

Celebrate your members

NOVEMBER 2020



Rotary Opens Opportunities



## THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

Centurion update

RYLA update

Community highlights

## CALENDAR

- November 9 - DG visit to Quirindi
- November 11 - Remembrance Day
- November 12 - DG visit to Moree
- November 16 - DG visit to New England Rotaract
- November 23 - DG visit to Manilla
- November 25 - DG visit to Nambucca Valley
- November 28-29 - District Showcase
- November 30 - DG visit to Sawtell

## MUSINGS FROM THE DG

Hello everyone, its been a fabulous week. I hope you were all successful if you had a punt on the Melbourne Cup. I would like to say how excited I am with the number of new Rotarians being inducted every week. Let's keep Making Membership Memorable! Well done team 9650.

I am hoping to see lots of you at Tamworth Showcase. Have you seen the new Agenda? We have some very exciting presenters on both days. Sunday morning, we are showcasing some of the very special projects that have caught our attention. I am sure you will feel very inspired when you hear about them. Don't forget to register before Wednesday 11th November. Just complete the registration form and return it to District Secretary Patti Parsons. Jump online and send your money EFT to the bank account on the registration form. If you have any problems just get in contact with a member of the District Leadership team and they will help you.

Monday, I travelled out to Wee Waa for the first time since we went on the Rotary bus trip during the drought to support the local community. Wee Waa is a town located on the north-western slopes of the New England region in New South Wales, Australia. The town is within the Narrabri Shire local government area and is on the Namoi River. Wee Waa is 41 kilometres north-west of Narrabri and 571 kilometres northwest of Sydney on the Kamilaroi Highway. I was hosted by President Andrew Greste and Kylie. Wee Waa is a small club with a big heart. Most members are not only Rotarians but contributors on many other community boards and projects. Sometime the lines between Rotarians doing Rotary projects and Rotarians performing "Service Above Self" are very blurred. Like most of us they are busy people and many of them farmers who at this moment in time are working all the hours to get crops in. I really appreciated them taking time out to meet with me. The club have been involved in many Youth projects such as Robotics sponsorship, Science and Engineering Challenge, Mock Interviews, Swimming, drought, mental health support. They are involved in and partner with the local Aboriginal Council in the Art and Cultural Centre that provides classes and an opportunity to sell their work. Andrew is looking at a project to invest in some AED's around town to support a first response to any person suffering a heart attack. One of the conversations I had with the members was in relation to their medical centre. Wee Waa has had issues with securing a permanent doctor and medical people for a very long time. In fact, a dedicated Medical Centre was top of the agenda 20 years ago. The Medical Centre was born out of Rotary and to this day they are still involved. The latest being dedicated doctor housing. They have doctors that come and go on a roster system; therefore, an urgent requirement is somewhere for them to call home for the few weeks they are in Wee Waa. In Rotary we always talk about a Community Needs Assessment to determine what the Community needs as a matter of urgency. Sometimes that urgent need is a doctor, something that us townies take for granted. Well done Wee Waa you are certainly very community focused.

Wednesday, I got to attend a zoom meeting for my own club. The guest speaker was local celebrity Michael Crossland. For those of you not familiar with Michaels story, please read this excerpt from Platinum Speakers on the web. "Michael Crossland is one of Australia's most in-demand inspirational speakers. He is an extraordinary young man who has defied the odds to build a life of exceptional achievements. He is one of life's true heroes.

## E-NEWS CONTACT

If you have something for the E-news please email editor Laura Telford at [laura.telford@rotaract.org.au](mailto:laura.telford@rotaract.org.au) before 5pm on Friday to make sure it will appear in the next edition!



# MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

Despite spending nearly a quarter of his life in hospital, he has forged a highly successful career in the corporate world, represented Australia in his chosen sport and featured regularly across all forms of media. He also runs a school and orphanage in Haiti and has been presented with the Australia Day Ambassador role for 7 consecutive years. The award-winning documentary on his life, by ABC's Australian Story, has been viewed by over 4 million people.

Diagnosed with an aggressive life-threatening cancer before his first birthday, doctors told him school and sport were not options - infection and fatigue were too great a risk. As a boy Michael's only wish was to lead a normal life and be able to do all the things that other 'normal' kids took for granted every day. Michael captures audiences no matter what size and inspires each individual to achieve ongoing positive change in their life. He has an absolute passion and belief in people's ability to change direction, achieve success and become who they truly want to be. Michael is an Australian of the Year finalist, an Australia Day Ambassador for several consecutive years and an international hall of fame inductee. He is also a National Ambassador for Camp Quality, Cancer Council, Australian Cancer Research Foundation, Make a Wish, Little Wings and Hope for Haiti. Yet these are just a few of his many achievements. Film producers have made award-winning documentaries about his life, he was named the Bulldogs secret motivational weapon and he has featured on the front cover of Focus Magazine. He has also featured on a TV show in Fiji, appeared on Fox Sports News, has his own radio show and he runs a school and orphanage in Haiti. Michael inspires many people from all walks of life, with his story and inspiration of believing in yourself and achieving seemingly impossible dreams. Michael has an absolute passion and belief in people's ability to change direction and become who they truly want to be and achieve success. Michael said, 'Success to me is about waking up each and every day knowing in my heart that today I will make a difference in someone else's life. By living this way, we can all make the world a better place'.

Friday night I went to the spectacular opening ceremony of Riverstage in Taree, organised by Maurie Stack, Taree Base and Blues and members of the local Taree Clubs. Just an amazing evening of great music that really showcased the areas talent. The evening raised \$43K on the night with more donations to come. All funds raised will go to the Australians Children's Music Foundation whose founder is Don Spencer OAM. The whole evening was livestreamed by Pluto Entertainment and the nights content can be viewed via their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/plutoinclusiveentertainment/> The evening was headlined by local James Johnson who was an Australian Idol competitor in 2008. Pastor Russel Saunders did the Welcome to Country and was the sculptor of the turpentine poles on the front of the Riverstage, depicting the animals of the land nearby and the fish in the river, including a rare endangered turtle. Great evening for an excellent cause.

Remember...

**Opportunities are like sunrises - If you wait too long you miss them!**

## D9650 SHOWCASE

District Showcase is just around the corner and time is running out to register your attendance! The agenda has been updated and reflects DG Debbie's goal of the district being a dynamic and inclusive place to be! With a focus on engaging current members, gaining new ones and looking at new opportunities Showcase this year is a District event NOT TO MISS! Registrations close on Wednesday due to COVID there will be no late registrations allowed.

Attached to the E-news email you will find the new agenda and registration form! See you in Tamworth!

**ROTARY DISTRICT 9650  
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING & ROTARY SHOWCASE  
28 & 29 November 2020**

Venue: West Tamworth League Club, Phillip Street, West Tamworth  
\$ 50 for afternoon tea & lunch on Saturday and morning tea and lunch on Sunday  
Plus

\$45 for 2 course Dinner Saturday Night  
Total Cost for Showcase & Dinner \$95 per person if paid on-line  
or an additional \$5 if paid by cheque.

**Note: Registrations close 8pm Wednesday 11 November 2020 and because of the Clubs requirements & COVID-19 requirements there can be no later Registrations.**

# CONGRATULATIONS

## DRR LAURA!

D9650 is sending District Rotaract Representative Laura Telford a huge congratulations at being selected as one of only three Rotaractors in Australia to attend the Rotary International Assembly in February. The International Assembly is where all the incoming DG's meet to learn, train and prepare for their year leading their districts! Congratulations Laura!



1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Lake Keepit Sport & Rec.

RYLA Leader 2021  
**Luca Pigott**  
2020 RYLA Sponsor Club – Hastings Rotaract

Luca is a back of house technician at Port Macquarie Glasshouse & also teaches acrobatics at a kids dance studio. He has a love of physics, space & travel & loves snowboarding. He is very keen to travel again, however, until that is possible he will continue his involvement with Hastings Rotaract volunteering & assisting where he can in his community. Since attending RYLA Luca's self confidence has grown & he has learnt to appreciate the skills that he has & what he has to offer. Coming back as a leader in 2021 Luca will continue to develop further skills in leadership & will be a great asset to the Leadership Group.



## Answer the following questions!

Are you a Science nut?

Are you interested in current research in any STEM area?

Are you willing to spend 3 days in January at a University?

**NYSF need Rotarians willing to accompany students during their 'hub visits' between 11 – 15 January 2021.**

The hubs are not yet finalised but they could be anywhere where there is a university

**If you are interested or for more details contact**

**Di Hall 0411704654 or [dihall605@gmail.com](mailto:dihall605@gmail.com)**

## HEART SAVING EQUIPMENT INSTALLED

In 2019, the Rotary Club of Bellingen identified a need for access to defibrillators in the local community. More than 30,000 Australians suffer from sudden cardiac arrest every year of which only 5% survive. Immediate access to a defibrillator can lead to a 70% survival rate if applied within 4 minutes. Within 12 months, the Rotary Club of Bellingen raised a total of \$10,018.50 through a combination of local club fund raising activities, a Rotary Foundation Grant and a \$1000 contribution from Essential Energy through their community support program. In October 2020, four (4) life saving Defibrillator devices were purchased from local Coffs Coast supplier, TachMed Australia and presented to the host businesses and sporting groups for use by the general public. The devices are located at: Bellingen Fitness Gym, RaleighUrunga Pharmacy, Urunga Bellingen Pharmacy, Bellingen Connell Park, Bellingen.

Cardiac arrests are not just restricted to the elderly or high risk groups. A cardiac arrest can occur in children due to drowning or choking, receiving an electric shock, respiratory related medical conditions such as asthma and anaphylaxis, trauma, poison or congenital abnormalities. Using a defibrillator within 4 minutes on a person suffering a cardiac arrest can be the difference between the cardiac arrest victim living or dying. While the Rotary Club of Bellingen hopes the defibrillators will not need to be used, the devices are now strategically placed throughout the shire, providing the very real potential to save lives in years to come.



### DISTRICT CONFERENCE – PORT MACQUARIE

12-14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Following the Ecumenical Church Service on Sunday 14th March 2021, we will be having a Service of Remembrance, acknowledging all Rotarians in District 9650 who have died from 31/3/2018 up till the conference in 2021.

( Note - this is for two years, as we were unable to hold this service earlier this year due to Covid.)

Please send the following –

**the name of your deceased Rotarian,**

**the name of your club.**

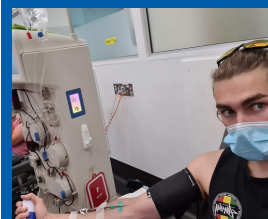
**His/her date of death,**

**PLUS a photo (head-shot) in a jpeg file as an attachment.**

Please send to Kerry Medway (R/C of Port Macquarie)

via email- [kerry@kerrymedway.org](mailto:kerry@kerrymedway.org) ASAP,

so we can start collating a power point for the service. THANKYOU."



## 31 DAYS OF GIVING LIFE

During the month of October Hastings Rotaract hosted our annual blood drive a little differently to the normal. With overall donations down due to the COVID19 Pandemic, we wanted to widen our annual event to occur throughout the month of October right across Australia. We invited Rotaractors, Rotarians and members of the community to donate blood at any of the Australia Red Cross Lifeblood branches and send us a picture as evidence. We have managed to have 10 donations given so far over the course of the month, which is on par with years' past. Every donation saves three lives so thirty lifesaving donations were contributed during this event. We as a club would like to send a huge thank you to all of those who donated blood during this event and look forward to an even bigger event next year!

If you would like to donate blood or find out more, please contact your local Lifeblood Centre or visit

<https://www.donateblood.com.au/>



# CENTURION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Centurion Program was initiated many years ago by the districts in Australia and New Zealand. It's an easy way for Rotarians to support their charity The Rotary Foundation. The program asks members to make a yearly contribution of A \$100 or more to the Foundation's Annual Fund. That's about \$2 per week. This year the A/NZ districts are launching Centurion Week during the second week of Foundation Month from 9 – 15 November. With Rotary about to celebrate 100 years in Australia and New Zealand, how about becoming a Centenary Centurion? Why? The Foundation exists to help you as a Rotarian to deliver much greater impact, whether in your own community or around the world. Please have a look at p. 13 of this month's Rotary Down Under – an example of how a Rotarian with a great idea can access Foundation funding to deliver a community project otherwise well out of reach. And if you look at p. 12 you'll see that for every \$100 contributed in Australia and New Zealand, Rotarians in our two countries have received grants of \$183 to support the projects. And the great news is that we have finally worked out how to provide a report on our current year Centurions, which records those who have since 1/7/20 donated \$100 or more either directly to the Foundation or through their club (as long as the club has listed their name as the donor). The report has been provided to our Annual Fund Chair PDG Greg Moran and if you want to know if you are on the list just email him. At the moment we have 16 Centurions in the district from: Dorrigo 1, E Club 2, Inverell 3, Port Sunrise 1, Port West 2, Taree 4, Taree on Manning 1 and Wauchope 2. Let's aim to make it 1500 by the end of the Rotary year!

-Maurie Stack

Rotary Foundation Chair



## FUNDRAISER FOR A GREAT CAUSE

The Rotary Club of Kempsey West are asking for your help to raise much needed funds to support community projects in the Macleay Valley. This year, with COVID-19 limiting our ability to raise funds in a traditional way, our club has decided to run our first online raffle with some amazing prizes.

The 2019/20 Macleay Valley Bushfires burnt for approximately 8 weeks destroying 66 HOMES, 3 PUBLIC FACILITIES and 170 OUTBUILDINGS. They also damaged a further 100 structures throughout the upper macleay.

Almost 12 months on from the fires starting, many residents are still living in tents, caravans and other temporary accommodation. Your ticket purchase will not only give you a chance to win fantastic prizes, but it will help us fund some very important community projects in these areas and bring normality back to these devastated communities.

All that we ask is that you please forward this email on to your club members or friends and family, and ask that they might consider buying a ticket or two.

Please go to <https://www.kempseywestrotary.org/raffle> for more information and to buy tickets.

## STAGE SET WITH A BANG!

The new Rotary/Lions Manning Riverstage gave birth to its first production last Friday night 6 November – a concert performed before a crowd of 400 on the banks of the mighty Manning. From the outset it was awesome. The sound of the didgeridoo from Biripi Elder, Russell Saunders, somehow echoed from the river through the audio production of Hamish McDonald at Paradyme Studios Taree. That was quickly followed by a drum rendition by 40 students of the Australian Children's Music Foundation from local schools – kept tightly in check by ACMF teacher Matt Zarb. Then followed a concert with so many highlights including: the dulcet tones of Darren Jack, the beautiful voice of an emerging local vocalist Cass Alyson, the Goodfellas starring Matt Zarb, Scott Greenaway, Michael Eyb and Brad Bunyan. Kalin Woods and Cass Alyson joined them for a haunting rendition of Children of Australia. They were followed by our own Jake Davey who won the 2020 Travis Collins scholarship and who collaborates with many international artists. The show then moved to a different tempo with dynamic local band Keanu Jai Live, headed by 15 year old singer/songwriter Keanu Jai from Port Macquarie who is receiving regular play on Triple J. "We raised just over \$45,000 for the Manning Music Program of the ACMF" said Maurie Stack on behalf of the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley. "We are so grateful to our faithful sponsors, those who opened their wallets on the night, to our amazing committee, our performers and in particular to our MC and concert organiser Tanya Brown from Bass & Blues. What a legend, combining with Matt Zarb in putting together an absolutely memorable Manning RiverStage Opening Concert, the whole event streamed live and still accessible through Taree's Pluto Entertainment."



# District 9650 Conference

*Rotary an*

*International Affair*

**March 12-14th 2021**



**Panthers Bay St, Port Macquarie**

[ROTARY 9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

[HTTPS://WWW.ROTARY9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

