



Rotary International District 9640  
*Governor's Letter*  
Number 11, Sunday 1 Dec. 2002

District 9640  
Governor 2002/2003  
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**Favourite Websites**  
Rotary International  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
District 9640  
<http://rotary9640.org>  
Rotary Down Under  
<http://rotarnet.com.au>  
Brisbane Convention  
[www.rotary2003.org](http://www.rotary2003.org)

### From the Governor's Desk

Three responses to expressed need are current in the District.

As I write, the drought continues to challenge our families on the land as well as their communities that support them. I have provided the details of an exciting major initiative to assist families in need below - "Bush to the Beach".

Andrew Csabi, member of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Central, has now returned to the Gold Coast Hospital after the Bali bombing tragedy as I addressed in my previous letter. He continues to make progress though his injuries are severe and is very positive in his approach to his rehabilitation. Do consider assisting Andrew. Lester Budden is keen to advise those of us who are in a position to assist. Contact him on:

**07 5520 1702**

A small group of business people in Surfers Paradise is keen to assist the Balinese people as a result of their economic downfall after the Bali bombing.

They plan to have a high profile luncheon and auction with a view to raising five figures. They have approached me to seek approval to provide their donation in the most appropriate manner in Bali. This I am pleased to have agreed to.

*Ross Smith*

### Cambodian RI Peace Scholar - Xmas Conference Speaker

Path Heang is one of the first of the team of seventy Rotary World Peace Scholars to be chosen from 32 countries to undertake graduate studies in international relations, peace and conflict resolution.

Path is to commence study at the University of Queensland in February 2003.

He is Cambodian, married with one small child and lives in Phnom Penh.

The Rotary Club of Bathurst nominated Path as Cambodia has just one club and no District infrastructure.

Path grew up under the Pol Pot regime and was separated from his parents during this time. He became involved in the reconciliation process that ensued and went to work in small arms reduction especially land mine removal.

Currently, Path is working with the International Labour Organisation to improve the lot of people employed in sweatshop conditions.

The Rotary International Centers for Peace and Conflict Resolution are a strategy of The Rotary Foundation to fulfil the Fourth Avenue of Rotary.

Path Heang is a keynote speaker at our District Christmas Conference this coming weekend.



### Rotary Club of Hope Island

I am delighted to be able to inform members in District 9640 that I have, today, formally signed the RI papers for the creation of the new "Rotary Club of Hope Island".

There is no indication of a Charter Date as yet but it will take place, I imagine, soon after the summer vacation period early in the New Year.

There are 40 members who have paid their application fee at this stage.

Keith Wilson (Property Management) has been elected to become the Charter President and Sonja Izumi has been elected Charter Secretary.

Governor's Special Representative PDG Ian Yarker has represented our District and me in a first class manner by preparing the members in becoming Rotarians. I am most grateful for his commitment and thoughtful strategic planning.

### "Bush to the Beach" Drought Relief Initiative

An exciting and meaningful local project has been devised to support the families who are

## Australian Rotary Figures 2001/02

**Final Numbers**  
**36,394**

**Inductions**  
**4729 (13%)**

**Terminations**  
**4471 (12%)**

**Net gain**  
**258**

hurting as a result of the drought in our rural, remote and regional communities.

Don Stalker and John McDonald, RC of Surfers Paradise Central, have secured strong support and sponsorship for the project:

- MacDonalDs (Qld)
- Channel Ten
- Queensland Rail (QR)
- Movieworld
- Dreamworld
- Seaworld
- Union and Kings College of the University of Queensland
- Coaching clinics with Lions and Broncos.

**It is planned that school children in Years 5, 6 and 7 will be eligible with tolerance for siblings who are close in age and who are able to be quite independent.**

**Children of primary producers and related farm workers would be the target group.**

**Schools and Rotary clubs are invited to nominate suitable children. A large number could be catered for.**

**Please contact Don or John directly.**  
**CONTACT:**  
Don Stalker  
M 0412 751 038  
Dstalker@ozemail.com.au  
John McDonald  
T 07 5539 8311  
heimcd@winshop.com.au

## Peace Scholar Nomination District 9640

The Rotary Foundation District 9640 Scholar's Committee Chair Norm Robinson has forwarded our District Peace Nominee's details to RI. She is Rebecca Wilson.

RC of Surfers Paradise Central proudly sponsors Rebecca.

At any time, only ten Peace Scholars are placed at each of seven "Peace and Conflict Resolution Centers" in designated Universities around the world - a total of 70. Our own local U of Q is one of these.

Each District may nominate one representative for the final worldwide selection.

Rebecca has a degree in Psychology from Griffith University and is completing an Honours Degree at Bond University. Her thesis is on conflict management strategies used by religious faiths.

She was the RSL Girl in A Million in 1999 and is fluent in French.

If successful, she is keen to take the Scholarship up at the UK's Bradford University, which has the biggest Ghandian library in the world.

We wish Rebecca all the best for her selection at the international level.

A curious serendipity - Rebecca's middle name is "Peace"!

## District Awards Xmas Conference

There will only be two District Awards decided and presented at the District Christmas Conference this coming weekend -

- **Best Conference Display**
- **Best Club Conference Attendance**

District Awards Chair Keith Robson at District Changeover will present all other District Awards in June.

## Top Ten Attendance - October 2002 -

100% RC Lismore  
93% RC Goondiwindi  
91% RC Boonah  
91% RC Byron Bay  
88% RC Lismore West  
88% RC Mt Warning AM (Murwillumbah)  
87% RC Summerland Sunrise  
86% Murwillumbah Central  
85% RC Beaudesert  
83% RC Stanthorpe

## District 9640 Ambassadorial Scholar 2003/04

Mark Oliver, sponsored by the RC of Coomera Valley has been selected as our District Ambassadorial Scholar for 2003/04.

Mark graduated from Southern Cross University in Lismore as a teacher and is currently completing his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling at USQ.

He is a Special education teacher at AB Patterson College and has also worked as a swimming coach and at a Homework Center for Aboriginal Students.

He is patrol Vice Captain at Southport Surf Life Saving Club and an experienced musician and bandleader. He has been a leader at RYPEN for two years.

Mark is keen to study in the program at the National Research Center for Gifted and Talented Students at Uni of Connecticut.

Mark will be speaking at our District Christmas Conference next weekend.

The Rotary Foundation has high expectations that our Ambassadorial Scholars will fulfil the Fourth Avenue of Rotary - International Goodwill, Understanding and Peace.

A proud Australian past Ambassadorial Scholar is our eminent, immediate - past Governor General Sir William Dean. #