



## Leadership Meeting Dates

@ Ocean Shores Country Club

18 February & 9 June

## WHAT'S ON

- 26 Jan [RYLA Rotary Dinner Night](#)
- 4 Feb [Gold Coast Ramble](#)  
Gold Coast Rotary
- 13 Feb [Rotary Youth Exchange Info Night](#)
- 17-18 May [D9640 Conference - Ballina](#)  
- Friday 17 - PDG's Lunch & Social  
Evening Drinks for everyone  
- Saturday 18 - Conference, Dinner -  
Dance evening & Special Presentations
- 30 June [DISTRICT CHANGEOVER](#)

being at +50 membership since July 2023. How quickly the tables turn. The January figures now have our District at -5. You may ask 'what has happened'?

Our District has had 111 new admissions to our clubs in the past 6 months. Welcome to those new members. This is encouraging however we have had the equivalent of 117 terminations. Exit surveys tell us that members leave our clubs due to internal club matters. It may be a lack of engagement, conflict, the club not representing their values and more. Many may say that membership is not everything and that there is more to Rotary than just membership. And I would be the first to agree however, without members we do not have clubs and without clubs we do not have Rotary.

We are a team. The Rotary Clubs in our District and its members are our strength and we are all in this together. Each one of us carries the responsibility for Rotary to be sustainable and grow.

### Rotary Zone 8 District Membership Comparison as at 1 January 2024

District	# Club	# Member	# Member
9423	87	1,836	(27)
9510	83	1,861	(37)
9560	84	1,593	(24)
9620	102	1,968	(49)
9640	55	1,183	(5)
9660	94	2,071	8
9675	52	1,107	2
9685	63	1,517	(40)
9705	72	1,721	(30)
9780	51	1,295	(9)
9790	63	1,436	(19)
9800	62	1,830	(31)
9810	35	903	(7)
9820	43	1,055	6
9830	43	1,027	(19)
9910	38	837	8
9920	52	1,138	35
9930	49	1,254	(17)
9940	36	1,082	(20)
9999	62	1,877	(25)
<b>Districts:20</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>28,591</b>	<b>(300)</b>

Numbers in Net Orange – increase 0-50  
members (Red) – decrease

\* Based on the membership transactions as of  
1 July 23

Dear Rotary friends and friends of Rotary,

Welcome to 2024. Robyn and I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year surrounded by friends and family.

The past 6 months were busy with Robii and I visiting 57 clubs in 130 days. We felt it was important for us to connect as early as we could with Rotarians in our District, to meet and chat, provide support where we could and share my vision and plan for the year ahead. Thank you all for your hospitality and friendship during our visits and the many messages of encouragement.

It's now time to get back behind the wheel, get on the front foot and set the direction for the next 5 months. Many of you will remember me talking to you about our 90-day plan. We are now in our 3rd phase of this. Up until early December we were leading our Zone in membership growth with our District

being at +50 membership since July 2023. How quickly the tables turn. The January figures now have our District at -5. You may ask 'what has happened'?

### Congratulations to the 19 Clubs on achieving 100% membership Goal of +1

Club	+
Gold Coast	54 (+8)
Ballina-On-Richmond	79 (+5)
Parkwood	23 (+5)
Beaudesert	24 (+3)
Broadwater Southport	32 (+3)
E-Club of NextGen	31(+3)
Evans Head	17 (+3)
Burleigh Heads	43 (+2)
Byron Bay	9 (+2)
Lismore	9 (+2)
Nerang	19 (+2)
Surfers Paradise	22 (+2)
Banora-Tweed	21 (+1)
Grafton Middy	29 (+1)
Kingscliff	15 (+1)
Murwillumbah	10 (+1)
Scenic Rim Sunrise	21 (+1)
Summerland Sunrise	16 (+1)
Surfers Sunrise	34 (+1)

I congratulate the 19 Clubs in our District that proudly ended the first 180 days with a 'plus' membership growth. Well done and thank you for introducing these new members into your Rotary family. This shows us all that it is possible to not just sustain your club but grow it. At present this equates to 1/3rd of our clubs growing their membership. So, what of our other 2/3rds of clubs? We are here to assist you. If you'd like to know how these clubs grew their membership, ask them. Talk to their Assistant Governor. Contact our District Membership Chair Rowan Johnstone. They may just hold the recipe for the success your club is looking for. Let's all commit to a positive growth in your club of +1 in the next 90 days.

Our District has more than its share of natural disasters. A little over a month ago we were providing support to drought affected communities in our District then on Christmas Day, a tornado type event hit The Scenic Rim. Mayor of The Scenic Rim Greg Christensen stated "this is the biggest disaster the region has ever faced." Further, Greg estimates that 75% of the region's residents have experienced some sort of impact.



Photograph: Melody Beutel

We have also had major storm and flood damage around Coomera, Oxenford, Nerang and in areas around Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads. So, what are we doing about this? Our District Foundation Chair PDG Tony Heading has applied for a Foundation Disaster Grant and DGN John Oomen is working with RAWCS with the Natural Disaster Fund.

RAWCS **Flood Disaster Appeal Fund** (Project number: 33 2023-24). Donated funds will be dispersed through the appropriate Rotary Districts and Clubs in supporting those severely impacted by the floods.

**Link to this RAWCS Project – <https://directory.rawcs.com.au/33-2023-24>**

**Description:** To raise funds to support humanitarian relief projects for those impacted by flood disasters within Australia.

I encourage our members to contact the following Assistant Governors who cover the affected areas and communicate with them what aid is required and how you may be able to assist.

The Scenic Rim & Mt Tamborine  
Nerang, Murwillumbah & Mudgeeraba  
Murwillumbah & Tweed Heads  
Northern Gold Coast

Andrew Lowry (standing in for AG David Kenny)  
AG Jane Loxton  
AG Kaileen Casey-Egan  
AG Joe Martinovic

0403 044 577  
0417 167 914  
0417 472 674  
0437 229 350

### Regionalisation Pilot Update

Rotary International will let clubs know their Community Groupings in February. DGE Lisa, DGN John and I have completed the Club Grouping template and submitted this for consideration to the Regionalisation Steering Group. In the coming months we will be asking for nominations for the positions of Community Leaders who will each be responsible for one of our newly formed Community Group of clubs. Please give this some thought and put yourself forward for an exciting leadership opportunity.

Yours in Rotary, *DG Dave*

### JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



The concept of Vocational Service calls upon Rotarians to encourage and foster; *'High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society'*.

Vocational Service is the cornerstone of Rotary and was the key to the beginning of the Rotary ethos of **service above self**. Rotary's founder Paul Harris recognised that people could use their vocation to help others in the community and thus Rotary was formed and has been serving its local and international community for over 100 years.

Paul Harris wrote: "Each Rotarian is a connecting link between the idealism of Rotary and their Trade or Profession".

Vocational Service focuses on,

- Adherence to, and promotion of, the highest ethical standards in all occupations and in all business dealings
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations
- The contribution of your vocational talents, professional expertise and skills to address the problems and needs of society

Throughout D9640, the contribution of each and every Rotarian's vocational talents, professional expertise and skills are evident in the actions we all take to assist and support those in need in our local communities. It's what we do best.

### Congratulations



PDG Jeff Egan & AG Kaileen Casey on your marriage – 18 Dec 2023

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO CLUBS

**Ashmore**  
Justine Dillon  
**Ballina-on-Richmond**  
Tresse Heselwood  
**Evans Head**  
Nicolas Harrison  
Jack Torrance  
**Parkwood**  
Russell Salisbury

### DISTRICT AWARDS

Presented at the District Changeover - June 30, 2024.  
Submission details will be in the February Newsletter.  
**Categories are:**  
1. Best Club Communication 2. International Service  
3. Community Service 4. Service To Youth 5. Rotary-Interact Involvement 6. Public Relations 7. Best New Project  
8. Significant Achievement 9. Membership Award



RI President-elect Stephanie Urchick  
2024-25 presidential theme.

Download 2024-25 theme logo materials [HERE](#) (.zip)

## Introducing Rotary International Zone 8 Regional Council's first Board of Directors

On the 1 January 2024, the Rotary International Zone 8 Regional Council Ltd, a company incorporated in Australia whose only member is Rotary International was established as an independent ASIC entity. This is the start of the Rotary Zone 8 Regional Pilot, which is only one of 2 Regional Pilots in the world, approved by the RI Board of Directors. Other, is Great Britain & Ireland. These pilots will run for 2 years from 2024-2026.

The first Board of Directors of our Regional Council elected by a majority of our clubs in Zone 8 will officially take office on 1st July 2024. They are;

- Chairman - PP Dallas Booth - Turramurra Rotary D9685 NSW
- Deputy Chairman - PP Tony Heyward - Tawa Rotary D9940 NZ
- Membership Director - PDG Andy Rajapakse - Burleigh Heads Rotary D9640 QLD,
- Public Image & Partnerships Director - PP Neil McWhannell - Wahroonga Rotary D9685 NSW
- Major Fundraising & Grants Director - PP Dr. Peter Rogers - Melbourne Rotary D9800 VIC
- Learning & Development Director - PDG Euan Miller - Norwood Rotary D9510 SA
- Rotaract Director - PP Eeshwar Rajagopalan - Elizabeth Quay Rotary D9423 WA
- Service Projects & Programs Director - PP Madhumita Bishnu - Rotary E-Club Melbourne D9800 VIC



The **Purpose** of our Regional Council is to establish a regional governance structure for the 29,000 members in the 1232 Rotary Clubs and 60 Rotaract Clubs in Zone 8 consisting of 16 countries of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Nauru, American Samoa, Samoa, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia and Cook Islands, to transform the clubs by better supporting the clubs to provide relevant and engaging member experiences to serve our communities and enable us to grow Rotary to significantly increase Rotary's reach & impact.

### Key Outputs envisaged from this Regional Pilot are;

- Enhanced focus and support to start new clubs
- Facilitation of larger scale projects through multi-club collaboration
- New methods and level of support to clubs and members to enhance their Rotary experience
- "One Voice" for Rotary in our region
- Diverse and effective Zone leadership
- Modern, integrated technology and streamlined administration

Visit [www.creatingtomorrowrotary.org](http://www.creatingtomorrowrotary.org) for latest updates and ask questions.

*Andy Rajapakse - Zone 8 Assistant Rotary Coordinator*

*Front L-R Madhumita Bishnu,  
R2 Tony Heyward & Andy Rajapakse,  
R3 Neil McWhannell, Dallas Booth &  
Peter Rogers,  
R4 Euan Miller & Esswar Rajagopalan*

## District Designated Funds (DDF) are available for Global Grants

Is your club looking to sponsor or support a global grant project? Our district currently has **A\$100,000 available** to support global grant proposals. We have already fully committed our DDF available for 2023-2024 District Grants.

All global grants must be sponsored by two clubs or districts: a host sponsor in the country where the activity takes place and an international sponsor outside that country. Our priority is to use DDF for **global grant projects sponsored by our clubs or our district**.

However, we also have DDF available to match club contributions to **global grant projects sponsored by other clubs or districts**. So, if your club wants to help fund a global grant project anywhere in the world, we can assist with DDF for your proposal.

Global grants offer clubs and districts opportunities to participate in strategically focused, high-impact activities. These grants fund large- scale international humanitarian projects, vocational training teams, and graduate and



postgraduate scholarships that have sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of Rotary's areas of focus.

Global grant-funded activities have a minimum budget of US\$30,000. Grant sponsors can use a combination of District Designated Funds (DDF), cash, and

directed gifts and endowment earnings to fund a global grant.

**In addition, the Foundation will provide an 80% World Fund match for all of our DDF contributions.** The maximum World Fund match is US\$400,000; there is no minimum. Cash contributions are no longer matched by the World Fund, but they can still help finance global grants.

### Contact us about your proposal:

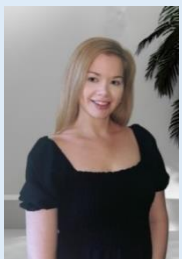
**District Rotary Foundation Chair Tony Heading**

0488 769 119 [tonyheading@bigpond.com](mailto:tonyheading@bigpond.com)

**District Grants Chair Neil Jones**

0418 663 740 [njon8522@bigpond.net.au](mailto:njon8522@bigpond.net.au)

## Australian Rotary Health PhD Funding Partner Scholarship Program Report



During PDG Darrell Brown's year 2017-18, D9640 raised \$10,625 for ARH for a Mental Health PhD Scholarship for Rural Areas, subsidised by ARH for a scholarship worth \$33,000.

Following is an update from our Scholarship student Michelle Gossner, CQUniversity Australia & Manna Institute

### Youth Educational Disengagement

Australian children growing up in regional and rural areas have significantly lower educational participation and attainment rates compared to those growing up in metropolitan areas. Despite the numerous negative life-course outcomes and societal implications of educational disengagement (e.g., poor health/mental health, welfare dependency, criminality), few studies have examined the reasons for educational disengagement in regional and rural communities. This program of research aims to better understand the risk and protective factors for educational disengagement in one such high-risk region of Australia.

To date, this research has examined the perspectives of community stakeholders, parents, and adolescents regarding the educational experiences of regional and rural youth. It was found that participants regarded youth educational disengagement as a complex, cumulative, and context-specific phenomenon with a range of

interconnected risk factors for disengagement spanning individual, family, and societal domains. Participants strongly emphasised the need for specific interventions to assist with educational disengagement, as programs currently focus on treatment rather than prevention. The next phase of this project involves surveying early secondary school students to identify modifiable risk factors associated with educational disengagement for the purpose of informing the development of appropriate interventions.

Overall, this research provides important information regarding the support needs and opportunities to facilitate educational participation among regional and rural youth.

- *At the Online Conference for Undergraduate Research in Australasia (2022), the project received the award for 'Best Presentation - RHD Proposal' in recognition of its innovative ideas and the potential for the findings to significantly impact society.*
- *Preliminary findings were presented at the Rural Mental Health Conference (2023), and positive feedback was received from mental health professionals and industry organisations.*
- *This research is supported by the Australian Rotary Health/Rotary District 9640 PhD Scholarship.*

- Michelle Gossner

## SEVERE CHRISTMAS WEATHER

Christmas night 2023, a storm that has been described as a "Tornado Like Weather Event", made its destructive path through Logan, The Scenic Rim and the Gold Coast. The most impacted areas being, Jimboomba, Cedar Grove, Cedar Vale and Mt Tamborine.

The storm itself was like nothing I have ever seen or heard before. The aftermath can only be described as complete destruction! When we woke up on Boxing Day, we knew that the clean-up was not going to be easy, but we had no idea what we were in for in the days to come.

For my community of Jimboomba, Cedar Grove and Cedar Vale, not only did we lose power instantly, but the whole power grid was destroyed. For most properties in our area, no power means no access to running water and no septic systems. Trees were on power lines, on people's houses, on roads and driveways. People's sheds were in their neighbours' yards, full water tanks were blown down streets.

The following days brought 43 degree heat, horrible humidity and MORE RAIN....The Rotary Club of Jimboomba looks after the Jimboomba Community Hall, which thankfully shares a power grid with the local emergency services, so I knew we were going to get power



back at the hall long before the rest of our surrounding community members. I knew I had to do something to help!

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December when the power at the Hall was restored, I opened the doors for community use with the idea that we could use the hall for a few days for a place of respite from the heat and let people access our Wi-Fi to contact their insurance agencies. Little did I know what this would lead too....Our little hall became an integral part of the recovery process for our community. We were open from 9am – 9:30pm for 12 days!

12 days later, we had served well over 7000 meals, shed tears with those who had lost their homes and their possessions, provided emotional support, linked community in with resources and became a place where people could just come and "be". We held a disco on New Year's Eve and had a 6th Birthday party for a young lady whose birthday plans had to be cancelled.



Every night we kicked off dinner service from 6pm, we all gathered and sat together and ate a meal of real food off real plates. This made a huge difference to people's mental health as they felt like they were at home eating with their families.

With the help of Local and State Government we sourced showers that were delivered to us for community use. Orange Sky Laundry visited every other day to provide laundry services.

Every day we had members of both Local and State Government on site to assist us. They also went and did welfare checks and took meals and water to those who could not physically come in to see us, and those who were still stuck on their properties due to fallen trees and power lines.

But.... Just because power has been restored, does not mean that the recovery process is over. We have 100s of residents who are responsible for the powerlines on their properties, these people will still be weeks, if not months without power, running water and working septic systems. For those of us lucky enough to be able to run generators, the cost of this was over \$100 a day.

We are now looking at providing continued support in the way of fresh water, non-perishable grocery items and back to school packs for families.

I would not have been able to provide this support to the community without the support of the Rotary Club of Jimboomba, who gave me full access to the hall and offered financial support. The club organised volunteers

from not only the Rotary Clubs of Jimboomba and Scenic Rim Sunrise but also Quota Jimboomba Inc.

But the most amazing volunteers came from 3 families who came into the hall to charge their phones and use the Wi-Fi and never left!

Annette and Bill Lang stepped in and looked after the kitchen for me so that I could be on the floor to help those that needed it. Debbie and Anthony Ormsby came in every day to help with cleaning and meal service. Maria and David Tansley were on hand to help with cleaning, meal services and chat with whoever needed some extra support.

We received donations from so many other community organisations and generous community members. Humanity First jumped on board and delivered hot meals.

Bunnings donated non-perishables, water and cleaning supplies and came and boosted community spirit!

Out of this horrible weather event we have had the opportunity to bring community together and to form lifelong friendships and bonds. We plan on continuing our "family dinners" once every few months to keep those connections alive.

*Honorary Rotarian Sarah Weir*

