APRIL is
Maternal and Child Health Care Month

With projects running throughout much of the developing world, there are a multitude of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in overseas RAWCS projects.

Rotary makes high-quality health care available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger.

We expand access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented.

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN
Rotary provides education, immunisations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

Your District RAWCS contact in Bren Milsom – 0407 533 048

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”. 

Comments from the DG
What role do we play in society as a service organisation when our community is experiencing the most rapid and impactful event that our generations will witness since the Second World War?

The effects of the COVID19 virus has been brutal and relentless and as I look around the community that I live and work in, I see people and work colleagues with expressions of confusion, uncertainty and perhaps a little fear. Young people, like my children, with brand new families and good jobs were only several weeks ago leading a privileged life with relative security, great social life and few stresses. What difference a few short weeks make!

So, what is it that we can do to help our communities at this time of uncertainty and difficulty? I like to think that the world is still a great place and Australia is the best country in the world to live. We are a proud nation, young but full of fight and determination. We are a country that leads in many facets of life, intellectually, academically, through innovation, literacy, music and sport - yet we are a nation of untapped ability that can take us in brand-new directions.

Some recent behaviour of people that we have witnessed suggests that as a community we have become a little selfish and untrusting and perhaps lacking the spirit of what it means to be Australian. This is an attitude that requires us to assess and prioritise what is important to us as a people and a community. As Rotarians we hold our values high and expect all to live by those values – The 4 Way Test.
For 100 years, Rotary in Australia has been encouraging us all to achieve, to push the boundaries and take up the demands of leadership within our community, to seek better ways of doing and continue the work and achievements of those who came before.

Our engagement with communities across the world is imperative and ongoing support of Rotary programs to eradicate Polio and disease across the world, our research programs behind human brain research and mental health must continue. The work Rotary does to alleviate poverty by providing clean water and sanitation, education to those less fortunate and economic development programs is more important today than ever before.

To adopt a positive posture and challenge the world is hard and at times frustrating. On the other hand, taking a negative stance is easy as it is the negative tendency that is usually adopted by the masses. The true leaders and innovators amongst us see opportunity and a gateway to even greater achievements and success during times of difficulty. Our challenge as an organisation is to encourage and guide, develop strong healthy minds to seek answers and find ways that will develop the future of our communities in a way that is exciting, engaging, sustainable and peaceful.

It is important that as Rotarians, we continue to build our organisation and support the communities that we seek to serve by encouraging our community leaders and politicians to nurture and grow the most precious resource we have, our youth. Now is the time for us, as Rotarians, to step forward and offer the means by which we can develop and assume responsibility for future generations. As Rotarians, we need to demonstrate that the future is bright and that our children and grandchildren have great things to look forward to. Rotary can’t afford to blink or step backwards, to do so would be letting ourselves and future generations down.

So, while it is difficult for us to think about Rotary and the challenges that are before us at this time, it is important that we maintain our connections so we can keep focus on our clubs and our members. (Rotary Connects the World) and (Rotary Connects Communities).

Most of us have a computer and the ability to hold meetings online, I recommend to all Club Presidents to conduct meetings on-line. Although this will be a new experience for many, I think it will be a positive experience. Let’s take this opportunity to look at what we do and how can we do it better to be even more effective in our community.

MEMBERSHIP

It has been encouraging to see the membership figures released today and note that 9640 continues to build on its membership with 1267 members and 55 clubs @ 31 March 2020 a net increase of 90 members and 1 new club for the year so far. I encourage you all to continue this trend and for those who are meeting on-line, inducting new members on-line is an option to be encouraged.

End of year

As we roll toward the end of the year it is apparent that changeover events are going to be very quiet affairs with meeting restrictions still likely to be with us. However, it is necessary that we complete these formalities and hand over to the next President Elect and their leadership team, allowing them to begin the 2020-21 year as planned.

As difficult as this is going to be, it is important that we remember to attend to activities that we normally do at this time of year. Ensuring that we meet our commitments to the Rotary Foundation, End Polio Now and Every Rotarian Every Year, The Malaria Vaccine Project and others are all important and where clubs and individuals can contribute, I encourage you to do so.

I am distressed that the 2019/20 Presidents may not have the opportunity to celebrate their year at changeover - many of you have had an excellent year and are deserving of many accolades. I also take this opportunity to congratulate those clubs who were successful with District Awards this year, well done! (see list of successful clubs further in this newsletter).

I would like to suggest that it would be terrific if clubs could send a summary of your club and President’s achievements along with some photos and incoming board members for the 2020/21 year to your local newspaper. This would be a
great way to show your community that as a club and organisation we are still active and ready to serve our communities.

I look forward to seeing your creativity over the coming months and know that all clubs will come back stronger than ever and be ready for a big year under the leadership of **DGE Andy Rajapakse** as we recover from this year of disruption.

Finally, I take this opportunity to congratulate Rotarian and current Assistant Governor Karen Thomas who has been selected as District Governor Nominee Designate.

**Have a great month | Harry J. Bolton | District Governor 2019-20**

### DISTRICT AWARDS

Congratulations to all the Clubs who were nominated for awards. The awards recognise the projects and work that Rotarians are doing in our District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>CONGRATULATIONS</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Club Communication</td>
<td>Hope Island</td>
<td>Website, Newsletter, Facebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Increase</td>
<td>Tenterfield</td>
<td>18 (with members of the Satellite Club)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Service</td>
<td>Satellite Club of Tenterfield – The Granite Belt</td>
<td>The Satellite club sent a 40ft. shipping container with school related items to Fiji - the items to be shared between two schools. For more than 2 years Rotarians and Friends in the Granite Belt gathered school related items for inclusion in the container. These items include 500 chairs, desks, books, stationery, computers, printers, sewing machines, kitchenware, sporting equipment, clothing, linen and Days for Girls Kits.</td>
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<td>Community Service Award</td>
<td>Casino</td>
<td>Rappville Fire Disaster Recovery- clearing of fencing lines, supplying tanks, poly pipe and support to people affected by fires. Established a Community Disaster Advice Centre for people to seek assistance from community organisations and govt. bodies.</td>
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<td>Vocational Excellence Award</td>
<td>Anne Prendergast Mt. Warning AM (Murwillumbah)</td>
<td>Ann is a nurse and a Regional Coordinator, developing Disaster Response protocols and procedures for regional areas. Ann is a clinical facilitator for QLD TAFE and assists in the training of hundreds of Enrolled Nurses. Ann volunteered in Rwanda as part of Operation Open Heart, assisting in performing open heart surgery. Ann is actively involved with Kenya Health organisation. Ann formed the Tweed Valley Days for Girls chapter.</td>
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<td>Service To Youth</td>
<td>Maclean</td>
<td>RYDA is a Rotary sponsored program developed in conjunction with road safety authorities working in the learner driving industry. It is directed at young people (Year 10/11) and aims to develop an increased awareness of the issues facing young drivers as they first start out on our roads. Over 2000 students have attended the program which has been coordinated and implemented by the Maclean RC for the past 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Rotary Health</td>
<td>e-Club Nextgen QLD</td>
<td>Over $5,000 contributed.</td>
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<td>Rotary-Interact Involvement</td>
<td>Coomera River</td>
<td>Coomera River Rotary supports two Interact clubs – Saint Stephens’ College and Assisi Catholic College. Both clubs currently have over 40 members each.</td>
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<td>Public Relations Award-General</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>The club has staged major community events, opened up meetings to visitors and visibly connected with community events as volunteers supporting worthy causes. Since March 2019, over 450 non Rotarians have accepted invitations to attend Gold Coast Rotary’s meetings to hear special guest speakers or just to hear about Rotary.</td>
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Public Relations Award:(Single Event) Ballina-on-Richmond
The club held a ‘Ballina says NO to Domestic Violence’ walk for the Ballina Community and funded the Love Bites education program in local schools, which teaches students about Respectful Relationships.

Best Endeavour Award Nerang
RC Nerang hosted ‘Get Ya Head Right’, a fund raising luncheon aimed at addressing the mental health of all rural persons living and working in drought affected areas.

Significant Achievement Hope Island
Water for the West. The project enabled the public to donate money and bottled water to support communities out west. 700,000 litres of water was delivered families, school students and the farming community in the Granite Belt and surrounding areas.

Best Multi Club Project Griffith Gold Coast
$35,000 was raised to purchase a ROTEM (rotational thromboelastography) machine for Robina Hospital. The machine is used in trauma, surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics.

GLOBAL VIEW ON ROTARY MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Brian King, Director of Membership Development RI, has reported that worldwide membership is 1,216,706 (This represents growth of 27,240 above the 1 July start figure).

The worldwide membership report by zone is available HERE. District 9640 (zone 8) is on page 8 of the report. The growth in District 9640 is the result of 4 years of teamwork from the Membership and Public Image Committees collaborating to grow & retain members.

The Story of Gold Coast Rotary’s Growth
President Rowan Johnstone of Gold Coast Rotary is proud of his club's phenomenal development. Listen as President Rowan explains what GC Rotary did to grow their club, then outlines how they’re successfully engaging and retaining their new members. It’s not rocket science - just good planning, attention to detail and a focus on enjoying Rotary. (Source: FB Membership Voice).

Watch this Q&A with Jessie Harman and Barbara Mifsud and hear Jessie’s inspirational talk about leading change through COVID-19. Jessie discusses how she sees COVID-19 affecting the Rotary landscape, gives ideas about things clubs can do right now to engage members, provide service and remain relevant during these trying times. (Source: FB Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office - Parramatta).

Andy Rajapakse | DGE 2020-21 | Public Image Chairman

VALE PAST RI DIRECTOR AND TREASURER BRIAN KNOWLES

Rotary lost a true superstar with the passing of past RI Director and Treasurer Brian Knowles on March 8 at the age of 89. Brian joined the Rotary Club of Sandgate, Qld, in 1960 and quickly became president in 1963-64. He served as governor of what is now District 9600 in 1969-70, at the very young age of 38.

He joined the Rotary Club of Parkwood, Qld, when he and Nancy moved to the Gold Coast and was a source of great wisdom for District 9640, where an annual award was instituted in their name for significant and substantial service to Rotary. (Source: RDU Magazine April edition).

Read the full story in the RDU Magazine HERE
Attached are two copies of the Tenterfield Blah, which we had planned to distribute during the Saturday morning & Sunday morning of District Conference.

The Tenterfield Blah is a satirical newspaper, and was originally created for the Federation Festival in Tenterfield. The creators came out of retirement specifically for the Rotary District Conference.

Caitlin Reid | President | RC of Tenterfield

*Disclaimer none of the articles/stories are actually true*
On to Saturday afternoon: Well, she did name her organisation after a saint. One wonders whether, in ancient times, Gemma Sisia of the School of St Jude would not have qualified herself? What a dynamo! Brought up on a farm in nearby Armidale as the only girl among eight kids, she certainly had some grounding for her future call in life. After graduating with a double degree in Biochemistry/Genetics and a Dip Ed she volunteered to work in Uganda at a Girls Centre, teaching maths, science and... sewing. The experience ultimately led her to Tanzania where she started the School of St Jude. You should have been there! (In Tenterfield, I mean, not necessarily in Tanzania...) It’s well worth your time to read up about Gemma on her website – click here.

The Business Session was quick and crisp, as the individual clubs’ delegates were equally keen to share a beer or a glass of wine and join “The Future Leaders Networking Drinks” group. [What a name! How long does it take a committee to come up with this?]

Dinner was again at an unconventional venue: the Tenterfield Transport Museum. Surely many of the older patrons felt a light shudder running down their spines and goose pimples forming on their arms as they were seated among highly polished ancient Holden FJ’s, Chevrolets and various other “Yank Tanks”. There would have been the odd gentleman, thinking he was unobserved, who remembered driving his girlfriend to the dance on Saturday night, gently stealing a brief touch of his lady’s knee. Yes, in the good ol’ days, real cars had chrome bumper bars and bench seats front and back. Since seatbelts and ‘Distracted Driving’ laws had yet to arrive, this enabled the girl to “help” driving, holding on to her partner with both hands, just making sure he wouldn’t fall out. BTW, that was the principal reason for the invention of the Column Gear Shift... [Yes, Henrietta, she could also slide over all the way to the left, ostensibly because she wouldn’t want to distract the driver... ☺]

On to Sunday morning. In my youth, one of the most annoying sights was that chap who on Sunday morning turned up bright eyed and bushy tailed, regardless of the fact that four hours earlier he had rolled home after an all-nighter pick wack paddy whack. Well, this mob must have all been in that class! OK, they had more than 4 hours of sleep though. Some went on the Heritage Walk with DG Harry. But when the bus, returning from the Champagne Breakfast on Bald Rocks pulled up, the loud chorus of “… Taaaiime is a traveller, Tenterfield Saddeler…” indicated that Champagne at breakfast indeed works. Every time!

The first Keynote was given by Father Charlie Burrows. No, I can’t say that I’ve met him before either. Just as well: you would meet him on Indonesia’s Death Row, where the Irish Catholic priest is often the last man to speak with the inmates. What a personality, what intense power he emits! On a visually more artistic note, the second speaker of the morning was Al Mabin. This lady is one of Australia’s foremost landscape photographers. A picture tells a thousand words and my feeble descriptive powers would be totally inadequate. So, simply jump to her website, where you can buy several of her books, eponymously named The Drover, The Grower, The Driver. The latter is all about the big Mack Roadtrains one finds in Outback Australia.

After DGE Andy Rajapakse whetted our appetite for next year’s conference, PRIP William Boyd (he is from Brisbane, by the way) summarized the conference. In closing, he recalled a time when, on a visit to the Philippines, he met Ynday Mijares, who was infected with the Polio virus. That same lady, many years later, became the Charter President of her Rotary club. Ynday had portrayed the Rotary Wheel as a candle God had sent her. I quote Bill Boyd:

“In my years of traveling the around the world, I’ve often thought of that candle, that ‘Candle of Hope’ that is the Rotary Wheel. Because one of the saddest things you see as you move around the world is that of people really suffering, the people who live in the most dreadful conditions. What you see when you look into their eyes is a total lack of hope. And it is Rotary that stretches out and gives them that hope. Be that in the hay runs, now almost a distant memory, be that in the recent Bushfire appeals through RAWCS. And now all that is about to be vastly superseded by the potential horror of a COVID-19 pandemic. Without getting unduly sentimental, Lorna and I love our family. But very, very strongly Lorna and I love Rotary. Everything we have seen throughout the world, everything we have seen here at this wonderful District Conference, leads us to believe that this is a wonderful organisation to be part of.”

Franz Huber | Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc

*Disclaimer: This story is fictional
The Rotary Club of Lismore West had a very pleasant surprise in March, when almost $3000 came to us as a generous gift from our Sister Rotary Club of Yamato Takada in Japan, to assist those suffering from recent bushfires. The money was hand delivered by Prof. Peter Wilson of Southern Cross University who was in Yamato Takada recently. He passed the very ornate envelope containing the funds to Graeme Hargreaves Secretary of Lismore West.

Lismore West added to the very welcome donation from Yamato Takada and sent $4000 to the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond to be used in their project to rehabilitate the area of Rappville, south west of Lismore, which had been destroyed by bushfires.

Our cheque was augmented by funds from their club and went towards purchase of a good quantity of metal fence posts and fencing wire, to aid the new beginning of farming activity, plus buying a lot of $100 Visa cards for fire victims. These cards can only be used for food and fuel. RC Ballina-on-Richmond’s bulletin includes a very poignant letter from the local lady in Rappville they are using to assess recipients. Obviously a lot of people there are having a rough time, some still sleeping in burnt out buildings or vehicles, some without running water.

Graeme Hargreaves  |  Secretary  |  Rotary Club of Lismore West Inc

RC of Ballina-on-Richmond supporting the Salvation Army

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond has responded to a drastic need in Ballina to provide meals to those in need. As a result of COVID19 many support agencies that provided support have reduced the service they offer. This had left many in our community in crisis, not having funds to purchase food and other necessities.

In response to this the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond has partnered with the Cove Restaurant and the Ballina Salvation Army to provide donated grocery items and free cooked and prepared meals.

Dave Harmon  President RC of Ballina-on-Richmond

RC of Currumbin Coolangatta Tweed helping our Wildlife

In response to a late call from Bunnings Tweed, our Club was asked to manage the Sausage BBQ on Sunday 15th March. Considering we only just recovered from our Car Boot the previous Sunday, well done.

Recently the club was presented with a $20,000 grant cheque from Federal MP Karen Andrews, to help purchase a Flexible Endoscope for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. The Rotary Club matched the Minister’s grant dollar for dollar. The funds will be used to purchase a flexible endoscope which is used to retrieve fish hooks and fish lines from water birds, turtles and other animals that has ingested a foreign body.

Peter Allen  |  Exec. Sec.  |  RC Currumbin Coolangatta Tweed Inc
I am delighted to share our first Malaria Vaccine Project Newsletter for 2020 and our sixth issue since we began this Project. Newsletter Chair, Past District Governor Sandra Doumany and her editorial team have done a wonderful job in compiling stories of interest associated with the malaria research at Griffith University, the fundraising, Shauna’s Project, the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Race Day and the launch with our latest corporate sponsor MBA Lawyers. There are also two gripping accounts on what it is like to experience malaria at first hand.

As Professor Michael Good AO so aptly describes, we are really on the cusp of great things with his promising malaria vaccine PlasProtecT. We say a big THANK YOU to our District and its leaders, to Shauna for her project, our Clubs and Rotarians who have been the backbone of this life-saving project for nearly 4 years. Please continue to support Shauna’s Project and help us save the lives of those 400,000 children and Mum’s who die every year from malaria.

With warm wishes and sincere thanks and do enjoy our Newsletter.

Chairman: PDG Graham Jones | Malaria Vaccine Project www.malariavaccineproject.com

Meetings online are our ‘new normal’ for the foreseeable future. Clubs in District 9640 have embraced Zoom or other online meeting platforms to stay connected and have meetings. Clubs have been trialling this method with varying degrees of success. Mt Warning AM (Murwillumbah) recently had a Pyjama Party Zoom meeting.

Many clubs have opened up their meetings to other Rotarians and friends. If you are interested in attending other meetings online, many clubs in our District welcome you with virtual open arms. Contact the club direct to get their meeting details.

The Rotary Club of Mt Lawley, WA has created a shareable database of online Rotary meetings from all over the world so you can ‘visit’ other clubs. You can add your club’s details HERE

Do you want to visit a club in Australia or another country, then check out the online database HERE

Need some ideas for staying connected during social distancing, then click HERE