It has been a privilege and honour to serve Rotary as Governor in District 9640 in 2018/19. At the beginning of our term many of you we knew as Rotarians are now close friends. There have been many memorable occasions that will last with us forever.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire District Leadership Team for their support throughout the year.

Carol has somehow managed to maintain her own volunteering interests, as well as being my driver, advisor and still raised funds for her Partner’s Project, The Human Brain Research Project. Carol hopes to achieve her goal of $30,000 towards supporting a PhD candidate for Parkinson’s Disease.

To DGE Harry and Shauna, congratulations and best wishes for a successful 2019/20. You will get wonderful support from everyone in District 9640.

The Rivers Review Editor Jodie Shelley from the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond, has done an amazing job and presented a quality newsletter every month.

WE ARE NOT DONE YET – LET’S END THE YEAR WITH A BANG

As we move towards the end of the 2018/19 Rotary year, may I remind you that only 50% of Rotary clubs across Australia and New Zealand have made the US $1500 donation to the END POLIO NOW campaign – as requested by RI President Barry Rassin at the beginning of the year. Given the tragic events along the Pakistan/Afghan border, fund raising for the END POLIO NOW campaign has never been more vital.

Read the Answers to These Seven Vital Questions, by Rotary’s END POLIO NOW Chairman and RI Past Vice President Mike McGovern.

1. There were more cases of wild poliovirus in 2018 than in 2017. Should we be discouraged.
No, not at all. We’ve always expected the number to fluctuate somewhat as we get closer to zero. We’ve gone four straight years with fewer than 100 cases per year. That’s an indicator of great progress. With dedication from governments and Rotarians in areas still affected by polio, we’ll get there.

2. Why is it so difficult to eradicate a disease like polio?
Remember that even in the United States, where the polio virus was readily available, it still took years to become polio – free, and the areas we are working in now don’t have health systems that are as well developed as in the United States.
3. What challenges are you seeing now?
We have been working intensely in the endemic countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan – for a number of years, and some of the citizens in those countries are getting concerned that we are spending money on polio eradication when they have so many other needs. There’s some resistance to keep on receiving immunizations for polio, and polio alone. Our challenge is to find ways to provide other services to the citizens and children so we still have the parental support we need – to provide the “plus” in PolioPlus.

4. What role does armed conflict play in those areas?
It makes the logistics of immunization far more difficult. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative partnership is not only dealing with governments – we’re dealing with anti-government elements as well. While we’ve worked to gain everyone’s trust and support, we’ve had areas that were inaccessible to immunization teams for months and sometimes years at a time.

5. Do immunization teams know when they miss children? Or are there children they don’t even know about?
I think we have a good handle now on knowing when and where we’re missing children. The challenge is to keep reducing the number we miss. In Nigeria, we have done a lot of work since we were surprised by the discovery of several polio cases in Borno state in 2016, two years after the country had last seen a polio case. We now know through GPS mapping where the children are, and we are working with authorities to make sure all the children receive the polio vaccine.

6. Where are we seeing successes?
We haven’t had any cases of wild poliovirus anywhere in the world in nearly five years except in the three endemic countries. And in Nigeria, it’s been almost three years since we had any wild poliovirus cases, and those occurred in a small area of the country.

7. What’s the most important thing Rotarians should know?
I’ve been extremely impressed with the dedication and persistence of Rotarians in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. They are working hard to make sure polio is eradicated. It’s pretty amazing what they do in those countries. Rotarians should continue to be optimistic and to support eradication. We also need Rotarians to bring the need for continued funding to the attention of their government leaders. We can’t lose sight of the goal.

Given the recent tragic events along the Pakistan/Afghan border, fund raising for the END POLIO NOW campaign has never been more vital. Can your club make a donation. If US $1500 is beyond what your club can afford, whatever you can contribute will help. Any donation made will be tripled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

THE ANNUAL FUND

The goal for the year was for US $100 per capita to the Annual Fund. It’s not too late. Contributions support Rotary’s humanitarian efforts. These funds can be returned to clubs by way of grants, 50% of what we donate comes back to our district.

CLUBS CAN DONATE ONLINE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, OR BY CHEQUE TO PDG JOHN RANDEL P.O. BOX 7191 EAST BALLINA N.S.W. 2478.

District Governor - Terry Brown

CAN YOUR CLUB HELP A COMMUNITY – WITH NO WATER

The Rotary Club of Tenterfield is having water delivered to families at Mingoola. The tiny township of Mingoola is on the Bruxner Highway, 57 km west of Tenterfield. The area depends on Agriculture, Wine and Tourism. A radical grassroots resettlement plan has seen African refugee families move to the area.

We started this Rotary year, by fund raising for drought affected farmers throughout Queensland and New South Wales. The Mingoola region has had no drought breaking rain in 12 months. Many families have had no income and now have no water. A $250 donation could alleviate the immediate problem for one family. If your club can assist please contact Tenterfield Rotary Club, Treasurer Karen Tapscott, 02 6736 2426, email at rotarytenterfield@gmail.com
Iftar?? In a nutshell: the Islamic Society of the Gold Coast has invited the members of our club to participate in a meal, celebrating 'breaking fast', at the location of the Gold Coast Mosque in Arundel. Here is an extract of their invitation:

"In this sacred month of Ramadan, we would like to take an opportunity to invite you and your team to have an iftar (breaking fast) and dinner at the Islamic Society of Gold Coast.... ... In order to spread the spirit of goodwill and happiness, we look forward to your participation; we hope you will take part in the event to make it a great success."

But - but - but... Isn't Rotary supposed to be non-denominational? Yes, indeed! But that doesn't mean that Rotarians are not permitted to practice their religion, or for that matter - as in this instance - communicate with members of other religions. Quite the opposite: The fourth Object Rotary is "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service." (click here for the full text of the Objects of Rotary). The Islamic Society has in the past been instrumental of getting container loads of our wheelchairs into the war torn areas of Syria, Afghanistan etc. Yes, this is exactly what International Understanding is all about.

No doubt, it is events of this nature which provide the means to break down barriers. A sincere 'Thank you!' goes to the Islamic Society for the invitation.

Franz Huber | RC of Surfers Sunrise
Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) to Rotary District 1010 SCOTLAND – 18th – 31st May 2020

Rotary Friendship Exchange is open to all Rotarians and partners. The exchange is for 2 weeks, with the team members being hosted with Rotarians from Northern Scotland.

You can apply to be part of a team of up to twelve, to participate in this great Rotary experience of culture, friendship and hospitality from 18th – 31st May 2020 in District 1010.

This area is the northern half of Scotland, stretching from Stirling in the south to Shetland in the north, and from Fraserburgh in the east to the Western Isles in the west. There is much to enjoy, apart from their world renowned whisky. They boast beautiful scenery, amazing beaches and a wide variety of wildlife including seals and puffins. Orkney has a host of archaeological sites e.g. the bronze age, village of Skara Bra and the beautiful Italian Chapel made by Italian Prisoners of War.

The exchange could provide a great opportunity to visit other parts of the British Isles and Europe either before or after the exchange.

Rotary travel insurance will cover the exchange plus up to 60 days private travel.

The incoming visit to our District by Rotarians from District 1010 is planned to occur during Spring of 2020 (dates to be confirmed) and outbound team members clubs are expected to host the inbound team, during their 14 - 15 days experience within District 9640. Please discuss your desire to be part of the team with your club to obtain their consent to possibly host the inbound team from Scotland.

Completed Applications are to be submitted to the District Rotary Friendship Committee by Sunday 7th July 2019

We also have places available for the RFE to Brazil 4th – 17th March 2020

Requests for a Team Membership Application should be directed to:
RFE Chair Wendy Scarlett on 07 5524 4368 or 0407 130449 or email: wendy.scarlett51@gmail.com
Congratulations to DGN Andy Rajapakse, just a couple of months ago he sought permission to establish the first Passport club in District 9640. On the 5 June 20 Charter Members were admitted to the membership of Rotary International.

Charter member and their classifications are:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candice Olivier</td>
<td>Entrepreneur</td>
<td>James Mann</td>
<td>Retail Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Tarrant</td>
<td>Corporate Finance</td>
<td>Brett Maloney</td>
<td>Corporate Sales</td>
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<td>Stephen De Villies</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>Kasia Brzezicka</td>
<td>Corporate Marketing</td>
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<td>Marc Nuss</td>
<td>Rescue Services</td>
<td>Sharon Honeybell</td>
<td>Coworking</td>
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<td>Jacob Kay</td>
<td>Retail Pharmacy</td>
<td>Marlie Van Doorn</td>
<td>Social Media Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Hammerle</td>
<td>Financial Planning</td>
<td>Pete Argent</td>
<td>Social Innovation</td>
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<td>Sam Fairless</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>Cormac Gray</td>
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<td>Belinda Gardner</td>
<td>Cleaning Services</td>
<td>Jayde Purnell</td>
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<td>Jordan Abraham</td>
<td>Retail Sales</td>
<td>Julian Barclay</td>
<td>Corporate Law</td>
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<td>Kerry Sitzer</td>
<td>Beauty Consultancy</td>
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We have a new club in our district. The Rotary Club of Gold Coast Passport was chartered by RI yesterday as the 25th Passport Rotary club in the world and the 1st in our district. This is a district initiative by me with no sponsor club.

Young Entrepreneur Candice Olivier is the Charter President who together with DG Terry Brown signed the charter application on 26 May during the PR Seminar in Gold Coast witnessed by Andrew Best RI Club & District Support Officer from Sydney Office.

The club brings in 20 young professionals all under 45 years to Rotary. They are all new to Rotary. The club meets only on the last Tuesday of a month at 6pm to 7pm wine & cheese networking meet up at the popular co working space, "Karma Collab Hub" 47, Lemana lane, Off Christine Avenue, Miami,, Gold Coast. Cost per meeting is $10/ Annual dues $360 a year paid monthly by direct debit. ($1 a day)
A project was commenced in late 2017 out of a conversation between Mr. Chris Wheeler, a Walindi Plantation Resort scuba diving guest, who is also a member of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning (Murwillumbah) in northern NSW, and Mrs. Cecilie Benjamin who sits on the Board of Management (BOM) of the Max Benjamin Elementary School (MBES) which is located near the Resort, in the West New Britain province of PNG.

BOM meetings are held in the school classrooms and it came to her attention that all the ABC Alphabet charts which are used by the school contained images of animals, plants or objects totally foreign to young PNG children. She felt that because English was the second language to most of the students, ranging from Kindergarten to Elementary 2, a better ABC chart could be produced using items that were more familiar to the students to help with their learning of English.

The school has a digital camera and students were tasked by teachers to photograph animals, plants and objects which they felt related to the individual letters of the alphabet. A first draft alphabet poster was skilfully developed by graphic designer & Rotary member Ms. Emma Egan and was trialed with the 4 MBES teachers for 12 months. An invitation was forwarded to Principal Malcom Plester and early education teacher Mrs. Heather Plester from New Britain International School (NBIS) to come to MBES and review the poster for technical assessment and final draft.

Malcom and Heather arrived at the school with a wonderful cake for afternoon tea. It helped make the activity fun and discussion flowed effortlessly. Several changes were made to the choice of objects to more technically and accurately represent correct phonics for letter pronunciation. Gone were the old standards of e is for elephant, z is for zebra, a is for apple to such familiar items as a is for ant, e is for eggplant, and z is for zipper!

The final touches were made to the poster by Ms. Egan, with the final draft looking beautiful and very attractive. The posters were laminated by OfficeWorks Brisbane and Cecilie presented them to each teacher and class at MBES on Monday the 27th May 2019. Principal Wakou and Cecilie also presented two posters to Kilu Elementary School located in Kilu Village which borders Walindi Plantation.

Principal Noelyn Wakou points to the letters of the new Max Benjamin Elementary School ABC Alphabet chart to Kindergarten students who pronounce the names of the objects on the chart demonstrating each letter. All objects displayed are very familiar to them and easily recognized. Photo credit Darren Jew

**Kaileen Casey | Rotary Club of Mt Warning**
Welcome another new Rotary Club to Rotary District 9640 in Australia. Congratulations charter President Elkie Shakespeare and the members of the Rotary Eclub of D9640 on receiving your club charter from Rotary Governor Terry Brown. This Rotary club meets online via zoom. Rotary e-Club of D9640 Alumni, Australia

Parkwood Rotary

All over Australia, every single day there are young people, 12 to 25 years of age, sleeping in cars, on friends’ couches, in parks or finding some kind of shelter because they have ‘No where’ to go. This is happening in your very own Gold Coast.

The Parkwood Rotary Club invites you to join us for lunch to raise funds to support homeless young people. 100% of the money raised from this event will go to the Gold Coast Youth Service who provide frontline services to homeless and vulnerable young people.

Join us, have fun while making a difference! Supporting local community.

Sunday 23 June 2019 at 12:00pm
Arundel Hills Country Club,
Arundel Place, Arundel 4214

$60 per person Includes
- two course lunch
- a drink on arrival
- tea and coffee
- Cash bar available.

Entertainment provided by popular singer and songwriter Emma Whines as heard on Triple J.

Guest speakers from frontline youth workers supporting homeless youth on the Gold Coast.

 Loads of Raffles and Auctions!

Get your tickets to join us for lunch before they are sold out.

Book tickets: https://www.trybooking.com/499935

8th July is the deadline for the next edition
Email the Editor – Jodie Shelley orungalj@bigpond.net.au

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