



DG JEFF EGAN  
& KAILEEN



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Edition 10  
April 2022

### Jeff's Journal



Rotary through various programs makes high quality health care available to mothers and children to improve their health outcomes. Over 5.9 million children die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care and poor sanitation.

Help from Rotary comes in many forms including education, immunisation, birthing kits and health clinics. Much of this help is funded by grants from the Rotary Foundation. Another reason to give generously to the Foundation.

There are a number of Maternal and Child Health Programs operated by Rotarians in Australia including:

- ♥ Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC). ROMAC brings children from developing nations to Australia for major, sometimes lifesaving, surgery where the surgery is not available in their home nation. The health professionals donate their time and expertise. Approximately 50 children from Oceania are treated each year.
- ♥ Interplast Australia and New Zealand was established in 1983 in conjunction with the Australasian College of Surgeons. It sends Australian and New Zealand health professionals to developing countries to rebuild lives and restore hope.
- ♥ Australia Rotary Health (ARH) funds research and provides community education about health in Australia with a particular emphasis on mental health. The District 9640 champion is PDG Brian Heaton ([brianheaton58@gmail.com](mailto:brianheaton58@gmail.com)).
- ♥ Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) works in harmony with the Rotary Foundation to deliver humanitarian aid through project services to Australian Rotary Clubs for project accounting, donations and fundraising support, management, regulatory compliance, volunteer support, communications and support. Many clubs in our District conduct overseas health projects through the auspices of RAWCS which enables donations to the projects to be tax deductible. The District 9640 champion is Bren Milsom ([bmilsom@advantagempc.com.au](mailto:bmilsom@advantagempc.com.au)).
- ♥ End Trachoma is a purely Australian program as Australia is the only first world country where trachoma, an infectious eye disease that can be prevented with good hygiene practices, still exists in some of our indigenous communities. End Trachoma provides kits of toiletry items to those affected and also raises awareness of the disease. The District 9640 champion is Richard Crandon ([crandon612@gmail.com](mailto:crandon612@gmail.com)).
- ♥ Donations in Kind is under the umbrella of RAWCS and collects and transports surplus goods including medical equipment from Australia to where they are needed overseas. The District 9640 champion is again Richard Crandon ([crandon612@gmail.com](mailto:crandon612@gmail.com)).
- ♥ Malaria Vaccine Program conducted at Griffith University by Professor Michael Good and his team. The Program has just had its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and close to \$1.5 million has been raised by Rotary during that time.
- ♥ And the largest of all – End Polio.



Many of our clubs conduct projects in the area of Maternal and Child Health through RAWCS these being:

- Mauna Health Centre on Pentecost Island (Broadbeach and Gold Coast)
- Kenya Health (Mt Warning)
- Bukua Program in the Solomon Islands (Jimboomba)
- Community Support for Korovou Hospital in Fiji (The Granite Belt)
- Reeve's Battle with Cerebral Palsy (Coomera Valley)
- Education and Community Resources in Timor Leste (Burleigh Heads)





Other projects being conducted by our Clubs in the area of Maternal and Child Health include:

- *Birth Kits (Ballina-on-Richmond, Banora Tweed, Murwillumbah Central, Mt Warning)*
- *Medical Equipment to Oriental Mindoro Emergency Medical Services in the Philippines (Coomera Valley)*
- *Critical Covid Support for India (Gold Coast Passport)*
- *Caleb Centre for Autism (Warwick Sunrise)*

So there is a myriad of ways you can contribute to improving health outcomes for mothers and children.

### DISTRICT EXPO IN TENTERFIELD

Over 350 registrants were able to enjoy the delights of Tenterfield from March 25 to 27.

The program featured speakers who were engaging, informative and thought provoking. We heard about the uplifting effect of Hope Island's Fodder for the West Campaign, the work of BlazeAid, the achievements of the Backtrack Program, the life of an Australian Rural Lifestyle Photographer, the progress of our Rotaractors, the life of a humanitarian Doctor in war torn countries, the Healing Hurt Project and the rescue of the young soccer team from the flooded caves in Thailand.

But most of all we enjoyed the opportunity to socialise together and to share a plate, a glass, a cup and story with each other. To dance, to laugh and sometimes cry together.

My thanks to EXPO Convenor Harry and his team from Tenterfield Rotary and their various helpers including The Granite Belt Rotary. They did an amazing job.





## FLOOD RELIEF

It was 4 weeks and 1 day since I first penned some words about the flood situation. Once more I am looking out of my window at Tweed Heads and it is raining and many parts of the District are again flooded. We are continuing to provide help to those affected by working in the community, coordinating aid deliveries and using funds raised to purchase much needed items.

District Foundation Chair Phil was successful in obtaining a Rotary Foundation Grant of \$25,000 US and to date approximately a further \$233,000 has been raised by the District Flood Appeal. From these amounts, so far we have been able to distribute \$102,000 to our Clubs to feed the flood affected and the volunteers helping them, to provide debit cards to those in need to buy food and other essentials and to

purchase appliances for those who lost them in the floods. Most importantly our members have been out in the community to show the flood affected that they are not alone and we care.

In addition, RAWCS have provided vouchers to the value of \$100,000 to be distributed by our Clubs to the flood affected in our District.

Many of you and your Clubs have donated to the Appeal. Donations have also come from Rotary Clubs, corporates and others all around the country. Other Rotary Clubs have organised collections of needed items.

Our contributions to the flood relief effort will be required for many months to come. Recovery will be a long process but we will be there to the end.

## CLUB VISITS

Amid the mayhem of the floods Kaileen and I have visited Runaway Bay, Mudgeeraba, Gold Coast Corporate, Ballina Lifestyle Satellite and Byron Bay. We were warmly welcomed by each club and noted with interest the wonderful work each is carrying out in its community.

## HOPE SPRINGS ROTARY CENTENARY CHARITY COMPETITION

How is your Club progressing in the challenge to be the highest fundraiser in the District between January 1 and May 31 2022 for charities with DGR status? Full details of the competition are set out in the November District Newsletter.

Regards, *District Governor Jeff Egan*



D9640 features in the latest RDU with PDG Terry Brown on the cover.

Read it [HERE](#)



## DISTRICT AWARDS

Have you submitted your applications for this year's District Awards?

Full list of Awards can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Applications close 30 May

Awards will be presented at the District Governor's Changeover on 26 June 2022.

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF ROTARY SERVICE  
2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2022**

**You're Invited to the**  
Change-over for The  
Granite Belt Rotary Club  
and a celebration for  
50 years of Rotary  
Membership for  
PDG David Lee &  
PP Angelo Puglisi

Contact PDG David:  
[dwijlee@bigpond.com](mailto:dwijlee@bigpond.com)

## LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

Bookings close Tue 19 April

## MAKING MEMBERSHIP MEMORABLE SUMMIT



**Saturday 23 April**  
**@ Rydges Gold Coast Airport Hotel**

This is your chance to hear Rotarian Jason Browne speak about membership, leadership and creative change. Jason is flying in from Pennsylvania for the Summit.

Don't let this opportunity slip by, this dynamic speaker will change how you think about Rotary.

Register [www.trybooking.com/BXXIQ](http://www.trybooking.com/BXXIQ)

**WHO?**  
**Have you**  
**asked to**  
**join Rotary?**



Can you believe only 51 Rotary Clubs out of the 1040 clubs in Australia have recorded a +10 net membership growth through the last 5 years from 2016 July to 2022 March? And there are only 50 clubs in Australia with over 50 members?

We in D9640 can be proud that 5 of those highest growth clubs are in our district. 3 of our D9640 new clubs are in the TOP 12 new clubs.

We are the only Rotary District in Australia to record positive growth over the past 5 years with a net 160 members since 2016 July 1st and 13.4% growth.

Zone 8 Assistant Rotary Coordinator  
& New Style Club Champion  
D9640 IPDG Andy Rajapakse



## GRAFTON MIDDAY PROVIDING A SOFT LANDING FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Grafton Midday Rotary is delighted to have provided 6 RoHo Occupational Therapy Cushions for Grafton Base Hospital.

The RoHo cushions are used to assist in the prevention of pressure injury in patients who are not easily able to



Photo: Unique internal construction of the cushions

change and alter their own body position. The cushions' all up cost was \$4,000. This assistance was made possible through Grafton Midday's fundraising Raffles, BBQs, Book sale and donations made to the Club's Charity Account.

Brian Lane - Publicity – Grafton Midday Rotary

Wonderful to see our **Koala Lovers Rotary Club**, started in our District in 2021, featured in "The Rotarian" Magazine in the USA this month and in the "Rotary Down Under" RDU last month.

Congratulations to founder President Zac Revere, Secretary Jade Castle and Corporate Member from Japan Karen Julia Waters on leading this world's first animal cause-based environmental focussed Rotary Club that has attracted "Gen Z" and "Millennial" age group members.

A NEW SOCIETY » ROTARY IN THE NEWS » INTEREST-BASED CLUBS » STITCHES AND TIME

# OUR CLUBS

**VIRTUAL VISIT**  
**Samuel's mission**  
Rotary Club of Koala Lovers, Queensland, Australia

**Zachary Revere's fervor** for conservation dates to his childhood, when he was inspired by the legendary Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin. "When I was a young kid, he was all I'd watch on television," says Revere. "He made me passionate about Australia's beautiful wildlife." Revere's parents indulged him with annual cross-country birthday trips to Irwin's Australia Zoo in Queensland, and in his late teens, Revere began work at Australia's renowned Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

"The first six months were just shoveling poo," Revere recalls, but in the years that followed he moved on to handling snakes, lizards, crocodiles, dingoes, and birds of prey. "Your main job is to care for the animals," he explains. "You're capturing some beautiful natural behaviors so they can be on cue for the public."

Revere, who recently earned his law degree, also exhibited a deft touch with people: His campaign for a local council seat caught the attention of Andy Rajapakse, the 2020-21 governor of District 9640. "With Rotary International introducing the environment as our new area of focus, I conceptualized the Koala Lovers as a cause-based club to attract Generation Z," says Rajapakse. "Zac was the first person I contacted and shared the idea with. He was surprised a 24-year-old could join a Rotary club."

"I, like many young people, thought Rotary was a place for retirees," concedes Revere, who's now 25. "After joining I found the complete opposite. It's a place for young people to seek opportunity, to learn, and to give back." Rajapakse and Revere recruited a near-equal measure of members — "Everybody absolutely loves koalas," after all, Revere says — most of them under 40 and all but one new to Rotary. "Most of them have some tie to conservation," he says. "Koalas are our cause, but it takes all sorts of people to shape the club, move the club, and make a dent in this cause."

The drive for members centered on the club's "action-based" approach. Membership dues were initially earmarked for planting eucalyptus trees, whose leaves provide nourishment for koalas. "Even if you just paid the fee you were going to see action," Revere notes. What's more, he says, the club offers members more flexibility in paying dues — and Rotary's flexibility with new forms of membership offered another advantage. A Queensland law firm and the Global Waters English School, which serves 400 students at two locations in Osaka, Japan, became involved through corporate memberships.

"When I heard about the club, I thought it was an ideal educational opportunity for the children, not only to learn about the koalas but also to connect with children all over the world and start

**How to establish a club — and save a species**

» **Getting started:** The Koala Lovers club began as a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Currumbin Beach, which is based in a Gold Coast suburb. Teachers from Mexico, Sri Lanka, Germany, and Russia attended an online information session that included a chat with Revere from the Currumbin sanctuary's koala enclosure.

» **Education and advocacy:** Preserving Australia's fauna and flora is the club's paramount mission. Its meeting speakers, who include representatives of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, support that endeavor, providing, among other things, updates on the vaccines to fight the chlamydia that is ravaging the koala population. Another club pillar is motivating members to lobby government leaders to better manage the animals' habitats.

» **A sense of urgency:** The Australian Koala Foundation estimates that there are no more than 68,000 koalas left in the country — and the actual count could be far lower. "Without intervention, koalas are on track to become extinct in large areas of eastern Australia as early as 2050," says Michael Pyne, senior veterinarian and general manager of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. Pyne reports that, of the approximately 500 koalas that the hospital treated and released in 2020, 40 percent were critically ill from chlamydia.

» **Disaster is the No. 1 killer of koalas,** so



a global project to save the koalas," says Karen Waters, who operates the school and is a member of the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads, a District 9640 club based in a Gold Coast suburb. Teachers from Mexico, Sri Lanka, Germany, and Russia attended an online information session that included a chat with Revere from the Currumbin sanctuary's koala enclosure.

The schoolchildren subsequently launched a fundraising project, creating artwork for a 2022 calendar, with proceeds from its sale going to the club — which then will disburse the money to the Currumbin sanctuary and its hospital for the animals' care, including vaccines to treat the chlamydia that is rampant in the region's koala population.

"Disaster is the No. 1 killer of koalas, so

if we can knock that off the list it puts us in good stead," Revere says. A vaccine offers some hope, he adds, "but at this stage it's very experimental and expensive," with the treatment per animal starting at about \$85,000.

"Many koala populations in Australia are facing an increased likelihood of extinction that can be attributed to habitat loss and chlamydia," says Michael Pyne, senior veterinarian and general manager of the Currumbin hospital, which admits about 14,000 native animals annually. Pyne is also a regular speaker at club meetings. "Our members get direct access to Dr. Pyne, which a lot of our members really appreciate," Revere says. "For aspiring veterinarians, it's exciting."

Frequent collisions with automobiles also are diminishing the koala population, and so, Revere says, the club has encouraged the installation of signs that warn motorists of the animals' presence. Laura Gerber, a member of Koala Lovers and also a member of the Queensland Parliament, is helping to advocate for the construction of a proposed "kangaroo bridge" in the Burleigh Heads community.

"We've got action teams who are dedicated to certain projects and work to lobby state and local government to do better for the Queensland and New South Wales

koalas," says Revere. "Rotary is a trusted organization in that they're not politically motivated. They're community-driven. If Rotary says it's a concern, [public officials] take it seriously. 'Well, if you're from Rotary, I'd better sit with you and have a chat.' They respect that opportunity."

Local leaders aren't the only ones interested in talking with club members. "It's wonderful to chat with people from all around the world who share our values and our goal to save our precious koalas," says Georgia Lane, a club member and the head of fundraising for the National Trust of Australia (Queensland). "I enjoy that modern approach to connecting with the community locally, nationally, and internationally."

"We're dedicated to ensuring that the next generation can live in a world where koalas call Australia home," adds Revere. "It's serious, and we're willing to stake an entire club on it." — BRAD WEBBER

From left: Rotary Club of Koala Lovers members Lydia Brown, Jonathan Woodward, and Zachary Revere. Club members work closely with the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in Queensland. They are raising money for medical equipment and the club's long-term project focusing on koala vaccinations.

APRIL 2022 ROTARY 53

# SUNDAY MAY 1, 2022



Giddy up!!  
and gather your friends to  
attend  
Rotary Stanthorpe's annual  
charity fundraiser.

# Autumn Race Day

at Ballandean



- 3 course lunch in the vineyard by the Barrelroom Restaurant
- Glass of sparkling wine on arrival
- Fashions on the Field
- 4 races - on the Big Screen
- All races using "Funny Money" (no cash winnings)
- Major Prize for winner of Vineyard Cup
- Full bar operating
- Shuttle bus available from Stanthorpe



**MENU**  
prepared by the  
Barrelroom Restaurant

**1st course**  
Alternate Drop  
Confit pork belly, duo of  
cauliflower, maple apple and  
Lirah balsamic  
Moreton bay bug rolls in  
cocktail sauce

**2nd course**  
Alternate drop  
Slow roast lamb rump,  
whipped feta, potato galette,  
confit tomato  
Tomato, brie & basil stuffed  
chicken ballotine, parmesan  
risotto  
Dessert  
Vanilla Creme Brulee

**Lunch Ticket \$130**

includes 3 course lunch,  
glass of wine on arrival,  
\$4000 funny money & the  
Races on the Big Screen.

**Green Ticket \$50**

includes glass of wine  
on arrival, \$4000 funny  
money & the Races on  
the Big Screen. Food  
& Bar available.

**Rotary**  
Stanthorpe

**BALLANDEAN**  
ESTATE ★ WINES

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9640 rypen new generation

Rotary SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

May 13th-15th 2022

# RYPEN CAMP

SUPER FUN • FOR AGES 14-16 • BORNHOFFEN NSW

**RYPEN is a camp for school students aged between 14-16 (Year 8-10) that focuses on the development of self-concept, relationships, and is designed to develop skills that will assist them in the transition to adulthood.**

Feel free to email us at [rypen@rotary9640.org](mailto:rypen@rotary9640.org) or call the District Program Chair, Tamara Urmston on 0499 029 384

<https://rotary9640.org/page/rotary-youth-program-of-enrichment>