

Leadership Meeting Dates

@ Ocean Shores Country Club

18 February & 9 June

WHAT'S ON

26 Feb Webinar: Social Media & online engagement. Register [HERE](#)

17 -18 May D9640 Conference
Bookings are open: [HERE](#)

30 June DISTRICT CHANGEOVER

Welcome back to our Rotary year. By this time, your club would have had your first meeting and started planning events for the year ahead. Just a quick note before you read on. Ideally, I try to keep our Newsletter to 4 pages. This month it's a little longer as I have a lot to share with you so, please read on.

February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention month.

You may ask the question 'what role has Rotary played in Peacebuilding around the world?'



Rotary's journey in Peacebuilding started before World War 1. At the 1914 Rotary Convention of the International Association of Rotary Clubs (now known as Rotary International), Rotary passed a resolution to 'lend its influence to the maintenance of peace among the nations of the World'.

Delegates at the 1921 Rotary Convention in Scotland amended this motion to include the goal 'to aid in the advancement of international peace and goodwill through fellowship of business and professional men of all nations united in the Rotary ideal of service'.

During World War 2, Rotary members looked at ways to create a stable and peaceful world. At the 1940 Convention in Havana, Cuba, delegates adopted the 'Respect for Human Rights Resolution'. This was the precursor to the UN's **1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

Rotarians around the world continued their efforts and formed Institutes of International Understanding, with their role being to encourage our members to learn more about the world beyond their own borders.

In 1945 Rotary International was one of 42 organisations invited to serve as consultants to the US delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organisations in San Francisco, USA. (commonly called the UN Charter Conference).

Today, Rotary International holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organisation by the UN's Economic and Social Council (UNESCO).

So, Rotary has a proud history of Peacebuilding. As a humanitarian organisation, peace is the cornerstone of our mission and remains one of our key core focus areas. (source My Rotary & Rotary.org).



I hope you had a lovely Australia Day. Many of our clubs hold events including open days at local swimming pools, BBQs, and official ceremonies. Robii and I had the pleasure of attending the Ballina Shire Australia Day Awards. It always leaves me with a warm fuzzy feeling when I attend this event. You see and recognise ordinary people in our community who do amazing things. This includes many of our Rotarians who live by our motto of 'Service Above Self'.

I am pleased to report that our application for a Rotary Foundation Disaster Grant to support our communities affected by the severe Gold Coast storms has been successful.

Three of our District Rotary Clubs have each received \$10,000 to provide aid and support to their local community. It is proposed that this support will be by way of food and fuel vouchers.

The 3 clubs involved are Jimboomba looking after The Scenic Rim, The E-Club of Next Gen supporting Mt Tamborine, and Coomera Valley covering the Northern Gold Coast. If you personally know of someone who could use some support, please contact one of the above clubs.

In today's newsletter I am including a current service project by a club in our District. I would like to showcase some examples of service projects in each month's newsletter so please email District Community Service Chair DGN John Oomen and DG Dave an outline of one of your projects with some photos. This is a great opportunity for us to share our ideas and successes.

While on the subject of service, the '[Hope Springs Initiative](#)' deadline is fast approaching. This is a no brainer. If you have a project that you have raised funds for that has DGR tax status, and have donated to that cause, you may be able to have your donation matched dollar for dollar.

Over the past couple of weeks Robii and I have had the pleasure of attending both the RYTS and RYLA camps. These camps change lives and provide self-

belief, confidence, leadership, coaching and so much more to the participants. Thank you to our Rotary clubs that have supported these camps and to the program Chairs and Co-Chairs Mindi Devine & Nick Spanner, Anthony Zirilli & Parris Smith, plus all the Team Leaders and support personnel who so generously give their time.

These camps are a perfect example of what you can achieve with a great team. Well done to all.



I would like to share with you an update on our district membership and draw your attention to the loss of new members from our clubs in the past 6 months. Our District lost 71 members from our clubs who had been in Rotary for less than 2 years. This tells us that their Rotary experience was not what they had hoped for.

How can we overcome this? Well let's look upstream and form a preventative strategy. One of the best ways to gauge the satisfaction of your members is to ask them. Last week I sent out to all clubs a membership satisfaction survey. Click on this [link](#) for the online version. I encourage all clubs to make this survey available to your members. From this you can address concerns members may have before they consider leaving your club. We know that new members of our clubs are looking for friendship/fellowship and want to be engaged with service projects that connect with community, have meaning, are valid and provide a sense of worth to the volunteer.

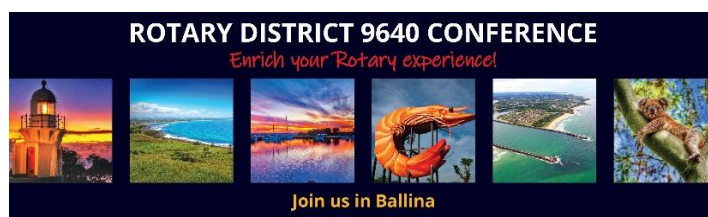
Further, our new members need to be valued and made feel welcome and appreciated. It is no coincidence that clubs in our District that do this well have increased and/or held their membership numbers this year. Let's look 'upstream' and have a strategy and plan of action to engage and welcome our new members. New members to our clubs are our future. Without growth, we will continue our decline. Our Assistant Governors will be contacting your club to discuss how your new members are settling into their Rotary Club experience.

Last weekend Robii and I, DGE Lisa and Gareth, along with DGN John and Narelle, attended the Rotaract Australia Games hosted by our District on the Gold Coast. We had Rotaractors from all over Australia attend. There was much fellowship/friendship, fun and competition between the teams. Thank you organising Committee Chair Dan Snart and his team for delivering a well-planned challenging and fun event.



While on the Gold Coast for the Rotaract Games, DGE Lisa & Gareth and Robii and I attended the 'YEP Welcome and Orientation Camp' for our 5 inbound YEP students. It was a pleasure to meet and chat with these bright, engaging students. Thank you to YEP Chair Kath Koch and former YEP Chair AG David Kenny and their wonderful team for all their hard work over the past years in getting this program up and running again after a 3-year hiatus.

Our Rotary District Conference is fast approaching. I am excited to share with you today that registration for the event is [now open](#). This will be a high impact conference with dynamic, engaging and amazing guest speakers. This in a one-day conference however, we will have our District Business Session on Friday afternoon 17th May, Ballina RSL Club 5.00pm. This will be followed by an informal Social Event starting from 5.30pm which will be a wonderful time to catch up with your Rotary friends for a drink and a light snack to get you in the conference 'vibe'. Everyone is welcome.



The Saturday program will be shared with you in the coming weeks. I do suggest you book your tickets early as the venue only has space for around 250 guests on the Saturday and around 220 for the Saturday night. The evening Dinner Dance event will include a top-notch band. This is a fantastic event to bring along new members of your club so they can experience what Rotary does best - Fellowship, Friendship, and the opportunity to meet and hear from amazing Rotarians. Be inspired and connected to **'Create Hope in the World'**.

I am pleased to share with you that our RI Representative for the Conference is PDG District 9685 Lindsay May OAM who is an amazing Australian. This year Lindsay completed his 50th consecutive Sydney to Hobart Ocean Race. He has been first past the post 3 times. Hope to see you there.

DG Dave

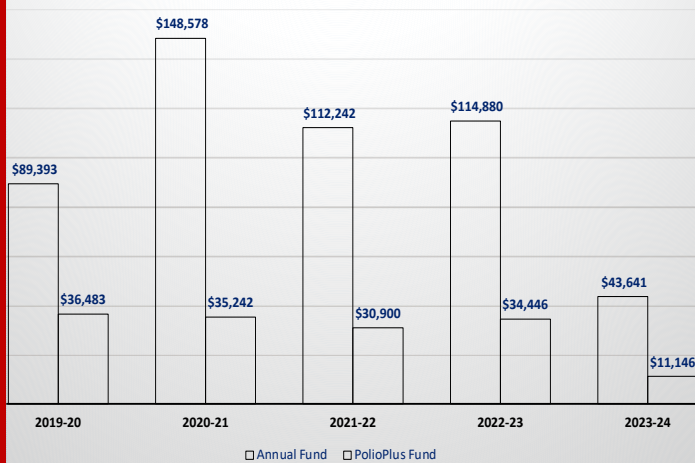
**DISTRICT
AWARDS**

Award Categories details and Application forms are available for download from the District website homepage rotary9640.org

Awards will be presented at the District Changeover - June 30, 2024.

The Rotary Foundation Needs Your Support

District 9640 Foundation Giving Over 5 Years (US\$)



Annual Fund - This year, District Governor Dave has asked each club to set a goal of \$100 per capita to the Annual Fund. This would raise US\$118,800 for future Rotary grant projects. Clubs and Rotarians have contributed US\$43,641 to date. Your outstanding contribution back in 2020-21 is currently funding 15 Global Grant and 18 District Grant projects.

PolioPlus Fund - Clubs have also been asked to set a goal of \$1500 for polio eradication. As you can see, we are well below previous year totals with the current balance of US\$11,146. Congratulations to *Ballina-on-Richmond Rotary* as the only club to reach this goal so far this year, contributing US\$5,442. Every club should be supporting Rotary's highest priority project and every dollar contributed is matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation. The finish line is in sight, but we need your support now.

Disaster Response Fund - Clubs may also choose to contribute to this fund. Our district has successfully applied for a US\$25,000 Disaster Response Grant for relief from the recent Christmas Day tornado. *Coomera Valley RC*, *E-Club of NextGen* and *Jimboomba RC* have agreed to coordinate the distribution of food and fuel vouchers to victims in affected areas.

PDG Tony Heading - District Rotary Foundation Chair

Congratulations to the 5 clubs that have contributed over US\$100 per capita to the Annual Fund so far in 2023-24:

Rotary Club	AF Total Giving	AF Per Capita
Coomera River	\$3,094	\$344
Surfers Paradise	\$3,956	\$198
Banora-Tweed	\$3,786	\$189
Mt Warning AM	\$5,521	\$178
Broadbeach	\$2,461	\$113

Youth Exchange is back!

D9640 farewells first outbound exchange students and welcomes first inbounders since 2020

There was great excitement (and a few tears) at Brisbane and Gold Coast airports throughout January as we **farewelled our first long-term outbound youth exchange students** as they depart for their year abroad as youth ambassadors for Rotary. The students headed to Brazil, Peru, Japan, Germany, Italy and Denmark and the USA. All students have reported settling in well in their new countries and have already attended Rotary meetings and events, started school and taken up a range of sports and activities including handball, skateboarding, roller derby, ju jitsu and more!

We also dusted off the welcome banners as we greeted **our first inbound youth exchange students** from Peru, South Korea, Japan and Brazil, together with two short-term inbound students from Argentina. We also welcomed our one-way exchange student Yelizaveta (Elise) who we are funding on a one-way exchange from Ukraine. A huge thanks goes to the student's host clubs Ashmore, Coomera River, Stanthorpe Satellite Flexitime, Gold Coast, Beaudesert, Kingscliff and Goondiwindi for welcoming the students with open arms and helping them settle into life in Australia. The students joined the Rotary Youth



Our Europe bound students are farewelled at Brisbane International Airport by the youth exchange committee and their families.



Inbound Camp: DG Dave & Robii, DGE Lisa & Youth Chair Gareth Hunt join the youth exchange committee and students at the Orientation Camp.

Exchange Committee at an Inbound Orientation Camp in early February in Helensvale. They learned all about being an exchange student in Australia as well as some new Aussie slang and some dubious new dance moves. Thanks to DG Dave & Robii, and DGE Lisa & Youth Programs Chair Gareth for joining us for a BBQ on the Saturday night which was kindly cooked by Ken and 'Barbie' Baz from the Gold Coast Rotary Club.

Applications are now open for students in D9640 who are interested in our long-term program in 2025 and short-term program in 2024. Rotary Youth Exchange helps build world peace one student at a time, and never has this program been more important than right now. We'd love clubs to promote this life-changing program to schools and students in your area. [You can access a range of resources here.](#) If you want to learn more about the program and the commitment from clubs please contact Chair Kathryn Koch on yep@rotary640.org or 0411 733 123 or

[view our Quick Guide for Clubs here.](#)

Kathryn Koch Chair, Youth Exchange District 9640

PDG Andy to represent RI President Gordon in Romania

Rotary International President Gordon McInally from Scotland has appointed Andy Rajapakse our past District Governor of 2020-2021, from Burleigh Heads Rotary as RI President's Special Representative to represent him and his wife Heather at the Rotary District Conference of Romania & Republic of Moldova in June this year. Romania is the 6th most populated country in Europe bordering Ukraine to the north and Europe's 2nd longest river the famous Danube flowing through the southern border.

PDG Andy said, "all of Romania is one Rotary District together with the Republic of Moldova and is the highest growth Rotary District in Rotary Zone 21A and the district with the greatest number of clubs. Their 152 Rotary clubs have 3750 members". The countries in their Rotary Zone are Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. This District Conference to be attended by 600 business & professional leaders will be held in Timisoara, the cultural capital of



Europe known as "little Vienna" as it resembles the capital of Austria. Timisoara is the 3rd largest city in Romania and birthplace of the 1989 December Democratic Revolution of Romania, home to the famous Dracula's Bren Castle, beautiful castles and cathedrals.

The national flag of Australia along with those of Romania & Republic of Moldova will be flying high on stage during all 3 days of the district conference and national anthems of all 3 nations will be played at the conference opening ceremony. As RI President's Special Representative Andy will

address the conference opening and closing sessions, meet with the Council of Past Governors and visit Rotary projects across Romania. Last year in April PDG Andy represented Rotary International's first female President Jennifer Jones and her husband Rtn.Nick from Canada as RI President's Special Representative at a District Conference in the Philippines.

We congratulate PDG Andy for his expertise & leadership in taking Australia and our Rotary District 9640 to the global stage.

SHINE THE LIGHT ON SERVICE PROJECTS

While on holiday visiting the Northern Rivers of NSW our newly appointed Zone 8 Regional Council Chairman Dallas Booth mixed some business with pleasure and accompanied DG Dave and the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond Flood Recovery Coordinator and Assistant Governor Col Lee OAM to the flood affected community of Cabbage Tree Island. This Aboriginal community has been displaced from their traditional home for 2 years. This community is currently living in a purpose-built Pod village at Wardell and has 51 accommodation Pods with up to 180 residents on site at any one time.

While this arrangement serves as a short-term solution it is nowhere near ideal.

The purpose of the visit was to initiate a joint club project between The Rotary Club of Turramurra and The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond by supplying sporting equipment such as surfboards and help establish a gymnasium that will help improve morale and enhance Mental Health of residents by providing recreational options.

Aboriginal community leader Alwyn Roberts explained that many of the residents were moved up to 7 times into various crisis accommodation after the 2022 Floods. It is



DG Dave, BOR Flood Coordinator Col Lee, Community Leaders Mackie and Alwyn Roberts, Dallas Booth and Community Engagement Worker Jodi Smith.

hoped that the residents will eventually return to Cabbage Tree Island, which is their traditional home and a sacred area to them with many cultural and family memories. No announcement has been made when this will happen.

Chairman Dallas was shown around the town visiting the Wardell Core Recovery Centre and inspected some of the Temporary Houses erected and supplied by Ballina-on-Richmond Rotary in the town.

WELCOME MEMBERS NEW TO CLUBS

Coomera River

Melanie Arnost
Taylor Birchneil

Gold Coast Passport

Elizabeth Celi

Gold Coast

Manish Saini

Grafton Midday

Joan Gilson
Trevor Gilson

Jimboomba

Paul Grimston

Lismore Networking

Bernadette Gordon

Mt Warning AM

Janet Nagly

Murwillumbah Central

Barry Mossop

Surfers Sunrise

Johnny Bueti

Warwick

Harry Keidge
Raymond Squire

2026

HOW TO BEST MARKET YOUR CLUB AND PROJECTS IN 2024

Hosted by
Candice Olivier, Public Image Chair District 9640

- What are the best social media platforms to use in 2024
- How to stand out from the crowd
- Best practise to show up online
- Highlighting your projects and volunteers
- Best story telling tips

Mon, 26th Feb 6pm - 7:30pm AEST

Rotary District 9640

2024 DO YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY?

GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED

Rotary District 9640



Are you ready to elevate your online presence in 2024 and make a lasting impact in the digital landscape? Join us for an exciting and informative webinar Monday 26 Feb 6pm that will unveil the secrets to thriving in the ever-evolving world of social media and online engagement. Register [HERE](#).

Do you want to tell your story? Have you been involved in a project that has changed the landscape or lives of many? Have you been involved in a global grant for a project abroad?

We are currently conducting a series of interviews to highlight the remarkable individuals behind community clubs and their impactful projects. We are particularly interested in hearing about:

- **Your Motivation:** What inspired you to become a volunteer and take on a leadership role within the community?
- **Current Projects:** Could you share insights into the projects you are currently working on? What

motivated you to initiate or be a part of these initiatives?

- **Impactful Stories:** We are keen to understand the real-world impact your projects have had on the community. Please feel free to share any heartwarming or transformative stories that stand out.

These stories will be filmed and used for a Youtube series to bring light to Rotary, volunteer highlight and story telling of the communities or those who have benefited of your involvement.

Please let us know if you are interested, and we can provide more details and coordinate a suitable time for the interview. All the content from the interview will be supplied to you to be used for your own club's purposes as well.

Candice Olivier, District 9640 Public Image Chair,
E: hello@candicejadeolivier.com.au



DGE Lisa Hunt is looking forward to spending time with Rotarians from across Rotary District 9640 at the upcoming learning and development events.

Leadership Team Development Day - Sunday, 25 February
President Elects (PETS) - 16+17 March 2024
Training Assembly (QLD) 21 April and (Northern NSW) 5 May

Details available at rotary9640.org/Events



Thank you to the clubs for sponsoring RYLA Awardees



Ashmore	Grafton
Ballina-on -Richmond	Jimboomba
Banora-Tweed	Lismore Networking
Boonah	Maclean
Burleigh Heads	Northern GC Rotaract
Coomera River	Parkwood
Currumbin	Stanthorpe Satellite
Coolangatta Tweed	Flexitime
e-Club of NextGen	Summerland Sunrise
Gold Coast Passport	Warwick Sunrise
Goonellabah	Grafton

ROTARY DISTRICT 9640 CONFERENCE

Saturday 18 May 2024

Join us in
BALLINA

WHERE
Ballina RSL Club
1 Grant St, Ballina NSW



**BOOK
NOW**

www.trybooking.com/CPAFU

WHAT'S ON

Friday 17 May \$10
5.30pm - 7.30pm
Fellowship, Social Drinks

Saturday 18 May \$65
8.30am - 4.30pm
Conference Day Sessions

Saturday Evening \$80
6.30pm - till late
Presentations, Band, Dancing

** Discounts apply for Rotaractors, ROTEX & YEP*

Enrich your Rotary experience!

Proudly hosted by District Governor Dave & Robyn Harmon
and the Rotary Clubs of Ballina-on-Richmond & Lismore