Uncertain Times Ahead

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Burleigh Rotaract Bugle. At the moment we are in uncertain times with the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic at the forefront of everyone’s minds. We are unsure with the current global situations, what our future events will look like and when we will meet again in person. However, in the wake of this pandemic we have adapted and flourished with the online meeting format via Zoom. Rotaractors from Germany, Adelaide and Woolongong have become a staple at our meetings and social events, as well as some of our members spotted joining meetings of other clubs both nationally and internationally showing the major positive of online meetings - anyone can join in. We have really embraced the online format, even if we are all missing in person contact with our fellow club members. I personally can't wait to see you all again and give you all a massive hug.

From our club to you, we hope you are all safe in this uncertain time. Make sure you put you and your families safety and health first. We are always here if you want to chat, join a meeting or online social and we hope to see you there.

Yours in Rotaract,
Jordan Holdorf

Upcoming Events:

9th May 2020
Club Social - Netflix Watch Party
Click here to find out more

11th May 2020
Online Rotaract Club Meeting
Join us at: https://zoom.us/j/6220074141

18th May 2020
Burleigh Rotaract Board Meeting

25th May 2020
Online Rotaract Club Meeting
Join us at: https://zoom.us/j/6220074141

Unknown Dates:

Interaction 2020
Disney+ Trivia Night
The Rotaract year so far has been an absolute roller-coaster of emotions, events and life lessons.

Unfortunately, this year has seen our friends down south, the Rotaract Club of Ballina on Richmond fold. The incredible members that called this amazing club home spent many months reaching out to their communities, promoting membership and striving to better the world and grow their club. We at Burleigh are very lucky that two of their passionate and dedicated members decided to transfer their membership to our club so they could stay involved. We are honoured and excited to welcome Dan and Catherine to our club. Furthermore, we have welcomed four additional members to our club since January. A massive congratulations to Chumani, Sasha, Miles and Alex for joining our family, we look forward to getting to know your stories better and watching you take on the world.

As our club grows exponentially so do the events our members are running. In February we successfully pulled off our second conference for the year, the Australian Rotaract Conference. This event saw over 100 delegates from across Australia and beyond attending and involved some of the districts finest guest speakers. With many tears, late nights, arguments and wine involved in the planning of this conference, I am beyond proud of the Rotaractors in District 9640 for presenting such an inspiring event to the nation and for managing to our club members for continuing with our club’s other events throughout the process.

In response to COVID-19, many of the club’s other events have unfortunately been postponed until the coming Rotaract year. Our committees are still underway planning as much as they can, so stay tuned to our social media platforms for more updates. We have also successfully moved our meetings and events online via Zoom, to help do our part in protecting society. During this merge, we have had increased attendance at meetings, including Rotaract friends from interstate, and have held many successful social events. Community events have also been adapted to fit the social-distancing lifestyle, allowing members to volunteer their time from home whilst remaining connected and inspired by fellow members.

None of this, however, could have been achieved without the unwavering support of each of our members, our local community, and many Rotarians who have provided guidance along the way. To all of you, we say thank you!

Yours in Rotaract,
Caitlin O’Connor
President
Spirit of Rotaract

Every quarter we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members with the Spirit of Rotaract Award. This award is given to someone that upholds the spirit and values of Rotaract, sharing their passion and dedication with others, and for going above and beyond to help their community and those in need.

It is my great honour to announce that the latest Spirit of Rotaract Award goes to non-other than the girl who puts these fabulous newsletters together,

Jordan Holdorf

Jordan has been a member with our club since 2017 when she made the transition from her Interact club in Boonah to Rotaract. She has been an integral member of the club, dedicating all of her efforts to club events, administration and her passion for Rotaract is awe-inspiring. She has been a member of our club board for two consecutive years and has been involved with both Interaction and ARC conferences these past months. Our members wished to recognise her for all of the effort, blood, sweat and tears she has put into our club and members over the past few months. Further to this, she was described as welcoming, friendly and incredibly supportive to each of our members. While such an award cannot do justice to the person that is Jordan, we are honoured to be able to recognise her efforts to you all!

Congratulations Jordan!
Hey guys, it’s me Roary the Rotaraptor the proud mascot of the Burleigh Heads Rotaract Club. These past couple of months I have been staying with some of my friends and fellow club members and have had so many adventures, that I wanted to tell you all about. I have applied and gotten jobs (and lost them), met over 100 incredible Rotarians and Rotaractors at ARC 2020, went on a trip to another state and got told I was no longer allowed to visit my friends in New South Wales. It has been a very busy few months for such a little raptor.

First of all, I would like to say hello to all my friends I made at ARC that I haven’t seen in a while. I hope that all of you are having an amazing time and are coping well with COVID-19. I miss you all so much. I am also super proud of the organising committee, I had so much fun! You all did an amazing job.

After ARC I went and stayed with Uncle Miles and got a job with him. For a day, I was a McDonalds Barista. I wowed my fellow co-workers and amazed my customers. Unfortunately, due to a technicality, they cannot hire stuffed animals or dinosaurs. WHO KNEW?! I lost the job after just one shift. I applied to other jobs but was unfortunately rejected.

After being fired from my job, I went on a surprise trip to Melbourne with my international friend KJ, (after a spending spree to get new clothes). We drove down and it took ages. I got to visit her family, went to see the 12 Apostles and visited an aquarium and looked at all the animals. It was amazing! I’m thankful for the trip and made some new friends when I went down too.

I enjoy seeing and hanging out with all my club friends. Together we have donated plasma and blood, gone to breakfasts and dinners, joined in on the Walk for Autism challenge and had a great time with every member. Even when Michael took me on really long walks, he carried me a lot of the way because my legs are so little! - thanks Michael.

I have been self isolating over Easter with Michael and his family, we have built puzzles and I even got to ride on his motorcycle - it was so scary! The Easter Bunny even came to visit me and gave me chocolatey treats. I tried but failed to get a job at Bunnings with him - they won’t accept dinosaurs either.

This has been the Roary Update with your very own friend Roary the Rotaraptor. If this is your first-time hearing of me, hello and welcome! If you have met me before then I hope to see you again. If you are ever on the Gold Coast you have to come and see me at my club’s meetings.

Roary out.
For our first meeting of 2020 we had the lovely DGE Ana ‘Andy’ Rajapakse attend as a guest speaker. For those who haven’t met him before, Andy is a member of our local Burleigh Heads Rotary Club as well as the District Governor Elect of our district (D. 9640). At our meeting, Andy spoke about a vast number of topics to do with our district and where Rotary and Rotaract are headed including information on Elevate Rotaract and statistics involving District 9640 in relations to other districts in Zone 8.

Did you know...

District 9640 had the largest net membership growth for the 1st 6 months of this Rotary year in zone 8 with an increase of 52 members?!

Incredible Work District 9640

Andy also gave us an insight into information regarding plans to grow at least one other Rotaract club in the district with an allocated budget to start 2 new Rotaract clubs! We love having the opportunity to talk with the amazing Rotarians in our district and are looking forward to what Andy brings to the district in his year as DG. As well as the wealth of knowledge and assistance he have given us over the years. On behalf of the entire Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads, we thank you Andy for taking the time to attend our meetings and for providing us with an abundance of information, it is always a pleasure to have you drop into a meeting.

Michael Whitford
Professional Development and Social Director

Earlier this year in February we invited Roselle from the Welcome Dinner Project – an Australian non-for-profit set up to support communities - to inform our club on their activities. The Welcome Dinner Project functions to bring local communities together through the mutual love of culture and food.

Fun Fact!
The Welcome Dinner Project was founded in 2013 and since then, they have trained over 400 facilitators, ran 500 welcome dinners in people’s homes & trusted community spaces around Australia, reaching 10,000+ people.

Roselle began with a small biography, depicting her life overseas before migrating to Australia. She depicted the challenges and struggles recently arrived individuals face, from simple things like bank accounts to the social pressures of peer group belonging. She utilised her own story to segway into the incredible work the Welcome Dinner Project has done for herself and her motives for being an ambassador for the program. On behalf of the Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads, we thank you Roselle for taking your time to present to us and we are very much looking forward to working with you and the Welcome Dinner Project in the future.

Michael Whitford
Professional Development and Social Director
Due to the current global situation, face to face socials are very scarce and so to compensate, we have headed online. The first of many online socials being an online Brooklyn Nine-Nine trivia where our members and some new friends joined in to the competitive side of our club.

**ROCK CLIMBING**
Our very own Treasurer, Harrison Howick, organised this little adventure for the members of our club, who all took it in their stride to reach the top of as many obstacles they could manage.

**BOWLING**
Throwing balls, knocking down pins and having a laugh is definitely a great way to have some fun with friends. For this social, our club took to the slip lanes and tossed some balls competing and playing for the most Pin KO's of the night.

**ICE SKATING**
During the hot Aussie Summer months there's nothing better than ice cream or a swim, but what if I told you that you could combine them? That's right, some of our members found out that sliding across a frozen field can be super cool but also hurt a lot when you fall.

**VIRTUAL BROOKLYN NINE-NINE TRIVIA**
Snacks, board games, drinks and virtual meetings. Is there anything else needed to sum up a really good time? After joining in on Adelaide University Rotaract Club’s meeting through Zoom, our club spent a couple hours playing Cards Against Humanity, also known as ‘the party game for horrible people’.
January seems like a world away since the COVID-19 pandemic has taken over all our lives! This sentence sounds like the start of some sort of sci-fi book, but alas it is not. Anyways, in January I was lucky enough to have received one of the best opportunities of my life, which was to attend the 2020 Rotary International Assembly in San Diego. Myself, 59 other Rotaractors, consisting of DRR’s and MDIO leaders, and District Governor Elects from around the world participated in the amazing 3 day (5 for DGE’s) annual training meeting.

The assembly kicked off for us Rotaractors with a welcome from current RI President Mark Maloney and RI President Elect Holger Knaack. That night, District 5340 Rotaractors, hosted us to a dinner event in the famous gaslamp quarter, giving all of us an opportunity to start bonding and getting to know one another. The next morning, the joint part of the international assembly kicked off. In true Steven fashion, I was severely underdressed for the event, with everyone in business attire and myself in a pair of jeans and a shirt. But in my defence, I had been travelling for two weeks and was saving my nice clothing, for gala night.

The day featured some of the best keynote speakers in the Rotary world and had breakout sessions about growing and promoting Rotary, leading change and planning for action. That night, we celebrated everyone’s cultures at festival night, including our very own Rotaract dance on stage. The highlight of the night was definitely the Brazilian contingent, putting on an amazing mini carnival.

The next day was similar to the first, starting with keynote speakers and breakout sessions. In the afternoon, we were broken away from the Rotarians for a special Q&A session with Holger Knaack. The last thing on the agenda for the assembly was the gala night, where I was somehow lucky enough to be sitting on the VIP table with Holger Knaack and his wife Susanne. The gala night had some fantastic performances and also highlighted the Rotary International Conference in Taiwan 2021.

In summary, the assembly inspired me to continue to lead and grow Rotaract in my district successfully and introduced me to new ways of creating positive change. Networking with Rotaract leaders, DGE’s, Past RI presidents (I actually ate lunch one day with 3 of them at my table), and current Rotary executives was also a highlight for me as ‘the people’ are one of the main attractions for Rotary / Rotaract for me. I also enjoyed the other two weeks that I got to travel in America and Mexico, before returning home to Australia, just before ARC 2020.

Steven Coffey
District 9640 Rotaract Representative
The 2020 Australian Rotaract Conference was held on the 8th-9th of February on the Gold Coast, with a social event on the 7th of February. The conference was located at Griffith University and the gala dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza, which saw 117 delegates from four countries, 19 districts and 28 clubs in attendance. We had 3 major sponsors and 1 minor sponsor for the event. These included Rotary District 9640 ($5000 monetary sponsor), Griffith University (Free venue / AV for conference), Crowne Plaza (free 30 minutes of pre-drinks for the gala dinner) and the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads ($300 monetary donation).

The Friday night social was at a retro arcade called Timezone. This social was attended by approximately 25 people, at their own expense. The committee created social media posts leading up to the conference to decide the best way to run and choice of social event. As it was a Friday night, most attendees were either still on their way to the Gold Coast or tired from travelling, so it was decided to run at the attendees cost instead of including the social into the ticketing cost.

The delegates were welcomed Saturday morning to District 9640 by District Governor Harry Bolton, to the Gold Coast by Sam O’Connor MP, and to the conference by myself. The first key note speaker was Bruce Sullivan, who gave an amazing presentation on ‘being the best you’ and putting on your happy pants. Morning tea was followed by our first two breakout sessions presented by some fellow Rotaractors and non-Rotaractors. A buffet lunch was served for attendees and then our second key note speaker of the conference Kay Danes spoke. Kay was a presenter at ARC 2016 in Brisbane and returned to ARC to present to us her previous experiences being detained in a Laos prison for 10 months, her human rights activism and her passion for the Australian military. Afternoon tea and another breakout session followed before wrapping up the first day of the conference.

The ‘Hollywood’ themed gala dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza on the Saturday night. It included a two course meal, 30 minutes of pre drinks, Rotaract awards, and an all-round fun and memorable night. An afterparty was arranged with Sin City nightclub, however attendance was lower than expected due to the pouring rain.

Sunday morning, with a few hungover faces, included keynote speaker David Pattemore, who told us an inspirational story about Darren Smith, a cyclist who followed his dream of winning a gold medal in the olympics. A Rotaract Australia session and announcement for the 2021 ARC wrapped up the 2020 ARC on the Gold Coast. A Sunday afternoon social event consisting of burgers, ten pin bowling and escape rooms were enjoyed by quite a few attendees before departing the Gold Coast.

Steven Coffey
District 9640 Rotaract Representative / ARC 2020 Chair
Meet the newest Rotaract ‘Club’ on the Gold Coast

Rotaract Club of Pancakes Sunrise

This ‘Club’ formed in the conclusion of ARC when a group of Rotaractors from various clubs joined together at Pancakes in Paradise in Surfers Paradise. This was supposed to be a finale breakfast before saying our good byes and many flying home, however, started the Pancake Sunrise Club. This deep love of pancakes has flourished into a Rotaract meme page of the same name - which can be found here.

Since ARC in early February the founding members have met via Zoom for breakfast / morning tea multiple times (BYO pancakes of course!), joined into other clubs socials and meetings, movie nights, long chats till the warly hours of the morning and helped foster a friendship between the members of clubs not only around Australia, but also members from New Zealand and Germany. After the original breakfast meeting in February, the Burleigh Heads Rotaractors congregated together and Zoomed into an Adelaide University Rotaract Club’s meeting, had other Rotaractors Zoom into our meetings, discussed different topics surrounding Rotaract clubs and being a Rotaractor, shared resources and skills and of course many laughs, random conversations and love for pancakes. Love you all so much.

Jordan Holdorf
Founding Member - Rotaract Club of Pancake Sunrise
The Rotaract Club of Pancakes Sunrise Facebook page was predominately set up as a Rotaract meme page, to fill our days with a little laughter and fill the void of Rotaract memes in our lives. Below is a sample of Rotaract memes generated by both the Pancakes Sunrise members and the "Rotaract Memes" Facebook page. Hope this brings a smile to your face and a little joy to your day.

Rotaract Memes

All credit for content goes to the Members of the Rotaract Club of Pancake Sunrise and Rotaract Memes Facebook page.
The Walk for Autism is a week long event that went from the 29th of March to the 5th of April. It is a virtual walking event that encourages you to walk 10,000 steps a day to raise money to help support people living with Autism and their families.

This year, the Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads participated in the event to raise funds and awareness of this worthy cause. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19, our original plans were not seen to completion but that didn’t stop our members from giving it their absolute all and having a great time.

A little known fact about the members of the Burleigh Heads club is that we are SUPER competitive. This led to hilarious group messages challenging several of our members trying to one up each other each day to be the person with the highest daily step count. With the competition getting so intense, my supposedly relaxing birthday of movies and dinner turned into being forced to walk multiple laps around the block by our DRR Steven Coffey to get his step count higher. After 8 days of members walking further and further to reach their goals, we saw our members Blake Foster, Catherine Kopp and Michael Witford walking up to 50,000 steps a day to out do each other.

We saw Michael come out on top with a staggering 204934 steps in 8 days closely followed by Catherine with 185973 steps. Whilst the competition was building, our club decided to dedicate the week to promote Autism awareness on our social media platforms. During this time, we shed light on many unknown or misconceived facts about the autistic spectrum and the people that live with the condition. Please check out our Facebook page to access the information!

Overall, this was a very successful event! We are super proud of our members for giving it their all. A huge congratulations to Michael for throwing the 10,000 steps a day out the window and setting the standards for next year!

Candace Lee
Community Director

29th March - 5th of April 2020

Over the 8 days we walked a massive

1,076,241 Steps

Congratulations Burleigh Rotaract Team!
Interact Planning Day

This past February I had the pleasure of helping facilitate a yearly planning day for two local Interact clubs sponsored by the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads. My fellow club member Michael Whitford and I - under the guidance of our president Caitlin O'Connor - assisted the Interact leaders in developing new innovated ideas for their clubs whilst promoting a culture of collaboration between the clubs. Interact teachers also had an opportunity to share their voice and create new means of communications between themselves, Rotaract, and Rotary to ensure the needs of the Interact clubs were met.

Anthony Zirilli (2020 - 2021 Youth Director for Burleigh Heads Rotary) also attended to answer any burning questions about Rotary and how to better sustain connections to the Interactor's parent club. Anthony also presented information on different Rotary youth programs (e.g. RYPEN, RYTS, MUNA, RYLA), which Michael and I expanded upon as best we could as recipients of a handful of them. The Interactors were introduced to a formalised project proposal form to help better structure their upcoming projects, along with a thorough discussion to brainstorm project ideas for the upcoming year, including identifying strengths and weaknesses from each event.

Thank you to Karen Purdy, Irene Scott, Kanae Aki, and all the Interactors who could make it on the day.

Blake Foster
Vice President

A Note On Rotary

This past February our district played host to ARC 2020. I was fortunate enough to attend and meet an ample amount of my Rotaract peers. It was on the Saturday in which I was surprised to be hearing so many comments along the veins of “it’s so wonderful to see your Rotarians attend ARC” although this was just the start. The gala dinner on Saturday evening invited even further comments and discussions about how good it was to have an outstanding Rotarian presence at the event.

It wasn’t until after the packed weekend of ARC that I had the time to process and really appreciate the bond we have with our partner Rotary club. Over the past year, members of our club have been braving the chilly winter morning starts to attend Rotary meetings, some stepping out of their comfort zone to participate in the impressive Rotary social events, and some like myself have formed friendships with Rotarians, who I didn’t think had anything in common with me.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful and supportive breed of Rotarians in District 9640. To all Rotarians who are reading this, please support your local Rotaract club, if you don’t have one find some motivated individuals to start one. Thank-you to all the Rotarians that have assisted and supported our club in the past, it truly means so much to us!

Blake Foster
Vice President
JOIN US FOR A MEETING

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month via Zoom due to the current COVID-19 situation. If you are interested in attending a meeting check the club Facebook page or contact the club directly for the Zoom link. All visitors are welcome and we would love to see your smiling face and get to know you.

For any further information on the club, when our next meeting is or if you have any questions please contact us.

MEET OUR MEMBERS:

MATHEW HAYWARD

Hi, I’m Matt (or Matthew, I don’t mind). I’m 20 years old and I’ve lived on the Gold Coast all my life. I graduated high school in 2017 at Miami SHS where aerospace was probably my favourite subject.

I am currently in my third year of studying a double degree of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Griffith University, and am also working part time at an office equipment supply company, setting up and testing photocopiers.

You may be able to guess from that, but I am quite interested in computers and electronics and most of my hobbies basically revolve around that too. I also enjoy gaming and in terms of sports, my favourite is snow skiing and my favourite team sport is hockey.

My journey in Rotaract:

I was first introduced to Rotaract by the current Vice President Blake, who is a good friend of mine. He told me about it on a tram ride home from university and after attending a few meetings, I started to get to know the wonderful and interesting group of people that make up our club.

The first major event I attended was ARC 2020 right here on the Gold Coast. It was an amazing experience with great speakers that actually really helped to give me extra motivation and excitement for Rotaract. At ARC I met Eshwar from the Rotaract Club of South Perth and after finding out that they were in need of an IT director, I joined the committee for organising the next Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (APRRC) set to be in September next year in Perth.