Terry’s Tales  September 2018

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER –
Basic Education & Literacy Month

If we do not teach our children to read by seven years of age, they are at risk of underachieving for life. A big statement but none the less true!

So, what does this mean for Rotary? As an area of focus for the Rotary Foundation we can seek funds to implement projects that assist children at home and abroad to become literate.

We can start a project where fellow Rotarians will go to a local primary school and just sit and listen to students read for half an hour.

When these children do not normally have this happen routinely they are likely to fall behind in their learning.

What you will do is help a disadvantaged child learn to read, write, speak and listen effectively. What about helping children in primary schools in and around your own communities.

Each Rotarian can work with one child in Primary school throughout the year and make sure that child improves to the acceptable level.

Club Visits: Carol and I have now completed 33 of the 51 club visits. To say that we have enjoyed these is an absolute understatement. We have been welcomed by every club. The hospitality and fellowship enjoyed has been an experience that will remain with us. I cannot believe how much clubs achieve in their own communities and abroad. Then a disaster like the crippling drought confronts them, and they go up a gear with donations and fundraising promotions to assist those disadvantaged in drought declared areas.

Drought Update: Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) has registered drought relief projects in all districts affected by the punishing drought west of the Great Dividing Range. A “chain” of districts providing a delivery network for the distribution of drought relief by local Rotarians and Rotary clubs who have firsthand knowledge of needs, be it a farmer, family level or community level. Rotary will directly distribute $2 Million to drought victims, 20% of funds raised in the Rotary/Channel 9/NFF drought appeal. Two districts 9570 and 9630 have each received $250,000 with 9650, 9670 & 9800 shortly to receive the same amount. The need is so great in 9630 and 9670 that second applications are being considered.

The District appeal to support Burrumbuttock Hay Runners has continued due to the number of clubs still engaged in fundraising projects, or in negotiation with other parties for donations. With pledges, it is estimated that this appeal will reach between $50,000 and $60,000. This will be a fantastic result and a terrific boost for BHR. I know with recent publicity and media attention a number of people, including Rotarians, are channelling money in other ways to support rural communities. Congratulations to them all, there is much that is needed.
Movie for Polio: All clubs will no doubt be aware that this year’s End Polio Movie Event will be a blockbuster! *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the story of Freddie Mercury and Queen. It’s not too late to contact your local cinema to negotiate an arrangement to book a session. It will be an outstanding movie. This presents a great opportunity for clubs to raise funds for End Polio, engage with potential new members and have fun.

Membership: Several clubs have been in discussion about establishing a Satellite Club. I urge you all to ramp up your efforts in an effort to finalise Satellite Club details in the next two months. There are a number of processes involved and if any club requires assistance in this area please contact Extension Chair PDG Sandra Doumany or Membership Chair PDG Michael Irving. The new club of Varsity Lakes has now been added to our district membership total. This adds 21 members to our district, 12 women and 9 men; the average age is 37. This will make D9640 the envy of every district in Australia. Following the departure of Glen Innes to district 9650, we started this year with 1152 members we now have 1190. Let’s go through the 1200 barrier next month. Congratulations to DGN Andy Rajapakse, PDG Michael Irving and others involved for their dedication in achieving this result with our newest club Varsity Lakes.

District Governor - *Terry Brown*

Meet Your Assistant Governor Jeff Egan - Group 4

I am in my second year of being the Assistant Governor for the top Cluster i.e. the Cluster at the top of New South Wales comprising the three clubs in Murwillumbah, Kingscliff, Banora Tweed and Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed. I am also currently the chair of the District’s Ethics Committee.

I was born and grew up in Sydney and moved to Murwillumbah in 1980 with my late wife PDG Anne to establish our legal practice. We also established a family. I have 3 adult children and, at the time of writing, 2 and a half grandchildren.

My first experience of Service clubs was when I joined the Murwillumbah Lions Club in 1980. I remained a member (although inactive for the last 10 years) until June 2013 when I joined the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM as I figured it was the best way to see Anne on her path to the position of District Governor.

Rotary has given me so many opportunities. The opportunity to make friends all around the world, the opportunity to improve myself by attending training and taking on leadership roles and, most importantly, the opportunity to help others. I love Rotary.

District 9640 Conference
29-31 March 2019
lismore

Keynote Speaker

Sarah Brown
CEO of The Purple House, Alice Springs
Following her appearance at the 2016 Rotary Institute in Penrith, Sarah Brown has been one of the most sought-after presenters at Rotary events. Sarah is the Chief Executive of WDNWPT (Western Desert Dialysis – Purple House). Purple House is an amazing facility to treat renal failure amongst indigenous people in the NT’s western desert communities; it provides an excellent example of effective “self-help”.

Sarah holds a Masters of Nursing, a Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal Education and a Graduate Diploma in Health Service Management. Prior to joining WDNWPT, she was a remote area nurse and university lecturer. Sarah was awarded the top honour at the 2017 Hesta Australian Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

SERES is a charitable organization based in Guatemala. The founder is Corrina Grace, a Mechanical Engineer who was brought up in Lismore. She and her parents are well known in the area. Corrina is an exceptional engineer who had a very promising future in her profession. She chose instead to take on the challenge of improving the lives of people in Guatemala and El Salvador. We all look forward to Corrina being a key note speaker at the District Conference in Lismore in 2019.

SERES looks to provide a sustainable lifestyle for local people. With the accent on youth training (Guatemala has a very young average age), SERES provides training in:

- Sustainable living (economic and environmental)
- Leadership (aimed to give people the skills to lead others in projects)
- This project has been heavily supported by the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport. To date the club has provided $AUD 82,230 to SERES and has a further $AUD 7,500 currently available.
- Other clubs in the district who have provided financial support include Gold Coast, Sanctuary Cove and Lismore West. She has spoken at several other clubs in district 9640.

A volcanic eruption occurred adjacent to the SERES site in early June, 2018. Although the SERES site has been subject to minimal damage, it may be declared uninhabitable.

There has been significant loss of life. In addition, many have lost their homes and, being predominately subsistence farmers, their only source of income. This year’s crops have been destroyed and many farms have been permanently lost due to lava flows.

Understandably, the immediate SERES’ response has been to assist in the disaster relief program. It appears the

Government and NGOs are providing housing for displaced persons. What is not being provided is a source of income and employment for those who have lost their livelihood.

SERES is now planning a program to train young people in the skills needed to establish sustainable livelihoods for local people. The approach of SERES is very much “providing a fishing rod” rather than fish. This approach has been very successful in previous programs.

A fund has commenced to assist SERES with the post disaster work. Please contact PP Dennis O’Brien for details of how to donate, or for any additional information required. Email djobrien4217@gmail.com or 0411 268 842

Want to know more, click on the following link: https://seres.org/

ROTARY YOUTH TRANSITION SEMINAR

RYTS is a one-week residential camp for students who have just left school and are aged 17/18 years, and for Year 11 students who will be taking on leadership roles in their Year 12

ROTARY CLUBS can sponsor multiple awardees. $590 per awardee. For more info visit www.ryts9640.com
The National RAM Conference was held on the Gold Coast on the weekend of 25-26 August 2018. This is the first time the conference has been held outside a state capital. Griffith University’s Institute for Glycomics provided the venue for the conference and the Gold Cost Sharks, the venue for the evening function on the Saturday night.

The conference was well attended with representatives from intra, interstate and overseas. The Executive Board Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of RAM were held during the two days.

DG Terry opened the conference on Saturday afternoon following two workshops held at the laboratories producing the Malaria Vaccine PlasProtect. Delegates were welcomed to the conference by Dr Chris Davis from the Institute for Glycomics.

Keynote speakers on Saturday highlighted the issues in getting to zero and why it is hard to eliminate malaria. A special presentation was from Assoc. Professor Helen Evans on the 1st Malaria World Congress held in Melbourne from 1-5 July 2018.

Reports from the status of work in PNG and the Solomon Islands were presented by speakers from both countries, as well as an overview of the worldwide difficulties surrounding elimination and the challenges surrounding vaccines. Indications are that there are signs of increasing incidences of the disease even though great progress has been made in distribution of bed nets and cleaning up villages. The emphasis was the fact that more work needs to be done.

Invited Speakers included Mr Tim Freeman RAM PNG Project Manager, Mr Albino Bobogare Director NVBDCP, Solomon Islands Moh; Prof. Denis Shanks (AAMI); Prof Tom Burket (AITHM); Assoc Prof Helen Evans (Convener WMC.); Prof James McCarthy (QIMR Berghofer) and Assoc. Prof Harin Karunajeewa (WEHI).

Participants at the Saturday night dinner were welcomed by the Hon Rob Borbidge, who is chair of the Institute for Glycomics “Board of Advice” and John McLaren, the Immediate Past Chair of RAWCS. This was followed by video presentations by three schools who participated in the RAM video competition.

Sunday morning started with the Annual General Meeting of RAM followed by three presentations on the Malaria Vaccine Project. PDG Graham Jones outlined the success in raising funds for the project and the challenge now facing the completion of the Phase 1 trials. The target has been reset from $500,000 to $1m to include seeking candidates outside the Gold Coast and producing a cryo version of the vaccine. This was followed by presentations from Prof. Michael Good and Dr Danielle Stanisic, the leaders in the team to produce the vaccine. They explained the processes and challenges relating to the success of the project.

Following morning tea, the remaining sessions were devoted to the progress of elimination in Timor Leste and the cross-border issues with Indonesia. Timor Leste is now close to declaring the country free of malaria and this will hopefully occur in 2020.

For the first time, a representative from Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) presented at the conference. Dr Theresia Sarlyn Ralo talked about the issues with the work they were doing in the region.

A final session dealt with the role of the District RAM Chairs and a wrap-up by Dr Jenny Kerrison who will succeed Dave Pearson as National RAM Chair in 2019.

This was a well-attended conference and a worthwhile exposure to the multifaceted aspect of dealing with malaria (the silent killer) in endemic countries. The work that RAM does has a lasting impact on vulnerable communities and its strength is in the progress that has been achieved over the last 20 years.

On the local District 9640 scene, as RAM Chair and also as the Coordinator for the Ambassador Programme for the Malaria Vaccine Project, I am happy to talk to clubs about the RAM initiatives in the hope that clubs can see their way to supporting the programmes.

I may be contacted on 0418 369 647 or email daimason1942@gmail.com

Dai Mason - RAM Chair D9640 2018-2020
I am delighted to announce that the Malaria Vaccine Project has raised $470,000 of its $500,000 target to support the critical clinical trials of Professor Michael Good’s promising vaccine PlasProtect® in a non-endemic country-Australia. This is a magnificent effort in less than 2 years with Rotary doing the heavy lifting having raised nearly $320,000 in Australia and PNG. Our own District has raised $140,000 of this amount!!! A BIG THANK YOU to the district and all the clubs and members for this mighty effort.

It is indeed a time for great celebration because with this money supporting the research program, the clinical trials to test the efficacy of the vaccine have actually commenced with the first participants starting their vaccine injections ten days ago. They will have three injections of the vaccine followed by the injection of a malaria parasite to assess how well the vaccine works. It is an exciting time for all of us.

I wish I could say that we are all done in our mission to support these non-endemic clinical trials which are pre-requisite to further clinical trials in endemic countries. Sadly this is not the case! The target of $500,000 was based on the clinical trials being conducted at the Gold Coast; that is, all 3 cohorts of 12 participants coming from the Gold Coast region. Even with all the efforts of the Institute for Glycomics and Rotary, the search for participants will only yield 1 cohort at the Gold Coast. The remaining two cohorts will have to be organised in Brisbane. This will require the use of a Brisbane agency, Q-Pharm to locate and establish the remaining two cohorts. Q-Pharm is expensive but it will enable the clinical trials in Brisbane to be completed on time and the entire set of clinical trials to be finished in June, 2019.

The need to establish the majority of the trials in Brisbane and the addition of a further pilot study requires us to reset our target at $1,000,000. This pilot study of the “off-the-shelf” (cryo) version of PlasProtect® must be completed before the vaccine can be tested in an endemic country because it must be able to be produced, stored and shipped during the endemic stage of the trials. The pilot study will test that the cryo version is safe and does indeed activate the immune system.

Our goal in this project has not changed—only the money needed. To save the 400,000 annual deaths from malaria, we must get this promising vaccine through the non-endemic clinical trials in Australia and prepare it for the endemic clinical trials. We are hopeful at the endemic stage that the World Health Organization (WHO), large pharmaceutical foundations and corporates will support the vaccine and the opportunity to eradicate malaria. Not to go the extra mile and save the lives of all those children and pregnant mothers is unthinkable.

Please continue to help us reach this target of $1,000,000. Thanks to your help we are already HALF-WAY there and we are hoping that governments, corporate bodies and private individuals can be persuaded to carry a much greater share of the burden. We need Australian Rotarians to raise another $250,000 and for various reasons we have to complete this task by December, 2019. This is our challenge to you and we know that there is no organization in Australia or the world with a greater humanitarian heart than Rotarians.

PDG Graham Jones, Chairman-Malaria Vaccine Project

A new Rotary Club is born – RC OF VARSITY LAKES -Congratulations

Congratulations on the successful chartering of the Rotary Club of Varsity Lakes which was admitted to membership in Rotary International on 3 September 2018. Congratulations to all 21 foundation members. Welcome to the Rotary Family.

The members of Varsity Lakes Rotary invite you to join them on Friday 19th October 6pm for their gala charter presentation dinner at Hotel CBD in Varsity Lakes, Gold Coast. Tickets can be purchased here.
With a great turnout of Rotarians for a local BBQ, the Alstonville community responded brilliantly to our recent ‘Hay for Farmers’ drought appeal. Donations totalled $3,384.35 and the net proceeds from the sausage sizzle amounted to $1,042. It is an amazing result for one Saturday morning in the Alstonville Plaza, a tribute to our generous little community.

Alstonville Rotary has also donated $1,000 from club reserves and our friends in the Inner Wheel Club of Alstonville have donated a further $250.

The combined population of Alstonville and Wollongbar is a little under 6000. Alstonville Rotary is proud and delighted to forward a cheque for $5,676 to the Rotary Club of Sydney for the BURRUMBUTTOCK HAY RUNNERS. This represents around a dollar for every member of our community, providing 3,500 litres of fuel for those massive transport trucks.

The sheer scale of the earthquake disaster in Lombok is difficult to imagine. The victims endured hardship and suffering on an unbelievable scale - 400 deaths, 400,000 displaced people with 67,000 homes destroyed - all set in a paradise holiday island just 1,200 Kms from W.A.

Alstonville Rotary is proud to follow the Rotary tradition of striking a balance between overseas aid and local issues. Our recent drought appeal was for sending hay to farmers doing it tough in drought ravaged NSW and QLD. Last weekend, our thoughts turned to funding emergency relief in Lombok.

Led by the CEO of ShelterBox Australia and Alstonville Rotarian Mike Greenslade, we held a two day event at Bunnings Ballina, with a display of a ShelterBox emergency pack including a family tent and emergency gear similar to that being sent to Lombok.

ShelterBox volunteers are on the ground in the disaster area, working closely with local Rotary clubs in Lombok. They know what’s needed first hand, and the emergency supplies being transported from stocks in Jakarta to Lombok are prioritised and tailored accordingly.

Over the weekend 1,230 BBQ sausages, drink sales and donations raised $2,967 for the earthquake survivors in Lombok. This will be matched dollar for dollar by an extremely generous Australian benefactor. The resulting $5,934 could fund six ShelterBoxes, providing emergency shelter and essential items for needy families. **Peter Swain**
PARTICIPATING AT THE MUNA NATIONALS IN CANBERRA

On the weekend of the 17th and 18th August, Ross Smith and I took the three participants to the MUNA Nationals in Canberra.

“Ross Smith and I took the three individual winners from our District MUNA in March 2018 to Canberra for the MUNA Nationals at Old Parliament House. There were three team members - Lucy from St Joseph’s College, Banora Point, Barclay from Emmanuel College, Gold Coast and Danielle from Trinity College, Lismore. The team represented Germany and did so in a motivated and enthusiastic manner.

Many hours of researching the UN Resolutions prior to arriving in Canberra took place so the students were well prepared and ready for two days of debating and protecting the values and policies of Germany. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students and Ross and I were really proud of their commitment, involvement and professionalism whilst at Old Parliament House.”  

Patsy Lucas - MUNA Chair

Report from participant Lucy from St Joseph’s College, Banora Point

In late August, I had the pleasure of competing in the National United Nations General Assembly (MUNA) in Old Parliament House, Canberra. Beginning with my own team (who was sponsored by our local Rotary Club), and extending to other representatives, I was greeted with friendship, gratitude and genuine respect that formed strong friendships and memorable experiences. Representing the country of Germany, I was able to approach international issues from perspectives different from my own. This was something that others experienced too.

Debating on Palestine, Syria, Climate Change, denuclearisation and the South China Sea fostered within us all a greater sense of empathy for other countries, as well as deepening our respect for the intricacies of diplomatic relations and international law. From discussing peace treaties through diplomatic notes, to disputing over the violations of human rights and the breach of international laws, everyone in the chamber became well acquainted early on. Friendships were formed with some unlikely countries. My partner and I became close with Russia, the United Kingdom, India, France, Syria and Israel, whom we are still in contact with to this day. If that isn’t a good diplomatic job on our part, I’m not quite sure what is.

Barclay and I enjoyed spending a lot of our spare time on the journey home discussing Australian politics (a specialty of his), the Middle East (a passion of mine), as well as other topics that interested us. If I may speak for Barclay and myself, I believe we learned a lot from the experience, and from each other’s very polar opposite opinions (on literally everything). I was truly honoured to have experienced MUNA with such intelligent young people, and to have had such an enjoyable trip surrounded by so many genuinely kind and compassionate people. The experience will stay with me for a lifetime.

Report from participant Barclay from Emmanuel College, Gold Coast

Diplomatically daunting, yet utterly delightful is the best way to describe the Nationals MUNA competition in Canberra, hosted by Rotary clubs of Australia. Our modest team of three debaters set off to the nation’s capital to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime experience; debating in Old Parliament House.

Throughout the freezing cold weekend, delegates managed to tackle a number of complex issues ranging from migration and nuclear weapons through to resolutions pertaining to the South China Sea and Syrian Civil War. Representing the country of Germany, our team had the responsibility to convey their views on a plethora of these international topics to essentially model the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Accompanied by Rotarians Ross Smith and Patsy Lucas, we ventured down south from the Gold Coast and resided in the Canberra Park Resort alongside the other 20 teams competing in the prestigious tournament.

It was great to be able to spend a weekend with likeminded youth who are passionate about international issues and the direction in which our planet is heading. The rewarding experience also included a delicious meal on the Saturday night at the Australian National University. During this, we got to hear from an array of people involved within the Rotary Clubs of Australia along with public servants from Canberra who share a passion to ensure Australia looks to uphold its duties to the international community. Overall, I would thoroughly encourage any high school students interested in international relations to participate.
Unique Cultural & Vocational Exchange Opportunity

VOCA TIONAL EXCHANGE
Philippines

Departing: 15th March 2019 for 4 weeks

What is a Vocational Exchange?
A program of The Rotary Foundation and the Rotary District 9640 which provides a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business professionals between the ages of 25 and 40.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1st OCTOBER

To be eligible, Team Members must:

• Be between the ages of 25 and 40
• Be fully employed with at least two years of work experience in their chosen field
• Reside in or be employed in the Rotary District 9640 (SE Qld & Nthn NSW) and be Australian citizens - https://rotary9640.org/clubsmap/
• Be personable, articulate, cooperative, motivated team players, & enthusiastic about their vocations
• Seek to gain a maximum educational value from the program, as well as be able to fulfil the rigorous demands of international living and active participation in an extensive itinerary
• Be prepared to share the experience on returning home, including at the Rotary conference

What is exchange experience about?
You will be part of a team of 4 non-Rotarians usually of various business and professional backgrounds, and one Rotarian team leader.
While away you will be treated as special guests and enjoy the showcasing of local businesses, government offices, and community organisations in the host district.
You will be provided amazing tours of historical and cultural sites, stay with Rotarian host families, and provide presentations about Australia, our local region & your professions.

Benefit experienced by past participants?

• Promotions on return to work through gained confidence and skill
• Enhanced and/or diversified career paths within their workplaces
  • Improved status at work through new initiatives
• Life changing relationships that open numerous opportunities

What next if I’m keen?
Follow this link to source application documents

Call the Vocational Exchange Chair, Sue and get some more information
Ph: 0417 817 964 Email: leasuekev@bigpond.com
Alternatively...contact someone in Rotary

Rotarians enjoy meeting new people, sharing ideas, so why not visit another club in our District. All our clubs’, meeting times and places are listed on our District website. There are 51 clubs in our District, who welcome Rotarians and friends to join them at their meetings. All the information is available here – When and Where clubs meet
Congratulations to the following Rotarians and partners on being selected as part of the team of twelve to participate on this great Rotary experience of culture, friendship and hospitality.

As there were more applications than positions available we have 7 reserves for the team. Priority was given to those who have not been on RFE previously.  

**Wendy Scarlett**

The incoming visit to our District by Rotarians from District 6250 is planned to occur 18th February to 4th March 2019.

Proposed itinerary is:
- 18 Feb - 21 Feb Banora Tweed Rotary
- 21 Feb - 25 Feb Casino / Lismore West
- 25 Feb – 28 Feb Grafton
- 28 Feb – 4 March Tenterfield

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO END TRACHOMA?

Trachoma is the world’s leading cause of infectious blindness. Apart from existing in some of the world’s poorest countries, Australia is the last developed country where trachoma still remains a problem.

The World Health Organisation has a global goal to eliminate trachoma by 2020. Trachoma can be prevented with good hygiene practices. It is still present in remote Aboriginal communities and can lead to permanent blindness.

**YOU CAN HELP BY COLLECTING USED STAMPS**, a fundraiser run by Rotarian Carrol Farmer in Victoria.

To give you an idea of how valuable your stamps are, Carol receives $15/ kg for the $1.00 stamps, $30/ kg for high value and foreign stamps, $8.00/ kg for stamps under 70c, $15/ kg for 70c commemorative stamps and all 65c Xmas stamps. **There is still money in used stamps so start collecting today.**

EndTrachoma by 2020 is an initiative started by the Rotary Club of Melbourne with Nourish our Communities Ltd, working with Rotary Clubs in Districts of Australia.

For more info contact Richard Crandon, RC Goonellabah crandon612@gmail.com or visit www.endtrachoma2020.org.au

### Team Members

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
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<td>Rene and Isabella Jorgensen</td>
<td>Ashmore Rotary</td>
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<td>Rod and Jeanette Fry</td>
<td>Banora Tweed Rotary</td>
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<td>Janette Glynn</td>
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<td>John and Wendy Lane</td>
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<td>Chris and Bev Wheelahan</td>
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<td>Graeme and Helen Hargreaves</td>
<td>Lismore West Rotary</td>
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<td>Anna Starcevic</td>
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EndTrachoma by 2020

**We need your used stamps to help**

**We’re NOT asking for $$$ – Just your used stamps!**

Your Used Stamps, once trimmed and sorted, will be sold, and every dollar raised will go towards preventing this infectious eye disease by improving health and hygiene in remote areas of Australia. Together with the World Health Organisation, we can achieve the global effort to eliminate trachoma by 2020.

Collect used stamps from your Work, Schools, Universities, Hospitals, Medical Clinics, and Council Offices ……. and don’t forget your neighbours. Remember every stamp helps!

Contact: Rotarian Carrol Farmer ericfarmer@bigpond.com

Australians working with Australians in need – Together we can make a difference.

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It’s Your Newsletter So Use This Space

The deadline for submissions is the first week of the month with publication for the middle of the month.

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

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