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Rotary

District 9640



THE FOUR G'S GAZETTE

Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 9640 | Edition 10 | April 2016

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



Greetings to all in Rotary District 9640 and our supporters.

Welcome to the Rotary month of April. This is a particularly significant month for all Australians as we lead up to the recognition of ANZAC Day. If ever there was a day that truly reflects our national identity it must be ANZAC Day. It does so without controversy and generally has Australian society's wide support. We acknowledge the contributions to the building of our society by our forebears. We recognise the sacrifices they have made to enable us to live in a just and free society. Lest We Forget.

In the Rotary International Calendar, April is 'Maternal and Child Health Month'. Let me tell you about Barry Kirby. Barry Kirby was born in Murwillumbah and at the age of 40 found himself at the end of a four year stint in an isolated area of PNG. He was a carpenter by trade. His experience with PNG villagers and in particular his observations of the plight of women and children in that society led Barry into a life changing experience. He yielded to a calling to vocation that had been bringing pressure to bear upon him for some time. He made a decision to return to Australia and to train to become a doctor. He graduated at the age of 52 as a Rural Obstetrics Specialist. In PNG women die during or soon after childbirth at a rate of 733 per 100,000 births (in Australia the figure is about 8, unless you are Aboriginal in which case it is about 21). Mostly mothers bleed to death for want of basic medical attention. Barry Kirby has taken it upon himself to set about improving the maternal and child health of PNG villagers. Those that know the PNG health system would understand that he has little Government support.

Barry works out of Alotau travelling by boat or battered Landcruiser to far flung villages. Barry has established many maternal health initiatives and most recently a fledgling charity tentatively called "The Hands of Rescue Foundation" to establish a radio network to far flung Aid posts in PNG supported by Seaplane rescues. His cause is Maternal Health. His role model is the late Fred Hollows.

Barry Kirby has a strong sense of social justice which is central to both his identity and his conscience. I salute the Barry Kirbys of this world. I also salute the Clubs in our District who continually provide support to PNG and other places in the Pacific with Birthing Kits and Days for Girls Kits. You, like Barry Kirby, are my heroes.

Yours in Rotary

Rotary
District 9640

Anne Egan

District Governor 2015/16

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MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH



Rotarians improve access to essential medical services for mothers and their children. These efforts are aimed at reducing the number of children under age five who die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation – a figure that is currently estimated at 7 million.

According to another estimate, more than 80 percent of maternal deaths can be prevented with access to reproductive health services and trained health care workers. Our members provide education, immunizations, birthing kits, and mobile health clinics to support these causes. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

News about Maternal & Child Health -

- [Training nurses to save mothers and babies in East Africa](#)
- [Empowering mothers by preventing injuries](#)
- [Health camp reaches mothers and children on remote island](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Since the last newsletter, and to the end of March 2016, we are pleased to be able to welcome the following new members in to our District –

Club	Name
Burleigh Heads	Maurizio Piazza
Byron Bay	Julia Upson Shaw
eClub of NextGen	Dan Robinson
Hope Island	Jill Wade
Murwillumbah Central	Karen Bache
	Stewart Bache
	Catherine Brooks
	Andrew Coleman
Palm Beach	Jijesh Nhalila Valappil
Parkwood	Phil Hunniford
	Wendy Reiner
Tenterfield	Paul Della

* Clubs should note that the above information is extracted from our District Database record of members. Please add new members promptly to ensure they appear above.

GET LIKING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE !



If you and your Club haven't LIKED our District Facebook page...then it's time to do it. Following our page will keep you up to date with what other Clubs in our District are doing, as well as events you might be interested in attending.

We're also keen to get your Club's news and upcoming events to share with our Facebook followers. Email your information to 6067rw@gmail.com

You can LIKE our Facebook page at -

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9640>

BALLINA FINE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL SUPPORTS LOCAL SURF LIFESAVING

Members of the Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival Committee were delighted to present 12 new training boards to Ballina Junior Surf Life Saving Club from proceeds from the 2015 Festival.

The new boards will assist the Junior Surf Club in improving their rescue and development skills as part of their training program.



Committee Chairman Col Lee, said it was so pleasing to see the money donated from the festival was used to purchase much essentially needed training equipment for the benefit of young members of the club. Our committee works hard to run this festival as both a fundraiser and a community event for Ballina Shire and businesses. Each year we continue to grow our festival and make it more entertaining. Last year was successful and we were so pleased to make the main beneficiary the Ballina Junior Surf Lifesaving Club. Club members and their parents gave us an outstanding amount of help with the preparations and clean up which helped us greatly.

Following the handover of the boards, members of the committee assisted with presenting medals to the juniors who were successful at the recent Surf Carnival.

The **2016 Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival** will be held on 3 July 2016 at Ballina Jockey Club. This is an 18 years plus event due to licensing restrictions. This year's main beneficiary is Our House. The Festival is a community event initiated and administered by the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond.

ROMAC TRIVIA CHALLENGE

The very different, very amusing fun trivia event !

Imagine the fun and laughter when general knowledge questions with often hilarious, always humorous photos and videos accompany them are beamed onto a large screen. And where else will attendees race to be the first to stand up and wave their hands in the air during every round? **Welcome to the annual ROMAC Trivia Challenge.**

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ROMAC TRIVIA CHALLENGE



Originating a decade ago on the Gold Coast they are so popular that they are now also held on the Sunshine Coast - where they raised an impressive \$17,000 from almost 300 attendees and their Rotary clubs - Cleveland and Gerringong at RSL Clubs and High School Auditoriums. These popular events raise funds for ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children), who provides surgical treatment for children in Australia and New Zealand from developing countries from our Pacific Region in the form of life giving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home countries.

Everyone enjoys a fun night out, so if you and your club would like to enjoy the upcoming Gold Coast trivia night on Friday 27 May at the Gold Coast Arts Centre contact Phil Rosenberg on 0412 374 363 or via philtini@hotmail.com.

If the Arts Centre is too far away simply contact Phil regarding helping you to host and run one of his very different, very humorous and very successful trivia events. You'll be pleased that you did and, importantly, so will everyone who attends your fun trivia night.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI !

Our District Chair PDG Sandy Doumany is updating the Alumni Database. The District Governor asks that all Youth Programs including YEP and other District Programs including GSE and Peace Scholar Chairs, please forward all records of 2015-2016 program attendees to the District Alumni Chair PDG Sandy Doumany, srmd@bigpond.net.au.

SOUTHPORT RACE DAY

The Rotary Club of Southport are holding their 22nd Annual Day at the Races as a Southport Rotary Fun Day on Saturday 4th June 2016.

Even if you don't follow horse racing come along and enjoy the food, wine and friends ! The price has been reduced to just \$55 per person and the will be held in the Winners Circle room overlooking the finishing post

ROTARIANS AT WORK !

Our new 'Rotarian at Work' high visibility vests are starting to be seen around the community.

Firstly, District Governor Elect, Michael Irving reported that wearing his vest during a shift at the Broadbeach Carousel saw over 129 customers plus several donations. This was the largest number of customers for a Saturday morning. "Keep the change-it's for good cause" was a common comment from Mums and Dads.

On Sunday, 10 April, members and family and friends of the Rotary Club of Hope Island and Coomera Anglican College Interact Club were out in force at the Gold Coast Triathlon, proudly sharing the Rotarian at Work message with the community.



DISASTER AID THANKFUL FOR ROTARY SUPPORT IN THE AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE WINSTON



Disaster Aid International (DAI), a small non-Government organisation (NGO) started by Australian Rotarians, continues to lead the way in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston.

A comment by Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) member Peter Hazel recently in his report from Fiji, says it all. " Without wishing to blow our trumpet too loud, we are the go to NGO for government officials, we are the only NGO stating clear intentions, our area of operation and skill sets and providing what is clearly being requested by those in need, working with Rotary has made all the difference"

DAI has provided Home Repair Kits to 9 villages affected by the Cyclone working with local Rotary Clubs, Rotarians and those village communities. All the materials were purchased locally with the local Rotarians assisting with negotiating excellent prices for all the timber, galvanized iron and tools needed.

DAI was invited by the United Nations Shelter Cluster to do a presentation to other NGO's on the DAI methodology and approach. Not bad for a little NGO of which very Australian Rotarian can be proud.

The support from Fiji Rotary and Rotary New Zealand is also strong and they have been most generous and have been by DAI's side all the way in Fiji.

To all Australian Rotarians, DAI would like to say a big "thank you" for your support and know that they are making a difference in the lives of those affected by this disaster.

For more information and / or to make a donation, please visit <http://disasteraidaustralia.org.au/>.

SUPPORTING HUMAN BRAIN RESEARCH

On Saturday, 2 April 2016 the Rotary Club of Hope Island held a Black Tie Dinner in support of the Human Brain Research Program.

The night raised around **\$17,500** and was the culmination of the efforts of the organising committee and all of the club members, family , friends and sponsors who also attended, made cash donations towards the event, or donated prizes to auctions on the night.

Other Clubs in our District were also well represented with may club members amongst those present.

The funds raised on the night will helping the program which aims to fund a Queensland PhD student undertaking revolutionary Human Brain Research. You can find out more about the program on the District website -

<http://rotary9640.org/SitePage/the-human-brain-research-project>



RI PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



Many years ago, in Kolkata, India, I had the chance to meet Mother Teresa. She was an incredible woman with an incredible force of personality. When she walked down the street, the crowd parted in front of her like the Red Sea. Yet when you talked to her, if you mentioned the tremendous things she had done, she almost did not engage in this topic at all. By many reports, if you asked her what her greatest achievement was, she would answer, "I am an expert in cleaning toilets."

The answer was both humorous and absolutely serious. Her business was caring for others. Toilets had to be cleaned, so she cleaned them. There was no question of a job being beneath her. Helping people who needed help was her work, and there was nothing higher, nothing in the world more important than that.

So one day, when an elegantly dressed man came to Kolkata looking for Mother Teresa, the nuns who answered the door informed him that she was at the back of the house, cleaning the toilets. They pointed the way, and indeed he found Mother Teresa scrubbing the toilets. She said hello, assumed he was there to volunteer, and began explaining to him how to hold the toilet brush correctly and how not to waste water. Then she put the brush in his hand and left him standing there, in his expensive suit, alone in the lavatory.

Later, the man came out, found Mother Teresa again, and said, "I have finished; may I speak with you now?" "Yes, certainly," she said. He took an envelope out of his pocket and said, "Mother Teresa, I am the director of the airline, and here are your tickets. I just wanted to bring them to you personally."

That airline director told that story again and again for the rest of his life. He said those 20 minutes spent cleaning toilets had filled him with the greatest joy he had ever known – because by putting his hands to Mother Teresa's work, he became part of that work. For those 20 minutes, he cared for the sick just as she did: with his own hands, his own sweat.

That is exactly the opportunity that Rotary gives us. We might not do what Mother Teresa did – give up our lives, our homes, our families. But for 20 minutes, 20 hours, 20 days of the year, we can be like her.

We can do the work that others will not with our hands, and our hearts, and our sweat, and our devotion – knowing that what we do is the most important work in the world.

K.R. (Ravi) Ravindran
President 2015/16



REGISTER NOW FOR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN SEOUL 2016

"Touch the World in Korea" from 29 May to 1 June 2016.



Book your trip to Seoul by clicking on the register link on the image above, visit www.riconvention.org or simply contact PDG Brian Heaton at val.22@bigpond.com or by calling 0409 007 848.

Registration closes at the end of this month (30 April) so if you haven't booked yet now is the time to do so !

ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS

Rotary Global Rewards is a member benefit program that offers discounts on products and services like travel, hotels, dining and entertainment

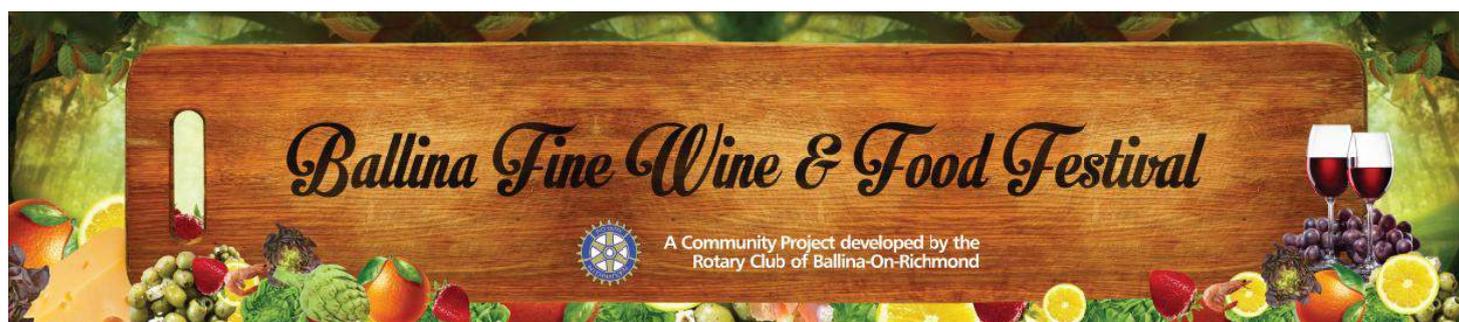


You can learn more and redeem Rotary Global Rewards at rotary.org/globalrewards

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your diary for the following key dates, including training dates. Don't forget you can get more details on these events as well as what else is going on, via the District Website.

Date	Details (Location)
17 Apr – 15 May 16	Inbound Group Study Exchange from Pennsylvania
23 Apr – 21 May 16	Outbound Group Study Exchange to Pennsylvania
30 Apr – 02 May 16	International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians Meet & Greet (Tamborine)
01 May	Opera in the Vineyard (Ballandean Estate, Stanthorpe) Bookings : http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=106025
03 May – 06 May 16	Bike Ride for Mental Health (Tenterfield to Murwillumbah) For more information visit www.gtoc.com.au
06 May 16	College of Governor's Luncheon (Greenhills Reception Lounge)
06 May – 08 May 16	District Conference (Murwillumbah) For bookings visit http://e.mybookingmanager.com/D9640Conference2016 Bookings for meals has closed ! Conference bookings and other events closes 2 May 16
16 May 16	From Blackholes to Pulsars & Quasars Presentation (South Tweed Sports Club)
20 May – 22 May 16	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) Camp (Bornhofen PCYC)
27 May 16	Annual ROMAC Trivia Challenge Contact Phil Rosenborg (0412 374 363 or philtini@hotmail.com)
28 May 16	Youth Exchange Program – District interviews (Robina High School)
04 Jun 16	Southport Rotary Race Day (Gold Coast Turf Club) Contact Ann Penfold (0413 806 040 or ann@drasafety.com.au)
12 Jun 16	Quarterly Leadership Meeting (Ocean Shores) 24 th Great Duck Race (Richmond River, Ballina)
18 Jun 16	Give Me 5 Charity Ball (Sofitel Hotel, Broadbeach)
01 Jul – 03 Jul 16	Ballina Fine Wine & Food Festival For information visit http://www.ballinafinewineandfoodfestival.com.au/
03 Jul 16	District Changeover 2016



Ballina Fine Wine & Food Festival Sunday 3rd July 2016, 11am-5pm, Ballina Jockey Club
Gala Dinner Friday 1st July, Ballina RSL Club | Gourmet Bus Tour Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd July