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To all Rotarians of District 9640 and friends and extended family of Rotary, welcome to Economic and Community Development Month. Throughout October Rotary all over the world celebrates the progress and commitment that we have all made to help grow our local economies and to improve our communities around the world.

A wonderful example of projects on a small and large scale to help grow economies and aid community development are those we find within the Kiva Microloan Program. Jan Heap from the Rotary Club of Ashmore has been co-ordinating a number of Kiva Microloans on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ashmore and District 9640.

One of the recent loans sponsored was a commitment of $50 towards a total loan of USD 1,000 sought by Ana Lilian from El Salvador. Ana was seeking a loan of USD 1,000 to drill a well to water her crops in the dry season. Ana is an experienced farmer of corn and yucca crops. Her husband and three children work with her in the crops. She has lived in poverty throughout her life and has had no formal employment. The growing of crops is her only means of survival. She gets up at 5am every morning and walks a kilometre to get to her crops where she spends the entire day in the plantation. She returns home at 4pm in the afternoon to attend to her household. She is hoping that installing a well will enable her to overcome drought and will protect her family from the effects thereof.

The Kiva loan (to which District 9640 contributed USD 50) will enable Ana and her family to become independent of some of the effects of drought on a long term basis. For a small amount of money an investment has been made by District 9640 in Ana’s future and her community’s future.

More information about microloans can be obtained from Jan Heap who serves on the Kiva Vocational and Social Committees of Ashmore. Congratulations also to the Ashmore Club for sending a group of approximately 46 volunteers in the last month to New Hope School in Cambodia to undertake further work upon the school. There are a number of important events happening around our District during October. We are all putting on our hats for Mental Health Day early in the month. This is a wonderful project of Australian Rotary Health and will be used to raise funds around the country for their Mental Health Projects.

In addition we have the pre-release of the Polio Movie on 21 October 2015 and World Polio Day. All of this is at a time when the Australian Government has reduced its commitment to the funding of the End Polio Now Campaign.

We urge all Rotarians and Rotary family to contact your local Federal Member during the month of October and if possible on World Polio Day, 23 October 2015, to seek the Member’s support in overturning the Government’s decision to reduce the Polio Campaign commitment.

All Clubs in District 9640 should have received a template of a communication that can be sent to the Local Federal Member of Parliament.

Enjoy the month of October. In the middle of Spring it is a time filled with hope and the promise of good things to come.

Yours in Rotary

Anne Egan
District Governor 2015/16
anne@egansimpson.com.au
0418 489 836

Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than USD 1.25 a day.

Rotarians around the world promote economic and community development and reduce poverty in underserved communities through training, well-paying jobs, and access to financial management institutions. Projects range from providing people with equipment to vocational training.

We work to strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.
On 25 September 2015, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that Nigeria is no longer polio endemic. This is the first time that Nigeria has interrupted transmission of wild poliovirus, bringing the country and the African region closer than ever to being certified polio-free.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the public-private partnership leading the effort to eradicate polio, called this a ‘historic achievement’ in global health. Nigeria has not reported a case of wild poliovirus since 24 July 2014, and all laboratory data have confirmed a full 12 months have passed without any new cases.

As recently as 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. Since then, a concerted effort by all levels of government, civil society, religious leaders and tens of thousands of dedicated health workers have resulted in Nigeria successfully stopping polio. More than 200,000 volunteers across the country repeatedly immunized more than 45 million children under the age of five years, to ensure that no child would suffer from this paralysing disease. Innovative approaches, such as increased community involvement and the establishment of Emergency Operations Centres at the national and state level, have also been pivotal to Nigeria’s success.

The eradication of polio globally now depends primarily on stopping the disease in these countries. As long as polio exists anywhere, it’s a threat to children everywhere.

Nigeria has made remarkable progress against polio, but continued vigilance is needed to protect these gains and ensure that polio does not return. Immunization and surveillance activities must continue to rapidly detect a potential re-introduction or re-emergence of the virus. After three years have passed without a case of wild poliovirus on the continent, official ‘certification’ of polio eradication will be conducted at the regional level in Africa.

Eradicating polio will be one of the greatest achievements in human history, and have a positive impact on global health for generations to come. Nigeria has brought the world one major step closer to achieving this goal and it’s critical that we seize this opportunity to end polio for good and ensure future generations of children are free from this devastating disease.

**WORLD POLIO DAY LIVE EVENT**

Don’t forget that World Polio Day is **23 October**. Here is a reminder of a few things you can do to help raise the publics awareness of Rotary’s Polio Eradication efforts –

- **Take part in the livestream event**
  
  The livestream event is on at 6:30pm (US EDT) on 23 October which is the morning of 24 October in our District (8:30am in QLD and 9:30am in NSW)

- **Host a viewing party with friends, family or colleagues**

- **Get the word out via your newsletters, websites and social media using the World Polio Day toolkit**

- **Create your own World Polio Day Event to raise funds**

  If you are raising money on the day don’t forget that funds are matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
What better way to spend your Sunday morning than to cycle through the Gold Coast and surrounding hinterland?

This year, some 275 cyclists agreed and participated in the Condev GC100 Charity Bike Event on 13 September 2015 at the Gold Coast. Raising money for ROMAC and the Cancer Council, the Rotary Club of Parkwood held the successful event, which is now in its 6th year. The event is sponsored by Condev Construction, a Gold Coast based construction company. It was great to see about 25 cyclists from Condev Construction leading the cyclists at the start of the ride. The Rotary Club of Parkwood would like to thank Condev Construction for their sponsorship of this event.

Although there were a number of MAMILs (middle aged men in lycra) riding, the event was supported by cyclists young and old, both men and women. Riding either 50 or 100km, cyclists enjoyed the ride which took them through Surfers Paradise and down to Miami. Those riding 100km continued on a scenic route via Mudgeeraba, the hinterland, up to Pimpama and back to the Broadwater Parklands where the ride commenced.

Planning has already commenced for the 2016 event, which is set down for Sunday 11 September 2016. While all MAMILs are welcome, the Condev GC100 Charity Bike Event is open to all cyclists who enjoy their Sunday morning ride, especially through the Gold Coast in September.

Current member Amy Ford (also a YEP Alumni) could not attend the meeting but fellow member Bron McDowall gave a very good report on her time as a YEP student and the club also got an update from another member, Jim Elmslie, on most of its other past YEP Students.

This has been a very exciting week for Clubs all around the world who used this week to reconnect with Alumni, catch up on their news, what they are doing now, and most important of all to keep in touch. This group are all members of the Rotary Family, and are all future Rotarians if we do keep in touch, and nurture their association with Rotary.

A report is required to go to Chicago from each District on the activities that happened during re-connect week, so I would love to hear from you.

**Date Claimer**

Saturday 27th February 2016 is a date for the diaries. The Inaugural Alumni Dinner will be held at the Southport Golf Club, cost $35. Clubs please start getting your tables filled with your Alumni now, we promise a very exciting evening. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Sandy Doumany
District Alumni Chair
srmd@bigpond.net.au
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

During **September** we were pleased to be able to welcome the following new members in to our District –

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<th>Club</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fassifern Valley</td>
<td>Aleeta Wozencroft</td>
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<td>Glen Innes</td>
<td>Tim Clifford</td>
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<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>Ed Montgomery</td>
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<td>Goondiwindi</td>
<td>Jennifer Bailey</td>
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<td>Hope Island</td>
<td>John Dimond</td>
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<td>Jon Gleeson</td>
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<td>Graham Schramm</td>
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**TEN NEW RLI GRADUATES**

It was smiles all round on Sunday 11 October when 10 Rotarians completed their final day of RLI training and graduated with flying colours at Lismore, NSW.

DG Anne got into the spirit of the moment and donned her academic robe to congratulate the new graduates, and award them their RLI pin and graduation certificate.

Everyone agreed they’d learned things they hadn’t previously known about Rotary and that they’d take a lot of useful information and ideas back to their club.

Congratulations to -

Gai Mason (Ballina), Jacqueline Plaice (Burleigh Heads), Andy Rajapakse (Burleigh Heads), Jane Howe (Coomera River), Barry Mason (Lismore West), Karl Causley (Maclean), Mary Lynch (Mt Warning AM), Kaylene Stanford (Mt Warning AM), Peter Kelly (Murwillumbah Central), Hilli Raeburn (Parkwood).

Next RLI course will commence in early 2016, so speak to your Club about nominating. Contact the RLI Co-ordinator Graham Jones (graham.a.g.jones@gmail.com).

**ALSTONVILLE ROTARY HELPS TOWN CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN STYLE**

Alstonville Rotary was a proud supporter of the towns 150th Birthday Bash and to celebrate, a Rotary ‘float’ led a parade down the main street.

The Rotary float is a 100 year old farm “Station Wagon”

Just imagine. Dad up front, Mum and kids in the back, coming into town to buy some groceries and catch up with friends.

Designed to be drawn by a pony, on the day the horse up front was a strapping 15 hands Welsh Cross Carriage Horse called “Penny Folly”. The horse was kindly brought over from Grafton by Bill and Patsy Wicks of “Northern Rivers Carriage Occasions”

Congratulations were given to the Historical Society, the Chamber of Commerce and all the organisers for a terrific event. Having the Historical Society involved was very appropriate too as each year in Mid-May, the club holds an Antiques and Collectables Fair at the Leisure Centre here in Alstonville.

**KYOGLE BUSH TURKEY BALL**

Rotary Club of Kyogle is holding its annual Charity Ball on 24 October at Newpark Fields, Kyogle commencing at 6pm.

For just $50 pp you will enjoy Dinner, Live Band, Auction and prizes. A special bulk discount applies if you buy 10 tickets then you will pay for only 9. Proceeds of the Ball go to RYLA and local sporting groups.

Like us on Facebook (either “Rotary Club of Kyogle” or “Kyogle Bush Turkey Charity Ball”) to view the full brochure and details on purchasing tickets. For the non Facebook users, contact Leanne Ivanusa on 0432 330 952.
BAREFOOT BOWLS IN BALLINA

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond invite you to their annual Charity Barefoot Bowls Day on Sunday 25th October. Invite your partners, family, guests and friends to join us for a fun filled afternoon.

This year they are fundraising for a Broselow Flying Carpet for the Ballina District Hospital. This system contains colour-coded equipment needed for children’s emergency resuscitation.

When: Sunday 25th Oct 2015
3pm start

Where: Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina

Cost: $20 per person, includes BBQ Dinner, Dessert and Drink, Bowls and Coaching.

For bookings contact either Col Lee on 0417 862 602 or Jodie Shelley on 0427 287 627. For further information visit www.facebook.com/BallinaonRichmond

FUNDRASING FOR TIMOR PROJECTS

Burleigh Heads Rotary's fundraising to send a 40' container to East Timor was in full force on 9 and 10 October when the Club held three screenings of Timor's first feature film: Beatriz’s War.

There was a real vibe in the foyer before the screenings, helped along by refreshments and nibbles that sparked lots of lively conversation. A terrific night to support the Club's three RAWCS projects in Ossu, East Timor.

The Club will finish packing the container on 7 November and still seek donations of sporting and musical instruments for the local high school in Ossu. Donations of books in simple English suitable for school students are also welcomed. If you would like to donate then please email BurleighHeadsRotary@gmail.com

GOLD COIN DAY FOR ROMAC

ROMAC’s volunteer Rotarians have organised life changing and life saving medical operations for over 400 children with severe burns, facial deformities, heart and lung conditions, and so many more conditions for treatment in our local hospitals that they cannot access in their home countries.

Children like baby Specialina and Mum Einoma (pictured above) who upon arrival from Nauru were immediately transported to hospital where the cardiac team was waiting to operate.

Fortunately, the operation was a success and, following a few days recuperating in the intensive care unit, for the first time Einoma heard her child speak! It was not long after that Specialina returned home a bright, happy child who had already started to put on weight.

Sunday 25 October 2015 is Australian Children’s Day. You can help your fellow Rotarians continue their humanitarian work if at your regular meeting that week you encourage a “Gold Coin” donation to support this great cause.

Funds collected can be remitted to –

Jill Ellis, District 9640 ROMAC Chair
P O Box 5778, Gold Coast Mail Centre  QLD  9726.

We hope your Club will join with us and make Gold Coin Day a memorable and worthwhile event for needy children.
RI PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Last month, after confirming a full year without a single case of wild poliovirus, Nigeria was removed from the list of the world’s polio-endemic countries. It was the last polio-endemic country in Africa. Today, only two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan – harbor the world’s final reservoir of endemic poliovirus. As this issue of The Rotarian goes to press, global cases of polio in 2015 number only a few dozen.

The scale of this achievement can hardly be overstated. Polio has existed for millennia; it has plagued humanity since our earliest civilizations. Today, because of Rotary’s work and that of our partners, the end is in sight. We are counting down not in years, but in months.

And yet, our success is as fragile as it is monumental. We are moving forward, slowly, steadily, inexorably – thanks to colossal efforts that never cease. We continue to vaccinate hundreds of millions of children in vast synchronized campaigns; we constantly monitor environments to prevent new outbreaks. The sheer scale of the effort – the coordination, the cost, and the commitment – boggles the mind.

Some ask why such high levels of immunization and surveillance are still needed to combat a disease that is almost gone. The answer is simple: It is the only way forward. If we did anything less – if we allowed the virus any quarter – years of work would be undone. We know too well how easily polio could spread again. We know how quickly our decades of progress could be lost. And this is why the months ahead are so tremendously important. We need your voice – to raise awareness, to raise funds, and to keep the momentum going. We need your strength to help fight this war until we have won.

On 24 October, we mark World Polio Day. I hope that on that day, all of you will take part in some way in our work to eradicate polio. I know that many of you intend to publicize this event on the club or district level; for those who have not yet made plans, there are still many ways to participate.

Visit endpolionow.org for ideas, tools, sample press releases, and ways to donate. You'll also find the link to our livestream event; be sure to join in, and share it on social media.

This war of ours – which started as a war against polio but is also a war against hatred, against ignorance, against fear – this war will be won. It will be won soon. And when it is won, all of Rotary will have a story to tell – to the children, and the grandchildren, who will never see a leg brace or an iron lung, or know a world with polio in it.

Whether you are a Rotarian in Kano or Peshawar or Swat, in Seoul or Madrid or Chicago – you are a part of this story. Your part in it is one that only you can write. I ask you all to write it well – so that the story you will one day tell is one of which you will be proud.

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.

ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS

Rotary Global Rewards is a new 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details (Location)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Oct</td>
<td>Polio Fundraiser Movie – Bridge of Spies (Gold Coast Arts Centre @ 7:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>Polio Fundraiser Movie – Bridge of Spies (Lismore Theatre @6:30pm)</td>
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<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Kyogle Bush Turkey Charity Ball (New Park Fields, Kyogle) (book through Leanne on 0432 330 952)</td>
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<td>World Polio Day LiveStream Event (8:30am AEST, 9:30am AEDT) <a href="http://livestream.com/rotaryinternational/worldpolioday">http://livestream.com/rotaryinternational/worldpolioday</a></td>
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<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>Barefoot Bowls (Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina) Contact either Col Lee on 0417 862 602 or Jodie Shelley on 0427 287 627</td>
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<td>30 Oct</td>
<td>RYTS Applications Due (for details refer to <a href="http://rotary9640.org/SitePage/ryts">http://rotary9640.org/SitePage/ryts</a>)</td>
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<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Pre-PETS Training (32 Hinde St, Ashmore)</td>
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<td>08 Nov</td>
<td>Quarterly District Leadership Meeting &amp; AGM (Ocean Shores Country Club)</td>
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<td>28 Nov – 04 Dec</td>
<td>RYTS Camp (Tyalgum Ridge)</td>
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<td>05 Dec – 06 Dec</td>
<td>YEP – Outbounders Camp 2 (Lake Ainsworth)</td>
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<td>13 Dec</td>
<td>College of Governor’s Christmas Luncheon (Greenhills Reception Lounge)</td>
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<td>07 Feb</td>
<td>Quarterly Leadership Meeting (Ocean Shores)</td>
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<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>Inaugural Alumni Dinner (Southport Golf Club)</td>
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<td>05 Mar 16</td>
<td>PETS Training (Saint Stephens College, Coomera)</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 Mar 16</td>
<td>District Assembly (Saint Stephens College, Coomera)</td>
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<td>03 May – 06 May 16</td>
<td>Bike Ride for Mental Health (Tenterfield to Murwillumbah) For more information visit <a href="http://www.gtoc.com.au">www.gtoc.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>06 May - 09 May 16</td>
<td>District Conference</td>
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OFFICIAL DG VISIT SCHEDULE

Listed below are the dates for upcoming official DG visits to clubs around the District. Dates are correct at the time of publishing.

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<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>Murwillumbah Central</td>
<td>29 Oct</td>
<td>Boonah</td>
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<td>19 Oct</td>
<td>Surfers Paradise</td>
<td>03 Nov</td>
<td>Iluka-Woombah</td>
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<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>Jimboomba</td>
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<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Mt Warning AM</td>
<td>09 Nov</td>
<td>Casino</td>
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<td>22 Oct</td>
<td>Coomera River</td>
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<td>Goonellabah</td>
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<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>Parkwood</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
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<td>28 Oct</td>
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