

## IMAGINE ROTARY

February  
2023

# Be Your Best Self - Rotary Cares

Rotary District 9640 - Governor's Newsletter



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District Governor  
Karen Thomas

### Karen Connects: Promoting Peace

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying getting back into your year and your activities. February is the Rotary month of Peace and Conflict Resolution - such an important and expansive topic.

Have you ever thought about the meaning of "peace"? Perhaps we often think of the definition

as being "a period in which there is no war" or "a friendly greeting". There are in fact a variety of definitions, all of which are beautifully covered in Rotary's four roles in promoting global peace. These roles also encompass Rotary's seven areas of focus which have been highlighted to all clubs over this year. Please enjoy the article on these in this edition's "Rotary Refresher".

Our cover picture depicts the seven peace centres that are located in various locations around the world. The closest to our district geographically is situated at The University of Queensland, Brisbane. These peace centers offer training to students who are passionate about peace building and conflict resolution. The global program began in 1999 and more than 1,500 peace fellows have graduated since that time. We have invited one of these graduates to speak at our District Conference in Yamba in TWO WEEKS time. Registrations close in ONE WEEK so please make sure you have secured your spot for this inspirational and enjoyable weekend.

There are two classifications for peace – external and internal. The latter is also known as “inner peace”- the peace of the mind or soul, a state of calm, serenity and tranquillity of mind. Do we all

strive to offer this to our members on a club level? Are we mindful of the detrimental effects that words and actions may have on those around us in our Rotary space? I ask you all to privately give this topic some reflection. There are many meaningful quotes published. The following has the ability to strike an emotional chord.

**“They May Forget Exactly What You Said -But They Will Never Forget How You Made Them Feel”**

So looking forward to spending time with you all at our District 9640 Conference. Thankyou in advance for your support and participation.

Take care always.

Karen



Click on image for welcome video

## IMAGINE IRRESISTIBLE YAMBA

District Conference 2023 - Yamba is in two weeks!  
**Friday 10th - Sunday 12th March 2023**

[Click here for full details](#)

An updated Conference Itinerary is now on our website - [click here](#)  
**You MUST register to get your seat (and we need to get numbers for our budget and to organise caterers)**

[Click here for updated list of speakers](#)



### SATURDAY 11th MARCH- YAMBA BOWLING CLUB

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOPIC/ NOTES
FROM 8am	Registration Desk opens	Yamba B
8.45am to 10.30am Plenary Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference Welcome and Official Opening</li> <li>Welcome to Country</li> <li>National Anthem</li> <li>Official Opening</li> <li>Club Presentation</li> </ul>	
	<b>Keynote Speaker: Mark Spencer</b>	<b>A Lifetime of Ocean Discovery</b>
Morning Tea 10.30am-11.00am	Complimentary for all <b>registered</b> attendees. Please book (no cost will be charged) for catering planning. Amy Ryan: Entertainer (singer)	
11.00am -12.30pm Plenary Session 2	Dr Heena Akbar	'Health and Wellbeing of Māori and Pacific Women with Type 2 Diabetes - A Co-designed Initiative'
	Ginny Giorgio Kingscliff Rotary Club	Film Project: Towards Respectful Relationships

Click here for full program



## Karen's Diary #8:

A busy Rotary start to the second half of our "Imagine Rotary" year. Club visits have been to Banora Tweed, Byron Bay, Casino, Satellite Club of Evans Head Upper Richmond, Lismore Networking, Robina City and Griffith GC.

Thank you all for your warm welcome, fellowship and admirable Rotary spirit. A number of travels have also involved attending conference meetings, other district meetings, volunteer awards on Australia Day and the RYLA dinner.



Clockwise from top left:

Member induction at Satellite Club Evans Head - Upper Richmond, Marion Jones & Benji. Burleigh Community Dau at Schuster Park, RYLA Dinner - Jack Watson, Community Volunteer Awards - RC Mt Warning, and Murwillumbah Central



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**'gotta be in it to win it**  
**(the District Conference that is!)**

**PRIZE DRAW VALUE \$2,500**

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OF GOLD COAST PASSPORT CLUB &  
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**Rotary**  
District 9640



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**ROTARY CLUB OF  
WARWICK  
90th ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**



**APRIL 29 2023**  
**Warwick Turf Club**



# **TENTERFIELD'S BAVARIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL & BEERFEST**



**15 to 19 March 2023**



## **GARDEN CONCERT & LUNCH**

**Wed 15 March @ 10.30am - \$50**

## **MULTICULTURAL MUSIC CONCERT**

**Fri 17 March @ 7.00pm - \$25**

## **MUSIC & MARKETS**

**Sat 18 March @ 9.00am - FREE**

## **BAVARIAN BEERFEST**

**Sat 18 March @ 5.00pm - \$70**



[Click on image to go to booking site](#)



**Rotary**



**Club of  
Tenterfield**





## From Dreams to Reality: The Bozo Bus

### A Rotary Club of Goondiwindi Community Service

by Chris Teague



The Rotary Club of Goondiwindi is fortunate to offer a ride that has stood the test of time with several generations of Goondiwindi locals having enjoyed the experience and one that remains a favorite at community events to this day. This ride is the "Bozo Bus". The Bozo Bus is a Kubota tractor with four carriages with flashing lights, a siren and a range of other noises that give the kids a smile and a laugh but also announces the presence of the Bozo Bus.

Many locals can share a story or two of their childhood or of their children who have experienced the thrill of riding the Bozo Bus. Community events range from the local Care playgroup in the park, Christmas Eve Fireworks, Easter on Macintyre, school events, community

garden days and bespoke outings such as delivering graduates to their graduation dinner. The Bozo Bus featured in the local R100 celebrations in 2021 and carried the R100 Baton through the main street of Goondiwindi.

The Bozo Bus of today looks very different to the original. The original Bozo Bus looked fairly cool but has evolved over the years, but the intent remains the same – to bring joy and a smile to those who ride the Bozo Bus!



The original Bozo Bus

## RC Currumbin - Coolangatta - Tweed Jubilee Tree Planting

by Diana Traversi



The Rotary Club of Currumbin - Coolangatta - Tweed (CCT) applied for two Federal government grants late in 2021, each of \$20,000, for tree planting in commemoration of HM QEII 's Platinum Jubilee.

We received a grant for Fingal head (NSW) and a team physically planted 450 trees there in beach care on 29 October 2022.

The second project was to plant critically endangered Ormeau Bottle Trees at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. They are planted in the new Rock Wallaby enclosure with underground irrigation and horticulturists in attendance to water and care for them. The unveiling was last month.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary have even created cement rocks in the area as hidey holes for the wallabies. The trees are presently protected by high fencing and the sprinklers from bore water are activated.

Picture: Hon Karen Andrews MP, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, with Diana Traversi at the unveiling of the plaque.

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## Congratulations, Julie Lee, OAM

Julie is a Charter Member of the Rotary Satellite Club of Ballina Lifestyle.

She was nominated under the category of **'Community Service across the range of organisations'** by the Innerwheel Club of Alstonville and supported by the Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond. Here are just some organisations she is involved in:

- Ballina Masonic Balls Secretary and coordinator for many years
- Committee member and Fundraising assistant coordinator for Richmond Valley Life Education which was the Drug Awareness Program that went into the local schools
- Actively involved in fundraising and general work around the facility at Heartfelt House Wollongbar . This facility runs programs to help victims of child abuse
- Has been very active as a partner in assisting with many fundraising activities working bees and major events for the Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond.
- In 2009 took on the role as Exhibitor Coordinator for the highly successful Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival, a position held for the entire ten years history of the festival.
- Was on the Ballina OUR HOUSE Fundraising Committee and assisted with raising over \$308,000 to help fund Cancer Care Accommodation Units in Lismore and today is still active in helping any Our House fundraising in Ballina Shire.



Rotary Club of Summerland Sunrise

2 Feb · 🌐

Cambodian News; This is a poor village that is about to start the program. Living conditions are very poor ; no water, no well, no toilet, no veggie garden. Children do not go to school. We're so glad our RCSS grant will help them. Ludmila Bischof Nerida Dufficy Rhonda Mathers



Rotary Club of Alstonville

1 d · 🌐

✈️ #ShelterBox tents are being loaded onto a flight and will soon make their way to people in the affected areas of #Türkiye and #Syria.

Thanks @TurkishAirlines for the free-of-charge flight, and Turkish @Rotary contacts for helping to coordinate.!



**Got news?**

**Got an event coming up?**

**Tell us! Brag about it! [d9640newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d9640newsletter@gmail.com)**

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## RC of Coomera River donates bus to Coomera Special School

by Gareth Hunt



Following a massive two year fundraising effort, the Rotary Club of Coomera River has delivered a specially designed bus to the Coomera State Special School.

View coverage on Channel 9 News - [click on the image](#) to view Principal Kate Hucker receiving it.

View the TV coverage on Channel 9 News - [click on the image](#) to view Principal Kate Hucker receiving it.

**More details in next month's edition.**

## Rotary Club of Goondiwindi Farewells PP Lew Verney

by Chris Teague

On the 18th of January the Rotary Club of Goondiwindi enjoyed a great evening of fellowship as we farewelled Rotarian Lew Verney and wife Jan, who departed Goondiwindi shortly thereafter. After over twenty-six years of club, community and district service, it was an excellent occasion recognise Lew for his service.

Lew served as Assistant Governor from 2019 – 2022 as well as District Conference Chair 2014-15 and District Alumni chair 2001-02 and 2013-15.

He served our club as President for two terms 2000-01 and 2016-17, and various other club officer positions, including Club Secretary for four terms. Further, he participated in the 1995 Group Study Exchange to Canada and led the GSE team to Hawaii in 2007. He is a Paul Harris Fellow with 3 sapphires.

In recognition of Lew's contribution and dedication to Club, Community and District service, the club presented him with a framed memento. We wish Lew and Jan all the very best for their future endeavours.



Bookings for this year's **Rotary Youth Program for Enrichment (RYPEN) Camp** are now open. [Click on this link](#) to go to the website, details and Application Form

## PDG Andy Rajapakse to represent RI President at District 3770 (Philippines) Conference



Rotary International President Jennifer Jones has appointed PDG Andy Rajapakse (RC of Burleigh Heads), as her "Specialized President's Representative" to District 3770, one of 10 Districts in the Philippines, with 83 clubs and 2450 members.

In addition to representing the RI President, Andy will conduct his high-impact interactive 90-minute workshop on the "5-step formula to start a new style club" for the 83 Presidents Elect of 2023-2024 and the G-Train members.

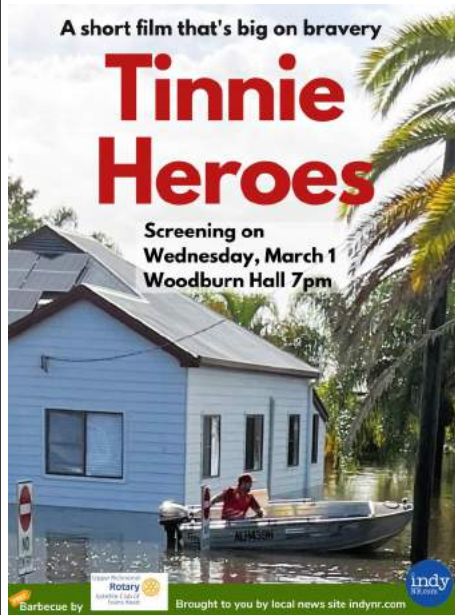
It is a great honour for Andy and our district to be recognised by Jennifer Jones and to be appointed to share his expertise in starting new style clubs with one of the fastest-growing Rotary Districts in the Asia Pacific Region.

[Click on this link](#) to email PDG Andy

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## Launch of Tinnie Heroes Movie

Narelle Oomen, Satellite Club of Upper Richmond



A local reporter, Susanna Freymark, who runs the online newspaper Indynr, put together a documentary relating to the non-professionals, the volunteers, who took their tinnie out to rescue people from their roofs when their houses were underwater. The focus is on the smaller villages, as Lismore did get the majority of the news coverage.

**This launch is in Woodburn on 1st March**, where many of the 'heroes' are from. Other viewings are at Broadwater, Coraki etc – **click on the picture for dates and times**. All viewings are free of charge.

The launch is for the community. The Upper Richmond Satellite Rotary Club of Evans Head and the Evans Head Rotary Club are providing a **free barbecue** for this particular event. There may be other Rotary clubs doing the same.

This documentary has been entered in the Byron Bay Short Film competition as well.

## Aussie Aussie Aussie!

By Jeannie Anderson

What a wonderful Australia Day was.... and how grateful we all are that we live in this beautiful and abundant country!

The Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM hosted a huge Australia Day celebration in Murwillumbah, for the second year in a row. It is fast becoming a tradition! Our thanks to the National Australia Day Council who approved our \$30,000 grant for this event to be held in our local community. After several years of Covid, followed by the March 2022 floods, Murwillumbah was very much in need of a celebration - and celebrate we did!

DG Karen Thomas honored us by attending and being an integral part of our official Awards Ceremony, where four Community Service Awards were presented. Congratulations to Tom Cornish, Brian & Sue Breckenridge, Aunty Jackie McDonald, and Rotarians Peter & Marissa McDonald. These are truly incredible and inspiring leaders in our community, highlighting our Rotary values of Service Above Self.

The event was held at the Murwillumbah Aquatic Centre, where almost 1000 local residents attended. A huge thanks to our local Indigenous Community who were involved in our entire day of activities. Aunty Deidre opened the proceedings



From left: Peter McDonald, Aunty Jackie McDonald, Marissa McDonald, Thomas Cornish, Sue Breckenridge, Brian Breckenridge.

with a meaningful and heartfelt Welcome To Country, followed by indigenous dancing on three separate occasions, storytelling and interactive workshops. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Murwillumbah Central who ran the BBQ. We were also able to provide all attendees with lamingtons, damper, ice blocks and drinks, and even gift bags for the kids.

Our community enjoyed this chance to come together and celebrate, with the added bonus that this \$30,000 of grant money was spent within our local community, bringing great economic benefits to local businesses. You are all invited to come along and join us in January 2024!

**Determination in war is admirable, it is not as taxing as to show creativity and imagination in peace.**

Clive James

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## Rotary Refresher: Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centres have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organisations.
- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive and resilient.



## District Governor's Personal Project 2022-23

DG Karen's personal project continues to enjoy great support from our clubs. Angel Flight is a wonderful registered charity - read more about it on their website:

<https://www.angelflight.org.au/>

Donations are tax-deductible.

In total, **15,631.00** have been raised so far. Please make all payments to

**Rotary International District 9640 Ltd,**

**BSB: 084462, Account No: 79 639 5692, Reference Angelf**

Angel<sup>TM</sup>  
Flight



## Be the Lifeblood

**When you give blood,  
you are more than  
just a donor. You're  
the Lifeblood of  
Australia.**



1 in 3 people will need blood.

Your friends, neighbours,  
teammates, family.



1 donation every 18 seconds.

That's what's needed in Australia.



Thinking about donating?

Join us. Be the Lifeblood of  
Australia.

## You may well have the power to levitate. But...

*I sometimes feel vibrations in my chair. This may well be caused because you try to send me your submissions for the March newsletter via thought transfer. However, my wavelength may not be correctly tuned to yours (when I'm awake, mine is between 13 and 30 Hz).*

*So, it might be safer to send me your article the old fashioned way. Ok, not really old fashioned, not snail mail, but by email. About 200 words, and don't forget the pictures and identify the people in it!*

- Events your club has run in the past
- Events your club intends to run (if it is not in the list below, or on the District website Events Calendar, I don't know about it!)
- Mile stones, celebrations, honours. Yes, that Rotarian has worked hard to deserve his PHF. Tell us about it! [d9640newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d9640newsletter@gmail.com)



**Be sure I get it:  
send it by email, not  
thought transfer!**



## What's happening where in the District?

Date	Club	Event
<b>01 Mar 2023</b>	Upper Richmond Satellite Club	<a href="#"><u>Tinnie Heroes Movie Launch</u></a>
<b>10 Mar 2023</b>	District 9640 Conference team	<a href="#"><u>District 9640 Conference</u></a>
18 Mar 2023	Tenterfield	<a href="#"><u>Bavarian Cultural Music Exchange and Beerfest</u></a>
05 Mar 2023	Surfers Sunrise	<a href="#"><u>Major media event relating X-Ray Unit for Pentecost Island, Vanuatu</u></a>
April 2023	Coomera Valley	<a href="#"><u>Rotary Book Fair</u></a>
29 Apr 2023	Warwick	<b>90th Anniversary Celebration</b>
05 - 07 May 2023	District 9640	<a href="#"><u>RYPEN Camp - is your candidate booked?</u></a>
23 Sep 2023	Iluka	<a href="#"><u>Iluka Mermaid Festival</u></a>

### These are DG Karen's Goals for 2022-2023

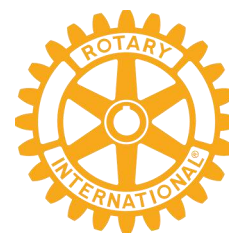
- All clubs to appoint a DEI officer and a member care officer.
- Elevate the lesser gender number in your club to achieve improved balance.
- Undertake a club project in the focus area of Disease Prevention and Treatment or host a health awareness campaign either inter-club or public.
- Elevate your image by advertising this event before and after.
- Either involve a Rotaract club in a Rotary education session or start an Interact club.
- Achieve donation of \$100 per member to the Rotary Foundation— choose either Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, or both.



## The Rotarian Code of Conduct

**As a Rotarian, I will:**

- ◇ Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- ◇ Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- ◇ Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- ◇ Avoid behaviour that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.
- ◇ Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities,
- ◇ report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment



## What's coming up in the next month's editions?

**March Edition**

Our District Coming Together - we'd love you to provide us with photos and mementos from your clubs history records. Let's put together a showcase! ([please send to Editor](#))

**April Edition**

Networking and Togetherness

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