



**April is Environmental month.** The Environment is Rotary's 7th Area of Focus. We all recognise that we are custodians of the land on which we live and work and we all have a responsibility to ensure we care for our environment as best we can. When you think about it, any area of focus that we are working in would benefit from having environmental sustainability.

Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors are very much adopting the environment challenge. We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of our natural resources. Our Rotary Foundation has committed many millions of dollars towards environmental causes. Let's keep up this great work.

One of the Environmental sustainability initiatives that our District has committed to for many years is Donations in Kind (DIK) or as it is now known, Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment ([RARE](#)). Clubs in our District are committed to supporting our Pacific Island neighbours by recycling and repurposing used medical, school and other general equipment and then transporting these much sought after goods to countries in need. This program is supported by many clubs and does amazing work and is run under the umbrella of RAWCS.



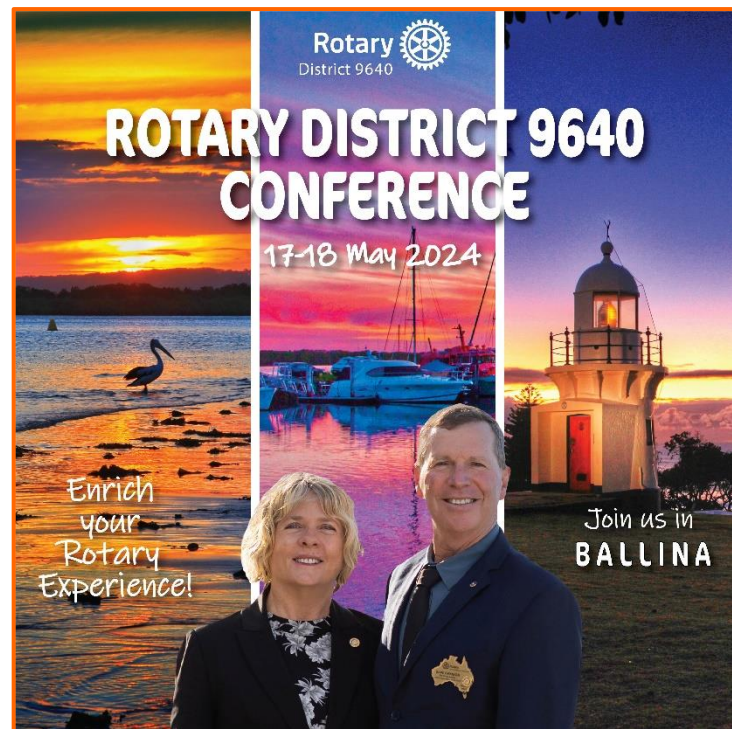
I am pleased to share with you that our District Governor Nominee John Oomen has been elected to the board of RAWCS. John has had a relationship with RAWCS for several years now being involved with support initiatives for bush fires and the recent devastating floods on the Northern Rivers. Congratulations John, keep up the great work.

Fellowship and Friendship is Rotary's No.1 Core Value. This year we have had over 150 new members join clubs in our District. What better way to introduce these new members to Rotary than to bring them along to our Rotary District Conference in Ballina on the 17th & 18th of May. This is Rotary at its best and is the

highlight of our Rotary year. Be part of a new exciting experience. Our District Conference is a great way to catch up with friends, form new friendships, network, learn more about what Rotary does in our District, and have a fun and enjoyable time.

You may well remember that 2 years ago the Northern Rivers experienced the worst natural disaster in Australia's history. We in Rotary are committed to 'creating hope in the world'. While many businesses around Lismore and Ballina have re-opened, the recovery from the floods continues. This is another reason why I encourage you to come along to our Conference and help revitalise our communities.

While at the Conference we will have your Rotary Club banner available for you to collect and take back to your club as many of these banners no longer meet the current Rotary International branding requirements. Come and join us, Robii and I very much look forward to seeing you there. **Bookings:** [HERE](#)



Our 'Hope Springs' initiative is now complete and we have 3 of our Rotary clubs that will receive matching grants towards their nominated registered charity or organisation. They are in order of funds donated;

- \* *Coomera River* \* *Hope Island* \* *Ballina-on-Richmond*

Thank you to the very kind and generous members in our District who committed their own personal funds towards this wonderful opportunity to enhance the work of Rotary in supporting many other charities.

Our YEP program is going from strength to strength. There has been a mountain of work undertaken by the past committee led by David Kenny and the current committee now led by Kath Koch to get this program up and running again. Robii and I had the pleasure of hosting Yelizaveta Navrotska (Eliz) from Kyiv (Kiev) in Ukraine. Our club was delighted to have Eliz attend and speak at our meeting last week. It is hard for us to imagine what it would be like to live in a country and city that is at war and has been in conflict now for over ten years. More than half of Eliz's life.



Our District sponsored Eliz on a one-way exchange by the wonderful host clubs of Coomera River and Ashmore. DGE Lisa sowed the seed and as a result we are providing Eliz with an amazing experience to live, study and play in one of the greatest democracies in the world.

Rotary Clubs in our District such as Iluka-Woombah, Yamba, Ballina-on-Richmond, Maclean, Broadwater Southport, Goondiwindi, Murwillumbah Central, Ashmore & Gold Coast as well as some private donations have been very supportive and generous in helping fund Eliz's exchange however, more financial assistance is required. District YEP Chair Kath Koch has put out a call to clubs to see if you could provide some additional financial support for Eliz throughout her stay here in Australia (info [HERE](#)).

Last Saturday we had our District MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) in Tweed Heads. MUNA is a significant Rotary International youth program.



Senior high school students develop an awareness of the United Nations and the countries they represent at a simulated UN Assembly. This program provides an excellent forum for students to develop and practice their public speaking skills whilst debating on topical world issues.

Congratulations to the following winners;

**Best Speaker** – Ella McCluskey representing France, from Lindisfarne High School

**Best Team** – representing South Africa, from Somerset College

**Team Encouragement Award** – representing India, from Tweed River High School



A huge thank you to MUNA Chair Jessica Keast and her team on providing a great day of challenges, fun, education and friendship. Thank you to the many Rotary volunteers who assisted on the day.

**May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month** with the aim being to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence. This year the focus is on sending a clear message that domestic and family violence is unacceptable. We urge everyone to recognise the signs of domestic and family violence, to reach out and speak up. On Wednesday 1st of May there will be a Webinar hosted by Rotary District 9685 with some very capable speakers. I encourage you to register [HERE](#).

Work on the Zone 8 Domestic and Family Violence project continues with more towns and cities around Australia adopting the 'Purple Friday' campaign. This is a great way to raise your club's profile, public image, connect with your community and attract new members to your club.



I would like to share with you how connecting with a cause or project that engages the community where you live, inspires other community groups who see the value in what you are doing and thus want to get involved, participate and contribute to something so worthwhile. So far this year in Ballina, we have had an International Women's Day Dinner hosted by Cherry Street Sports Club, a fitness and wellbeing group in Lennox Head hold a Gala Night, and a 'Rock n Roll' band hold a concert at Cherry Street Sports Club that in total has raised over \$15,000 towards our Domestic and Family Violence campaign. This is not the Rotary we are accustomed to. Rotary has a history and reputation of often being a fund-raising organisation for others. If you can look upstream, connect with a cause that connects with your community and they see value in it, they can and will help drive your project.



Our District membership is moving forward with our positive membership at + 21. Thank you to our clubs that participated in the Club Satisfaction Survey. While we can get in our comfort zone and believe all is good within our club, it is always worthwhile asking your members about their Rotary experience to see what

we can improve on. Overall, the results of surveys from clubs were very positive. Some of the areas we could consider improving include;

- *Developing or gaining meaningful professional connections*
- *Acknowledging or acting upon ideas put forward by your members*
- *Reducing/subsidising the cost of Rotary, mainly club dues*
- *Members inviting prospective members to your club*
- *Your club better reflecting the demographic profile of your community*



Several clubs have planned a community information event as a result of this initiative. A couple of weeks ago I attended the Gold Coast Corporate Club Rotary Information and Networking lunch. We had over 100 attendees who are motivated professionals interested in knowing more about Rotary. Feedback to date is that we have 8 new members joining this club. Your club would benefit from a community event like this. If the public don't know who you are, what you do or how to find you, how are you going to attract them to your club? Please contact Membership Chair Rowan Johnstone or your Assistant Governor to find out more.

*DG Dave*



### WELCOME MEMBERS NEW TO CLUBS

#### Ashmore

Andrew Svenson  
Norman Coventry

#### Broadwater Southport

Barry Lane

#### Burleigh Heads Rotary

Blake Lashmar  
Kenneth Jensen  
Shobha Srinivasan

#### Coomera Valley

Brian Heaton  
Roslyn Knott

#### Gold Coast Corporate

Michelle Massey  
Shannon Allen

#### Gold Coast Passport

Jose Alfaro  
Julia Bejleri

#### Gold Coast

James King

#### Hope Island

Prudence Berry

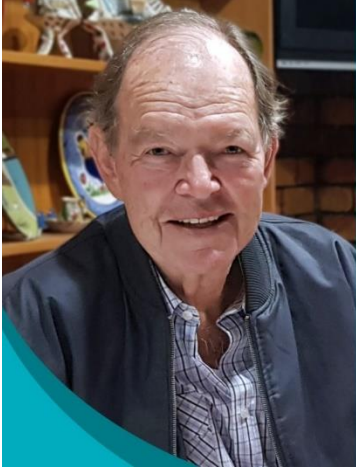
#### Surfers Sunrise

Elizabeth Celi

#### The Granite Belt

Colin Lamond





“Until a friend fell and didn’t go home, I hadn’t heard of, or even thought about falls. I speak on behalf of the older generations of Aussies and to help get a message to Australia.

**Falls are a major issue. And remember this – falls don’t discriminate.”**

**Bob Barnes** – Lismore community leader. Established Lismore’s Rotary Nightlights and Fall Prevention Committee.



Lismore West Rotary have put together a power point presentation for April Falls Month. Download it [HERE](#)



**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO START A ROTARY CLUB IN A CORPORATE BUILDING?**

**MONDAY 27 MAY 1PM - 2.30PM**  
Marina Bay Sands Hotel Convention Centre



Meet Our Panel

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Nicki Scott</b><br>RI Vice President<br>2022-23<br>Leader of Rotary<br>Great Britain<br>& Ireland<br>2021-22 | <b>Andy Rajapakse</b><br>Zone 8 Membership Director<br>District Governor 2020-21<br>Founder<br>Gold Coast Corporate<br>Rotary Club<br>D9640 Australia | <b>AnneMie Decatte</b><br>Rotarian<br>Corporate<br>Communications<br>Specialist<br>D9640 Australia | <b>Vanessa Jansen</b><br>Rotarian<br>Founder<br>Membership Director<br>Gold Coast Corporate<br>Rotary Club<br>D9640 Australia |
|---|---|--|---|

Join our interactive Breakout Session at the Rotary Convention in Singapore [convention.rotary.org](http://convention.rotary.org)

**Are you coming to the Rotary International Convention in Singapore?**

Here are two interesting Breakout Sessions organized by Rotary International featuring our Gold Coast Corporate Rotary Club and a few of our Rotary leaders from District 9640 as speakers. The annual convention is an international networking week that has attracted 14,000 Rotary leaders from 143 countries. It will be held at the iconic Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May. Open to non-Rotarians too. **Register: [www.convention.rotary.org](http://www.convention.rotary.org)**

**ROTARY YOUR WAY: Form the Club You Always Wanted!**

- DATE:** Wed., May 29
- TIME:** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- PLACE:** Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre

[convention.rotary.org](http://convention.rotary.org)



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <br><b>Yvonne Kumoji Darko</b><br>Africa                                      | <br><b>Virginia McKenzie</b><br>Seattle, USA       |
| <br><b>Tom Gump</b><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA<br>Moderator/<br>Organizer | <br><b>Steve Martin</b><br>Great Britain & Ireland |
| <br><b>Andy Rajapakse</b><br>Australia  |  |

**FOUNDATION MOMENTS**

Quick insights into *your* charity — The Rotary Foundation

**WHAT IS A PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY MEMBER?**

The Paul Harris Society recognizes people who commit to contributing US\$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved global grant. The society’s purpose is to honour and thank people for their generous and ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation.

Paul Harris Society contributions count toward several different kinds of individual recognition, and members receive a chevron-style pin and a certificate. Members are also listed in the Paul Harris Society Report.



Please click on [Paul Harris Society membership form](#) to provide this ongoing support to the Foundation!

< Visit [my.rotary.org/donate](http://my.rotary.org/donate)





Mark Anderson - Major Gifts Officer and Anke Timm - Philanthropy Supervisor Zone 8 for The Rotary Foundation



Outbound exchange students Abbey and Mikayla were in Chicago for the weekend visiting from Minnesota. They had the pleasure of meeting Mario de Camargo from Brazil, RI President Elec 2025-26 Stephanie Urchick and Past RI President Mark Maloney from the USA.



PDG Ross Smith and President Mike Shambrook of Burleigh Heads Rotary met School Principal Emosi Kuli from Fiji for his 3 month stay. He is the recipient of Rotary International Royce Abbey Vocational Scholarship.

**District 9640 Conference**  
**BALLINA RSL CLUB 17-18 MAY**  
**It's TIME to Register**

FELLOWSHIP  
 +  
 NETWORKING  
 +  
 SPEAKERS  
 +  
 SO MUCH MORE

**Bare Your Soles For Kids**  
**Rotary Broadwater Southport**  
**Club Musgrave**

**Charity Fundraiser**  
**BAREFOOT BOWLS**

**COST**  
 \$160 PER TEAM  
 OR \$40 PER PLAYER

**WHEN**  
 SUNDAY 2ND JUNE  
 FROM 8.30 AM

**WHERE**  
 MUSGRAVE HILL  
 BOWLS CLUB

**Over \$8,000 in Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes including a day trip to Lady Elliot Island**

- ★ Get a team together to join the fun
- ★ Prizes for best dressed team
- ★ Free sausage sizzle
- ★ Live entertainment
- ★ Bar Facilities open

**REGISTER TODAY**  
<https://broadwatersouthportrotary.org/page/2024-bare-your-soles-for-kids>  
 Proudly supporting  
 APRDA, Act for kids, GIVE BACK

Design & print supplied by **KwikKopy GOLD COAST**

**1949 HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
 BACK IN 1949

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**22 JUN 24**

Rotary Club Mullumbimby's  
**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
 Ocean Shores Country Club  
**1949 – 2024**  
 DETAILS TO FOLLOW