

Rotary
District 9640



Edition 4 - November 2024

Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



I am a little later in my update this month, but for lots of good reasons. There has been so much happening that I want to share with you.

October is the start of two particularly important months in our Rotary calendars. As I mentioned in my last update, we started with:

- 1-31 October - Mental Health Awareness Month
- 10 October - World Mental Health Day

Thank you for your social media posts, club newsletters and in some cases, in person, events for the Lift the Lid "Hat Day" events. Australian Rotary Health (ARH) is a project of the Rotary Districts of Australia supported by Rotary Clubs and one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia. Did you know that they provide funding towards research grants, fellowships and PhD scholarships focused on finding preventative and curative solutions for mental illness in young Australians? Important fact, from 2022, their funding focus has been narrowed to the mental health of children aged 0-12. If you are interested in a speaker for your club, please contact Nerida Dean (RC Mullumbimby) who is our District champion for ARH.

Each October we also have Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week. This October alumni took on a whole new meaning in our District as the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR) flew into the Gold Coast. On Friday, 11 October, we joined the Australian and New Zealand Flying Rotarians for dinner at Home of The Arts (HOTA). DGN Deb and Craig, Eliz (our Ukraine YEP), Gareth and I enjoyed a wonderful evening. The next night, DGE John and Narelle joined them for dinner.

The World President of IFFR this year, Mike McFarlane, is an Aussie from Melbourne. I wanted to share with you his feedback from our dinner on the Friday – *“it was a successful fellowship evening providing the opportunity to meet new folk from Rotary, Angel Flight and IFFR, share ideas and hear words of wisdom from the speakers representing each of the entities, including young Jack Gorman, our IFFR Brian Condon Memorial Flying Scholarship recipient.”*

Rotary Fellowships are an amazing way to find ways to connect globally. The next IFFR flyaway in Australia will be in the Barossa Valley (SA) in early April 2025. *“Onwards & Upwards Always”*.

24 October - World Polio Day. “ONE TEAM. ONE DREAM. A POLIO-FREE WORLD.”

The world has made huge strides against polio with cases down 99.9% over the last four decades. But we still have more to do before polio is eradicated.

I know in previous years we have had a train/light rail ride on the Gold Coast but thinking about ‘impact’ we made the decision this year to do something different. (This year we also had the Qld state election on the Saturday which impacted planning of events.) Given the diversity of our district, it is important that we collaborate and create awareness and impact that reflect our communities.

Many of you will now have received your Polio Koala (PK) recognising your club goal to contribute to End Polio or your personal contribution. Thank you!!

What is new this year is our District **PolioPlus Society** - a new fundraising and recognition program that specifically supports PolioPlus which we launched at our Rotary Foundation Seminar on Sunday (17 November 2024). To increase sustainable giving, the PolioPlus Society (PPS) encourages us to pledge at least US\$100 per year (less than US\$2 per week) to the PolioPlus Fund until polio is eradicated from the face of the earth.

Many of us took the opportunity on Sunday to join and get our new lapel pin (have to love a new Rotary pin 😊).

How to join our PolioPlus Society?

Simple two-step process.

1. Firstly, you will need to complete the PolioPlus Society Commitment Form and send it to your District PolioPlus Chair (Gillian Reeve, RC Mermaid Beach). The form will be available on our District website in coming days.
2. The second step is to make your contribution to the “Polio Fund” on the RI website: my.rotary.org/donate. My Rotary provides options for annual, quarterly, and monthly recurring giving. Currently US\$100 converts to AUD147 so a monthly contribution of say AUD 15.00 is a convenient option.

If you are already contributing this amount, then you only need to action step 1.

Rotary members and their friends who join the Society will be honoured with a special lapel pin and a certificate. Please consider joining your local PolioPlus Society and encouraging your friends and colleagues to do the same until the world is declared polio-free by the World Health Organization.

November is Rotary Foundation Month

This November we changed things up and held an amazing District Rotary Foundation seminar on Sunday, 17 November. The room was full of members from 27 Rotary clubs learning about what Polio is, launching our Polio Plus Society, developing project ideas, learning the art of writing grant applications, Rotary Peace Fellows, fundraising and recognition of clubs.

Thank you to District Rotary Foundation Chair Tony Heading and the Foundation team for creating an amazing day. Special recognition to D9620 PDG Wendy Protheroe, RISPPPO Grants Officer Kym Schwarz and 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow applicant Samantha Bing who all travelled to join us today.



And in amongst all this I have enjoyed time with:

- Alstonville (as a YEP host mum and then as DG for the celebration of Satellite Club of Alstonville Plateau)
- Ashmore
- Ballina-On-Richmond Appreciation and Thank You evening (flood recovery).
- Boonah (including local media opportunities)
- Byron Bay Film Awards evening.
- Coomera Valley, Coomera River, and Northern Gold Coast Rotaract.
- Rotary Friendship Exchange Farewell – Scotland (D1010) and our Rotary Clubs of Mermaid Beach and Banora Tweed who hosted our Scottish friends. Purple shirts (Say No to Domestic Violence) and Polio Koalas travelled back to Scotland with our new friends.
- Hope Island (membership evening).
- SEQ Wildlife Rescue.
- Rotary and Rotaract members from across Zone 8 (Rotary South Pacific) in Queenstown NZ at the Zone 8 Rotary Conference. So excited that this conference will be right here in our District in late 2025.

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

RYTS Youth Leadership Program

There is only a LIMITED TIME left for participants to register for RYTS which starts on 15 December 2024 and is targeted at those students in Year 11 or 12 in either 2024 or 2025.

A sincere thank you to the clubs who have already supported students to register. However, we still require at least 15-20 more participants for this camp to be the best it can be. I strongly encourage all clubs to support this program. The impact on those who participate can be truly life changing – all that is needed is the opportunity.

We also often have potential participants who do not have a sponsor club so, if your club is willing to support a participant but cannot identify one yourself, please let the program chair, Mindi Devine (ryts@rotary9640.org), know so the team can match these participants to clubs. Applications can be made directly at www.rotary9640.org/page/ryts.

RYLA Youth Leadership Program

Like RYTS, we are currently seeking more participants for RYLA which starts on 20 January 2025 and is targeted at young people aged 19-29. It is important that registrations are made as early as possible, particularly as we head towards the Christmas and New Year breaks for many clubs.

Please reach out to the RYLA Chair, Anthony Zirilli (ryla@rotary9640.org) if you have any questions. Applications for RYLA can be made at www.rotary9640.org/page/ryla.

Rotary Foundation

Thank you to those clubs and members that have contributed to the Foundation so far this year. For the year to 31 October 2024, across our District, contributions to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus and Other Funds totalled USD 42,135 (up USD 10.4k on the same time last year) so let's keep up the momentum and continue to 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 had any contributions either directly or via club members.

Planning ahead

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

25 November – 10 December 2024 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

29 November 2024 - Rotary South Pacific's [National Day of Action](#).

28-30 March 2025- [District 9640 Conference](#) - *"Together, We Inspire"*.

Bookings open early December 2024.

Website Update

Our District Website (www.rotary9640.org) continues to undergo a transformation. There are a few key pages that have been updated recently which you can find under Members > Club Assist from the menu. These includes a new help pages on managing member and club data as well as updated Rotary Foundation, Grants & Insurance pages. Final updates should be completed by the end of this year.

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.

Our [District Directory](#) for 2024-2025 is available from the website and in print.

Any Feedback?

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