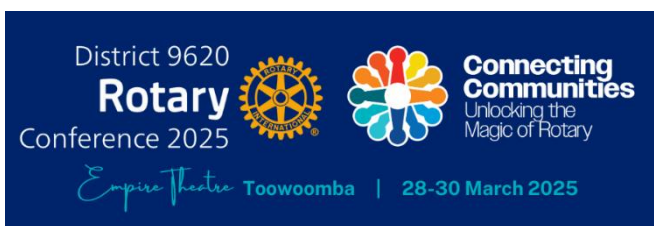




## FROM THE DG



Our conference is happening next weekend!!!!

The conference committee and I are so excited to be able to share the weekend with you in fabulous Toowoomba – the program is confirmed, the speakers confirmed, and the venue is ready. Join us for the walk on Friday afternoon before the ‘official fun’ begins on Saturday – we look forward to a weekend of ‘Connecting Communities – Unlocking the Magic of Rotary’. I have a few surprises ready to share with you – now you need to wait and see!!!

We are also very grateful to the generous sponsorship we have received to enable us to bring you this event, our platinum sponsor for this year is Cocoon SDA Care.

We have had a little excitement weather wise during the last month and I hope that Cyclone Alfred was gentle to you. John and I were very fortunate with the only effect that we experienced was no power for a couple of days. Please contact us if your community requires additional assistance due to damage caused by Cyclone Alfred – there are several appeals that we can access. Quite a few events were cancelled or have been rescheduled across the district, and I thank everyone for placing the safety of our community first while we waited to see what the effect of the cyclone would be.

My club visits have continued and at this stage there are only a couple of clubs remaining. My whole year has been one of amazement when I see the impact that each of you has made – definitely a lot of magic in D9620.



*Chinchilla Club visit*

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March was the Annual Peace Scholars Seminar.

The Class XXII Rotary Peace Fellows are nearing the completion of their Masters in Peace & Conflict degrees at the University of Queensland. They highlighted their studies as well as presentations from the Applied Fieldwork Experience that they undertook over the summer



break, this allowed our Peace Fellows to extend their professional and practical skills.

The Seminar is a platform for our Fellows to share their experiences with Rotarians first hand, to hear about how their learning has progressed, and the journey they have embarked on both as scholars and practitioners. It is also the University's way of thanking Rotary for its contributions, support, and funding of the program.

If you have not attended a Rotary Peace Fellows Seminar keep an eye out for next year's seminar.


See you at conference.


*DG Sue*




## 2025 D9620 Interact Conference! 20 July 2025

 **Sunday 20 July 2025**

 **8:15am to 3:15pm** (registration 7:45am to 8:15am)

 Christine Hartland Centre, **St Aidan's Anglican Girls School**, 11 Ruthven Street, Corinda.

 **"Yours is the Future!"**

 **\$20.00pp** (includes morning tea, lunch & refreshments)

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/d9620-interact-conference-2025>

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2025 D9620 Interact Conference, set to take place on Sunday 20 July 2025 from 8:15am to 3:15pm. This exciting event will be hosted by the Interact Club of St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, marking a significant milestone as they celebrate their 40th anniversary! We will be welcoming students from across Queensland as well as virtual participants from the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The Interact Club of St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jindalee, exemplifies this mission. Since its charter in 1985, the club has raised over \$250,000 for various charities, including the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Camp Quality, and Friends with Dignity. The Rotary Club of Jindalee, established on October 29, 1979, has long been dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the community while championing diversity and inclusivity. The partnership between the Rotary Club and the Interact Club has empowered countless students to engage in community service, allowing them to contribute their time and talents for the benefit of others.

This year's conference promises to be a memorable occasion filled with inspiring guest speakers, engaging breakout sessions and a vibrant House of Friendship (Exhibition Hall). All D9620 Interact Clubs present at the conference will participate in a three (3) minute elevator pitch showcase presentation.

We will hear from Consolate Liza and Christine West. Consolate is a proud Congolese woman and the CEO/owner of Frilete, a thriving sportswear brand, and is an inspiring role model and so much more. Her incredible journey showcases the power of determination, breaking societal norms, and creating opportunities where they may not have existed before. Christine West is a Community Advocate and proud Rotarian who has worked closely with local developers and the council to secure better planning outcomes that prioritise the preservation of wildlife corridors and natural habitats. Her advocacy has focused on protecting vulnerable species, including the koala and the wallum froglet.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Interact Club of St Aidan's, we look forward to commemorating their achievements while also encouraging students to develop their leadership skills and enhance their understanding of global issues.

Mark your calendars now for this special event! More details about the conference program will

be shared soon, so stay tuned for updates. We can't wait to see students come together from different regions, united by a shared commitment to service and leadership. Let's make this conference a celebration of impact where "Yours is the Future!"

*Myles Waugh*

*D9620 Interact Program Vice-Chair & Communications Officer*

## Helping in the aftermath of Cyclone Alfred

The Rotary club of Wynnnum and Manly moved its meeting venue to the Wynnnum Golf Club last year. The Golf Club has looked after the Club very well with excellent meals and great service, including setting up for meetings and space for the Club's equipment. Member attendance at meetings has increased consistently since the move and membership growth has accelerated, partly because of the excellent venue. The RC of Wynnnum and Manly could not meet there in the second week of March because of the impact of Cyclone Alfred and its aftermath.

While cyclone Alfred did not reach the intensity expected, it still packed enough punch to bring down trees, snap branches and scatter debris over some distance. The accompanying rainfall softened the soil and exacerbated the effects of the wind.



*President Mick Matthews (front) and VP Les Louis (behind P Mick) with some of the team*

This is what happened at the Wynnnum Golf Club and the damage caused was enough to put the club out of action until much of the debris was cleared up. The Golf Club management arranged for two working bees on successive days in the

second week of March and sought assistance from Golf Club members and their friends to join the working bee and help in the clean-up.

In return for the excellent treatment RC of Wynnnum and Manly has received from the Golf Club, President Mick Matthews offered the services of RC of Wynnnum and Manly to help. That was gladly accepted by the Golf Club and the call went out to the RC of Wynnnum and Manly members. The short notice meant that most were not able to be present but President Mick and Vice President Les Louis attended on the day, armed with gloves and rakes to attack the offending debris.

They joined with about 30 Golf Club Members and staff for three hours on Thursday morning and the whole team was able to make major inroads into the clearing of the fallen trees and branches. The success of the effort can be judged by the fact that the Golf Club was able to get operational some days earlier than they had expected.



*The clean-up team in action*

While the RC of Wynnnum and Manly could only make a small contribution, it was gratefully accepted by the Golf Club.

*PP Les Louis  
RC of Wynnnum and Manly*



## Exciting news from Noosa District High School Interact Club!



Three of their members attended the 2024 Interact Conference, where Oscar Betteridge was particularly inspired by a presentation on "RARE" (Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment) by Phil Saxby from the RC of Brisbane.



Motivated by the need for textbooks for disadvantaged schoolchildren in the Pacific Islands, Oscar returned to school and rallied his teachers and staff for support. With the help of other Interact Club members, they tracked down unused English, maths, and science textbooks.

Check out the amazing results in the photos!

Oscar's dedication led to the collection of over 1,200 books, which he and his father personally delivered to be shipped to the islands through RARE. His hard work was recognised during a presentation at the Rotary Club of Cooroy on October 21, 2024.

Oscar, along with Interact Club President Brooke and Secretary Ella, attended the RYTS seminar last December, which had a profound impact on their lives. Both Oscar and Brooke are eager to continue their support for Rotary after graduation, and we know they will become outstanding leaders in the future!



Myles Waugh  
D9620 Interact Program Vice-Chair &  
Communications Officer

## Rotary Browns Plains Raises Funds to Send Two Local Teens on a Life-Changing Tall Ship Voyage

Rotary Browns Plains recently hosted a special fundraising dinner at Ru Yi Dim Sum Restaurant in Calamvale to support two local teens selected to join the *Windward Bound Tall Ship* through the Youth Development Sail Program. This unique program is designed for young people aged 14 to 17 years, helping them develop resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills through the experience of sailing a tall ship. The evening brought together members, supporters, and community leaders for a night of good food, amazing fun, essential fundraising and wonderful

fellowship. Guests enjoyed a delicious eight-course Chinese banquet, with a variety of traditional dishes that delighted every table.



One of the night's highlights was the auction of beautiful bottles of Rotary Wine, proudly sourced from Moffatdale Vineyard and autographed by District Governor Sue and PDG Chris. Each bottle sold helped raise funds for both the *Windeward Bound* Youth Program and Rotary Foundation, making each glass a toast to a brighter future.



A raffle draw featured the grand prize of a Day Sail Trip aboard the *Windeward Bound* and a generous hamper donated by Member Leanne Enoch. And in true Rotary spirit, the night wasn't short on fun—a surprise auction item saw Councillor Tim Frazer's beanie raise \$50, adding laughter and cheeky energy to the evening.

We were privileged to welcome a number of special guests, including District Governor Sue Mulraney, Past President John Mulraney, District Governor Elect Mark Williams, Past District Governor Chris Wright, Past District Governor Jitendra Prasad, District Administration Director Maggie Kuok, Past District Governor Paul Roger, Area Governor Craig Carson, MP James Martin, Councillor Emily Ki, and of course, our beanie-sporting legend, Councillor Tim Frazer.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, Rotary Browns Plains proudly raised over **\$2,000** to help two deserving young people embark on this life-changing adventure.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported, participated in, and patronised this wonderful event. Your contributions are helping shape young lives, build confidence, and strengthen our community—one sail at a time.



Colin Tee  
RC of Browns Plains

## RC OF WYNNUM AND MANLY YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly provides opportunities for local young people to participate in several youth programs and arranges for the participants to tell the Club about their experiences at normal Club meetings in February each year. This year, the programs were:

- Citizenship Awards
- NYSF and LIYSF
- Science Experience
- RYTS

The **Citizenship Awards** are made to outstanding Senior high school students who embody Rotary's core values of integrity, service and helping others. The awardees were nominated by their schools and the awards were recognised at a recent Club meeting, where they

addressed the Club and spoke of their future dreams



*Charlotte Bluck, P Mick Matthews, Kahtie Neave, PP Rod Fletcher, Ella Luckensmeyer*

Charlotte Bluck (Wynnum State High School), Ella Luckensmeyer (Moreton Bay College) and Kahtie Neave (Brisbane Bayside State College) spoke at the meeting, but Arie Van KerKwyk from Iona College was unable to attend.

Charlotte was School Captain and was involved in a wide range of activities, excelling in academic subjects, work ethics and in being a role model for her peers.

Ella received her Citizenship Award because of her strength of character, sense of justice, loyalty, leadership and always being there for her peers.

Kahtie is a dedicated and hardworking student, representing the student council at numerous events including at Parliament House as well as being involved in senior basketball, concerts and the arts, becoming Senior House Captain in 2024.

RCWM contributed to the expenses of Hemish Dubey who was selected to attend the **London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF)**, which has been running for more than 50 years attracting over 500 students from almost 75 countries for a two- week session. Hosted by Imperial College, the students attend lectures by high-profile scientists and see some of the finest research labs in the UK with optional visits to Oxford and Cambridge and debates on controversial issues. He is now studying in Sydney and made his presentation via Zoom to the club meeting providing an excellent overview of the program and the motivation it provided to him to continue in his chosen field.

Oliver Zaccaria, a student from Moreton Bay Boys College, was the Club's nominee for the **National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)** in

Canberra this year. Interestingly, Oliver had previously attended The Science Experience program. Oliver gave a very entertaining and informative presentation of his experience at NYSF including robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and a topic that caught the keen eye of our beekeeper members, the concept of artificial honey.



**Science Experience** attendees Charles McKee, Eva Healey, Niamh Capper and Mars Bailey spoke about their exhilarating interaction with science at our Universities in Brisbane. The positive impact on their life decisions was clear from their enthusiasm and future plans.

*Mars Bailey, Eve Healey, Charles McKee, P Mick Matthews, Niamh Capper, PP Geoff Catto*



Angus Clouston gave an entertaining account of his week-long camp for the **Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS)**, designed for students in Grade 11 and 12 to help them transition into the next phase of their lives. Angus believed that his biggest take-away was "building connections with new people."

President Mick Matthews said: "These young people are an inspiration to us all and our future is assured when youth of this calibre are coming through."

*PP Les Louis  
RC of Wynnum and Manly*



*See you at the District Conference this weekend.*

# Bedourie Peace Pole Project



Meet Steve Carige, The dedicated grounds man at [Bedourie State School](#), whose hard work and passion are making a big difference for the school community. Steve has taken it upon himself to not only maintain the school's grounds but to transform them

into a beautiful, welcoming space where students and staff can thrive. From carefully tending the gardens to improving the outdoor areas for play and learning, his efforts are creating a vibrant environment that reflects the school's spirit. His attention to detail and love for the school is building a sense of pride and connection within the community, making Bedourie State School an even more special place for the little ones to grow and learn. The peace pole in the above picture was donated by the Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads (Rotary Nomads) and the Bedourie Amateur Turf Club late last year.

## A Message from the Principal

Hello Rob,  
Sorry about the time lag, the business of school sometimes gets away from me. Here are the last updates from our Facebook page and photos. I am waiting until the heat is less nasty before we conduct the ceremony. It has been super-hot of late (averaging 42 degrees for the past 5 weeks of school). My thoughts, given what we have on for the latter half of the term is we will conduct the ceremony in early May in Term 2. The cooler morning temperatures will allow us to have a ceremony near the peace pole comfortably. Usually by May it is closer to 30 in the am which after 42 seems much cooler.

Kind regards,

Mrs Danielle Carige  
Principal

Bedourie State School



The Bedourie Peace Pole is the 22<sup>nd</sup> pole donated by the Rotary Nomads across Australia. It was a result of 18 Rotarians and Friends of Rotary venturing out to Bedourie to assist the Bedourie Amateur Turf Club hold their annual Bull & Bronco Rodeo as well as the Camel & Pig Races. The trek out over five days, and back was a great adventure for all those volunteering. The two-day event was filled with much enjoyment and hard work considering the Nomads and Friends were the only volunteers to turn up. Without this effort the organisers commented that the event would have been cancelled. As Rotarians we can't let this happen. Those 18 Rotarian and Friends of Rotary know who they are and what they achieved and endured. As the coordinator, I pass on my many thanks for your assistance, time and effort to make this happen and truly know and understand the power of "Service Above Self".

*Rob Curtis*  
Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads



# DISTRICT 9620 FOUNDATION COLUMN

## District Grant 2023-34 Booval

The Rotary Club of Booval has for several years provided nutritional meals to disadvantaged persons in Ipswich, at Queens Park. This is a small club of four members, who meet every second Tuesday, with the alternate Tuesday being when they feed the local people. They work in conjunction with Rosies, another organisation which has supported the local disadvantaged for several years. This program comes under the name of "Footprints in the Park".

The delivery of meals is provided through the Club's Catering Trailer. With the club's small numbers, they rely on "Friends on Rotary. In the previous year the club provided 735 meals with 201 volunteer hours provided by five Rotarians and three Friends of Rotary.



The grant requested was for \$5,000, to be used in food purchases, associated packaging, plus repairs to the club trailer subframe. Without the trailer this program could not occur.

The club expenditure was made up of \$463.21 of club funds and \$5,000 from the grant.

Booval should be congratulated for their ongoing commitment to the disadvantaged of Ipswich. This is a long-term commitment, with all club member participation being required.

## District Grant 2023-30 Roma

Members of the Rotary Club of Roma form the Board of Pinaroo Roma Inc., which owns and operates a not for profit 71 bed aged care facility in Roma, along with a new Independent Living

Units (ILU) complex for 10 residents. Pinaroo is the only privately owned & managed community based residential aged care provider in the Maranoa region. The new ILU's will require a feature meeting place for residents, family and friends in the centre of the complex to enhance liveability and improve the physical and mental health and the welfare of residents.

The project will involve the foundation and erection of a gazebo structure and surrounding landscaping to form this meeting place. The gazebo will be named the Rotary Gazebo and will feature appropriate signage to that effect. This District Grant is supporting the purchase of the Gazebo with 8 sides, 7-metre sides, and 2400mm high. The cost of the Gazebo was \$11,813, with this only being part of this major project which has an estimated cost of around \$100,000.

When completed, the project will be a family friendly place for the elderly residents to gather in a village square like atmosphere. This will further enhance their healthy living conditions, provide better emotional support and improve overall aged health care for those who live in rural Queensland.



The Rotary Club of Roma is to be commended for this project with the club providing the \$4,813 to complete the Gazebo purchase.

Look for news on last Saturday's Annual Peace Scholars Seminar in April's edition.





**Rotary International District 9620 Limited**  
**The Rotary Foundation District Committee**  
**Stewardship Sub-Committee**

## Audit Evaluation of Completed District Grant

<b>District Grant Number</b>	<b>Rotary Club of</b>
Project Name:	
Overview of Project:	
Does the narrative in the Completion Report demonstrate that the completed project is in accordance with original approved documentation?	
Have suitable photographs been provided?	
Community Impacts: Have the following been addressed in the report?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people benefitting</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Rotarians involved</li> </ul>	
Has project sustainability been addressed?	
Have maintenance costs been addressed?	
Is there clear evidence of correct expenditure of Foundation and other Rotary funds? E.g. receipts, bank statements.	
Is there any evidence of conflict of interest, perceived or real?	
Is there evidence of suitable publicity for Rotary and the Rotary Foundation?	
Type of publicity? (Signage? media attention? Other?)	
Audit Evaluation by:	
Date of Audit Evaluation:	

## The Process of Acquitting a District Grant

When a Rotary Club completes their District Grant, they are required to submit their Final Report for evaluation by the District Grant Committee. In most cases payment of the grant cannot be made until the committee checks the grant for compliance with the applicable rules. (In some cases, clubs may request progress payments be made during the period of the grant.) When the committee gives the approval, the Treasurer (Bruce Mills) will make a transfer into the club's bank account.

There is another check of the grant compliance, where John Leddy (OAM PDG) the District Stewardship Officer evaluates a percentage of the District Grant Final Reports. He may request extra information from the Grant Committee when doing his assessment.

Once the acquittal process is completed, all the grant information is transmitted to head office in Sydney. As you can see Rotary treats the process of District Grants and the correct spending of the associated funds with great diligence. The table above details the process that John Leddy goes through in evaluating a grant's compliance.

I would make a few comments on issues I have noted when evaluating District Grants. We have had to knock back some receipts which were dated before the club received the approval letter from the District Grant Chairman. There have been instances where flight bookings were made before the acceptance date. This was approved by district after the situation and time frames were discussed with the club.

When evaluating receipts, difficulties arise with foreign exchange rates, and ineligible receipts. I would suggest that a record is kept by the Rotarian involved, regarding all these transactions, to help the grant committee's assessment. At times club members may pay with their own money from their account, and then seek reimbursement by their club. We require to see a paper trail from the bank statements provided with the Grant Final Report.

Any questions, please email me at [rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com](mailto:rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com) or call on 0414321419.

## BACKPACKS FOR BLOKES - Rotary Nomads Project

I am a member and past-president of the Rotary Nomads. My club has started this project to support homeless men in the Redland City area Qld. We will be packing 50 backpacks with items such as water bottles, sunscreen, toiletry items and other items to improve quality of life.



We have partnered with the Night Ninjas Inc. who will be distributing the packs to those in need.



Geoff St Clair  
Rotary Nomads

# GLOBAL NURSES & MIDWIVES ROTARY CLUB NEWS

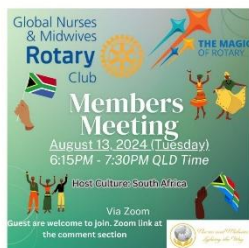
I would like to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our organisation during the 2023 to 2024 period, highlighting our steadfast commitment to enhancing education for nursing and midwifery professionals across the globe. This year, we have successfully rolled out an array of educational programs focused on vital topics such as Care Principles, Palliative Care, Mental Health, and Jurisprudence. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated Education Portfolio Lead, Dr. Wendy McIntosh, whose exemplary guidance has been a driving force behind these initiatives.



In addition to our educational pursuits, our organisation has placed a strong emphasis on celebrating multiculturalism. Our monthly meetings, enriched by the unique perspectives of members from diverse backgrounds—including countries such as The Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Malawi, India, Liberia, and Australia—have fostered a deep sense of understanding and appreciation for one another's cultures. We are particularly excited to welcome Sierra Leone for a special presentation scheduled in April 2025.

## Cultural Meetings

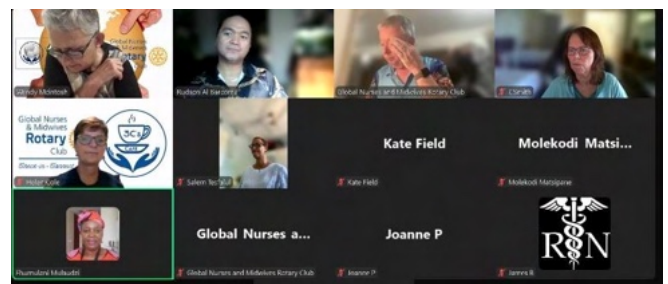
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Throughout the 2023-2024 period, we have successfully launched several impactful

initiatives. One such program, the 3Cs Café, serves as a vibrant platform for global discussions on pressing professional topics that matter to our community. The Solar Birthing Case Projects in the Philippines exemplify our collaborative spirit, enabling us to partner with Australian and Philippine Rotary Clubs to make a meaningful difference. Our humanitarian efforts are further highlighted by our financial support for Turkish nursing students who were affected by the devastating earthquake, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to those in distress. We are also proud recipients of the prestigious Gold Champion Award for ShelterBox in 2024, recognizing our dedication to disaster relief.

Moreover, we are actively engaged in a significant Mental Health Project in Somaliland, fostering close collaborations with colleagues in that region to address critical mental health challenges. Our commitment to supporting healthcare continues as we work on a project to send valuable personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Philippines, empowering healthcare workers in remote areas to effectively manage infection control.



Lastly, as a tribute to our late Public Relations Lead, James Bronola, who bravely faced chronic renal failure and passed away this year, we are in the early stages of developing a comprehensive project focused on Renal Health Support and Education. This initiative will also include specialized training for nurses in renal care, ensuring that we honour James's legacy through our commitment to education and professional excellence.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, I encourage all members and guests to actively promote our organisation's mission within the wider community. By sharing our achievements on social media and engaging with potential partners and beneficiaries, we can expand our impact even further.

*Rudson Al Barcoma  
President Global Nurses & Midwives Rotary Club*

# RC OF LAE HUON GULF SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FAMILY ABUSE

mission, working towards a future where every individual can live free from fear and violence.



For those looking to contribute to the cause, the Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf encourages reaching out for more information on how to get involved.



NCI Packaging Pty Ltd proudly joins & supports the Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf's Campaign Against Domestic Violence and Family Abuse. This partnership aims to raise awareness, provide support to victims, and advocate for stronger measures to combat this pressing social issue.

The Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf strongly urges everyone - individuals, businesses, and community groups - to take a stand against domestic violence and family abuse. By breaking the silence, supporting victims, and advocating for stronger policies, real change can be achieved.

As the campaign continues, both NCI & [Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf](#) remain committed to the

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the eighth edition of the DG News for the 2024-25 Rotary year – where we **SHARE YOUR MAGIC!** Please submit articles (interesting and visual) to the DG News Editor, Win Salmon at [newsletter@rotary9620.org](mailto:newsletter@rotary9620.org) by 25 April for the (next) ninth edition.