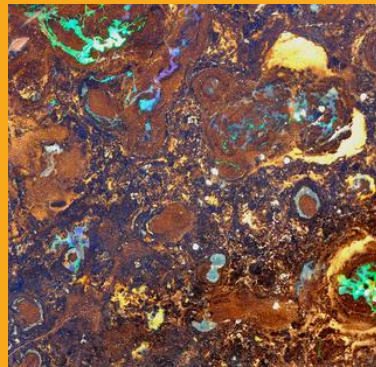




Spotlight

1
1 July, 2026



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Falls prevention
is everyone's
business





Michelle Nicholas
(Newsletter Editor)



Adam Nicholas
(Newsletter Editor)



Tahini 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 Hezyine- in the bottom right corner you will find this:

[View all pages](#)

Download PDF copy



Print copy





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'Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time.' -Paul Harris

***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

Welcome to the Spotlight!

As you all know, I have been a music teacher all my life, training many students through stage performance and production skills. Reflecting on that wonderful experience, and looking forward to my year leading a talented group of committed Rotarians (just more experienced kids, really!), I realised that the common element in this journey is the Spotlight!

The Spotlight is an honest element of any production, it reveals everything, live, and on stage. So, following on from PDG Evan's experiences in drama, film and video, that thrust him into the spotlight, I decided that this year we would direct the spotlight at Rotary in District 9660. We'll reveal it all here, with this publication appearing every fortnight to keep all our members up to date with what our amazing organisation is doing to create Yinka's message of Create Lasting Impact.

What a fabulous weekend! It was huge, exciting, reflective, and focused our thoughts on the future. As I said in my speech on Saturday night: "Rotary offers incredible and unexpected opportunities, and no matter our experience within the organisation, there is a job for everyone."

Let's seek out those opportunities! If you have 5 minutes, we'll take it. If you have longer, that's even better. You decide, but Rotary will benefit.

Thank you to everyone who travelled to Tamworth for the Changeover. Evan and I really appreciated your effort and enjoyed your company. Thank you also to PDG Neville Parsons, who was MC for the night and, more importantly, played a huge role behind the scenes to help prepare an unforgettable evening for both Evan and me. He is a polished performer and an amazing Rotarian.

I hope you enjoyed Rob McDougall's song brackets, accompanied by Todd Power. Both of these guys (I can't call them men, they're still my kids!) are professional performers from country NSW. They could perform, and have performed, across the world, yet they give so much to Rotary and to the younger generation. They are our future!

Change needs Communication and Trust

The buzzword of the moment is Change! Rotary is changing. I believe that for this to be effective, it requires these two elements: Trust and Communication.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Continued...

Communication is the easy part! The Spotlight will be **published every two weeks**, and through this medium we'll share information with everyone and keep you up to date with events.

Please do us a favour and make sure you read it!

Trust, is less tangible. You have placed your trust in the G Train, and I can assure you, this is a train! We have worked together throughout our journey, and that will continue.

We are the conduit between Rotary and our members, and we take that responsibility very seriously.

I have also put together a team of Rotarians who have accepted responsibility

to ensure that your interests, events and operations are well supported. A phone call or an email to any one of us will get a response.

Let's work through this period of change, accept the challenges, and make it work for us and for the organisation we all support.

There is lots of information in the pages that follow. You might be surprised when you see the work which has already been done in preparation for the new Rotary year.

I look forward to continuing your support.

This feels a little strange, but I will sign off....

DG Di Hall

Showcase Raymond Terrace

22 -23

August 2026





DISTRICT CHANGEOVER DINNER 2026 - 2027



PUBLIC IMAGE TIPS

Happy New Rotary Year from the incoming Public Image Committee!

This year we're here to help every club tell their stories, lift their profile, and make 2026-27 our most visible year yet. A sincere thank you to Nicole Shanks and the outgoing PI team, and to PDG Evan Burrell for his service as District Governor.

What's on for 2026-27

- **District Newsletter:** fortnightly via Heyzine from July, landing on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.
- **Social media:** coordinated district presence plus practical help for clubs.
- **M365 and IT support:** tools, accounts, and training for clubs and committees.
- **PI support:** Canva templates, branding, storytelling, and photography.
- **In-person training:** we'll come to you. Just get in touch.

Three things we're asking from every club

1. Confirm your PI Officer and update DACdb (email support@rotary9660.org.au if you're struggling!).
2. Send us your website and Facebook links, as well as subscribe publicimage@rotary9660.org.au to your mailing lists, so we can amplify what you're doing.

ROTARY BRAND CENTRE



Everything your club needs to look the part is at

brandcenter.rotary.org.

Official logos, templates, photography, and brand guidelines, all free.

Stop guessing what's current and go straight to the source.

YOU'RE READING THE DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the first edition of the District 9660 Newsletter, now delivered as an interactive flipbook via Heyzine. Same district news, better experience.

From August, the Spotlight lands fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

If your club has a story worth sharing, we want to hear it.

Head back to PAGE 2 for details on how to submit your articles!

HAVE YOUR SAY: PUBLIC IMAGE SURVEY

A big thank you to the 63 Rotarians who completed the District 9660 Public Image Survey. Your feedback has directly shaped our priorities for the year ahead.

If your club hasn't had a chance yet, the survey is still open. The more clubs we hear from, the better the picture we can build for the whole district.

[CLICK HERE TO FILL SURVEY](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



DISTRICT TRAINING RESOURCES

We are excited to introduce a centralised home for all district training materials on SharePoint. Every committee and program area now has a dedicated folder where training resources, guides, and session materials will be stored and kept up to date throughout the Rotary year.

This is where you will find recordings, slides, and handouts from recent district webinars, all in one place.

The training library is open to anyone. You do not need a district Microsoft 365 account or any special login to access it. Simply click the link below to browse and download resources.

If your committee has resources that would benefit others, this is the place to put them.

Training Resources:

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)



DISTRICT I.T. HELP PORTAL



We are also launching the district help portal, a dedicated website with step-by-step guides for all the digital tools available to you as a district member.

The portal covers SharePoint, Microsoft Teams, Outlook, OneDrive, DACdb, and Canva, with guides written specifically for our district.

Whether you need to join a Teams meeting, find documents on your committee's SharePoint site, update your details in DACdb, or access Canva for Nonprofits for club marketing, there is a guide ready for you.

Member of the district team and new to the district's Microsoft 365 setup? The Getting Started section walks you through signing in, setting up multi-factor authentication, and changing your password.

<https://help.rotary9660.org.au>

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)





70 YEARS OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF

WEST TAMWORTH ROTARY'S DIAMOND MILESTONE

What does seven decades of community service look like? I had the honour of representing our district at the West Tamworth Rotary Club's 70th anniversary celebration and changeover dinner, and the answer was on full display.

The evening's centrepiece was a cake-cutting ceremony that perfectly captured the spirit of the occasion. Four distinguished gentlemen gathered to mark the milestone, among them having accumulated more than 250 years of Rotary service.

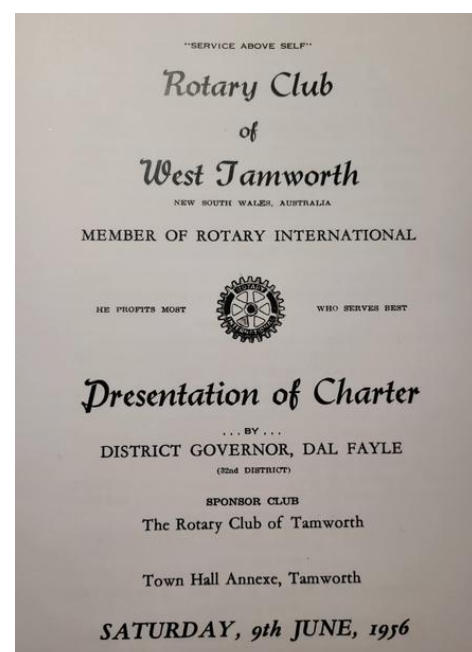
Leading the group was Past District Governor Bill Forrest, a man who at 98 years young, has spent 64 of them living the Rotary ideal.

His presence alone was a reminder of what a life devoted to Service Above Self truly looks like.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mark Coulton, recently retired Member for Parkes and now a proud Tamworth resident. Mark spoke warmly and candidly about the profound influence Rotary had on his life, taking him to places and opportunities he never could have anticipated. As a young man, he was selected by West Tamworth Rotary to participate in a Group Study Exchange to Florida, USA. He described the selection process as rigorous, demanding, and stretching across many weeks, as the hardest experience of his life. Yet, with the perspective of years, he now counts it among the best.

Mark spoke with warmth, humility, and real insight. I have no hesitation in recommending him as a guest speaker with the resilience, skills, and confidence for any club looking for an inspiring and genuinely memorable evening.

Which is precisely why his speech also carried a note of sadness. The Group Study Exchange program no longer exists. That kind of life-changing opportunity, once freely offered to emerging leaders across our communities, is simply no longer available and that is a genuine loss.



DISTRICT CALENDAR

26 Jul 2026	RCL Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
9 Aug 2026	Operations Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
15 Aug 2026	Finance Committee Meeting	Teams 5:00 pm
22–23 August 2026	Showcase Mandatory Training / Showcase of Projects & Event	Raymond Terrace
25–27 August 2026	Science & Engineering Challenge NSW State Final	
29 Aug 2026	Showcase Mandatory Training / Showcase of Projects & Event	Armidale
30 Aug 2026	Board Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
7–19 September 2026	Friendship Exchange	Brazil
11–13 September 2026	YEP Outbound Student Briefing	TBA
13-Sep-26	RCL Meeting	Teams 7:00 pm
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

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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
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
30 May 2027	Board Meeting (Combined)	Teams 7:00 pm
12–14 June 2027	RYPEN	Bonny Hills
26–30 June 2027	International Convention	Barcelona
30 Jun 2027	District Changeover	TBC



MAITLAND HEALTHSTAYS

MILESTONES

A project years in the making took a decisive step forward this week when Maitland City Council unanimously approved the Development Application for HealthStays, a \$12 million purpose-built accommodation facility near Maitland Hospital.

The facility, planned for 34 Turton Street, Metford, will provide 37 rooms built over two stages, offering affordable, close-to-hospital accommodation for patients travelling from across the region for treatment, as well as their families and carers. It is modelled after similar facilities already operating in other major regional centres including Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, and Port Macquarie.

At Tuesday night's council meeting, seven councillors spoke in praise of the project, highlighting both its importance to rural and regional people facing some of the most difficult periods of their lives and the dedication of the Rotarians behind it. Council also excused HealthStays from the substantial developer charges typically levied on a project of this scale, and the organisation will be eligible for discounted rates on the property.

HealthStays is a collaboration between the five Rotary Clubs of Maitland, led by Director and Chair Trevor Lynch. A former maths teacher and long-time Rotarian, Lynch was named Maitland's 2025 Citizen of the Year in recognition of his community service, including his tireless work driving the HealthStays project from its inception.

The second milestone followed almost immediately. Contracts are now being exchanged for the purchase of the Metford site, with the \$2.25 million land acquisition



Maitland HealthStays

Proposed new accommodation facility at 34 Turton St, Metford - Stage 1 (20 Rooms) & Stage 2 (16 Rooms)
- Car Park View

already fully funded. Settlement is expected before the end of June 2026, subject to Revenue NSW confirming a transfer duty exemption.

For patients and families from rural and regional communities, a hospital stay in Maitland often means long drives, expensive motels, or sleeping in cars. HealthStays will offer a dignified, affordable alternative just minutes from the care they need.

The unanimous council vote is a strong endorsement of the project's community value. It is rare for every elected representative in the room to speak in favour of a development application, and it reflects the depth of community support HealthStays has built over years of planning and advocacy. With planning approval secured and the land purchase underway, the project now moves into its next phase: finalising the property settlement, progressing detailed design, and continuing the fundraising effort required to deliver the full \$12 million build.

For Rotary across District 9660 and beyond, HealthStays stands as an example of what clubs can achieve when they unite around a clear community need. Five clubs, one vision, and a facility that will make a tangible difference to families at their most vulnerable. For more information, visit www.maitlandHealthStays.org.au or contact admin@maitlandhealthstays.org.au.



MEET THE PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM

Meet the team behind District 9660's public image this year.

You've already met the newsletter team and PI Chair on the previous page, now it's time to introduce you to the rest of the team!

Every club in District 9660 has a story worth telling. A project that changed lives. A member who gives quietly and consistently. A community that's better because Rotary showed up. Our job is to help you tell those stories in a way that reaches people, builds your profile, and makes your community take notice.

We know that time is short, volunteers are stretched, and public image is rarely the loudest priority at a club board meeting. We get it. That's why we're not coming in with a checklist of things you're doing wrong. We're coming in with templates, training, tools, and a team that genuinely wants to see every club succeed.

Whether you need help setting up a Facebook page, creating a flyer in Canva, shooting a better photo at your next event, or producing a video highlight reel, we can help. No question is too basic.

Reach out anytime. We are here for the whole year and we want to hear from you.

Newsletter team: districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au

Public Image team: publicimage@rotary9660.org.au

PI Chair: publicimage.chair@rotary9660.org.au



Cordel Murphy
District I.T. Chair



Li Meng Wong



Jessica Kernahan



Lewis Donaldson



PDG Brian Beesley



Michael Wooler



Adrian Payne



Lewis Donaldson



TECH TIPS

Stuck with Microsoft 365, DACdb, Canva, or another IT issue?
There's now one place to go: help.rotary9660.org.au

Built specifically for District 9660 members, the IT Help Portal has plain-language guides for the Microsoft 365 tools you use for Rotary, written for real people, not IT professionals.

You'll find step-by-step guides covering:

- **Getting Started:** first sign-in, password setup, and MFA on your phone
- **Teams:** joining meetings, chats vs channels, managing notifications
- **Outlook:** your Rotary email, shared inboxes, and phone setup
- **SharePoint:** finding your committee site, uploading and sharing documents
- **OneDrive:** your personal 1 TB cloud storage
- **Calendar:** scheduling meetings and adding Teams links to invites
- **Tools:** PDF signing, compliance register, and online RYVID Forms.
- **FAQ:** answers to the most common questions the IT team receives



The portal links directly to the support form at support.rotary9660.org.au where you can lodge a request with the IT team.

NEW DISTRICT EMAIL ADDRESSES



As part of the District Microsoft 365 rollout, a set of role-based email addresses is now live.

These addresses follow the person currently holding the role, so you can always reach the right desk without needing to know who is in the seat this year. **Please see the following page for the updated list.**

ONLINE MEETINGS JUST GOT EASIER

The district's Zoom meeting service has moved to Microsoft Teams. If your club has been using a district-provided Zoom link, you'll need to request a new Teams link to replace it.

No Microsoft account needed. Anyone can join a Teams meeting from any web browser, on any device, no software required.

To request a meeting link, email meetings@rotary9660.org.au

Please include the meeting title, date and time, expected duration, whether it's a one-off or recurring, and your name and club. The IT team will reply with your link and joining instructions.

If your club already has a district Microsoft 365 account, you can create Teams meetings directly from your own calendar.

New to Teams?

Step-by-step joining instructions are at:

help.rotary9660.org.au/teams/joining-a-meeting.html



DISTRICT LEADERS

Committee	Chair	Email
District Governor	DG Di Hall	districtgovernor@rotary9660.org.au di.hall@rotary9660.org.au
District Governor Elect	DGE Peter Comino	peter.comino@rotary9660.org.au
Immediate Past District Governor	IPDG Evan Burrell	evan.burrell@rotary9660.org.au
District Secretary	Patti Parsons	secretary@rotary9660.org.au
District Treasurer	Simon Keough	treasurer@rotary9660.org.au
District Finance	PDG Neville Parsons	finance.chair@rotary9660.org.au finance@rotary9660.org.au
District Conflict Resolution	David Lavicka	confilctresolution.chair@rotary9660.org.au conflictresolution@rotary9660.org.au
District Insurance	Brett White	insurance@rotary9660.org.au
District Board	DG	board@rotary9660.org.au
District Operations	DGE	operations@rotary9660.org.au
District Services	DGN	services@rotary9660.org.au
Governance	Patrick Healey	governance@rotary9660.org.au
District Rotary Foundation	Brian Morgan	foundation.chair@rotary9660.org.au foundation@rotary9660.org.au
District International	Grace Maano	international.chair@rotary9660.org.au international@rotary9660.org.au
MHERV	Barry Knowles	MHERV@rotary9660.org.au
RAWCS	David Denning	RAWCS.chair@rotary9660.org.au RAWCS@rotary9660.org.au
ROMAC	Harry Parker	ROMAC@rotary9660.org.au
Community	Pam Dean-Jones	community.chair@rotary9660.org.au community@rotary9660.org.au

DISTRICT LEADERS

Committee	Chair	Email
DEI	Sue Morgan	DEI.chair@rotary9660.org.au DEI@rotary9660.org.au
Australian Rotary Health	Betty Kitchener	ARH@rtoary9660.org.au
Learning & Development	Neville Parsons Lindy Hunt Deb Fisher	learning@rotary9660.org.au
Rotary Leadership Institute	Pam Wellham	RLI@rotary9660.org.au
District Public Image	Keiran Rodgers	publicimage.chair@rotary9660.org.au publicimage@rotary9660.org.au
District Newsletter	Adam Nicholas Michelle Nicholas Tahni Triffitt	districtnewsletter@rotary9660.org.au
District IT	Cordel Murphy	support@rotary9660.org.au
DACdb	Bruce Hemmett	support@rotary9660.org.au
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District Public Speaking	Simon Guest	publicspeaking.chair@rotary9660.org.au publicspeaking@rotary9660.org.au
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District Youth Exchange	Diana Christian	youthexchange.chair@rotary9660.org.au youthexchange@rotary9660.org.au
RYLA	Louise Matthews	RYLA.chair@rotary9660.org.au RYLA@rotary9660.org.au
RYPEN	Keiran Rodgers	RYPEN.chair@rotary9660.org.au RYPEN@rotary9660.org.au
NYSF	Di Hall	NYSF.chair@rotary9660.org.au NYSF@rotary9660.org.au



**SOUTH CAMP
2026**

RIPEN

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

A long weekend of team building, connection, and leadership.

Rotary
District 9660



**3rd - 5th
Oct 2026**

**TGABC
Tea
Gardens**



- ✓ Step outside your **comfort zone**
- ✓ Build confidence & **teambuilding** skills
- ✓ **Strengthen** connections and friendships
- ✓ Learn new skills with **hands-on** activities
- ✓ Discover your **leadership potential**
- ✓ Build confidence, resilience & **problem-solving** skills



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

<https://forms.office.com/r/8rFnk6qbGp>

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary



TRIVIA FOR CHARITY

\$40 per person

Max 10 to a table

**WEDNESDAY
22ND JULY
2026**

6:00PM - LATE
Junction Inn Hotel
2 William St, Raymond Terrace
NSW 2324

2 course alternate drop meal included in ticket price

Join us for a Trivia Night filled with challenging questions, a Silent Auction, a Raffle and more fun games.

WIN PRIZES!

To book, visit Junction Inn Website
or talk to one of our friendly staff members

www.junctioninnhotel.com.au

Funds raised will be donated to local community through
Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise

Rotary



Club of
Newcastle Enterprise

Invites you to join us to celebrate

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

In support of

Rotary



**END
POLIO
NOW**

**Friday 31 July 2026, 6 pm for 6:30 pm
Hunter Wetlands Centre
1 Wetlands Place, Shortland, 2307**

\$60 per person

**Roast turkey, Roast pork with crackling, Mixed vegetables
Sticky date pudding, Hot apple crumble
Drinks can be purchased at the venue**

Prizes for best Christmas costume – raffles, music, fun

**RSVP by Tuesday 28 July including dietary limitations to
Howard Bridgman: habrotary@gmail.com or 0425 281 387**

**Payment to RCNE: BSB 650 000 Account 968828109
Reference: your surname followed by RPD**