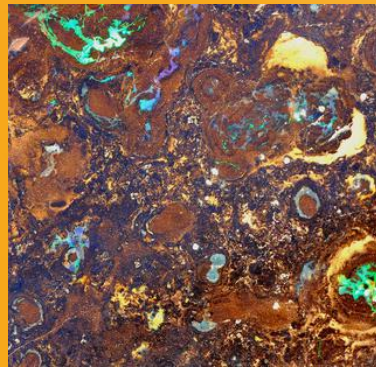




Spotlight

5
9th 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 Hezyine- 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



**NEW
DISTRICT
WEBSITE
LAUNCHED**

Rotary9660.org.au

Note some pages are still a
WIP

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

September Is Literacy Month - Celebrations, Connections and Community

Another busy and exciting couple of weeks! I travelled to the Coffs Harbour City Rotary Club to join with them in celebrating their Changeover, their 40th birthday, and all their achievements over 40 years. It was great to see so many members travel to participate, enjoy the occasion, and renew friendships.

Congratulations to RYLA graduate and now Club President, Rhiannon Beck. We wish her a year of creating lasting impact as she continues her journey through Rotary. PDG Jo Wilkin, one of Rhiannon's former teachers, came along to share in the celebrations and to induct a new member who was also, fittingly, a Coonabarabran original. Teachers do love to acknowledge the success of their students, past and present.

From there, I met up with the Rotarians at Dungog, a small but enthusiastic band of members who are creating their own lasting impact in their

community, while also assisting the communities around them. They show that Rotary Community Groups can be a successful collaboration.

Then came a unique opportunity, joining my DG classmate, Michelle Ellery from District 9685 at the Gloucester Rotary Club for a fireside chat with members from the Taree, MidCoast and Wingham clubs. It was a very pleasant evening, fielding questions about the future of Rotary and the roles Michele and I are playing in the emerging structure, given redistricting and regionalisation.

From Gloucester, we both went to the Science and Engineering Challenge finals at the University of Newcastle. There were hundreds of students of all ages and from all schools testing their skills against challenges in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) which were set up. There were a lot of Rotarians there supervising and recording the results. Thank you to everyone involved in this program over many months.

Literacy Month has begun in a truly memorable way, with the passing of Dolly Parton, who started the Imagination Library to increase children's love of reading. Rotary embraced this program and with their support, children by the age of five have already developed a love of reading and books.



I can remember a Director of the Department of Education stating at a meeting I attended some years ago, that there were "hundreds of illiterate teachers in our schools." I was shocked, until he went on to qualify the statement by adding the word "technology." Then I understood what he meant. As adults, we were introduced to technology by having a computer placed in a room, shared by any number of staff, and being told to use it. Very little, if any, training accompanied that massive step, which was supposed to make our working lives easier. I am still learning to use technology, much of it by trial and error, but Rotary is improving this every day. I don't think any of us realised at the time where that machine would take us!

I want to acknowledge the amazing work of two young Rotarians, Cordel Murphy (Newcastle RC) and Keiran Rodgers (E Club 9660), who have transformed our systems and created a platform that protects every Rotarian in the district, and they haven't stopped yet. As young Rotarians, they understand the privacy issues involved in protecting us all, they can develop processes we can learn to use, and they are willing to teach us how to use it. How lucky are we!

Microsoft 365 for our district is being developed every day, as we create systems where, if we are asked for evidence in a month, a year, or even a decade, we can find it. It is not stored on a private cloud under someone's personal access, where they are the only holder of the username and password. Both of these young men have built a team across all our social media so our district can feel safe and protected. They are improving our computer literacy every day.

I guess we are all literate!! But are we?? I am learning something new every day! Are you? Do you think it's all 'left you behind?' We are never too old to learn! We have provided online learning. An hour here or there and it will be amazing what you will learn.

We are lifelong learners, and literacy is the key. Life gives us all many levels of literacy to address. Choose the starting point which suits you, because there is no finish line while you still grace the planet.

Yours in Rotary



District 9660
Membership Statistics

Rotary Clubs

1 July 2025

1928 members in 90 clubs

1 July 2026

1871 members in 89 clubs

31 August 2026

1889 members in 89 clubs

Rotaract Membership Statistics

1 July 2025

50 members in 4 clubs

1 July 2026

40 members in 3 clubs

31 August 2026

42 members in 3 clubs



Rotary
District 9660



CALL FOR DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2028 - 29

Are you a leader? Do you like to create Change?
Do you like to share ideas? Would you like to
learn new skills? Would you like to create a new
Rotary district?

***** EXCITING TIMES AHEAD! *****

More information



**Make your own
contribution today
and be part of leading
the best humanitarian
organisation.**

**Applications close
14 September 2026**

kalmamclellan@optusnet.com.au

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



APPLICATIONS
CLOSE
18
SEPTEMBER

**SOUTH CAMP
2026**

RYPEN

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>
<https://support.rotary9660.org.au/rypen>

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Dolly Parton PHF

January 19, 1946 – August 25, 2026

Singer, songwriter, actress, and philanthropist — remembered for a lifetime of generosity



Dolly Parton, one of country music's most beloved and enduring performers, died on August 25, 2026, at the age of 80. Across more than six decades in the spotlight, she became known as much for her humanitarian work as for her music. Nowhere is that legacy more visible than in the millions of children around the world, including here in Australia, who grew up receiving a free book in the mail each month because of her.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was the fourth of twelve children raised by Robert Lee Parton Sr. and Avie Lee Parton in a one-room cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains. The family lived in poverty, and her father, unable to read or write, never had the chance to learn. Dolly began writing songs at the age of five and was performing on local radio and television by ten. She married Carl Thomas Dean in 1966, and the couple remained together for nearly 60 years, until his death in 2025.

In 1995, Dolly founded Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in honour of her father, mailing a free, age-appropriate book each month to every enrolled child from birth until they turn five, addressed personally to the child by name. She later spoke about the program's mission at a Rotary International Convention in Montreal, where she announced the initiative to Rotarians and a partnership between Rotary clubs and the Imagination Library began. Together we carried the program to communities around the world. By the time of her death, the Imagination Library had distributed more than 300 million books to children worldwide.

The program is now well established in Australia, and its outcomes here have been striking. Tamworth became the country's first city to offer universal enrolment in 2019, reaching roughly 98 per cent uptake among eligible families. A 2024 study of the Tamworth program by researcher Claire Galea, documented clear benefits for participating families. Tamworth's Country Music artist, Ashleigh Dallas who is a member of Tamworth First Light Rotary Club, played her part in promoting this program.

Dolly Parton often said the Imagination Library was among her proudest achievements. It was a gift to children shaped by the one her own father never received. From a childhood of poverty in the Smoky Mountains to a body of work and a program of giving that reached around the world, she leaves behind a legacy measured not only in awards and record sales, but in the millions of children, in Australia and elsewhere, who grew up a little more excited to read because a book arrived for them, addressed by name, every single month.

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/au/>

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





WWCC Adjustments for NSW Schools 2026

District 9660 Rotary Clubs regularly deliver and support programs on school grounds. Members participating in these programs have previously been required to obtain the appropriate Working with Children Check (WWCC), complete the relevant RYVID forms, and comply with Rotary's Youth Protection Code of Conduct before commencing their involvement. The WWCC (V) has traditionally been available at no cost.

Changes from 1 September 2026

From 1 September 2026, contractors entering NSW school sites must hold a valid, paid NSW Working with Children Check (WWCC) – Employment (E) before entering the school site, where the requirement applies. The current application fee is \$80, payable through Service NSW.

What Clubs Need to Do

Club Presidents and Youth Protection Officers should be aware of these changes and ensure that members, volunteers and contractors involved in Rotary activities on school premises meet the applicable requirements.

Clubs should confirm the WWCC status and eligibility requirements of anyone involved in a school-based Rotary program before the activity commences. This will help minimise compliance issues and potential liability for the Club, its members and the school.

Exemptions

Some people may be exempt from the requirement to hold a WWCC. For example, a student's parent, carer or close relative may be exempt when volunteering in an activity directly related to their child or family member, provided the child is present during the activity.

People under 18 years of age are also not required to hold a WWCC.

Clubs should confirm that any exemption applies to the circumstances before relying upon it.

Incidental Activities

Certain activities are considered incidental activities and may not require the person undertaking them to hold a paid NSW WWCC.

These activities include:

- Utility meter readers.
- Drivers conducting deliveries, pick-ups or skip-bin collections.
- Bus drivers involved in a school-related activity where students are under the supervision of school staff.
- Council inspectors accessing shared external facilities, such as sporting fields.
- Apprentices under 18 years of age.
- Animal catchers.
- These activities generally involve limited or incidental interaction with students and/or access to areas such as the school front office, delivery areas or external facilities.

Action for Rotary Clubs

Club Presidents and Youth Protection Officers should ensure that all members participating in school-based activities understand the new requirements and that the appropriate WWCC, RYVID documentation and Rotary Youth Protection requirements are completed before participation.

Where there is any uncertainty about whether a WWCC is required, Clubs should seek clarification from the relevant school and/or the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian before the activity takes place.

Please contact me if you require additional information lyn.duncan@rotary9660.org.au

Dr Lyn Duncan
Youth Protection Committee Chair, District 9660.



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

The points below are drawn from a discussion with the Child Safe Team at the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, held at 2.00 pm on 3 September 2026. They apply to community service groups conducting or participating in youth programs.

Eight expectations

1. Every adult participant is expected to hold a current WWCC. Established before the activity, not assumed on the day.
2. Risks are analysed and preventative steps applied by the organisers before the activity. The risk assessment is done in advance and it shapes how the activity runs. It is not paperwork produced afterwards for the file.
3. A participants' code of conduct is stipulated, signed and spoken. All three. Signed alone is not enough. It is said out loud, so nobody can later say they did not know.
4. The event is thoroughly prepared and organised before publicity and recruitment of participants. Not while registrations are arriving. Before the first flyer goes out.
5. The activity opens with a safety talk, covering the behaviour required and the location of the assembly area should an emergency arise.
6. Where the activity is school related and conducted in school time, school staff manage student behaviour on the day, alongside the appropriate permission notes, travel arrangements, costings and refreshments associated with the activity.
7. The facilitating Rotary club applies its own Youth Protection Policy, procedures and insurance to the activity. The hosting club is the boss. It hosts the youth activity and establishes the safety perimeters, and that compels the other participants to follow the rules of the site as set. This responsibility sits with the host club and is not shared away to a school, a venue or a partner organisation.
8. Any incident or disclosure must be reported to the hosting Rotary club immediately. This is a legal requirement. Immediate reporting is what allows the appropriate management procedures to unfold for that young person, as set out in the policy, the risk management plan and the law.

The take-away

Communities are facing genuine unpredictability, both in human behaviour and in environmental events. The message is straightforward.

If a Rotary club is preparing, planning or presenting any youth activity, make sure every possible i is dotted and every t is crossed beforehand, and lodged with the Youth Protection Committee and Rotary International insurance.

Do it early. The preparation is what protects the young people in your care. It is also what protects your club and its members if something goes wrong.

If you require additional information, please contact Lyn Duncan.

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

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



Four Global Grants. One enduring commitment.

For Past District Governor Debbie Loveday and the Rotary Club of Wauchope, international service in Nepal is not a one off project. Their latest initiative marks Debbie's fourth Global Grant involving Nepal, and this time Rotary is confronting one of the country's most difficult humanitarian challenges: the trafficking of vulnerable girls.

Nepal's long and porous border with India, combined with poverty, limited economic opportunity and social vulnerability, creates conditions in which women and girls can become targets for traffickers. Victims may be subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude, child labour, forced marriage and other forms of exploitation. Behind those statistics are young lives, and an opportunity for Rotary to intervene.

From rescue to recovery

The Girls Trafficking Control and Rehabilitation Project aims to do far more than rescue girls from trafficking. Its goal is to help prevent trafficking in the first place and, for those already affected, to provide a pathway towards safety, recovery and independence.

The project is working with Aashish Social Service Nepal, a cooperating organisation involved in anti trafficking and rehabilitation work in the Butwal region. Butwal is a major urban centre in western Nepal that sits within a trafficking corridor towards the Indian border. Its location, combined with cross border movement and socioeconomic vulnerability, makes prevention and early intervention particularly important.

The project provides safe accommodation for rescued girls, together with rehabilitation and support. It will directly assist 40 rescued girls, with groups of 20 able to remain in safe accommodation for up to six months before the next group enters the program. The intended impact extends much further.

Six pathways to lasting change



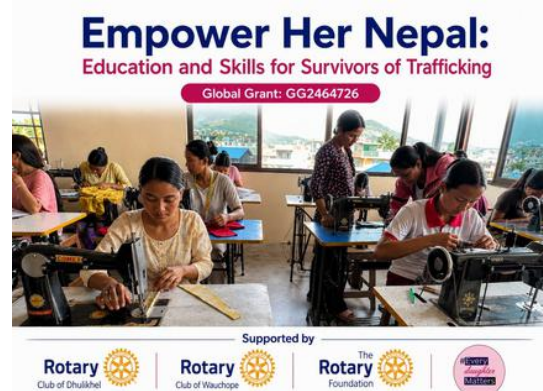
The project has six interconnected objectives:

- Prevent trafficking by addressing risks before girls become victims.
- Protect vulnerable girls at heightened risk of exploitation.
- Rescue and rehabilitate survivors, providing a safe environment in which recovery can begin.
- Support survivors legally and socially as they rebuild their lives.
- Empower women and girls economically, reducing the vulnerability that exposes them to exploitation.
- Educate girls, families and communities about trafficking risks and prevention.

Collaboration with local stakeholders, including Nepalese authorities and community organisations, is central to the approach. The ultimate goal is not simply to rescue a girl from trafficking. It is to help her regain the ability to live safely, independently and with dignity.

What sustained international service looks like
For the Rotary Club of Wauchope, this project shows what can happen when a club builds a long term relationship with a country and its communities.

That continuity matters. Each project builds relationships, local knowledge and trust. And it demonstrates that a regional Australian Rotary club does not need to be large to make an impact thousands of kilometres beyond its own community.



District Grant or Global Grant?

Not every international project needs to become a Global Grant. If the project is modest, short term and can achieve a clear outcome with a relatively small investment, a District Grant may be exactly the right tool.

A Global Grant becomes worth considering when the project is larger, more complex and designed to create sustainable, measurable, longer term change, as the Wauchope project on page one shows. Global Grants have a minimum total financing of USD \$30,000 and require both a committed Host Rotary partner and an International Rotary partner. They must demonstrate a genuine community identified need, alignment with a Rotary Area of Focus, meaningful community participation, sustainability beyond the life of the grant, measurable outcomes, and appropriate project, financial and implementation management.

They are particularly valuable for projects involving substantial training, equipment, systems development or capacity building.

Build the project first

One of the most common traps in grant development is finding funding first and then designing a project around it. Turn that process around.

Community need, then project design, then Rotary partnerships, then sustainability, then measurable impact, then funding.

Thinking global? Start with these questions

Before anyone begins filling in an application, gather your project team around a table and ask:

- What problem has the community identified?
- Who will benefit, and how many people could we realistically reach?
- What exactly will the project change?
- Who are our Host and International Rotary partners?
- What happens when Rotary funding finishes?
- How will we know whether the project has succeeded?
- Who will manage the money, implementation, procurement and reporting?

If those answers are strong, writing the application becomes much easier.

Have an idea? Talk to us early

Clubs considering either a District Grant or a future Global Grant are encouraged to contact:

- District Grant Chair Glenda Briggs, and Supervisor Ken Hall
- District Foundation Chair Brian Morgan
- District International Service Chair Grace Maano

BEYOND OUR Borders

A regular **International Service** update from Rotary District 9660

Dr Grace Maano
District International Service Chair
2026-2027
rotary9660.international@gmail.com

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind and make a difference."
— Rotary International

Rotary
District 9660

ROTARY'S FIVE AVENUES OF SERVICE



Dollar for Dusty



A 12-Year-Old's 500km Mission to Bring Healthcare Home

Introducing little wings

Dusty, 12, from Warren NSW, is walking 500km to Canberra (30 August–14 September) to raise 1 million for Little Wings, a charity providing free flights and transport for seriously ill children in regional NSW, QLD and the ACT to access specialist care at major hospitals.

Dusty's motivation is personal: after his father's car accident, he helped care for his younger brother Angus, who was later diagnosed with Autism, ADHD and a learning disorder through a Little Wings-funded trip to Royal Far West. Getting that diagnosis changed his brother's life, but Dusty knows many regional kids are still waiting, sometimes up to six years, to see a paediatrician.

Little Wings addresses this gap through free medical transport and its Medical Wings program, which flies specialists directly into regional towns for monthly, no-gap-fee clinics a model that's expanded since February 2025 through new community partnerships.

Funds from Dusty's walk will help bring more paediatricians to western NSW. The community is encouraged to donate and share his story, under the message: "No child left behind."

**Sunday 30th August to Monday
14th September**

How can rotarians help?

**SUPPORT THE DOLLAR FOR DUSTY SCHOOL
OVAL 1KM WALK FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE**

**ROTARY CLUBS LOCATED ALONG DUSTY'S
WALKING ROUTE ARE INVITED TO HELP**

**DONATE TO FUND A LITTLE WINGS
FLIGHT, FLYING A PAEDIATRICAN INTO A
REGIONAL TOWN**

FOLLOW AND SHARE DUSTY'S JOURNEY



**ROTARIANS TO SHARE PROPOSAL WITH THEIR
FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIMENT**





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

[Click here to book](#)



Rotary community leader

Stacy Jacobs-Area 2

Stacy has built a lifelong commitment to service that spans education, community organisations, sport, and Rotary.

Professionally, Stacy has worked in youth and community services for more than two decades and is currently a Student Support Officer at Cessnock High School. Drawing on qualifications in Youth Work and Community Services, together with extensive experience across education, disability, corrections, crisis accommodation, and community development, she brings a practical, trauma-informed approach to supporting young people and families.



Within Rotary District 9660 she serves as District Interact Coordinator and contributes to youth leadership, conflict resolution, and inclusion initiatives. She is passionate about expanding opportunities for young people through Rotakids, Interact, RYPEN, public speaking, leadership development, and meaningful community service.

A strong believer that service creates belonging, Stacy has successfully built partnerships between schools, businesses, community organisations, local government, and service clubs. Her work has led to countless youth-led projects supporting local, national, and international communities while developing the next generation of community leaders.

Her contribution has been recognised through numerous awards, including the 2022 NSW Youth Worker of the Year, the City of Maitland Service Award, and nominations for Local Woman of the Year, Australian of the Year, and the Pride of Australia Medal.

As Rotary Community Leader, Stacy is committed to supporting clubs to grow stronger together by fostering collaboration, developing future leaders, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring Rotary remains relevant, welcoming, and impactful across every generation.

Stacy will be working with Cessnock, Cessnock Interact, Dungog, East Maitland, Greater Hunter Rotaract, Greenhills-Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Maitland, Maitland Sunrise, and Paterson Rotary Club

DISTRICT CALENDAR

7-19 September 2026	Friendship Exchange	Brazil
20-sept-26	governance Training	Teams 7-30-8.30
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
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
30 Jun 2027	District Changeover	TBC



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



picture taken from video in the eZline



ShelterBox Book club

The following link is an ABC Central Coast radio interview with Peita Byer from Toukley. Peita is a former ShelterBox Response Team Member (SRT) and is the ShelterBox Australia Head Bookworm for our Book Club. The interview was recorded on Thursday 3 September.

RADIO LINK TO GO IN HERE

ShelterBox Australia Conference and Off The Grid

A fun weekend of learning, sharing ideas, and updating our knowledge, was had recently by volunteers and Board members at the Burleigh Heads Scout Activity Centre on the Gold Coast. Some of us went off the grid for 48 hours, and only using our phones for exercises. We had four ShelterBox tents and a "pup" tent to create our "tent village". ShelterBox thermal blankets and solar lights were very useful for the cold and dark. And a camp always needs to have a campfire!



Tent Village by day & night

A hands on exercise



Camp fire for social down time



The Crew

Contact: Sue Hooper

hoopergs@gmail.com

<https://shelterboxaustralia.org.au/>

2027 Leaders Locked In

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 into the 2027 program focusing on peer-led delivery.

Leaders Leader

Tobi-Lee Clough – RC Tamworth First Light

29th May – 5th June 2027
Yarra Adventure Park, Stuarts Point

Leaders

Rosemary Morison – RC Greenhills-Maitland

Colin Fogarty – RC Tamworth First Light

Lacey Treanor – RC Kempsey West

Rueben Baker-Bennic – RC Tamworth First Light

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATIONS](#)





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/DOJSQ>



Upcoming Webinars



Conflict Resolution

This one-hour webinar will give you practical tools and strategies for navigating conflict constructively, whether it arises at the board table, during a project, or in everyday club life. We'll cover how to have difficult conversations, de-escalate tension, and build a club culture where differences strengthen rather than divide. We'll also explore the unique considerations that come with managing conflict in Rotary's youth programs.

If your club sponsors an Interact club in a local high school, an EarlyAct or RotaKids program in a primary school, or supports other youth initiatives, you have an extra layer of responsibility. We'll discuss how to work through disagreements with school partners, parent concerns, and the additional duty of care that applies when young people are involved.

Whether you're a seasoned president or stepping into the role for the first time, this session will leave you better equipped to lead with confidence and keep your club focused on what matters most: serving your community.

Governance

Good governance is what keeps a club out of trouble and makes its decisions stick. In this session PDG Neville Parsons walks through the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and your club by-laws in plain language: what they oblige your club to do, what they leave to you, and where the two are commonly confused.

PDG Neville Parsons will run us through the responsibilities of the board and each office bearer, how to run a board meeting that produces clear decisions, why the minutes matter more than most clubs think, handling conflicts of interest, and the flexibility clubs already have under Rotary International's rules but rarely use.

Useful for presidents, secretaries and board members, and worth an hour for anyone considering a club role next year.

**CLICK HERE
TO
RSVP
to either**

<https://support.rotary9660.org.au/event-rsvp>



WORLD POLIO DAY



Imagine bringing your community together for an inspiring night at the movies while helping Rotary achieve its number one humanitarian goal – **Eradicating polio.**

This World Polio Month 2026, we're inviting Rotary clubs across Australia to host a Rotary Movie Fundraiser in support of End Polio Now.

This year, we're delighted to partner with **Maslow Entertainment** to offer clubs the opportunity to screen the acclaimed new Australian documentary *Guided by Horses* ahead of, or alongside, its wider cinema release.

GUIDED BY HORSES

21ST SEPTEMBER 2026

Set against the breathtaking outback, *Guided by horses* tells the remarkable story of an aboriginal professor Juli Coffin and the transformative bonds between young indigenous and wild horses. Touching themes of resilience, hope, connection and healing, it is powerful film that will spark meaningful connections long after the credits roll.

Whether you're planning a club social event, community fundraiser or World Polio Celebration. This is a great opportunity to watch a great film and to raise vital funds for End Polio now

How to host a screening:

- Contact your local cinema
- set your own ticket price
- Invite rotary members, Friend, Family and wider community
- Make the event your own
- Register your details with us

World Polio Immunisation

- World Polio Day Visit October 2026
- National Immunisation day March 2027

**CLICK HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

Register your Screening :

Please email: Avenett.bahsin@rotary.org

- Rotary club name
- Cinema name and location
- screening time and date
- booking link and contact details
- Contact details



Polio Weekly Global Update

02 September 2026 | World Health Organization / GPEI

Officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases as of 01 September 2026

Global snapshot: 2026 vs 2025

22

WPV1 cases,
2026 YTD (vs 28 in 2025)

52

2025 full year

145

cVDPV cases,
2026 YTD (vs 134 in 2025)

246

2025 full year

Wild poliovirus (WPV1): 22 cases reported in 2026 as of 1 September 2026, compared with 28 for the same period in 2025 (19 in Afghanistan, 3 in Pakistan). The 2025 full year total was 52 cases.

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV): 145 cases reported in 2026 as of 1 September 2026, compared with 134 for the same period in 2025. The 2025 full year total was 246 cases.

New isolates reported this week

	AFP cases	Environmental samples	Other
New wild poliovirus (WPV1)	0	6	0
New cVDPV	15	0	1

Key takeaways

- Wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases remain below last year's pace, with 22 reported in 2026 to date versus 28 at the same point in 2025, though Pakistan reported six new WPV1-positive environmental samples this week.
- cVDPV cases in 2026 (145) have now overtaken the same period in 2025 (134), driven this week by eight new cVDPV2 cases in DR Congo and South Sudan's first cVDPV2 cases of the year.
- President Déby of Chad was named Regional Champion for Polio Eradication and Immunization in the Lake Chad Basin, and African health ministers adopted a ten-year framework to sustain the continent's polio gains.
- The Polio IHR Emergency Committee's latest statement confirms polio eradication remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, with Temporary Recommendations extended.

High-level polio delegation visits Chad as President Déby is named champion for polio eradication and immunization

A high-level delegation of global polio and immunization partners met with Chadian authorities this week, including President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, to advance political commitment and regional cooperation for polio eradication and immunization in Chad and across the Lake Chad Basin. The visit was marked by the designation of President Déby as Regional Champion for Polio Eradication and Immunization in the Lake Chad Basin, recognising Chad's role in driving collective action to reach every child, including those in border areas and among mobile, displaced and underserved communities.

African Health Ministers adopt framework to safeguard Africa's polio gains

African ministers of health and high-level representatives adopted a ten-year plan to sustain polio eradication efforts by strengthening national health systems, reaffirming commitment to protect decades of investment towards a polio-free continent. The Framework for Polio Transition and Sustainability in the WHO African Region 2026 to 2035 was adopted at the Seventy-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa, 25 to 28 August 2026. [More](#).

SAGE Polio Working Group advocates for increased IPV use in high-risk and outbreak settings

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) Polio Working Group met to take stock of progress toward eradication and examine strategies to accelerate and sustain it, focused on adding a third dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) to routine immunization in high-risk countries, and a second dose of fractional IPV (fIPV) for outbreak response where circulation continues beyond six months despite multiple campaigns. Experience from key outbreak countries suggests the second fIPV dose significantly accelerates the stopping of outbreaks.

Latest IHR Emergency Committee report published

The [latest report](#) by the IHR Emergency Committee on the international spread of poliovirus has been published. The effort to eradicate polio remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), and Temporary Recommendations associated with the PHEIC are extended.

This week's new polioviruses by country

Pakistan	6 WPV1-positive environmental samples (Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). 2026 total: 3 cases. 2025 total: 31 cases.
DR Congo	8 cVDPV2 cases (Haut Lomami, Lualaba). 2026 total: 45 cases. 2025 total: 7 cases.
Mali	1 cVDPV2 case (Tombouctou). 2026 total: 2 cases. 2025 total: 1 case.
Nigeria	2 cVDPV3 cases (Borno, Yobe). 2026 total: 11 cases. 2025 total: 8 cases.
South Sudan	1 cVDPV1 case (Central Equatoria). 2026 total: 10 cases. 3 cVDPV2 cases (Warrap, Jonglei), the first cVDPV2 cases reported from the country this year. 2026 total: 3 cases.

No new cases or positive environmental samples were reported this week for the remaining countries under surveillance (Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Germany, Israel, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Occupied Palestinian territory, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, United Kingdom, Yemen, Zambia).



Shared by PDG Amanda Wendt
End Polio Now Coordinator





Say No To Domestic Violence



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

Say No to Domestic Violence has partnered with the Bunnings, Police, Rotary, your local Council and other associated activities who are promoting this message.

If your club is in one of these areas , please contact your RCL.

Armidale. Cessnock, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Glendale, Maitland, Tamworth, Taree, Wallsend.

Please add 28 November 2026 to your calendar for an all-hands-on-deck for this program. Your Bunnings car park will have all these organisations present, cooking a sausage sizzle and promoting our action for this program. Rotary being seen and being heard.

The aim is that Rotarians would wear their purple DV shirts. NSW Police will wear their uniform, but may wear purple DV aprons. A design for the aprons is being investigated.

Rotary may be able to join the apron brigade.

Your RCL has all the information to date. Start planning with your local police and other groups in your area. A great day to promote Rotary!



STOP *the* VIOLENCE END *the* SILENCE

SAY NO TO DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE



CREATE LASTING IMPACT





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

Rotary Taree Hub MARKET



Not just a market -
it's a little slice of Taree magic 🥰



LOCAL
MAKERS



LOCAL
FOOD



LOCAL
SMILES

Come be part of it ❤️💛

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



Next Market:

SAT 19 SEPT

8AM TO 12:30PM



TAREE SHOWGROUND

24 Muldoon St, Taree NSW



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Rotary
Taree Hub
Working
for our
Community
❤️

SUPPORT
LOCAL
SUPPORT
TAREE
❤️



See you
at the Hub! ❤️



Coffs City

Rotary



COFFS CITY *Rotary* MOTOR SHOW

VINTAGE, CLASSIC & MODERN CARS & BIKES

OF ALL MAKES WELCOME



TROPHIES &
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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

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special appearance from
BATMAN & BATGIRL



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



Rotary

TASTE SENSATIONS

COFFS CITY ROTARY

A taste of the best on the Coast



SUNDAY

20 SEPTEMBER 2026
2:00PM TO 5:30PM



**AANUKA
BEACH HOUSE**

11 FIRMAN DRIVE



TICKETS

\$75 PER PERSON

MEET OUR EXHIBITORS



WINERIES

- VASSE FELIX
- BUNNAMAGOO ESTATE WINES
- TOHU WINES
- TAMBURLAINE ORGANIC WINES
- MERCER WINES
- RICCA TERRA WINES
- PETALUMA WINES



BREWERIES

- GRAFTON BREWING CO
- YULLI'S BREWERY
- BUCKET BREWERY
- COMMON PEOPLE BREWING CO
- KING TIDE BREWING



FOOD

- AANUKA BEACH HOUSE
- RUSSELLS PRIME QUALITY MEATS



DISTILLERIES

- RED MILE RUM DISTILLERY
- EMERALD ISLAND DISTILLERY



GREAT DRINKS
SILENT AUCTION
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Sip, Savour, Support

Enjoy an afternoon of exceptional wines,
craft beers, premium spirits and delicious food
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
HERE



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

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

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Rotary
Districts of Australia



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The health charity Rotary clubs and Rotarians power.

CESSNOCK ROTARY



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A wonderful day out

AT A PRICE THAT
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Enjoy delicious food,
great company and all the
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Watch the race live on the TV,
have a flutter in the sweeps
and go in the running for
the prize for Best Dressed!

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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!





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

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