From the desk of District Governor Andy

14 August 2020

Dear DG Andy,

I would like to commend you and other District 9640 leaders for your work to strengthen Rotary. Your success has provided a very positive example for other Districts throughout our Zone.

I am particularly impressed with your initiative to start new clubs. Over the past three years you have established five clubs – Rotary Clubs of Varsity Lakes, Gold Coast Passport and Coomera Waters Rotary, along with satellite clubs of Tenterfield Granite Belt and Coomera River Mt Tamborine. Not only have you attracted new members through these clubs, you have demonstrated to the rest of our Zone how Rotary Clubs can evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of volunteers. I know you have plans to start other new clubs in the near future; I celebrate your willingness to think differently and innovatively.

I also acknowledge your efforts to enhance membership engagement within clubs in your District. The key to better retention in Rotary is ensuring our members receive value from their Rotary membership; keeping them engaged through service and fellowship is central to achieving this outcome.

Finally, I want to thank you for the support you are providing clubs and Rotarians, particularly through your learning and development events. I participated in your Presidents’ Elect seminar in November 2019 and was impressed with both the quality of delivery and level of participation from Rotarians. As you continue to strengthen your membership, this support will be even more important.

Andy, you and your team have shown great leadership to Grow Rotary in District 9640. Thank you again for delivering such impressive outcomes and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jessie Harman | Director-Elect, Rotary International

JESSIE HARMAN – THE FIRST FEMALE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR FROM AUSTRALIA

Jessie has been a Rotarian for the past seventeen years, a member of the Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast in District 9780, Victoria. Jessie has been chosen as a Rotary International Director for 2021-23. She is the first female RI Director for Zone 8. Read more HERE
Jennifer Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, has been nominated to become Rotary International’s president for 2022-23, a ground-breaking selection that will make her the first woman to hold that office in the organization’s 115-year history. Read more [HERE](#).

Photo: Jennifer Jones, husband Nick Krayacich & DG Andy (middle) at International Assembly San Diego 2020

Rotarians of District 9640 congratulate Jennifer and Jessie on their selection to Rotary International.

“I felt the meeting had a good vibe. Attendees were enthusiastic and responded well to the topics of training. The topics covered basic information about Rotary, membership and the Rotary brand. An informative session”.
- AG Sheila Ponting - Cluster 7

“The training day provided information which will help the Runaway Bay Rotary Club grow and improve. Rowan’s Membership presentation taught us how to successfully implement strategies to improve our membership which will be discussed at our next board meeting”.
- Anita Whiteford, President, Runaway Bay.

“The training was relevant, comprehensive and useful. To me, Rotary is at its best when we adhere to our motto of ‘service above self’, and it’s at its worst when we put ‘self at above service!’. I believe clubs should try to work and learn together more often and the weekend training helped me to feel good and happy about being a Rotarian”.
- Nassar Kaviani Broadbeach Rotary.
In his inaugural District Governor’s newsletter last month, DG Andy Rajapakse announced a “crazy big goal” to grow District Membership to 1,400. According to our District Website, we’ve had 1,208 members at the end of June. So, the goal is an increase of 192 members, or 16%, or about 4 members per club on average. But if we used the End of May total of 1,297 members, we’d only require 103 new members, or just 8%, or 2 members per club. Actually, hadn’t we lost any of the 200 members who left over the last 12 months… well, we’d be there already!

“So, where are you going with this??” I hear you ask, “it’s normal to have a steep reduction in membership at the end of the Rotary year!” Normal? Sure, some of the 200 we lost may have left because they moved away. Some were called “to higher service”. But, the bulk of them decided that Rotary simply wasn’t “their thing”, not worth their time, effort and expense. In business, losing a major account rings alarm bells. And unless they went bust, sold out or died, most likely it’s because they found your opposition more attractive. Your responsibility really. So what do you do? You go out to look for another customer or two in a hurry, don’t you! If you do it correctly, you already have a clear picture of what your ideal customer is like. Then you will engage and literally pamper your new account to ensure they will stay with you.

Think back to the time when you were inducted into Rotary. Ever considered why you were proposed by your sponsor? What made you decide to join? Did you feel a sense of pride, of achievement, to be invited to join an organization of the highest international repute? You felt that your sponsor did “the right thing” by considering you to be potentially a good Rotarian. Yet, you felt a little bit overwhelmed, sort of “am I really up to this?”, didn’t you? And you definitely didn’t feel like that proverbial bit of spaghetti that remained stuck on the wall!

Well, your fellow members feel just like that. It is every club member’s job to engage with your fellow members, particularly with a new member. Engagement and involvement will realise their potential to become a committed and enthusiastic Rotarian.

Franz Huber
Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc

WHO?
Have you asked to join Rotary?

Andy broke with tradition by inviting Narri Hamill Salmon, Immediate Past President of Miami State High School Interact Club and the 2020 Junior Mayor of the City of the Gold Coast to propose the Toast to Rotary International. Watch the video of his inspiring toast. This is how ‘Rotary Opens Opportunities’ to engage young people to join Rotary and Rotaract.

We also had the privilege of hearing Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Past International President Ravi Ravindran at our District Governor changeover. Don’t worry if you weren’t there to hear it, we recorded it so everyone can listen to Ravi’s inspiring address. Just click HERE.

View the District Changeover highlights HERE
Meet and hear from the TOP 5 Membership Growth Clubs in our Rotary district on how they did it. Plus Guest Speakers of the day – Ryan Tuckwood and Mark Hamawi will share their tips on engaging your club members to make Rotary membership memorable.

Register [HERE](#) Fee $25. NSW members can ZOOM IN.

**YOUTH EXCHANGE RECONNECTION**

Former YEP students with Rtn Angie Bell Federal MP for Gold Coast and member of Gold Coast Passport Rotary, Deputy YEP Chairman Kathryn Koch from Burleigh Heads Rotary, ROTEX Chair, Guy Murphy from the GC Passport Rotary, Julian Field formerly of the Rotary E-Club of Next Gen and Zoe Ross from Coomera River RC, DG Andy. Not in picture- YEP Chair David Kenny from Jimboomba and YEP Deputy Chair John Campbell from Burleigh Heads Rotary.

Angie Bell attended the recent rebound reconnection in Ashmore with YEP students. Thanks Angie for inspiring our YEP’s about how important it is to continue to learn and grow from the YEP experience.

Clubs can reconnect with former YEP students and invite them to join Rotary through ROTEX – Youth Exchange alumni. Read the YEP newsletter [HERE](#). Connect via Facebook [YEP 9640](#) and [ROTEX 9640](#).

**‘HEALING HEARTS’ DISTRICT 9640 CAMPAIGN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond continue to make Domestic Violence and associated Mental Health issues their major community project. Our 2019 Domestic Violence campaign involved addressing DV in our town by Raising Awareness, Educating youth in our schools about Respectful Relationships and providing support for Women and Children escaping Domestic Violence.

Ballina-on-Richmond Rotary Club has had discussions on a district level and submitted a proposal to have Domestic Violence adopted by other clubs in our district. DG Andy is 100% behind this and we already have Gold Coast Rotary club on board. I welcome any enquiries and look forward to working with clubs in our district to address this major social issue.

*Join the force, call Dave Harmon 0401 956 996 President RC of Ballina-on-Richmond*

**ROTARY SOUTHPORT CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

Southport Rotary Club is fairly unique in Australia. It is one of the few who has been servicing Rotary for 75 years. CONGRATULATIONS. RC of Southport was chartered on 20th August, 1945 and will be celebrating on 22nd August 2020. Tickets available [HERE](#).

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW DISTRICT 9640 WEBSITE? ROTARY9640.ORG**

Visit the website to read what’s happening in our district

Want to see your clubs’ stories and fundraisers on our website, FB and Instagram? Email the Deputy Public Image Chair Jodie Shelley: orungaij@bigpond.net.au