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Welcome to the December - January 2020-22 edition of the Rotary District 9550 Governor's newsletter. Club presidents and secretaries are requested to forward this newsletter **to all club members** as there is something here for everyone!

[View this email in your browser](#)



CHRISTMAS
EDITION!

District Governor 2020-21
Merewyn Wright

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Editor: Madeleine D'Urso - districteditor@d9550rotary.org.au



DECEMBER - JANUARY 2020-21



[Opening Opportunities during a pandemic](#)

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across our district have not given up on serving their communities, despite the pandemic, and in fact efforts by many clubs to find new ways of serving have indeed been inspirational. See our Christmas feature later in this newsletter, for many examples of clubs bringing the Christmas spirit to those who need it most in these difficult times!

National Youth Science Forum

The National Youth Science Forum is another Rotary-supported program that has had to adapt during these interesting times! This program for Year 12 students of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is traditionally held across three programs in Canberra and Brisbane during January. In 2021, the program will be held online over two weeks (5 -22 January), with some localised in-person events. Late in November, I participated in an online orientation for the students in our district who have been selected to participate. Congratulations to these students, and thank you to the Rotary Clubs that have sponsored them.

Australia Day Grants

Also during November, we sprang into action at short notice to apply for National Australia Day Grants for four clusters across the district, in order to run Australia Day events in our communities, in line with the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, . All applications were successful - thank you to those Rotarians who undertook to complete the applications. I look forward to finding out more about the planned events in each locality.

Membership

At the end of November, we received advice that our District's membership numbers had grown by 55 since the start of the Rotary year - the second highest membership growth of all districts in Zone 8 (Australia and New Zealand). That's the good news! The disappointing news is that, this figure should actually be higher, by about 12-15 members! The reason it wasn't higher was because these members had not had their member data recorded in MyRotary by the time of the report! Keep up the great work at attracting new members, but please ensure these members have their joining date acknowledged by entering their data as soon as possible after their induction (and no longer than 30 days after).

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December is the month that we, across the Rotary world, focus on our efforts to combat diseases and health education, because prevention is just as important. In this newsletter, there is more news of clubs

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how Rotary makes this work happen.

To finish, Stan and I send the warmest of Christmas greetings to all across the district. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends, and comes back in the New Year refreshed and ready to keep "Opening Opportunities".

Merry Christmas!

DG Merewyn

Follow me on Facebook:

[Merewyn Wright - Rotarian - District Governor](#)

A MESSAGE FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT HOLGER

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global COVID-19 pandemic brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time, and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organization.

[Read more in my monthly message.](#)

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Make M&Ms
2020-21

NEWS AND NOTICES

Rotary

District 9560
Northern Australia
and Timor Leste

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CALL FOR DISTRICT 9560 GOVERNOR 2023-24

On Monday 7 December, 2020, the D9560 Redistricting Committee called for nominations for the position for Governor of new District 9560 for the Rotary Year 2023-2024, via email to all Club Presidents and Secretaries in our District.

Would all Club Secretaries ensure that all members receive a copy of that email and attachments, particularly members who have served as Club President for one full year, and ensure that the [call for nominations](#) is placed in your club bulletin.

Also attached is a copy of the [nomination form](#) and a copy of [Rotary International Code of Policies 26.060.4](#), setting out the Rules Regarding Campaigning, Canvassing and Electioneering.

Would club secretaries please ensure suggested nominations with resumes are forwarded to either PDG John McLaren or PDG Craig Edmonston (see details below) by COB on **Friday 12 February 2021**.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact PDG John McLaren or PDG Craig Edmonston.

PDG John McLaren
John.McLaren@nt.gov.au
Phone: 0401 116 720

PDG Craig Edmonston
surveror@bigpond.net.au
Phone: 0427 761 707

PREPARING FOR 2021-22

Message #1

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Well, there are not many months now until D9570 and D9550 merge into the new and exciting mega-District 9560. Our incoming District Training Team has been working towards building opportunities that are streamlined to cater for the joining of the two districts.

There will be a range of opportunities for Rotarians from District 9550 to access in the upcoming months. A key feature in 2021 is that we will be providing training concurrently in two locations. They are: Bundaberg and Townsville, and, Rockhampton and Cairns. These will allow for some wonderful opportunities for the collaboration of ideas from Rotarians from Districts 9570 and 9550. I have attached a flyer (below) of the Key Dates for Training in 2021. Please share this with all Rotarians in your clubs.

As you can see, the D9560 Training Team has included Rotary Skills Days in the training calendar for next year. These days are open to ALL Rotarians in District 9550. This is one event where you learn about a particular aspect of Rotary that interests you!

I would encourage all Club Officers and interested Rotarians to attend this incredible learning opportunity.



Happy learning
DGE Martti

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Rotary



Key Dates for Training in 2021

Area Governor & District Officer Training

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 February 2021
Mackay

Presidents Elect Learning and Development

Saturday 6 March 2021	- Bundaberg & Townsville
Saturday 13 March 2021	- Rockhampton & Cairns
Saturday 20 March 2021	- Darwin & Dili
Saturday 27 March 2021	- Dili

Rotary Skills Days – Assembly

Sunday 7 March 2021	- Bundaberg & Townsville
Sunday 14 March 2021	- Rockhampton & Cairns
Sunday 21 March 2021	- Darwin & Dili

Rotary



District 9560
Northern Australia
and Timor Leste
Training Team

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In a nutshell, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is suitable for anyone who meets the following criteria:

- Resides within District 9570 or District 9550
- Aged between 18-28
- Available from Saturday, 30 January 2021 to Friday, 5 February 2021 at The Capricorn Caves .
- Willing to undergo self-development.
- Applications close **15 January 2021!**



More information available on the [RYLA Facebook page](#), or contact
District 9570 RYLA Chair 2020-21 Stevie Tucker
Phone: 0427 486 950

APPLY HERE FOR RYLA!



Let's open opportunities for both existing and new members to become and stay engaged, so they become lifelong members.



CONGRATULATIONS and a **BIG DISTRICT 9550 WELCOME**, to the following Rotarians who joined, transferred or re-joined clubs in our district during November-December (since the last newsletter):

- **Atherton** - Isa Peykarnegar
- **Cairns Trinity** – Stephanie Anderson and Klaus Neubauer
- **Darwin North**: Yuhan Selva
- **Darwin South** - Susan Macpherson and Kerrie Oxley
- **Darwin Sunrise** - Sean Taylor, Peter Pilt and Gary Leech
- **Katherine** - Dan Stimson
- **Mundingburra** - Katrina Davis
- **Townsville Daybreak** - Theresa Lawson
- **Townsville Saints** – Kristy Pearce, Amanda Carr

"Every new member changes us a little bit. That person brings a new perspective, new experiences ~ Engage them and take care of them." - Holger Knaack

Every month we would like to give a big District welcome to any new members inducted during the previous month. Make sure you let our editor know!

ROTARY ALUMNI UPDATE

At this year’s Alumni Reconnect Week Zoom event, Vicki Lettice was scheduled as a panel guest, but an unplanned trip to the hospital for her son meant she was unable to participate. Vicki, who details her experience below, is one of a

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“In 2001, I spent five incredible weeks touring five countries in Eastern Europe on Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE). Representing District 9550, myself, 4 others and our Rotarian Team Leader, enjoyed the fellowship and friendships during our tour. Travelling in a tight group presents you with some challenges, needing patience, respect for other customs and staying hydrated after every Rotary meeting! The GSE program was an amazing first hand vocational experience that I have never forgotten. The business people I met and the different ideas I saw, confirmed for me how travel broadens your mind. Each Rotary group went to great lengths for our work days, which were a terrific eye opener into my business and cemented for me the right career path I was taking in life. GSE was truly an experience of a lifetime.”

~ Vicki Lettice.

I am seeking suggestions for other alumni to share their Rotary program experience/s, and a potential candidate for the 2021 Alumni Global Service Award (someone in our district who has experience in a Rotary program and demonstrates outstanding humanitarian service and professional achievement).

Please email: alumnicordinator@d9550rotary.org.au

Kath Burling

District Alumni Chair

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Cause based and satellite clubs

Research shows that the districts that are growing are those which are starting new, innovative clubs. In this session we will hear from three experienced speakers who have first-hand experience with starting and nurturing cause-based and satellite clubs.

Date: Thursday 17 December 2020
Time: 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Qld; 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm NT

REGISTER HERE!

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ROTARY ON THE MOVE NEWSLETTER

The Rotary Coordinator's monthly newsletter, Rotary on the Move newsletter, always provides lots of ideas on club membership and more. This month, articles of interest include:

- *'How engaged are your members?'* - RI Director-elect, Jessie Harman
- *'Recharge your branding to attract members'* - PDG Brian Coffey
- *'Membership and Public Relations - What's the Difference'* - PDG C. Ross Carlyle

...and even some quotes from the November issue of our newsletter: see if you can find them!

[Click here](#) to read the December 2020 issue.

HONOURING MEMBERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At its club Christmas party last weekend, the Rotary Club of Katherine presented club stalwarts, Christopher Dixon (below left) and Pamela Dixon (right) with **Avenues of Service Awards**. Assistant Governor Ray Fauntleroy travelled from Darwin to assist President Christine Sutherland to present the awards.

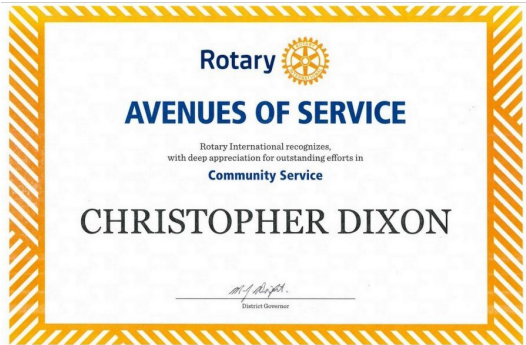
Christopher's award was for Community Service. Just some of Christopher's achievements: he was instrumental in establishing the successful Katherine Men's Shed. He persisted with garnering support, both in-kind and financial. Christopher has this year focused on establishing the Katherine Computer Club. This initiative has resulted in at least three new members joining our club and provided a platform for positive exposure through online and newspaper forums. Christopher has tirelessly applied for grants to support this venture, resulting in the upgrade of electrics in the club house, the purchase of relevant and up to date technology and internet access for the next two years.

Pamela's award was in the avenue of **Club Service**. Pamela has tirelessly served as Club Treasurer for seven years, and has, as Club Membership Chair and Club Secretary. Pamela's thoroughness with the book keeping, her networking and enthusiasm have been instrumental in keeping the club's profile alive,

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support and consistently displays the motto "Service Above Self".

Congratulations Christopher and Pamela!



What is an Avenues of Service Award (District Recognition)?

With an award from their district, clubs can honour a Rotarian or Rotaractor who participates in service activities in one of the five Avenues of Service — club, vocational, community, international, and youth service. Club Presidents can nominate members for these awards, and nominations can be made online throughout the year.

[Read more here.](#)

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Let’s think about why we meet, where we meet, what we do when we meet, and who we meet with – and perhaps even what we call these get togethers! Our world is changing, and with the current pandemic even more so; we need to adapt and change our practices if we are to continue to stay relevant.

~ DG Merewyn

ORDER IN THE COURT!

The Rotary Club of Darwin proved that club meetings can be interesting, different, and fun, when, instead of a dinner meeting at their usual venue, they recently visited the Supreme Court where a mock trial took place.

As Club Bulletin Editor, John Hardy reports:

It was a night to remember as we witnessed a mock trial of a man who had assaulted an elder. We were in one of the Supreme Courtrooms, presided over by a real judge with a real prosecuting barrister, and the accused defended by another real barrister (photo below left). The accused was not a real offender (the role was play-acted by Rotarian Andrew Pinnell). We may have witnessed a mock trial, but it was based on an actual case, with the names, dates and circumstances changed to protect the innocent and guilty involved. Those who attended the “trial”, Rotarians and invited guests, were all invited to participate in two interrogations, first, how to determine ‘Bail’ and under what criteria, and what prerequisites; second after witnessing ‘the trial’ what sentence would we impose if there was a guilty verdict, for how long, would there be parole and when, and other considerations.

The audience was very engaged in deliberations and nearly everyone became involved in getting the

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decision and all the factors that were taken into consideration. A very interesting side of our community’s activities; few of us realized how complicated trials are and what is at stake to get it right. Fortunately, it was revealed that a very compassionate attitude was evident in the court proceedings and the accused was given a very fair outcome. Some of us were pretty hard with our sentencing and we would have the jails full in no time.

Lucky for Andrew he was able to join us afterwards in a very tasty supper, washed down in true Rotary fashion with plenty of beer and wine at reasonable prices (photo below right). It was a privilege to be able to do what we did, attend the re-enactment of an actual trial, in the court in which it had been held and again with the same legal team.

**OVERALL VERDICT BY DG MEREWYN
ROTARY CLUB OF DARWIN – GUILTY – OF “MAKING MEETINGS MEANINGFUL”!**



HINCHINBROOK ROTARY'S FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

The Rotary Club of Hinchinbrook holds a dinner meeting - "Family Fun Night " - on the last Wednesday evening of each month. This dinner meeting is open to partners and guests of club members, who are important contributors and supporters of the club. These meetings are used to invite relevant and topical guest speakers and to host representatives of the club's community partners (presentation of donations, reports in relation to community events, etc.). This is an important forum for fellowship within the club.

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Family Nights have always been something I enjoyed immensely. However, over the last couple of months I have had new cause to celebrate. Olivia and Elizabeth Briggs (twin daughters of Rotarian Damien Briggs) have taken a shine to attending our meetings. It is so nice to put the *family* in Family nights!! Unlike so many other visitors to our club, they don't turn up just for the food.

District Newsletter Editor
Rotarian Madeleine D'Urso
Rotary Club of Hinchinbrook

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MAKING MEETINGS MEANINGFUL

This is how one English club, which meets weekly, arranges their meeting schedule, to keep members engaged:

Week 1

The Club's Business Meeting – renamed “Our Club Matters”: brief update from all service chairs, with informal chat to follow

Week 2

An external guest speaker on an interesting topic

Week 3

Fun and Fellowship

Week 4

Speaker from within the club on hobbies, achievements, career, etc.

How do you schedule your club's meetings to make them meaningful, and to keep members engaged? How about sharing what you do in our next newsletter!



MAKE MANKIND MATTER

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because "Service above Self" is still our core business, and our local, national and global communities need us more than ever!

~ DG Merewyn



At the end of a difficult year, it is gratifying to see the many ways that clubs around our District are supporting their communities during the Christmas season. Many clubs had to cancel their usual events, especially those such as Carols nights that would involve large crowds, but these clubs have found other ways to ensure that they bring the Christmas spirit to their community!

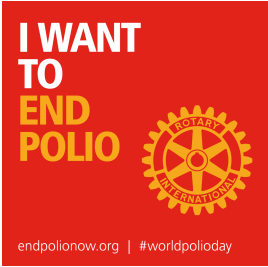
*Apologies if any clubs / projects have been missed.

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[Mount Isa Toy Run donation; Darwin Sunrise Foodbank donation; Tully Rotary's Christmas stocking raffle prize.](#)



**END POLIO NOW
FUNDRAISING UPDATES...**



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Rotary Club of Hinchinbrook, which raised \$2800 for End Polio at its Garage Sale held on 31 October! What a great result!

TOP MOVIE IN THE TOP END FOR A TOP CAUSE!


The Rotary Club of Litchfield/Palmerston hosted a showing of the movie 'I Am Woman' at Events Cinemas Palmerston on 21 November, to raise funds for End Polio. The event was supported by the other Darwin Rotary Clubs, with 101 people in attendance, and \$1000 raised for the cause, and a great night was had by all.

Pictured: Group 1 Rotary Foundation Representative Grant Lindsay, and Group 1 Assistant Governor Ray Fauntleroy presenting a framed certificate of thanks to Cinema representative, Emma Dodge.



...and a Polio Fundraising Idea



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**COLLECTING FUNDS TO
HELP END POLIO?**

*Maybe one of these unique
Polio pigs could help!*

Send your request to Rotary Club of Kingaroy
secretary, Geoff, at
kingaroyrotarysecretary@gmail.com



APPEAL TO REPLACE BUS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Group 3 Rotary Clubs have instigated a project to replace the aging bus used by Gluyas Lodge, an accommodation facility for cancer patients, to transport the patients to the Townsville University Hospital from the facility in North Ward, Townsville. The current vehicle is around ten years old and travels about 30,000 kilometres per year doing this work, consequently it is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The people that it transports are usually many miles from home and are facing an uncertain future.

On behalf of the Group 3 Clubs, Rotary Thuringowa Central President, Neil Klein, applied for a grant to help fund this project through the Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) "Compassionate Grants" program. Neil has now received approval for a subsidy of \$15,000 on a dollar for dollar basis to help this project

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PROJECT DETAILS:

Project 42-2020-21

Project Name:

Replace aging cancer patient bus - Gluyas Rotary Lodge, Townsville (RACG)

[To contribute please follow this link](#)

Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (Managed by RAWCS) has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) registration and has been listed as a Charitable Fund so we can accept tax deductible donations from individuals or organisations.



MEET A LOCAL

The Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise has partnered with local student organisation Kindness Shake to deliver a series of events known as ‘Meet a Local’. International students studying at Charles Darwin University can meet locals and practice English in a fun, safe and friendly environment.

The project aims to remove barriers to social and economic participation in our community by providing opportunities for students to practice English and make local acquaintances in a safe space. Through the events, students access the Rotary network of neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers, to grow their personal networks and make a more comfortable transition into their new Territory life.

The project supports the wellbeing of international students by encouraging them to develop meaningful relationships with the local community and business leaders. Creating support networks within the local community and developing stronger English skills helps to reduce social isolation and supports greater participation by international students in the community. By creating strong networks with the local business community, it is hoped international students will identify and access opportunities for work and skills development relevant to their field of study.

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far, both with a waiting list of students wishing to attend. Four more events are planned, with other Darwin Rotary clubs being encouraged to join in and host an event.

Allison Hooper

President

Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise



Meet a Local #1 in September, where the topic was "Volunteerism"- Darwin Sunrise member Jeff Borella talking with some of the students, during a "speed dating" segment, where students learned about volunteering opportunities.



Meet a Local Event #2 in November, where the topic was Developing your Personal Brand and Making Connections, with guest speaker Sanja Hill, Director of Hill Professional Services.

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InterplastTM
Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives
in the Asia Pacific region

INTERPLAST UPDATE

Interplast continues “Repairing bodies & Rebuilding lives in the Asia Pacific Region”

Delivering Support Remotely
Interplast is still making a difference during the pandemic despite not being able to send surgical teams to the Asia Pacific region. A range of approaches have been employed to provide services to the region including:

- **Online mentoring.** Topics have included: Surgical, nursing, allied health and anaesthetic topics e.g. wound care, tendon injuries, burn rehabilitation, principles of plastic surgery, hand tumours, thumb replantation, facial reanimation, head and neck reconstruction, oral cancer, etc
- **Online Education Courses.** Topics have included: PPE and infection control. Other courses target allied health practitioners, anaesthetists and surgeons, including using a skin graft knife, managing a diabetic foot, and managing difficult airways during surgery.
- **Clinical Educational Resources.**
- **In-Country Evaluations.**

Learn about these and many more examples by visiting www.interplast.org.au

Follow Interplast
Rotary's support for Interplast is contributing to changing futures of thousands of people and hundreds of communities across the Asia Pacific through surgery and training. Interplast

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<div>news and updates; view a short video introducing Interplast; be shown how to subscribe to updates and see how to follow Interplast on your chosen social media.</div> <div>Bruce Edwards</div> <div><i>Interplast District Chair</i></div> <div><i>Rotary Club of Ayr</i></div> <div>interplast@d9550rotary.org.au</div>			



Let's not just "do good" in our communities; let's make sure we tell everyone about it! But let's do it well – using consistent branding.

~ DG Merewyn



Looking for some tips for "Momentous Messaging"?

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- [Membership and Marketing: Two sides of the same coin](#)
- [Is your online presence up to scratch](#)
- [Be Aware of What You Share](#)
- [Public Image in the age of COVID](#)
- [Promote your club as *People of Action*](#)



**Check out this for
MOMENTOUS
MESSAGING!**

Click on the image to
watch the promotion for
the Palm Cove Markets
run monthly by Rotary
Club of Cairns Sunrise.
This promotion was for
their Christmas
markets, held on 6
December.



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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020	
DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH	
15	Clubs to ensure membership data in My Rotary & with Rotary Down Under are up to date by end month
17	New Style Rotary Clubs Forum – details above
31	Queensland Clubs - last day for submission of Audited Annual Financial Statements to the OFT
31	Deadline for entering Incoming Officer data on My Rotary
31	Last day to update club membership data in My Rotary ready for RI dues invoices for half year.
JANUARY 2021	
VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH	
1	District 9550 dues payable from this date
	Rotary International invoices all clubs for half-yearly dues
5-22	NYSF (National Youth Science Forum) - online
15	Applications close for RYLA – details above
26	Australia Day
27	Rotary Founder's Day - Anniversary of the passing of Paul Harris
27	Deadline for contributions for February District newsletter
FEBRUARY 2021	
PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH	
30 Jan – 5 Feb	RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) – Capricorn Caves – details above
12	Nominations Close for DG 2023-24
20-21	Area Governor & District Officer Training, Mackay
23	Rotary's 116 th Anniversary / World Understanding & Peace Day

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CENTENARY OF ROTARY IN
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

ARE YOU A KEEN NUMISMATIST OR PHILATELIST?
Here's some news that may interest you!

The organisers behind the celebrations and events for the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, have arranged for the release of both a Centenary Coin, and a Centenary Postage Stamp. The launch will be livestreamed, and is scheduled for Thursday, 4 February.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WHEN IT COMES TO HAND!



**THE CENTENARY BATON IS
ON THE MOVE!**

It recently made an appearance at the Darwin Sunrise Rotary Christmas Party (left), and was handed over by Darwin Sunrise Club President, Allison Hooper to Litchfield/Palmerston Secretary Valerie Wilkie. Where will it turn up next?
Rumour has it that the baton is also on the move around Townsville - seems no club wants to pay the "fine" of a donation to End Polio for keeping the baton too long!
Where will it appear next? Please send photos if it makes it to your club!

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B R E A K I N G N E W S !

The conference committee is pleased to announce that the Conference Registration fee has been set at an **all time low of \$185**. This fee will attendance at all conference sessions and social events as set out below. Registration details and links will be available in the New Year!



ROTARY DISTRICT 9550 CONFERENCE
30 April – 2 May 2021
Townsville, Queensland



Venue – Rydges, Palmer Street, Townsville

- **Friday evening:** Welcome reception by Townsville Mayor – Council Administration Building, Walker Street
- **Saturday morning** - Registration (morning tea and lunch available)
- **Saturday Afternoon** – Conference opening and first conference session *“Together we Empower”*.
- **Saturday evening** - Rotary Foundation Barbecue with guest speaker
- **Sunday all day** - Conference Sessions continue: *“Together we Transform”*; *“Together we Take Action”*; *“Together we Connect”*
- **Sunday Evening** - Conference Dinner with 1RAR Quartet – Celebrating the Centenary of Rotary - *“Roaring Twenties”* Theme.

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Please help make the compilation of this newsletter easier by:

- *Sending your contributions as a Word document, not PDF.*
- *Keeping the stories short – 150-200 words max is ideal for the MailChimp format*
- *Sending photos as SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS (not in the body of the story) - maximum two photos*
- *Sending posters / fliers in **JPG format** rather than PDF*

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE OF
THE NEWSLETTER**

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY



Rotary District 9550 Facebook rotaryd9550australiatimorleste Rotary District 9550 Website



District 9550 Team App

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