Look out! District Conference is just around the corner and registrations are over the 200 mark so if you haven’t booked or made your accommodation arrangements NOW would be a very good time to do so. The New England countryside looks spectacular with recent rains and our National Parks are springing back to life. Our community has a spring in their step and is looking forward to welcoming you all to our wonderful town for a weekend of Rotary information, fellowship, connection and Rotary revelry.

Autumn is a spectacular time to visit Tenterfield with magnificent parks and tree-lined streets, and colours ranging from greens through to reds, oranges, golds and scarlet. Bring your camera and take some memorable photographs – or just play in the carpet of leaves on the ground.

Join Shauna and myself on the Historical Tenterfield Railway Station platform for our International - Rotary Connects the World greeting. For many migrants arriving on our shores, their first journey to their new home was often by train and it was rail that connected communities across Australia. So, to celebrate our multi-cultural heritage you are invited to wear your National Dress to this event or even just a little piece of it.

Saturday night is our Autumn Aussie Made theme – nowhere will you see a better Australian autumn than in Tenterfield. On Saturday night we would love to see everyone flashing some spectacular colours at the dinner and on the dance floor. Hop onto the conference Website for an overview of our conference, and conference accommodation booking.

Any club or Rotary individual wishing to promote their Rotary projects are welcome to apply to have a booth at the House of Friendship during the District Conference 2020. Please make application to PP Skye Stapleton – House of Friendship co-ordinator by email at skye.stapleton1@bigpond.com.au. Closing date 21 February 2020.

Thank you to all those members who have responded to our conference survey. However, there is still time for you to participate by giving an even clearer picture of Rotary and our membership. So, for those who have not completed the task, please take the time to visit the link and complete the survey. I promise it will take no more than 5-7 minutes.

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention Resolution Month

One of the six areas of focus of Rotary we don’t seem to talk about very much is peace and conflict resolution and prevention, which happens to be the theme for the month of February. It is often, however, the conflicts that occur throughout the world that are
the root causes of poverty, despair, economic hardship and poor health. Take for instance the major deterrent to polio eradication: the difficulty in vaccinating children in war torn countries. We also see these conflicts occurring in some form within our own communities with the same results. Rotary International as an organisation understands this relationship and therefore is deeply invested in supporting individuals and programs that will develop leaders who are committed to seeking ways toward peace. The path toward peace begins with understanding and respect for the differences that make us unique.

These are the same types of values that are studied in the peace centres supported by Rotary International in association with several major universities across the globe. The mission of these centres is to “empower, educate, and increase the capacity of peace builders through rigorous academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities”.

Through this experience, Rotary Peace Fellows build the skills needed to act as leaders and catalysts for peace and conflict resolution both in their communities and around the globe. These Fellows develop the skills needed to act as “leaders and catalysts for peace and conflict resolution both in their communities and around the globe.” As Rotarians we should all be similarly committed to understanding the conflicts that exist in our own society, to speak out when necessary, and to seek solutions that reflect the values of Rotary.

The 2021 Rotary Peace Fellowship application is now available, and we need your help finding the next cohort of global peace and development leaders. Candidates have until 31 May to submit applications to their districts. Districts have until 1 July to submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation. Remember, your district can endorse an unlimited number of qualified candidates at no cost.

The Month of January
Traditionally a quiet month for Rotary - January seemed to pass by very quickly with clubs continuing to be busy and supporting their communities.

Membership continues to grow, and the development of new clubs is refreshing and rewarding. The impending charter of Coomera Waters Rotary Club, development of the Tamborine Mountain Satellite club and Lismore Satellite club all indicate that our district continues to lead by example in the area of club and membership development.

Club Visits

While November and December were a little disjointed, we still managed to celebrate some great activity visiting Lismore, Kingscliff, Tenterfield and Aliora Rotary clubs and end of year activities.

DG Brag corner
Shauna and I were very happy to receive our 5th grandchild with the arrival of Alasdair William Kenneth Bolton to Claire and Fraser. Alasdair arrived on the 11/11/2019. For some reason club fines seem to reappear on these occasions!
District Governors Drought Appeal
I have received a few enquiries relating to the distribution of funds from this appeal, particularly since questions have been raised over the Red Cross distribution of funds. I refer members to my previous newsletters for updates on activity within our district where these funds have been allocated so far.

Over the period of this appeal some needs have altered primarily due to bushfires and a broad need for assistance in other areas. During this time Tenterfield, Tenterfield Granite Belt Satellite Club, Warwick Sunrise, Hope Island and Casino (Rappville, Ewingar, Drake) clubs have continued to deliver water, fodder and other significant support into their areas of operation. The Stanthorpe club have also contributed enormously by focusing on community wellbeing.

Recent rains on the Tablelands and some reasonable falls on the Granite Belt have eased the situation a little, however these areas are a long way from stability. Due to the reduced need for bottled and bulk water the remaining funds will be distributed to these clubs for further distribution into their communities to assist rural families with the purchase of necessities. These funds will be distributed by way of water, local debit cards (these cards or cash vouchers can only be used in the town they are issued in, ensuring the funds remain in the local economy), fodder and community wellbeing. At the completion of my term as district governor, all funds will be acquitted back to District and report presented to the District for review. I will be closing this appeal at the end of February.

Suggestion on how to support bushfire – drought affected towns
I have been asked many times, “what is the best way to support bushfire or drought affected communities”. A program that has worked in Queensland and more recently in NSW/VIC is the “Adopt a Town” program.

This is a simplistic arrangement between your club and a nominated town that you may decide to support. This is generally done with a sister club from that town or a similar group/organisation if no Rotary club is present.

Steps
1. Identify a town and contact their club
2. Establish the need
3. Open discussions to ascertain the level of support needed
   a. Is there a project that needs assistance?
   b. Does the community require funds for community wellbeing?
   c. Set up a buy local policy when purchasing goods (don’t send items - this is not helpful and often creates more problems)
   d. Visit the town for a weekend with the view of staying in motels/caravan parks and visiting local attractions, restaurants and retail outlets etc
   e. Provide a community wellbeing day (Rotary Community BBQ or Breakfast in the Park) Invite the following:
      i. local service agencies to attend
      ii. local mental health workers to mingle and chat
      iii. Salvation Army & CWA
      iv. Local Land Services
   f. Assist with clearing burnt fence lines and refencing of boundary fences
   g. Spend a weekend with a farming family to help with animal welfare or general farm duties – feeding cattle, sheep etc – your presence and providing a farmer or farmer’s wife someone to chat with can make a massive difference
   h. Simply make a cash donation to the local Rotary Club to use on a project of their choosing with the understanding that they will provide a report back to your club
4. Report your activity back to district and always include local media in your activities.

District Governor Nominee
It is with pleasure that I congratulate Rotarian & Assistant Governor Jeff Egan as District Governor Nominee 2021-22. Jeff brings a wealth of Rotary knowledge to the team and has served our district and club in many capacities.

Jeff was born and educated in Sydney. Upon graduating with Arts and Law Degrees from the University of Sydney in 1978, Jeff worked as a Solicitor in Parramatta until he and wife, PDG Anne (deceased) decided to make a tree change in 1980 by moving to
Murrumbah. Together they established the Legal Firm of Egan Simpson in April 1980. Jeff sold that practice in Feb 2018 but remained as a Consultant to the firm until August 2018 when he retired.

As well as establishing the legal practice, Anne and Jeff raised 3 children in Murwillumbah. Kate lives in England with her husband and two eldest grandchildren. Tim, a former Rotarian and Chair of RYLA, lives in Brisbane and the youngest, Ben, lives with his wife Emma and baby Harrison at Mount Tambourine.

In June 1980 Jeff joined the Lions Club of Murwillumbah and held various positions including President of that Club as well as holding positions at District Level.

In June 2013 Jeff joined the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM where he has held various board positions including President, Secretary and Foundation Chair. For three years Jeff was the District Youth Protection Officer and is currently in his third year as Assistant Governor for Cluster 4. Jeff was the District Governor’s consort/companion in 2015/16 and has attended three Rotary Institutes, an International Assembly and an International Convention. Jeff is a Paul Harris Society Member and, with Anne, obtained Major Donor status with the Rotary Foundation.

Post retirement Jeff has devoted more time to Rotary, golf, gardening and reading. Welcome aboard DGN Jeff Egan.

Nominations - District Governor 2022 - 2023
Nominations are now being called for Rotarians who wish to be considered for the position of District Governor for the Rotary year 2022 - 2023. Further information is in the attached document.

I ask you to seek out and nominate a Rotarian whom you believe fits the above criteria. Should your Club have a nominee, members of your Club must endorse this nomination. The decision and acceptance of such a nomination should then be forwarded to me on the attached Governor Nominee Form.

I must receive nominations by close of business (5.00pm NSW time, 4.00pm Qld time) on Friday 21st February 2020. The signed form may be emailed or posted to me as follows:
Email: harry.bolton@bigpond.com or Post: PO Box 279 Tenterfield, NSW 2372

AWARDS – Time is running out - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9640 AWARDS 2019-20
A reminder to all clubs that nominations for District awards is now open and all clubs should be working on their nominations (a list of awards can be viewed on the Conference website).
Closing Date: 12 noon, Friday 28th February 2020.
Please forward all entries (preferably in electronic format) to:
District Awards Committee Chairman, Alan Weston (M) 0418 664 712 or Email bigal@westnet.com.au Postal Address: 54 Stanley Street, Maclean NSW 2463

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT (Partner’s Project)
Thank you to the clubs that have already donated to the Malaria Vaccine Project. Please consider a donation if you have not already done so.

Contributions can be made to:
NAB Account: RI District 9640 Ltd
BSB: 084 462  Account Number: 79 639 5692  Reference: MVP

Have a great month everyone. Enjoy the rest of this newsletter. DG Harry Bolton

Register NOW, it's easy, just click HERE
The Tour Key Points and Highlights are:

- The Tour includes 2 meals in Rotarians homes, and 2 Rotary Meeting visits.
- The Tour size is limited to 26 persons. (Within a 30/33 seater coach.)
- Accommodation will be 4 to 5 star and includes all breakfasts.
- Two night stays in all big city stopovers and 'not too early' start times.
- A professional 'Top Tour Guide' will travel with you throughout the Tour.
- The 18 day Tour includes both the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

The following details some of the 62 items that are included within the Tour price:

- Official Rotarian Welcome
- Gift packs, Guided Tour of Auckland
- Entry to the Auckland Museum
- Visit to the 'Auckland Sky Tower'
- Tea Tour and Tastings at Zealong Estate
- Guided Tour of 'Hobbiton'
- Guided Tour of 'Rainbow Springs' & 'Kiwi Encounter'
- Guided tour of Te Puia
- Maori Cultural Performance & Hangi dinner
- Visit to the Huka Falls
- Wine tasting in Napier
- Sightseeing Tour of Wellington
- Guided Tour of 'Weta Workshop'
- Ferry from Wellington to Picton
- Hanmer Springs
- Lake Tekapo & Pukaki
- Queenstown, Invercargill
- Milford Sounds
- Sightseeing Tour of Dunedin
- Tour of Christchurch City Centre

Special 'Early-Bird' Fares:
NZ§7,750 pp twin share room. (Approx AUD 7,300)  NZ§9,750 pp for a single person in one room. (Approx AUD 9,200)

Please email: peter.hawkins@xtra.co.nz to request the 8 page full Tour details.

DISTRICT 9640 2019-2020 ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS

FEBRUARY IS - Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

This year, District 9640 had two applications for endorsement for Rotary Peace Fellow Scholarships: 1 from Pakistan; 1 from Nigeria. There were no local applicants. One application, from a Pakistani lady, was endorsed by the District Governor and was forwarded to Rotary International. She had also applied two years ago, when she was granted an ‘alternative’ position (read: put on a waiting list) and ultimately she would have been successful. However, she was unable to take it up since she had just given birth to her daughter.

This year worldwide, similar to last year, there were around 700 applicants, to take up Rotary Peace Fellow fellowship awards, of which there were only 100 assigned.

Do you know someone that may qualify for a Rotary Peace Fellowship Scholarship?

These scholarships are a valuable learning activity for a young adult to study in overseas universities in that very subject. Basically, all expenses are paid for. Click on this link: [Rotary World Peace Fellowships](#) or [contact me](#) if you know of a potential prospect.

Ray Higgs | District 9640 Sub-Committee Chairperson for Rotary Peace Fellows | RC of Surfers Sunrise | 0411 697 999
Stanthorpe has become the centre point of drought and fire stories in the media. To those who live here, it seems like these conditions have been in place for a lifetime but we are also sure that relief is now in sight. While burnt trees have sprouted green leaves with the rain we have had since September, we continue to live with extreme drought conditions. In January, the SDRC with Qld Gov. support began trucking water into Stanthorpe to support the town supplies but we have had water coming in to town for many months to support rural residents; thanks to the generosity of many others. Carting water, recycling grey water and reducing water usage have become weekly routines for all local residents.

Rotarians offer Service Above Self. Sometimes we are so involved in doing this that we forget to wave the Rotary flag – even amongst ourselves. That’s what happens in the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe. We have a number of programs we are quietly working on to support those on the land suffering firsthand from the drought, those affected by water shortages in town and the businesses who rely on the farming communities. We busily work away helping others yet we don’t take the time to talk about what we are doing... so here is our story of the past few months

The local water situation seems to be well covered so our club felt that well-being should be where our efforts were best concentrated. It started with the fires. One of our Rotarians lost all but her family home. “We lived in a bush oasis; now we live in Armageddon.” So through our *Sow the Seeds of Hope* program we distributed 140 Gardenfest vouchers to households to ‘bring new growth back in to their lives.’

We heard that there were hygiene issues with some students at the high school. Their families had no water for regular showers and washing. So we set up a system where *laundry vouchers* for shower and washing were distributed for free use at the local laundromat and caravan park. The vouchers are distributed through the 16 schools (13 are in outlying rural communities) as well as Vinnies, Lifeline and the Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre. Well over *1000 laundry vouchers* have been distributed so far and this offers a practical service with dignity.

Every Saturday morning, over *200 000L* of water is given away by Granite Belt Water Relief. Stanthorpe Rotarians cook the *free sausage sizzle* for the residents who come in for their water allocation. This is Rotarian Stephen’s description of his experience. “We had to say to nearly every person “Would you like a free breakfast?” or “Why don’t you let me cook you a free burger while your pod is filling?” or “Hello, how are you?” We actually walk down the queue of utes and talk to them and their family thru the car window to coax them out. Charity makes many people shy but a kind word from a Rotarian, and a non-judgmental smile helps. A free feed and treating someone with helpful dignity allows them to leave with a bit more than just some water and dogfood.”

On 22nd February we are hosting a *free luncheon* for 120 women from the land. Pamper packs, gentle live music, a ½ hr presentation on building personal resilience and a chance to have a chat should help each guest think of themselves instead of the drought for a couple of hours.

As needs emerge and as donations are received we try to respond through our local contacts and organisations in appropriate ways. It can be very difficult at times to get people suffering from the drought to accept support. They consider that there are people who are worse off and tell us to give it to the more needy.

Despite the drought and fires, our club continued mentoring young people to Rotary Youth Camps this year. We have hosted a scholarship student from South Carolina. We have a strong Interact Club and Rotary members took 10 Interactors to the inaugural District Interaction Conference at the Gold Coast. Our local Youth Exchange Student, Anna Henderson, headed off to Cremona Italy for 2020.

Our club has a major plan to establish Stanthorpe as a Dementia-friendly community as part of our Mental Health and Well-being project. We have contributed Purple Pinkie funds to End Polio Now. And that’s not all we do ...... Our Club is not unique in our Service Above Self dedication; after all we are Rotarians. We just thought it was time to shout it out!

*Fran Hodgson | President 2019-2020 | Rotary Club of Stanthorpe*
The width and breadth of Rotary never ceases to amaze me. Did you know that after 10 years most hospitals automatically dump any medical equipment? It is shunted out as "unserviceable", regardless of whether it is still functional or not. And we wonder why our health budget keeps blowing out. But, right or wrong, one of Rotary’s basic principles is not to become involved in politics, so I won’t.

Enter the Medical Repurposing Network (MRN). Recently we welcomed Wayne and Janet Leathem to speak at our club about their organization. Yes, it’s a mouth full, so lets call it MRN from now on! Wayne, a member of the Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed Rotary Club, outlined their three guiding principles: Repurposing - Sustainability - Responsibility. So, when medical or educational equipment becomes redundant, they ask themselves...

Repurposing: "Are there others who could benefit from it?" Sustainability: "Should I throw this away? What else can I do?"
Responsibility: "Does this really need to go into landfill? Am I polluting the environment?"

It all started off when Wayne participated in the Tour de Timor, a cycling event in the vicinity of Dili, East Timor. There, he was made aware of a severe shortage of hospital beds. And once a Rotarian gets started, well… This was followed by 4 Ultrasound machines to the Philippines, 60 beds to a Children’s Hospital in a remote region of Fiji... But, one of the big aspects is the cost of shipping: it costs approximately $700 - 900 to ship an Ultrasound unit. Compare that to a new, Chinese manufactured, laptop based unit which costs around $2,500.

Whilst in our country Tuberculosis is these days quite uncommon, in PNG, with >300 cases per 100,000 population, this is still a major issue. One of MRN’s new projects is the supply of Digital TB X-Ray screening systems to remote regional areas of Papua New Guinea. The project’s patron is the PNG High Commissioner to Australia, Mr Sakias Tameo, and the Enga Province Health Authority is on board. They have seed funding of $7,500 and are looking for 5 Rotary partners to donate US$5,000 each. Link: mrnetwork.com.au

But shouldn’t we also look after our own? Yes! For outback remote Australian clinics, MRN is looking to supply 10 new portable Ultrasounds, valued at $3000 each. These remote outback clinics are serviced by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). Did you know that not all RFDS aircraft carry Ultrasounds? While this may not change the outcome for some patients, being better informed and able to diagnose quickly and accurately will save delays and unnecessary trips to Alice Springs or Darwin. Just one remote retrieval by RFDS and returning the patient would equal the cost of one Portable Ultrasound. Click here for more. And even during the very recent bushfire emergency we saw MRN in action: via the RAAF, equipment was dropped into Mallacoota, which was totally cut off...

So, as mentioned: The width and breadth of Rotary never ceases to amaze me. OK, so pride is supposed to be one of the seven deadly sins? Well, I can’t help it. I seek forgiveness. [Stop it, Henrietta, no need to make allusions to Gluttony, nor Sloth. And, seriously: Lust…? At my age??]

Franz Huber | Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc

HAWAII IS CALLING YOU

If you have never been now is your chance
The Rotary International Convention will be held at the Honolulu Convention Centre
JUNE 6-10  2020

Your chance to meet and talk with 210 different Nationalities

PEACE..YOUTH..PROJECTS
Hear keynote speakers. Attend workshops of your choice enjoy the entertainment
Take in the full picture of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SEE YOU IN HAWAII
For information contact  PDG BRIAN HEATON  brianheaton58@gmail.com
In my talks to Rotary clubs about AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH (ARH) I am astounded by the number of Rotarians who say they know nothing about ARH and did not even know it existed.

This is an appeal to all District Governors, Club Presidents and Secretaries to get the message out there. In particular to those new members who are thirsting for information and Rotary knowledge.

I can be booked to talk at your club or if you like send you a USB and you can do your own power point presentation at a normal meeting...It’s not hard.

Australian Rotary Health carries out incredible much needed work in Mental Health and provides scholarships to a wide range of Medical Research funding across a broad range of Medical fields.

All of this costs money. ARH allocates around $3 million per annum to these programs including a wonderful indigenous scholarship program for students to work in rural medicine.

WE NEED YOUR HELP
Please allocate some of you funds to ARH now and in the future
Hold a special function The Hat day,...A Bar B Que... A Theatre Nite

For more information contact PDG Brian Heaton District 9640
0409 007 848  brianheaton58@gmail.com

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2020 Autumn Race Day
featuring the Vineyard Cup

Proudly hosted by The Rotary Club of Stanthorpe together with Ballandean Estate Wines

Sunday, May 3
Ballandean Estate

Ticket Price: $130 per person
includes lunch by Barrelroom Restaurant entertainment & a program of 'races'.
All proceeds to go to Rotary Charities.

8th March is the deadline for the next edition
Email the Editor – Jodie Shelley  orungalj@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.rotary9640.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9640