

Rotary
District 9640



Edition 8 - May / June 2025

Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



I am always in awe of what each of you do in your clubs to support your local community and more broadly. And then there is our international projects. Let's have a look at just some of what has been happening across our district.

To start May, our Rotary Youth Service Month, we held our annual Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). Having attended for the past four years, it's always impressive to see the teams' preparation in their setups, costumes, and country knowledge. For more details on this, our RYE team, and RYPEN (June), see Gareth's DG Partner Update below.

DGE John and Learning Chair Simone led our District Learning days (aka District Assemblies) in Boonah Qld and Casino NSW. Thank you to the team of presenters and everyone who participated.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has provided support or donated to the floods in Western Queensland (D9560 and D9620) and NSW Mid North Coast (D9660). When disaster strikes, it's often the quiet acts of kindness that make the biggest difference.

I have seen from Facebook posts donations from around our district that are delivered to RARE (Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment). RARE is one part of the work that RAWCS does, and I want to take this opportunity to recognise our District RAWCS Chair Bren Milsom (RC Burleigh Heads) for his work over many years which has seen multiple containers of vital medical and educational supplies sent to Pacific nations. Bren is retiring from the role at 30 June, and I hope you can join us as we recognise his contribution at District Changeover this weekend.

Great to see some of the projects showcased at our Conference, being shared more widely. Shout out to School Mates (Goonellabah) and Wheelchair Project (Surfers Sunrise). Let's keep the momentum going and share ideas with each other.

IPDG Dave and Robii Harmon have also been busy as we continue to see their project Say No to Domestic Violence (Ballina-on-Richmond) be adopted more widely.

We held our quarterly Company, Finance, and Youth Trust meetings. These were the final meetings for 2024-25. Thank you to our Qld and NSW Club Representatives Rob Brown (Hope Island) and Rob Chillman (Ballina-On-Richmond) respectively for their contribution to the District 9640 Company meetings. DGE John will announce our incoming club representatives for the upcoming year in the coming weeks.

Do you know about our Youth Trust? If not, then visit our District Website as we added a new page in the member section as part of the website refresh that provides guidance on the application process. We have been reviewing the process and we will be providing additional information on how to apply, eligibility criteria, and supporting documentation. The application form has been updated, so please visit the website if you are considering applying. Additionally, you may contact our District Youth Chair at youth@rotary9640.org

DG activities/travels during May and early June -

- Fundraising event for RYE student Cassi's impact project. A successful event supported by her host club, Nerang Rotary, and some of her RYE friends. We then rejoined the Nerang Rotary club members, family, friends, host parents and RYE Chair Kath Koch and Matt Koch in early June to enjoy Cassi's presentation of her year in Australia.
- We kicked back into RYE host parent mode with Alexis from Mexico staying with us. I know that some of you had the opportunity to meet Alexis as he joined Gareth and I at District Assemblies in Boonah Qld and Casino NSW.
- 25th Anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM. It was fun to see photos and memorabilia from each year and celebrate the impact of this club in their community.
- Headed west to have fun with our Rotarians and partners from Warwick and Allora. So wonderful to have our three clubs together for lunch. The two Warwick clubs really know how to collaborate and Allora, while our smallest club, continues to make an impact. Looking forward to supporting them in the next year with a special anniversary for the Allora community. A PK Polio Koala for each club and a copy of Turning the Tide written by Rotarian Col Lee to continue our focus on improving our storytelling. Thank you PDG Neil Maxwell and Dell Maxwell for creating a magical day.

- Some home time after Warwick to action Rotary District 9640 grants for the current year and next year, then off to spend more time in Stanthorpe. The Rotary Club of Stanthorpe and Satellite club delivered another successful Pride of Workmanship Awards event. Did you know their Waste Not pantry project converts excess fruit and vegetables in the region into jams and preserves. I was delighted to finally present in person their recognition for contributing to Polio last year. Thank you for achieving your Polio and Rotary Foundation Annual Fund goals this year as a club. Another PK Polio Koala will be joining the Interact Club and I look forward to returning when they install their Peace Pole. Thank your President Stephen Tancred and Satellite Chair Robyn Henderson for the tour of Rotary projects.
- An early morning catch up with The Granite Belt Rotary club President Greg Paxton to present in person their Level 1 Club Annual Donor certificate. While we do recognise all clubs via communications, it does not replace the joy of being able to personally say thank you to our clubs and members.
- Enjoyed time with our Rotary Club of Fassifern, listening and discussing ideas. As one of their projects in June was the Scenic Rim Farming Expo, a great excuse for a drive to attend this event (and to shop for some great local produce). The Scenic Rim Farming Expo, is an inspiring example of community spirit, hosted by the local Rotary and Lions clubs. A great example of the power of collaboration and collective impact. Congratulations to the team from our Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley.
- Welcome to our newest Clubs - the Rotaract Club of Australian Gamers and Southport High School Interact Club.

Changeover Season 2025

The Satellite Club of Ballina Lifestyle kicked off this year's changeover season in 20 May. Sharing with you our calendar of changeovers. Lots of different formats, reflecting the diversity of our clubs.

Alstonville, Broadbeach	Tuesday, 17 June 2025
Iluka-Woombah	Wednesday, 18 June 2025
Ballina-On-Richmond, Goonellabah	Thursday, 19 June 2025
Banora Tweed, Murwillumbah	Monday, 23 June 2025
Tenterfield, Yamba, Grafton	Tuesday, 24 June 2025
Hope Island, Kyogle	Wednesday, 25 June 2025
Boonah, Maclean, Lismore West	Thursday, 26 June 2025
The Granite Belt, Mt Warning AM, Nerang (50 th)	Friday, 27 June 2025
District Changeover	Saturday, 28 June 2025

Changeover season (continued)

Goondiwindi, Grafton Midday, Mermaid Beach	Saturday, 28 June 2025
Lismore Networking	Sunday, 29 June 2025
Surfers Paradise, Stanthorpe	Monday, 30 June 2025
Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed (80 th), Murwillumbah Central	Tuesday, 1 July 2025
Ashmore	Wednesday, 2 July 2025
Gold Coast, Mullumbimby	Thursday, 3 July 2025
Burleigh Heads	Friday, 4 July 2025
Kingscliff	Saturday, 5 July 2025
Surfers Sunrise, Summerland Sunrise	Sunday, 6 July 2025
Coomera Valley	Wednesday, 9 July 2025
Broadwater-Southport, Parkwood	Saturday, 12 July 2025
Warwick, Warwick Sunrise	Monday, 14 July 2025
Mudgeeraba	Tuesday, 15 July 2025
Coomera River	Thursday, 17 July 2025
Casino, Upper Richmond, Northern GC Rotaract	Saturday, 19 July 2025

If you follow our District [Facebook page](#), you will see some the celebrations shared as they happen.

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

Youth Programs Update

It has been a busy recent period for the [RYPEN](#) team, with the camp, which ran from 13-15 June, **officially being capped at capacity** with over 50 young people, aged 14-16, attending!

A big shout out to RYPEN Chair, Jacqui Wark, as well as to all the clubs who agreed to sponsor participants to attend the camp. Getting to capacity is amazing but also a poignant reminder to get in early when applications open as, unfortunately, there are some students who may miss out.

Talking of getting in early, opening for applications next will be the [RYTS](#) camp, for students in (or having just completed) Year 11-12. Watch out for communications on that one coming soon – pending final confirmation, the camp is scheduled for 4-9 January 2026.

Youth Programs Update (continued)

Our MUNA event was held on 3 May with 18 teams from a range of different schools representing their chosen nation in discussing, amending, and voting on resolutions similar those that would be debated at the UN. Our winning team, from Saint Stephen's College (representing North Korea), will now go on to represent the District at the MUNA Nationals in August and we wish the team good luck! A big thanks to clubs who supported teams, MUNA Chair, Susan Howard, and everyone else who assisted on the day. A report on the event can be found [here](#).

Finally, our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) team have been busy interviewing students for the 2026 Outbound Exchange Program. We have at least 12 applicants heading out on exchange with some more possible. It is also a time of year when we farewell many of our students who have been on exchange in the past year with Cassie and Marlene from Germany who headed home on 7 June and others to follow in the coming month or so. Having students heading home is always sad but the positive is that we have whole new group of students from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain & the USA coming inbound soon!

Rotary Foundation Update

We continue to see positive momentum in club and personal contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

Across all funds (Annual, Polio Plus, Other & Endowment) over USD 172k has been contributed through to the end of May by clubs and members. This is up around USD 62k from the same time last year. June is the last chance to get those contributions in, achieve your goals and, more importantly, help to good in the world – both locally and overseas.

Planning Ahead

All upcoming events can be found on our [District 9640 website](#).

The Rotary South Pacific Conference (also known as Zone 8 Institute) takes place from late afternoon on **Friday 31 October to Sunday early afternoon 2 November, 2025**, at Twin Towns Conference and Function Centre in Coolangatta/Tweed Heads. **Early Bird pricing closes 30 June 2025.**

Reminder

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