Inside This Month’s Edition

- District Governor’s Message
- Official DG Visit Schedule
- Group Study Exchange to Pennsylvania
- What does being on the YEP mean?
- Indigenous Health Scholarship Program
- Rotary Fellowships
- District Contact Directory
- Blankets for Nepal
- Glen Innes forms Satellite Club
- Avenues of Service Citation
- Raising the Profile of Rotary
- Donate Life Week
- Key Dates and Events
- Rotary International President’s Message
- Rotary Magazine Highlights
Happy July to all Rotarians in District 9640 and welcome to the new Rotary year.

I have been gifted by the friendship of most of the Rotarians in our District and I look forward to meeting everyone as we move throughout the District in 2015-2016. Thank you so much for making both Jeff and I welcome at the various meetings to date.

Before I go any further I have to congratulate Past District Governor Wendy on her year as District Governor. She has done a superb job in leading the District in an inspiring manner. She is the epitome of a good Rotarian, serving her community at all times and for 12 months devoting herself to the Rotary community.

And to introduce Jeff and myself, most of you know a little bit about our background. We are both lawyers practicing in the same firm in Murwillumbah. We have been in Murwillumbah since 1980 having been original tree changers from Sydney. We have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Alas our grandchildren reside in England and are actually “poms”. I have it on good authority however that in the forthcoming Ashes Series they will be “doing the right thing” and cheering on Michael Clarke and his team.

What a wonderful gift grandchildren are. We have so much to be grateful for. Jeff and I count our blessings every day and I guess that is what appreciating gifts is really about.

We are particularly lucky to have Rotary in our lives. With a motivation of community service we receive the utmost satisfaction in life from every achievement that makes the world a better place, no matter how insignificant that achievement may seem at times. In addition we have the wonderful friendship of our fellow Rotarians, as a result of which our days are filled not only with service but with fun and friendship. There is no better way to live your life. I know you all share similar lives. What wonderful gifts we have received and what wonderful gifts we have to give.

Thanks again to all those who mentored and supported me on the journey to date.

This year we will all be a gift to the world. Just as important though we will all be a gift to each other. I urge you all to get to know our RI President Ravi. He is a remarkable man.

Best wishes for the month ahead and until next month’s Newsletter I remain Anne Egan, District Governor.

Yours in Rotary

Anne
anne@egansimpson.com
0418 489 836

Official DG Visit Schedule

Listed below are the dates for upcoming official DG visits to clubs around the District -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Jul</td>
<td>Glen Innes</td>
<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Jul</td>
<td>Tenterfield</td>
<td>18 Aug</td>
<td>Byron Bay</td>
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<td>31 Jul</td>
<td>Summerland Sunrise</td>
<td>19 Aug</td>
<td>Mermaid Beach</td>
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<td>03 Aug</td>
<td>Murwillumbah</td>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Lismore West</td>
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<td>04 Aug</td>
<td>Broadbeach</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Broadwater –Southport</td>
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<td>05 Aug</td>
<td>Ashmore</td>
<td>25 Aug</td>
<td>Beaudesert</td>
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<td>10 Aug</td>
<td>Stanthorpe</td>
<td>27 Aug</td>
<td>Burleigh Heads</td>
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<td>11 Aug</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>Ballina</td>
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District Group Study Exchange (GSE) to Pennsylvania, USA in 2016

- Outbound GSE Team in USA: 23 April to 21 May 2016
- Inbound GSE Team in D9640: 17 April to 15 May 2016
- Team Leader Applications Close: 5 September 2015

How good does Spring in Pennsylvania, USA sound for a Rotarian Team Leader and four team members, as part of our District’s GSE Team in 2016?

Rotarians who wished to apply as Team Leader must be experienced Rotarians with the ability to prepare and lead a team of young professionals in the early stages of their careers.

Team members must be enthusiastic young business and professional people wishing to be part of the team for this vocational and cultural study tour. Applicants need to be Australian Citizens, employed or reside in Rotary District 9640 and have been employed in their business or profession for a minimum of two years. Rotarians and relatives of Rotarians are not eligible to apply.

District 7390 is in South Central Pennsylvania USA. Harrisburg, the capital is in the centre of the District. The District includes Lancaster, the home of the Amish people and Gettysburg of USA Civil war fame.

Clubs are invited express interest in hosting the inbound GSE team between 17 April and 21 May 2016.

Application forms and further details are available on Rotary District 9640 website (see link below) and will also be forwarded to clubs in early July for Team Leader, Team Member and Hosting Clubs.

Further Information

- http://rotary9640.org/sitepage/group-study-exchange
- Email GSE Chairman, Ian Wilson (ianwil@bigpond.net.au)

What does being on the Rotary Youth Exchange Program (YEP) mean?

An extract from a speech given to the Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club by Laura Burtscher, an Austrian YEP student sponsored by the club during 2014-15.

Exactly 316 days ago my Exchange Year started and I was sitting on the plane, not knowing about what would happen once I arrived at that totally unfamiliar country called Australia. Leaving all my friends and family, my home and everyone I loved behind me. Sitting in that airplane I was very excited, also very scared and most of all very nervous.

Nervous like I am usually before new things are happening.

The first days in Australia were overwhelming – everything seemed so different and so unreal in a way. I saw how beautiful my new home is and realized that a new and exciting adventure just started for me. All over the year I lived with three different host families around the Gold Coast. Being part of all those families was very special and I appreciate everything they’ve done for me.

Even though I was sometimes a bit sleepy, because I’m not a morning person, I really enjoyed attending the Rotary meeting every Wednesday morning – or nearly every. Next to the Club Meetings I helped out at Rotary functions; selling Raffle tickets at the Sun’s game or making Sausage Rolls. I went the District Conference in Goondiwindi, which was very interesting to listen and fun with the other exchange students. Meeting the other nine exchange students from District 9640 during the year was definitely one of the best things and even though we only got together five or six times we are really close and share a lot of memories together.

I can’t describe how much the YEP gave me. YEP opened a totally new door for me; I see the world now through a different angle. I have a new home – on the other side of the world – and that’s pretty amazing. I’ve been to so many places around Australia, so I reckon I can at least call me a half- Aussie.

Rotary is an amazing organization and I’m so happy to become part of the Rotary Youth Exchange. I would like to say thank you to the Rotary Club of Surfer Sunrise for sponsoring me, my three amazing host families and to all Rotarians, Exchange Students, friends, people who inspired me and everyone else who has made my stay in Australia fabulous.
Indigenous Health Scholarship Program

- Introducing the DG Partner Project for 2015/16

I have adopted the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarship Program as my District Governor Partner’s project for 2015/2016.

The Program was established in 2002 in South Australia and has since expanded to all States and Territories.

The program provides scholarships to assist in the education and training of indigenous Australian doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

Current recipients of scholarships are studying Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Exercise and Sports Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Health Science.

I see some of the benefits of the program as:

- The raising of educational standards of young indigenous Australians;
- The raising of their status in the community enabling these young indigenous Australians to be agents for change in their communities;
- Increasing the number of professionals who are prepared to work in rural and remote area of Australia;
- Improving the health outcomes of indigenous Australians as they are more comfortable in seeking medical treatment from their own people;
- Closing the gap between the standard of health and life expectancy of indigenous Australians and other Australians.

The cost to Rotarians of each scholarship is $2,500. This amount is matched equally by a combined contribution from the relevant State and Federal Governments. So every $2,500 contributed by Rotary becomes $5,000.

I am aware that some clubs in the District already contribute to the program and I am not asking for those contributions to be redirected. What I am asking for is for every club within District 9640 to consider making such contribution that it considers appropriate to such a worthwhile project.

Jeff Egan

More information on the Indigenous Health Scholarships can be found at www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Rotary Fellowships

Are you interested in meeting fellow Rotarians with similar interests as you?

Did you know that there are in excess of 90 Fellowships in Rotary? Fellowships are a great opportunity to share your passion with others, to learn and to perhaps travel.

Some examples of Rotary Fellowships are listed in the table to the right. This list is not exhaustive and there are of course many more!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caravanning</th>
<th>Bird Watching</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruising</td>
<td>Motorcycling</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>Flying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Exchange</td>
<td>Quilters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroads</td>
<td>Skiing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yachting</td>
<td>Wine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in finding out more about Rotary fellowships please contact me. I am happy to come to your meeting to explain Rotary Fellowships.

Charles Warrell

- c.warrell@hotmail.com
- 07 5524 4368 or 0407 130 449
District Contact Directory

- **Directory is online only for 2015/16**

In this forthcoming year District 9640 will not be printing a hard copy of the Contact Directory. It will be available on the District website and members who wish to access the same regularly are encouraged to print a copy for their own purposes directly from our District website.

The District will be endeavouring to keep the Contact Directory up to date throughout the year as any changes are made. Most Australian Districts are moving away from the printed copy. The District Governor welcomes any feedback in relation to this process.

To access the Contact Directory please select **Members > Rotarians Only > District Information** from the menu and then select the Directory from the list of files on the left hand side.

Blankets for Nepal

- **$1,180 raised for purchase of approximately 78 blankets**

At the recent District Changeover in lieu of a raffle for attendees, we encouraged guests to consider the purchase of a blanket for Nepal. In effect we were “raffling” this blankets but they had to be collected in Nepal for use. In the absence of the winners travelling to Nepal to collect their blankets, Disaster Aid Australia will distribute the blankets in Nepal for use by those with the most immediate need.

Congratulations to everybody who attended. The final count was a whopping **$1,180** raised for purchase of approximately **78** blankets for Nepal. The money has now been transmitted to Disaster Aid Australia. Representatives of Disaster Aid Australia currently in Nepal will attend to purchase of the blankets in Nepal and distribute them there.

We congratulate and thank all those who participated in this wonderful opportunity.

Glen Innes forms new Satellite Club

- **First Satellite Club to be formed in our District**

District 9640 is very proud and excited for the Rotary Club of Glen Innes for being the first Club to induct a Satellite Club with 8 new members.

Twelve months ago they had the foresight to see the benefits of pursuing this concept of which Rotary International has given full approval.

Who can say no to more members, who can say no to more hands to share the work load, and who can say no to more members to share the fellowship of Rotary?

The Rotary Club of Glen Innes meet as a dinner Club, and the Satellite Club meet for breakfast, this gives two options for a make up if you cannot attend your normal Club meeting. These are the benefits of a sponsored Satellite Club as well as attracting new Rotarians. The Satellite Club meets at a different time to the sponsor Club, at the same venue or a different one - their choice.

A second Satellite Club has started the journey at Griffith University, sponsored by the Southport Club.

These opportunities are there for men and women and if the new Club reaches a membership of 20 they can become a Rotary Club in their own right. What a wonderful opportunity to increase Rotary membership and benefit your own Club.

Again Glen Innes, well done and if any Club would like more information or help, please contact **Sandra Doumany**, District Extension Chair.
Avenues of Service Citation

At this time of the year many Clubs recognise members with a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition for outstanding contribution to their club and community. Much of the criteria that is used to determine this recognition is based on service contribution and involvement.

The highest “Award” that a club can bestow on a member is the “Avenues of Service Citation”. A few rules apply -

- Only ONE citation per year per Club
- A member can only be recognised once with this award.
- The Citation is FREE

Let's use this award for what it is…. To recognise outstanding contribution across all the Avenues of Service. Please keep in mind that it can take up to eight weeks to receive this citation, once applied for, so as the Clubs to plan early so they are not disappointed.

Further Information

An Application Form and further information can be found on the Rotary International website –


Donate Life Week

- Runs from 2 August to 9 August 2015
- National awareness for Organ and Tissue Donation
- Rotary clubs encouraged to spread the word

Over 1100 Rotary Clubs across Australia are urging families to ‘have the chat’ about organ and tissue donation with their loved ones and register their donation decisions during DonateLife Week.

Rotary’s participation in DonateLife Week 2015 was prompted by the story of Jack Wilson, the grandson of one of the 21 Rotary District Governors in Australia. Jack was born with nephrotic syndrome, a congenital kidney disease which resulted in lengthy periods of hospitalisation.

Jack had to return to hospital initially five days per week for four hourly sessions of protein infusion, then moving onto 10 hours home dialysis every night. From three days after his birth in mid 2013 Jack had a tube protruding from his body – no bath, no beach, no pool - until finally at the age of 21 months, Jack’s life was transformed with the gift of a kidney transplant.

“For Jack, a new kidney has meant a return to normal eating, boundless energy and no more lines (with their risk of infection). It’s such an incredible gift. We know that Jack will need more kidney transplants throughout his life, but for now we’re excited and hopeful for his future” says his mother Tammy Wilson.

Professor Jonathan Craig from Westmead Children’s Hospital Sydney said, “Australia is a world leader in organ and tissue transplants. But we depend entirely on the compassion of ordinary Australians who make a decision which enables us to change lives.”

For more information visit www.donatelife.gov.au

Raising the Profile of Rotary

Next time you have a guest speaker at your Club, instead of saying thank you with a pen, glass or coffee mug, why not give then a Rotary information pack that contains a gift card to The Rotary Foundation, in a value of your choosing, plus assorted Rotary information? The only thing you have to add is a recent copy of a Rotary Magazine.

Packs can be ordered from Mark Anderson either by email at mark.anderson@rotary.org or phoning him on 02 8894 9841.
**District Calendar**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details (Location)</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Jul</td>
<td>Fine Wine &amp; Food Festival (Ballina on Richmond)</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Jul</td>
<td>Rotary Hope Island Charity Golf Day (Links Hope Island)</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Jul</td>
<td>Opera at the Channon (Northern Rivers)</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Aug – 30 Aug</td>
<td>YEP – Outbounders Camp (Quality Inn, Mermaid Beach)</td>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sep – 13 Sep</td>
<td>YEP – Inbounders Camp (Lake Ainsworth)</td>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Kyogle Bush Turkey Charity Ball (New park Fields, Kyogle)</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Pre-PETS Training</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 Dec – 06 Dec</td>
<td>YEP – Outbounders Camp 2 (Lake Ainsworth)</td>
<td>Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Mar 16</td>
<td>PETS Training</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 Mar 16</td>
<td>District Assembly</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 May - 09 May 16</td>
<td>District Conference</td>
<td>Event</td>
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**Chance to win a Mini!**

**Rotary Hope Island Charity Golf Day**
17 July 2015 @ Links Hope Island

We in Rotary aspire to great deeds. We admire those who gave great gifts to humanity: Abraham Lincoln, who gave the gift of human dignity to the downtrodden; Mother Teresa, who gave the gift of compassion to the forgotten; Mahatma Gandhi, who gave the gift of peaceful change to the oppressed. Their very lives became gifts to the world.

We can be inspired by their example. We can be inspired to ask, how can I, in the life that I live—without neglecting the responsibilities that are so dear to me—become a gift to the world? As I considered my theme, I thought of the lessons I have learned through my Hindu faith. I thought especially of the story of Sudama.

Sudama was a poor child and a bosom friend of Krishna, who was born in a royal lineage as an avatar—an incarnation of the divine. As the two boys grow up, they drift apart, and while Krishna becomes a military leader and king of great repute, Sudama remains a humble villager.

The years go by and Sudama’s poverty deepens. Finally, he lacks even food to feed his children. His wife reminds him of his childhood friendship with Krishna: Perhaps it is time to go to the mighty ruler for help. Reluctantly, Sudama agrees, but resolves that he will not go empty-handed. He gathers together a few handfuls of rice—all the food his family has left—and wraps them in a piece of cloth as a gift for his friend.

When Sudama enters the palace, he is overwhelmed by the grandeur and by Krishna’s gracious welcome. His meager gift, so carefully prepared, seems a humiliating reminder of his poverty. Krishna embraces Sudama, who hides the hand holding the rice behind his back. Krishna asks what he is holding.

Far from being disdainful, Krishna accepts the rice with gratitude and consumes it with joy as the two sit and talk together. Hours pass, during which the pleasures of their rekindled friendship push all thoughts of his desperate plight from Sudama’s mind. When evening falls, Sudama sets out for home—and only then realizes that he has neglected his task. He is returning with nothing, and Krishna has eaten his family’s last grains of rice.

Sudama steels himself to return to his hungry children. But standing before his gate, as dawn begins to break, he sees that the hut he left yesterday has become a stately home, and waiting to greet him is his own family: well-dressed, and well-fed by the baskets of food that appeared in their kitchen as Krishna ate each grain of Sudama’s rice.

Krishna understood what Sudama had brought him: everything he had to give. In return, Krishna gave him everything he needed. It is never the material value of a gift that matters—it is the love that comes with it. Just as Sudama’s gift to Krishna became a gift to Sudama, what we give through Rotary becomes a gift to us. And we all have a choice: whether to keep our gifts to ourselves or give them to others, and Be a Gift to the World.

We have only one chance at our lives. And we will have only one chance at this new Rotary year. This is our time. Let us grasp it. Let us Be a Gift to the World.

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**Rotary Magazine Highlights | July 2015**

**The Rotarian**

- Fairway to Heaven
- The Talent Around The Table: Kristin Wegner
- Hardworking Grants
- Pay it Forward
- Smashing Presence
- Hard-won Lessons

www.therotarianmagazine.com

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- News Bulletin
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- Pay it Forward
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- This Rotary World
- World Press Photo Comp
- Secrets of Stone Town

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