November is Rotary Foundation Month

The month of November is the month Rotary International dedicates to the programs and activities of the Rotary Foundation and this gives us a wonderful opportunity to focus our attention on the many great things that our foundation delivers to our world.

We take so much for granted as we enjoy our privileged life. Water streams from every one of the 16 or so taps in our houses, medical aid is just around the corner, a strong and active education system provides a future for all our children and with the exception of a few, we want for nothing. How different it is for one-third of the world’s population!

Including our efforts in the area of polio eradication, your Foundation provided something like $180 million last year to support clubs and districts in their efforts to ‘do good in the world’. If you add the money supplied by clubs and districts to complete these projects, we would have a conservative spend of approximately $450 million, so we are not a small, insignificant organisation. We are a highly relevant and significant group which we should never fail to make that point with our friends.

Nothing ever comes cheap and everything The Foundation does costs money. When the money runs out so does our ability to make a difference. Clubs can take the bull by the horns and agree to pay their TRF commitment now rather than wait until the traditional ‘rush’ period of June. We will get our money working sooner rather than later and that will help enormously. If all clubs in Australia could do this then the Foundation would be in a much stronger position.

We can also help as individuals. Those of us with Centurion commitments who aren’t tied into a scheduled payment plan could consider paying this month. It’s only $100 per person but collectively it has the power to do so much. Those of us who haven’t yet made the Centurion ‘leap of faith’ might give the possibility a little extra thought. That extra $1.92 a week can make such a difference to the people depending on us for a better life.

The Rotary Foundation is your own charity and I’m just asking you to be part of it.

By Bruce Allen, The Rotary Foundation - South Pacific & Philippines

The Rotary Foundation

As we move into November and focus on the Rotary Foundation, it is timely for me to remind you all of the things we say and do as Rotarians and the commitments that we make help deliver the outcomes that we desire as Rotarians. Now is the time to reflect on your contribution to the foundation and in particular “Every Rotarian Every Year”.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all clubs and individual members who participated in the fund-raising movie “Ride like a Girl”. Reports I have received indicate that the movie was a great choice and enjoyed by many - at the same time raising much needed funds for Polio.
I would like to thank the Casino, Goonellabah and Lismore Rotary Clubs for their immediate response to the Rappville fire disaster. Your efforts in supporting people who were immediately affected by this disaster were commendable and shows true Rotary spirit.

The month that was
October has been a challenging month for me, returning to work for the Tenterfield Shire Council from Long Service Leave in conjunction with a very full schedule of Rotary club visits and official duties. Still trying to reschedule and catch up with club visits that were cancelled due to the fires.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Queensland Governor’s morning tea with approximately fifty (50) National Youth Science Forum participants from Queensland and NSW. It is wonderful to see the engagement and participation of our youth in this fantastic program. I commend all clubs to consider nominating suitable candidates from their community for this program.

Focus was also on our first Interaction Conference as planning and final preparations were put in place. Congratulations to Caitlin O’Connor and her wonderful ROTARACT team who put together an excellent and engaging program of information and fun that was enjoyed by all participants. A big shout out to the Stanthorpe Club who arrived with a small bus load of students, leaving early in the morning for a big day.

I had the very great honour and privilege to be present at the opening of the Rotary Hope Island Armistice Memorial, a community memorial at Hope Island created to honour servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for Australia.

In 2018, Rotary Club of Hope Island applied for a Federal government grant under the Armistice Centenary Grants Program managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and were successful in securing a $50,000 grant to commence planning and construction of the Memorial.

Leadership Training
The training season is upon us already as we begin to develop our 2020/21 leaders. DGE Andy Rajapakse and his training team have put together an exciting package that will inspire our next group of leaders to continue the great progress that our district continues to demonstrate - as we build strength for the future. A reminder that Assistant Governor Training and Pre-Pets will both be held on Saturday 30 November at the Quality Hotel, Markeri Street Mermaid Waters, Gold Coast from 9.00am to 3.00pm Qld Time. I also would like to remind clubs that it is vital for our future development that all clubs have their Presidents Elect attend this training. By this time all clubs should have their leadership teams in place and be beginning their planning for the 2020/21 year.

District Governor Elect
A reminder that applications are still open for the position of District Governor for 2021/22. The applicant should have good experience and knowledge of Rotary at Club, District and Rotary International level, be enthusiastic and enjoy the challenges of working within a very engaging environment. This person requires good leadership, communication and time management skills and requires the endorsement of their own Rotary Club. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the District Secretary if you would like to discuss this role further.

Water for the West DG Appeal
As I write this newsletter, I am hearing wonderful reports of good rainfall in Western NSW and in parts of Queensland. Sadly, this has not arrived in Tenterfield or the greater area of Stanthorpe and Warwick, however, the skies are promising. As we move toward the festive season focus is on developing some extra activity and assistance to try and make this a joyous Christmas for people on the land and in rural communities, forget about the drought for a day or two. I also would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by the Yamba Rotary Club of $12,000 toward this appeal.
I also congratulate the Rotary Club of Warwick Sunrise for their first of four “Bugger the Drought” breakfasts, with the first one being held at the small community of Swanfels. President Sandra Head reported that about 60 people of all ages came for breakfast and stayed for a good yarn before taking home a vege and fruit hamper, laundry and other vouchers, Food Bank Hampers, magazines, homemade soap, clothes, hand crafted pottery mugs and bowls and bottled water. Many thanked them for the morning, sometimes with a hug and a tear saying it was great to sit and talk to their neighbours for a while. The club have realised that they need more kid’s stuff for the next 3 breakfasts but everything else seemed to work very well.

Conference 2020
Club visits are now ending and so focus for Shauna and myself will be on Conference planning. This year we have had to deal with so much by way of drought and bushfires, we are determined to make this conference one of fun and positivity. I look forward to greeting many new Rotarians who will attend their first conference and of course returning Rotarians who fit the conference into their schedules every year. This conference will be a time to create lasting friendships and build your Rotary Network. So put the 27 to 29 March 2020 in your calendar, get your dancing shoes out and your party clothes packed and get ready for a great weekend.

MEMBERSHIP
What a fantastic achievement. During our redistricting discussions with RI, I set a district membership target of 1230 by end of December 2019 and I am pleased to announce that this figure has been achieved. Congratulations to Warwick Sunrise Club and Gold Coast Passport Club where I inducted 4 and 3 new members respectively. Gold Coast Passport Club have a further 2 who could not be in attendance on the night. So, let’s not rest on this great achievement as my overall goal for district is 1250 by the end of the 2019/20 year.

Nostalgia
It is always good to reflect on those people who have had a significant impact on our organisation and wider community over the years and during our travels often come across some interesting facts and information of interest. Many of you will be interested in this photo of two very big contributors to Rotary and Queensland for many years. In much younger days.

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT (Partner’s Project)
This disease is a scourge of many countries around the world. Up to half a million people, mainly children and pregnant women, die from malaria every year. Over 216 million people are affected by malaria annually. Due to the hard work and research being done by Professor Michael Good and his team at the Institute of Glycomics, Griffith University Gold Coast the Malaria Vaccine is undergoing clinical trials in Australia, which are going very well. 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, the team at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus will make good use of your contribution. Contributions can be made to: NAB Account: RI District 9640 Ltd BSB: 084 462 Account Number: 79 639 5692 Reference: MVP

Shauna and President Rod

Contributions can be made to the District 9640 Drought Appeal Fund 2019/20.

Bank: NAB
Acct: RI District 9640 Ltd
BSB: 084 462
Acct No: 79 639 5692
Reference: WTD

RC of Warwick Sunrise inducting 4 members

NAB Account: 9640 Ltd BSB: 084 462 Account Number: 79 639 5692 Reference: MVP

Shauna and President Rod

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

DG Harry Bolton
Good afternoon

My name is Shauna Bolton and I am the wife of District Governor Harry. We have lived in Tenterfield on the New England since 1984. I am a Rotarian and work as a nurse at the Tenterfield Community Hospital.

As I was unable to attend this function today due to commitments with my workplace, PDG Sandy has asked that I provide some insight into the drought and bushfires and their effects on our communities here on the Northern Tablelands and South Eastern Queensland.

As you may be aware we are in severe drought and have been for nearly three years. There is no start or end to a drought, it is insidious because it creeps up on you without you realising. There is less rain, the vegetation doesn't look so lush, the creeks and rivers start to go down or flow lessens, the dams begin to dry up, cattle and other livestock suffer from malnutrition through lack of feed and water.

Our community has gone through all of this and more. At present there is very little vegetation on the ground, what is there is brown tussock grass between areas of dust. The trees are dying – vast areas on hills are dead, brittle and brown. The paddocks are full of trees that have survived for decades only to now die in this prolonged drought.

Our farmers have either sold their stock because they had no feed left and they couldn't afford to feed them, or they have held on to as many of their breeding herd as they have been able and hand fed and watered them in the hope that the drought would break before they ran out of money or water. Imagine the despair of farmers watching generations of careful breeding disappearing before their eyes. I have a friend who would go out with her husband to check the stock everyday – he stopped her coming and took a rifle instead to shoot the cattle that were too far gone to do anything with. Today many wives go out with their husbands to ensure they don’t shoot themselves, such is their despair. The help given to farmers with donations of fodder has been marvellous but even that doesn’t help when you have no water for the stock to drink.

The Water for the West idea came from a letter from a young school chaplain who services small schools on the Granite Belt. She was seeing the effects of the drought on the children at the local schools – they were missing school as they were helping on the farm, there was little or no water to bathe in or wash their school uniforms and there was little money in the household as the farm had no income. The water that has been donated and distributed in this area has not only helped with these basic needs but has more importantly given them HOPE. The Tenterfield Granite Belt Satellite Club and the Warwick Sunrise Club have been distributing both bulk and bottled water to farm families. This water has been organised through Hope Island Rotary Club working in close partnership with Tenterfield Granite Belt Satellite Club.

The Tenterfield Rotary Club has been distributing tanker loads of water to farm properties for the last three - four months after realising that the need was there. People on the land are usually a proud lot and it takes a lot for them to come forward to accept help. When the idea of providing water came up and the farmers were asked if they would like water delivered, most said - give it to ‘so and so’ they need it more than me. Thankfully now most receive the water and are just grateful to those who have taken the time to get it to them.

The fires are a direct result of the prolonged dry. Barely a week has gone by when we haven’t been on alert because there is a bushfire in the area. Helicopters and light fire-fighting planes are a familiar sight – and it is even quite exciting watching the 737 Air tanker dropping fire retardant on the fires. Nearly every day we see fire trucks on the highway heading to the latest fires – it is a comfort knowing that they are ready to protect us. We also protect ourselves – nearly everyone has a ute with a pod of water, their fire-fighting pump on the back, shovels, fire-rakes and protective clothing ready to go (we have too, and it has been out on a number of occasions when the fires were really close).

The fires are frightening and consume everything in their path. Smoke hangs around for days and has an eerie yellow haze that makes it all feel a little unreal. Buildings, fencing, stock yards, feed, vegetation, stock, flora and fauna are lost. The burned animals are usually shot and this includes kangaroos, etc.

Blaze Aid comes in after the fires and rebuilds fences on properties – not all of them, just the boundary fences. They have supplies – posts, wire and other fencing needs donated to them. Tenterfield Rotary Club has donated some thousands of dollars of supplies to Blaze Aid and other community organisations have held fundraisers and donated thousands of dollars for supplies. Local community groups also cater for the Blaze Aid group on a roster system – with our Rotary Club cooking once a week.

The towns on the Northern Tablelands and South East Queensland are in danger of running out of water – some already have and are trucking water in. Water restrictions in most of these towns are severe, with no outside water use at all.
Some are down to 100 litres per day per person. Helping the towns is up to the government, we don’t have the resources for that.

This all sounds very bleak, and it is. The drought is relentless and people are suffering, but we must remain positive that it will end someday when we get some fantastic, prolonged rain. One thing that this experience has reinforced for me is - appreciate everything good in your life and don’t worry about the small annoying things that don’t really matter.

The mental health of the community will be an ongoing concern while this drought continues. While there are government and NGO resources available at times, we have to watch out for each other and lend a shoulder for them to cry on or just listen to their concerns.

A work colleague of mine said to her husband after the last fire, “No more poddy calves, I couldn’t cope when I thought we lost them in the fire.” Next day there was a calf that had lost its mother after birth, brought in by the husband. It was a bundle of fluff and so cute. The 18 year-old grand-daughter from Lismore came to the rescue – the calf was safely put into the car (with a nappy on) and taken down to Lismore to be bottle fed. I asked what size property they had there – “none, just the back yard.” What will happen when it grows up is anybody’s guess but at least it has somewhere to go now. A light hearted moment amongst the doom and gloom!

Thanks for the opportunity to let people know what is happening in our beautiful little community and how everyone is holding up. Thank you for all your support and best wishes.

Best wishes, Shauna Bolton

Club Community Projects Director, Sharyn Watson and the event committee did a great job. With over $2,500 raised at the event, more truckloads of water will be sent to the Granite Belt from the Hope Island Rotary Club!

District 9640 Conference
27-29 March 2020
Tenterfield

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

DG Harry & Shauna Bolton and the Rotary Club of Tenterfield invites you to their 2020 Conference. CHECK THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE FOR ALL THE DETAILS AND PROGRAM REGISTER NOW Simply CLICK HERE
District 9640 has provided 2 containers with bedding, clothing, furniture & pallets of water to the program through DIK NR. – Richard Crandon

**APPROVED AND UNDERGOING IMPLEMENTATION**

- Titjikala Health Hardware on community services ($30 000)
- Hygiene station at Alekerange School ($1200)
- Environmental health worker, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the Fred Hollows Foundation ($50 000)
- Bath towel provision to the Environmental Health Trachoma Program WA ($50 000)

www.endtrachoma2020.org.au

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**On Your Bike!**

Enduring Rotary International’s new strategic direction, District 9440 launched a new People of Action public image campaign in August to expand brand awareness and attract bicycle enthusiasts to Rotary. If you remember, last year the Queensland district launched a People of Action campaign on the side of a bus.

The bicycle team members represent four of the largest Rotary clubs on the Gold Coast, and they have fun rides every Sunday across the region. Queensland State MP Michael Hart, a member of the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads, flagged off the campaign. It was a light bulb moment shared at the Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PET3) by Rowan Johnston, president of the Rotary Club of Gold Coast, which district public image chairman Di Andy Roger took forward. As a result of this campaign, District 9440 is receiving many enquiries from bicycle enthusiasts around the world for these branded bicycle kits (picture: It’s exceeding our reach and a social enterprise in the making!).

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**Districts of Australia**

EndTrachoma by 2020

Building Healthy Communities

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**END TRACHOMA BY 2020**
If you want to share something, please email by 8th Dec.
Email the Editor – Jodie Shelley  orungalj@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.rotary9640.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9640