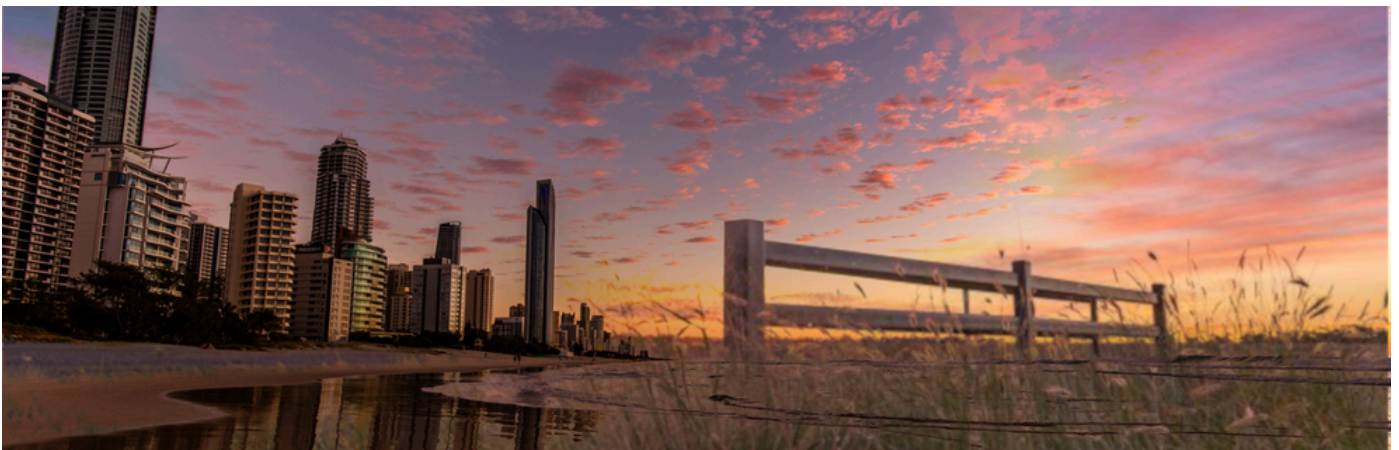


Rotary
District 9640



Edition 6 - February 2025

Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



As we move into the heart of the Rotary year, I am excited to share updates on what is happening across our district and preparations for our upcoming District Conference.

Positive start to the year which has been fun and inspiring to spend time with:

- Rotary Club of Beaudesert listening to Lauren talk about her Rotary Youth Exchange in Japan. I also had presented Club President Kara and Past President Mark with their Rotary Foundation Club Annual Donor recognition.
- Rotary Club of Maclean also presenting them with their Rotary Foundation Club Annual Donor recognition.
- Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM Murwillumbah and Rotary Club of Murwillumbah Central as they collaborated to make a positive impact hosting the local Australia Day community awards - a testament to the power of community spirit. Thank you to all our other clubs who hosted local Australia Day events around the district.
- The Big Rotary Youth Day where we had past participants from our Rotary Youth Programs RYLA 9640 and RYTS 9640 plus Rotaract members from Gold Coast Scenic Rim and Brisbane.
- Rotary Youth Exchange Rebound Celebration for our 2024 Outbound students at Camp Drewe, Lennox Head. More about this in Gareth's DG Partner Project update below.

During this next week I am looking forward to spending time with Goonellabah club members, Kingscliff club members and my own club, Coomera River. Next Monday, we will have another joint meeting, this time with our three Rotary Clubs based in Murwillumbah - Mt Warning AM, Murwillumbah and Murwillumbah Central.

I also spent time with our Grafton Rotarians last Friday to celebrate the life of PDG Peter Robinson, member of Grafton Midday, who passed away suddenly on Wednesday 5 February 2025. Peter was our District Governor (DG) 2009-2010. He also served our District in many roles including Youth Exchange Chair (2003-2006), Community Service Chair (2011-2013), International Service Chair (2012-2013) and was an active part of our Rotary family for over 29 years.

We will be recognising all our wonderful Rotarians that we have farewelled over the last year at our upcoming District Conference. District Secretary Janette Glynn will be in contact to ask you to share details with us.

February is Peace and Conflict Resolution Month

We have an important date in our Rotary calendar each February – **Rotary World Peace Day** is observed on **23 February**. It marks the anniversary of the founding of Rotary International in 1905, 120 years ago! This day celebrates Rotary's commitment to promoting peace and resolving conflicts globally.

Rotary has long been involved in peace-building efforts through initiatives including our **Rotary Peace Fellowships**. Each year, Rotary awards fully funded fellowships to peace and development leaders from around the world to study at one of our Rotary Peace Centers. Dedicated peace and development professionals from communities around the world can **apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship until 15 May 2025**. Learn more: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>

Peace Pole Project

One of my goals under the Rotary Action Plan to Increase our Impact is to install Peace Poles in local communities. Last year, I asked incoming Club Presidents to consider this, and four immediately agreed. I'm delighted that more clubs and members are now embracing this initiative.

This year, we have installed Peace Poles in Lismore (Summerland Sunrise) and Southport (Broadwater-Southport), and we have plans for Hope Island, Goondiwindi, Ballina, Kingscliff and Griffith University Gold Coast Campus. The Griffith University project is a special collaboration between Rotary and the university as one of our first events of our District Conference weekend.

Why did I choose this goal? It's an easy project that fosters community connection by discussing languages for the pole and its placement, such as schools or community gardens. It also creates spaces for reconnection and reflection.

In the words of our Past RI President R. Gordan R. McNally.... ***"Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity, and a future worth living". "By continuing what we do best, by remaining open and willing to change, and by keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world — a more hopeful world."***



We also look forward to welcoming DGE John Oomen and Narelle back at the end of this month from International Assembly 2025 to share with us the message from our President Elect of Rotary International, Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo. The Presidential message, "Unite for Good" is perfect to follow "The Magic of Rotary." Both speak to the service we provide and to the power of working together.

Gareth's DG Partner Project - "Our Youth. Our Foundation."

RYLA

Gareth attended the RYLA Dinner night recently and for those in attendance, including representatives of a number of clubs and past participants, it was great to hear from the participants on how much they had been enjoying the experience.

However, it was disappointing that the number of participants were low, and we were lucky that the venue was so accommodating. A review of format and timing may be undertaken but please consider setting aside support for RYLA (along with our other youth programs) as you start planning and budgeting for the new Rotary year.

RYPEN

Another of our leadership & development programs, RYPEN is aimed at students in Years 8-10 (generally aged 14-16) and will also be opening for applications soon. Check out the District Website (www.rotary9640.org/page/rypen) for details.

MUNA

MUNA, or Model United Nations Assembly, will be open for applications soon. It is aimed at Year 11 and 12 students who compete in teams of 3 representing their chosen nation in discussing, amending, and voting on resolutions similar those that would be debated at the UN. Check out the District Website (www.rotary9640.org/page/muna) for details.

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)

Gareth and I recently attended a camp for our “rebound” Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) students who left Australia on exchange just over 12 months ago. Hearing the experiences they had, and the impact it had on their thoughts of the world and of themselves, was truly inspiring and a reflection on the impact and reach of Rotary.

RYE 2026 Long Term Exchange program applications are also now open, and more information can be found at <https://9640.ryea.org.au/>.

Rotary Foundation

Thank you to those clubs and members that have contributed to the Foundation so far this year. For the year to 31 January 2025, across our District, contributions to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus and Other Funds totalled **USD \$60,080** (down USD \$2.2k on the same time last year).

With the AUD-USD exchange rate not doing us any favours, now is the time to make those contributions and make the Rotary Foundation our charity of choice. There are still plenty of opportunities to make an impact as over half our clubs have not yet made any contributions either directly or via club members.

Website Update

The major refresh of our District website has been completed with the primary focus being the public but with plenty of resources for clubs and members as well, including the new Club Assist pages (under the Members menu) that cover a range of topics, including –

- **Annual Governance** – all the information you need to know to complete your annual reporting and information update obligations.
- **Brand & Public Image** – links to information on how to ensure you use the correct branding for your club and on how to promote what you do.
- **Club Legal Requirements** – what you need to know about legal requirements such as constitutions and by-laws.
- **Manage Member & Club Data** – how to keep data up to date in the places you are required to do including adding or removing members.
- **Risk & Insurance** – all you need to know about ensuring you are covered by Rotary’s Insurance policy.
- **Youth Protection** – details on how your club can ensure you are meeting your obligations on youth protection.

Also linked from the Members menu is the Rotary South Pacific Specialist Hub that will connect you with specialists in a range of areas across our Zone.

Please make use of these resources and feel free to email webmaster@rotary9640.org with any feedback or suggestions

Your District 9640 Conference 28-30 March 2025

"Together, We Inspire"

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

The 2025 Rotary District 9640 Conference approaches! We're finalising plans for an inspirational and fun weekend. Follow our District 9640 Facebook page or visit our website for speaker updates. More details to share as we countdown.

I hope you have read my personal invitation to you earlier this month (3 Feb). This year's conference will feature inspiring speakers, showcase projects, and provide networking opportunities. Get together with old friends and make new friends throughout the event. It's a great chance to rejuvenate your passion for service, share ideas, and celebrate our collective achievements.

Our House of Friendship is not to be missed! In our travels, we have been searching across our district to bring you an inspiring mix of projects. Added to this will be some additional stops where you can chat further with some of our speakers. Some regulars will be there, and you will have the opportunity to stock up on some of your favourite RDU supplies. Don't stress about online shopping, we are bringing a mini-store to you. I am so excited for you to see and experience what we have lined up.

Act quickly – this event is just around the corner, and spaces are filling up fast for all events, including the Welcome Cocktail Party on Friday night where there are only 40 tickets left!

When: Friday, 28 March 2025 to Sunday, 30 March 2025

Where: Southport Sharks, Southport, Gold Coast Qld.



Planning Ahead

All upcoming events can be found on our [District 9640 website](#). Two important events coming up in March are:

15 March 2025 [PELDS](#) (President Elect Learning & Development Seminar)
28-30 March 2025 [District 9640 Conference](#) – “Together, We Inspire”.

Reminders

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