January: Vocational Service month

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Policeman of the Year, Nurse of the year, Vocational Excellence Awards are some examples of how we recognise these worthy citizen. But have you considered how we, as Rotarians, should embrace the values of Vocational Service?

Vocational Service is Rotary's Second Avenue of Service. No aspect of Rotary is more closely related to each member than a personal commitment to represent one's vocation or occupation to fellow Rotarian's and to exemplify the characteristics of high ethical standards and the dignity of work.

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Some clubs sponsor high school career conferences. Many recognize the dignity of employment by honoring exemplary service of individuals working in their communities.

Charleville revisited

In Sept 2016 Rotarians from our District went to Charleville to offer support to drought-affected farmers. Ironically, due to floods some team members were unable to participate and there were jobs that could not be completed.

John McKenny from Glen Innes Rotary is leading another team to Charleville between 26–30 March '17. READ MORE

Full versions of these two stories follow
VOCATIONAL SERVICE (full text of story on page 1)

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Some clubs sponsor high school career conferences. Many recognize the dignity of employment by honoring exemplary service of individuals working in their communities. The 4-Way Test and other ethical and laudable business philosophies are often promoted among young people entering the world of work.

Vocational talks and discussions of business issues are also typical vocational service programs offered by most clubs.

Regardless of the ways that Vocational Service is expressed, it is the banner by which Rotarian’s “recognise the worthiness of all useful occupations” and demonstrate a commitment to “high ethical standards in all business and professions.”

That's why the Second Avenue of Service is fundamental to every Rotary club.
Check out these videos about the project (be patient…videos take a few moments to download):

DISTRICT 9640 video
RACQ video
QANTAS video
LONG TERM SUCCESS STORY

Long term projects are uncommon in Rotary, but in 1988 Surfers Paradise Rotary started a project that is still going strongly today. The Club responded to Gold Coast City Council’s challenge to provide affordable accommodation for needy aged pensioners.

The Queensland government was offering 2 for 1 grants to not-for-profit organisations prepared to build and operate rental accommodation on land leased from the Council at Arundel. Several Rotarians had skills in residential development and within 18 months five grateful couples were calling Golden Wheel Villas their home. As soon as loans from the bank and individual Rotarians had been repaid, the Club applied for a second grant. By the end of 1996 a further 10 couples were in residence.

At this point the grants stopped, but Rotarians elected to continue under their own steam and set aside their share of operating surpluses for future extensions. There are many pensioners with no assets through no fault of their own and the Club found that interviewing potential residents to be one of the joys of this project. In June 2015 eight single-person villas were completed and could have been filled five times over as that is where the great unmet demand lies.

The Club’s one-third share of the surplus from these 23 villas generates an annual income of some $50,000, which can be used for other Club projects or accumulated for further extensions once current loans have been repaid. The Club has benefited along the way from interest on the capital, and the Government’s two-thirds share is retained for future extensions.

This project has fulfilled a threefold purpose of providing desperately needed affordable accommodation, whilst also funding Rotary projects and building a substantial asset for Rotary. A fitting legacy for the many Rotarians who have taken part over the past 28 years.
Mermaid Beach Rotary recently handed over the keys to a 7 seater car to Gold Coast Recreation & Sport.

GCR&S is a community-based organisation that provides sporting and recreational opportunities to people with disabilities. This 7-seat car will be used to transport clients to and from programs. This was recently promoted on the GCR&S Facebook page.

At a handover ceremony at the Gold Coast Recreation & Sport Inc headquarters recently, Pres handed over the keys to the new LDV G10 People Mover.

This vehicle replaces the Toyota bus, which the Club purchased in 2003 and has since gone to the big wrecking yard in the sky.

Total cost to the club was a shade over $30,000 and this was thanks to a great team effort at sausage sizzles and organising Trailer Raffles.

The vehicle’s sign writing acknowledges the contribution the club made to GCR&S. Channel 7 Gold Coast attended, giving a very good presentation on the 5.30 local news.

GCR&S was quick to promote the donation on their social media pages.
BOONAH ROTARY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS AND CHRISTMAS WITH THEIR COMMUNITY

Boonah Rotary was out-and-about in their community during the annual Christmas parade with this impressive float. Even more impressive is the Rotarian 92year old Joe Dover who can be seen bottom right below as part of the Club’s float in the parade.

Roz and I were delighted and honoured to be part of the Club’s 70th birthday celebrations in November.
UPDATE ON THE MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

Many of you will have read about the Malaria Vaccine Project in the December issue of “D9640 Matters”. Those of us on the Steering Committee appreciated the extensive coverage of the project in that issue because we firmly believe that the PlasProtecT® vaccine created by the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University has the potential to change the world.

Imagine a world where the 438,000 Malaria deaths per year, mostly children, are reduced to zero. What a boon it would be to lower substantially the nearly 214 million cases of malaria that exist in some of poorest countries in the world. That is the kind of challenge that Rotarians live by and it can happen if we can take PlasProtecT® through the next stage of clinical trials. The target to achieve this is $500,000.

I am delighted to advise that the contagious enthusiasm we have for this malaria project is already being shared by a number of clubs and individual Rotarians in our District and in other Districts. So far, more than $35,000 has been raised for the project and more importantly for the next critical stage of clinical trials. There are too many donations for me to list all of the donors but I would like to thank everyone who has donated so far and ask all of you to consider giving a donation, no matter how small, to this special humanitarian program.

I wish to offer warm thanks for some significant donations that we have received from the following Rotary Clubs: Murwillumbah Central (in memory of Brian Hamill), Hornsby, Camberwell, Broadbeach, Southport, and Hope Island. Thank you for your generosity and for your efforts in spreading the word about this project. There have to be many people outside Rotary who would resonate with a vaccine to eradicate malaria so I would ask all of you to talk about what we are doing. I am delighted to receive emails from anyone willing to help.

Please check out our Malaria Vaccine Project website for more information: http://rotary9640.org/page/malaria-vaccine-project/

To donate to the project, click DONATE HERE on the website and it will provide direct access. Contact me if you need further help. We hope clubs and Rotarians in District 9640 will lead the way on this project before we LAUNCH nationally.

More information on that next month.

PDG Graham Jones, Project Manager

(M) 0406 040 038; Email: graham.a.g.jones@gmail.com
IF YOU’VE EVER WONDERED ABOUT ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS...
By Rhonda Whitton, Southport Rotary

It’s amazing what being in a Fellowship can lead to.

A few years ago I was enthralled to hear a story from a friend in District 9780 about how a group of UK and Australian Rotarians met on board a world cruise and decided they wanted to do more than just chat.

In 1994 Rabaul was devastated by earthquake and the Rotarians learned that the Rabaul hospital had no incubators. Within a week they had fundraised enough onboard to buy three incubators for the Nonga General Hospital in Rabaul.

I was so inspired by this story and what Rotarians could achieve while cruising, that I established the Fellowship for Cruising Rotarians. I used this story and the photo above as part of my submission. After two years the Fellowship has 220+ members and is going from strength to strength.

Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago...When disembarking at Rabaul on a cruise, I noticed a chap wearing a Rotary shirt and recognised Tony Liluo (RC Kokopo) immediately from the photo of the P&O fundrasing Rotarians. Before I knew it, Tony was taking me and two District 9600 Rotarians on a tour of Rabaul, which included the Nonga General Hospital where I saw the incubators and saw first-hand the hospital’s general, obstetrics and the general wards – which was certainly an eye opener. Some buildings have not been rebuilt since the eruption and conditions are still very basic...eg the hospital surgery desperately needs theatre lighting as theirs ceased operating some time ago, while the ‘scrub’ room was little more than a stainless steel wash trough.
The other two other Rotarians, Kerri and Ted Horsbrugh, are from D9600 and I learned how their District has supported the Nonga General Hospital through RAWCS for some time. Kerri and Ted were visiting to see first hand the conditions at the hospital. I now have two excellent contacts in our neighbouring district...and two new members of the Fellowship for Cruising Rotarians.

Even though I wasn’t part of the original P&O fundraising team, seeing premature babies in those incubators was without doubt one of my most memorable Rotary experiences. It reinforced to me how Rotarians from different Districts and countries can jointly do good where it’s most needed.

Another interesting aside...one of the Rotarians waiting on the wharf was PE Lucy. She told me how she was an emergency response contact person registered with the UN. On the day of the 1994 eruption she knew things were serious so she phoned the UN and asked for helicopter assistance. Next day 25, yes 25 helicopters, arrived to assist with the emergency evacuations.
You're invited

D9640 Alumni Dinner

When: Saturday 18 February 2017
Time: 6.30pm for 7pm dinner
Where: Southport Golf Club
       Slatyer Avenue, Southport
Cost: $38 per head for 2 course dinner
RSVP: 4 February 2017

Bookings: [https://www.trybooking.com/249126].
Enquiries: Sandra 0414 150 240 or
           srmd@bigpond.net.au

Lucky door prizes & raffle

Guest Speaker
PDG Ross Smith
GSE Team Leader