Congratulations to Ken Barker and the RYTS (Regional Youth Transition Seminar) team for a successful, well organised RYTS camp last week.

Feedback has been glowing so thank you to the committee for all the planning to make the week amazing for our young people. Thank you to all of the clubs who raised funds to sponsor these attendees – a great investment for a life changing experience.

If you have applicants that your club is able to sponsor for RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) please send ASAP. Please go to www.ryla9640.org for information and application form (online or download). For enquiries contact Team Leader Ryan Colombo 0413 199 466 or via email at teamleader@ryla9640.org or secretary@ryla9640.org

We have called for nominations for District Governor for 2017-18. The role of DG is very rewarding and one that Charles and I are enjoying immensely. If there is someone you know who should consider applying please encourage them. I and any of our Past District Governors will be happy to share their thoughts on the challenges and rewards of the position.

Most clubs have held their Annual General Meeting so a reminder to please add the 2015-16 office bearers to ClubRunner (either your Club or the District Website as per previous instructions) and perhaps an email to DGE Anne Egan to advise the relevant roles. Assistant Governors and Technical Advisors (Page 3 of Contact Directory) can assist if you need help.

This can be a crazy time of year so I hope that you all have an opportunity to take a well earned break from Rotary and spend some time relaxing with your friends and family. Without their support we could not do the work we undertake to help other families to live a better life. Please convey the thanks of Rotary to those special people in your life.

Wishing you and your family a happy Christmas and safe travels over the holiday break,

Yours in Rotary

Wendy
Days for Girls – Mount Warning AM

For many women and girls in disadvantaged areas a lack of proper sanitary products means **days** without schooling and education, **days** without earning income, and **days** of suffering loss of dignity. **Days For Girls** is about giving these days back!

Since 2008, more than 100,000 kits have been sewn, packed and distributed. Each girl receives their own kit that lasts around three years, and includes two pairs of knickers, two shields, eight liners, a face washer, soap, and instructions. All of this having been donated and lovingly sewn by volunteers throughout the world.

Having met Days for Girls at the Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Mt Warning AM formed a committee, headed by Vicki Jenkins, whose energies has got this project off to an amazing start. Since April we have already held numerous and completed and distributed over 200 kits, to Kenya, Nepal and PNG. An amazing effort, and a shining of example of what Rotary is capable of doing!

We have also established drop off locations for donations and sewing throughout Murwillumbah which has involved many of our local businesses. A number of other community organisations have become involved such as the scouts, quilters club, mothers groups all joining in to play their part.

In 2015 we plan to expand, sew and distribute hundreds of kits to Kenya, Nepal, and PNG, and look to other countries also. From there we have plans to physically travel to these developing countries and teach them how to sew these kits for themselves.

Every girl and woman in the world has a right to dignity, education and feminine hygiene solutions. It is such an honour to be a part of this adventure, we are truly making difference to the everyday life of women through the world!

Reflections of the Tweed

For the last two years the Rotary Club of Tweed Coast has held a photo competition. The competition attracts on-line entries, via a website, from the public in a couple of categories. Each year a theme is selected, always related very much to the local area.

This year’s theme was “Reflections of the Tweed” and the quality of the photos received was amazing.

The club received over 90 high quality entries in the competition this year, so many and such quality that the independent judge found it very hard to decide.

The judge is from a photographic business and is highly qualified in photographic styles and procedures. The overall winner of the competition is used as the cover of a calendar produced by the club, and as the photo for December, with a further 11 winning photos selected for the remaining months. The result is a first class calendar.

At the official launch night all entrants and club members invited to attend. All entries are shown by projection on a screen and the winning entries announced and prizes presented. The completed calendar is available for purchase on the night.

Whilst the process of advertising, development, collating and printing of the calendar is arduous and very, very time-consuming, it does raise the club profile in the community and also raises funds to support the various activities of the club.

Calendars are on sale for $5 each – and can be purchased on-line at –

http://www.tweedcoastrotary.org
**Rotary Peace Fellowships**

District 9640 continues its success with the Evanston Peace Fellowships selection committee. As mentioned in the November issue, the most recent successful applicants were Florington Aseervatham (Sri Lankan) and Jacqueline (Jackie) Kauli (PNG). D9640 has had six successful applicants for the Fellowship program in recent years.

Jackie was mentored by Peace Fellow alumnus, Hayley Linthwaite who completed the course at Chulalongkorn, Thailand in 2012. Hayley and Jackie were sponsored by Surfers Sunrise and Jackie will again be counselled by Ray Higgs, Chair Peace Fellow subcommittee.

Jackie’s professional role addresses issues relating to HIV Aids, and gender, particularly in rural communities in Papua New Guinea.

The doctorate research she is currently undertaking at QUT, involves applied theatre methods to engage local communities.

Florington was part of an ‘At Large’ list of applicants from the RI Peace Centre who had not been able to find a Rotary club sponsorship for the Fellowship. He was sponsored by Surfers Paradise and counselled by Donna Gillett-Shaw, who hopes to catch up with Florington while he is at the Chulalongkorn University in 2015.

Florington works in South Sudan with the Non-Violent PeaceForce as an unarmed civilian peacekeeper, designing and managing child protection and human rights projects. He attributes his passion for child protection in conflict areas to his experiences as a child in Sri Lanka and as an adult, working for the government, he continued to be surrounded by violence until he concluded that he wanted to devote himself to peace and the protection of children.

Recently, the following clubs have had the privilege of receiving banners for their contributions to our Foundation -

**Highest Per Capita (3 of 1550 clubs worldwide)**

1. **Mermaid Beach**
2. **Surfers Paradise**
3. **Ballina-on-Richmond**

**Every Rotarian Every year (5 of 2515 clubs worldwide)**

This recognises clubs with a contribution at least US$100 per member and every member personally contributing some amount.

Clubs that qualified were –

**Mermaid Beach, Coolangatta Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah Central, Nerang & Parkwood**

100% Sustaining Member (3 of 1200 clubs worldwide)

Every member personally contributing a minimum of US $100 each. Our clubs that qualified for this were –

**Mermaid Beach, Murwillumbah Central & Nerang.**

Certificates have also been awarded to the following clubs for their contribution to End Polio Now –

**Ashmore, Boonah, Broadbeach, Coolangatta Tweed Heads, Grafton Midday, Hope Island, Mt Warning AM, Murwillumbah Central, Southport, Stanthorpe, Surfers Paradise & Tweed Heads South.**

These clubs should be proud of their accomplishments. They have certainly helped our district to raise a record amount of $154,080 in Foundation giving and a district record of $60,377 for End Polio Now.
November 2014 | Page 4

Vale Ray Farrow and Eric Flower

Ray Farrow

Ray Farrow, the last active foundation member of the Rotary club of Kirra-Currumbin passed away at John Flynn Hospital on the 20th of November 2014 after 47 years putting “Service Before Self”.

Ray was born on the 16th of April 1936 and after a stint in the Army on National Service, established an Auto Electrical business from which he finally walked away at age 70.

As a young business man, Ray became a member of the Rotary club of Kirra-Currumbin when it was formed in 1967 and has been an active member until very recently, when stress related matters started to have an effect on his health.

Ray has filled many of the offices in the club, was a past president and a multiple “Paul Harris Fellow”. We will miss Ray’s wit and counsel.

Eric Flower

Eric moved from PNG and joined Broadbeach Rotary in 1979. He was Charter President of Mermaid Beach Rotary club in 1979, and ruled it with a firm Rotary hand. What we knew about Rotary we learned from Eric. Eric held this club together, serving as President, Secretary and Director, and eventually as DG in 1982-83.

His wife Shirley died in the 90’s, and Eric resigned from the club in 2003, moving to Dubbo to be near his daughter. Eric died 2 weeks ago, age 93.

Eric Flower was one of Nature’s Gentlemen.

Paul Harris Society Inductees

In a great celebration of Foundation Month, we have been privileged to be able to have four members in our District inducted as new members of the illustrious Paul Harris Society -

1. Darrell Brown - Surfers Sunrise
2. Jane Loxton - e-Club of NextGen
3. Tony Pritchett - Southport
4. Stephen Tancred - Stanthorpe

Membership is awarded to people who gift at least $1,000 US annually to The Rotary Foundation.

Friendship Exchange in Milan, Italy

Would you like to enjoy the hospitality of Rotarians in District 2041 around Milan Italy? It is worth noting that Milan will be the host city of the next World Expo in 2015, which will be running during the time of this Exchange.

You can be part of a team of up to eight, to participate in this great Rotary experience of culture, friendship and hospitality from 15 to 25 September 2015 in District 2041 Milan Italy.

This exchange could provide a great opportunity to visit other parts of Italy and Europe as well as taking in the World Expo 2015, either before or after the exchange.

The incoming visit to our District by Rotarians from District 2041 is planned to occur in August 2016 and clubs of outbound team members are expected to host the inbound team, during their experience within District 9640.

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 with completed applications are to be submitted for consideration by the District Rotary Friendship Committee by Friday 2nd January 2015.
We are a club small in numbers but big in heart. We
are not young, but certainly young at heart.
Tenterfield has 24 active members.

Every second year we hold our Biannual Bavarian
Music Festival and Beerfest, and that event is
planned for the 4th to 8th of March next year. We
have a 34 piece Bavarian band coming from
Germany and we have a week of fun and festivities
planned, culminating in the Beerfest on Saturday 7th
March 2015. The Beerfest is a celebration of fine
German music, traditional German Beer and Food, it
begins at midday Saturday and finishes at midnight.

This year we also have a number of young people
from the town attending RYLA and also RYTS. Our
youngest member, Josh Lowe attended RYLA last
year and then became a member of our club.

This year Josh is on the staff of RYLA. We also have
a Group Study Exchange candidate going to Denmark
from our club in the coming year, her name is Jaime
Morgan and Jaime works for the local accounting
firm KLAS.

We are also involved in driver awareness training
with high school students, and every year take a
busload of local students to Tamworth for driver
awareness training, to give them a better
understanding of driving, also the results of bad
behaviour and irresponsible driving.

This year under Ken Cockburn’s leadership, we have
had a number of film nights as social activities and
also fundraisers.

We select a film we believe will have wide appeal to
members and friends, and then run it in conjunction
with a simple meal at the local theatre. We have a
wonderful social night of fun and raise quite a lot of
money for our projects.

The District Gallery

Glen Innes Graffiti Clean Up Day

Glen Innes Rotary Club travelled 10 km south of town
to the Stonehenge Recreation Ground to paint over
graffiti on the walls of sheds and seating. The
Stonehenge Recreation Ground is a popular stop over
point for travellers and also many locals use the
facilities to picnic or just take the dog for a run.

Club President Peter Haselwood said that the graffiti,
mainly offensive language, did not reflect well on the
Ground when visitors called. He said that the “clean
up graffiti day” focused on these problems and this is
the second year that Rotary has undertaken this task
at Stonehenge.

The Ground Trustees appreciated Rotary participation
and look forward to the time that no action is needed
to clean up graffiti.” When that day comes we will just
have a few beers and go home with clean paint
brushes” Mr Haselwood said.
If you take a look at the Rotary calendar, it’s easy to see where our priorities as an organization lie. The Rotary year begins in July; in August we mark Membership Month, in September we celebrate New Generations, October is for vocational service, and so on, turning our attention to different topics that are important in Rotary.

It’s a great idea to do this, because it reminds us to talk about subjects that we might otherwise overlook during our busy Rotary year. But we all know that every topic on our calendar – from fellowship to our Foundation – is important. All of them are part of what makes Rotary what it is, and what makes all of us Rotarians.

In Rotary, December is Family Month. Looking back on my years as a Rotarian, I have seen how important family is in Rotary – and how important Rotary can be to our families.

If my wife, Corinna, chose to join Rotary just a few months ago, after many years as a Rotary spouse. All three of our children are also Rotarians. All of them joined their own club, in their own time. All of them have found unique interests in Rotary. As we have watched them find their own paths, we have been struck by how wonderful it is to have so many members of our family involved in Rotary service.

Rotary gives us something good that we can all do together. With Rotary, we always have interesting things to talk about at dinner. We are all involved in different service, in different clubs, so when we sit down together, we are talking about humanitarian needs of every kind, in every part of the world. There is always something new to learn.

Our conversations are also a wonderful way to teach our children, through our own actions, what is really important in life. They learn about what life is like in different parts of the world, and how all of us have an obligation to help others when we can. I can think of no better lessons to teach our families than the lessons of Rotary service.

I hope that in this Rotary year, many of you will encourage your family members to join Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact. Bringing your family into Rotary doesn’t just Light Up Rotary – it lights up your own lives as well.
Important Dates and Information

Where’s Wendy?

DG Wendy and Charles will be visiting the following clubs on their District tour in the coming months -

Dec 11 Gold Coast
Dec 16 Kingscliff
Jan 19 Tweed Heads South
Jan 20 Murwillumbah Central

Other District Dates and Events

Mark your diary for the following key dates, including key 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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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>College of Governors Luncheon</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Antiques Fair *</td>
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<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>RYLA *</td>
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<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>RLI Course – Part 2</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>AG / District Chair Training</td>
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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>RLI Course – Part 3</td>
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<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Bavarian Music Festival &amp; Beer Fest *</td>
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<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>President Elect Training (PETS) *</td>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Model United Nations Assembly</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Ride for Rotary Health *</td>
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<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>District Conference *</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Opera in the Vineyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>RYPEN *</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>District Assembly</td>
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<td>Jun 28</td>
<td>District Changeover</td>
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* These are multi-day events. Check the District website for more information.

District Conference 2015

This year’s Rotary Conference is being held in Goondiwindi from the 17 to 19 of April, 2015.

More information about the District Conference will be available soon but in the meantime why not get your club members together and work out travel and accommodation plans and take any last minute stress out of the planning!

ONLINE BOOKINGS OPENING SOON!

Book for the RI Convention in São Paulo before December 15th and save!

Bem-vindo ao Brasil! Welcome to São Paulo, the site of the 106th Rotary International Convention.

This bustling metropolis is the perfect venue for our biggest event of the year. Like the city itself, the São Paulo convention brings together people from around the world who are eager to celebrate and share their diverse backgrounds.

Plan now to attend. If you register online by December 15th you can save up to USD 100 on Convention Registration!

Visit www.riconvention.org for all the information about the convention and to register.