Happy New Year Everyone.

Don’t look back with regret. Look forward. As Albert Einstein said “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow”. Let’s be positive and look forward to the New Year and another chance to get it right. And to quote a ‘millennial’ I know: “I hope you make mistakes (yes, you read that right)… because if you are making mistakes you are making new things, learning, living pushing yourself, changing the world… and that is what it is all about”. I like these millennials. They have a refreshing perspective on life. They are different and will keep us young.

As January is Vocational Service Month, I would like to talk about what we are doing for Vocational Service in the district and hopefully appealing to the millennials. In my opinion we have to look at things differently. We might like to think that Rotary was based on noble ideals of humanitarian service, goodwill and understanding but it wasn’t. It was based on fellowship and (the word of the month) ‘vocation’. As part of a PR exercise, Rotary sponsored the ‘Startup’ category at the Young Entrepreneur Awards in November. Categories such as Arts and Culture, Digital Disruptor, Social Entrepreneur and Influencer (what are they???) were some of the categories as well as the traditional ones of Fashion, Marketing and PR, Retail and Professional Services. We targeted an audience of 270 people filled with classifications that didn’t even exist when I was growing up. Most of this audience will change their classification many times in their lives, unlike me. I am still an architect after deciding to become one at the age of nine. Perhaps boring. Maybe.

The millennials will be and are different. And so must Rotary adapt, learn, change and look at how we encourage and include millennials? Yes, we have to look forward and don’t regret changing the ways of the past. It is time for all clubs to examine themselves. Look at their classification system (and I bet that it is out of date). Approach the non traditional professions. Hold events in vocational service in a different way. Get back to Rotary’s roots but with new eyes. It is the New Year. Have a happy one and look forward.

Darrell Brown
District Governor 2017-18
“Nah, not interested. We don’t really need any more customers, the current number of accounts we have is just about right. Nah, we don’t really do business with Accountants.” (or for that matter Lawyers, Stockbrokers, Car Dealers, Headmasters. Or people younger than 50, new arrivals...)

Imagine: You just overheard one of your staff utter these words to a potential new client. Shortly after, you hear him saying to a guy who just put down a deposit, on the premise that we would find him something suitable: "Well, now we’ve got your money, its up to you to find your way around what our company offers. Serve yourself, I’m sure you will find something you like...” Outrageous! Alarm bells! You’d take the salesperson quietly aside. You would have Monday morning sessions, seminars.

Well, if you have read this far, you probably get the drift. You can now put this newsletter aside for a moment, write down the name of the person you had in mind to invite to your club, put the paper into the same pocket you keep your car keys in (so you won’t forget) and as soon as you have two minutes, at an hour where it’s polite to call someone, ring up and extend an invitation to join you at the next club meeting.

Christmas might be past and gone, but this might just be the best present you’ll give to anyone this year! And it doesn’t even cost you anything!

Did you just now ignore this call to action? Come on! Do it now. You are part of that organization who are ‘People of Action’, aren’t you? Ed.

Impressions of a YE Student: Luca Müller, Burleigh Heads

My first months were filled with exiting events and challenging tasks. The Bronze Course was a tiring week, with early morning swims and long theory afternoon sessions, but in the end it feels good to hold the bronze medallion in hands and to be more aware of dangers all around the coast and how to act if something happens. Sitting on the tower or walking along the beach while patrol is a lot of responsibility, but feels very important. Doing the swimming training at 5:30 in the morning is also a great way to start the day.

School claims a lot of time but is also a great way to get engaged in many programs the school offers. I am part of the school rugby team, which means training before school and sometimes games against other teams in the evening. It is mentally and physically exhausting but doing all the hard work, always pushing yourself and others to the limit, gets rewarded with great brotherhood in the team. With the rugby team I was also helping out at several barbecues, where I was responsible for all the sausages. The school is also different to my old one in Germany. Half of my school time here I am doing sport, what I really like. In Germany I didn’t have the chance to do that. Australian Rules Football or Netball are some really interesting sports I never heard of before.

The weekly Rotary meetings in the morning are always interesting because of the variety of guest-speakers: about how a man swims from England to France or how a teacher, here from Australia, builds a school in a third world country. Also inspirational speeches for example from a 10 year old and his fight against cancer or really eyes-opening speeches about the fight against child-slavery. I also got engaged in other programs that Rotary supports. One weekend, I went up from the Gold Coast to Brisbane in a big truck. On the way we were collecting donations like outdoor wheelchairs from the Surfers Sunrise wheelchair project or clinic supplies from other Rotarians. We unloaded the whole truck into a container headed to East-Timor. Naturally I was also involved in the Rotary Barbecues, which are always a good opportunity to help out, without any experience needed.

Until now, my exchange was the most enriching experience I have ever had and I am thankful for this great opportunity. I will try to get the most of the rest of my exchange and go home with new skills and many new friends all over the world.
During the second half of September this year, the **Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads**, in conjunction with their counterpart in Kimbe, PNG, completed a project to provide running water to the Kimbe community. **Did you say ’Running Water’?** Yes, what we have taken for granted for generations is a major step forward in Kimbe.

"It is a great disadvantage not having close running water and having to expend a lot of time and energy fetching water. They now have a reliable source of water at all times at two convenient locations in their village. It will substantially improve the hygiene and health of all the people, particularly the women and children of this community.” So reads the somewhat dry and factual Grant report of Burleigh Heads to **RAWCS** (Rotary Australia World Community Service), which contributed a grant of $2,500.00 towards the total cost of $11,931.00 of this project.

For sustainability, the aim was for the water supply system to be relatively maintenance free, by installing long lasting polythene water tanks and polythene piping, and the pipe being installed underground. The local Rotary Club in Kimbe will look after maintenance of the pump and solar system, so it is expected the entire system will last for many years. With solar power it will also be cost free to run the pump.

Three members from Burleigh Heads volunteered to got to site to complete this project: **Ross Smith (above right)**, **Trevor Taylor (below right)** and **Viviane Mueller**. As is the norm with Rotary projects, they paid their own airfares, accommodation and other travel expenses.

**The project undertaken:**

**Two 5000 litre tanks** were installed, one near the pump and one near the local Kindergarten which is a focal point of the village.

A **solar powered pump** was installed to replace the existing hand pump at the water source (old bore) to pump water via poly pipe work, installed under ground.

**Two 250W Solar Panels** were installed on top of the closest tank and wiring run underground to the pump, where 3 x 200AH Deep Cycle Batteries and Electrical controls were installed adjacent to the in a steel lockable cage for security.
Registrations for the District Conference 2018: Only the first 300 registrants get into the free Dolphin Show!

You may not be aware of this: The free [ok, we ask for a Gold Coin Donation, all for a good cause… Ed.] Dolphin Show on Sunday morning is only open to the first 300 registrants. Yes, including partners and guests.

Conference Chairman Jo Gorman and her team have been busy, beavering behind the scenes. Next March’s District Conference at Sea World is coming together nicely, thank you.

Click on this link to learn all about it, where you can also register. You have already paid for attendance; it is part of your annual membership fee and it includes attendance to all the keynote speakers. Only individual meals and the Saturday night entertainment naturally attract a fee. And note: After a meeting with Sea World, we are happy to announce that the cancellation fees have been wiped (well, almost, just $10.00), as long as you notify us before 22nd February 2018 (two weeks before the conference).

Just have a look at some of the Keynote speakers! Selecting just three of them at random:

- **Allan Pease**: He is the guy who wrote that famous book on Body Language, as well as ‘Why men lie and women cry’
- **Karen Phillips**: Executive Director of the Australian Women’s Institute and founder of the Women in Business Awards of Australia
- **Laurie Lawrence** - who hasn’t heard of the famous swimming coach!

Click here to register

Time to start working on your District Award Applications

Note, this year’s District Conference (see above) is about 2 months earlier than it was for the past couple of years.

Who will get the inaugural Best Club Communications Award?

Applications close at 12 noon, Friday 9th February 2018
That is only 6 weeks away! For full details, click on this link

From Youth Exchange Student to Quantum Physics Scientist

An interesting article in the Club Bulletin of the Boonah Rotary Club: Recently they were visited by one of their former Youth Exchange Students, Fabian Zschocke. Fabian last visited Boonah as a German YE student some 15 years ago. This time he returned with his partner Anna to “introduce her to the delights of meat pies and Vegemite…”

After finishing his schooling in Germany he went to University where he studied Quantum Physics. He got his Degree, then Masters and ultimately his PhD. He worked for some time in Canada before returning to Germany where he works for Bosch where he heads a team of researchers developing various levels of automatization for vehicles including Mercedes Benz. By 2022 Mercedes hope to have a fully automatic motor vehicle. He attributes some of his self confidence to the Student Exchange.

That much for the notion of Youth Exchange being just a Gap Year… For a cross reference, see last months’ edition: Where will Annika Dornbusch be in 15 years’ time?

“If you say you understand Quantum Theory, you don’t understand Quantum Theory.” Richard Feynman, Physics Nobel Prize Winner
It is just under a year since the Rotary Clubs of Southport, Broadbeach, Hope Island and the Satellite Club at Griffith University commenced the Malaria Vaccine. I feel overwhelmed and humbled by the support that the Project has received during that time from Rotarians and Clubs in our District and across Australia and PNG. I am delighted to announce that we have now reached a target of $280,000 and have made our first distribution of $200,000 to the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University.

It is also a pleasure to welcome the generous support given by Kenton and Rachel Campbell (of Zaraffa’s Coffee). Both of them truly understand the impact that a malaria vaccine will have in countries like Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea and I am thrilled that they are intending to provide further sponsorship. I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful gifts to the project from former NSW District Court Judge John Nicholson and Patsy in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Murwillumbah. This has led to the establishment of the Brian Hamill Memorial Malaria Research Excellence Award at the Institute for Glycomics. Brian Hamill OAM was a very special Rotarian in the Murwillumbah club and the photo shows his widow Betty presenting the first award to Dr Danielle Stanisic - truly a most deserving winner.

We are also excited to welcome our three patrons: Past Rotary International President Glen Kinross AO, Hon Lawrence Springborg, former Qld MP and Opposition Leader, and Rotary International Director for Australia and New Zealand, Noel Trevaskis OAM. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Our first distribution to the Institute for Glycomics has enabled preliminary work on the Clinical Trials to begin. Early in the New Year a sample of 12-15 people will be selected and the actual testing and assessment will begin in early April. In essence this will test the efficacy of the vaccine to control the malaria parasite. Let us to press forward to our target of $500,000 and open the doors for this vaccine to save lives all over the world.

Graham Jones, Chair, Malaria Vaccine Project Committee

Want to participate in a Golfing Trip? Charles is organizing one.

Do you enjoy golf? Do you enjoy the company of fellow Rotarians?

Expressions of interest are being sought for a golfing trip for Rotarians and partners for up to 2 weeks. Depending on responses it could be within Australia, such as the Murray Bridge tournament of the Australian Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians, or even overseas.

Please contact
Charles Warrell
Tweed Heads South Rotary
c.warrell@hotmail.com
0407 130 449

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How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown’s ROMAC appeal?

And what about DG Darrell’s goal to raise funds for an Australian Rotary Health Scholarship? We are still dragging the chain: Only $5,505 of $33,000 so far.

Next Thursday to Sunday:
Rotary Antiques, Collectables and Books Fair

Opens Thursday 04/01/2018 at 5:00 pm
Closes Sunday 07/01/18 at 3:00 pm
The Star Gold Coast (formerly Jupiters Casino),
1 Casino Drive, Broadbeach.
Plenty of parking on site or take the Tram or Bus

For full details, click on this link: www.rotaryantiquesfair.com

Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed recognized at Access & Inclusion Awards

The Rotary Club of Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed Inc. is very proud to have been nominated for an excellence award at the Tweed Shire Council’s 5th annual ACCESS & INCLUSION AWARDS held at The Stars’ Lounge, Twin Towns Services Club & Resort on 29 November. There were many community groups in attendance and our Club was delighted to have been nominated. Seeing the various groups, some with wheelchairs, others with guide dogs or carer/companions, made us all aware of the great need for access and inclusion for the various groups of disabled people in our area. One of the speakers has dementia, and spoke of how his life has been enriched by the strategies he uses to deal with his dementia. Another speaker, who has Parkinson’s disease, used humour to describe how he deals with his disability. Two young men with disabilities had made a short film showing how various businesses in Kingscliff were helping clients and employees with disabilities.

Our Club has been a proud supporter of Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Services/ Shaping Outcomes for, I believe, 32 years, which is a great commitment to this fine institution.

Picture is of Club President Glenn Rees, who accepted the award on behalf of our Club.
Diana Traversi, Rotary Club of Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed Inc.

Are you going to the RYLA Dinner?

This year’s Rotary Youth Leadership Award is from 20th - 25th January 2018. See more details at http://www.ryla9640.org

On Tuesday 23rd January, they will hold a dinner, cost is only $25.00 a head - cash only. It is always a bit of a riot… But places are strictly limited, due to the capacity of the venue. You MUST pre-book:
email to rotaryrelations@ryla9640.org

D9640 is the fastest growing District in Australia
As of 30/11/17, a net increase of 37 members.
Keep up the good work, but keep in mind: for every 10 new members added, we lose about 4.

How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown’s ROMAC appeal?
To an outsider, the very name ‘Monastic’ and school project conjures images of monks with shaved heads, singing their haunting meditative prayers...

Well, have a quick squiz at the photo below right of four teachers from Myanmar (formerly Burma), you may want to reassess your mind picture.

**Jamie Dorrington** (above left), the principal of **Saint Stephen’s College** in Upper Coomera, was the initiator of this project. He has visited the school in Myanmar, along with other teachers, students & parents of Saint Stephen’s. He also arranges the visits and all associated with their stay in Australia. **Pam Roberts**, (picture right) has been the main provider of accommodation for the teachers. Pam doesn’t just “house” the teachers, but she opens her house for the entire period, making them feel right at home and comfortable, taking them to school each day, shopping, not to mention taking them on excursions etc. If it were not for Pam offering stable living arrangements, the teachers would be moving house every week.

The **Rotary Club of Coomera River** commenced this project in 2012, and have now successfully completed its sixth year, and in that time have hosted 18 Burmese teachers. Each year the club sponsors either 2, 4 or 6 teachers from Myanmar, covering airfares, visas and other related expenses. The teachers are home stayed by club members and stay in Australia for one month.

For the first three years, the teachers spent their four school weeks at Saint Stephen’s College, Upper Coomera and for past three years have divided their time between Saint Stephen’s & **Emmanuel College** Ashmore.

The purpose of their visit is to extend their practical knowledge and ability to apply teaching and learning strategies. They get to explore ideas in a new environment, considering how Myanmar and Australian classrooms function.

Each year, after their visit, they report back to the club on what they have learnt and are...
implementing back in Myanmar. The major applications they have adopted are classroom design, preparing lesson plans, classroom management, promoting student activities, using teaching aids and improving communication skills between teachers and students.

On the weekends, club members had the opportunity to show our visitors around. The most popular activities have been visiting wildlife sanctuaries, going to the beach and shopping. They also attended our Rotary meetings, giving an update each time on their experiences.

Whilst staying with club members, all our visiting teachers participate in most of the cooking. They love to cook and we have enjoyed their Burmese dishes. The project is not just about what skills and ideas the teachers take back to Myanmar, but also strengthening relationships between Australia and Myanmar. The students at Saint Stephen’s and Emmanuel College’s, gained an understanding of life and school in Myanmar as well as cementing new friendships.

The club plans to continue this project, with a future goal to make it a reciprocal arrangement, where teachers from Saint Stephen’s and Emmanuel Colleges may visit Myanmar and spend time in their classrooms, learning and sharing teaching techniques.

The official, rather dry title for this project is RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) project No. 56-2012-13. But of course, behind the dry reference number, there are always real people.

Thanks to Jamie, the project has been a success. In his position as Headmaster of the college he can make it possible, but more importantly Jamie is an advocate of professional development opportunities in teaching and learning both nationally & internationally. The staff and pupils of Saint Stephen’s College have whole heartedly welcomed these teachers, including in-house coaching, providing meals each day and sending them off with suitable resources to take back to their schools. And to the members of the Rotary Club of Coomera Valley : give yourself a pat on the back! Anyone who has ever been involved in organizing a project of this magnitude knows how much paddling there is under the surface.

Does it make a difference? Does it ever!

Feel free to hum the melody of ‘Where have all the flowers gone?’ by Pete Seeger (of Peter, Paul & Mary - sorry, well before your time, I know... Ed.)

There is a story behind every donation which comes in to Donations In Kind (DIK) Brisbane.

Like where does all the linen come from and where does it go? The majority of hospital bed linen which we send overseas comes from the Northern Rivers region. This hospital linen, after it is washed 3 to 6 times is scrapped and replaced. Then every month two men, Richard Crandon from the Rotary club of Goonellabah and Merv Richens from Rotary club of Loganholme alternate in collecting this from Lismore, loading into a trailer and driving to deliver it to Brisbane.

The team at DIK Brisbane sorting hospital laundry by the ton

The majority of Pacific Island hospitals are dependent on the good work these volunteers do in provide good quality linen.

People of Action? Sure are!

Where does all the linen come from? By Col Laurensen, Donations in Kind

Is YOUR club projecting the ‘People of Action’ theme?
At the beginning of December, the annual RYTS camp was held at Tyalgum Ridge Retreat. The week-long course is designed to assist students transit from High School to Uni, Apprenticeship or whatever career they have in mind. In total, about 50 participants from all over the District were there. The text below is from a participant’s letter sent to an organizer. It is not anywhere near a thousand words, but it is worth more than any picture. We are deliberately withholding the names. It is written from the heart:

The one thing I got out of this camp is that even though life is hard it’s not worth giving up on. There is always going to be ups and downs & the camp made me realise that team work is important, the people around you are important, the more you express yourself and the more people you meet means you’ll always have those friends to talk to when your at your lowest.

They made us crawl in cold mud as a team, we argued, but at the end of it all we all realised that we need to listen to each other’s opinions.

As the sun started to rise, one of the leaders turned around after we reached our goal of getting to the line and he said “You can all proudly say you did this as a team”. I was very proud to watch our team grow as the sun came up on a new day.

There were sessions & Guest Speakers helping us to get closer and it was amazing to hear personal stories of people that have been on RYTS like the Red Shirts who were told that they can’t do anything they dreamed of, but they showed us it’s not the opinion of others that matter it’s your own, because only you can reach that goal.

There were guest speakers that made us think about what path we want to take which was amazing.

The camp for me was a new start. Before this I was bad, I went and got drunk a lot to forget about my thoughts for a while, I was thinking why am I here, am I worth it. I used to use drugs, steal, fight and break stuff but on camp thinking about the impact on my family has made me want to stay away from crime, bad people, drugs and fighting. If I can’t be there for my family it would kill me on the inside.

I left school went to the GTT and finished a course there. I then got a job but I actually left that job after a month because I knew that there were still essential things I had to learn in school to get me ready for the real world.

I was happy on the outside around people, but depressed and useless on the inside, when I saw this camp that Red Shirt Cody posted on social media, I read about what it was & I thought that I might give this a go.

So that is exactly what I did. When I first got there I did not like it at all, I was confused and didn’t know what I was in for. I got to know everyone and began to talk to people on camp. I started to believe again. I thought that I couldn’t do this life anymore, but they helped me realise that it’s possible. I now believe in myself as a different human being and believe in success and if it wasn’t for RYTS & Rotary I would still be so unhappy with myself.

But now I know that I’m ready to put in the effort and no matter how many times I get knocked down the RYTS camp showed me you’ll always have friends and family to help you back up.

Like they say if you put 100% in to your life you’ll get 100% back out of it, so why live a small life it’s time for me to live a big one.

Is there still anyone out there who doubts the value of these annual Youth seminars? A hearty Thank You! goes to the organizers, District Chair Simon Brook, Host Mum Faye Wright (20 years in a row !!), Host Dad Jamie Kennett and all the ‘Red Shirt’ volunteers to keep it all running.

Does it make a difference? What do you think?