I would not be where I am today without The Rotary Foundation. As most of you would know, I was a recipient of The Rotary Foundation through part of the funds that come back to District which were used to finance a Group Study Exchange (GSE now called GCE, Group Cultural Exchange).

To set the scene:
The year was 1971. I was 25. I had been in an aeroplane once. I had travelled no further than Melbourne by plane, by car south to Sydney, west to Toowoomba & north to Noosa. There were no credit cards then. To travel overseas, you needed travellers cheques. There were no mobile phones.

Then I received a (landline) phone call:
“Congratulations. You have been selected for GSE team to South-West Pennsylvania” WOW!

Then apprehension set in. I had never done any guest speaking before. I had never lived in a stranger's house before. I had never been out of my comfort zone.

What a life Change! What a Journey!
You know the rest. Upon my return I joined Rotary, started a business, got married, had kids & so on & now I am Rotary District Governor.

That’s Life.
But my life was shaped by The Rotary Foundation. I will be eternally grateful. The Rotary Foundation changes lives. It is Rotary: Making a Difference.

So, why then do 20% of the clubs in our district choose not to support The Rotary Foundation? My GSE is only one of the programs of The Rotary Foundation. It supports efforts to achieve world understanding & peace through international humanitarian, educational & cultural exchange programs transforming lives both at home & abroad. My life was transformed.

What difference can you make?
I know that clubs can’t support everything. I have heard it before…. “Here we go again. The District Governor always wants money for this & that”...

But... The Rotary Foundation is our Foundation. If the club can’t support it, consider you as an individual contributing to The Paul Harris Society or becoming a Benefactor. But consider doing something. There are many more like me in our district who consider the The Rotary Foundation is Rotary: Make a Difference, Rotary International President Ian Riseley’s theme for 2017-18.

Will you make a Difference?
Darrell Brown, District Governor 2017/18
How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown’s ROMAC appeal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>So far</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10000</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25000</td>
<td>30000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

ROMAC

Really?? Nobody wants to go for the Best Club Communication Award?

One of my favourite quotes by George Bernard Shaw: The single biggest problem with Communication is the illusion that it has taken place. Obviously, I had not effectively communicated that the old Best Bulletin and Best Website awards have been discontinued and replaced by a Best Club Communication award. See this link for more details. But I need to know who wants to go for it, so I can check how fastidiously you are updating your website and Facebook pages! Of course, there also is a whole swag of other awards available for grabs. And note: deadline is much earlier this year due to the early date of the District Conference. Don’t leave it to the last moment! If you require further details, I welcome your enquiry.

Franz Huber
Chair, District Awards Committee

Livestream recording of World Polio Day 2017

Webmaster Denis Hallworth [also known as ‘The Man who never sleeps… ☺ Ed.] has placed a link on the Home Page of the District Website to the World Polio Day 2017 Livestream recording. It is a very inspiring video; you should be aware of it.

Click on this link to view it.

Special Honour for PDG Anne Egan: OAM

It is not every day that the Governor of New South Wales travels a thousand kilometres to bestow an honour onto one of this country’s citizens. But that is exactly what His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC has recently done:

He visited PDG Anne Egan and presented her with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition of her untiring work with various community organizations, one of which of course is Rotary, Pro-bono legal work etc over a long time.

Anne, based in Murwillumbah, is a founding member of the Rotary club of Mt Warning AM and of course served our District as Governor in 2015/16 with distinction.

Congratulations, well deserved, Anne!
Don’t we all dream about winning the Yourtown house raffle prize! But if you are an unemployed youth in a country town, you may not even have enough funds to buy a ticket! A few months ago, the members of Jimboomba Rotary got together with Yourtown (formerly Boys Town) with a view not only to refurbish the local community hall, but the aim was to also do something to improve the skills of some local unemployed youth.

In essence: this is a wonderful ‘Making a Difference’ project: Jimboomba Rotary had a guest speaker on Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander initiatives, which led to a meeting with Yourtown. The project started in late August and is due for completion in January 2018.

Jimboomba Rotary stumped up $24,000 of their hard earned money, and Jimboomba Quota is giving $2000 to purchase all materials for the renovation. Win, win, and win, the community had an EXPO to expose local business (click here for more details), the community hall received renovation funding and local youths got jobs and a future put in front of them and yes, we are getting pictures not of us putting nails in but of the opportunity we created for both the community and 8 unemployed for a further article in the Newspaper. As well as the big sign on the fence staying there for six months, letting the community know who arranged it.

Certainly no question as to who is behind the Community Hall project!

Noah Hinds - NYSF Awardee, offered Tuckwell Scholarship ANU

In January this year I had the greatest privilege to be sponsored by Rotary to attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. Since then I have applied for and been offered the Tuckwell Scholarship from the ANU. This scholarship includes approximately $21,000 for the duration of my undergraduate degree; this could go to a maximum of five years and be in total over $100,000. For me to be one of the over seven hundred applicants who received the one of the twenty five scholarship positions is an absolute honour and something that I wouldn’t have achieved if it wasn’t for the Jimboomba Rotary Club and affiliated district clubs for sponsoring my application into the NYSF, which is where I first heard of the scholarship and got so keen at the chance to attend the ANU next year that I applied. Thanks so much for all that you have done for me and the community. Noah Hinds.

[It must also be mentioned that Noah was given an Honorary Membership of his sponsoring club, Jimboomba. Congratulations!]

Mark Daniel Maloney declared 2019-20 RI President Nominee

Having received no challenges, RI President Ian H.S. Riseley declared Mark Daniel Maloney as Rotary’s president-nominee on 1st October. He will be elected at the 2018 RI Convention in Toronto, Canada, and will become president on 1 July 2019.

Click here for more details.
Fun and Grown-up’s?
Play isn’t a character defect; it’s the builder of character, developing persistence, competence, mastery and social skills that take us beyond perceived limitations.

That problem is called adulthood. Those who are afflicted with this condition have trouble focusing on nearby objects of amusement and the realm that delivers the most enjoyment per square inch: play.

We live in a culture obsessed with wringing an external result from everything we do......but why not have both...a result and fun.

Check out Ashmore’s President! Outcome:
a house and a well for a family in Cambodia and is he having fun...you tell me!!!! Click on this link to check it out yourself!

# FUN is for everybody
# FUN will keep you young
# FUN through charity will encourage more participation

Suzie Annelie (1): RoFUNtary (FUN in Rotary)

Registrations for the District Conference 2018 are now open

Conference Chairman Jo Gorman and her team have been busy, beavering behind the scenes. Next March's District Conference at Seaworld is coming together nicely, thank you.

Click on this link to learn all about it, where you can also register. Attendance at the conference, including attendance to all the keynote speakers is free; individual meals and the Saturday night entertainment naturally attract a fee.

Registrations are now open.

Registrations are now open for one of the major Rotary Conferences of 2018. Rotary International President Ian Riseley will be there. Click on this link for full details and to register.

“You don’t really disagree until you’ve actually listened to what the other person has to say.”

Bret Stephens, NYT journalist, ‘The dying art of disagreement’
The people who live in Lismore call it God’s country. Until it rains. And when it does, it rains, as it did when it (again) flooded earlier this year…. Obviously, when the Government designed the new Lismore Base Hospital, it must have been on a nice, sunny day. Multi Multi Million dollars. A Bus Stop nearby. But no shelter, nowhere to sit! Enter the Rotarians at Lismore. They provided a shelter and seat for the public as they proceed from the newly established multi storey car park, to the hospital via a pedestrian crossing. This project was completed at a cost of $5,500 - so, you see, it doesn’t have to cost in the six digits to make a difference!

Second, our Club resolved to help the local GROW organisation. [no mate, nothing to do with grass or yellow mush-rooms. That’s about 20 miles further north of Lismore... @ Ed.] GROW Australia, which is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year, is a mental health grass roots organisation, similar in concept to Alcoholics Anonymous. GROW has helped individuals recover from mental illness and allowing them to recover self-esteem, self-confidence and overcome isolation. The Lismore area is a “hot spot” for mental illness suffers and the Lismore GROW group set up a “Café GROW” to better meet their needs by providing a decent cup of coffee and the socialising that goes with that, as well as providing money to help fund the operation of their Café.

However, they needed a proper coffee making machine. Thus, the Rotary Club of Lismore West came to the rescue and provide and had installed in the Café GROW in October 2016, a commercial coffee machine at a cost of $4,000. Sadly, in the March 2017 floods, the Café GROW was severely inundated and very badly damaged. Consequently, the Rotary Club of Lismore West has since had the coffee machine repaired. In addition, club members have personally replaced the Café GROW floor, at a cost of over $3,000.
Why Support The Rotary Foundation?

1. The Rotary Foundation is Rotary’s only official charity, not to be confused with Rotary related programs such as Australian Rotary Health, ROMAC and RAWCS.
2. The Rotary Foundation provides funds for Rotarians to engage in local and international service mainly through district and global grants.
3. 91% of funds are spent directly on programs focused in 6 areas.
4. The constitution of every club requires support for The Rotary Foundation.
5. Last year, of 51 clubs in D9640, only 40 contributed to the Annual Fund and 35 contributed to the PolioPlus Fund.
6. Every $1 given to PolioPlus is matched by $2 from the Gates Foundation. We need the support of every Rotarian and club if we are to deliver our promise to rid the world of polio.
7. Personal giving to the PolioPlus Fund or the Annual Fund is tax deductible.
8. The Rotary Foundation has consistently rated 4 stars (Charity Navigator’s highest rating) and was ranked #3 in the ‘Top 10 Charities Changing the World in 2016’.
9. Your contributions go to St George Bank in Parramatta, Sydney where they are paid out to Rotary Foundation programs. They do not go to the USA.

By PDG Tony Heading

Support The Rotary Foundation with these great gift ideas.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Melton Valley, this is the only Rotary Cakes and Puddings approved by District Governor Darrell Brown.

For every cake or pudding, $2.00 goes to The Rotary Foundation and $2.20 goes to your club.

Click here to download the full flyer and order form.

Effective philanthropy requires a lot of time and creativity - the same kind of focus and skills that building a business requires.

Bill Gates
When I set my DG Goals #1 & #2 I didn’t realise how critical they would be to the survival of our district as we know it.

- DG Goal #1 - Expose Rotary to Friends & Acquaintances (Each Rotarian to invite at least two people along to a Rotary event or function)
- DG Goal #2 - Promote Member Retention

In essence, these goals are aimed at hopefully maintaining & growing our membership. Australia wide we lost over 1021 in the last year. Membership in D9640 fell to 1192. Fifteen years before, membership in D9640 was 1530.

Automatic redistricting occurs when membership falls to 1100. We don’t have to agree to redistricting until we reach 1100 but statistics to remain above that figure are not encouraging. Whilst we can still have a say in what happens to us, meetings around Australia of the G Trains have revealed a revolutionary approach to this problem - 1 district in WA; 1 district in SA; 3 or 4 districts in NSW, 2 districts in Qld & so on. Districts become mega districts.

The map below outlines the proposals (click on it for full size). D9650, the district to the south of us, does not have its southern boundary altered but the northern boundary moves up to just south of the Qld border. Six clubs south of Evans Head / Tenterfield form part of the new district south. In the other direction our northern boundary extends dramatically up to just north of Gympie effectively creating a mega district with 3,672 Rotarians & 163 clubs.

How is that to be managed? The concept of Assistant Governors probably disappears & is replaced with Regional Governors to assist a District Governor who couldn’t possibly visit each club unless combined meetings or online meetings are introduced. We will have to look at how Rotary is run differently. It is still on the drawing board but the mood at a meeting in Sydney & a Zoom meeting in Qld during October suggest that we cannot remain the way we are. Change is in the wind. If we don’t agree to a new district structure for the next 15 years, we will become the meat in the sandwich & eventually squeezed out.

Of course we don’t have to agree to this concept at my district conference because our numbers are still above 1100. If we don’t agree, we will not have any say on how we will be divided up in the future. To not agree to a redistricting (in the opinion of DGN Harry, DGE Terry & me) would be short sighted. My DG goals #1 & 2 will not achieve the membership numbers that I would like or that would fit the concept of a mega district. They might only stop the slide downwards but there is no evidence of that yet. Now is our chance to steer our future. I have talked to the clubs affected & there seems to be no adverse reaction to the proposal.

Redistricting will be effective as of 1st July 2021.

Click on this link to read Change or Perish, a well written and thought provoking article by Noel Trevaskis OAM, Rotary International Director. In essence: re-read his title.

Click on this link to read an article which deals with the “nitty gritty” of Redistricting, published from the Zone 8 regional directorate, (includes Australia and New Zealand). It also includes a page of Frequently Asked Questions. Both these articles are in the Members only / Documents area. You need to login.
Every Rotary Club has a “go to” person when something needs to be done. And, as is not uncommon, behind every great man is a great woman. It is fair to say that in the Rotary Club of Casino, that person is Bill Darragh and his charming, down-to-earth wife Lyn.

Bill began his working life as an apprentice butcher 59 years ago. After a lifetime in the butchery trade, Darragh’s Plaza Butchery is now the premier supplier of quality meat in Casino. Bill and his wife Lyn have two married children. As a family they have always been to the forefront of community service activities. Today, Bill is often surrounded by his grandchildren in his Butcher Shop.

Every year for the past 35 years, at the iconic Casino Beef Week about half a tonne of butchered beef is being trucked into Casino to feed the masses. When the festival began in 1982 there were 13 butcher shops in the middle of Casino. Today, Darragh’s Plaza Butchery is one of only two that are still in business now.

For the Rotary Club of Casino, of which Bill has been a member for some 35 years, including President for 3 terms, Beef Week is the main fundraiser.

The proverbial Quiet Achiever of the Rotary Club of Casino, Bill has had hands-on involvement in many Rotary projects. For the Casino Rotary Club’s 50th Anniversary on the 12th November 1988 Bill, and past member the late Bill Parish, completed the construction of a 2-Metre high rotating Rotary Wheel.

Windara Communities is a supported workplace for people with disabilities. Bill has been involved from the start as a financial contributor, building paths and fundraising. He is well known for supplying and cooking beef shanks for fundraising shank nights at Windara. The Rotary River walk path, Graffiti Removal Day, Rotary Bowel Cancer Program, Aquaboxes and Garage Sales have all been part of Bill’s Rotary involvement.

Rotarian Bill Darragh epitomises the 2017/18 Rotary International Theme of Rotary: Making a Difference.
Benji has made a very generous gesture to all District 9640 clubs of donating 50,000 bottles of water. Clubs can purchase any quantity (no limit) for $1.50 each (min Ctn of 24). All proceeds will go to the Malaria Vaccine Project. Your club can then sell the bottles for whatever price - clubs keep the profit for whatever project you would like to allocate it to.

Click here to email your order to PDG Sandra Doumani srmd@bigpond.net.au

Our House Lismore: a $5.5 Million project adjacent to the Lismore Base Hospital that capitalises on the synergies of business, government and the community working together. It provides 20 rooms of affordable accommodation, primarily for cancer patients and carers. It all started back in 2004 with the forming of the Northern Rivers Community Cancer Foundation with a Rotarian member and director representing the local community service groups.

We were successful in securing funding from the Federal, State and Local government and the Cancer Council as well as raising over $51 in the community. In Ballina, Rotary co-ordinated all community service clubs to support the project and raised over $200,000. All Rotary Clubs from the Ballina, Lismore and Alstonville region were active in fund raising. Throughout the region we had Lions, Quota, Scope, View, Inner Wheel and Masonic Clubs supporting the project as well as sports and social clubs, businesses and individuals contributing.

But support did not cease following the opening in 2012. The Lord Taverners now co-ordinate community groups to provide a social dinner and the opportunity for guests (patients and carers) to come together on two evenings a week. This initiative is supported by local service clubs as well as local business groups such as banks, real estate agents, accountants, solicitors and rural fire brigades providing a dinner.....and this service continues to grow with local school students now providing a meal once a month.

Apart from looking after our guests there is a strong focus at Our House on conducting a best practices operation and we are successful in covering all operating costs from room rentals. The benefit of this strategy is that it allows the ongoing flow of donations to be utilized to assist those guests experiencing financial hardship.

Equally important, is how our guests feel about their time with us. Here are some examples from our guest surveys:

“it was so lovely to be able to come to somewhere familiar and a home away from home”... “the staff are amazingly friendly and helpful. Thank you for that”... “All my family are blown away with how lovely Our House is and the social dinners are marvellous”.

It goes to show that with likeminded groups and individuals coming together great results can be achieved....it’s all about that “synergy”.

Brian Henry, Rotary Club of Goonellabah
On a rainy Saturday morning in October, Rotary joined Gold Coast Catchment Association and Gold Coast City Council to plant 10,000 Trees in Robina Parklands area in the Gold Coast. In keeping with Rotary International President Ian Riseley's call, our District Governor Darrell Brown (holding up the banner) led the Rotary & Rotaract team of 53 volunteers to plant two trees each for our 1225 Rotarians in our District 9640. Past District Governors Graham A Jones, Ian Yaker and Heather Yarker too joined this mega effort to save planet earth. Asst. District Governor Karen Wibberley did a super job to mobilize volunteers from 5 Rotary Clubs and our young Rotaractors to action.

Photo by Andy Rajapakse (in high-vis vest on right)

Gold Coast Rotarians plant 2,450 trees

Exclusive invitation to Rotarians to tour the Gold Coast Uni Hospital

This is a unique opportunity to learn about the state of the art health care at the Gold Coast University Hospital, tour the facility, meet their ICU and Trauma teams, and engage with the quality care they deliver to our community every day.

When: Sunday 12th November 2017, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Where: Ground Floor Outdoor Retail Deck (overlooking the Commonwealth Games Village),
1 Hospital Boulevard, Southport QLD
Free Parking.

Please RSVP by 1st November 2017 to Sabrina on: sabrina@gchfoundation.org.au or 07 5594 6986

Are you male and over 50? You may qualify for a free bone, muscle and fat scan at Gold Coast University. Details: www.liftmor.org or email Amy Harding or call her on 0410 616 596. Your Editor is grabbing it!
Where will District Governor Darrell be?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location (click on link for map)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Gold Coast Young Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>QT Gold Coast, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Broadbeach RC 45th Anniversary</td>
<td>Southport Golf Club, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Nov 2017</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>‘All about Rotary’ Q &amp; A online session</td>
<td>Click here to register, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Allora Rotary Club</td>
<td>Railway Hotel, Allora, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<td>7th Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Iluka-Woombah Rotary Club</td>
<td>Iluka Bowls Club, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<td>12th Nov 2017</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Gold Coast University Hospital Tour</td>
<td>1 Hospital Blvd, Southport, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<td>13th Nov 2017</td>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>Lismore Rotary Club</td>
<td>Lismore Workers Club, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<td>14th Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Beaudesert Rotary Club</td>
<td>Logan &amp; Albert Hotel, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Nov 2017</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Robina Rotary Club</td>
<td>Gold Coast Italo Australian Club, <a href="http://rotary9640.org/Events">link</a></td>
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More details of District Events on the District Website: [http://rotary9640.org/Events](http://rotary9640.org/Events)

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**So much happening in the next few weeks! Here are just a few. Click on the images for details.**

**4th November:**
Tenterfield Jazz Festival

**7th November:**
Coolangatta/Tweed Melbourne Cup Luncheon

**Wednesday 8th November:** Special Preview exclusive for Rotarians and their friends. Various clubs are arranging it in their local cinemas: Details on district Home Page.