



## FROM THE DG

Welcome to the November Newsletter.

The highlight of every District Governor's year is visiting Rotary Clubs and hearing about the positive impact they make in their communities. It's always an honour to induct new Rotarians into their Clubs and the Rotary family, and it's equally rewarding to recognise individuals' contributions with Paul Harris Fellow awards.

This week, another memorable moment was added to my year: presenting Doreen Johnston from the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise with the Avenues of Service Award in Youth Service.



Doreen has an impressive record of facilitating and coordinating youth leadership programs at both the District and Club levels. She served as District Interact Chair from 2018 to 2020 and has been the Club's Young Leaders Contact since 2021. For the past three years, she has built a strong connection with students and teachers at the Redcliffe State High School Interact Club.

Doreen has worked closely with the Interact executives, mentoring them in leadership and

guiding their organisation of numerous fundraisers. She has also encouraged their active participation in Rotary Youth Programs like RYLA and RYDA. Additionally, she has personally coordinated the RYDA program for four schools within the Club's area, overseeing volunteers and logistical arrangements.

Above all, Doreen exemplifies Rotary's ideals to school-aged students, who hold her in high regard for her dedication, wisdom, and tireless efforts.

At the end of October, DGE Mark Williams and DGN Ian Hope attended learning and development courses to prepare for their upcoming roles. I was fortunate to join them in Queenstown for the Rotary Institute and Zone 8 Conference.



These events are incredibly valuable for District Governors. They not only help us develop our skills but also provide a great opportunity to build strong relationships with fellow governors across our Zone.



Guests enjoyed a fabulous day filled with fashion parades, auctions, sweepstakes, and, of course, delicious food. Unfortunately, my fascinator was being delivered in Brisbane at the same time as the function – talk about timing!

Thanks to the hard work and preparation by the Rotary Club, the event raised significant funds to support their signature projects, including school desks, maternal health, water and hygiene initiatives, children’s emergency medical care, and wheelchairs for disabled people.



*DG Sue with a very relaxed President Trevor after a successful day*

The next day started early, but delays at the airport meant we couldn’t visit as many projects and schools as we had hoped. However, we had the pleasure of sharing dinner with members of the Wewak Community Corps and some enthusiastic Wewak Rotakids, who are busy planning projects in their school.



*Wewak Community Corps and Rotakids*



After a ‘quick’ trip home on the Sunday, DGE Mark and I were back at the airport on Monday morning to commence our visits to some of the Papua New Guinea clubs.

*At Port Moresby Airport*

The first day was spent with the Rotary Club of Boroko at their Melbourne Cup event – and what a day it was! The event, held in the grand ballroom of the Port Moresby Hilton, was another sell-out, with over 550 people attending.



*Some of the fashions on the day*

A highlight of the evening was inducting three new members into their club – a wonderful moment of growth and celebration.

In the morning, we managed to squeeze in a quick drive around Wewak. We saw where the desks for their desk project are manufactured and visited the Callan Ear and Eye Clinic. It was inspiring to see the incredible services they provide with such limited resources.



*Visiting the Callan Ear and Eye Clinic*

Next, we headed to Madang, a stunning area we didn't get the chance to visit last year, to connect with the Madang Rotary Club.



*Creative Help Centre*

The club is making a difference in the community with their latest project to upgrade pedestrian crossings in the town. Many members are also deeply involved with the Creative Help Centre, which focuses on empowering people with disabilities to fully participate in society according to their abilities and choices.



*With members of Madang Rotary Club*

We met with President Paula and members of the Kokopo Rotary Club, who collaborate with other local organisations to deliver projects as needed.

Paula kindly took Mark and me on a drive around Kokopo and then to Rabaul, where we saw the impact of the twin volcanic eruptions that buried the town in 1994. It was incredible to see how much ash still remains, even nearly three decades later.



*With Kokopo Rotarians*

On Friday afternoon, I had the pleasure of spending time with the Rotary Club of Lae, where I inducted Linda Kotong as a new member and caught up with other club members.

On Saturday morning, President Piero and members took us to Christ the King Catholic Primary School. I was truly humbled by the warm welcome from so many students who came to school on a Saturday just to greet us and show us around.

The Rotary Club of Lae has been instrumental in supporting the school by providing desks and lap desks. The lap desks are especially helpful for students who don't have traditional desks due to crowded classrooms or for younger children.

The highlight was their computer lab, which houses 21 computers powered by Teacher in the Box. It's incredible what the school staff have accomplished—student enrolment has doubled in just a few years, growing from 350 to over 700!



*In Lae at the Club meeting and at the school*



To wrap up our 10 days in Papua New Guinea, Mark and I attended a special Paul Harris Fellow Award evening hosted by the Rotary Club of Port Moresby.

During the event, six outstanding individuals were honoured with Paul Harris Fellow Awards in recognition of their exceptional service to the community. Each awardee had an inspiring story of dedication and achievement, showcasing the incredible impact they've made in areas such as education, healthcare, youth development, and community building.



It was truly uplifting to hear their stories and witness the recognition of their contributions. Events like these highlight the heart of Rotary—celebrating those who embody "Service Above Self" and make a lasting difference in their communities.

## **Australian Rotary Health Dick White - District Achievement Award**

### **Congratulations**

The district was honoured with the Australian Rotary Health Dick White District Achievement Award, presented by Australian Rotary Health Chair Stephen Humphreys.

Stephen acknowledged the district's significant contribution to Australian Rotary Health through the promotion of the 'Lift the Lid Walk.' He highlighted its origins with the Rotary Club of Mooloolaba and recognised Vicki Stewart as the founder of this impactful initiative.



Ian Barnett, President of the Rotary Club of Mooloolaba, joined me to receive the award on behalf of the club, with Vicki's role in creating the walk being publicly celebrated.

The award also recognised the success of PDG Tim and Gail Keeler's partner's program, which raised over \$14,000 to support Australian Rotary Health's vital programs. This collective effort is a testament to the district's commitment to making a difference.



*Australian Rotary Health Dick White - District Achievement Award*

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> we held our District Rotary Foundation Dinner at Jindalee Tavern. I would like to thank Ian and the Rotary Foundation Team who worked together to make the evening a success. Guest Speakers for the evening were David Anderson, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) for Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands, and Anke Timm from The Rotary Foundation Australia

We were able to recognise the clubs who have donated US\$1,000 or more to Polio Plus to qualify them for the matching US\$1,000 from District

Congratulations to the following Clubs:

Beenleigh

Boroko, Papua  
New Guinea

Brisbane Inner  
North

Caloundra

E-club of  
Australia Nomads

Logan

Loganholme

Maleny

Mooloolaba

Nambour



At the Foundation dinner, the proposed RIPP Glen Kinross AO Named Fund was announced.

Glen Kinross was a cherished member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton and served as Rotary International President from 1997 to 1998. His commitment to Rotary spanned over six decades, during which he truly embodied the motto "Service Above Self."

During his presidency, Glen introduced the theme "Show Rotary Cares," emphasizing the importance of community service and global outreach. His leadership strengthened Rotary's mission and expanded its humanitarian efforts worldwide. In addition to serving as RI President, Glen was a District Governor and a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, leaving a legacy of compassion and dedication that continues to inspire.

Glen's contributions to Rotary and his unwavering commitment to service have had a

profound impact on countless lives. He will always be remembered for his kindness, leadership, and dedication to making the world a better place.

The proposed endowment fund would create a lasting legacy in Glen's honour. The principal amount would remain intact, while the earnings would support clubs in our district indefinitely. Specifically, 80% of the earnings would be returned to the district to fund club projects.

This named endowment would serve as a tribute to PRIP Glen Kinross AO and his extraordinary contributions to Rotary.

This proposal will be voted on during a Special General Meeting on Sunday, December 15th.



Senior Sergeant Melissa Bicanic with Acting Superintendent Mike Miley

Senior sergeant Melissa Bicanic with Acting Superintendent Mike Miley, is showing her support towards your No to Domestic & Family Violence initiative. She is loving wearing the purple shirt.

She has shared this so 'you know we are with Rotary on this'.

PDG Eric Wood has also had another phone call from a police officer advising that her division boss has approved the indoor staff wearing purple shirts. Another sign of police support!

To celebrate the Annual 16 days of activism and Human Rights Day, you, your family and friends are cordially invited to attend a dinner in support of the Rotary D9620 "Say No to Domestic and

Family Violence" Awareness Campaign – please see attached invitation on the second last page.

Charter Date	Club	Years
18/11/1939	South Brisbane	85

Congratulations to South Brisbane as they celebrate their significant anniversary.

YEARS	NAME	CLUB	DATE JOINED
60	Merv Richens	Loganholme	12-Nov-64
35	George Grant	Bribie Island	01-Nov-1989
30	Dr. Lautofa Pulotu	Boroko	01-Nov-1994
30	Peter Williams	Toowoomba North	01-Nov-1994
25	Carol Johnston	Cooroy	29-Nov-1999

I would also like to thank the following dedicated Rotarians whose commitment has been far reaching – I would like to especially mention PDG Merv Richens, a member of my Rotary Club, a friend and mentor – Congratulations Merv.

Important Date Reminders:

10<sup>th</sup> December Annual 16 days of activism and Human Rights Day, dinner in support of the Rotary D9620 "Say No to Domestic and Family Violence" Awareness Campaign

8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December RYTS Camp

15<sup>th</sup> December Special General meeting – to approve 2023-2024 Financial Report

Approval for RIPP Glen Kinross OA named fund

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February RYLA Camp

28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March D9620 District Conference – Empire Theatre Toowoomba

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1163859>

As the Christmas season is drawing closer, I can see the huge number of activities and community functions that you are all involved with – go out and have a wonderful time, but please remember a little self-care for yourself as well.

*DG Sue*

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF MERV RICHENS CELEBRATES 60 YEARS AS A ROTARIAN

For 60 years Merv Richens knows this better than anyone.



*Merv and Margaret with members of RC of Loganholme*

Joining The Rotary Club of Mullumbimby NSW in 1964 at the age of 27, Merv served as President of the Club from 1969-70 and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Goonellabah in April 1982.

Merv quickly became an integral and valuable part of the Rotary family undertaking numerous roles over his 60 years.

In 1988 Merv was selected to lead a GSE Team to West Virginia USA and in 1990 – 91 served Rotary International as District Governor of District 9640.

The years of service as an officer of Rotary International have given Merv and his wife Margaret many opportunities of further service and wonderful experiences

Some of these include:

: Member of Rotaract Task force – 1992 -93

: Keynote Speaker at Rotaract-Interact conference in Costa Rica 1994

: Chairman of Rotaract Pre-Convention meeting in Taiwan – 1994

: Representative of RI President Bill Huntly to D9940 Wellington NZ 1995

: Keynote Speaker at Rotaract – Interact Conference Curitiba Brazil 1996

: Zone co-ordinator, RI Environmental concerns Task Force – 1996-97

: Member of Executive Steering Committee on Club Development and Improvement and RI South Pacific Affairs Committee 2001-2002

: Volunteer Work (RAWCS) team member to Popondetta Papua New Guinea 2004

: Management Committee member probus Centre south Pacific Inc 2007-2010

: Rotary District 9630 Probus Chairman 2018-21

: Loganholme Rotary Club 2014 celebrated Merv's 50 years in Rotary with a Ruby PHF.

: Merv has assisted PSPL and PAQ in the formation of 22 Probus Clubs in Brisbane and surrounding areas.

Merv was awarded A Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2019 Honours List

Inducted as a Director of Probus South Pacific Ltd August 2022 and still serving as Rotary Liaison Officer.

Merv has been actively involved with the Rotary Foundation Peace Fellows at the University of Queensland since 2007 serving as counsellor for six peace Fellows during this time.



*Gift presented by Cornubia Probus President David Ekert*



*Merv being presented with his Diamond Award by the President of the RC of Loganholme, Neil Bradley*

Merv and Margaret live in Tanah Merah a residential suburb south of Brisbane. They have three married children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Merv and Margaret treasure the friends and friendships that they have made around Australia and the world through Rotary and Probus.



*Merv and Margaret with their celebration cake*

Merv is a member of the Rotary Club of Loganholme and it was an honour and privilege for the club to host and honour Merv's 60 years of Service to Rotary Celebration with fellow Rotarians, Probus representatives, Rotaractors, friends and family, Merv continues to be an inspiration to many.

*Sharon Hansen, Secretary  
Rotary Club of Loganholme*

Congratulations Merv, from all your Rotary Friends!

# INTERACT CHANGEOVER DINNER

Monday 11 November 2024 was a celebration of Youth at the Mooloolaba Rotary Club: a celebration of the achievements of Kawana Waters State College (KWSC) and Immanuel Lutheran College (ILC) Interact Clubs and a testament to their service to others.



*Kawana Waters State College Interact members*

Sophie Fowler, Past President of KWSC Interact thanked her team members and teachers for the support they had provided in raising funds for Uturn, a Woman's Shelter and Water Aid. In all almost \$3000 was raised through raffles, bake sales, sausage sizzles and Valentine roses.

Incoming President, Jessica Langman introduced her Board members and outlined the selected organisations to benefit from their fundraising in 2025 – Kmart Christmas Giving Tree appeal in partnership with the Salvation Army, the Growing Cambodia Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Aus Living Support. Fund raising activities have already commenced.



*Immanuel Lutheran College Interact members*

Maddison Murphy, Past President of ILC Interact, thanked Rotarians for their support and the support of teachers and her fellow Board members. Funds were raised during 2024 through bake sales, casual dress days, barbecues, and hot cross bun drives, with a total of \$11,300 being raised. The funds were used to support Cystic Fibrosis Queensland, OzHarvest, and Cows for Cambodia.

Incoming President, Jack Chen introduced his Board members for 2025 and outlined the organisations they will support – Wishlist on the Sunshine Coast and Mercy Corps as their international charity. Fund raising activities are already being discussed and planned.

President Ian Barnett bestowed the Presidential Collar on the Presidents from the two Clubs for 2025, congratulated Board members and wished them well for 2025. Ian stated that it had been a pleasure to bring both Clubs together for the first time to share ideas and leadership opportunities.

On conclusion of the Changeover, two young people who had benefited from Mooloolaba Rotary support in the past, made a short presentation. John Saxon in 2019 was supported to attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and later represented Australia at the International Youth Science Forum in London. He is now a second-year medical student and spoke about his educational journey and the steps one can take in pursuing a meaningful career and life.

Maddison Lawson attended the NYSF this year with support from Mooloolaba Rotary and, with her friend, Anna Wotton, presented information on the Cambodia humanitarian project they had participated in with seven other young people from Maroochydore State High School during the school holidays.

The evening concluded with a Celebration cake that was shared with all Interactors, their parents, teachers, and Rotarians.

*Sandra Harrington  
Youth Director,*

*Mooloolaba  
Rotary*





# PADDINGTON ROTARY CARE KITS FOR KIDS

Stephanie, a volunteer from a community organisation called Care Kits for Kids, presented at the Paddington Rotary Club. She informed us that they support families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, financial hardship and often have complex needs. Many of the children have left treasured items behind at previous homes and motels, and they are usually traumatised. Care Kits provide backpacks from community groups filled with essentials to enrich the lives of these children, such as toys and books.



Debra and Valerie from Rotary Paddington rallied the members of the Paddington Rotary Club, and it was not long before we were on a mission to swiftly offload 52 backpacks filled with clothing for children aged 0 to 16 years and included 150 pairs of socks and underwear, t-shirts, shorts, pyjamas, tracksuits, and toiletries.



Stephen, Leonie, Richard, and Debra from the Rotary Club of Paddington visited Julie from Care Kits for Kids in Camp Hill, who gave us a tour of their facility.

We found this place genuinely inspiring. Seeing people coming together to create backpacks filled with love and essentials was heartwarming. These backpack contents included knitted toys, puzzles, books, clothing, and handmade quilts, adding personal touches that provide comfort and support. Each backpack also contained a love heart with a message:

*"This little heart is for you. Keep it in your pocket to hold or squeeze if you need comfort, or give it to someone else to show you care about them."*

The facility is well-equipped and dedicated to making a meaningful impact. With sewing machines and a supply of donated materials, they efficiently create clothing and outfits for needy children.

It was inspiring for the Rotary Club of Paddington members to witness such creativity and resourcefulness in helping vulnerable individuals.



Thank you to all the members of the Rotary Club of Paddington, including our Rotary friends, who made this donation possible. A special shout-out to Paul Tapper for his generous donation.

*Debra Lewis  
RC of Paddington*

## Rotary Club of Toowoomba City Inc. loves Harlaxton State Primary School

A typical Harlaxton State Primary School breakfast is hectic - full on - as the students, teachers, teacher's aides, parents, and chaplain start arriving around 7:30am and don't disappear until after they should have done. On offer at our last breakfast on 13 November 2024 were apples, bananas, grapes, kiwi fruit, nectarines, strawberries, watermelon, fruit juice, sausages, bacon, eggs, bread, and sauce; all enthusiastically devoured in preparation for the school day.



Our lovely relationship with the school started at the approach of the then school chaplain Debbie Dodds. She and her successors have been present at each breakfast and certainly for years were our liaison people. The school has the highest proportions of first nation students and Yezidi students in all of Toowoomba.



In 2019, for instance, the School statistics were 41% of the 177 students were Kurdish and 26% of the school population was indigenous. The Yezidi students and their parents came to Toowoomba with no English language and some horrific experiences of persecution in their home land of [Kurdistan](#) (which falls across parts of [Iraq](#), [Syria](#), [Turkey](#) and [Iran](#)). Most families fall into the low socio-economic stratum. Families and children struggle in many and various ways.

Since 2015 Rotary Club of Toowoomba City Inc. folk, now with practised military precision delivered with warm smiles, have provided breakfast to the school community at least several times each year – aiming for once a term (except during Covid). The club donates the food. By including all present in the offering of the meal, an opportunity for all these people to get to know each other better in a casual environment is created; with the result being a stronger and deeper sense of school community. This benefit is in addition to providing the children with a breakfast which they may not have received at home on those occasions.



As well as providing breakfasts the club has assisted the school and its community in other ways - including with the multi-cultural dinners, school camp sponsorship, mentoring of new P&C members, and paying for an interpreter to translate traffic signs during road safety classes to the Yezidi students.

It has been delightful to interact with the school people and see the Yezidi children, particularly, develop. Their interest and appetite for different fruits offered seems to have rubbed off on the other students who are now more drawn to the fruit than they were at the earlier breakfasts.

*Judith Gibbins, Club Historian  
RC of Toowoomba City Inc.*

## Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Club (GWSDPC) supports Rotary Action Summit

The Rotary Action Summit, the flagship national event for Rotary Great Britain & Ireland, was held this month in Newcastle, UK. Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Club (GWSDPC), chartered in District 9620, members were at the event with a stand in the exhibition area.



As the GWSDPC is only in its second year, it was a fantastic opportunity to:

- Make new acquaintances and contacts with fellow Rotarians from across Great Britain and Ireland.
- Learn from other clubs.
- Meet the experts, leaders working in key strategic areas.
- Proudly tell everyone about the club and the fantastic projects we are involved with through our stand in the exhibition.

We met a fantastic range of people and it was a great way to learn more about Rotary in a fully immersive way. The range of speakers and projects over the three days were very inspiring. The challenges facing Rotary worldwide were also not overlooked with creative and ambitious proposals to address them.

It was an opportunity to share our cause in a visual and creative way. Drowning is a silent pandemic.; 375,000 people drown every year;

someone every 80 seconds. We laid out Duplo bricks on the stand to represent the number of people who would drown just during the three-day conference alone. It was visually effective and hard hitting.



We also presented senior leadership from Rotary UK, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation with a rubber duck; a Lifesaving Duck. With the invitation to put it in their office and when they saw it, think about it and what Rotary could do to help combat drowning worldwide. With the Power of Rotary, together we can do it.



*Anna Roscoe Membership Chair  
Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Rotary Club*

# ROTARY JUNIOR COMMUNITY AWARD (RJCA) RC OF KENMORE

The Rotary Club of Kenmore recently hosted students of Chapel Hill State School for the presentation of the Rotary Junior Community Awards for 2024.



Ten Year 6 children, along with their parents, were the special guests of the Rotary club where they enjoyed dinner with the members. The school's principal and deputy principal were also present.

The children's project work as part of their award program was on display for members and parents to inspect and discuss with the students.

The annual RJCA presentation dinner is a fixture in Kenmore Rotary's calendar of events. In previous years as many as 25 students have earned the award.

The Junior Community Award was first created and trialled by the Rotary Club of Mitchell River in Bairnsdale, Victoria in 1997. The program has been running at Chapel Hill SS since the early 2000's when Kenmore Rotarian Paul McLaughlin was a teacher in the school. It was originally adopted on the invitation of the Rotary Club of Toowong.

The Rotary Junior Community Award is a program aimed at giving young children the opportunity to develop attitudes towards volunteerism by assisting organisations and people in need, to learn about their own community, to develop healthy attitudes towards physical recreation and to develop new skills.

The Award is based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award but with modifications to suit a younger age group, and also a different set of aims. The Rotary Junior Community Award is for children in Year 6 in Primary School. The Award is non-competitive and can be designed to cater for the mental and physical capabilities of all children. The program is based on a series of activities that take place during the first three terms of the year. Each participating child has the opportunity to design the activities to suit their own set of skills and opportunities. Adults monitor their progress. The Award asks children to focus on four main aspects of community life;

- Community Service where children help other people.
- Skills, where children learn a new hobby or interest,
- Physical Recreation with the accent on participation as well as performance, and
- Social Experience where children take part in a range of community activities including a community celebration, a community meeting, a cultural exchange, a religious experience, and an arts performance.



Each child has a special diary for designing their own program and recording their activities. The Awards are presented at a Presentation Night organised by the Rotary Club during Term 4.

*Paul McLaughlin  
Kenmore Rotary*



## Lap the Map for Diabetes – Fundraising Walk Sunnybank Rotary Club

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, under sunny skies, members and friends of the Sunnybank Rotary Club and the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese participated in a successful fundraising walk, "Lap the Map for Diabetes," at the beautiful Botanic Gardens of Mount Coot-tha.



The event provided a delightful opportunity to enjoy the morning's fresh air and the Gardens' stunning scenery. Participants were captivated by the elegant Japanese Garden, the unique bonsai collection (some over 80 years old!), and the diverse array of exotic flora from around the globe. The experience created lasting memories for all involved.



The Sunnybank Rotary Club successfully raised \$700 for Diabetes Research through this event. We extend our sincere gratitude to all

participants and donors for their generous contributions. Special thanks are given to:

- Dr. Deling Ma of Eco-Global
- Welly Cendana of Essential
- Bob Atherton, for his exceptionally generous double donation and participation in the walk.



The "Lap the Map for Diabetes" walk was a resounding success, combining a pleasant social outing with a significant contribution to a worthy cause. We look forward to future collaborations with the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese to support Diabetes Research.

*Liza Fu*  
*Rotary Club of Sunnybank*  
*Executive Secretary & IPP*

## Project R.I.S.E (Renovation in Su'u for Education Paddington Rotaract

We are thrilled to share an exciting update on Project R.I.S.E (Renovation in Su'u for Education)! This international initiative, driven by the enthusiastic members of the Rotaract Club of Paddington in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Honiara, aims to transform the educational landscape in the rural town of Su'u in the Solomon Islands.



Our journey towards this ambitious venture began at the 9620 RYLA in 2023, where some of our members connected with Zoey from the Rotaract Club of Honiara. Zoey shared the heartwarming story of their efforts to donate books to Su’u National Secondary School. Initially, our goal was to help with this and deliver 5 000 books, but upon seeing the dire condition of the school library, we realised something much bigger was needed. Thus, Project R.I.S.E was born, with 15 dedicated volunteers ready to roll up their sleeves and renovate the library for the students.



The road to R.I.S.E has been a thrilling rollercoaster ride, filled with moments of persistence and bursts of creativity. We’ve tirelessly worked to establish connections with local communities and stakeholders, tackling challenges like changing project dates and volunteer shortages head-on. Our team has shown incredible adaptability at every twist and turn.



Here's a sneak peek at our fundraising efforts so far: We have raised over \$23,000 of our estimated \$48,200 AUD project cost. This includes costs for building materials (\$32,700), travel & accommodation (half of this cost has been covered for our volunteers) (\$12,200), and shipping & logistics (\$3,300). Our fundraising journey has been fuelled by events like our “Bowls for Books” fundraiser, the Rotaract Club of Honiara’s talent show, and countless raffles and Bunnings sausage sizzles. The most significant boost came from the Rotary District Grant, contributing a fantastic \$4,000.

We are eagerly counting down to July 2025, when we will travel to the Solomon Islands to complete this transformative project. We still have a long way to go, but with your support and enthusiasm, we are confident we will reach our goal. If you and your club are interested in learning more about Project R.I.S.E, we would be delighted to share our story. Reach out to us at [paddington@rotaract.org.au](mailto:paddington@rotaract.org.au) .

Let’s rise together and create a brighter future for the students of Su’u!

*The Paddington Rotaract Team*

## ROTARY REDCLIFFE SUNRISE DONATES TO GIZO HOSPITAL

A ROTARY club in Australia has donated a number of vital triage medical diagnostic kits to the Western Provincial Gizo Hospital.



The donated kits worth thousands of dollars were personally delivered by Colin Scobie Redcliffe Sunrise Rotary Club Vice President to

the hospital administration on Friday 1 November.

The kits were received by the Western Provincial Health Director Dr Dickson Boara. Hospital Secretary Supervising Emma Basi also witnessed the presentation.



*Colin displaying and explaining the medical equipment.*

The handing over of the medical support was made possible by the Gizo Rotary club.

Vice President of the Brisbane-based Rotary club Colin Scobie and his wife flew in from Brisbane to Honiara and boarded the cruise board Le Laperouse at the Honiara port before heading down Gizo.

From Honiara, the boat set sail for Roderick Bay and onwards to Gizo.

At the Western Provincial Capital, the tourist boat spent about four hours allowing Mr Scobie and members of Gizo Rotary to visit the Gizo Hospital where they handed over the assistance.

A captain of Le Laperouse, Romain Dufau-Hitou also witnessed the brief ceremony.

Mr Scobie said the donation was made possible through the assistance of Rotary members in Brisbane.



*Gizo Hospital and Rotary members during a discussion.*

He said, members of the club were able to donate financially, which enabled the purchase of the much-needed equipment and machines.

Some of the medical equipment included eye testing chart, thermometer, blood pressure testing machine, fingertip oxygen tester, glucose level testing machine, ear torch and many more.

Mr Scobie, who has a background in radiology, said the equipment are first vital machines to conduct tests on a patient when she/he visits a health centre.

"This equipment will provide rapid assessment of patients arriving at A&E for necessary care for the community.

"The next nearest hospital is Honiara which is up to 10 to 15 hours away and this equipment will provide better local patient management without the need for transport.

The 95-bed hospital features maternity, X-ray, accident and emergency department and is supported by four doctors.

Mr Scobie thanked Ponant shipping for making this possible as well as Rotary members of both Gizo and Redcliffe Sunrise and other Rotarian members who are affiliated with supporting Gizo Island projects.



*The Rotary donation will help to deliver health services in the province.*

He also thanked Kerrie Kennedy and Matthias Amalo for their assistance in the journey and delivery.

"This is a big thing for Solomon Island people," he said.

## DISTRICT 9620 FOUNDATION COLUMN

Gizo Rotary Club members led by Matthias Amalo were at hand to witness the handover.

Mr Amalo told the ceremony that the assistance was possible after sometime of planning.

He said medical support has always been prioritized by the Gizo Rotary. It is not the first for Gizo Rotary to facilitate such support.

During a brief discussion between the Western Provincial Health Authority and Rotary members few needs of Gizo Hospital were highlighted.

And Amalo and his team will work closely with the Brisbane-based Rotary Club to support Gizo Hospital in the near future.

Dr Boara, on behalf of the Western provincial health authority and the Gizo Hospital administration, expressed sincere gratitude to Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise.

He said the equipment though small, plays an important role in the delivery of services at Gizo hospital and the rural health centres within the province.

Dr Boara added that due limited resources most rural health centres do not have such machines and equipment.

"And for that we are grateful for the assistance and receive them with a grateful heart.

"We hope to see some more support from the club," he added.

Dr Boara said the support will help to supplement some of the equipment which they do not have.

The Provincial Health Director informed Mr Scobie to pass on the hospital's acknowledgment to members of the Redcliffe Sunrise club for the crucial support.

Following the handover, Amalo led Colin Scobie and his team for a brief tour of the hospital.

Hospital Secretary Supervising Emma Basi said the equipment will be distributed to the hospital and area health centres that desperately need them.

Le Laperouse departed Gizo late Friday afternoon for Papua New Guinea (PNG) as part of its 12-day cruise visit to Solomon Island and PNG.

The trip ends in Cairns, Australia.

**By MOFFAT MAMU**

**Solomon Star, Gizo** (provided by Colin Scobie)

This month's District Grant discussion looks at the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary and their District Grant that they received in the 2023/2024 period. I have also included the details of what I believe is a very clever initiative they have come up with to raise substantial funds for BeefBank.

**Brisbane Centenary District Grant 23/24**  
BeefBank is a charity established by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary Inc. Its sole purpose is to provide meat (usually beef) to Foodbank Australia in Brisbane. Beefbank is solely owned by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary, and its board members are members of Brisbane Centenary. Beefbank has been operating for the last 15 years, with the total number of serves of protein for meals exceeding 1,500,000. Speaking to club member PDG. Nick Curry, he indicated that they will easily exceed 150,000 meals for the 2024 year.

It might seem strange that the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary should set up a charity solely to distribute meat. However, charities like the Salvation Army, church groups and welfare organisations that provide these meals have very little access to meat protein. This is, of course, an important and essential source of nutrition in any diet, especially for families. BeefBank is the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary's way of assisting other groups in providing meals for those in need.

Brisbane Centenary raises funds needed to purchase cattle and pay for the processing and transport. Funds have come from the Rotary Club's annual fun run which has attracted up to 1,000 runners in the past. BeefBank has also benefited greatly from the Clem Jones Foundation. Clem, a former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, was always a supporter of the people and his Foundation has followed this through with their sponsorship of food agencies.

If you are looking for a steak from BeefBank, forget it! Meat is always in tremendous demand by the various street kitchens, community centres and local charities and mince, sausages and stewing steak are what they want. Most of it ends up in stews, lasagne, and similar. Beefbank has, however, also assisted with Christmas food hampers provided by a



north coast council, has supplied chickens for Christmas lunches and, in the devastating Brisbane floods of ten years ago, many of the snags cooked for the Mud Army of volunteers also came from BeefBank.

BeefBank partners with many others to enable the supply of meat to Foodbank. Their partnerships include cattle buyers, farmers, state prisons, abattoirs and transport companies, and this allows them to function in the most cost effective and efficient way.

However, sourcing animals is a major issue, especially during the drought. To meet demand, donations of cattle come from surprising sources. For instance, BeefBank has an agreement in place with the prison farms in Queensland whilst it also gets cows from supporters and even from deceased estates. There was even a cow left at a gate for them!

And it's not only beef. One council even asked BeefBank to take over a flock of sheep that it had acquired against unpaid rates and BeefBank regularly gets buffalo from a couple of dairies specialising in buffalo cheese. It is a lot easier to give buffaloes to BeefBank than to sell-off themselves, and there is a tax benefit. That is because, as a registered charity, BeefBank issues tax receipts so that donors get a tax deduction. The only problem in recent times has been that, because of the drought, few farmers have a taxable income! And that has caused problems for BeefBank because, not only have donations been hard to come by, but when BeefBank goes to buy cattle, the cost of a cow has been out of this world.

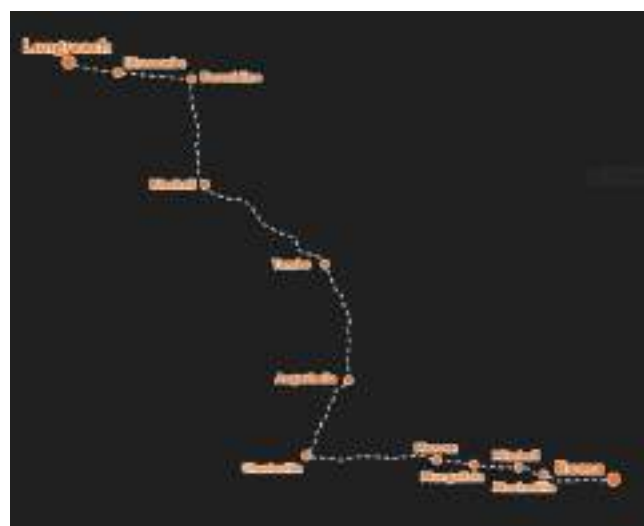
Recently with the ban on Live Sheep Exports, quantities of lamb have become available in West Australia. Foodbank, in turn, distributes to charitable organisations who feed the homeless and disadvantaged.

**What is Food Bank?**

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit organisation which acts as a pantry to the charities and community groups who feed the hungry. First established in 1992 in NSW they now have a presence in every state and the Northern Territory with distribution centres in all state capitals as well as several regional centres. They operate with a staff of approximately 90 employees and over 3,000 volunteers.

Foodbank is a conduit between the food industry's surplus food and the welfare sector's need.

**The Great Australian Cattle Drive is a fundraising initiative of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary in support of Foodbank.**



Above you will see eight legs of the Great Australian Cattle Drive which follows the stock route from Longreach to Roma, covering approximately 800 kilometres over around 100 consecutive days, stopping in country towns along the way. The drive will begin in May 2025 and finish in August.

**Ride Along Packages**

To raise money for Beefbank, "Ride Along Packages" are being sold to people with a sense of adventure, and a wish to follow in the path of our Aussie pioneers. There are many different options to choose from. You might wish to ride along a part of a leg, or the entire leg. There is also the option of selecting multiple legs for your adventure. There are 40 places on each leg and a few legs are already sold out. It is expected that the distance travelled per day will be 8 to 10 kilometres.

## **Adopt A Steer (there are 2,000 to choose from)**

Another opportunity of the "The Great Australian Charity Drive" is an initiative where you can "Adopt a Steer". At a cost of \$1,000 this donation will make a huge difference in the lives of people with food insecurities around Australia and support those in need. You will be able to track the steers on their social media platforms which will be updating the progress of the steers on a regular basis. Where they are on a given day, what they are up to – there are sure to be some naughty ones – and how they are progressing down the stock route.

### **Package details are as follows:**

All packages include:

- Transfers from airport and bus terminals in closest town on arrival and departure

Use of horse and all associated tack – we use stock saddles

All meals for the duration of the time in camp which includes dinner the night before your first riding day and breakfast on day of departure following last riding day.

Helmet will be provided if required – you are welcome to bring your own

3-day package inclusive = \$2250 per person

4-day package inclusive = \$3000 per person

5-day package inclusive = \$3750 per person

7-day package inclusive = \$5250 per person

50 % deposit is payable within seven days of your preferred package being invoiced and the balance is payable three months prior to the event commencement.

### **Entertainment**

At the country towns along the way there will be entertainment organised. Of note is that James Blundell has been organised for one of these events. James is arguably the most influential Australian male country artist of his generation. He stands alongside John Farnham and Jimmy Barnes.

**It would be wonderful if our Rotarians could get behind this initiative in support of BEEFBANK. Do an internet search for "great Australian charity cattle drive" and you will find all the relevant information. If you**

## **have any questions at all, please call Chris Knott on 0433182398**

I hope you found this long-term project of Brisbane Centenary an inspiration, when you consider the impact of providing support for over 1,500,000 meals.

The District Grants for the 25/26 year are being accepted now, so please think about getting your application in. The details on grants can be found on the district web site. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

*Rowarn Luder 0414321419  
rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com*

## **Support SWIM Nepal – Donate to Save Lives!**



In Nepal, communities face the real risks of drowning every day due to limited water safety and swim education. You can help change that!

Through the SWIM Nepal Project, SWIM Coaches & Teachers Australia, in partnership with the Global Water Safety & Drowning Prevention Rotary Club, is committed to empowering local teachers, building community awareness, and creating life-saving swim programs in Nepal.

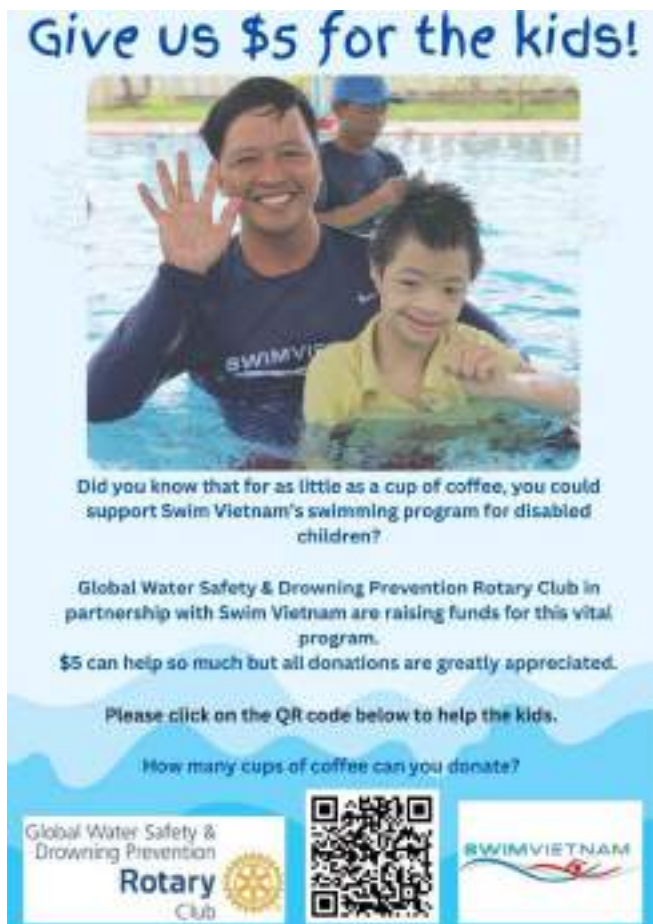
The SWIM team is heading to Nepal in March 2025 to deliver vital water safety education to Nepali swim teachers. Your donation will help fund critical instructor training, educational resources, and outreach efforts, making safe swimming accessible in remote and vulnerable communities.

☛ **Donate today** to the Global Water Safety & Drowning Prevention Rotary Club and make a difference! Every contribution saves lives.

Link: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/YU72G6N846EG4>

## Swim Vietnam Disability Program - May 2025

This program allows disadvantaged and disabled students to learn how to swim safely in and around the water in rural communities in Vietnam. Further funding is needed to continue this program and upskill, train, and employ local Vietnamese swimming teachers.



Overall, the benefits are the continuation and sustainability of the Swim Vietnam Programs, which have already had a major impact on Vietnam's drowning statistics.

- More children can access the program
- Training of new local swimming teachers
- Upskilling of current local swimming teachers to teach children with disabilities
- Decrease of drowning statistics-2,000 child deaths from drowning in 2021. This

number has also been widely quoted in Vietnamese press and media articles and Swim Teaching organisations, and it is mainly run with this number- this equates to more than five each a day. This number is dramatically lower than previously quoted drownings but still quite shocking.

Just a donation of a daily coffee is enough to get this project off the ground.

Donate today to the Global Water Safety Drowning Prevention Rotary Club and make a difference!

Link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/YU72G6N846EG4>

*Global Water Safety Drowning Prevention Rotary Club*

## Osivo Rotarian of the Year 23-24 Abbey Cluster

Two weeks ago, it was a special night for a special Rotarian from Rotary Club of Goroka. Osivo is a very workaholic in his work and in Rotary.

He was presented with an Award for the Rotarian the Year 2023 – 24 for Abbey Cluster. The presentation was done by President Mr John Onga of Rotary Club of Mt Hagen. The event was witnessed by Area Governor for Rotary PNG Wendy Scholz.





## INVITATION

To celebrate the Annual 16 Days of Activism and Human Rights Day, you and friends, family etc. are cordially invited to attend a dinner in support of the Rotary District 9620 ***SAY NO TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE*** awareness campaign.

**Venue: Stellarossa Morayfield,**

**Shop 14 Morayfield Retail Village Centre**

**170 Morayfield Road.**

**Date: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm for 6.30pm**

**Cost: \$50 per person, includes 2-course meal**

**Dress: Smart Casual RSVP: By 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Registration: [ericwood@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwood@bigpond.com)**

**Payment: Rotary D9620 DV Account**

**Bendigo Bank: BSB: 633 000 A/c: 183867498**

# SCHOOL DESKS FOR WAIROKAI COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks to RARE in Brisbane and our valiant volunteers from [Rotary Club of Honiara](#) and [Rotaract Club of Honiara SI](#), this school now has desks and chairs for their students.



The principal of the school wrote thanking all concerned for the 52 new desks and chairs for their recently renovated classroom. This is a school catering for especially abled students from low-income groups.

With this contribution, the students will be able to sit comfortably in their classrooms. This act of kindness has brightened the future of these students.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the fifth 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 27 January for the (next) sixth edition. Note that there is no DG News for December. Instead, we will all be taking a break and resuming DG News with the January edition.

2024-25 sponsors