THREE WEEKS TO THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE!

Have you registered for the District conference? You have three weeks to do so.

Register on line at www.rotary9640conference.org.au

If you are a new Rotarian you should endeavor to attend the conference and to experience fellowship with Rotarians throughout our District.

One of the topics at the conference is the WASH program to be presented by Past Rotary International President Bill Boyd. April is designated by Rotary as "Maternal and Child Health Month." It is sad to reflect that the single biggest cause of maternal and childhood mortality is the lack of safe drinking water. Listen to Bill explain how Rotary is seeking to provide safe drinking water through the WASH program.

We have an amazing program with a great line up of Key Note Speakers including Ita Buttrose, Noel Pearson, Kerry O’Brien, Noel Trevaskis, Bill Boyd plus many more. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear some of Australia’s most sort after guest speakers while visiting the beautiful Northern Rivers.

Come to Ballina for an inspiring weekend & to enjoy great Rotary fellowship. Check the conference speakers HERE

FLOODING DEVASTATES MANY TOWNS IN D9640

Former Cyclone Debbie bought torrential rains to most of our District causing massive damage in many towns. DG Michael immediately established a District 9640 Disaster Relief Fund to assist Rotary projects aimed at assisting those affected by the floods. The response has been overwhelming and more than $30,000 has already been donated to this fund. DGN Terry Brown and I are evaluating how we can best utilize these funds to help those in need, and we will be publishing this information before Easter. Rotarians have been helping cleanup and also providing funds to food vouchers for the needy. Your generous response to this disaster has been truly humbling, and confirms again "Rotary Shares because Rotary Cares".

You will also be aware that D9640, and the four other Queensland Districts are supporting a “Cyclone Debbie Rotary Appeal RAWCS Northern Districts (RABS).” Donations to this appeal are tax-deductible, but there is no certainty that these donations will be spent in flood-affected areas in D9640, and because of the RAWCS requirements, there will be a considerable lag time before funds can be allocated. However, this is another Rotary appeal that you might consider supporting.
GOVERNOR GENERAL LAUNCHES THE DISTRICT 9640 MALARIA VACCINE FUND

On Monday March 27, His Excellency, the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, launched the Malaria Vaccine fund.

This fund is to enable Phase 1 clinical trials of a malaria vaccine developed at the Institute of Glycomics at Griffith University, Gold Coast.

Sir Peter Cosgrove congratulated Rotarians for their initiative in supporting this clinical trial. Rotarians from Qld NSW and Papua New Guinea were present, and already over $100,000 has been donated to this project. RI Director Noel Trevaskis also sent a letter of support for this program.

Well done PDG Graham Jones and the Malaria Vaccine Committee for organising an excellent day celebrating Rotary’s commitment to eradicating malaria.

Find out more about this project and how you can help at malariavaccineproject.com

G’day,

For many years Australian Rotarians have been proactive in the southern Pacific region with the control of malaria. Through education and the use of mosquito nets provided by Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM), the mortality and morbidity due to malaria has dropped significantly.

District 9640, led by District Governor Michael Irving, has been instrumental in funding the first trial of a malaria vaccine. Michael as a research scientist has always had a passion in overcoming clinical problems, and one of those problems was malaria.

This clinical trial, which is an initiative of Rotary District 9640, has the support of Rotarians Against Malaria and Rotarians across Australia. The success of this trial will have an incredible impact on all people living in the South Pacific.

Congratulations to all involved in the vaccine trial. We are to honoured have the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Reid) launch the fund to support this clinical trial. Your contributions show that Rotary is Serving Humanity in a very real way. I fully support your efforts to eradicate malaria.

Regards,
Noel
Rotary International Director 2016-2018

INTERACT CLUB OF HILLS COLLEGE

Please welcome a new Interact Club to our District. This club, sponsored by Jimboomba Rotary, received its charter on March 13. Hills International College is located at Jimboomba, and one of its famous past pupils is world golf superstar Jason Day.

Congratulations to Jimboomba Rotary for chartering this club, and we welcome the Interactors at Hills College to the family of Rotary.
BURLEIGH HEADS ROTARY GALA DINNER RAISED $10,000 FOR POLIOPLUS

Burleigh Heads Rotary recently donated $10,153 to the D9640 PolioPlus fund. $10,000 was from the proceeds of the gala dinner, and $153 was PurplePinky donations.

Rotary Foundation Director Neil Jones said that this was the biggest single club donation to PolioPlus in our district.

The dinner was an excellent, sell-out, event with outstanding promotion of Rotary and PolioPlus.

Congratulations Burleigh Rotary!

OPERA IN THE VINEYARD TURNS 25

2017 marks 25 years of the Opera in the Vineyard at Ballandean Estate winery. Opera patrons enjoy fine wine as they watch the sun set over the autumn coloured vineyards and mountains of Sundown Valley National Park while listening to popular and classical opera.

Over the years, much has been achieved towards supporting various charities; fundraising is close to $1.2 m. In 2017 two of Australia’s great opera talents will help the Stanthorpe Rotary Club celebrate 25 great years of Opera in the Vineyard.

Australian tenor and composer, David Hobson has a repertoire that span’s the musical styles from baroque through to pop. Soprano Emma Matthews won Limelight’s Australian Artist of the Year 2016 to add to her many achievements. Both have performed at previous Opera in the Vineyards and very excited to be coming together to shine at the silver anniversary event.

Tickets for the 25th Opera in the Vineyard Luncheon, Opera and Dinner are available from www.ballandeanestate.com Bus transport to/from the Opera can also be booked.

VALE PALM BEACH ROTARY

After 40 years, the Rotary Club of Palm Beach is closing its doors.

On 26 August 1976, the Rotary Club of Palm Beach was established at a dinner with 436 attendees. As was commonly the case in the past, representatives of local Rotary clubs presented gifts to enhance the club’s presence or items to assist in day to day activities including a lectern, a Call-to-Order Bell.

In January 2017, the club also celebrated the milestone of its 30th year conducting the Rotary Antiques Fair at Jupiter’s, now called The Star. This long established program has raised approximately One Million Dollars to support community projects locally and across the world.
Two major projects have included $100,000 to the GCCC Hydrotherapy Pool and also $100,000 towards the local Alzheimer Resident Care Facility. Other projects have included support for Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club,Currumbin Marine Rescue, Neo-Natal retrieval Equipment, and the Red Cross Centre Building.

At the last meeting of the club in March, the club presented PHFs to the kind and obliging hosts of its club dinner meetings at Mirror’s Restaurant, Palm Beach, Lorene and Mario Vivoli.

We trust that Rotary will have an ongoing and new, fresh presence in Palm Beach in the near future with the energetic and excited support of local, young businesspeople.

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**D9640 RAISING THE SPIRITS TEAM RETURNS FROM CHARLEVILLE**

A team of 14 Rotarians and friends and 7 very capable women participated in the second “Raising the Spirits Trip to Charleville” from March 24 to 31. Fortunately there were no floods but daily temperatures in excess of 40 °C made for very trying conditions. Rotarians undertook all tasks.

Projects undertaken included completion of the interior painting in the Historic House in Charleville, completion of external painting at Wooyenong, preparation and painting the interior of Willdale as well as electric wiring of the whole house and truck maintenance, replacement of the kitchen and painting at Allambie, replacement of front steps and repairs to generator room and cleaning the school house at Monamby and supplying a water line at Calabah station. In total, there were 1,195 hours worked with an additional 345 hours driving! Of that, team leader John McKenny worked 225 hours and drove for 40 hours.

Special mention should be made of Yvonne Bettridge, who provided all meals for 7 people working out in the heat and dust at “Willdale”, and then she had to drive home to floods in Beaudesert.

Why did we undertake these projects? The cost of getting tradespeople to drive out to these isolated properties is prohibitive, and so essential jobs are shelved for years. Equally as important was the fellowship shared with country folk. All the wife of one farmer wanted was someone to talk to (which was easily provided), but when pressed, she asked if she could have some fresh herbs brought out. Fresh fruit and vegetables are a rarity.

Rotary 9640 received extensive press coverage, and our contributions again confirm that "Rotary Shares because Rotary Cares!"

Well done Team McKenny, and thank you to all who donated funds for this trip.
This year MUNA was held at Pacific Coast Christian School, due to incomplete renovations at the Tweed Heads Civic Centre. The debate was opened by DG Michael Irving and was managed by the very capable Janie-Marie Burgess as Secretary General, with Lucy Koschel as her assistant. Lucy was the District 9640 individual winner 3 years ago, and went on to gain 3rd place in the National debate. It was great to have her contribution to this year’s event.

The Judges were capably assisted by Head Judge PDG Sam Doumany. The other Judges involved were PDG Sandra Doumany, PDG Ross Smith, DGE Darrell Brown, and last years’ individual winner Seraphina Smith. Bryce Stansfield, individual winner from last year, also returned to lend a hand. It is wonderful to see this ongoing commitment from these young people.

84 students participated forming 28 teams. Glen Innes entered 2 teams and have always been active supporters of this debate. As usual it was fascinating to watch the delegates argue the resolutions from the point of view of their country.

The winning team was from Palm Beach Currumbin High School representing Israel. The winning team members were Lachlan Kelly, Morgan Hughes and Ruby Allen. They were sponsored by the E-Club NextGen. Runner up was Italy from Somerset College.

Individual winners who will go on to represent District 9640 at National are Lachlan Kelly, Palm Beach Currumbin H. S. sponsored by the E-club, and Ashraf Docrat representing New Zealand, from Somerset College. He was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gold Coast. Runner up and reserve was Zoe Wei representing Italy, also from Somerset College.

PDG Wendy Scarlett and DGE Darrell Brown presented the trophies and certificates. The Assembly closed with congratulations and thanks from DGE Darrell Brown.

Special mention needs to be made of the tireless efforts of Luanne and Jim King in organizing MUNA in recent years, and we wish incoming chair, Patsy Lucas every success in organizing MUNA 2018.

**SUPPORT BURLEIGH HEADS ROTARACT RAISE FUNDS FOR ROTARACTORS AGAINST MALARIA**

The Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads invite you to their Trivia Night on Saturday 29th April 6.30pm-10pm, Miami State High School Hall. Be your own hero by coming along to a fun-filled night, all proceeds will go to the Rotary Against Malaria campaign. It is Rotary’s goal to reduce Malaria cases and deaths by 90% by 2030. It is our clubs goals to aid in this mission.

This is a family friendly event and food and beverages will be available for purchase on the night. There will be an abundance of prizes to be won including raffles, lucky door and best dressed! Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#) for $15/person (or $20 at the door). Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more details.

**DISTRICT 9640 INFORMATION**

District Calendar: See what’s happening around the district. [READ MORE HERE](#)

SUBMIT stories: We want to share your projects and stories with other Rotarians via our District Facebook page and in the DG’s newsletter. Email: D9640newsletter@gmail.com