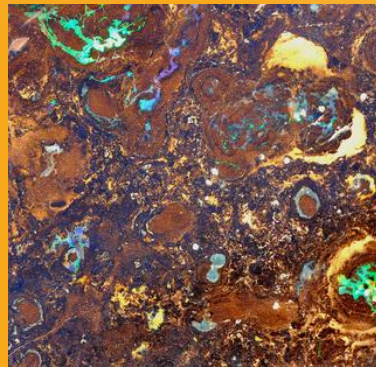




Spotlight

6

23rd September, 2026



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



**Falls prevention
is everyone's
business**





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

CONTENT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

How to make a submission:

1. **EMAIL:** districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au
2. **SUBJECT:** [Club / Project] - [Article Title]
3. **BODY:** Article, links, images, and videos
4. and/or **ATTACHMENTS:** Article, images, and videos



Each article has **two A4** pages of space to make your submission informative and amazing.

We prefer all documents in **PDF** or **Word** format.

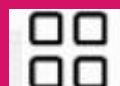
We prefer all video in **MP4** format with a 2 minute maximum length.

We prefer all photos in **PNG** or **JPG** format

Please be mindful of appropriate angles.

How to use Heyzine

To find the Table of contents on Heyzine- in the bottom right corner you will find this:



View all pages



Download PDF copy



Print copy





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

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

District Governor **Di Hall**



District Governor Contact:

districtgovernor@rotary9660.org.au

All other matters:

Di.Hall@rotary9660.org.au

0411 704 654

District Document Library



What is Literacy?

Word reading is fundamental for multiple forms of communication. Beginning in the 1940s, the term literacy has often been used to mean having knowledge or skill in a particular field, such as:

Why So Many Kinds of Literacy?

After a lifetime teaching literacy and many workshops being taught how to do it, I've often wondered why the conversation is so often narrowed to just one area. One staff room story stays with me: a colleague and I, both music teachers, were deep in conversation while making coffee when another staff member walked in. At the end, she said, half-joking, half-serious: "I thought I was a teacher, but I didn't understand a word you two were saying!" We were a bit shocked; to us it was an ordinary conversation. But it reminded me that fluency in one field can sound like a foreign language to someone literate in a different one.

The same idea turned up again at home. A tradie installing our solar battery went to great pains to explain how it worked and what to do if something went wrong. I came away understanding that a green light meant all was well and a red light meant call for help, which was enough literacy for my purposes. Ken, who spent years around electricians in his youth, understood far more. I'm happy being "illiterate" in that particular area, because it isn't one I need to master.

As we live longer and travel more widely, literacy keeps expanding and changing, and sometimes we have to work harder to keep up. The list below isn't a test to pass in full. It's a prompt to notice which kinds of literacy matter most in your own life, and to be comfortable with the ones that don't.

A Different Kind of Literacy: Claude's Strengths and Weaknesses

As part of my developing skills since taking on the DG role, I have been learning to use Claude so I decided to test it! I asked Claude about its own strengths and weaknesses, a fitting question for a piece about literacy and a little honesty check! Claude's response was:

Strengths: language and writing (drafting, summarising, explaining, editing for tone), working through structured or logical problems, holding a lot of context across a long conversation, doing repetitive or tedious tasks without getting tired or careless, and broad general knowledge across many fields, though second-hand, drawn from what has been read rather than lived.

Weaknesses: no lived experience: no staff room, no tradie explaining a solar battery in person, so real stories like these are genuinely valuable rather than something Claude can draw on from memory. Claude can also be confidently wrong, especially on obscure facts or anything after its training cutoff, and it has no real judgement about a person's own life or priorities; it can reflect an idea back thoughtfully, but can't know which kinds of literacy actually matter most for someone else. It tends toward breadth over depth: reasonably informed across many fields, but no match for years of hands-on experience in any one of them.

Rotary's response to Literacy

Basic Education and Literacy is one of Rotary International's seven official areas of focus, and it is worth comparing to the list above.

Where Rotary concentrates: mostly foundational, word-based literacy. Programs include Rotary Readers (members reading one-on-one with students), book donation drives, school infrastructure projects such as clean water for public schools across the world, which keeps children able to attend and learn, and teacher training in phonetic methods. Rotary also runs a dedicated adult literacy programs. Rotary's adult and functional literacy work brushes up against social and financial literacy: an adult who can now read a payslip, a medicine label, or a lease is also gaining ground in health and financial literacy, even though Rotary frames it as basic literacy.

Rotary's literacy focus does not extend, as an organisation, into the newer domains on the checklist above: computer, statistical, ecological, political, or musical literacy, as it reflects Rotary's founding purpose of humanitarian service and community need, addressing the literacy that underpins everything else, rather than the full spread the word has come to cover since the 1940s.

How many programs does this district run to improve literacy in our local communities and in the world? Let's hear your good stories of success. districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au

As a teacher, literacy education will always be needed to adjust to function in the ever-changing world in which we live. Let's Create Lasting Impact.

What are your literacy skills like?

- ❑ **Computer literacy** – Skill in using computers and digital technology
- ❑ **Scientific literacy** – Ability to understand science
- ❑ **Statistical literacy** – Ability to understand and reason with statistics and data
- ❑ **Critical literacy** – Ability to find embedded discrimination in media
- ❑ **Disaster literacy** – Proposed model for the ability to understand and use life-saving information, including the ability to respond and recover from disasters effectively
- ❑ **Ecological literacy** – Ability to understand natural systems and their interactions
- ❑ **Financial literacy** – Ability to make informed choices about money
- ❑ **Health literacy** – Ability to understand healthcare information
- ❑ **Linguistic literacy** – Ability to read, write, understand, and speak any type of language
- ❑ **Media literacy** – Ability to navigate media
- ❑ **Political literacy** – Abilities needed for an effective electorate
- ❑ **Social literacy** – Literacy gained through social interactions
- ❑ **Mathematical literacy, also called numeracy** – Ability to apply numerical concepts
- ❑ **Visual literacy** – Ability to interpret information in images, e.g., body language, pictures, maps, and video
- ❑ **Musical literacy** – Refers to culturally determined systems of knowledge in music and to musical abilities.

Continued...

Learning you can actually get to

On Sunday 20 September, PDG Neville Parsons delivered our Good Governance session, and it was exactly the sort of training our clubs have been asking for. If you missed it, you have not missed out. The recording and the slides are now on our learning portal at <https://help.rotary9660.org.au/training/good-governance/>, along with the rest of the district's recorded sessions, and you can watch them whenever it suits you.

Dates for your diary

BOOK NOW



11 October, Sawtell. Showcase of Projects and Events, plus mandatory training. If you have been waiting for a Showcase near you, this is it. Our Showcases have no borders, so if you would like to travel to Sawtell you are very welcome. We are catering, so we do need firm numbers to be fair to the venue.

Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOJSQ>

BOOK NOW



21 and 22 November, Tamworth. Showcase, training and our District AGM.

Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DQBBX>

3 to 5 October, RYPEN South. Thirty-four young people and their leaders head to camp in a fortnight. To every club that sponsored a participant, thank you.

24 October, World Polio Day. Please mark it in your club calendar now rather than in the week before, and let the Public Image team know what you have planned so we can help you promote it.

BOOK NOW



30 October to 1 November, Zone Conference in Melbourne.

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/rotary-south-pacific-conference-2026-melbourne-australia>

A word about finding us

I wrote last time about how hard we can be to contact from the outside. Our new district website at rotary9660.org.au is live and is a real improvement, and I would ask every club to do one small thing this month: look at your own club's website and Facebook page as if you were a stranger who wanted to join.

Can that person find a meeting time, a place, and a human being to email? If not, fix it this week. It costs nothing and it is the single highest-value hour your club will spend.

We spend a great deal of our time in Rotary helping other people build something. Economic and community development month is a good moment to ask what we are building for ourselves, in our own clubs, for the members who come after us.

Yours in Rotary,
DG Di Hall

NORTHERN NSW DGN

Simone Wong

It is my pleasure to advise that PP Simone Wong of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM in District 9640 has been selected by new Northern NSW District Governor Nominating Committee as nominee for Governor 2028-29.

The club of an unsuccessful candidate may challenge this nomination within 10 days of today September 20th 2026. If no challenge is received, then PP Simone Wong will be declared on October 1st 2026 as District Governor Nominee, to become District Governor Elect on 1 July 2027. Thank you to all candidates and the Selection Committee, chaired by PDG Kalma McLellan.

Simone is a Primary School Teacher for NSW Department of Education and Self-Employed business owner. She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM for nearly 20 years, and in that time has held many positions including Club Service Projects Chair, Club Vice President, Club President, Club Administration Director, Sergeant at Arms, Club Public Image Chair, and Club Youth Ambassador. She has also been involved at District level as District Learning Facilitator, District New Generations Service Exchange Chair, and District New Generations (Youth) Services Chair.

Simone oversaw Learning and Training during COVID times, introducing innovations to ensure District members continued their learning in stressful times. She has been a strong advocate for the role of both Club and District Secretaries, supporting broader learning and involvement in the communication chain.



In addition to a Masters in Primary Education, Simone has professional experience in tertiary performing arts institutions, public and private education and community leadership. Simone's strengths are in structured feedback, workshop facilitation, learning intervention and academic writing. She brings significant experience in supporting diverse cohorts including first-in-family, neurodivergent and regionally disadvantaged learners. She prides herself on her vocal and written communication, her passion for facilitating engagement in learning, and a commitment to evidence informed practice.

She currently shares her time across a number of northern NSW public schools, where she has designed and delivered differentiated literacy and numeracy programs, with over 80% of students achieving at least one year's growth in outcomes.

As a small business co-owner in the hospitality industry, Simone has first-hand experience running restaurants and catering enterprises including overseeing operational management, financial planning and compliance. She also developed internal and external training materials and hiring processes for the business and managed service standards for front and back of house staff.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Michel

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Bill Michel passed away On the 9th September. Bill and Mary reside in the Uniting Care Aged Care Home at Elemore Vale. Bill passed away in his sleep at 5am this morning.

Bill was a wonderful and close friend. He was a dedicated Rotarian, serving our club for many years. He was one of the original Myall Environmental Weekend expedition members who helped with the organization for many years. He participated in two FAIM teams providing service to RAWCS and was leader in many of our Rotary projects.

Bill will be sadly missed. I extend our condolences to Mary, daughter Sonny, David and his two grandsons.

Kind regards

Don Whatham
Secretary Rotary Club of Nelson Bay



Rotary
District 9660



SAWTELL SHOWCASE

11TH OCTOBER,
SAWTELL RSL

A day of inspiration, connection and celebration

Showcase, Training,
Fellowship, & Planning

\$35

This is an opportunity for clubs to showcase the projects you are proud of, create plans for the year ahead, take part in practical training and have real input into the future of Rotary.

It is a day built around the people who do the work, with time to learn from each other, compare what is working and enjoy the fellowship that keeps clubs strong.

RSVP 2 weeks prior

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.trybooking.com/DNXKW>



STAY CONNECTED

with Rotary District 9660



<https://www.instagram.com/rotary9660/>



<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9660>

As we begin the new Rotary year, we are investing in how we tell Rotary's story and celebrate the outstanding work of our clubs, members and communities.

Whether you are a Rotarian, a partner organisation, or a member of the community, these are the best ways to keep up with District news, projects and events, and to see the impact our members are making.



<https://www.tiktok.com/@rotary.d9660>

STAY CONNECTED



with Rotary District 9660

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

Llynda

our talented artist



BOOK NOW!



ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Rotary Research

Did you know that My Rotary offers a library of research reports packed with global and local insights that can help inform your membership, public image, and club engagement initiatives?

These reports draw on feedback from members and participants, providing valuable perspectives on member experience, leadership, programs, grants, public image, and more.

Here are just a few of the reports available on the Rotary Research page:
Global Public Image Research Report: Discover how people in 15 countries perceive Rotary, including their awareness of our work and interest in volunteering, donating, or learning more.

Club Experience: Learn what contributes to enjoyable meetings, confidence in club leadership, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Action Plan: See how Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world understand and apply Rotary's Action Plan.

By applying these insights, you can make more informed decisions, strengthen your initiatives, build credibility with community partners, and create stronger connections with current and prospective members.

Ready to explore more?

You'll find the surveys and reports on My Rotary > Knowledge & Resources > Resources & References > Rotary Research.

Visit the Rotary Research page today and discover data-driven insights to strengthen your strategies, support your decisions, and amplify your impact.

Sincerely,

Lynn Slawsky, Manager of Research and Evaluation
Rotary International

**Click here
to learn
more**



Australians for Women's Health: Nepal 2027



Trip Highlights

- Raising vital funds for A4WH hospital in Dolakha
- Visit Dolakha Hospital and meet Dr Ray Hodgson and his team
- See first hand the invaluable work A4WH are doing for women's health in Nepal
- Trek secluded trails only visited by a handful of trekkers each year
- Enjoy stunning views of Gaurishankar and the Numbur Range
- Explore the unique culture and tradition of Sherpa people
- Fully supported camping based trek
- Enjoy a final dinner at a traditional Nepalese restaurant



Trip Duration	11 days	Trip Code: RHD
Grade	Introductory	
Activities	Trekking	
Summary	5 day trek, 3 nights hotels, 7 nights camping	

Supporting Your Cause

A4WH is an Australian charitable trust founded in 2010 by Dr. Ray Hodgson, a Gynaecologist Obstetrician, with the mission to address the dire state of women's health in Nepal.

The scale of women's reproductive health issues in Nepal is staggering, primarily driven by gender discrimination from early childhood, compounded by limited access to healthcare services. A4WH conducts regular medical and surgical missions to provide treatment to underprivileged women, as well as training for local doctors, nurses, and midwives.

The organisation is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and operates with full financial transparency. It has no religious affiliations.

A4WH focuses on two key areas in Nepal:

Maternal Health: Working to reduce the very high levels of maternal and perinatal mortality. In Nepal, a mother dies every four hours, and a baby dies every 20 minutes—most of these deaths are preventable through simple, effective measures.

Genital Prolapse: Addressing the alarmingly high rates of genital prolapse, a condition that is both physically and emotionally distressing. Prevention and treatment of this widespread issue are essential.

Join us to witness first-hand the life-changing work of Dr. Ray and his team, who are making a vital difference to the lives of women in Nepal.

Your Huma Challenge

Thank you for your interest in our Australians for Women's Health: Nepal 2027 trek. Huma Charity Challenge is a division of the worldwide adventure travel company World Expeditions. When joining a Huma Charity Challenge you embark on a remarkable journey to discover your inner philanthropist as you raise money for a Charity that is important to you. At the same time you take on the challenge of fundraising and partake in an adventure to discover new worlds, new landscapes and new cultures ... perhaps you'll even discover how far your personal boundaries stretch as you take on a physical challenge like a cycling, trekking or a mountaineering adventure. We are passionate about off-the-beaten track travel experiences as they provide travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. Our itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups. Our itineraries provide the very best travel experience, designed by people with vast local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible travel approach at the core.



A DIVISION OF WORLD EXPEDITIONS



Public Speaking Area 7



On Saturday, 19th September, the Rotary Club of Tamworth Sunrise, supported by the Rotary Club of First Light and guided by the dedicated Simon Guest, Chairperson of D9660 Rotary Public Speaking, hosted an inspiring and memorable finals event.

We were privileged to witness four outstanding students showcase their public speaking talents, representing diverse local Rotary clubs and schools.

The finalists were:

Sanza Arzal from McCarthy Catholic College, representing the Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light
Lauren Sharkey from Calrossy Anglican College, representing the Rotary Club of Tamworth West
Eva George from Oxley High School, representing the Rotary Club of Tamworth Sunrise
Calum Frost Guider from Quirindi High School, representing the Rotary Club of Quirindi
Each student delivered a compelling five-minute prepared speech on a personal topic, thoughtfully incorporating the values of the Rotary Four-Way Test. Their confidence and eloquence impressed everyone in attendance.

Adding to the challenge, the finalists were tested with a spontaneous two-minute impromptu speech on the thought-provoking theme of artificial intelligence and whether it impacts what makes us uniquely human. Despite the complexity of this topic, all four students rose to the occasion brilliantly, leaving the audience captivated by their insight and poise.

After careful deliberation, adjudicators Alison Edwards and Lesley Lamb, both respected community members, awarded first place to Calum Frost Guider from Quirindi. We are excited that Callum will represent Area 7 at the District Showcase in Tamworth this coming November 2026, and we wish him every success.

This event also provided a wonderful opportunity for the four participating Rotary clubs to share the unique qualities and achievements they are proud of within their club and community.. Bryan, as our valued community representative, spoke about his role, while District Governor Di Hall inspired us by sharing her personal journey into Rotary and her commitment as the District Governor of District 9660.

Heartfelt thanks to president's Yvette, Gavin, Naomi, and Ray for their unwavering support and to Tamworth Public School for generously allowing us to use their excellent school hall.
Overall, the event was a fantastic showcase of the remarkable talents of our students, the spirit of Rotary,

Ruythe Dufty Rotary Club of Tamworth Sunrise, 2026 Youth Director



BARCELONA!



**Book
Tickets
Here**

There's nothing quite like a Rotary International Convention!

The friendships! The Ideas! The unexpected conversations! The energy of thousands of rotary members from around the world coming together in one place

You know what a rotary convention can be. come experience it again in barcelona

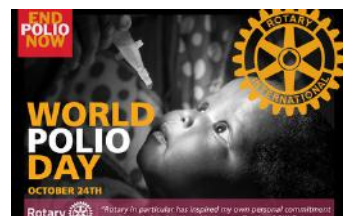
CONVENTION WEBSITE

The Rotary Foundation

Thank you, District 9660, for transferring District Designate Funds to polio eradication efforts in 2025-26. Your support helped Rotary reach our goal and secure the matching funds that translate into US\$150 million toward eradicating polio.

These funds mean that front-line workers can get the vaccine to remote areas, that communities can detect when the virus is present in their wastewater, and that we can help people implement and maintain polio eradication programs in affected regions.

This includes Afghanistan and Pakistan, the only countries that still report cases of wild poliovirus. Thank you, District 9660, for supporting the PolioPlus Fund and bringing us closer to ensuring that no child is threatened by this disease ever again.



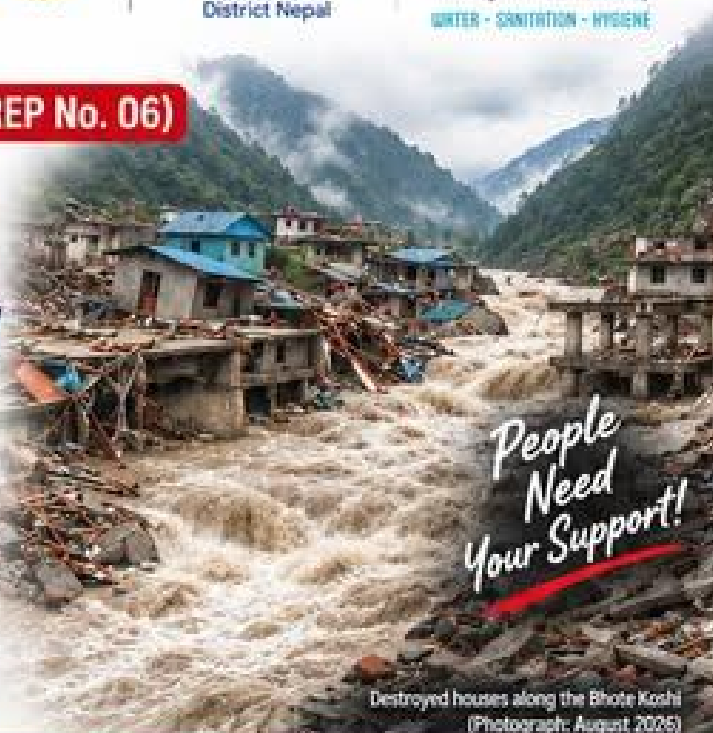
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP No. 06)

BHOTE KOSHI

FLOODS & LANDSLIDES EMERGENCY

REPORTING DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

A catastrophic glacier-triggered flash flood and massive landslides struck the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli River basin on 26 August 2026, causing one of Nepal's worst natural disasters in recent history. Entire settlements, bridges, highways, hydropower projects, tourism infrastructure, and public facilities were destroyed across **Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading** and downstream districts. Search, rescue, relief, and recovery operations continue under the leadership of the Government of Nepal with support from humanitarian partners.



*People
Need
Your Support!*

Destroyed houses along the Bhote Koshi
(Photograph: August 2026)

KEY FIGURES (LATEST AVAILABLE)

	CONFIRMED DEATHS	1,050
	INJURED	219
	MISSING PERSONS	3,916
	TOTAL RESCUED	12,000
	PEOPLE AFFECTED	1.6 million
	FAMILIES DISPLACED	18,320+
	HOUSES DAMAGED	4,689
	SCHOOLS DAMAGED (AFFECTED STUDENTS)	16 (6,901 students)

PRIORITY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Emergency shelter and non-food relief items
- Safe drinking water and household water treatment
- Hygiene kits and menstrual hygiene supplies
- Food assistance and nutrition support
- Emergency medical care and essential medicines
- Psychosocial support for affected families
- Restoration of water supply, sanitation facilities, and community infrastructure
- Rehabilitation of schools and support for affected students

DISASTER AID NEPAL RESPONSE

- ✓ Conducting rapid humanitarian needs assessments.
- ✓ Distributing emergency relief materials to affected families.
- ✓ Providing household water filters and emergency WASH support.
- ✓ Supporting hygiene promotion and menstrual hygiene management.
- ✓ Coordinating with national and international partners to mobilize relief supplies and financial assistance for affected communities.



IMMEDIATE FUNDING APPEAL

Disaster Aid Nepal urgently appeals to governments, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, the WASH Rotary Action Group, humanitarian agencies, foundations, corporations, and individual donors to support life-saving emergency relief and early recovery for families affected by the Bhote Koshi Floods and Landslides.

*Together
for a Stronger
Nepal*



CONTACT

DISASTER AID NEPAL



info@disasteraidnepal.org



www.disasteraidnepal.org

PEOPLE • PARTNERSHIP • RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Nepal Appeal

In October 2025 Lesley & I at the invitation of Dr Ray Hodgson & PDG David Mayne travelled to Nepal for the opening of the Dolakha Women & Children's Hospital, a project that received funding from individuals, such as PDG Maurie Stack and his wife Dee and grant applications led by PDG Debbie Loveday and a lot of hard work.

It was this trip that opened my eyes to the many needs required in Nepal to provide basic essential services we take for granted here in Australia. Many District 9660 clubs have supported projects in Nepal and continue to do so. Projects like; Every Daughter Matters. Partnering with Dhulikhel hospital for better health services. Chulthedada Village chicken farming project to name a few.

Dr Ram Prasad head of Dhulikhel Hospital has already led a team to the disaster area to help with medical support.

Nepalese people are very proud and tipping even in restaurants are politely refused. They essentially make do with what they have and do what they can to get by. So when Rotary District 3292 Nepal – Bhutan District Governor Vishnu Bahadur Karkee (whom we spent time with during our trip to Nepal) reached out for financial support we knew that the situation was dire given their proud history. The devastation as we all have seen will take years to rebuild the communities along the flash flood path in Bhotekoshi.

They need our support now more than ever so please consider making an individual donation or work with your clubs to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Lance Fletcher
Youth Chair District 9660



[Click here to donate to Bhotekoshi disaster relief](#)

[Click here to donate to the RAWCS Project](#)



Nepal Flooding – update as of Friday 4 September

A ShelterBox team is now in Kathmandu, meeting with local Rotary members and other potential partners to understand the impact of the floods and identify priority needs. We are also exploring how we could work together to support both immediate humanitarian needs and early recovery efforts.

Emergency aid such as high-quality thermal blankets, sleeping mats, ropes, tarpaulins or tents are desperately needed.

Please give what you can today. Your donation will help provide emergency shelter and support for families who have lost their homes to the devastating floods in Nepal.

Please accept my sincere thanks if you have recently given. The response from our supporters has been heartwarming.

Mike Greenslade
CEO - ShelterBox Australia

Living Smart Festival – Saturday 19 September 2026

Although some festival goers may have preferred somewhere cooler on what turned out to be a hot September day, many were keen enough to stop by our display and have a chat with our volunteers Sue and Katherine, and to check out some of our aid items.



**CLICK HERE
FOR
SHELTERBOX
WEBSITE**

In minutes, the river took everything.

Nepal needs us now.

HOW ROTARIANS CAN
HELP THE DRR

157

confirmed dead

400+

still unaccounted for

5 districts

under flood alert

50,000+

live in Rasuwa District

Figures as at 27 August 2026. Search and rescue continues and the toll is expected to rise.

Photos: AP/NIRANJAN SHRESTHA



SCAN TO DONATE

Donate now

directory.rawcs.com.au/17-2026-27

- Held by the Rotary Australia Relief Fund (RARF), a RAWCS charity.
- Funds go to Rotary projects and Rotary clubs in Nepal working with affected families and communities.

PP John Roberson

0407 940 014 • johnroberson@bigpond.com

DG Tim Mee

0418 814 856 • dg26-27@Rotary9510.org

Australian
Rotary
Districts



ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (RAWCS)

Rotary
District 9660





Change in location and contacts

Please be advised that we are relocating the RAWCS office from Norwest to Parramatta and our current telephone numbers will be disconnected in the next few weeks.

Listed below are our new numbers:

Toll Free Number:	13000RAWCS
Phone International:	+61 1300 072 927
Direct Numbers for staff:	
Mahir Momand- (CEO):	+61 284 567 070
Pauline Lane- National Operations Manager:	+61 284 567 071
Belinda Griffin- National Operations Manager:	+61 284 567 072
Nish Eve- National Partnerships Officer:	+61 284 567 073
Elaine Lew- National Finance Controller:	+61 284 567 074

**The new location of the RAWCS Office is:
Suite 203, Level 2, 87 Marsden Street, Parramatta, NSW
2150 Australia**

CESSNOCK ROTARY



MELBOURNE *Cup* EVENT



AT THE RAILWAY HOTEL,
CESSNOCK



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!



Thanks to Rotary leaders, members, donors, and supporters worldwide, The Rotary Foundation continues to advance Rotary's mission and create lasting change in communities both locally and globally. We are pleased to share that together, we raised more than US\$477 million (unaudited) in gifts and commitments during 2025-26.

These gifts empower Rotary members to carry out sustainable projects that improve people's health, expand access to education, protect the environment, alleviate poverty, and promote peace around the globe.

Thanks to the collective efforts of Rotary members, leaders, and supporters, our Foundation was able to:

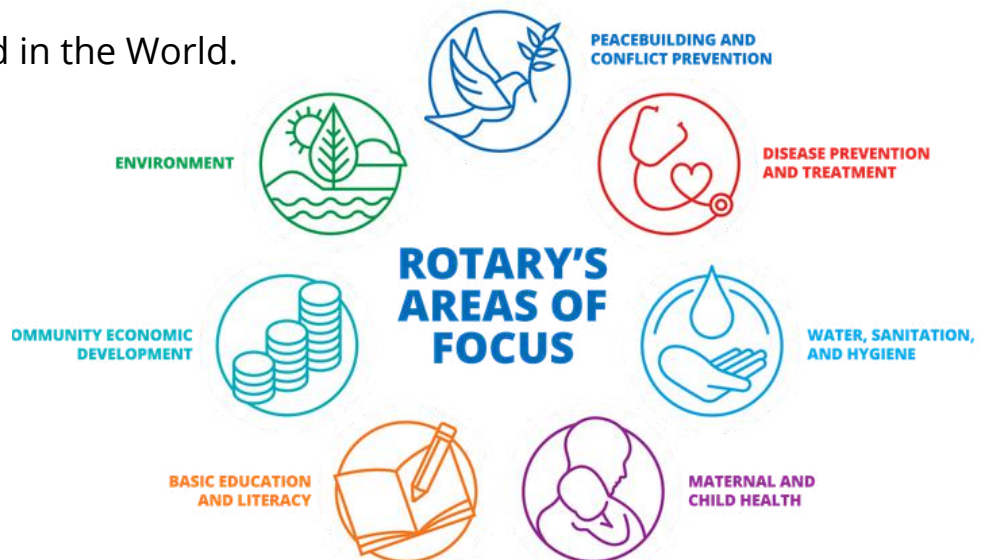
- Award 1,804 global grants, 463 district grants, and 61 disaster response grants in 2025-26
- Work with our partners to vaccinate more than 350 million children in 28 countries during 2025
- Open our newest Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University in India
- These achievements are possible because of people like you who champion Rotary's mission through leadership, service, advocacy, and generosity.

Regional and district-level fundraising reports will be shared soon, and audited financial results will follow in the coming months. Thank you for all you do to support our Foundation and help Rotary create opportunities, strengthen communities, and advance lasting change.

Together, we are Doing Good in the World.

Sincerely,

Holger Knaack
2025-26 Trustee Chair
The Rotary Foundation



Rotary International Exchange Rates

RI September 2026 Exchange rate (USD=1.00)	USD
AUD	1.40
NZD	1.69
PHB	62.00

Below are the mileage rates for FY27. These are fixed for the whole financial year.

Motor Vehicle Rates

Australia	0.91 AUD/KM
New Zealand	1.20 NZD/KM
Phillipines	24.1 PHD/KM

Historical Exchange rates

[Click here for Exchange rates](#)

[Click here for Vehicle rates](#)



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



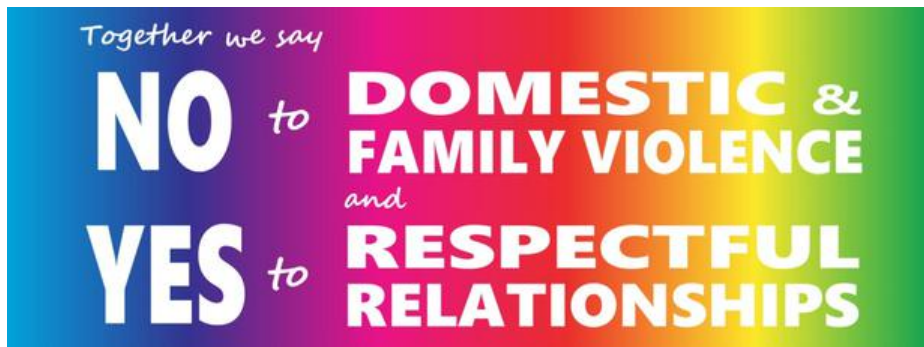
STOP *the* VIOLENCE END *the* SILENCE

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**

BUNNINGS
warehouse



NSW Police Force

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



**ROTARY CLUB
OF NARRABRI**
District 9660

Newsletter 16 September 2026

Serving the
community
since 1946



Vice President Di Ainsworth (centre) gave a presentation last week talking about the 2026 NZ Friendship Exchange



Rotary Friendship Exchange



The group enjoyed a fabulous trip – pictured here departing Morrinsville



The historic Rangiriri Pā site, famous for major conflict during the Waikato War, the Battle of Rangiriri, 1863

Connecting Across the Tasman

Vice President Di Ainsworth gave a presentation last week talking about this year's Friendship Exchange which took place in New Zealand from 16 February–3 March 2026. D9930 is situated in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand. Adorned with mountains and ski fields, long white beaches and abundant lakes, it has been a popular destination for Australians for many years.

Narrabri Rotarian John Ridley and his wife Sheryl took part in the trip with Di. They were joined by Rod and Bronwyn MacKenzie (Rotary Club of Woolgoolga), and Bev and Daryl Bartlett (Rotary Club of Wauchope). The group enjoyed the camaraderie of their New Zealand fellow Rotarian hosts with some absolutely fascinating sightseeing destinations.

With Bev Bartlett nominated as group leader, and Sheryl Ridley nominated as treasurer, John and Di took part in presentations and banner exchanges on behalf of the Narrabri club when visiting club dinners and events throughout the tour.

There are 46 clubs from Waipukarau in the south to Huntly in the north with over 1175 members. Boasting Rotorua, Waitomo Caves and Napier, the Art Deco Capital of the World, New Zealand's horticulture includes apples, wine, avocados and kiwi fruit, and in addition hosts the largest dairy producing area in the Southern Hemisphere, in the Waikato Region.

The group was hosted by and attended five Rotary Clubs, Waikato Sunrise, Havelock North, Lake Taupo, Pāpāmoa and Morrinsville, with all the clubs showcasing various and modernised ways of conducting their weekly meetings.

Di announced that our NZ return visitors will be here on 23/24/25 April 2027. This includes ANZAC day – so they will be here for our ANZAC dinner and will march with us – a prospect we are greatly looking forward to. Narrabri hosts will be organised once we have a clear idea of numbers attending. Thank you Di for a great presentation!



John and Sheryl Ridley, Daryl & Bev Bartlett, Di Ainsworth, Rod & Bronwyn MacKenzie

Join us in Mudgee!

2027 ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 CONFERENCE

Friday, 12 March - Sunday, 14 March 2027

PARKLANDS RESORT, MUDGEE

— Conference Highlights —



FRIDAY— CONNECT

Reconnect with fellow Rotarians and friends.



SATURDAY – COLLABORATE

A full day of ideas, learning and shared experiences.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON – COUNTRY FAIR

Enjoy local artisans, food and wine in a relaxed country setting.



EVENING BUSH DANCE

Prizes for the best decorated table, plus a Boot Decorating Competition.



SUNDAY – CELEBRATE

Celebrate Rotary, friendships and the year ahead.

— Join Us —



DISTRICT 9685 GOVERNOR
MICHELE ELLERY
AND HUSBAND DAVID

Book Now



TICKETS AND PRICING

Early Bird Conference - \$345
Available until 30 September 2026

Full Conference - \$395
Available until 28 February 2027

For accommodation options and special deals, visit the conference website:
rotarydistrict9685.org.au/page/conference





Guidance from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian on what is expected of any community group running a youth activity.

Youth protection has become, and is, everyone's responsibility. Policies and procedures for caring for our young people are being legally strengthened, so RI Clubs must stay informed to react appropriately.

Dot points gleaned from a recent discussion conducted with the Child Safe Team, OCG, 2.00PM, 3.9.2026, that are applicable for community service groups conducting / participating in youth programs

- 1.**An expectation is held of all adult participants to be holding current WWCC
- 2.**Possible risks have been analysed & preventative steps / procedures have been applied prior to activity by the organiser(s)
- 3.** Participants' Code of Conduct stipulated / signed / spoken
- 4.**Event needs to be thoroughly prepared / organised, prior to publicity and recruitment of participants
- 5.**Commencing an activity with a Safety Talk of appropriate behavioural action required / location of the Assembly area should an emergency arise
- 6.**School staff manage student behaviour (if it is a school -related activity conducted in school time) on the day + appropriate permission notes / travel arrangements / costings / refreshments associated with the activity
- 7.**The facilitating RI Club needs to apply its Youth Protection Policy / Procedures + Insurance to the activity, as it is "the boss" in hosting the youth activity / establishing the safety perimeters of the activity; thereby compelling the other participants to follow the rules of the site as set.
- 8.**In the event of incidents occurring, it is a legal requirement to report an incident / disclosure to the hosting RI Club immediately enabling the appropriate management procedures to unfold for that young person(s) as per Policy / Risk Management plan and / or law.

Tax Requirements for Incorporated Clubs



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. A five minute conversation now is cheaper than a tax bill.

Unsure on how to proceed?

Contact District Public Officer, PDG Ken Hall



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID®

For Anyone. For Everyone.®

Rotary District 9660 is hosting an accredited Mental Health First Aid course in Tamworth over the weekend of Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September 2026.

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to recognise when someone may be developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis, how to start the conversation, and how to guide them towards professional help and other supports. It is practical, evidence-based training, in the same way physical first aid prepares you to help until an ambulance arrives.

Participants who complete the course receive a certificate from Mental Health First Aid Australia.

Why we are running it

This training is strongly recommended for anyone who leads or supervises young people. Our leaders are regularly the first adult a young person opens up to, and this course gives them the confidence and the language to respond well. It is equally valuable for Rotarians and Rotaractors in any role, in their clubs, workplaces and communities.

Please note the course covers suicide, self-harm and trauma. Consider whether the timing is right for you before booking.

Date

Saturday 26 September 2026 10:00 AM - Sunday 27 September 2026 3:00 PM (UTC+10)

Cost

\$50

Location

Tamworth

DISTRICT TREASURER

Now that we have launched the Microsoft emails for District, I will no longer be using this email (or monitoring in coming weeks).

Please use

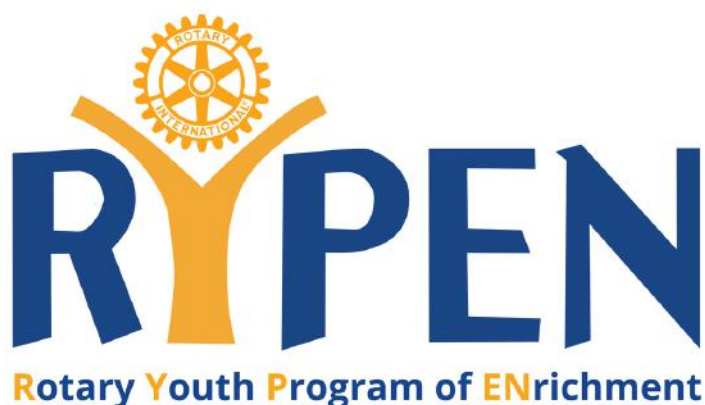
treasurer@rotary9660.org.au

for all future correspondence.

Many Thanks,

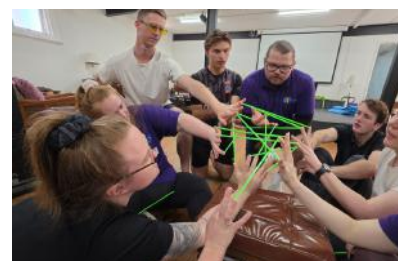
Simon Keough

District 9660 Treasurer 2026-27



Last weekend, our RYPEN South leaders gathered for training ahead of camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens, from 3 to 5 October. They are now ready to guide the young people attending through three days of challenge, growth and discovery.

We are also so proud of Cessnock High School's new leadership team for 2027. Many have been part of the school's Interact club and taken up leadership opportunities after attending RYPEN.



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

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



Today we are launching Memory Makers, a national Rotarian-led fundraising and awareness campaign supporting the fight against Alzheimer's and the millions of individuals, caregivers and families affected by dementia.

Memory Makers runs from September 11 through October 10 — World Mental Health Day and benefits the Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group and Music Mends Minds. Over the next 30 days, we hope to engage Rotary clubs across the country around one simple message: 30 Days. One Mission. Memories Matter.

Clubs and Rotarians can participate by creating or joining fundraising teams, supporting participants, sharing personal stories, or simply helping us spread awareness throughout their communities.

We have provided promotional material that Rotarians can download and share the event with others: <https://adrag.org/mm-promos>

One of the ideas at the heart of the campaign is:
Who are you a Memory Maker for?

It gives every Rotarian an opportunity to connect this campaign to the people and experiences that make the fight against Alzheimer's and dementia personal. The campaign will culminate on October 10 with our live Memory Makers finale, including recognition, trivia, prizes and a final celebration of the impact created during the month.

If you are willing, we ask that you please forward this opportunity to your club presidents, district communications team and others who can help us reach Rotarians throughout your district.

Campaign information and participation: adrag.org/memory-makers
Thank you for helping ADRAG expand Rotary's role in fighting Alzheimer's.

Chris Nakea

Vice Chair & Public Image Officer
public.image@ADRAG.org
<https://ADRAG.org>
Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group

The Rotary World Is Always Open!

John Boag joined Rotary almost 46 years ago, and he's still going strong as an active member of our E-Club, District 9660. In that time he has built an extraordinary record of service: Past District Governor (1991-92), Rotary International Director, and RI President's Representative at ten District Conferences around the world. We're proud to call him one of our own.



Among John's most treasured memories is his time on a District Group Study Exchange (GSE) team that travelled to the United States, the very trip on which he met his wife, Diana.

More recently, John set himself a new project: piecing together the history of the GSE program, which no longer runs today. He has tracked down past GSE alumni, reached out to the Past District Governors who sent teams overseas, and contacted participants for their recollections. Hundreds of emails later, the story is gradually taking shape.

This week, John shared an update that shows just how far his detective work has reached:

"As part of my research for GSE teams that this district has sent out, someone told me that in 1968(!) we had a team go to District 771 in North Carolina. Nothing more. So, I emailed the current governor in that district (now 7710) and asked for their help. Last night I got an email from Ken Morgan, a resident of that district, who was a district governor a year after me, a training leader with me in 1998-2000, and a director of RI in 2004-06, who will make some enquiries for me. WOW!!!"

If you have any memories or records of a GSE experience to share, John would love to hear from you at jbboag@gmail.com.

Thank you, John, for working so hard to rebuild the history of this remarkable program and preserve it for future generations. We now have somewhere to store it forever.

If any member has history stored on their personal computer, please send it in so that it can be retained for future reference on our new website.



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



RYLA

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Connect



Learn



Grow



Inspire



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.

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.

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

DORRIGO 2026

LIFT THE LID WALK

PHYSICAL HEALTH
FOR
MENTAL HEALTH



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

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.



JOIN US TODAY!

NEPAL 2027

FOR ALL ABILITIES

- 11 days
- Introductory Trekking
- Raising vital funds for A4WH hospital in Dolakha
- Meet Dr Ray Hodgson and his team

MORE INFO



1300 792 501

HUMACHARITYCHALLENGE.COM

