

Rotary
District 9640



Edition 5 - December 2024/January 2025

Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



Welcome to 2025! I hope that everyone has enjoyed time with family, friends, travelling or just simply relaxing at home. For Gareth and I it was family, relaxing and spending some more time with Eliz before she heads home to the Ukraine this Saturday.

December and January are busy times in the year as we farewell some of our inbound exchange students as they head home, wish our 2025 outbound exchange students a wonderful year as they head out to their destinations and warmly welcome some more inbound exchange students. Our District Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) team do an amazing job and I cannot thank them enough for their energy and passion. Follow their [Facebook page](#) to see just some of what has been going on.

I am happy to announce that applications have now opened for the 2026 long-term youth exchange program. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for Australian students aged 15-18. Please share this opportunity with your local community. Find out more by visiting our District RYE website [here](#).

December and January have also been busy with two of our [Rotary Youth Programs](#) – RYTS and RYLA.

RYTS was held in December and with 36 participants was another successful program. Four of our RYE participants – Eliz (Ukraine), Leander (Norway), Towa (Japan) and Villads (Switzerland) attended which increased the global connections for everyone.

RYLA starts in just under two (2) weeks and runs from the 20-25 January 2025. RYLA is Rotary's signature youth leadership development program designed to promote personal and professional development for young adults aged 19 -29.

If you know someone who is aged 19-29 and looking for self-development, fun and new friends then RYLA 2025 might just be the answer. **Now is the time to apply! Applications close this Sunday, 12 January 2025. Click [here](#) for more details on how to apply.**

Please contact our RYLA Chair, Anthony Zirilli (ryla@rotary9640.org) if you have any questions.

Creating Impact in our communities

Thanks to social media and your club bulletins/newsletters during December, I have hopefully kept up to date with everything going on across our diverse district. From supporting community events, BBQs, catering, creating magical Christmas moments and more. Every project, every connection you make is the magic of Rotary.

One project that has a major impact throughout the year but has a focus from late November for many of our clubs is the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**. Our own Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond lead the way and this year they had around 1,000 community members participating in a community walk through Ballina. Moving forward we would love to encourage all clubs leading projects to record these in the Rotary Service Project Centre (which is in My Rotary). If you would like to learn how to do this, please let me know.

A club [toolkit](#) has also been created. Have you downloaded it yet? I encourage you to download it as it is a useful resource for discussing within your club and with your local community.

I am aware that for many of us and our clubs this is an issue that we may not feel prepared for. A question I have been asked many times is what do I do if a member of the public or a fellow Rotary/Rotaract member shares with you about their current or past involvement in a Domestic and Family Violence situation or an unhealthy relationship? It is important to acknowledge that, while we are not trained professionals in this area, we are here to listen and refer them to support services. If they need further assistance, please refer them to 1800RESPECT or another appropriate support service. If there is an immediate danger, call 000.

Click [here](#) for more information what to do, and not to do, when responding to disclosures.

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month (December)

As you know, every month is dedicated to one of the major themes of our Rotary lives; the theme for December is that which RI is perhaps best known for, including among non-Rotarians.

Disease prevention is a key focus for Rotary because it can have a significant impact on the health of individuals, families, and communities. It is also connected to other Rotary areas of focus, such as water and sanitation, and maternal and child health.

Rotary has made significant progress in disease prevention and treatment over the years. For example, polio has been nearly eradicated, with 99.9% of cases eliminated. It seems fitting that this follows our focus on the Rotary Foundation in November each year.

And to wrap up 2024:

- The installation of a Peace Pole with Summerland Sunrise Rotary Club.
- An amazing evening with all five Rotary clubs in the Lismore area – Lismore, Lismore West, Lismore Networking, Goonellabah and Summerland Sunrise. Thank you RCL Gae Ferris for making this happen.
- The honour of visiting the Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics who hosted the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency the Honourable Dr. Jeannette Young AC PSM and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD to share the ground-breaking research of our Malaria Vaccine Research Project team. Thank you PDG Sandra Doumany, Chair Malaria Vaccine Project.
- Attending the RYE 2025 Outbound camp for their blazer ceremony. This is the second year Gareth and I have had this opportunity and connecting with the parents as well, makes it even more special. If you are a sponsoring club, please stay connected with the family of our RYE out bounders and invite them to your events/club meetings.
- Breakfast with Broadwater Southport Rotary Club.
- Christmas lunch with many of our past Rotary District Governors (aka College of Governors).
- Northern Gold Coast Rotaract (NGCR) Purple Colour Run (Say No to Family and Domestic Violence)
- Thanks to Rotarian Jane Padden, five of our inbound exchange students were on the boat leading the Santa Jetski Ride Gold Coast 2024 for Christmas Presents for Kids in Care. The Rotary Club of Coomera Valley were also up early that morning cooking up a breakfast BBQ for all the 'santas' and of course, the grinch.
- Dinner with RYTS participants and the program leaders.

January is Vocational Service Month



Vocational service can mean many things to many people. In Rotary, Vocational Service means holding ourselves and our businesses to the highest ethical standards. It's very important to us. This is what Rotary is all about.

Vocational Service is one of the Five Avenues of Service. We inspire, empower, and transform individuals through our various vocations and social networks creating and promoting our high-level standards in work ethics, service, and personal integrity.

Vocational service also means appreciating the various trades and professions, and how each can contribute to making our communities stronger.

Some ideas to celebrate Vocational Service Month include:

- Discussing vocational service and business excellence awards with local businesses.
- Presenting awards.
- Presenting a vocational award to someone in the community.
- Assisting with skills development or training.
- Providing opportunities for members to talk about their professions.
- Inviting experts to give a presentation on the vocational needs of the community.

Your District 9640 Conference 28-30 March 2025

"Together, We Inspire"

28-30 March 2025 - [Book Now!](#)

You are invited to be inspired by the Magic of Rotary, through the stories told by our guest speakers, our showcase of projects, and your opportunity to connect with, and learn from, Rotary and Rotaract members and other conference attendees.

Three days of fun, fellowship and inspiration.

Get in quick as some events, such as Governors Cup Golf Day and our Friday night Welcome Cocktail Party are limited in numbers.



Website Update

Our District Website (www.rotary9640.org) has had some updates over the new year break. You will find more updates under the Members tab.

Reminders

Self Review Assessment Lodgment- Due March 2024

Club Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers - please refer to the email sent to you on 26 November 2024. Reminder that the ATO has implemented a new requirement whereby all clubs will need to lodge a NFP Self Review to the ATO, by 31 March 2025.

If you have a key event coming up that you would like to share, please email webmaster@rotary9640.org so it can be added into the calendar on our District Website.

Any Feedback?

Email us at secretary@rotary9640.org with any questions or suggestions