

# E NEWS D9650

JULY 2021



SERVE TO  
CHANGE LIVES

## THIS ISSUE

Deep Thoughts from David  
Partner's Project  
Rotary signature project  
Help Walcha do some good  
RYLA update



## DEEP THOUGHTS FROM DG DAVID

Past District Governors kept telling me that the best part of the role was visiting the clubs; seeing first hand the wonderful projects and the benefits Rotary has in the respective communities, but mostly, meeting the amazing members. A BIG Thank you must go out to all the clubs we have visited this past week and the warm hospitality shown by all. Both Heather and I have been inspired by the many and varied projects and community events facilitated by each club, reminding us of the strength that is Rotary; whereby the eclectic mix of knowledge, skills and big hearts come together to meet the needs of their communities.

On that note, please don't forget to get in touch with District Community Services Director; Kel Walls with your club's signature projects and see on page two of the e-news for more information!

District Secretary Rob Anderson is continuing to update our [District 9650 Facebook page](#) with stories, photos and videos from our visits. So look out for those. We're looking forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks. Don't forget to check the date of our visit in the Directory or on the District website - we hope it matches your calendar.

### District Medal

As you all should be aware of by now, this is the final year of District 9650 before we merge with District 9670 to become District 9660. As such, I have initiated the 9650 District Medal. This award is for those members in your club who for many years have shown selfless service, not only to their club but to Rotary in general. If you have someone in your club that has not necessarily held any office position or any District role, yet has done exceptional work over many years in quiet service, then please nominate them for the 9650 District Medal.

Nominations should be presented to your cluster Assistant Governor by the end of January 2022.

Please think of an 'unsung hero' in your club that deserves this award and let your AG know.

**Australian Rotary Health** - October is Mental Health Month and our annual Lift the lid Campaign. This year, ARH have teamed up with Parenting Author and Educator Maggie Dent for 'Lift the Lid on Mental Illness in Schools' [www.liftthelidinschools.com.au](http://www.liftthelidinschools.com.au).

Lift the Lid on Mental Illness in Schools is a collaborative campaign between Australian Rotary Health, QBD Books and Schoolzine. Their aim is to get kids talking about their mental health and raise much-needed funds to support targeted youth research here in Australia funded by ARH. Maybe worth sending this information to your schools to include.

"Celebrate the Past to Secure the Future" - DG David

## 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!



# PARTNERS PROJECT - YOUTH INSEARCH

I have been fortunate this week to have had the opportunity to tag along with David and present my partner project idea; to raise the awareness and support for Youth Insearch. Youth Insearch is a highly successful peer-to-peer program for young people aged between 14 – 20 who are struggling to cope with pressures such as mental health, bullying, drug & alcohol use, family violence or dysfunction etc.. It empowers them with comfort and understanding from others who have been through a tough journey and come through, giving them skills to cope and to find the resources they need to overcome their life challenges or traumas too in order to thrive rather than survive.

I have been overwhelmed by the interest and support already shown by clubs and have made several new awareness connections through the week with Mission Australia in Lightning Ridge and the local Police in Coonamble; all under the banner of Rotary 9650.

-Heather

# ROTARY'S SIGNATURE PROJECT

District Community Director Kel Walls said he was been please to receive approximately 25% (or about 20!) of the clubs reports for the District's signature project which is good, but there is a long way to go to complete the full compliment from all clubs.

If you need more information about the project which looks to highlight a signature project of each club in the District please reach out to Kel (his details are in the great District Directory!).

The reports that have been submitted are fantastic and the scope of projects and the impact on the communities in which they have been completed is a credit to all involved. Below is the great example for Gunnedah West Rotary and gives an indication of what the projects will look like when they are all collated.

**Rotary District 9650**  
**Rotary Club of Gunnedah West**  
 Club Signature Project

Club Signature Community Project	<b>Pensioners' Hill Reserve, Gunnedah.</b>
Regular community activities	Debutante Ball Charity Golf Day AGQLIP activities Tree Planting BBQ duties for community groups
Signature Community Details	This has been an ongoing project of the GWRC commencing in 1990 with the construction of the rotunda. Other stages have included the construction of a concrete path to the rotunda, a viewing platform overlooking the town, electric BBQ & seating, tree planting & landscaping, & the completion of the carved Heritage Stones Structures. The project has also received input from the Gunnedah Urban Landcare organisation, The Local Aboriginal Land Council, & the Gunnedah Shire Council. Contact the Club Secretary
Club contact person	



# SHINE A LIGHT ON YOUR CLUB IN 2021-22

This year we will be conducting a District Membership and Public Relations initiative to celebrate our members and each Club's deep history of community connections that is at the very core of Rotary across our District. Rotary membership is the engine that powers Rotary and in DG David's year of 'Celebration' we want to shine a spotlight on your initiatives to a new local audience through our District Facebook page. Our goal is to do this through promoting the Rotary experience of 3 local members or flagship event/project per Club. The District will create the Facebook post and also pay to 'boost' the posts into local targeted, facebook users (ie age range, interests, where they live etc) in order to raise awareness of your Club, members and local projects to a wider, local audience to raise our profile and open the door to membership enquiries. As we begin our final year under the banner of District 9650 before we become District 9660, this is an ideal opportunity to gather our local stories, celebrate our members and engage a new audience and potentially new members. This week, every Club has been sent information on how to engage in the District project. I look forward to reporting back on how this initiative unfolds. Cheers  
Jenny



## RYLA SUPPORT OUR YOUNG LEADERS

29th April - 7th May 2022  
Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation

Samantha Werleman  
Sponsored by RC Narrabri

Sam thanked her sponsor Club by telling them "RYLA is the best thing I've done in my life so far."

Sam, a chef at Narrabri's Tourist Hotel, was promoted to trainee manager shortly before attending RYLA. RYLA provided her with leadership skills to assist in her work environment. Communication, teamwork, conflict resolution & encourage others to build on their strengths. Sam drew on her public speaking skills she had learnt at RYLA to do her presentation & advised all how beneficial RYLA is in supporting young leaders of the future in the Narrabri community.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CLUB

'The Rotary club of D9650 Young Leaders' was officially Chartered on the 16th of July, 2021. Kudos to their executive team headed by Caitlin Davey and Charlotte Moore, who have done an amazing job of bringing RYLA Illumni together to form this inspirational club for our District. They already have local and international projects in mind and are on track to make a huge impact in the 9650 community. We look forward to the Charter night in October and hope as many as can, will be there to share with them as they celebrate this historic event in our District.  
DG David Mayne



# WALCHA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CAUSE

We Rotarians are united in our common aim to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Children whose lives are so troubled that they need to be placed in foster care are among the most unfortunate kids in society and it is their plight that our club's new project seeks to improve.

The attached below describes the background and our goals. Projects of this nature are sorely lacking in regional areas. Our planning team has coordinated with the Dept. of Communities & Justice (formerly Family & Community Services) to enhance the selection of contents and streamline distribution. Feedback from Simon's 2020 efforts confirms the deep appreciation felt by fostering parents and recipient children.


The sad truth is that virtually no town is exempt from homes where domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse results in vulnerable children being removed from their parents and placed in foster care. This is a valuable project that in all probability will assist kids in need in your own community.

The more funds we raise, the more kids we can help. Each filled backpack costs around \$70. The number of new cases each year of children entering foster care across our district is such that doubling our target would still not meet the demand but we are mindful of walking before we run.

Donating is easy. Just go to  
<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/80-2020-21>

In anticipation, we thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely  
Andrew Corlette (Walcha President)



## ROTARY BACKS UP FOSTER KIDS

Each year in our region an alarming number of children are placed in foster care. These children often enter foster care placements with little notice and only the clothes they are wearing. They enter the homes of kind strangers but have none of their own familiar possessions to comfort them.

It took 9 year old Walcha boy, Simon, to see that foster kids needed the community to come together to help them with something as simple as a backpack filled with life's essentials and a few extra comforts. In 2020 Simon chose to forgo birthday presents and instead created his JUST 4 U BACKPACKS project, raising around \$11,000. Simon was nominated in the 7 News Young Achievers Awards.

Now, the Rotary Club of Walcha is furthering what this extraordinary boy started. We call it **SIMON'S JUST 4 U BACKPACKS** - including pyjamas, underclothes, toothbrush and toothpaste, personal hygiene items, activity packs, story books, a cuddly toy, a torch, shampoo, tissues, drawing pad, textas, sticker sheets, school needs and more together with a handwritten letter from Simon.

Agencies including Family & Community Services, Challenge and Pathfinders played roles in the distribution of Simon's 2020 backpacks and are extremely enthusiastic that the project is being taken up by Rotary. **There are foster kids in need are in every town in our region. They matter! These kids need our help.**

This is a RAWCS registered project under Rotary Australia Community Grants. We aspire to making this an ongoing annual project. Our goal is \$25,000 in the current year. Please help us.

See your contribution come back to **your community** to help kids in need.

### LET'S ALL GET BEHIND SIMON'S JUST 4 U BACKPACKS

Donating is easy. Just go to:

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/80-2020-21>

For further information please contact:  
Lois Hoare - Club Secretary Tel: 0427 775 743 Email: [lois.hoare@bigpond.com](mailto:lois.hoare@bigpond.com)

**Simon says:**  
**'Give yourself a pat on the backpack'**

