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Is it really twelve months? Surely not. What a wonderful year it has been for us as we travelled around this district and learned of all the club projects and the ways Rotarians help others. You can be proud of your achievements in helping our local communities and those around the world.

It has been a privilege to serve as your District Governor. You have made us feel so welcome at your events and meetings. Thank you for sharing. The work of Rotary is done at club and individual level. District exists to help you to achieve your goals. We have been pleased to put you in touch with others who can assist you, others who have similar projects and others who can make your job easier.

Thank you to all the Assistant Governors and District Chairs and leadership team who have helped us to support clubs. We appreciate how much time and energy you all dedicate to Rotary and hope that you have found your role rewarding also.

In a few weeks we will farewell our 2014-15 Youth Exchange students. After twelve months they are very much a part of our families, clubs and district. We hope that the memories and friends they have made will stay with them for many years and that they come back to their second homes in the future. We have learned so much from them and they from us. What a great way to build international peace and understanding. Just as in all facets of life, a new group of students will arrive soon to experience our culture and hospitality. We wish them well on their YEP journey.

Special thanks to Tweed Torch editor, Gareth Hunt who has transformed bits of information into a great bulletin every month.

Thank you for all the ways you have all worked to truly “Light Up Rotary”.

Yours in Rotary

DG Wendy & Charles
District Award Winners

The May edition showed that the winner of the District Award for Significant Achievement was Broadbeach.

This is incorrect. The Significant Achievement award was presented to Mt Warning AM for their project, Days for Girls.

Introducing the Four G’s Gazette

Sadly, this month’s edition of the Tweed Torch is the last ...

However, as we head into the new Rotary year the good news is that next month we will be introducing the first edition of The Four G’s Gazette!

As with the Tweed Torch, the newsletter will be emailed to all active and honorary members current in the District database at the time of distribution.

Now would be a good time to check with your members that they have their email addresses up to date and that copies are not being delivered to their ‘Spam’ or ‘Junk’ email folders. Remember, for clubs who manage their membership data direct through their own ClubRunner site, any changes flow directly to the District database.

It’s Adrought Time! Appeal Bush BBQ

Thanks to the donations from clubs in and outside our district we have been able to stage the BBQ. We had in attendance a Rural Financial Counsellor and a Rural Mental Health Counsellor. It was a day of mixed results.

We went out there with the thought of helping at least one farmer as a result of the BBQ and that we did. The Financial Counsellor spoke to three farmers and got one referral and 2 follow ups. In her words if it had not been for the BBQ this opportunity would not have happened. More people were expected but unfortunately for us, and fortunate for the farmers, a little rain had fallen the week before and they were taking another gamble and sowing winter crops.

The result of the day, the BBQ and fellowship made on the day can be said to have made for a successful event. We now move on to the Walgett area as we plan our next Bush BBQ.

Rotarians are Cruizin’

Rotary’s newest Fellowship is for Cruising Rotarians and the idea to establish it came from a Rotarian from our District. The Fellowship is social media based and is for Rotarians who are interested in cruising and who want to establish contact with other Rotarians who are interested in cruising. The Fellowship’s primary role is to establish a meeting place for Rotarians to interact and find out information about cruising.

Rotarians who are not on Facebook are also welcome to join and will receive newsletters via email. There are no sub/fees to join and all communications are by email.

If you’d like to join, you can download the form at -

www.facebook.com/groups/cruisingrotariansfellowship/
or email cruisingrotarians@gmail.com
Alstonville High School Interact Club Chartered

Alstonville High School Interact Club was chartered 20th May at a special meeting of Alstonville Rotary. Charter President Lucy Turner was proud to accept her chain of office and spoke of the plans the club has to make a difference to their local community and to the world.

Rotary President Elva Fitzell will work with teacher Mr Bruce Fleming and the Interactors to mentor them as they discover the new opportunities open to them.

Coomera Anglican College Interact raise over $2,200 for Nepal

This term, Coomera Anglican College’s Rotary Interact Club decided that their International Project would be to aid the people of Nepal. After the devastating earthquake hit Nepal on the 25th April, they thought it would be a really worthwhile cause to do their part to help the people and improve the conditions that people are living in now.

The name of their fundraiser was the Change 4 Change: Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

They asked students and their families to donate what spare change they had, in the hope that we could make a small difference in Nepal. To encourage all students to participate, they ran a friendly competition between Pastoral Care classes, with the class that raised the most money having the honour of handing over the cheque at assembly.

The Interact students created a plethora of advertising campaigns such as cartoon videos, articles for our school newsletter and posters to remind students. They also went around Pastoral Care classes in the morning to drum up support and collect donations. It was important to them that they not only collect money, but also educate other students on why this is such an important cause.

They were fortunate to have two members of their sponsor Rotary club, Hope Island, visit the College and explain what Rotary International do when there is a natural disaster. This was a valuable experience for them as the aftermath of the disaster is rarely covered in the news, or at all and it is important for them to understand how much effort and time is needed after a natural disaster. Jim Elmslie from Rotary Hope Island spoke about the importance of shelter and clean water, and how sending tents is not always the most effective way to provide shelter. This gave them a lot to think about, and more information to share with the students.

Through this fundraiser they were able to raise $2,243.10 as a secondary school cohort. They donated this money to the Anglican Board of Mission’s Nepal Earthquake Appeal. Greg, a representative from ABM visited our school to collect the donation. He explained that the money they raised will go towards clean water and sanitation, counselling families who have been impacted by this tragedy, and providing temporary housing solutions.
Another fantastic ROMAC Trivia Night

Phil Rosenberg put on his 11th very creative trivia night at the Gold Coast Arts Centre on 29 May. He has been on the ROMAC Board for three years as Marketing Director and is now acting as their Marketing Consultant.

We thank all the Clubs who were represented – Gold Coast, Broadbeach, Coomera Valley, Palm Beach, Hope Island and three times winners Surfers Paradise.

We also had a special team from Gold Coast’s Club President Eddie Klimowicz’s Advanced National Services, but unfortunately he and Genik were not free to attend on the night. It was also great to give a warm welcome to our District Governor Wendy Scarlett and her partner Charles and former DG Sandra Doumany and hubby Sam.

An enthusiastic attendance and lots of competitive tables, fantastic and very amusing visuals (thanks to Phil), excellent MC Brian Kidd, great food and camaraderie, and a fun time had by all.

The competition was keen and along with Palm Beach the Gold Coast Club were the joint winners thanks to Kevin and Marie Stapleton’s table which also included Peter Laurens.

As ROMAC District 9640 Chair I was very thankful to be presented with a cheque for the sum of $500 by President Christine Straw of the Rotary Club of Coomera Valley, and to see the enthusiastic attendees at another very successful and enjoyable Trivia Night.

We give our sincere thanks to all the Rotarians who came along to support ROMAC.

Chair Jill Ellis

Peace Fellow Applicant

The Rotary Club of Byron Bay has sponsored a Rotary Peace Fellow Applicant, Techa Beaumont.

Peace Fellows are sponsored for either a 15 to 24 month Master’s degree fellowship at premier universities in fields related to peace and conflict prevention and resolution or a three-month program in peace and conflict prevention and resolution at Chulalongkom University in Thailand.

Techa has an incredible commitment to active lobbying, and community development initiatives. You can check out her work at [www.kulchajam.org](http://www.kulchajam.org).

Techa is pictured below (2nd from right) with (from L-R), DGE Anne Egan, Catherine Bonifant, DG Wendy Scarlett and Peace Fellow Chair, Ray Higgs.
Outbound GSE Team in Denmark

Our Group Study Exchange (GSE) team headed off to Denmark on 20 May.

You can follow their journey on their TravelBlog page –
https://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/gse2015denmark/

Their latest entry (from 9 June) was –

“After an amazing week with our host in Nyborg the team went west to a weekend of rest and relaxation in a farm cottage not far from our next club. We enjoyed the opportunity to catch up on some sleep and used waking hours to explore on bikes and play cards and pool.

On Sunday afternoon, we were greeted by our new hosts from RC Fredericia Lillebaelt and Borkop. There was no wasted time as we were shown around the port, from land, sea and bridge! This was followed by incredible dinners in the different homes of Rotarians. Tuesday was spent on vocational days with many opportunities to engage with Danish industry and expertise. Tonight we present to RC Borkop and tomorrow we enjoy a sail on the harbour before another vocational day on Thursday.”

To Sri Lanka with love from Australia

As a fitting tribute to incoming RI President Ravi Ravindran from Sri Lanka, the Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club on the Gold Coast, sent out a container of 275 wheelchairs for kids in Sri Lanka. The shipment will arrive in Sri Lanka on 30th June to the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan who is the local partner club.

The brainchild of this program is Des La Rance of Surfers Sunrise Rotary. When holidaying in Fiji he saw first hand, the plight of children who were suffering debilitating illnesses such as Muscular Dystrophy.

Des came up with the idea of constructing a basic but low-cost wheelchair from old bicycle parts and other customised materials, which could withstand the rugged conditions of an undeveloped third world country.

Since 1995, some 7036 wheelchairs have been made and donated to 31 developing nations around the world. All of these wheelchairs have been made by an army of volunteers, schools, jail inmates and private individuals motivated by the members of Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan in Sri Lanka in the past 10 years has been organising an annual Sunshine Games, a day for children with disabilities.

Over 1000 children with physical & mental disabilities from all parts of this little island nation come together for a day of fun & games that has help build their self confidence.

Seen in the picture below are the members & volunteers of Surfers Sunrise Rotary led by (front, from left), Des La Rance, Wheelchair Project Chairman Daryl Sanderson and Bob Harrison, handing over the container of wheelchairs to Ananda (Andy) Rajapakse, a Past President of Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan Sri Lanka.

Footnote: Andy is now a member of the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast, who coordinated the partnership.

For more details and how to support this program visit www.rotarysurferssunrise.org.
## 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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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details (Location)</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 14</td>
<td>Rotary Summerland Sunrise Bridal &amp; Events Fair</td>
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<td>Goonellabah Workers’ Sports Club</td>
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<td>Jun 28</td>
<td>District Changeover Lunch (for bookings visit <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/HRLC">http://www.trybooking.com/HRLC</a>)</td>
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<td>Jul 17</td>
<td>Rotary Hope Island Charity Golf Day (Links Hope Island) (for details visit <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/IAJI">http://www.trybooking.com/IAJI</a>)</td>
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<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>Opera at the Channon (Northern Rivers) (for bookings visit <a href="http://www.operaatthechannon.com.au">www.operaatthechannon.com.au</a>)</td>
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<td>Oct 06</td>
<td>Police Officer of the Year Awards (Crowne Plaza Hotel, Broadbeach)</td>
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<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Kyogle Bush Turkey Charity Ball</td>
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President’s Monthly Message

Gary C. K. Huang

When I began this Rotary year as your president, I wanted us, above all, to Light Up Rotary. I wanted us to share with the world how many wonderful friendships and experiences we have found in Rotary, and how Rotary has transformed and enriched our lives. I knew that by telling others about Rotary, we would increase membership, build stronger clubs, and improve our ability to help people in need.

As we end this 2014-15 Rotary year, I am honored by your response and will always be grateful for how you have risen to this challenge. You have answered my call to Light Up Rotary by holding many successful Rotary Day celebrations in your communities; you have outdone yourselves in your contributions to our Rotary Foundation; and you have moved all of Rotary forward with new members and new clubs.

When I chose my theme for my year as president, I was inspired by the words of Confucius, who said, "It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness."

This year, more than 1.2 million Rotarians, along with Interactors, Rotaractors, Rotary Youth Exchange participants, and Rotary Peace Fellows, have lit their own candles in tens of thousands of communities.

Together, the lights we have kindled have created a great light that shines for all the world to see.

I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your president this year, and for the hard work and dedication of our volunteer leadership and our staff members. I came to them with high expectations – and they delivered.

I also am grateful for the many friends I have made during this Rotary year, and for the wonderful visits I’ve had to so many places. I will always remember, with great fondness, riding on the Rotary float in the Rose Parade, watching children enjoy the Japanese drummers at the Rotary Day open house at RI headquarters in Evanston, and bicycling through the night in Colombo during the Ride to Light Up Rotary event, celebrating a polio-free Sri Lanka.

I have seen a new energy in Rotary this year, and felt a new excitement. We’ve seen more and more women and young people join Rotary as well – including my wife, Corinna, and our three children.

I hope that in the year to come, you will continue your wonderful work to Light Up Rotary – and to help it Be a Gift to the World.

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News Snippets

Africa on brink of polio eradication
Nigeria and the whole continent of Africa is on the cusp of being polio free, Dr. Hamid Jafari told audience members at the Rotary Convention on 8 June in São Paulo, Brazil.

For the full story visit –


Water summit urges Rotary members to invest in youth
Almost 200 million days of school attendance are lost every year because of the lack of proper sanitation.

For the full story visit –


Upcoming Events

The 2016 International Convention is on between 28 May and 1 June 2016 in Seoul, Korea.

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