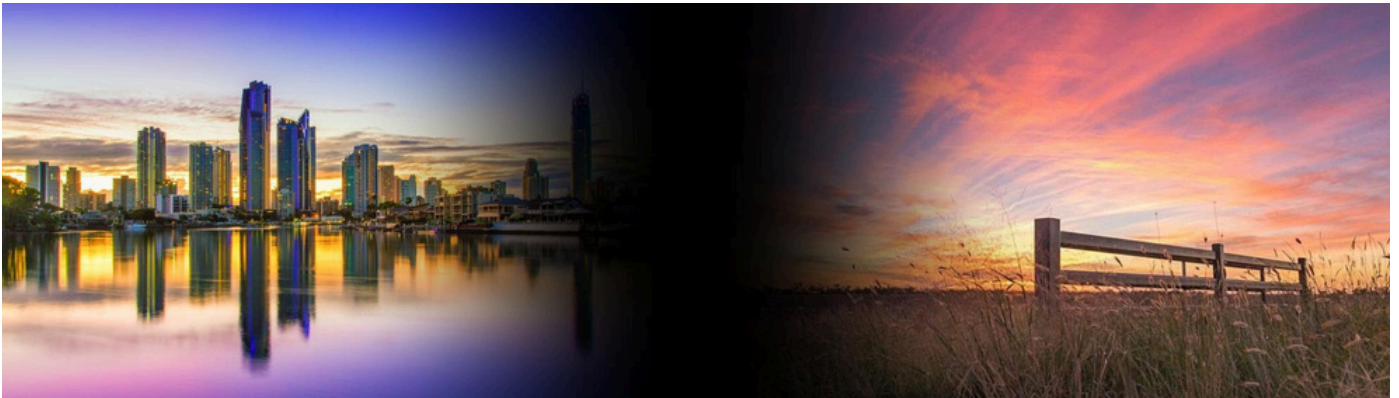


**Rotary**  
District 9640



*Edition 3 - October 2024*

## Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



September is that turning point month that I know I look forward to. The weather starts to warm up, wildflowers bloom and streets turn purple with the delicate, falling flowers of jacarandas.

On International Peace Day (21 September), Gareth and I were honoured to join with members of the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport, DGE John Oomen and Narelle Oomen, members of our District Foundation team, Rotary and Rotaract members, family, friends and several of our Youth Exchange Participants for the installation of a Peace Pole across the path from the Rotary Broadwater Chapel in Southport.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Murwillumbah who have previously sponsored Peace Poles that are in two local schools – Sathya Sai Primary School and Sathya Sai College. Your continued efforts to support the students to celebrate International Peace Day events sets a positive example in your community.

As I mentioned last update, during September I had the opportunity to learn more about a program that started right here in our District – the Rotary Falls Prevention Project. Their message is clear - falls can be prevented! Simple falls prevention actions can be getting a nightlight, physical activity, good nutrition, removing trip hazards and wearing safe shoes. Beginning in 2020, this project was developed by the Rotary Club of Lismore West. It is now a multi club project with Lismore Networking and Satellite Club of Ballina Lifestyle joining Lismore West.

Each year on ANZAC Day the Rotary Club of Coomera Valley has organised the service for the local community. 25 September 2024 was the last time a service was held at the Upper Coomera site where the Cenotaph has stood since 1918. The growth of the community has sadly rendered the intersection unsafe for local traffic and so the Cenotaph will be relocated to its new home in Tallowood Park, Rose Valley Drive Upper Coomera in time for their community Anzac Day service in 2025. The Rotary Club of Coomera Valley have been the community guardians of this Cenotaph for many years and on the day were handed the Australian flag to keep safe until it once again joins the Cenotaph in its new home.

Our always energetic Youth Exchange and ROTEX teams held our first District Alumni event for Rotary Youth Exchange participants in early September. Let me try and paint the picture – it's Friday night, Burleigh Heads Surf Club, you can hear the waves outside and as we step inside the buzz of voices of past, present and future participants and YEP host families and team members. From the 1970's to participants heading out in early 2025, everyone connected, the conversation flowed, and new friendships created.

Our Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18 and older to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service. Our Northern Gold Coast (SGCR) and Scenic Rim Rotaract Clubs were both chartered in 2021, and I am happy to update that we are in the process of starting a new Rotaract club using the same model as NGCR (linked with a community centre) in the Southern Gold Coast area. You will see and hear more about this in coming months. Sadly, our Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads, chartered in July 2013, made the decision to close but thankfully many members have transitioned to other Rotaract/Rotary clubs. I wanted to take this opportunity to recognise just some of the impact our Burleigh Heads Rotaract members have created with every project completed and every dollar donated. Through social activities and events, they supported organisations and charities including The Pyjama Foundation, Beyond Blue, Angel Flight, Destiny Rescue, Leukemia Foundation, Relay for Life, Agape Outreach Centre and Open Doors. Thank you!!

## **Basic Education and Literacy Month (September)**

Basic education is not just literacy - it's what helps us to function successfully within our societies. Basic education and literacy are directly linked to Supporting Education - one of Rotary's seven areas of focus – that expands and creates opportunities for addressing other socio- economic issues.

Each year ahead of International Peace Day the United Nation's Secretary General releases the theme for that year. This year the theme is Cultivating a Culture of Peace and education is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace.

Thank you to all our clubs and members who take action throughout the year, not just in September, to support education and literacy projects.

# October is Community & Economic Development Month

During October, Rotary highlights the importance of empowering communities by growing local economies, creating jobs, & improving livelihoods. Rotary has many ways to create measurable and enduring economic improvement in communities. For example, encourage entrepreneurship and foster inclusive business opportunities.

Also, in October we have ....

1-31 October - Mental Health Awareness Month (visit Australian Rotary Health's [website](#))

10 October - World Mental Health Day

7-13 October - Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week

24 October - **World Polio Day**

One of my DG class shared this [video](#) with me. It is a personal message from a couple who approached Australian Rotary Health (ARH) for a research grant, their findings created a program that went global, and they both joined Rotary because of the good work they saw being done through research.

## Our Rotary Action Plan

### **Second Priority – Expanding our reach.**

There are so many ways to create new channels into Rotary — bringing family members to events, involving local Rotaract members, Interact members and their families, updating club websites and social media pages. Let's build awareness of our impact and brand.

Let's fully engage with people to attract new members who bring fresh ideas and energy.

There are all kinds of leaders in communities, and we want those leaders connected to Rotary. So let's open up our thinking about who a leader can be, and then reach out to these new people: start a dialogue about how we can mutually benefit from their participation in our activities and events.



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

## **RYTS & RYLA Youth Leadership Programs**

NOW is the time for clubs to be following up on participants for the [RYTS](#) (for Year 11-12) and [RYLA](#) (for ages 19-29) programs.

Our District Youth Programs are part of Gareth's partner project (Our Youth. Our Foundation) and all clubs are highly encouraged to help the teams running these programs by sourcing and supporting candidates to attend.

Applications can be made directly on the respective program pages (click on the program name above for the link) and your support with getting candidates to apply now is greatly appreciated and will help our District teams plan effectively.

Please reach out to Mindi Devine ([ryts@rotary9640.org](mailto:ryts@rotary9640.org)) or Anthony Zirilli ([ryla@rotary9640.org](mailto:ryla@rotary9640.org)) respectively if you have any questions on either program.

## **Rotary Foundation**

Thank you to those clubs and members that have contributed to the Foundation so far this year. For the current year to date, contributions to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus and others are now up to USD \$28.2k which is fantastic though slightly down from the total at the end of October last year (USD \$31.7k).

With World Polio Day this month, it is great opportunity to top up contributions to ensure that we are ahead of last year's total by the end of the month. Let's keep up the momentum! If your club hasn't started planning its World Polio Day event, it is never too late to begin. When your event is planned, don't forget to register it!

## **Planning for November - Rotary Foundation Month**

### **5 November** - World Interact Day

(World Interact Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 5 November, Interact's anniversary)

### **Sunday 17 November 2024**

Join us at Twin Towns Services Club, Coolangatta for our:

1. RI District 9640 **Annual General Meeting** at 9.45am Qld Time (10.45 AEDT)
2. **Rotary Foundation Seminar**. Book now on our District website [calendar](#).

## **Attending a Rotary Foundation seminar can be a rewarding experience! Here's five reasons why you should register now!**

1. **Informed Discussions:** You'll hear from experts and leaders in the Rotary community about the Foundation's initiatives, goals, and successes.
2. **Networking Opportunities:** It's a great chance to meet fellow Rotarians, share experiences, and forge connections that can enhance your club's projects and activities.
3. **Workshops and Training:** this year we have a practical workshop focussed on District Grants. If you are interested in global grants, let us know when you register, and we will organise some 1:1 time to discuss your needs.
4. **Updates on Initiatives:** Rotary Peace Fellowship.
5. There will often be opportunities to ask questions and engage with speakers, allowing for deeper understanding of specific topics.



### **25 November – 10 December 2024**

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.  
29 November 2024 - Rotary Pacific's National Day of Action.

### **Reminders**

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

Our District Website is continuing to be refreshed. Many pages have already had a revamp, along with the navigation menu, to hopefully make things easier and simpler to find and to separate public and member content. Don't forget to check back often for updates.

Our District Directory for 2024-2025 is available from the website and in print.

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Any Feedback?

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Email us at [secretary@rotary9640.org](mailto:secretary@rotary9640.org) with any questions or suggestions