October is Economic and Community Development Month

“To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world.”

-Dr Seuss

Economic and Community Development is one of Rotary’s six areas of focus.

Nearly 800 million people live on less than $1.90 per day. Rotary members are passionate about providing sustainable solutions to poverty.

Economic and Community Development is one of Rotary’s six areas of focus. We carry out service projects worldwide that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for work. We also strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

Our impact on local communities is enhanced by training people to become resources for their community, offering networking activities, advice on new business development, and mathematics and financial management training.

Wow, October has arrived, and summer is knocking on the door. How lucky are we to live in such a great country with the resources, support, connections and friendships that allow us to achieve the wonderful work that Rotarians achieve all over our district, communities and the world every day and every week of the year? My gratitude is extended to all those clubs and Rotarians who have stepped up to assist communities experiencing this terrible drought. As I write this newsletter, I am fielding phone calls from clubs who are desperate to help their communities with water, vouchers and general assistance. The District Governor’s Drought Appeal has been well supported with contributions totalling $30,000.00 to date. Tenterfield and Tenterfield Satellite Club have delivered approximately 300,000lt of bulk water to 47 farms between Tenterfield, Mingoola, Bonshaw and Torrington and the Satellite Club has delivered approximately 170,000lt or 170 x 1000lt pods plus many pallets of bottled water to farmers in the Stanthorpe and surrounding areas. Warwick Sunrise Club has also been delivering bottled water to their outlying schools for students to take home.

Bushfires are still a major threat to our District as the summer months approach and we are most grateful for the swift actions that our rural, NSW and Qld fire brigades have implemented to control some very serious and dangerous situations. Unfortunately, we are getting very used to having the 737 water bombers and helicopters flying around our area discharging fire retardant, as water is too scarce a commodity for our ground fighters to use excessively.

The month that was – September has been a busy month with Shauna and I attending the Zone 8 Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. Zone conferences are a great opportunity to receive information and attend break-out sessions that provide a high level of information that may not be communicated at District Conference or District Assemblies. It is an opportunity to hear how other districts are working and engaging within their communities. It was encouraging that District 9640 supported two of our newest and youngest Presidents, Candice Oliver (Passport Club) and Caitlin Reid (Tenterfield Club) to attend this conference.
This strategy is to introduce younger members of Rotary to the wider Rotary family at an early stage in their Rotary journey. Next year’s Zone 8 Conference will be hosted in Alice Springs and I encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

This year we were privileged to have International President Mark Maloney and wife Gay attend the conference. Mark spoke passionately about the importance of connecting, communicating, engaging and innovation. Topics that were discussed during the general and break-out sessions included:

- New club development
- Club health
- Member engagement
- Community engagement
- Member retention
- Public relations and marketing
- Partnerships
- Connections (World Health Organisation, United Nations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Australian and New Zealand Governments)

Over 400 delegates from Zone 8 (Aust/NZ) attended this 3-day conference.

DISTRICT DROUGHT APPEAL

I am pleased to advise that the District Drought Appeal has smashed its way through the $30,000 mark and thank you all for your contributions and ongoing efforts to assist in this very difficult period. Our New England, Granite Belt and Darling Downs clubs continue to provide direct support to our farming and school communities and over the coming weeks I will be meeting with these clubs to discuss further actions as we lead into summer and the festive season.

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

Bank: NAB  
Account: RI District 9640 Ltd  
BSB: 084 462

Account Number: 79 639 5692  
Reference: WTD

REDISTRICTING

While redistricting is now off the table for District 9640, it is important to remain focused on building our district and strengthening our clubs for the future. Rotary clubs have an important role to play in our community’s future as we redevelop to meet the new challenges that confront humanity. Through Rotary, we provide leadership, knowledge and skills that will assist in the development of future leaders of our communities and nation.

CLUB VISITS

Club visits have been on hold and in some cases re-scheduled, so it is pleasing to see so many positive reports through your weekly and fortnightly bulletins. At the Zone 8 Conference, it was fantastic for me to be able to report on the great work that our clubs and District were achieving in the areas of membership, club health, new club development and gender equity.

MEMBERSHIP

Our continued efforts to increase membership is yielding excellent results as indicated by the below table. However, retention is an ongoing concern and there is work to be done if we are to turn this trend around. While we all know that it is up to the individual member to engage and be part of the club, there are definite actions that will cause a member to review their commitment to Rotary. These actions include:

- Not including members in activities
- Not assigning members to a team or sub-committee
- Not passing information down from the board level to the members
- Not addressing issues of concern or conflict
- Micro-managing your members. Lack of communication
- Allowing cliques to form within the club
- Not reviewing club activities (Club assemblies)
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS IN AUSTRALIA

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Report Total Districts: 27
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* Based on the membership transactions as of 1 July 23:59:59 CDT. Does not include Honorary members.
* Note Numbers in Net Inc/Dec
Green/Bold – increase 51 members or more Orange – increase 0-50 members (Red) – decrease

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT (Partner’s Project)

Shauna would like to thank all those clubs that have contributed toward her partner’s project so far and appreciates the generosity and support that clubs have demonstrated, particularly as clubs have been most generous supporting the drought effort. Shauna also thanks PDG Prof Graham Jones for his ongoing support and efforts to promote her project at every opportunity.

Contributions can be made to:

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

CONFERENCE 2020

As we lead into the second quarter of the year attention turns toward conference and what an opportunity this presents to our District. With redistricting put to one side, I intend to make this year’s conference all about renewal and community connections. Conference will focus on how we work with community and the partnerships we have within community. My guest speaker list is deliberately focused on the issues you have shared with me during our visits to your clubs. From a community and club perspective you have indicated that the following topics are important:
- Providing a helping hand to rural communities
- The environment
- Working with Youth at risk / Youth Development in Rotary
- Education
- Alleviating poverty
- Mental Health

Your attendance at the Tenterfield 2020 District Conference will be a great opportunity to renew and make new friendships and connections, hear about exciting and new innovative ideas, at the same time supporting a drought affected community. As a lead up to conference Jo Taranto from “Good for the Hood” would like you to complete an online survey (I will have this sent out to all members via the District Secretary). The feedback from your answers will form the basis of her session at conference.

Have a great month everyone.  

DG Harry Bolton

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Model Towns Charitable Trust

Koroipita homes at the Charitable Model Towns Trust provide safe, cyclone proof housing for vulnerable Fijians living on the street. These are mostly women with children who once given a home to rent become self-sustaining within a year, giving them not just secure safe housing but also enhancing their self-esteem, along with the opportunity for their children to be educated.

As per the attached (File: Model Towns Trust.pdf) this project has been going for many years and I have personally experienced the joy of building one of these homes in 2006. The tools are a vital necessity for not just the ongoing maintenance but also the need for more houses to be built in the future.

The full amount is a big ask for just one Rotary Club, but I am hoping that several Clubs can become involved and the combination would reach the total tool cost.

Jane Loxton  |  Project Director  |  Rotary Club of NextGen  |  MTCT web site: https://mtctfiji.org

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Rotary Satellite Club of Hope Island Sunset Launch

On Wednesday 9 Oct we celebrated the launch of the Rotary Satellite Club of Hope Island Sunset.

Special guests included PDG Darrell Brown and DG Elect Andy Rajapakse. Unfortunately DG Harry Bolton had to stay in Tenterfield as the area was being affected by significant bush fires and he passed on his apologies and best wishes.

The Sunset club launched with 13 members. The membership certificates were presented by DGE Andy and the district also presented the club with a cheque for $2500.

The Charter members are: Leigh Watson, Judy Jefferies, Danial De Vries, Tiffany Berry, Darron Ogier, Stephen Watson, Debbie Watson Jenelle Harris, Clare Kirby, Dr Asha Sadasivan, Annie White, Cedar Tegan, Angie Noar.

We wish them every success with the new club and with making a difference in the community

- Article from the Hope Scope Newsletter
Yes, I’m betraying my age… 😊 but… are we getting just a tad numb?

Correct me if I’m wrong, but is our club the only one where organizers struggle to get participants in the “traditional” fund raising efforts? (Yes, I refer to the Sausage Sizzles, or the ‘Rattling the Tin’ events such as Shopping Centre collections to collect for Polio Plus.)

“The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.”

(Gulp…) Quite a mouth full, isn’t it… If you were to text it, it would hardly fit into a single smartphone screen. Probably it’s too long for Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and whatever is the current social media fashion. So, here is something suitable for super busy people, in relation to Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign:

- Polio = Virus causing children to go lame. Probably YOU have been vaccinated ages ago.
- Polio cases in 1985 when Rotary campaign started: 350,000 (approximately) You are excused if you have never seen a case, because
- Polio cases end 2018: Just 18 – but it has since increased again to 82! – only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but several countries are still endangered.
- Total expenditure required to maintain immunization to achieve eradication: US$2.2 Billion
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation triple up with $2 for every $1 Rotary raises
- Expected all up return from ‘Rattling the Tin’ per hour, per person: approximately $50.00 + $100.00 from Bill Gates = $150.00

So, do you really think you can’t make a difference to world peace? Think again: if 1.2 Million Rotarians worldwide would think the same way...

“Too busy!” Not a problem – don’t hesitate to support your club’s fundraising efforts financially if you are time poor! Quite rightfully, you will be known as a ‘Peace Maker’.

Franz Huber | Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc

BALLINA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL - SUPPORTING A WORTHY CAUSE

The RC of Ballina-on Richmond held its 10th Ballina Food and Wine Festival on Sunday 20th October.

The festival kicked off on Friday night with the Asahi – After Dark Gala Dinner and then the Festival Day on Sunday. Lots of fun, laughter was had by attendees at the events. With over 70 exhibitors, everyone had plenty to sample in the food and drink department and on stage we had some amazing entertainment.

The festival is the clubs’ main fundraiser for the year and this year funds raised will be used to support Preventative Programs for Domestic & Family Violence. Funds will be used to give young people the tools to make good choices, to teach students through the ‘Love Bites’ Programs that Domestic Violence is not ok, and give them the knowledge and understanding and support that is needed to create safer communities.
Griffith Gold Coast Rotarians recently went all arty at Knitbomb, as part of Mental Health Week celebrations. Club members got busy wrapping pieces of knitting around poles and trees within the Gold Coast University Hospital parklands, as well as organising some activities.

The activities organised by the Club on the day were aimed at creating a fun and interesting atmosphere for everyone. These included face painting, making pompoms, making stress relief kits, a tea/coffee and sweet station, as well as minute-to-win-it games. Singers and performers were also on hand to entertain as was Steven Miles, Minister for Health and local MP Sam O'Connor who is often at Club meetings and Club events. ArtBeat is a collaborative project with the Mental Health Recovery Unit of Gold Coast Health and has been running for 6 years. Griffith Gold Coast Rotary was involved in the event last year and hopes it will be a regular event in the Club’s calendar. - Rhonda Whitton

DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE A RYTS CANDIDATE?

WHAT IS RYTS? Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS) is a weeklong personal development and leadership program sponsored by Rotary aimed at developing the interpersonal and professional skills of young adults.

WHO CAN GO? Young people aged 16-18 years old, from diverse backgrounds either leaving high school or about to start Year 12 and / or who have demonstrated leadership potential in a variety of situations.

WHEN? 12-17 December 2019 at Bornhoffen PCYC.

We are taking applications for the Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS) camp right now! Places fill up fast so hurry on over to www.rotary9640.org/page/RYTS to find out more and apply.

The State of Rotary Membership  (Source: Membership Minute October 2019)
When it comes to supporting those who are doing it tough, the generosity of the people on the Alstonville Plateau is amazing. On Saturday 28th September a handful of Alstonville Rotarians turned up at the Alstonville Plaza to hold a sausage sizzle and bucket appeal to raise some money to help people in Northern NSW and SE Queensland who are really suffering, and in some cases have lost everything, either due to the worst drought in living memory or by the recent bushfires that were a legacy of the drought. The response from the locals was amazing, in just a few hours our member had raised a net total of $1,435.00, and 100% of this money will be distributed by Rotary District 9640 (via Rotary Clubs in the affected areas) to those most in need of help.

Above: People were lined up to support the cause and buy our delectable sausage sandwiches.

Above right: Some people were so eager to throw money at Peter Swain they missed the buckets.

Left: Never one to miss an opportunity, Vice President Bob Comello is talking to a potential new member.

Above: Rotarians (in Rotary colours) from left: Rick Whitehead, Geoff Alexander, Barry Lomax & Richard Skene with some hungry customers.

If you want to share something, please email me. 9th November 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