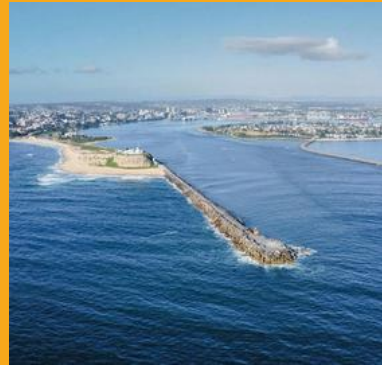
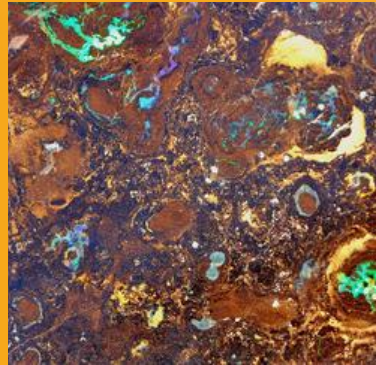




Spotlight

#8
14th October, 2026



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Falls prevention
is everyone's
business



This edition in two minutes

Oops! Sometimes life gets a bit hectic and we get out of sync: our last edition went out a week early, so sorry for any confusion. We're back on track now. Spotlight comes out on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, and the next edition is out on Wednesday 28 October.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



DO THIS FORTNIGHT

Now	Take the PI and IT survey, about 10 minutes and anonymous (p18)
Now	Check your club's page and send us corrections and photos (p19)
By 23 Oct	RSVP to Toni Gemmell for Adrian Payne's celebration (p26)
By 30 Oct	Nominate a prevention project for the People of Action Honours (p24)
By 31 Oct	Lodge your club's ATO not-for-profit self-review (p45)
By 13 Nov	Book for the Tamworth Showcase and District AGM (p8)
By 1 Dec	Return the Youth Exchange hosting form for 2028 (p14)

COMING UP

Thu 15 Oct	Paint & Sip fundraiser, The Deck Lovedale (p29)
Sun 18 Oct	Lift the Lid walk for mental health, Dangar Falls, Dorrig (p30)
Wed 21 Oct	Nine of our clubs named ShelterBox Champions, online (p34)
Sat 24 Oct	World Polio Day, wear red at your local parkrun (p37)
Sun 25 Oct	Coffs City Rotary Motor Show, Park Beach Plaza (p31)
Sun 25 Oct	Ancient Letters concert for HealthStays, Maitland Town Hall (p41)
Fri 30 Oct	Free ARAM malaria seminar, online or in Melbourne (p38)
Tue 3 Nov	Cessnock Rotary Melbourne Cup event, Railway Hotel (p40)
Sat 7 Nov	RI President-elect unveils a Peace Pole in Newcastle (p25)
Fri 20 Nov	Gintastic at Newy Distillery, for the Nepal appeal (p46)
Sat 28 Nov	Say No to Domestic Violence Bunnings BBQs (p42)
Sat 28 Nov	Sounds of the Season concert, Quirindi, tickets from 19 Oct (p47)

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Brittani Michelle	From RYLA to nursing scholarships for young women in Nepal (p6)
RYPEN and RYLA	Our first southern RYPEN camp, and RYLA 2027 leaders named (p10)
Partnerships	DGE Peter Comino on family violence and falls prevention (p16)
Better Conversations	Part 1 of 6, Speak Up, Don't Let It Build Up (p20)
Free for clubs	Canva Pro and Microsoft 365 for nonprofits (p21)
International	Taree's journey to the Philippines and Japan (p22)
Changeover	District Changeover moves to 10 July 2027 (p25)
World Polio Day	Where the fight stands, with the latest case figures (p36)



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**International President for 2026-27,
Olayinka (Yinka) Babalola.
Nigeria**

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Michelle Nicholas
(Newsletter Editor)



Adam Nicholas
(Newsletter Editor)



Tahni Triffitt
(PI Secretary & Newsletter Editor)



Keiran Rodgers
(PI Chair 2026-27)

Editorial Team Message

Welcome to Your District Newsletter

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Welcome and thank you for picking up this edition of your district newsletter.

This publication belongs to all of us. It exists to celebrate the extraordinary service happening across our district, to connect clubs and members, and to inspire the ideas and friendships that make Rotary so powerful.

We have listened to your feedback, and we are committed to bringing you a newsletter that is easy to read, beautifully presented, and genuinely worth your time. Every edition will be crafted with care with clear layouts, compelling stories, and news that matters to you and your club.

Whether you are a long-serving member or new to the Rotary family, we hope these pages remind you why our work matters and energise you for the service ahead.

We are always grateful to hear your stories, your milestones, and your ideas. This newsletter is at its best when it reflects the full richness of our district so please, reach out and share.

In Service,

The Editorial Team

[Email the editorial team](#)



Sawtell Showcase, Sawtell RSL Club, Sunday 11 October 2026. Photos: Rotary District 9660

Sawtell Showcase

Club projects, practical workshops and a first look at the new district at Sawtell RSL Club.

Rotary District 9660 held its Sawtell Showcase at Sawtell RSL Club on Sunday 11 October, bringing Rotarians together for club project presentations, training workshops and an update on how the district will change from 2028.

PDG Neville Parsons was master of ceremonies, and DGE Peter Comino set out the priorities of RI President Yinka Babalola: service that delivers sustainable, measurable, long-term results. District Governor Nominee Simone Wong of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM in District 9640, who will be the first District Governor of the new district in 2028-29, was introduced.

REDISTRICTING

PDG Neville Parsons explained rezoning, redistricting and the Regionalisation Pilot. The district now sits in Zone 9, and new, larger districts begin on 1 July 2028, with Rotary Community Groups taking a greater role in supporting clubs.

WORKSHOPS

Sessions covered the role of the club President, Youth Protection, Public Image and the district website, Club Governance, technology for clubs, The Rotary Foundation and Global Grants, and the Rotary Community Leader role, with presenter contact details in the full story.

CLUB PROJECTS

Laurieton showed the toilet and shower block it helped build at a scout camp in the Philippines. Dorrigo shared the annual ball that supports its local hospital auxiliary, and Nambucca Valley brought its chocolate wheel. Coffs Harbour presented its health outreach in remote northern Bali. Wauchope's Brittani Michelle presented nursing scholarships for young women in Nepal. Port Macquarie West showed how bottles and cans become funds through Return and Earn.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

PDG Neville Parsons presented James Christian with a Paul Harris Fellow with two sapphires. Accepting it, James recalled being invited to his first Rotary meeting 50 years ago, as a young man living in the caravan park at North Bellingen.

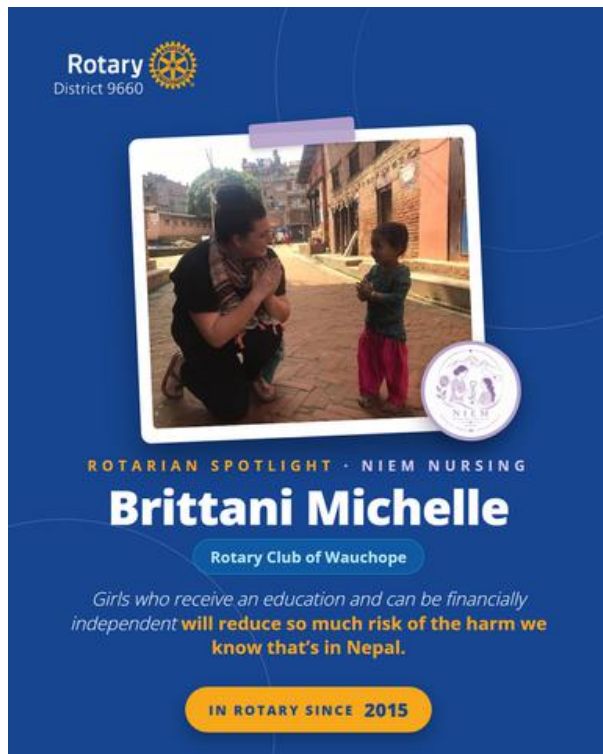
The next Showcase, with the District AGM, is at West Tamworth Leagues Club on 21 and 22 November, and bookings close on 13 November.

[Read the full story](#)
[View the presentations](#)
[Training videos](#)
[Book for Tamworth](#)

ROTARIAN SPOTLIGHT · NIEM NURSING

Brittani Michelle

Brittani Michelle first met Rotary at RYLA in 2015, and eleven years on, the Wauchope Rotarian and neonatal nurse is building a scholarship program to put young women in Nepal through nursing school, one she would love clubs across the district to hear about.



Rotarian Spotlight: Brittani Michelle, Rotary Club of Wauchope.

FROM RYLA TO ROTARY

That first taste of Rotary at RYLA set her on a path: Brittani went on to help found the Hastings Rotaract Club, later joined a Rotary club, and is now a member of the Rotary Club of Wauchope.

Her Rotary work has taken her to social impact projects in Africa, India and Nepal, and the one she is proudest of began six years ago in the village of Chulthedada in Nepal: a chicken farming project that now runs entirely on its own. It has given the local economy a real lift and helped school attendance in the village climb from around 13 per cent to more than 80 per cent, and some of the children who were there at the start are now heading off to college.

Closer to home, she has turned the same drive into a career as a neonatal nurse on the Mid North Coast, where she is also studying nursing leadership and management.



"Do it. Rotarians have a way of making you feel welcome wherever you go. It gives you a real sense of belonging."

Brittani, asked in August what she would say to someone thinking about joining Rotary

[Read the full story](#)

NIEM NURSING

Niem Nursing

A scholarship program putting young women at risk in Nepal through nursing school.



PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Niem Nursing brings those two worlds together, sponsoring young women at risk in Nepal to complete a nursing degree, and for Brittani the point of it all is prevention.

"Girls who receive an education and can be financially independent will reduce so much risk of the harm we know that's in Nepal," she said, naming human trafficking, child marriage and early pregnancy among those risks.

A scholarship gives each young woman a qualification, a career and an income of her own, and along the way the program aims to build her confidence and independence, keep her safe and grow her into a leader in her own community.

HOW IT WILL WORK

The first students will study at the Shrada Institute of Health Science in Bhaktapur, with room to expand later to rural areas such as Chitwan and Jorpati, and a three-year scholarship costs \$5,300, or \$1,766 a year.

The 2027 pilot will put two young women through university, each chosen for her potential and passion and given academic, financial, cultural and wellbeing support, with regular check-ins along the way. A safety and wellness officer will look after students, volunteers and mentors alike, and the pilot will be reviewed before the program grows.

Once qualified, the nurses can go on to specialise, and the hope is that they will return to their own towns and rural communities, bringing care, health education and leadership to the places that need them most.

BRING BRITTANI TO YOUR CLUB

Brittani presented Niem Nursing at the Sawtell Showcase on 11 October and is keen to share it with more clubs. She now has more availability for presentations and would love to visit clubs out west and towards Newcastle, or join a meeting by Zoom, and clubs can contact her at brittanimichelle01@gmail.com.

Anyone who would like to support the program can donate to Niem Nursing through RAWCS.



"Girls who receive an education and can be financially independent will reduce so much risk of the harm we know that's in Nepal."

Graphics: Niem Nursing Project

Donate to Niem Nursing



Read the full story

Tamworth Showcase and AGM

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November 2026

9:00am Saturday to 5:00pm Sunday

West Tamworth Leagues Club, 58 Phillip Street, Tamworth

\$70 per person. Bookings close Friday 13 November 2026

Rotary District 9660 will hold its Showcase and District Annual General Meeting at West Tamworth Leagues Club on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November 2026.

The weekend gives clubs the opportunity to showcase their projects, create plans, take part in training, have input into the future of Rotary and attend the District AGM. Bookings close on Friday 13 November.

PUBLIC SPEAKING DISTRICT FINAL

The weekend will also host the District Final of the Rotary Public Speaking competition, when the winners of the area finals come together to compete. Simon Guest is Chairperson of D9660 Rotary Public Speaking.

The Area 7 final was held on Saturday 19 September, hosted by the Rotary Club of Tamworth Sunrise with the support of the Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light. Four finalists, from McCarthy Catholic College, Calrossy Anglican College, Oxley High School and Quirindi High School, each gave a five-minute prepared speech on a personal topic that drew on the Rotary Four-Way Test. They were then given a two-minute impromptu speech on artificial intelligence and whether it affects what makes people uniquely human.

Adjudicators Alison Edwards and Lesley Lamb awarded first place to the finalist from Quirindi High School, representing the Rotary Club of Quirindi, who will represent Area 7 at the District Final in Tamworth.

ACCOMMODATION AND ENQUIRIES

Those travelling to Tamworth will need accommodation, and the organisers recommend the Mercure at West Leagues.

Enquiries to Bryan Singh at bryan.singh@rotary9660.org.au.

[Book on TryBooking](#)

[Email Bryan Singh](#)

[Read more](#)



TAMWORTH SHOWCASE & AGM



21st – 22nd
November 2026



West Tamworth Leagues
Club, 58 Phillip Street
Tamworth



\$70 per person



Accommodation required if
travelling. The best place
to book is Mercure at West
Leagues



Contact details
Bryan Singh
bryan.singh@rotary9660.org.au

AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Showcase projects
- Create plans
- Participate in training
- Have input into the future of Rotary
- Attend the AGM

Register Now



<https://www.trybooking.com/DQBBX>
RSVP by the 13/11/26

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RYPEN South 2026 at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens. Photos: Rotary District 9660

RYPEN South: the first southern camp

Our first southern RYPEN camp filled the October long weekend at Tea Gardens with games, trust, a tarp challenge and a lot of new friendships.

Rotary District 9660 ran its first southern RYPEN camp over the October long weekend, from Saturday 3 to Monday 5 October, at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens. The southern camp was added so that clubs in the south of the district have a closer location for the young people they sponsor.

The camp opened on Saturday afternoon with icebreakers and group games on the oval and under the main shelter. Blindfolded trust walks followed, with each participant guided by a partner, and in the late afternoon sun the whole group took on a tarp challenge together.

On Sunday, in their blue RYPEN shirts, participants moved to the sand court and the camp shelters for rope challenges, problem solving and team challenges. By the evening a costume or two had appeared, among them a banana suit and a purple Grimace.

On Monday morning each group stood in front of the Rotary People of Action backdrop with the banner it had made together, and participants received their certificates.

RYLArian leaders, young people who have completed Rotary's own leadership program, RYLA, facilitated every session, and the program is deliberately non-competitive and supportive.

RYPEN Chair Keiran Rodgers thanked the RYLArian leaders, the Rotarians who gave up their long weekend, the families and sponsoring clubs who made the camp possible, and The Great Aussie Bush Camp for hosting it.

[Read the full story](#)[Email the RYPEN team](#)

What RYPEN is, and how your club can help

RYPEN is a weekend residential program for young people aged 13 to 17. It focuses on team building, connection and leadership rather than academic achievement.



Over the weekend, participants step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and resilience through hands-on activities, strengthen friendships, and discover their own leadership potential. The program is facilitated by RYLarians: young leaders who have been through Rotary's own leadership program (RYLA) and bring energy, relatability and firsthand experience to the weekend.

WHO CAN COME

RYPEN is open to any young person aged 13 to 17 living anywhere across District 9660: roughly Morisset in the south to Woolgoolga in the north, and west to the state borders. No Rotary connection, club nomination or invitation is needed to apply. North and South are named for where the camp is held, not for who can come.

RYPEN is often most valuable for young people who are capable but under-confident, or who would benefit from stepping outside their usual social group in a safe, supportive setting.

THE CLUB'S ROLE

- **Identify candidates.** Reach out to local schools, youth workers or families in your community. Youth Directors are best placed to spot young people who would benefit.
- **Cover or share the cost.** The cost can be covered by the club, by the participant's family, or shared between them. Club sponsorship is recommended where possible, as it removes a barrier for the young people who would benefit most.
- **Stay connected.** A short follow-up afterwards, and inviting the participant to share their experience at a club meeting, reinforces the value and often sparks ongoing involvement.

RYPEN NORTH 2027

RYPEN North returns in 2027, details to come. Now is a good time to start thinking about which young people your club could sponsor. To talk it through, email the RYPEN team using the button below.

[About RYPEN](#)[Email the RYPEN team](#)

RYLA 2027 leaders locked in

RYLA 2027 runs from 29 May to 5 June 2027 at Yarra Adventure Park, with a program built around peer led delivery. Applications are open.



The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's flagship program for developing the next generation of leaders. RYLA demonstrates Rotary's ongoing respect and investment in young people, providing them with the tools, confidence, and networks to lead with purpose.

THE 2027 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Choosing leaders is the most difficult task we undertake. So many deserving expressions of interest were received that we were spoilt for choice. These five successful candidates will continue on their leadership journey. They will undertake specific leadership training and immerse themselves in the 2027 program, which focuses on peer led delivery.

- **Leaders Leader:** Tobi-Lee Clough, Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light
- Rosemary Morison, Rotary Club of Greenhills-Maitland
- Colin Fogarty, Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light
- Lacey Treanor, Rotary Club of Kempsey West
- Rueben Baker-Bennic, Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light

WHAT PARTICIPANTS GAIN

Delivered through an innovative peer-led model designed by past participants, for participants, RYLA goes above and beyond traditional leadership programs. Participants gain experience in teamwork, communication, conflict resolution, time management, and public speaking. They also explore purposeful leadership, decision-making, and how to add value to their workplaces and communities. Motivational speakers, real-world challenges, and physical team activities bring these lessons to life. RYLA graduates return home inspired, capable, and ready to make meaningful contributions, embodying Rotary's ideals of service and leadership in action.

SPONSOR A PARTICIPANT

RYLA 2027 is a seven day residential program for 19 to 27 year olds, from 29 May to 5 June 2027 at Yarra Adventure Park, and applications are open. Support tomorrow's leaders today by sponsoring a participant or promoting RYLA within your community. Queries go to the RYLA team using the button below.

[Read the full story](#)[About RYLA](#)[Email the RYLA team](#)



RYLA

**CREATE
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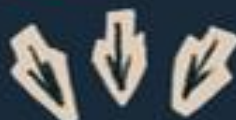
Connect



Learn



Grow



Inspire

OMG

SAVE THE DATE! 29 MAY - 5 JUNE 2027

YARRA ADVENTURE PARK, GRASSY HEAD

7 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM | 19-27 YEAR OLDS

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's flagship program for developing the next generation of leaders. RYLA demonstrates Rotary's ongoing respect and investment in young people, providing them with the tools, confidence, and networks to lead with purpose.

Delivered through an innovative peer-led model designed by past participants, *for participants*, RYLA goes above and beyond traditional leadership programs. Participants gain experience in teamwork, communication, conflict resolution, time management, and public speaking.

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RYLA graduates return home inspired, capable, and ready to make meaningful contributions, embodying Rotary's ideals of service and leadership in action.

Support tomorrow's leaders today by sponsoring a participant or promoting RYLA within your community!



LEADERSHIP STARTS HERE. THE RIPPLE LASTS A LIFETIME.

Queries to ryla9660@gmail.com | Cost TBC with venue, approx \$1450

Could 2028 Be Your Club's Year to Host?

Our district has committed to hosting 12 inbound Youth Exchange students. Clubs are asked to return the hosting form by 1 December 2026.

By Christopher Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer, District 9660 Youth Exchange

We have just finalised applications for the 2027 Youth Exchange program, so why are we already talking about 2028?

Quite simply, Youth Exchange takes time. The application and selection process takes around six months, followed by approximately nine months of preparation, training and planning before our students are ready to depart and our inbound students arrive.

That means 2028 starts now.

Youth Exchange only works because of the support of our Rotary clubs and members. Without clubs willing to host, support and welcome an international student into their community, we cannot continue to offer this life-changing program to young people across District 9660.

Hosting changes more than the life of an inbound student. Youth Exchange is reciprocal, one student in for one student out, so your club's decision to host also helps make an outbound student's exchange possible. That is why our district has committed to hosting 12 inbound students.

If a full year feels like too much, your club can co-host with another club and share the experience, responsibilities and costs.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING

- Have the conversation at your next board meeting: could 2028 be your club's year to host?
- Complete the hosting form, signed by your President or President-Elect and your Youth Director, and return it to Christopher Morgan at youthexchange.secretary@rotary9660.org.au by 1 December 2026. Ticking "Maybe" or "Need more information" is fine.
- Spread the word. Share Youth Exchange through your club's Facebook page, social media, bulletin, newsletter and community networks.
- If you know a young person or family who would love the opportunity, and would be a great fit for the program, encourage them to find out more.

Sometimes the right student or host family simply needs someone to ask, "Have you ever thought about Youth Exchange?"

Because without our clubs, our members, our host families and our communities, there is no Youth Exchange.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Youth Exchange team:

- **Chair:** Diana Christian, youthexchange.chair@rotary9660.org.au
- **Secretary:** Christopher Morgan, youthexchange.secretary@rotary9660.org.au
- **Inbound Coordinator:** Marina Hearne, youthexchange.inbounds@rotary9660.org.au

Return the hosting form: email Christopher

WHEN A STUDENT RAISES A CONCERN

If a student says an adult "responded harshly to my question", that wording alone would not necessarily be treated as a child protection allegation. It would be documented as a concern about adult-to-young-person communication, and we would establish:

- What question did the student ask?
- What exactly did the adult say?
- What was the tone and manner?
- Where and when did it occur?
- Who else was present?
- How did the teenager respond?
- Did the teenager feel intimidated, embarrassed, dismissed or uncomfortable?
- What does the adult say occurred?
- Was there any previous interaction or context relevant to the exchange?
- Does the behaviour appear to be an isolated incident or part of a pattern?

"The important point is not to dismiss the teenager's perception simply because the adult says they did not intend to be harsh."

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR EVERY CLUB

These guidelines protect both the students in our care while on exchange and ourselves.

The way we communicate should be professional, clear, child-friendly and respectful, both formally and casually. Being clear means nothing is left to interpretation. Our inbound students naturally do not have English as a first language, so they may not fully understand what seems to us a clear and precise instruction. When that happens, explain it another way to help the student understand.

We must also refrain from comparing students with past students. Each student is an individual; no student's behaviour or personality will be the same as another's, and that is why we appreciate the personality and flair each one brings to the program.



Email the Youth Exchange Chair

Youth Exchange in District 9660

Say NO to Domestic and Family Violence

At the Sawtell Showcase, DGE Peter Comino outlined two partnerships for impact for District 9660. The first is Say NO to Domestic and Family Violence.

Say NO to Domestic and Family Violence began in 2019 with the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond and has grown into a movement across the Zone, working with community groups, government and the NSW Police Force under the motto "Say NO to Domestic and Family Violence and YES to Respectful Relationships".

It is a district project, chaired by Pam Dean-Jones.

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

NSW Police recorded 37,828 domestic violence-related assault incidents, and police respond to a domestic incident roughly every 3 minutes across the state (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research).

Nearly 2 in 5 women (39%) have experienced violence since the age of 15. On average, one woman a week is killed by a current or former intimate partner in Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

WHAT YOUR CLUB CAN DO

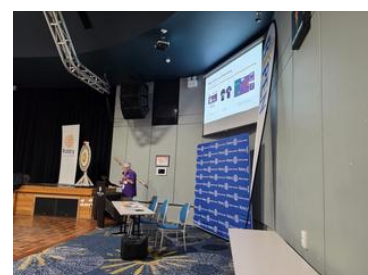
- Make room in your club's calendar for the UN 16 Days of Activism, from 25 November to 10 December.
- Join your local Rotary club at the Bunnings BBQ on 28 November: see the Say No to Domestic Violence pages later in this edition.
- Send photos and a short report on your club's involvement to District Chair Pam Dean-Jones, using the button on this page.

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732.



Rotary Clubs of Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie say NO to domestic and family violence

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE



Email Pam Dean-Jones

Say NO to DV project page

Sawtell Showcase story

Falls prevention is everyone's business

The second of DGE Peter Comino's partnerships for impact is with Falls Prevention Alliance Australia.



Falls Prevention Alliance Australia is seeking organisations and individuals to join it in calling for policy change to reduce fall-related injuries in older Australians. What is required is a national action plan, a mass media campaign and better funding of evidence-based services to better protect older people.

WHY IT MATTERS

According to Falls Prevention Alliance Australia:

- 1 in 3 Australians over 65 experience at least one fall annually.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury hospitalisations (77%), with 238,055 cases in 2022-23.
- Falls are the cause of 71% of injury deaths, resulting in over 5,000 fatalities in the same period.
- 50% of falls happen at home; 1 in 5 occur in aged care facilities.

WHAT YOUR CLUB CAN DO

- Mobilise awareness of falls prevention in your area, and help amplify the national advocacy.
- The next time your club runs a Bunnings BBQ, advertise falls prevention.
- Run a community event and invite expert speakers such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists.



Falls Prevention Alliance

Sawtell Showcase story

Have your say

The District Public Image and IT teams would like to hear from you personally.

Every Rotarian's perspective counts, whether you joined Rotary this year or many years ago, and whether you run your club's social media or happily leave the technology to others. The survey asks about:

- How you would prefer to receive district information, and how Spotlight could work better for you
- The training you would find useful, and how and when you like to learn
- Where your club could use public image or IT support
- What you would like to see from the district, and where you would put a small public image or technology grant



Scan to open the survey

A screenshot of the survey form titled "Public Image and IT Survey". The form includes an introductory paragraph, a privacy notice, and two main questions. Question 1 is a dropdown menu for club selection. Question 2 is a multiple-choice question for roles, with checkboxes for various positions. The form is displayed on a mobile device interface with a blue header and a light yellow background for the questions.

Public Image and IT Survey

Help the District Public Image and IT teams shape the training, support and tools we offer you and your club: how your club tells its story, and the technology it runs on. This survey is for every Rotarian in District 9660 and takes about 10 minutes. Your answers are anonymous unless you choose to leave your details at the end.

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

* Required

1. Which club do you belong to? *

Select your answer

2. What roles do you hold in your club this Rotary year? (tick all that apply) *

☐ Rotarian (no formal role)

☐ President

☐ Secretary

☐ Public image, communications or social media

☐ Bulletin or newsletter editor

It takes about 10 minutes, and your answers stay anonymous unless you choose to leave your details.

Take the survey

Email the PI Chair

OUR CLUBS

Clubs A-Z

Every Rotary club in District 9660, listed by town.

[Home](#) / Clubs A-Z

Every Rotary club in District 9660 welcomes visitors. Find a club near you, see when and where clubs meet, and learn about the areas that make up the district.



Check your club's page

Every club in the district has its own page on rotary9660.org.au, with meeting details, a map, projects and photos. The information there now is all we could find in DACdb and on some club websites, so much of it may be out of date or incomplete.

We would much prefer current information, images and projects straight from your club. Find your club in the club finder and check:

- Meeting place, day and time
- Contacts, website and social media links
- Current projects

[Send corrections, your current projects and 2 to 4 action photos to it@rotary9660.org.au.](mailto:it@rotary9660.org.au)

Find your club

Email IT

BETTER CONVERSATIONS, BETTER CLUBS: 1 OF 6

Speak Up, Don't Let It Build Up

By Stacy Jacobs



Photo: Rotary International

Being part of Rotary means working alongside people with different backgrounds, experiences, opinions and ways of communicating. Occasionally, even when everyone has the best intentions, misunderstandings and disagreements occur.

Perhaps you felt excluded from a decision, disagreed with how something was handled, or were upset by something another member said.

It can be tempting to say nothing and hope the feeling passes. Sometimes it does. Other times, the concern grows, relationships become strained, and something that could have been resolved through a simple conversation becomes much more difficult.

Speaking up early is an important part of building a healthy Rotary club.

Where it is appropriate and safe, the first step is to speak directly with the person involved.

You might begin with:

"I wanted to talk with you about something that's been bothering me. I think we may have understood the situation differently."

ADDRESSING CONFLICT IN ROTARY: WHERE TO START

1. Speak with the person. Where safe and appropriate, start with a respectful, direct conversation.
2. Raise it with your club. If unresolved, inform your Club President or an appropriate club leader and give the club an opportunity to respond.
3. Seek District support. If the club has been unable to resolve the concern, the District 9660 Conflict Resolution Team can provide further assistance.

Serious safety, safeguarding or misconduct concerns may require immediate reporting through the appropriate channels rather than direct discussion or mediation.

Remember: Raising a concern respectfully is not creating conflict. It may be the first step towards resolving it.

Approaching someone with curiosity rather than accusation gives both people an opportunity to explain their perspectives.

If the conversation doesn't resolve the concern, or a direct conversation is not appropriate, the next step is to make your club aware of the issue. This might involve speaking with your Club President or another appropriate club leader.

Club leaders also have a responsibility to listen, respond respectfully and ensure concerns are considered fairly.

If the matter remains unresolved after being raised with the club, the Rotary District 9660 Conflict Resolution Team is available to provide further support.

Remember, raising a concern through the appropriate channels is different from discussing someone else's behaviour with members who are not involved. Respecting privacy helps protect everyone.

Something to reflect on

If something concerned you in your club, would you feel comfortable raising it? What could your club do to make respectful conversations easier?

Email the Conflict Resolution Team

Conflict resolution guide

Canva Pro, free for your club

On-brand posters and posts without a designer, and the same folder of paperwork also gets your club Microsoft 365 free.

Canva Pro is free for nonprofits for up to 50 users, and it lets any member make on-brand posters, social posts and flyers without a designer. The district's Spotlight, including this edition, is built in Canva.

SET UP ONCE

- A Brand Kit that keeps the club's colours and logos in one place.
- Shared club templates that any member can pick up and reuse.
- Resize one design for every channel: Facebook, Instagram and print.

HOW TO APPLY

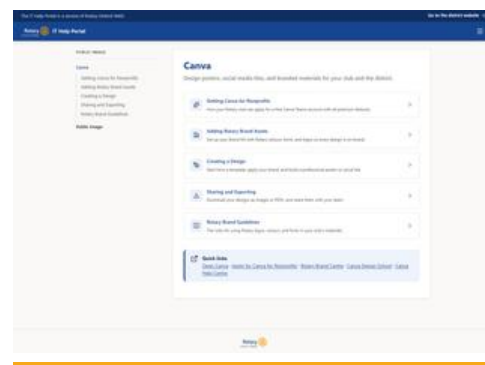
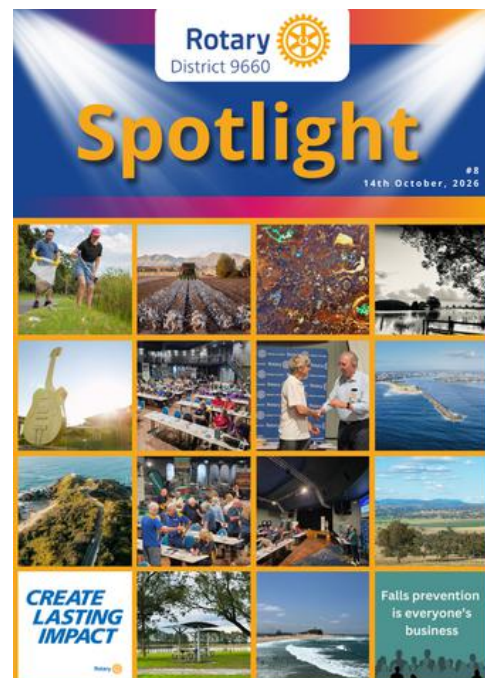
Apply through Canva's nonprofit program (button below) with one folder of paperwork. Approval takes about a week, and the folder needs three things:

1. The club's ATO not-for-profit lodgement, which is its NFP self-review, from the ATO Business Portal or the club's tax agent.
2. The page of the club's constitution that says the club is not-for-profit.
3. An ABN extract, a free download from the Australian Business Register.

ALSO HAVE READY

- A club email address, not a personal Gmail.
- The president or secretary as the named applicant.
- A certificate of incorporation, if the club is incorporated.

The same folder also gets your club Microsoft 365 free through Microsoft's nonprofit program, usually within a few business days. The help portal has the step-by-step guide, including how to add the Rotary brand kit and export your designs.


[Apply for Canva](#)
[Step-by-step guide](#)
[Microsoft 365 free](#)

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE MATTERS: ROTARY WITHOUT BORDERS

Sometimes the Best Rotary Stories Are Lived, Not Written!

By Dr Grace Maano, District International Service Chair

If you missed my Rotary Without Borders column last month, I have a good excuse! I was busy living Rotary International Service: leading a Rotary Club of Taree delegation on an unforgettable journey through the Philippines and Japan.

Philippines: Witnessing Rotary's Life-Saving Impact (15 to 24 September)

Our first stop was Quezon Province, Philippines, after a day of travel to Sydney, 8 hours on the plane, 4 hours on the road, to witness the impact of Global Grant GG #2689595: Wheels for Life, a partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Lucena and Taree, supported by The Rotary Foundation and generous international partners.

At Quezon Medical Centre in Lucena, we experienced something truly mind-blowing! The newborn and paediatric life-support equipment funded through our Global Grant was already saving lives. Hearing that approximately 20 newborns and children had benefited from life-saving interventions in just two months was an incredibly emotional moment.

For Rotarians who spend countless hours fundraising, planning and completing grant applications, nothing compares to seeing our contributions translated into babies breathing, children surviving and families given hope.

Our visit also included maternal and newborn healthcare activities and Rural Emergency Obstetric Training (REOT), reinforcing the importance of sustainable healthcare partnerships.

Beyond service, we immersed ourselves in Filipino culture and hospitality: exploring centuries-old basilica churches, experiencing traditional life and carabao cart rides at Villa Escudero, enjoying lunch aboard a floating bamboo raft on Pandin Lake in San Pablo City, and admiring spectacular Taal Volcano views from the Tagaytay highlands. Check out our album on Facebook.



Taree Rotary delegation with project partners at Quezon Medical Centre, Lucena City, Philippines



Taree Rotary delegation experiencing cultural heritage at Villa Escudero

Japan: Friendship Beyond Borders (24 to 30 September)

Our journey continued to Japan for a Rotary Friendship Exchange with our sister club, the Rotary Club of Okayama Chuo.

From exploring historic Osaka Castle and the cultural treasures of Takahashi to experiencing Japanese hospitality, every moment strengthened our international friendships. See our album on Facebook.

A highlight was celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Okayama Chuo on 27 September, a wonderful occasion honouring four decades of Rotary fellowship and service. Visits to Hiroshima and Miyajima added reflection and cultural discovery to our journey.

Two Countries, One Rotary Spirit

In the Philippines, we witnessed Rotary transforming generosity into life-saving healthcare. In Japan, we celebrated friendships that transcend language, culture and borders.

Both experiences reminded us that Rotary International Service is about more than projects: it is about connecting people, changing lives and creating lasting impact.

Want to experience our journey? Visit the Rotary Club of Taree Facebook page for our daily stories, photographs and memorable moments from both countries.

After all, sometimes the best Rotary stories aren't written behind a desk: they're lived beyond borders!

Rotary Without Borders · Connecting Clubs · Changing Lives.

For questions and feedback, contact author Dr Grace Maano at international@rotary9660.org.au.

[Quezon Medical Centre post](#)

[Philippines album](#)

[Japan album](#)



Rotary Taree delegation on Friendship Exchange with sister club Rotary Okayama in Japan



Rotary Taree delegation on a tour of Osaka and Okayama, part of the Friendship Exchange with sister club Rotary Okayama Chuo

Photos: Rotary Club of Taree

Is Your Club a Champion of Prevention?

Rotary International is looking for six projects worth copying. Nominations for this year's People of Action Honors close on 30 October 2026.

Every year, Rotary International recognises six projects from around the world that show what Rotary members do best. The People of Action Honors have been running for more than a decade. They look for projects that make a real impact, last, and can grow: models other clubs can pick up and copy.

This year's theme is Champions of Prevention. Rotary doesn't want projects that respond once a problem has taken hold. It wants projects that step in early. That might mean tackling the root causes of conflict, such as bullying, local crime or human trafficking. It might mean addressing the causes of poverty, such as food insecurity or poor disaster preparedness, or the causes of ill health, such as limited access to healthcare. Projects focused on water, the environment and education are just as welcome.

Anyone 16 or older from these groups can be nominated: Rotary, Rotaract and Interact members, RYLA participants, Youth Exchange students, Peace Fellows, Global Grant scholars and Rotary alumni.

TO BE CONSIDERED, A PROJECT NEEDS TO:

- Be currently active, or have finished no earlier than 30 June 2025
- Do more than fundraise or hand out goods (both can be part of it, but not the whole of it)
- Show how the problem was identified and how the community helped confirm the need
- Show who it works with, what it measures, what has changed, and how the benefit will last

Nominees are also asked to explain how the project made them a stronger advocate and leader, and how it deepened their connection with the community they served.

Our district is full of projects that fit this description. If your club has one, or you know a young person whose work deserves a global stage, this is the moment to put it forward.

Nominations close 30 October 2026. Full criteria are at rotary.org/who-we-are/rotary-people-of-action-honors, and nominations go through the Champions of Prevention nomination form.



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

[Full criteria at rotary.org](https://rotary.org/who-we-are/rotary-people-of-action-honors)

[Nominate a project](#)

[Read the full story](#)



Rotary
Peace Pole
Unveiling Ceremony

Recognising Rotary's commitment to peace and honouring Rotary International President Elect **Larry Lunsford**, who was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to the University of Newcastle in 1982.

Larry Lunsford will be in attendance to unveil the Peace Pole.

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 9:00 AM

THE GREAT LAWN
(adjacent to Auchmuty Library)
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

COME ALONG & CELEBRATE PEACE.

May Peace Prevail On Earth
Puisse la paix régner dans le monde

PEACE BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Rotary Peace Pole Unveiling Ceremony, Saturday 7 November 2026, University of Newcastle

RI President-elect Larry Lunsford to Unveil Peace Pole at University of Newcastle

Come along on Saturday 7 November as Rotary marks its commitment to peace, and honours a former Ambassadorial Scholar to Newcastle.

Rotary International President-elect Larry Lunsford will be in Newcastle next month to unveil a Rotary Peace Pole at the University of Newcastle.

The ceremony recognises Rotary's commitment to peace and honours Larry, who was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to the University of Newcastle in 1982.

It is a rare chance to welcome Rotary's incoming international president to our district, at the university where his own Rotary story began. All Rotarians, families and friends are invited to come along and celebrate peace.

Saturday 7 November 2026, 9:00am
The Great Lawn (adjacent to Auchmuty Library)
University of Newcastle

Peace builds stronger communities and a brighter tomorrow.

CHANGE OF DATE: DISTRICT CHANGEOVER

The District Changeover has moved to 10 July 2027, so all those going to the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona can now attend the Convention and the Changeover.

Venue and booking details will follow in a future edition.

[Learn about Rotary and peace](#)

It is with much sadness that the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay has advised the district of the passing of Ian Brigden in late September.

Club Secretary Don Whatham described Ian as a dear friend and an outstanding Rotarian.

On behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, Don expressed sincere condolences to Debbie and family. The district joins the club in extending its sympathy.

“a dear friend and an outstanding Rotarian”

Don Whatham, Secretary, Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, on Ian Brigden

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ADRIAN PAYNE

Adrian Payne, a long-term member of the Rotary Club of Warners Bay, passed away in July.

Adrian served as club president on several occasions. His main passion was the MHERV project, which he restructured to enable it to become the impressive project it is today. He also served on various district committees, offering his talents in video production and much more.

His wife, Toni Gemmell, is holding a memorial celebration of Adrian's life and his 80th birthday, and has asked that his many district friends and contacts be invited.

Friday 6 November 2026, from 3pm till late
Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, Ada Street, Belmont NSW
Finger food will be provided.
Theme: bow ties, braces, trilby hats, or all of the above.

RSVP by Friday 23 October for catering purposes, to Toni Gemmell on 0427 362 330.

The full invitation is on the next page.

RSVP to Toni: 0427 362 330

[Read the full story](#)



IN MEMORIAM



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

CELEBRATION *of Life*

HONOURING

ADRIAN PAYNE

80TH
BIRTHDAY



DATE:
FRIDAY
6TH NOVEMBER 2026



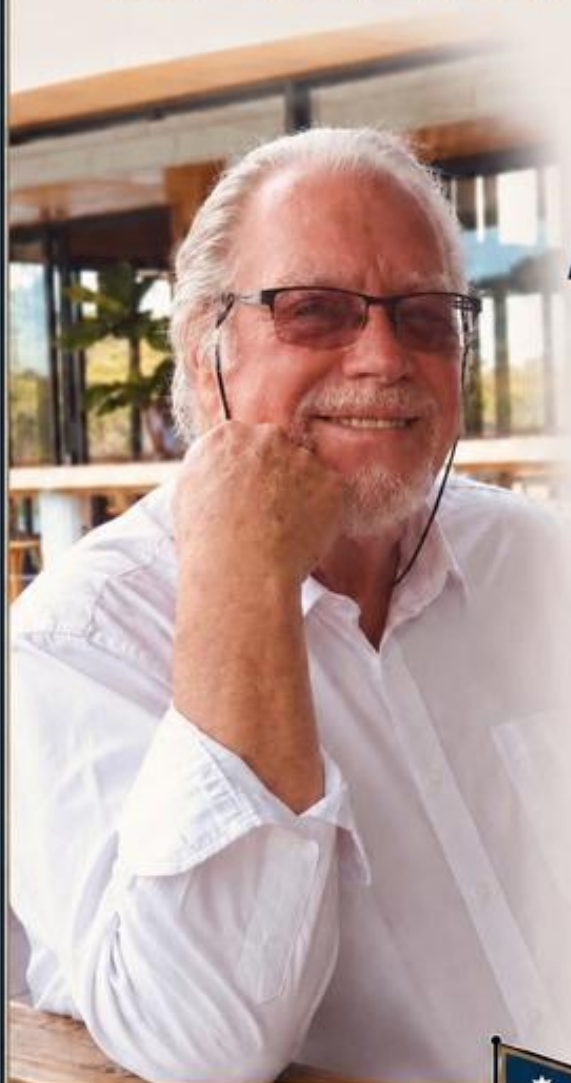
TIME:
1500 HOURS
TILL LATE



VENUE:
LAKE MACQUARIE YACHT CLUB
ADA ST, BELMONT NSW



CATERING
FINGER FOOD
PROVIDED



THEME:

BOW TIES, BRACES,
TRILBY HATS OR ALL OF THE ABOVE



RSVP TO SENDER BY: FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026
TONI: 0427 362 330 OR NIK: 0421 379 891

Greetings from India!

Since 2018, we have run the Incredible India Rotary Tours, curated exclusively for Rotary members, their families and friends, in the true spirit of Rotary Friendship Exchange. So far, 250+ Rotary friends from 20 countries have joined our Big Incredible India Family, exploring India not as tourists, but guests and family, hosted by fellow Rotarians Rtn. Divya and Rtn. Bhanu as Tour Organisers. These tours are weaved with the Indian philosophy of Atithi Devo Bhava - Guest is God.

For 2026-27, two tours are open to Rotarians worldwide:

1. Incredible India South Tour: 16th to 29th November 2026
2. Incredible India North Tour: 15th to 29th January 2027

We have attached a brochure with full details for both tours:

drive.google.com/file/d/1gp9hLH1GkrM_yNupRKaC1ReJHCuTCBNu/view

If India is on your travel list, we'd love for you to experience it with Rotary friends instead. We would love to welcome more of them into our Incredible India Family this season.

In Rotary friendship,
Divya Gupta
Incredible India Rotary Tours
Experiential Travelling
Rotary Club Ahmedabad Asmita, RID 3055
divya@experientialtravelling.in
+91 9825772727



If India is on your travel list, we'd love for you to experience it with Rotary friends instead.

[Download the tour brochure](#)

[Email Divya Gupta](#)

PAINT & Sip FUNDRAISER

Create, Relax
and Make a Difference!

Cessnock
Rotary



Raising funds for
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JOIN US AT
The Deck Lovedale

A beautiful afternoon of
creativity, connection and
community – all while supporting
the future leaders of our region.



15 OCTOBER 2026



11:00AM – 2:00PM



THE DECK LOVEDALE
Lovedale NSW



LUNCH INCLUDED



WINE AVAILABLE
at cellar door prices

TICKETS
\$57
PER PERSON



With local
artist

Lynda

our talented artist

BOOK NOW!



ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

DORRIGO 2026

LIFT THE LID WALK

PHYSICAL HEALTH
FOR
MENTAL HEALTH



Contact Sara on 0408 289 365 or
82capella@gmail.com for more details

Rotary
Districts of Australia



SUNDAY OCT 18TH

FROM 9AM, DANGAR FALLS

** \$30 registration - FREE event T-shirt with early bird registration (29th September 2026) **

WWW.LIFTTHELIDWALK.COM.AU/DORRIGO

WE **FUND** POSSIBILITY™



Rotary
Districts of Australia



AUSTRALIAN
ROTARY
HEALTH

The health charity Rotary clubs and Rotarians power.



Coffs City
Rotary



COFFS CITY *Rotary* MOTOR SHOW

VINTAGE, CLASSIC & MODERN CARS & BIKES

OF ALL MAKES WELCOME



TROPHIES &
PRIZES
ON THE DAY



UNDERCOVER
ALL WEATHER
EVENT



OVER 120
DISPLAY SPACES
AVAILABLE



WHEN:
SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026



DISPLAY ENTRY FROM 7AM



WHERE:
LEVEL 1 PARK BEACH PLAZA
UNDERCOVER CARPARK



DISPLAY ENTRY
COST \$10
(INCLUDES ENTRY FOR
DRIVER & PASSENGER)



SPECTATOR ENTRY
FROM 10AM
COST \$5
(KIDS UNDER 10 FREE)

Featuring
replica

BATMOBILE

special appearance from
BATMAN & BATGIRL



To register contact: Bob: 0411 727 255 | Mitch: 0466 376 903

DISTRICT CALENDAR

3–4 October 2026	RYPEN	Newcastle
11 Oct 2026	Showcase Mandatory Training / Showcase of Projects & Event	Sawtell
18 Oct 2026	Operations Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
24 Oct 2026	Finance Committee Meeting	Teams 5:00 pm
25 Oct 2026	Board Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
30 October – 1 November 2026	Zone Conference	Melbourne
21–22 November 2026	Showcase & AGM / Mandatory Training / Showcase of Projects & Event	Tamworth
28–30 November 2026	YEP Outbound Students Final Briefing	TBA
7 Feb 2027	Operations Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm

[View the full district calendar](#)

DISTRICT CALENDAR

13 Feb 2027	Finance Committee Meeting	Teams 5:00 pm
20–21 February 2027	Training (Peter Comino Team)	Tamworth
28 Feb 2027	Board Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
12–14 March 2027	District 9685 Conference	Mudgee
20–21 March 2027	Showcase & AGM / Mandatory Training / Showcase of Projects & Event	Dubbo
28 Mar 2027	RCL Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
15 May 2027	Finance Committee Meeting	Teams 5:00 pm
16 May 2027	Operations Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
May 28th–June 5th 2027	RYLA	Grassy Head
30 May 2027	Board Meeting (Combined)	Teams 7:00 pm
12–14 June 2027	RYPEN	Bonny Hills
26–30 June 2027	International Convention	Barcelona
10 July	District Changeover	TBA

[View the full district calendar](#)



ShelterBox working with our partners Islamic Relief and Rotary in Bhotekoshi, Nepal.

District 9660 clubs recognised for outstanding commitment to disaster relief

Nine District 9660 clubs will be named ShelterBox Champions at an online ceremony on Wednesday 21 October.

ShelterBox Australia

[Visit ShelterBox Australia](#)

Rotary clubs across District 9660 will be honoured later this month at ShelterBox Australia's Champions Awards. The annual celebration recognises clubs that have shown exceptional dedication to supporting families left with nowhere to live after disaster or conflict.

The awards evening celebrates Rotary clubs that have supported ShelterBox Australia for three consecutive years, earning Bronze, Silver or Gold Champion status.

Mike Greenslade, ShelterBox Australia CEO, says: "These awards are a celebration of the real, long-term impact Rotary clubs make for families recovering after disaster. Their support ensures families have access to emergency shelter and essential items when they need them most."

ShelterBox is currently supporting families displaced by flash floods in Nepal with Rotary and local partners. The charity has a response team in Kathmandu distributing tarpaulins, sleeping mats, rope and pillows to support thousands of people. They are also distributing family tents and solar lights to families in some of the hardest to reach, mountainous areas.

ShelterBox was founded by a Rotary club, and Rotary remains central to its mission today. Funds raised by Champion clubs help support families with tents, shelter kits and essential items like mosquito nets, blankets, solar lights and kitchen sets after earthquakes, conflicts, tropical storms and other disasters.

Across District 9660, nine clubs will receive Champion status during a special online ceremony on Wednesday 21 October. Champion status is calculated across all forms of club support throughout the year, including donations, fundraising events and club disbursements.

- **Bronze Champions:** over \$1,000 annually for three consecutive years
- **Silver Champions:** over \$3,000 annually for three consecutive years
- **Gold Champions:** over \$5,000 annually for three consecutive years

"Rotary clubs understand the urgency of being ready to respond anytime, anywhere," adds Greenslade. "Members support ShelterBox in so many ways, sharing local knowledge and connections, volunteering in-country during responses, and rallying together through club and district activities. The Champions Awards not only celebrate Rotary's impact, they encourage clubs to keep building on their support year after year."

As well as the flash floods in Nepal, ShelterBox is supporting families displaced by the earthquakes in the Philippines and Venezuela. The charity is also responding to the world's most neglected displacement crises, supporting people with shelter and other essential items in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Burkina Faso.

To learn more about ShelterBox Australia and its work around the world, visit shelterboxaustralia.org.au.

ShelterBox: Nepal and Venezuela updates

Sue Hooper, ShelterBox Australia Coordinator, Rotary District 9660 (North Lake Mac Rotary)

NEPAL FLOODING: SEPTEMBER UPDATE

A ShelterBox team is in Kathmandu distributing support to approximately 1,000 families (5,000 people) with assistance from Islamic Relief. Helicopters remain the only way to transport our aid items to remote villages, and many affected villages are still to be assessed. Our aid items include: tarpaulins, sleeping mats, ropes, solar lights, thermal blankets, and tents.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES: UPDATE RECEIVED SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Click on the link to see the latest video update showing the transitional shelters being constructed by ShelterBox. Rich, an Australian ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) member from the Gold Coast, was part of the first ShelterBox response team to arrive in Venezuela.

Watch the video on Facebook:

facebook.com/reel/4572555179656011

If you would like to know about volunteering with ShelterBox Australia, please send me an email and I can forward you some information.

If your Club would like to have a presentation, please send me an email and I will contact you.

Contact: Sue Hooper, hoopergs@gmail.com

Website: shelterboxaustralia.org.au

ShelterBox Australia Facebook:

facebook.com/shelterbox.australia



Distribution of aid items in Nepal

[Watch the Venezuela update](#)

[Email Sue Hooper](#)

[Visit ShelterBox Australia](#)

[ShelterBox on Facebook](#)



"These awards are a celebration of the real, long-term impact Rotary clubs make for families recovering after disaster."
Mike Greenslade

World Polio Day 2026: Where the Fight Stands

World Polio Day falls on Saturday 24 October. The latest global figures show wild polio cases running ahead of last year, which is exactly why Rotary keeps telling the story.

District 9660 Foundation team, from updates shared by PDG Amanda Wendt, End Polio Now Coordinator, and Brian Morgan, District Foundation Chair and End Polio Now Subcommittee Chair

World Polio Day is Saturday 24 October. It is the day Rotarians around the world turn the spotlight on a disease we have spent decades pushing to the brink, and this year the numbers show why the job is not done.

WHERE THINGS STAND

Each week PDG Amanda Wendt, End Polio Now Coordinator, shares the World Health Organization and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) update with PolioPlus chairs across our region. As at 29 September 2026:

- **Wild poliovirus (WPV1):** 39 cases reported globally in 2026 so far (35 in Afghanistan, 4 in Pakistan), compared with 31 at the same point in 2025. The 2025 full-year total was 52.
- **Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV):** 164 cases in 2026 so far, compared with 153 at the same point in 2025. The 2025 full-year total was 246.

In that week alone, Afghanistan reported 3 new wild poliovirus cases and 14 positive environmental samples, and new vaccine-derived cases or samples were reported in the Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Libya, Nigeria and Somalia. Closer to home, Australia and Papua New Guinea are among the countries under surveillance; neither reported new cases or positive environmental samples that week.

Both counts are running ahead of last year. As District Foundation Chair Brian Morgan says, that means we need to keep taking the End Polio Now message beyond Rotary and into the wider community.

WHY THE INVESTMENT MATTERS

At a polio side event during the UN General Assembly in New York in September, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "One of humanity's most incredible technologies fits in a tiny vial. The polio vaccine has brought us to the brink of eradicating an ancient disease for good."

"One of humanity's most incredible technologies fits in a tiny vial."

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General



Visit polioeradication.org

Read the full story

The money spent on polio also keeps working long after the last case. Polio investment strengthens disease surveillance, builds cold chain capacity and supports women health workers who deliver far more than polio vaccine. Iraq, the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to complete polio transition, is now showing how those investments make a health system more resilient.

NEW LEADERSHIP, AND A THANK YOU TO ROTARY

WHO has appointed Chris Wolff as its Director of Polio Eradication, a role that also chairs the GPEI Strategy Committee. He brings more than two decades of experience, from supporting India's interruption of wild poliovirus transmission to leading WHO's global outbreak response and surveillance teams. On starting, he thanked governments, partners and donors, and "our extraordinary friends at Rotary International, whose commitment has inspired this effort for decades."

Read the announcement: polioeradication.org/news/who-appoints-chris-wolff-as-director-of-polio-eradication/

WHAT YOUR CLUB CAN DO THIS WORLD POLIO DAY

- Wear red at your local parkrun on Saturday 24 October. World Polio Day falls on a parkrun Saturday this year. Contact your local parkrun organisers to coordinate, then run, walk or just turn up in red. Maitland area clubs are gathering at Walka Water Works from 8am. See the Wear Red promo in this edition.
- Give to PolioPlus. my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund
- Share the story. Learn more and find resources at endpolio.org.

A polio-free world is within reach. Let's make sure our communities know Rotary is still in this until the job is done.

[Read the WHO announcement](#)

[Give to PolioPlus](#)

[Visit endpolio.org](#)

Wear Red at Your Local parkrun for World Polio Day

District 9660 Foundation team

World Polio Day, Saturday 24 October, falls on a parkrun Saturday this year, and the District Foundation team is asking Rotarians to turn their local parkrun red.

Run, walk, jog or volunteer, and wear red to show your support for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. It is a simple, visible way to take the message beyond Rotary and into the wider community.

- Have a word with your local parkrun organisers beforehand so they know Rotary is coming.
- Maitland area clubs are meeting at Walka Water Works from 8am.
- Bring your club and your friends, and share a photo with us afterwards.

Small acts make a big difference, and together we can end polio for good.

[Find your local parkrun](#)



Now We Can: Free Malaria Seminar, Friday 30 October

Submitted by Li Meng Wong, Rotary Club of Gloucester

Australian Rotarians Against Malaria (ARAM) is hosting a free seminar, Now We Can: The Path to Malaria Elimination, on Friday 30 October 2026, from 10am to 2pm. ARAM is joining forces with the Australian Centre of Research Excellence in Malaria Elimination (ACREME) and the Malaria Synergy Program for this special event, which brings together researchers, clinicians, advocates and community partners. It will showcase the latest research, evidence and partnerships driving progress towards a malaria-free future.

Whether you know a lot or a little about malaria, there will be something for everyone.

THE DETAILS

- **When:** Friday 30 October 2026, 10am to 2pm
- **Where:** online, or in person at the Alfred Innovation & Education Hub, Lecture Theatre, Melbourne VIC
- **Cost:** free
- **Register:** events.humanitix.com/now-we-can-2026

The seminar is a pre-event for the Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference, which starts at 3pm the same day, so it is an easy add-on if you are heading to Melbourne for the conference.



Australian Rotarians Against Malaria

Now We Can

The Path to Malaria Elimination

Register for Free

<https://events.humanitix.com/now-we-can-2026>

Friday 30th October 2026
10:00am - 2:00pm
Online & In-person

Alfred Innovation & Education Hub, Lecture Theatre
Melbourne VIC, Australia

Australian Rotarians Against Malaria (ARAM) is proud to join forces with the Australian Centre of Research Excellence in Malaria Elimination (ACREME) and the Malaria Synergy Program (MSP) for a special collaborative event exploring the path to malaria elimination.

ACREME Burnet Australian Rotary Districts RAWCS

"Whether you know a lot or a little about malaria, there will be something for everyone."

Register free on Humanitix

Read the full story

Be a friend, tell a friend: free breast screens at Waratah this October

BreastScreen NSW Hunter New England

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a timely reminder to prioritise your health and book a potentially life-saving breast screen.

BreastScreen NSW's Waratah clinic offers free mammograms for women aged 40 and over, with appointments available throughout October. A breast screen can find breast cancer early, before it can be seen or felt, when treatment is most effective.

- Takes around 20 minutes
- No doctor's referral required
- Free for women 40 and over
- Group bookings are available

Where: NBN Telethon Mater Institute, corner Edith and Platt Streets, Waratah NSW 2298

Book: call 13 20 50 or visit breastscreen.nsw.gov.au

BreastScreen NSW asks Rotarians to be a friend and tell a friend this month, and encourage the women in our community to make their health a priority.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Be a friend. Tell a friend.

Share why breast screening matters.
Early detection saves lives

13 20 50
breastscreen.nsw.gov.au



[Book at breastscreen.nsw.gov.au](https://breastscreen.nsw.gov.au)

[Call 13 20 50](tel:132050)

[Read the full story](#)

CESSNOCK ROTARY

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A wonderful day out

AT A PRICE THAT
WON'T BREAK THE BANK!

Enjoy delicious food,
great company and all the
Cup Day excitement.
Watch the race live on the TV,
have a flutter in the sweeps
and go in the running for
the prize for Best Dressed!

\$57
PER PERSON

INCLUDES LUNCH
AND A WELCOME
DRINK ON ARRIVAL



PRIZE FOR
Best Dressed



SWEEPS
Take a chance!



WATCH THE RACE
On the TV



12PM – 3:30PM



TUESDAY
3RD NOVEMBER

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO PURCHASE TICKETS



FUNDS RAISED FOR



The Rotary Foundation

GREAT FOOD • GREAT COMPANY • GREAT DAY OUT

See you at the Cup!





"a true dream team... dazzling... fasten your seatbelts and hold on" - Limelight Magazine

ANCIENT LETTERS: Elena Kats-Chernin & Tamara-Anna Cislowska in Concert

Maitland

Maitland Town Hall
263 High St

**5 PM
Sunday
25 October**

LOCAL PARTNER: **Rotary**
COMBINED ROTARY CLUBS
OF MAITLAND

IN SUPPORT
OF:



MUSIC IN
THE REGIONS
PRINCIPAL
SPONSOR



PROUDLY
SUPPORTED
BY:



Four hands, one piano: Ancient Letters concert for Maitland HealthStays

Composer Elena Kats-Chernin AO and ARIA award-winning pianist Tamara-Anna Cislowska close their Ancient Letters regional tour at Maitland Town Hall, and every ticket supports HealthStays, a project of the Combined Rotary Clubs of Maitland.

Combined Rotary Clubs of Maitland and Music in the Regions

HealthStays is building accommodation at Metford, minutes from Maitland Hospital, for patients travelling in for treatment and for the families and carers who come with them.

Two pianists, one piano, four hands. The pair have played together since 1995 and rebuild each piece live from sketches, so no two concerts are the same. Ancient Letters is nominated for Best Classical Album at the 2026 ARIA Awards, with the winner announced in November.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER, 5PM (DOORS 4.30PM)

Maitland Town Hall, 263 High Street, Maitland
\$35, under 18s free

Book tickets on Humanitix: events.humanitix.com/ancient-letters-elena-kats-chernin-and-tamara-anna-cislowska-maitland

Watch them play: youtube.com/watch?v=TwAwjfOckAY

About HealthStays: maitlandhealthstays.org.au

[Book tickets on Humanitix](#)

[Watch them play](#)

[About HealthStays](#)



Say No To Domestic Violence



Say No to Domestic Violence: Rotary Is Gaining Momentum

Our involvement in this project is building momentum. Your Rotary Community Leaders are coordinating a community BBQ in association with the NSW Police and Bunnings, which will take place on **28 November 2026**. Your Rotary Community Leader is also coordinating your club's involvement in the BBQ. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote Rotary and our ideals, and to Create Lasting Impact in the communities we serve.

I know that many clubs are already planning their own activities in support of this project, and I am hearing of some innovative ideas, including banners on buses, drink coasters in clubs and pubs, and members wearing Rotary shirts and DV bandanas at the BBQ. How creative is your club? How are you showing your club to the public?

To capture all of this effort, I have asked Pam Dean-Jones, our District Community Leader, to put together a dossier on what each club has done, is doing or will do in its community under the banner of Say No to Domestic Violence.

Pam would be delighted to hear from you at pam.deanjones@rotary9660.org.au. Please send her photos and a short report on your club's involvement at any time before Christmas. She will then share a full report on the impact we have made together.

I am confident this work will promote Rotary, help keep the members of our community safe, and show everyone that we do not condone domestic violence in any way.

[Email Pam Dean-Jones](mailto:pam.deanjones@rotary9660.org.au)[Learn about the project](#)

STOP *the* VIOLENCE END *the* SILENCE

SAY NO TO DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE



CREATE LASTING IMPACT





Say No To Domestic Violence



A District 9660 focus for this year and we are working on a plan.

POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

JOIN YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB AT THE BUNNINGS BBQ

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Bunnings need Rotarians to help at:

- Armidale
- Cessnock
- Dubbo
- Glendale
- Kempsey
- Maitland
- Port Macquarie
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Wallsend



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

**CONTACT YOUR
ROTARY
COMMUNITY
LEADER**

Need support? 1800RESPECT

BUNNINGS
warehouse



NSW Police Force

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Who to email

District roles have permanent email addresses that stay the same when office holders change each July. Email the role, not a person's personal address: it reaches whoever holds the role now, and the history stays with the role.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



DISTRICT OFFICE

District Governor:	districtgovernor@rotary9660.org.au
District Secretary:	secretary@rotary9660.org.au
District Treasurer:	treasurer@rotary9660.org.au
Membership:	membership@rotary9660.org.au
Events:	events@rotary9660.org.au
Insurance:	insurance@rotary9660.org.au

COMMUNICATIONS AND IT

Public Image:	publicimage@rotary9660.org.au
Spotlight stories:	districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au
Social media:	socialmedia@rotary9660.org.au
IT help:	support@rotary9660.org.au (guides: button below)

SERVICE

Rotary Foundation:	foundation@rotary9660.org.au
International:	international@rotary9660.org.au
RAWCS:	rawcs@rotary9660.org.au
Community:	community@rotary9660.org.au
Vocation:	vocation@rotary9660.org.au

YOUTH

Youth:	youth@rotary9660.org.au
RYPEN:	rypen@rotary9660.org.au
RYLA:	ryla@rotary9660.org.au
Youth Exchange:	youthexchange@rotary9660.org.au
Youth Protection:	youthprotection@rotary9660.org.au
NYSF:	nysf@rotary9660.org.au
Public Speaking:	publicspeaking@rotary9660.org.au
Science and Engineering Challenge:	sec@rotary9660.org.au

YOUR AREA

Your Rotary Community Leader:	rcl.area1@ to rcl.area10@rotary9660.org.au (use your club's area number)
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IT help guides



ATO not-for-profit self-review return due 31 October

All incorporated clubs in District 9660 must complete the Australian Taxation Office not-for-profit self-review return by 31 October 2026.

This is not optional and it is not a one-off. It is an annual reporting requirement, and a club that fails to lodge may be charged tax for the fiscal year.

WHO LODGES IT

The return must be completed by your club's public officer, and that person needs to be registered with the ATO before they can lodge. Registration is not instant, so check it now rather than in the last week of October.

If your club does not have a public officer, the club secretary is responsible by default.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Confirm who your public officer is, and that they are registered with the ATO.
- Have them log in to Online services for business at onlineservices.ato.gov.au/Business
- Lodge the return before 31 October 2026.
- Tell your board it is done, and record it in the minutes.

Not sure whether this applies to your club? Ask, because a five-minute conversation now is cheaper than a tax bill.

UNSURE ON HOW TO PROCEED?

Contact District Public Officer, PDG Ken Hall

[ATO Online services for business](#)

[Read the full story](#)

GINTASTIC

2026

get together

(Join us for a welcome G&T or mocktail, guided gin tasting, canapes & an opportunity to meet with fellow gin enthusiasts)

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

7:00 - 10:00 PM

@ NEWY DISTILLERY

Unit 13-14 (17 Aluminium Close , Edgeworth)

\$55 pp

Supporting the Nepal Disaster Appeal

TICKETS & INFORMATION HERE



Rotary
Newcastle Sunrise



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2026

Presenting
From Promise to Birth

Featuring the Tamworth Chamber Singers
with a chamber ensemble
and Quirindi High School Choir

Saturday
28th November
2026

7.30 pm

Uniting Church,
Quirindi

**TICKETS ON SALE
FROM 19TH OCTOBER**



Mitre 10 Quirindi



150 tickets only



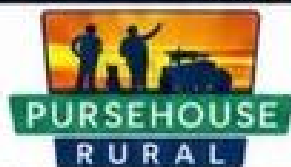
\$25 per person

Tickets also available from
Robert Lewis: 0447 627 695



Supper provided

Proudly sponsored by



From Promise to Birth, *A Baroque Christmas*

A sacred Christmas journey shaped by prophecy, incarnation, and light. Presented by the Tamworth Chamber Singers with a chamber ensemble, together with the Quirindi High School Choir.

This concert offers a programme drawn from Baroque and early Classical traditions.

Shaped in four theological panels, the music tells the Christmas narrative with clarity, restraint, and purpose.

At the heart of the programme are selected movements from *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel, framed by unaccompanied choruses, early motets, and solo arias. Simple congregational carols are woven into the programme as moments of collective response, reflecting the unfolding story rather than interrupting it.

From Advent expectation to the quiet radiance of Christ's birth, this concert presents Christmas as contemplation, proclamation, and sacred drama expressed through music of enduring depth and beauty.



From this edition: Science and Engineering Challenge, RYPEN South, ShelterBox in Nepal

Spotlight belongs to every club in District 9660. Your project, your milestone, your people: send it in and we will help you tell it.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Email districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au with the subject line [Club / Project] - [Article Title]. Send your article in Word or PDF, photos as PNG or JPG, and video as MP4 (two minutes maximum). Each article has up to two A4 pages.

[Send us your story](#)

STAY CONNECTED WITH ROTARY DISTRICT 9660

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[TikTok](#)

rotary9660.org.au

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**