



DG News

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR SUE MULRANEY

OCTOBER 2024 EDITION

FROM THE DG

Welcome to the October Newsletter.

This month has been another busy one, and I've had the pleasure of visiting clubs across the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Toowoomba, and out west to St George, Roma, and Mitchell.



Cutting the cake with President Deborah Taylor

A highlight was celebrating the Rotary Club of Caloundra's 70th anniversary with a brunch in Ben Bennett Park, named after the club's charter president. Ben not only served as president twice

but also, as district governor twice. Over the decades, the club has been involved in many Rotary initiatives, both locally and internationally, always focused on improving quality of life.



Lighting the Lighthouses orange for polio

The Rotary Club of Caloundra partnered with Polio Australia and Friends of the Caloundra Lighthouses to raise awareness for the End Polio campaign. John and I joined members at the Caloundra Lighthouse that evening when it was light it up in orange for Polio Month.



On Sunday morning, we took part in the Mooloolaba Walk for Mental Health with 350 other walkers, following the stunning Mooloolaba coastline. Participants walked either to the Alexandra Headlands Surf Club or, for those up for more distance, to the Maroochydore Surf Club and back. This event highlighted Rotary's commitment to addressing mental health, showing support for those facing challenges and helping to break the stigma.

MOOLOOLABA

Our 9th Walk completed - what fun - now to prepare for the 10th walk in 2025!



Many of our clubs rely on the invaluable support of Friends of Rotary, who step in whenever needed. During my visit to the St George club, I was honoured to help present their Friends of Rotary pins in recognition of their support.



DG Sue, and President Win with St George Friends of Rotary

On a bittersweet note, I attended an afternoon tea where the Rotaract Club of Darling Downs handed in its charter. It was a reflective gathering, remembering the fun, friendships, and personal growth members experienced. We're grateful for their commitment and look forward to seeing how each member will continue making a difference in the future.

Congratulations to Caloundra, Glasshouse Country, and Jindalee as they celebrate their significant anniversaries

Charter Date	Club	Years
12/10/1954	Caloundra	70
13/10/1999	Glasshouse Country	25
29/10/1979	Jindalee	45

I would also like to thank the following dedicated Rotarian whose commitment has been far reaching

YEARS	NAME	CLUB	DATE JOINED
20	Peter Appleby	Ipswich City	20-Oct-2004

Important Date Reminders:

16th November

District Rotary Foundation Dinner

Jindalee Hotel, 6:00pm

<https://events.humanitix.com/district-9620-foundation-dinner>

17th November

Rotary District 9620 Annual General meeting

Bostock House 9:00am

To be followed by Foundation seminar – Your Grants in Action followed by Membership updates

To assist with catering please advise your attendance to Wendy Byron, Company Secretary: wendybyron61@outlook.com

We will finish the month by attending Institute in Queenstown, New Zealand to be followed by the Zone 8 Conference.

After an afternoon flight home, DGE Mark and I will be back in the air on Monday morning as we commence our visit to the Papua New Guinea clubs – something that we both are looking forward to.

To each and every Club – have a wonderful and successful November. Our calendars are full of lots of exciting and wonderful opportunities to spread the Magic that is Rotary and have lots of fun while doing it! (I can see lots of dates for Christmas events – enjoy!)

DG Sue

Invitation to Serve as a Rotary Peace Scholar Counsellor



Dear Rotarians,

We invite you to consider becoming a counsellor for our upcoming class of Rotary Peace Scholars. This rewarding role offers the chance to support and mentor scholars dedicated to advancing peace and conflict resolution worldwide. As a counsellor, you will help guide these exceptional individuals through their studies and Rotary journey.

If you are passionate about fostering global understanding and peace, we would love for you to be part of this transformative program.

For more information or to express interest, please contact

David Field

E: djfield45@bigpond.com

P: 0439 855 894

Sister Kenny Museum Project - Rotary Polio Timeline Unveiled by the Governor of Queensland

The Sister Kenny Museum is located at Nobby Qld, approximately 40 km south of Toowoomba. Sister Kenny was a nurse, born in 1880, raised in the Nobby area and became renowned worldwide for her revolutionary treatment of polio.

The Sister Kenny Museum is a celebration of her life; it contains many items of interest, including details of her treatment methods, a collection of documents from her private correspondence, papers, and newspaper clippings. The Museum is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers who are focused on reminding visitors of the horror of polio and the outstanding work carried out by Sister Kenny in the early years.

The Rotary Clubs of Jindalee, Sumner Park, Toowoomba, Toowoomba North, and Chinchilla have recently partnered in a project to help upgrade certain items at the museum. The work undertaken includes the following:

- Erecting various new walls and painting works within the museum
- Providing and installing a new 55" television which now plays a remastered 1950's film depicting Sister Kenny's work
- Repainting and new signage on the Museum roof
- Supply and installation of a 6KW roof mounted solar system
- Design and installation of a Polio Timeline which details the work done by Rotary and others in the elimination of polio

To achieve these goals the Club's involved applied for and received a District 9620 District Grant, provided funding from their Club accounts, and applied for and received a grant from the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund. A total of \$19,000.00 was raised and committed to the project.



A highlight of the display within the Museum is the Polio Timeline. The timeline consists of five wall panels each 900mm wide x 1500 high depicting significant events during the Rotary Polio Plus Campaign. The timeline links the work carried out by Sister Kenny with the achievements of Rotary in the almost total elimination of polio.



Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young and her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo with President RC of Jindalee, Rene Bongers

The Rotary Club of Jindalee invited the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young to unveil the Polio Timeline. The Governor

accepted the invitation and graciously carried out the unveiling on the 16th of August 2024. The unveiling ceremony was an important day for the town of Nobby, many members of the local community and surrounds were in attendance along with members of the five Rotary Clubs that supported the project.



Members of RC of Jindalee with Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young and her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo at the Sister Kenny Museum

The upcoming District Conference is to be held in Toowoomba in March 2025. If Conference attendees had the time, a visit to the Museum at Nobby is well worth the effort.

*Peter Veale,
Rotary Club of Jindalee*

SHELTERBOX CHAMPION AWARDS



Thank you to the following clubs for their support of Shelterbox.

The ShelterBox Champion Awards celebrate the dedication and commitment of Rotary Clubs that make regular annual donations enabling ShelterBox to be disaster-ready. Your donations allow ShelterBox to deploy aid at a moment's notice when homes are destroyed, families have to flee and entire communities are ravaged.

District Gold Champion Award Winners

ROTARY CLUB OF GLOBAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES

District Silver Champion Award Winners

ROTARY CLUB OF DALBY

District Bronze Champion Award Winners

ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRA HEADLAND

ROTARY CLUB OF ARCHERFIELD

ROTARY CLUB OF BALMORAL

ROTARY CLUB OF BRIBIE ISLAND

ROTARY CLUB OF CABOOLTURE

ROTARY CLUB OF CAPALABA

ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD

ROTARY CLUB OF KARANA BELLBOWRIE

ROTARY CLUB OF KIPPA RING-NORTH LAKES

ROTARY CLUB OF LOGAN

ROTARY CLUB OF LOGANHOLME

ROTARY CLUB OF MALENY

ROTARY CLUB OF NUNDAH

ROTARY CLUB OF SAMFORD VALLEY

PROVISIONAL ROTARY CLUB OF TOOHEY

A few months ago, a group of community minded individuals came together and saw an opportunity to use their connections and experiences to create lasting change in their local community.

From that opportunity, the Provisional Rotary Club of Toohey was quickly established. Inclusivity and tolerance are the values that contribute greatly to the culture of the Club and its members.

The Club is named after the Toohey Mountain Range that includes most of Toohey Forest Park. The name is also significant as all of the members live the suburbs directly surrounding the Mountain and the Forest Park.

The Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at the Food Connect Shed Salisbury (8 Textile Crescent, Salisbury) from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Amongst the club members who are new to Rotary are local businesses owners who have been more than excited in learning more about Rotary and the potential of what can be achieved.

The Club aims to be a Rotary Club that is dynamic and is responsive to community needs. The group which is comprised of current Rotarians and people new to Rotary, have been holding member led breakout sessions to identify possible projects and initiatives.



This Rotary Club is a little different to traditional Rotary Clubs; meetings are informal and not based around a meal; there is also no cost to attend a meeting. The majority of existing club members are younger, working professionals and/or have young families at home, so it was important that the new club fit with what today's lifestyle looks like and be budget friendly to make being a Rotarian accessible to all.

Members will be helping out a local school by cooking on the BBQ at an upcoming community event.

The Club continues to grow and it plans to Charter in the near future.



Recently the Club had the pleasure to welcome DG Sue and also IPDG Paul Roger to its meetings. Members of the Club are grateful for their support and guidance. We also appreciate and acknowledge AG Craig Carson and Mary Kearney for their efforts so far.

*Myles Waugh
Charter Secretary, Provisional Rotary Club of Toohey
Communications Officer, D9620 Interact
Student Counsellor, D9620 Rotary Youth Exchange*

Rotary Club of Kenmore, SolarBuddy Schools Program

Rotary Kenmore has been coordinating the Junior Buddy study light program in four Primary Schools in the western suburbs in Brisbane for the past eight years.

SolarBuddy is a registered charity based in Brisbane founded by the chairman Simon Doble and has representatives in a number of places in the world.

Our Club partners with SolarBuddy and primary schools in our area. The Junior Buddy lights are ordered and paid for by the schools and after the assembly day, Rotary Kenmore reimburses the schools for 50% of the cost of the study lights. The lights can be ordered in increments of 25 lights with a minimum of 50 lights. We have a number of generous sponsors who partly fund this program with us.

Cost of the light currently is \$50 each no GST. An additional charge of \$1.10 per light incl GST helps cover to the freight to and from the school and to their final destination.

The Junior Buddy light measures 100mm X 95mm X 30mm. It can be stood up or be hung and has a solar panel on the back. It has two LED light levels normal and extra bright, and has rechargeable batteries. The life of the Study Light is estimated at five years.



I would recommend the program is suitable for Year 5 and Year 6 students.

We arrange a mutually suitable assembly day with each of the schools. The Junior Buddy lights are ordered and delivered prior to this day. The lights are partly assembled, the students complete the light build and write a letter to their Buddy who is to receive the gift of a study light.

The school then arranges for the lights to be returned to SolarBuddy for distribution to kids living in extreme energy poverty in countries such as PNG, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, and Indigenous Communities in Australia and West Africa nations.



Rotary Kenmore and four local schools gift 250 to 300 study lights each year to kids living in extreme energy poverty.

To quote SolarBuddy "Impactful Social STEM Programs, SolarBuddy STEM'S mission is to provide socially conscious STEM education that creates positive social impact and future change makers. We believe education is key to overcoming many of the world's greatest issues, and now you can too!

Help the next generation take a step forward with social STEM education by sponsoring a school that enables the Gift of a light"

It's been proven kids receiving a study light have increased their reading and study time at night by 80% - what a fantastic outcome.



I have been involved with the program for seven of the eight years and have found it to be a most rewarding and successful Rotary project. I'm happy to speak to any Club that may be interested in commencing the program in your area.

For more information go to solarbuddysystem.com

*Ross Thomas
Youth Director, RC of Kenmore*

WEWAK ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS DESK PROJECT

At the 2024 District Conference at the Gold Coast, Anna Klawe, President of the Wewak Rotary Community Corps talked about their school desk project. The Rotary Clubs of Loganholme and St George decided to assist financially with the project.

Hambraure Primary School Received 20 New Desks

In June 2024, Anna reported that 'In a heartwarming event, WRCC President Anna Klawe handed over 20 desks to Headmaster Henry Numbasa and his board. Hambraure Primary is the third school in Wewak district to benefit from this ongoing project, aimed at supporting schools in need.

'The school's headmaster and board were speechless, expressing their deep gratitude for this blessing. Despite being over 40 years old and lacking new desks from the government, Hambraure Primary now has a reason to smile. We express our heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Club of Loganholme, Australia, for sponsoring this initiative.

'Education representative Mr. Chapok also witnessed the handover and praised WRCC's efforts, calling for more government support for such impactful initiatives. Special thanks to

Sacred Heart Brothers Joinery for crafting the quality desks and their excellent work.

'Together, we can make a difference!

'We also acknowledge all our Cook and Sell fundraising supporters for ensuring the successful completion of this desk project. A special appeal goes out to all our supporters and partners to support us in our next fundraiser.'

Suambukau Primary School Receives 12 New Desks

In September 2024, Suambukau Primary School in Wewak District was filled with joy as it received 12 new desks. Anna reported that, 'Since the school's registration in 2021, students had been sitting on pieces of wood on the floor due to a lack of desks.

'The headmaster, Mr. Nindimuru, expressed his gratitude to the Rotary Community Corps (WRCC) of Wewak for providing the much-needed desks. He shared that despite efforts to seek assistance from other sources, none had been successful until WRCC stepped in.

'During the desk presentation at Wirui Sacred Heart Brothers, the school staff and students were present and amazed at the donation.

'WRCC has delivered desks to four schools this year and plans to continue fundraising efforts to support more underprivileged schools next year.

'On behalf of WRCC, President Anna Klawe thanked the sponsors from the Rotary Club of St. George, Rotary District 9620, for their generous contribution of the 12 desks to Suambukau Primary School.

'Rotary Community Corps lives by the motto: "Service above self."

Both these sets of quality desks were made at the Sacred Heart Brothers Joinery Shop. In this way, the money provided by Loganholme and St George stayed in the local community. Both clubs are very happy to be able to supply desks to these rural schools near Wewak as they ensure that the children learn in better conditions and therefore learn more effectively.



ROTARY CLUB OF LOGANHOLME MENTAL HEALTH BBQ

What is Mental Health?

A state of Mental well-being that enables people to:

- Cope with the stresses of life.
- Realise their abilities, learn and work well and contribute to their community.

It is instrumental and integral to our wellbeing.

With October being Mental Health Awareness Month, on Sunday 20th October the Rotary Club of Loganholme decided to do just that by holding a FREE BBQ with bottles of water and poppers for the children at Alexander Clark Park at Loganholme.



The Rotary Community Corps Wewak formally presented the 12 desks to Suambukau Primary School. Pictured is the Head Teacher Mr. Elijah Nindimuru and the RCCW President Anna Klawe.



Teachers, members of the RCCW and students posed with amusement after the presentation of desks.

The 12 desks at Suambukau Primary School have been shared between four classes. The Early Childhood Prep class uses 5 of those desks, Grade Two class uses 2 desks, Grade Three class uses 2 desks, and Grade Four class uses 3 desks.



The Wewak Rotary Community Corps looks forward to receiving additional funding to provide additional desks across the Wewak area.

*Anna Klawe, President
Wewak Rotary Community Corps*



This was a way of giving back to the community; and what better way to make people feel better and put a smile on their faces than to do something for free.

It is unfortunate that our lives these days can be often stressful, with financial commitments, everyday living expenses, family duties which can lead to feelings of hopelessness, depression, loneliness and affects our everyday lives.



On this beautiful Sunday morning our President Neil Bradley cooked up a storm with helpers from Rotary Nomads Marion and Rob Curtis and member Kelvin Hansen. We had fun and we talked to lots of people and hoped that by this simple gesture everyone left feeling happier and perhaps it made their day a bit brighter.

*Sharon Hansen, Secretary
Rotary Club of Loganholme*

Sunnybank Hills Rotary Working Bee at Autism QLD

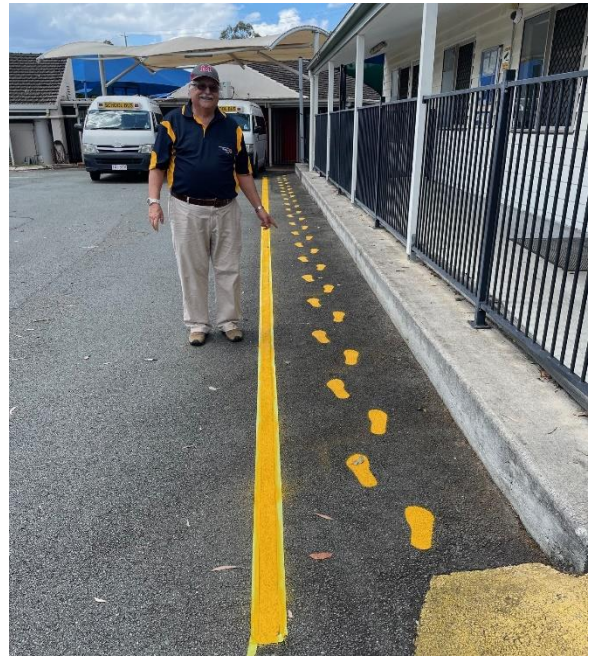
The Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills has been very active in the local area, scheduling regular community service projects since the club was chartered on the 27th of May 1987.



We regularly have BBQ days at Bunnings Warehouse Acacia Ridge and other fundraising activities to allow us to give back to the community in a big way, such as our recent Working Bee at Autism QLD in Sunnybank Hills. This work focused on improving the safety, and overall school experience for students. The tasks that the club undertook were:

- Preparing a long footpath, designated as a 'Safe Walking Area', showing where

students from the school can walk safely between buildings next to a large, busy, visitor carpark.



- Repainting external walls and veranda posts to one of their buildings.
- Preparing and repainting a set of external stairs near the reception area, along with safety lines on steps.



The Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills and Autism QLD have a longstanding relationship. Our main contact is through the school Property Manager whose active communication with the club, has been able to organise projects for the club to undergo with the school, point us in the direction of other projects in the community, or engage with us as a guest speaker at our Tuesday morning meetings.

The club has been volunteering at Autism QLD for many years, doing repairs, gardening, painting, installing garden benches and assisting with scrap and surplus clean-up around the school. In some cases, our clean-up projects have led to surplus or second-hand school equipment being donated by Autism QLD, repaired or cleaned by the club, and repurposed in disadvantaged communities. One such donation allowed Sunnybank Hills Rotary to repurpose a significant number of school items, sent via shipping container, in our RAWCS trip to Tonga in September of 2023. The project in Tonga focused on improving learning and healthcare opportunities for the local children, by repairing, restoring, and repainting classrooms in the Nukunuku community, and donating helpful resources to their school and nearby medical centre. Thanks to our strong relationship with Autism QLD, the Nukunuku community has been equipped with durable chairs and desks for students to use.

*Dan Newman & Joe Forgione
Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills*

RC OF LOGAN SPONSORS LOGANLEA SHS PEACE POLE

The recent dedication of the Rotary Peace Pole at Loganlea State High School marks an important step toward fostering a culture of peace and understanding within the community. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Logan, this beautiful pole stands as a powerful symbol of hope and unity, reminding everyone that we can work together to create a more peaceful world. This pole is notably the 374th sponsored under the **Rotary 100 Peace Pole Project** which began with an original pledge of 100 poles, highlighting Rotary's ongoing commitment to promoting peace.

The Peace Pole features the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages, including Mandarin, Spanish, and Indonesian,

emphasising the importance of embracing diversity and respecting different cultures. This significant addition to the school serves not only as a visual landmark, but also as a daily reminder for students, staff, and visitors to promote peace in their interactions and relationships.

The event was attended by esteemed members of the Rotary Club of Logan, including President Mayuri Gosalia, Treasurer Bruce Mills, and Director of Youth Services Helen Jessop. Their presence underscores the club's dedication to community service and the promotion of positive values. The Year 12 cohort, along with Acting Principal Kerri Sheppard and teacher Mr. Graeme Hallett, played an important role in this memorable occasion, celebrating the ideals of cooperation and kindness.



By coming together for this event, students are encouraged to reflect on their responsibilities in building a peaceful future. The Rotary Peace Pole serves as an inspiration, urging everyone in the school community to embrace the principles of friendship, compassion, and understanding. It stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us all that small actions can lead to significant change. Together, we can strive to make our world a better place, one act of kindness at a time.

*Helen Jessop
RC of Logan*



BRIBIE ROTARY SPONSORS BANKSIA BEACH SS PEACE POLE

Banksia Beach State School Peace Pole Installation

After much waiting, Banksia Beach State School now has its Peace Pole, installed adjacent to its three flag poles that fly the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait flags. It is very visible, being just inside the main entrance and on the way to the Administration building.

October 10th was the date of their ceremony, and it brought with it a very overcast, showery morning. The six school leaders were exemplary with their patience in the drizzle. They used the standardised format sent from the Rotary Club of Burley Griffin in Canberra and were very professional with their delivery. They were organised by Mrs Coutts, Deputy Principal, who had umbrellas at the ready.



This was Peace Pole 357 which certainly surpassed the 100 poles originally sought in 2019 for the 100 years of Rotary in Australia. On one side of the pole is the English version of the motto - May Peace Prevail On Earth. The other three sides contain firstly, the words in Gubbi Gubbi language, our traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which we stood, followed by Indonesian, the language studied at the school and finally, the message in Braille, a rather creative idea from Principal, Stuart Bell.

We were honoured to have a class of "Preppies" as our audience but unfortunately, they had to escape as the rain became heavier and they needed to be moved to shelter. It was a nice link between the Senior students and those at the other end of their schooling. The ceremony

concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and again the students were strong leaders as the accompanying sound system failed to function.



The ceremony was attended by members of Bribie Rotary, John Oxenford and June Sturges, Youth Director and Board member who facilitated the purchase and installation of Peace Pole 357. After three years of persistence, it was very rewarding to witness this event. Bribie Island now has three Peace Poles on the island with the initial pole installed at Bribie Island State School, followed by one at the C & K Kindy.

It is hoped that these constant reminders of the need for Peace in our World, resonate with all students and they grow into kind, caring adults.

*June Sturges
RC of Bribie Youth Director*

TOOWOOMBA GARDEN CITY CHARITY RACE DAY

The Rotary Club of Toowoomba Garden City held its biennial charity race day at Toowoomba's Clifford Pack Racecourse on 19 October 2024, raising more than \$12,000.



Happy race goes in Toowoomba

The beneficiaries of the proceeds of the day were three local charities:

- **Blush Cancer Care** which provides education and support services for patients and community members affected by breast cancer in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Region;
- **Base Services** which works with individuals and families affected by homeless or at high risk of homelessness, or experiencing a range of difficult issues or trauma associated with poor health, addiction, family violence, separation, grief or loss; and
- **Protea Place Women's Support Centre** which provides support, dignity, and safety for vulnerable women.

Over 120 people attended the twilight meeting under the clear starry sky. It featured seven races which bore the names of the sponsors, a silent auction of donated items and lucky door prizes, including a football jersey signed by Wally Lewis.



President Bob Kratzmann said the Club's major fundraiser for the year was a big success. He thanked all the club members for their efforts in coordinating the event and the generosity of the sponsors and those who attended the event.

*Ros Hooper
RC of Toowoomba Garden City*

DISTRICT 9620 FOUNDATION COLUMN

District 9620 Rotary Club of Goodna District Grant 2022/2023

The Rotary Club of Goodna established a Tool Library for the flood affected Goodna community utilising funds from a \$5,000 Rotary District 9620 Grant. The Tool Library enabled disadvantaged people to requisition tools free of cost; tools which they would not have been able to afford themselves to repair their properties. Initially these tools were used to assist flood affected households to repair their homes with the view to eventually to be used for general use by any disadvantaged person living in the Goodna district.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Goodna sourced, purchased, and delivered the tools to the Goodna Street Life homeless shelter where all tools were locked up, secured, engraved and security coded prior to distribution.



Pictured are Rotarians Chris Steinback and Hans Hoover at Bunnings, after purchasing an assortment of tools and equipment which were delivered to the homeless support centre at Helens Haven in Goodna.



Hans Hoover from the Rotary Club of Goodna delivered tools funded by a Rotary Grant to the Goodna Street Life homeless shelter. Pictured is Steve Purcell from GSL receiving the delivery of tools.

Rotary Club of Kenmore District Grant 2023/2024

Retinoblastoma

Retinoblastoma is a type of cancer that rapidly develops in the retina, the light-detecting tissue at the back of the eye.

Mostly affecting young children, retinoblastoma represents 6 per cent of all cancers in children under the age of 5. It affects about 1 in 18,000 newborns, and up to 8 children are diagnosed with the condition in Queensland each year.

Early diagnosis is the best way to ensure treatment can be delivered as quickly as possible to stop the illness progressing and prevent loss of a child's sight.

Children typically have a good recovery when the condition is diagnosed and treated early. However, if it is not treated quickly, cancer cells can spread from the eye to other parts of the body, which can be life-threatening.

There are several treatment options for children who have been diagnosed with retinoblastoma, which will depend on each child's individual needs.

- [Laser](#)
- [Chemotherapy](#)
- [Enucleation](#)

- [Radiotherapy](#)
- [Proton therapy](#)
- [Cryotherapy](#)

There are huge differences in outcomes for these children across the world. Children in high income countries such as Australia have a 10-year survival rate of more than 90%. In Nepal, survival is less than 25%, in large part because the disease is diagnosed too late for successful treatment. For some years, Open Eyes Global has raised funds that provide free custom-fitted prosthetic eyes for children in Nepal who have lost their eye due to retinoblastoma. While this has greatly improved the quality of remaining life for these children, there is a desperate need to improve early detection.

Screening for retinoblastoma is relatively simple, requiring only a tool (an ophthalmoscope) that allows visualisation of a "red reflex", i.e. the reflection of light off a normal retina. In children with retinoblastoma, this red reflex is replaced by a white reflex, known as leukocoria ("white pupil"). Screening for leukocoria is non-invasive, poses no risk of harm to the child, and can be performed by all levels of healthcare personnel with minimal training.

The Project: The overall aim of this project was to reduce the burden of Retinoblastoma in Nepal by improving early detection of this disease in children.

Objective 1: To purchase effective, low-cost ophthalmoscopes (Arclights) in bulk and supply these to community health workers in Nepal. 44 Arclights were purchased through a vendor in Nepal who imports medical goods. 50 additional Arclights were obtained free of charge from "World Eye Cancer, Hope".



Objective 2: To train health workers in Nepal in the use of the Arclights to screen children for retinoblastoma. A total of 36 participants completed the training:

A half-day training program was developed by Dr Sthapit in collaboration with certified ophthalmic technicians from the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Kathmandu. Training was conducted by trained ophthalmologists and certified ophthalmic technicians, provided in-kind. All training and materials were provided in Nepali.

All participants were provided with an Arclight to use during the training and in their work after the training.

The mean age of participants was 37 years, and most had worked in their current role for more than five years.



Screening implementation and next steps

On their return to their home clinics, the trained community health workers began screening all children that they see for vaccinations and other reasons. The health workers have been asked to keep notes about their screening and to document all detected abnormalities and the steps taken. Nurses will complete an assessment two months after completion of training to measure self-reported screening behaviour, detection of abnormalities, and actions taken.

All nurses will refer children with retinal abnormalities to a specific nominated ophthalmologist working in collaboration with Dr Sthapit at the Tilganga Eye Institute, to enable outcomes to be easily tracked. Dr. Sthapit and her team will clinically attend to all patients identified as part of the screening for further investigation and treatment, with financial assistance for families as needed.

Longer term follow-up will track the number of children screened, the results of screening and the number of retinoblastomas and other retinal abnormalities referred to the ophthalmologists for investigation and diagnosis, the stage at diagnosis, and the outcomes of treatment.

Funding: The funding for this project, was made up of a District Grant in the amount of \$2,494 plus funding from Kenmore Club in the amount of \$2,500 totalling \$5,021

Other people and Organisations supporting this project.

Health professionals and volunteers in Nepal and Australia joined forces to make this project a success. The mix and range of organisations involved, including Rotary Australia, the Rotary Clubs of Bagmati and Yala in Nepal, the Tilganga Eye Institute in Kathmandu, Open Eyes Global in Australia, and Open Eyes Nepal, has greatly strengthened this project.

Having a health professional in Nepal who was happy to take on the management of the project on the ground and speak with government and other health professionals in Nepal, greatly increased the feasibility of the project and ensured buy-in from the Nepalese community and key stakeholders.

My Comments: I think we must congratulate the Rotary Club Kenmore for a well-run grant which will change the lives of many children in Nepal. What is of note is that a \$49.50 device and a very limited amount of training, community health care workers can identify this eye disease, and have the contacts to have the children treated.

Contact Details: Rowarn Luder (0414321419)

rowarn.luder4@bigpond.com

CLUBS GO TO GREAT LENGTHS FOR HAT DAY

Marion and Rob (Nomads) had an interclub visit for Hat Day with the RC of Loganholme on 22nd October. It was a bit of a "Where's Wally" moment. Can you find them in the back row?



Guest Speaker was Paul Scully. He is retired but worked for 44 years as a paramedic and as a clinical psychotherapist. He established and managed a trauma / mental health program for QAS employees for 20 years.

Meanwhile in St George members enjoyed Hat Day via ZOOM sporting hats from around the world.



Hope all clubs participated in Hat Day and Lift the Lid Walks to raise money for research into mental health through Australian Rotary Health.

WHAT IS ROTARY?

How do you respond to the question "What is Rotary?" Strengthen your quick explanation - your elevator pitch - with six tips from our friends at Toastmasters International. Read their blog post to make an impression that lasts:

Continuing on from the September DG News:

4. Cut the keywords.

The business world is rife with banal buzzwords and overused "execuspeak." Scrap these canned clichés and set yourself apart by crafting a wholly original speech that highlights what makes you and your club unique. To ensure that your speech flows naturally and doesn't sound like a soulless infomercial, have someone read it aloud to you and keep an ear out for any words or phrases that sound overly trite or formal.

5. Build the hype.

Assuming you've managed to hook your listeners effectively, the next step is to demonstrate legitimacy and build some real excitement. Work details about other outstanding accomplishments that speak to your club's bona fides into your brief message. If you're pitching a project, inform your listeners that you've identified a monetary target and you're working to secure the funding you need. If it's relevant, you may also wish to

work in a mention of your follower count on social media.

6. Find common ground.

After you've done the dirty work of making your pitch, be sure to close with some conversation. Remember that the goal of an effective pitch is to create a connection, and the quickest way to do that is to find common ground with your audience upon which to begin building a relationship. Let others talk and take a genuine interest in what they have to say, paying particular attention to shared interests and aspirations. Follow up by asking insightful questions, and remember — you can never go amiss with a few kind words!

Summarizing your Rotary experience and capturing the interest of your audience in the span of 30 to 60 seconds is no small task, but it doesn't have to be a complicated affair. Armed with the tips above, and some confidence, you can craft a perfect pitch that's sure to drum up interest and leave an impression on your listeners.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWS

DG Sue & John invite you attend the District 9620 Conference at Empire Theatre 28th / 30th March 2025.

Secure your spot now by registering online:
<https://conference25.rotary9620.org/#>

Hurry! EARLY BIRD BOOKING FINISH AT THE END OF OCTOBER 2024.

If you're planning to attend the Rotary conference in Toowoomba, we highly recommend booking your accommodation **as soon as possible**. The Toowoomba Show is happening the same weekend, and accommodations are expected to fill up quickly.

Go to the conference web page to get a link to book your accommodation.

The Theme for the DG Gala Dinner is "The Great Gatsby".

The Gala Dinner is scheduled to commence at 6.00pm for 7.00pm sit down.

Conference Web page.
<https://conference25.rotary9620.org/#>

• Guest Speakers. • **Conference Program.**

- **- Say NO to Domestic Violence Walk on Friday Afternoon.**
- **- District 9620 Photo Competition.**

We are pleased to introduce you to our two MCs that will be looking after you during the 2025 conference in Toowoomba.

Coreen Auld is a professional training facilitator with special interest in leadership, sales and safety culture. As a consultant she works with a wide variety of industrial, technical and mining companies. Constantly curious, Coreen loves the opportunity to facilitate workshops where people learn from one another. She has been privileged to speak at conferences on a safety culture program which she developed internationally.



An enthusiastic but unsuccessful gardener, Coreen is better suited to sewing and tailoring her own clothes. She lives in Brisbane and has two adult sons - one of whom benefited greatly from being a Rotary exchange student to Taiwan.

Bronwyn Evans is the co-owner of McAdam and Turnbull Realty in Toowoomba. With small business DNA from a lifetime of family small business involvement Bronwyn brings a dedication to the industry to be the best it can be. Bronwyn is a consultant for the Real Estate Institute of Queensland as part of their Support

Service for Property Managers across the state and contributes as a member of the REIQ Property Management Chapter advocating for our Industry.

The love of communicating overlaps in Bronwyn's membership of Toastmasters International. A local champion of public speaking contests Bronwyn loves to use these skills in the community and is a volunteer compere for the Toowoomba Eisteddfod and other local events.

Bronwyn and her husband Lachlan have lived in Toowoomba for nearly 30 years and have sons Bradley and James, who both live and work in Brisbane.



Conference Chair: PDG Chris Wright

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the fourth 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 by 27 November for the (next) fifth edition.



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