

Rotary
District 9640



Edition 2 - September 2024

Welcome to the Magic of Rotary - District 9640



Spring is here which means that we usually see more activity in our communities as the weather improves. We will see lots of activity this weekend at Gourmet in Gundy with our Goondiwindi Club and our Jimboomba and Beaudesert members who will be at the Beaudesert Show. There is also the Really Big Rotary Youth Exchange Reunion tonight and I am sure lots more.

Last weekend, Fassifern Rotary Club, Boonah Rotary Club, Beaudesert Rotary Club and members from neighbouring clubs all came together for the Scenic Rim Agricultural Show. Gareth, Elise (our Ukraine YEP) and I dropped by before driving to Stanthorpe to join the Granite Belt Rotary team at their charity dinner for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). A cheque for \$7,500 was handed over the night. I also know that RFDS is one of the projects of our Rotary e-Club of NexGen. If we have other clubs who fundraise for RFDS, then I encourage you to connect with these clubs to see what magic you can create when you collaborate.

A few more highlights from my DG adventures during August.

- Botanical Bazaar – held every year 1st weekend in August. The festival is run by Gold Coast Rotary and aims to educate and inspire nature enthusiasts of all ages.
- Alstonville Rotary have sponsored a new Satellite Club. Read on for more details.

- Youth Exchange Orientation weekend at Springbrook with all our inbound and 2025 outbound participants.
- Seeing Elise share her story of the Ukraine with our Coomera River and Hope Island clubs. She also presented online to my DG colleagues in NZ and South Australia.

August was also our first D9640 Company and Finance meetings for the new financial year. Each year we have a Qld and NSW representative from our Club Presidents of that year. For 2024-2025 Club President Rob Brown (Hope Island Qld) and Club President Robert (Chilly) Chilman (Ballina-on-Richmond NSW) are our representatives. I encourage all club presidents to connect with Rob and Chilly as they are your representatives on the D9640 Company Board.

Membership and New Club Development Month (August)

To all our new members who have joined us since 1 July – Welcome to the Magic of Rotary!

As mentioned above, the Alstonville Rotary Club have sponsored a new Satellite Club. I was delighted to join the Alstonville team and the new club members. They are ready to have an impact in their community. The Alstonville club team are to be congratulated on nurturing this group of new Rotary members.

You may have also seen Flagstone Wildlife Rescue club change its name to SEQ Wildlife Rescue. After a discussion with members, it was decided to change the name to better represent the areas they cover, so they came up with [Rotary Club of SEQ Wildlife Rescue](#).

We have three clubs who will be participating in [Fit for Purpose](#), a new membership program tailored to empower clubs to thrive. Congratulations to our Rotary Clubs of Ashmore, Beaudesert and Jimboomba.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

This September, Rotary spreads the magic of education, enhancing literacy, and supporting lifelong learning across the globe. Together, let's create opportunities for everyone to flourish. To find out ways to support education, go to: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/supporting-education>.

If your club has a current project that links to this theme, please let me know so we can share with everyone across our District.



Our Rotary Action Plan

First priority - Increasing our impact. This means amplifying the good we already do. Whether it's through service projects, fundraising efforts, or community partnerships, we have the power to make a significant difference. This year, we will focus on continuity by scaling successful initiatives (Say No to Domestic Violence, Mental Health and more), and embracing the formula for change with new projects.

Let's have a look at two scalable initiatives that have started here in our District.

It's Purple Shirt Friday! Rotary Says NO to Domestic and Family Violence

Last year, Past District Governor Dave Harmon led the launch of the region-wide *Rotary Says NO to Domestic and Family Violence* prevention and education program.

The August edition of the Rotary Pacific In Unison Newsletter (which you would have received by email on 8 August) included a handy [guide](#) outlining how your club can participate in this important campaign to increase your community impact, reach new audiences, engage existing club members, and attract new members.

Access your toolkit guide [here](#).

Rotary Falls Prevention project

Kelly Williams, a member of Lismore Networking club is working with Lismore West and Ballina Satellite Rotary Clubs on the Rotary Falls Prevention project.

I will be sitting down with Kelly to learn more at the NSW Fall Prevention and Healthy Ageing Network regional forum on Friday, 20 September 2024, Ballina RSL Club. They are providing two presentations at the Forum, as well as hosting a falls prevention awareness table as an example of the work included in the Rotary Falls Prevention project.

Thank you to all the clubs across our District 9640 that participated in the April Falls Month, Falls Prevention project. 11 Clubs were involved and held 14 awareness tables (one more was held in July) at locations including Bunnings, Shopping Centres, a Retirement Village and outdoor community markets. If your club is interested in finding out more about this project, contact Bob Barnes at Lismore West Rotary.

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

RYTS & RYLA Youth Leadership Programs

Further to the update, last month, [RYTS](#) (for Year 11-12 and held on 15-20 Dec 2024) and [RYLA](#) (for ages 19-29 and held on 20-25 Jan 2025) are now open and accepting applications. We need around 30-35 applicants for each program to make them sustainable and, to date, we have only received one. As mentioned last month, 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.

Your early support with candidates for these programs is greatly appreciated and will help our District teams plan effectively. Please click on the name of the programs above, visit our District website, or reach out to Mindi Devine (ryts@rotary9640.org) or Anthony Zirilli (ryla@rotary9640.org) respectively if you have any questions.

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 have totalled USD 20.1k, compared to USD13.3k at the same stage last year which is fantastic. Let's continue to increase our impact by keeping the momentum going and making the Rotary Foundation our charity of choice.

For your calendar

- **World Polio Day – 24 October 2024**

With the rising cases of wild polio virus in Afghanistan and Pakistan (25 so far this year, c.f.12 for the whole of 2023) and the outbreak of variant polio in Gaza, we are not there yet. Club Presidents and Secretaries, you would have received an email last week with some Polio Fundraiser opportunities.

- **[D9640 Foundation Seminar](#) – Sunday 17 November 2024**

The District Foundation team will be holding a Rotary Foundation Seminar on 17 November 2024 at Twin Towns Services Club, Coolangatta. This will include a District Grants workshop.

Peace Pole Project

This year I asked our Club Presidents to consider installing a Peace Pole in their local community. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Summerland Sunrise, led by President Nerida, for being the first club to organise their Peace Pole. A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message "May Peace Prevail On Earth".

Upcoming Events - September 2024

21 September 2024 – [Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Charity Race Day](#)

21st Charity Race Day. Funds raised go towards the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, The Rotary Foundation and other local charities.

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.

Reminder...

Our [District Website](#) is getting a refresh. 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. Expect further changes in the coming weeks especially to many of the member-oriented pages and check back often for updates.

Our [District Directory](#) for 2024-2025 is available from the website. Printed directories available soon.

Any Feedback?

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