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We are looking forward to District Conference 17 – 19 April where we will Light Up Goondiwindi. If you have not registered for the Conference yet there is still time though, unfortunately, bookings can no longer include the Friday & Saturday Dinner.

There will be an amazing array of speakers and entertainers who will inspire, inform and challenge your thinking. The Bush Dance promises to be a lot of fun – come in your classy country gear, wear your comfortable shoes and be ready for a great night.

Even if you are not able to book for the dinners you are still very welcome to come along after dinner for the opening session on Friday night and the Bush Dance on Saturday night.

Thanks to the sponsors who have donated funds, goods, time and talent to ensure a wonderful conference.

The second course of Rotary Leadership Institute has concluded. This has focused on many aspects of Rotary, leadership skills and sharing ideas but the most valuable aspect surely is in the network of new friends from other Rotary clubs. Our sincere thanks go to PDG Graham and the talented facilitators who have led the sessions.

Finally, the GSE team from District 1461 has arrived and are looking forward to meeting new Rotary friends and fantastic experiences in our district for the next month. Their program looks really interesting and we know that the team will enjoy our special hospitality. Thanks to GSE Chair Ian Wilson and the GSE Committee for all their hard work.

See you in Goondiwindi!

Yours in Rotary

Wendy
**Friendship Exchange to D7580**

Would you like to enjoy the hospitality of Rotarians in District 7580 which encompasses Southern Quebec (Canada) and Northern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire (USA) next year?

The proposed Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) visit to District 7580 is planned during the ‘Fall’ period (17 September to 1 October 2016) and this should be a great and colourful time of the year to visit this area.

You can be part of up to a twelve person team to participate in this great Rotary experience of friendship and hospitality with the team from District 7850 visiting our District from 5 to 19 March 2016 and clubs of outbound team members are expected to host the inbound team, during their experience within District 9640.

This exchange will provide a great opportunity to see the area displaying its Autumn colours and to even extend the travel experience within Canada, or the USA, either before or after the exchange, with District 7850 located within easy access of either Boston or New York in USA or Quebec in Canada.

Requests for a Team Membership Application and Participant Questionnaire should be directed to RFE Committee Chair Reg Norvill on 07 5524 2297 or 0427 943 678 or email regn@ozemail.com.au

Completed applications are to be submitted for consideration by the RFE Committee by 20 May 2015.

Further information on RFE’s can be found in the official Rotary Handbook at –


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**Future of Improving Brain Health**

On 7 March in Yamba, a team including a noted surgeon, occupational therapist, scientists, a movement neuroscience researcher, and a health economics researcher presented a seminar on Brain Health, focusing on procedures such as Deep Brain Stimulation.

They talked about amazing treatments for a range of illnesses including Parkinson’s Disease, Tourette’s Syndrome, Dystonia and various other movement and Neuropsychiatric disorders all at the cutting edge of medical research.

Attendee Kate Moody from Coffs Harbour, who suffers from a condition called Familial Essential Tremor, found out about a range of medications that may help ease her tremors.

She pointed out that no other specialist has been able to give her that information in the past and was keen to give a huge thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Maclean, Yamba and Iluka-Woombah for not only hosting this event, but also for their ongoing support of this incredible medical research through *The Human Brain Research Project*.

**UNESCO-IHE Scholarships Available**

The Rotary Foundation and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, which are working together to tackle the world’s water and sanitation crisis, this year will award a limited number of scholarships for graduate students at UNESCO-IHE’s Delft campus in the Netherlands.

The partnership aims to increase the number of trained professionals who can devise, plan, and implement water and sanitation solutions in developing areas. The scholarships also are designed to promote long-term productive relationships between Rotarians and skilled water and sanitation professionals in their communities.

Scholarship applications, for studies in 2015-17, can be submitted online. Applications are due by 15 June (an extension from the original deadline of 15 May).


If you have questions or concerns, please contact grants@rotary.org.
Clean Water Initiative in China

Despite China’s surging economy, parts of the Chinese mainland still lack basic necessities. In the northwest region of Shaanxi Province, one of these is clean drinking water in schools.

“Access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation are the two biggest challenges facing large parts of our global population,” says Dennis O’Brien, President Elect of the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport, former Director of Consulting Engineering firm Norman Disney and Young (NDY), and key player in the formation of the NDY Charitable Trust.

According to Rotary reports, the majority of students in the Shaanxi Province were exposed to polluted drinking water. “Through the direct connections of the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport to their peers in China – along with the efforts of fellow Rotarians in Taiwan – the NDY Charitable Trust has been actively contributing to the installation of SkyJuice water purifications systems in disadvantaged schools in rural China.”

SkyJuice Fountain Installation

The Kowloon East Rotary Club has also approved the project and ten Central Schools – with an approximate total of 20,000 students – were selected as the beneficiaries.

Footnote: Kenneth Wong, one of the speakers at the District Conference in Goondiwindi has been involved in this project.

RYLA Changes and Positions Vacant

After a most successful RYLA camp in January the team has held a debrief meeting with a number of outcomes reached including a change in the RYLA Committee Chair to Peter Clarke (Sue) from Kyogle who can be reached via email (pjsclarke@bigpond.com) or by phone (02 6633 1203).

The team also emphasised the need to encourage corporate sponsorship of awardees – this is very good value for businesses to sponsor their employees. The cost of the program has increased so there is a need to raise the club contribution to $550 with an additional $50 from each awardee (representing a commitment that will hopefully ensure attendance at the camp) for a total of $600 per awardee. The Committee will still fundraise through the year as they have been doing.

And, finally, we have some exciting positions vacant -

POSITIONS VACANT
RYLA Host Mum & Dad

Please contact Peter Clarke on 02 6233 1203 or pjsclarke@bigpond.com for more information on this exciting role.

Creating a Club Logo

The Rotary Brand Centre makes it easy create and download your club’s own logo using the new Rotary Logo and fonts.

A ‘how to’ was recently distributed at the President Elect training (PETS). An updated version of this document is now available on the ‘Help’ section of the District Website by selecting the ‘HELP’ menu in the top right -

The guide covers how to create and download your new logo and will be updated shortly with details on how to resize it and create a transparent background.

In addition to the club logo guide, the help page (http://rotary9640.org/SitePage/help) also contains many more useful ‘how to’ guides.
Australian Rotary Success Conference and Youth Summit

Everything is in place for the Rotary Success Conference on 5 – 6 September 2015. Are you ready?

Who should be attending? All Rotary Leaders, Presidents and Presidents Elect, PR Chairs, Membership Chairs and Future Rotary Leaders and Rotarians who want to be involved in the continuing success of Rotary in Australia. At this conference you will be able to participate in breakout sessions on various topics such as –

• Membership Retention
• Membership Recruitment and Extension
• Diversity in Rotary
• Flexibility and Innovative Clubs in the Future
• Leadership
• Public Image and Media
• and many more.

The program will be mainly breakout groups enabling everyone to be able to participate and interact over the weekend in a practical, worthwhile and meaningful way.

Coupled with the Rotary Success Conference this year will be a Youth Summit for people under 40 years of age. The Youth Summit will be an opportunity for people to put forward ideas and practical thoughts on how Rotary clubs can interact with younger people … how and why Rotary clubs need to become more involved with Rotaract and Interact.

This Conference will be focusing on the future. We are positive that every Rotarian will gain practical knowledge and new ideas to take back to their Clubs and Districts from this Conference.

You will meet Rotarians from across Australia and be able to share with them your ideas and hear their ideas; it will be a great experience for everyone.

Register now at –


Vale Doug Brown

We are sad to reflect on the passing of Doug Brown who was a member of the Surfers Paradise Rotary Club for 20 years. During that time Doug held all the positions on the Board and was President twice.

Doug was District Foundation Chair for three years where did an excellent job. He raised awareness of the Foundation in the District and was able to increase donation levels even during the global financial crisis.

He was liked and well respected in the Gold Coast community and was the Manager of JB Were and Morgans on the Gold Coast and recently Secretary to the local radio station.

Doug is survived by his wife Robyn and their children Dallas, Craig and Kristin and three grandchildren, Jack Olivia and Benjamin.

Message from PDG Max Wortman

Past District Governor Max Wortman would like to thank those clubs and Rotarians in District 9640 who have sent messages of support during his current illness.

They have been a great comfort. The battle continues but the prognosis seems positive.

District Governor Nominee 2017/18

We have pleasure in announcing that the District Governor for 2017-2018 will be Darrell Brown. Darrell is from Surfers Sunrise Rotary.

We wish Darrell and Kerrie all the best for their training over the next few years.
Latest RLI Graduates

Congratulations to the latest round of graduates from the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) –

2015 District Assembly

District Assembly
24 May 2015
Xavier Catholic College
Skennars Head

All Rotarians are reminded that District Assembly is to take place on Sunday 24 May at Xavier College, 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head. Registration will open at 9.15am and the day should conclude by 3pm.

All Presidents and Board Members of Clubs are reminded that attendance at District Assembly is compulsory to enable you to take up your executive position for the 2015-2016 year.

In addition all Rotarians in the District are welcome to attend and new Rotarians in particular are encouraged to attend to increase their Rotary knowledge. Sponsors and mentors of new Rotarians should encourage attendance at Assembly.

This year’s Assembly will be topic based. District Governor Elect Anne Egan and District Trainer Tony Heading hope to provide a variety of session topics of particular interest to Rotarians in the 2015-2016 year. Mark Anderson from the Rotary Foundation of Parramatta will be a plenary speaker.

Outbound GSE Team

The Outbound GSE Team Launch was held recently at Stanthorpe and pictured below are the team of Andrew Brewer, Jaimie Morgan, David Hansen, Dana French and Gareth Hockings.

Magazines for Rotarians

In Magazine Month, we look at two key magazines all Rotarians should be reading regularly.

The Rotarian is published monthly and the best way to access it is to visit www.rotarianmagazine.com and view stories from the current edition online.

The website also contains past editions of the magazine and you can also find details of how to subscribe to the printed or digital versions.

You can also manage your subscription details by heading to www.rotary.org and navigating to My Rotary > Member News > Magazines from the menu.

We Want Your Blood!

21 Districts across Australia have joined forces to donate blood from 1st April to 30th June 2015.

This is a time when Red Cross is low on supplies and needs our help. I ask every Rotarian to register and donate within this 3 month period. If you are unable to donate blood, then perhaps a family member of friend will donate for you. This project is just another way for Rotarians to help others.

Call 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au/rotary

We Want Your Blood!
Another key magazine in our region is **Rotary Down Under (RDU)**.

RDU is published on a monthly basis and is available both in printed and digital form. Subscription management is handled at a club level with each club responsible for updating their list of recipients and their addresses and the best way is online by following these 3 easy steps –

2. Click on Subscription Management
3. Enter RDU ID number and password

If you do not know your RDU ID and password please email subscriptions@rotarydownunder.com.au and these details will be provided to you. You will need to amend this information for all new or resigned members as the RI database will not change RDU database. Don't forget, if 2 members of the same family are Rotarians they can choose for only 1 person to receive the magazine, reducing their subscription cost to $40 rather than $80 per year. Enquiries to Samantha Ausburn or Gay Kiddle 02 9633 4888 or the email address above.

By far the easiest way to read current and past copies of RDU is by downloading the RDU app on your smart phone or tablet from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. If you do not have one of these devices, past editions are available at [www.rotarydownunder.com.au](http://www.rotarydownunder.com.au)

### Calendar of Activities

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.

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<th>Date</th>
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| Apr 14 – Apr 17 | Ride for Rotary Health (Glen Innes – Goondiwindi)  
(for bookings visit www.gtoc.com.au)      | Event      |
| Apr 17 – Apr 19 | District Conference (Goondiwindi)                                                  | Conference |
| May 02   | Opera in the Vineyard (Stanthorpe)  
(for bookings visit www.trybooking.com/106025)  | Event      |
| May 07   | Denmark GSE Team Farewell (Gold Coast Arts Centre)   | -          |
| May 15   | Antiques & Collectible Fair (Alstonville)                                       | Event      |
| May 19   | BBRC Young Achievers Award (Broadbeach)                                        | Event      |
| May 22 – May 24 | Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment - RYPEN (Bornhoven)  | Youth      |
| May 24   | District Assembly (Xavier Catholic College, Skennars Head)                | Training   |
| May 29   | ROMAC Trivia Challenge (Gold Coast Arts Centre)   | Event      |
| Jun 28   | District Changeover                                                             | Event      |
| Jul 12   | Fine Wine & Food Festival (Ballina on Richmond)  
(for details visit www.ballinafinewineandfoodfestival.com.au) | Event      |
| Jul 17   | Rotary Hope Island Charity Golf Day (Links Hope Island)                          | Event      |
| Jul 26   | Opera at the Channon (Northern Rivers)  
(for bookings visit www.operaatthechannon.com.au)  | Event      |
| Oct 24   | Kyogle Bush Turkey Charity Ball                                                 | Event      |
President’s Monthly Message
Gary C. K. Huang

Today, there are so many more ways to communicate than ever before. In the age of video conferences and instant messages, we can work together from almost anywhere, and always be in touch; we can share our Rotary work on Facebook, on Twitter, and on Rotary.org. But there will always be a tremendously important role for the magazine that you are holding in your hands – or reading on an electronic device – right now.

The Rotarian is one of the oldest continuously published magazines in the world, with an unbroken publication history dating back to its first issue, featuring Paul Harris as a contributor, in 1911. Back then, the magazine was printed in black and white, and was only a few pages. The type was small, the pictures were few, and the advertisements were for piano dealers, haberdashers, and a hotel fully equipped with hot and cold running water!

Now, you can read The Rotarian on your phone or tablet, and regional magazines are published in 24 languages. Seventeen Nobel Prize winners and 19 Pulitzer Prize winners have written for the magazine, including Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu, George Bernard Shaw, and Nicholas Murray Butler.

Every month, The Rotarian brings us a snapshot of the best of the Rotary world: It engages, entertains, enlightens, and inspires.

In an age of constant communication, with so many ways to find new information, do we still need a Rotary magazine? Absolutely. Because the magazine is now, as it has always been, one of the best ways to spread the word about Rotary. It has allowed me to share the fun and excitement of Rotary Days, it showcases the good work of Rotarians around the world, and it puts a spotlight on important issues affecting us all. The Rotarian isn't just enjoyable for Rotarians – it's a great way to boost Rotary's public image, and show the world the work that Rotarians do.

So when you're done reading this issue, pass it along. Ask yourself who might be particularly interested in this month's articles. Give the issue to a friend, a co-worker, or a colleague. Share it with someone you've invited to a Rotary club meeting.

Visit www.therotarianmagazine.com to share stories on social media, or send links through email. Use it to Light Up Rotary – just as Rotarians have been doing for more than 100 years.

News Snippets (from www.rotary.org)

Korean sailor makes waves for End Polio Now
(click here for full story)

Seung Jin Kim, a veteran sailor and member of the Rotary Club of Seokmum, in Chungcheongnam, Korea, expected challenges when he set out in mid-October on a 25,600-mile journey around the world. In addition to fulfilling a lifelong dream, Kim is using the trip to raise awareness and funds -- his goal is $200,000 or more -- for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

Bond with UN enhances Rotary's visibility and resources
(click here for full story)

For the last three decades, a network of Rotary representatives has been strengthening ties with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and other international organizations like the League of Arab States and the European Union. These connections have enhanced Rotary's global visibility and resource network.

Upcoming Events

The 2015 International Convention is on between 6 and 9 June 2015. For more information and to book please visit www.riconvention.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Stay up to date with all the latest Rotary International news by following these social media pages / feeds –

Facebook  Google+  Vimeo
Twitter  Flickr  YouTube
LinkedIn  Instagram  Pinterest