Welcome to the December Newsletter. It’s that time of year, when we all look forward to spending some time relaxing with family and friends, we rely on their support for our achievements in Rotary. If you are on the road during the festive season travel safely, enjoy the break and I look forward to your return in 2019.

December is “Disease Prevention and Treatment” month. The eradication of Polio is Rotary’s number one priority. How does Rotary fit in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative?

Since 1988, Rotary has been a core partner of Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) along with the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO and UNICEF are the implementing partners of the GPEI.

In 2017-18 Rotary made grants to WHO and UNICEF for Afghanistan $37,408,217, Nigeria $16,492,876, Pakistan $41,889,173. Rotary also made grants to other high-risk countries during this time including Cameroon, Chad, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan.

Donations in Kind: Is back in business, support from Rotary Clubs is required.

Donations by Districts to DIK, from July 1 to November 28, 2018, for shipping of containers are:

- D9570 - $3000 – For one project
- D9600 - $6000 – One large contribution for local freight only, plus one small donation
- D9630 - $8500 – One large contribution for a project, and three smaller donations
- D9640 - $5750 - One large contribution towards Alice Springs project
- D9800 - $1000 - Donation for shipping goods from Brisbane to a Victorian project

Volunteers have commenced loading containers, at the new depot at Kingston. If you club would like to be involved in a worthwhile International project, the means and humanitarian relief will be provided for you. Funds are urgently needed to complete the mission.

The Burrumbuttock Hay Runners next Hay Run will take place on Australia Day weekend 2019. The destination for the hay will be Quilpie in South Western QLD. Brendan Farrell the coordinator has advised that he expects 240 to 260 trucks to take part. It is expected that 600/800 drought ravaged farms will benefit from the hay run. The quantity of hay to be delivered will be 14,400/15,600 large round bales. As previously advised, all of the hay is donated, the trucks or use of the trucks are donated, drivers donate their time the only cost is for the fuel, that is estimated to be $360,000. The Rotary District 9640 drought appeal raised $90,000, so a huge congratulations to all of our clubs and their supporters for their
THE HORSE HAS LEFT THE STABLE

Carol Brown has been fundraising this year to support the Human Brain Research Project. Carol has a passion for Rocking Horses, and has been raffling a 65-year-old restored Rocking Horse in support of her project. This raffle will be drawn at the 2019 District Conference. Carol’s other passion is woodwork, so she made a timber Rocking Horse, to be donated to one of the district’s 52 clubs. The winner of this prize was drawn at the Byron Bay club visit on Tuesday 27th November. The Rotary Club of Nerang was the lucky winner. Pictured are DG Terry and Carol presenting the horse to Nerang President Tony Parker.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Wishing you the best during this joyful season. We hope your holidays are filled with festivities and plenty of merry enjoyment.

Terry and Carol

Donations in Kind (DIK)

Never mind that, for the better part of 6 months, Donations in Kind (DIK) had a serious warehousing problem; that wouldn’t stop those hardworking volunteers to sort, recycle, pack and ship tons of goods to various countries in the developing regions. (By the way: in case you missed it, they have found new accommodation!) Nor would it stop them collecting major awards: after receiving last year’s recognition by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILTA) (see District Newsletter December 2017 - click here), they have this year been recognized by receiving the highly coveted ASCLA (Australian Supply Chain & Logistics) award for Environmental Excellence.

Photo on left shows Northern Region DIK Chief Col Laurenson (Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise), flanked by regular volunteers Royce and Lynn Allan. Congratulations all! Well done!

Franz Huber
Whilst working for Bridging the Gap (a Rotary based organization assisting the unemployed) I discovered the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Keen for my daughter to participate, I approached the Chairman of BTG, Ron Power. Before I knew it, I was one of two women inducted into the Rotary Club of Southport on the 6th of July 1999. Southport had been a male only club until then.

I was President of the club in 2008-2009 and again in 2015-16. This is my 3rd and final year as Assistant Governor for Cluster 6. Getting to know Rotarians in other clubs and how they operate has been very rewarding.

Half of my life was spent in Perth where I married my first husband. Our weekends were spent surfing, boating and scuba diving until our two children were born. In the late 80ies we moved to the Gold Coast for the surf, climate and proximity to Sydney, where my husband’s business was based.

In 2003 I met my second husband, who introduced me to skydiving. I didn’t quite make my 600th jump, but rather needed some surgery to fix a neck injury caused by a malfunction. Not wishing to risk further spinal cord damage, I recently sold my beloved parachute, but still compete in the wind tunnel. An Australian Women’s skydiving record, in which I participated, still stands unbroken. Against my surgeon’s advice, I body board when conditions permit.

Shortly after I retired from 20 years in the wine industry, my second husband died. Two Siamese cats keep me obedient to their every desire. I also travel often to visit my son in Sydney and daughter in New York, or wherever she happens to be. Although I am not a competitive swimmer, I have been a member of Miami Masters for as long as I have been a Rotarian. Friendships are what keep me in both organizations.

### Rotary Foundation Matters

1. **Boonah Rotary participates in a Global Grant Project**

   GG1875037 - *Navajo Water Project* – This project will provide running water for 25 families of Navajo Indians in the Smith Lake and Baca Chapters in New Mexico. The grant (total value US$112,500) is hosted by RC Sun Lakes, Arizona and RC Brantford-Sunrise, Ontario, with sponsorship assistance by RC Boonah (US $1053)). District has matched this with US$1000 DDF.

2. **District 9640 contributes 20% DDF to polio**

   In 2013, the Rotary Foundation Trustees encouraged districts to support the polio eradication effort by contributing 20% of their DDF to polio every year until polio was eradicated. D9640 has made this commitment every year since then and we have just contributed US$12,528 DDF for 2018-19. DDF donations to PolioPlus are matched US $.50 for every $1.00 contributed. With Gates Foundation support, our US$12,528 contribution is value added to US$56,376.

3. **Polio Movie Night Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cinema</th>
<th>Organiser (Clubs Involved)</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>$ for Polio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballina</td>
<td>Therese Crollick (Ballina, Alstonville)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browns Plains</td>
<td>Garry Begley (Jimboomba, Beaudesert)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lismore</td>
<td>DG Terry Brown &amp; AG Gae Ferris (Lismore clubs)</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>$1467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murwillumbah</td>
<td>Simone Wong (Murwillumbah clubs)</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>$1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenterfield</td>
<td>DGE Harry Bolton (Tenterfield, Stanthorpe)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweed Centre</td>
<td>Diana Traversi (CCT, Banora Tweed, Kingscliff)</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>$2233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>Laureen Vanderwolf (Warwick clubs, Stanthorpe)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>734</strong></td>
<td><strong>A$9014</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   With Gates Foundation support, this A$9014 contribution will grow to A$27,042. We are closer than ever to seeing a polio-free world. Funding is urgently needed to not only stop polio transmission in the remaining endemic countries, but also to protect more than 400 million children living in polio-free areas. Contributions of any amount make a big impact.

4. **Current RI Exchange Rate**

   The Australian dollar has strengthened against the US Dollar for December 2018. **A$1.38 = US$1.00**

   **Now is a good time to make those Foundation contributions. Contact me if you need assistance.**

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*PDG Tony Heading | District Rotary Foundation Chair 2017-2020*
There is a new Club in town - Rotary Satellite e-Club of NextGen Alumni

DG Terry Brown, Extension Chair PDG Sandy Doumany, and AG and President Elva Fitzell of the E-Club Next Gen were very happy to have the Charter Certificate of District 9640 latest Satellite Club, “Rotary Satellite Club of E-Club Next Gen Alumni” signed by our District Governor.

The new Club has 8 members who were RYLA attendees and is a very exciting concept and just wonderful to welcome them into the Family of Rotary.

Sandra Doumany

There is a new Club in town and we are here to do good! The Rotary Satellite e-Club of NextGen Alumni is official, and we couldn’t be more thrilled. Although our name might be a mouthful our intentions are clear: all those, past, present and future RYLARIANS who were and are involved in the RYLA program coming together to spread the RYLA enthusiasm and passion throughout the community.

THE IDEA

As alluded to, the Club aims to capture the RYLARIAN Alumni to enable them to continue their RYLA/Rotary journey. It has been recognised that post RYLA engagement is ineffective. Commonly, people finish the RYLA Conference and using their new-found skills and knowledge, ignite the next chapter in their lives but unfortunately leave Rotary behind. The creation of this new Club aims to amend this. We aim to capture these young RYLARIANS who are passionate, enthusiastic, and innovative and give them the space to further develop these skills whilst being a Rotarian. It enables people to jump on projects the Club is already involved with and to continue their commitment to community engagement, personal development and networking opportunities. It also offers RYLARIANS the cultivating space to engage with community-based ideas, initiatives and projects they personally feel associated with that they developed during the RYLA Conference. Although targeted towards past RYLARIANS, the Club is open to all community members - especially those who are keen and interested in coming along on this very exciting journey!

THE CREATON

There have been a handful of key players that have enabled an easy and efficient process to create the Club. Massive thanks goes to Patsy Lucas who has been a vital mentor and supporter during the process. Sandra Doumany who has advised us on the correct procedures. Our sponsoring Club, the NextGen e-Club whose ongoing support is very much appreciated. Especially to Stewart Hase who has provided us with very valuable guidance since the idea came to fruition and President, Elva Fitzell, who has backed us since day dot. We couldn’t have done it without you all!

THE FUTURE

The future for the Club is very exciting. We know that by collecting keen RYLARIANS in one space can only lead to positive change and innovative ideas to infiltrate our community. Currently we are discussing what projects to get involved with and what new initiatives to get off the ground. If any Clubs would like to collaborate on anything please let us know as we would love to expand our help as far as we can. If not, keep your eyes out for the new kids on the block!

Elkie Shakespeare

DATE SAVER: Charter Event for the new Satellite e-Club is Saturday 9th February 2019.
The old adage says a little help can go a long way.
That certainly proved true when the Rotary Club of Broadbeach extended a helping hand to the Benowa State High School Writing Club.

In mid-2018 President Pauline Armstrong received an email from Benowa’s Lead Teacher of Writing asking for sponsorship to enter a quirky national writing competition, the Write A Book In A Day Challenge (WABIAD)

As the title suggests, students attempt the seemingly impossible by writing and illustrating a 4000 word novella in just 8 hours. To add to the challenge, each team receives randomised parameters that include human and non-human characters, a setting, a lesson and a list of words to be included.

The popular annual competition receives thousands of entries from primary and secondary schools around Australia each year and also simultaneously raises funds for the Kids’ Cancer Project which supports children with cancer. This year alone, $250,000 was raised through the WABIAD challenge.

This year keen Benowa students begged Ms Fineran to enter and so the Benowa Writing Club was born and a team of 10 student writers and illustrators were assembled. The only hurdle was the $310 entry fee. Fortunately Mrs Armstrong and her generous team found the funds and covered the team’s entry costs.

What do you get when you combine a politician, a busker and a carnivorous plant?

An award-winning novella! Benowa State High Writing Club were given the challenge of constructing a 4000 word story with these characters in this year’s annual Write a Book In a Day Challenge.

WABIAD is a national writing competition which also raises money and funds programs for children’s cancer research and support. The annual challenge is to write an entire 4000 word story in just one day and with randomised characters. The novels are then put online and distributed to children’s hospital wards around the country.

Benowa’s team of junior and senior writers and illustrators decided to have a go and wrote “Entrapped” – a novella about a runaway teenager who is gifted a magical seed which grows up into a carnivorous plant with a penchant for ibis and maths teachers who threatens to take over a town.

The judges, including well-known Australian authors such as Will Kostakis, loved it and “Entrapped” has awarded the national and Queensland prize for the Best Upper High School entry. Winners were announced in November. Close to 400 schools entered nationally, entering more than 1000 stories across the primary, middle school and high school categories.

It was Benowa’s first ever entry into the competition but Writing Club coach Leah Fineran said the students were keen to try their hand at the unique challenge.

“Our students are so creative and the added incentive of creating something by teenagers for teenagers battling cancer really spurred them on,” she said.

Teams pay an entry fee and also fundraise to raise money for The Kids’ Cancer Project. This year Benowa was supported to enter by Rotary Broadbeach. In total, the challenge nationally raised over $250,000 this year.

Benowa’s book “Entrapped” is now available online and will be reprinted and distributed to children’s wards around Australia to be read by patients.

To view the book online go to: www.writeabookinaday.com/results

Leah Fineran | Lead Teacher of Writing | Benowa State High School
The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond recently held their Vocational Service Awards evening. This is an annual award given to a limited number of people in our community who our Rotary Club members recognise as being employees who give exemplary service in their vocation.

The Vocational Service Awards has been an important part of our club for the past 28 years, this year being our 29th. This award was presented to seven nominated employees who were recognised as offering service consistently to customers above and beyond that of their normal job description.

These nominated employees, their employers, family, friends and Rotary Club members come together to recognise these outstanding employees from the Ballina Shire.

Vocational Service Awards are recognised by Rotary International as a way of acknowledging special people who stand out in their vocation and have rendered outstanding service to customers in the community.

INVITATION

You and your partner are cordially invited to attend an evening with Past Rotary International Director - Chairman TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers & Chairman Rotary Peace Centres Committee

Bryn Styles

DATE: Wednesday 20th February 2019
VENUE: Fitzy’s Function Centre Loganholme
        Cnr. Bryants Rd. & Pacific H’way
TIME: 6.30pm for 7.00pm
PRICE: $55.00 per person, includes 2-course meal – Cash Bar

R.S.V.P. regionalTRF@rotary9600.org Noting any dietary requirements
PAYMENT: Bendigo Bank, Strathpine
          Rotary Club of Pine Rivers Daybreak
          BSB 633 000  A/c No. 1254 20737
**Inbound GCE Team from District 3780 the Philippines**

**Beth Directo** | **Elizabeth P. Directo (TEAM LEADER)**
Elizabeth became a Rotarian in 2009 and was Club President for 2012-2013 with the Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo. She is currently the Chief Operations Officer of DAD Health Care. She was recruited as Chief Executive Officer for the Center for Internal, Occupational and Toxicological Medicine, the company that helped victims of hexavalent chromium poisoning in Hinckley California win their case in court. This case was made famous in the movie “Ellen Brokovich”.

She is now involved in the dialysis industry, and operates dialysis centers in the provinces to help end stage renal disease patients gain access to low cost treatments without sacrificing quality of care.

**Joyce Ancuna.** Joyce graduated cum laude from University of the Philippines - Asian Institute of Tourism. She has been working in the service industry for almost a decade. In 2011, Joyce was hired as Client Service Associate in SEAMEO INNOTECH handling events of top government and private accounts. While working full time in SEAMEO INNOTECH, Joyce pursued her graduate studies also in University of the Philippines and earned her MBA in 2015. Presently, Joyce works as Events Account Manager in The Bayleaf Hotel Intramuros, a classic boutique hotel in Manila.

**Bey de Castro.** Bey is a Social Safeguards Officer under the Philippine Rural Development Project of the Department of Agriculture. A World Bank funded project, PRDP is designed to improve the country’s agri-fishery sector. Here she serves as a safeguards advisor to focal persons, provides training and technical assistance to LGUs, conducts appraisal and review of feasibility studies, among others. Driven by her desire to establish a career in the field of development work, focused on protecting the environment, she is also a founding member of AsinAlon PH, a group of freedivers advocating marine conservation.
**Jam Ramos.** Jam came from a creative family - most prominent of which is Larry Alcala, National Artist (Visual Arts). With Jam’s artistic background and education at College of Fine Arts (Visual Communication), University of the Philippines, she made photography her passion and profession. She is currently a photographer specializing on cars, sports, portraits, products and travel. She is also a regular contributing photographer at BBC Top Gear Philippines - Summit Media, Fujifilm influencer and Elinchrom professional. Mentoring budding artists, she teaches photography and multimedia art classes in iACADEMY and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. She also exhibits her works through Art Ventures and Advocacy Network - a non-profit organization where she is a founding Vice President and Board Member.

**Mike Torres.** Mike currently serves Solaready, Inc. as Sales and Business Development Director creating partnerships with every Filipino Family and Business toward a greener future and in becoming their own electric company by offering them innovative solar products and services that make them shift from sole dependency on carbon-based fuels to sustainable, clean and renewable energy. His personal drive in attaining and achieving all the accomplishments and successes in life is his ardent desire to give quality life to every child, family and community who are experiencing the perils of poverty.

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**RYLA APPLICATIONS CLOSING SOON**

RYLA is less than two months away. Have you contacted your local businesses, IGA’s, Woolies, Coles, Tafes, small business operations near you, asked a neighbour, a friend or even a young leader you may have met throughout the year in your daily travels?

The closing date is soon but we are extending until early January as we urgently need more Awardees. For more information please contact the RYLA team the RYLA Chair, Patsy Lucas on 0419651213

THANK YOU and SEE YOU AT RYLA 2019  
Patsy Lucas | RYLA Chair

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**RYLA**

RYLA is one of those “once in a lifetime” experiences. RYLA helps young people, the future leaders of Australia to realise their full potential and ignites their passion for life.

Do you know a young person who would benefit from RYLA? Applications are now open and will be closing 25th Dec 2018

The cost for RYLA is $650 per awardee ($50 Awardee, $600 Club) Open to youth aged 19-28 years, living within District 9640

Please visit “RYLA9640.org” for further information

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We're still on the lookout for awardees for 2019. The week is from the 2nd to the 7th of February, 2019, at the beautiful Tyalgum Ridge Retreat. Make sure you don’t give away too much, but make sure they know it’ll be a life changing experience. Send them the link to the application, or to our Facebook or Website. We're counting on you!

Love, Your Friendly Neighbourhood RYLA Team

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Most clubs have held their AGM for office bearers for 2019-20. The office bearers who will hold positions in the 2019-20 Rotary year need to be added to Club Runner. Club Secretaries please complete the form you received from District Secretary Brian Wheatley. Please email this form to District Secretary PDG Brian Wheatley - wheatley209@bigpond.com and copy to District Directory Chair Denis Hallworth - denish@onthenet.com.au and DGE Harry Bolton harry.bolton@bigpond.com

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The DG Newsletter is sent to all active members of District 9640

Deadline for the January edition is 7th January

Email the Editor – Jodie Shelley orungalj@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.rotary9640.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9640