



Rotary International District 9640  
*Governor's Letter*  
Number 12, Sunday 15 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



This is the text of my closing remarks at the District Conference last weekend.

"To our **Presidential Representative, TRF Trustee John Kenny** - John you are an eminent colleague in Rotary and as such we are honoured to have you visit with us. Do pass on our District 9640 greetings to President Bhichai and Charoye. John and June, you have been obliging, professional, genuine and caring. For this, we thank you both.

**PDG David and Judy Lee** happily agreed to the opportunity to represent the District as our Aides to John and June. David and Judy as ever, you are responsive and thoughtful - thank you both.

**RI Director John and Shirley Thorne** - we do appreciate your going to some trouble to join us for the conference. Access to senior colleagues in a large organisation is often a challenge - not so, with John in this role. Thank you.

To our **Keynote speakers** and their aides - it is your work, in no small way, which has made the Conference what it has been. Thank you.

To our **"introducers" and "thankers"** - I have been keen to provide a younger and a gender balanced appearance to the conference. I believe we have achieved exactly that: Youth - 17 % of our population but 100% of our future. Thank you all - I am proud of you.

To **Coolangatta & Tweed Heads Golf Club, Club Banora, our sponsors and our entertainers** last night - thank you.

To our host club - **The Rotary Club of Palm Beach**. President Peter Bignell and Glenda, your members and partners, you have represented the District and me in a most polished manner. I know that just early next month, you carry off your major project of the year - the Annual Antiques Fair at Jupiter's Casino. Yet, you not only were willing to be involved but keen to. Thank you most sincerely.

## Season's GREETINGS

Our Conference Committee has been a pleasure to work with.

**Chairman**  
Margaret Hayes  
**Secretary**  
Tony Hayes  
**Treasurer**  
Patricia Price  
**Registrations**  
Barry Kent  
**MC**  
Vanessa Rebgetz  
Robert Wesener  
**Displays**  
John Beitzel  
**Stage Manager**  
Rod Baines

**Hostess**  
Margaret Hobbs  
**Decorations**  
Dianne Kerr  
**Signage**  
Alyson McCall  
**Photography**  
Bob Robertson  
**Public Relations**  
Peter Baines  
**Promotions**  
Alan Moon

Each and every one with a task - none of which were separate. Would you thank each and every one of them?

To the leader of the whole operation: I have enjoyed working closely with her. She has been invariably prompt, thoughtful, responsive and strategic. I am pleased and proud to have had **Margaret Hayes** in charge of the complete operation - she has carried it off superbly. Margaret please accept my personal thanks and that of all present. Well done.

### In Closing:

We are fortunate to live in relatively wealthy communities in our district.

- We have food in the fridge - indeed, we have fridges!
- We have floor coverings - indeed, we have floors!
- We have clothes in the wardrobe - indeed, we have wardrobes!

We, Australians, don't realise that we spent \$AM634 on Coca-Cola last year in our supermarkets. We are, indeed, wealthy. And yet, many on this planet of ours are not!

As Rotarians, we have the potential to alleviate the pressures on those in need, in this world.

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# Noel

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And yet, many on this planet of ours are not!

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Rotary's Fourth Avenue of Service requires us to do exactly that - promote "international understanding, peace and goodwill".

The old adage (called the Golden Rule - one of Rotary's colours) asks us to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

RI President Bhichai exhorts us to "Sow the Seeds of Love" or in its German translation "Rotary with Heart and Hand"!

Or, as Eliza Doolittle said to Professor Higgins, "The difference between a flower girl and a lady isn't in how they behave, but how they are treated!"

And finally, our Seasonal and Conference theme puts it another, simple way "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All".

Rotary friends, I wish to close the first District 9640 Christmas Conference by extinguishing the memorial flame. Thank you one and all. Au revoir, till we meet again - Safe travel homewards."

*Ross Smith*

## Christmas District Conference Statistics 2002

Dist 9640 Rotarians  
**1600**

Rotarians Registered  
**415**

Total Registered  
**570**

DG's Dinner Guests  
**330**

## In Memoriam

On Thursday 12 December 2002 we were present to mourn the passing of Rotarian John Saunders - a member of The RC of Southport for some twenty years.

John had also been a member of the RCs of Ashgrove, Mt Gambier and Kyogle - a total of over 40 years.

John gained a Science degree from Sydney University, which placed him in the Shale Oil Industry, the paint industry and later in the Masonite Corporation. He further studied at Melbourne University to move into the plywood industry most recently.

The family arrived on the Gold Coast in John's retirement in 1983. John enjoyed photography and travelling in trains - the latter in the driver's seat, as often as he could.

His widow, Betty, and family, Peter, Jennifer and Tina, and the grandchildren Mackenzie, Wilson and Cooper as well as his many friends and Rotary colleagues will sadly miss John.

## Rotary & The Rugby World Cup

Rotary's outstanding performance in providing community support for the Sydney Paralympic games led to our selection as the community support partner for the Rugby World Cup.

All qualifying countries to date (18) are Rotary countries incl Georgia. Countries yet to qualify are also Rotary countries.

Opportunities will exist for Rotary to work with local organising teams to extend the hand of friendship to visiting teams, managerial staffs and visiting spectators (over 40,000).

The RWC will be played in all six capital cities except Darwin.

I have been asked to nominate a District Rotarian as our **District Liaison Officer (DLO)** for the Cup.

Please contact me if you or a Rotary colleague may be interested to take on this exciting project.

## Health Update

Past Assistant District Governor Ken Bannister has asked me to pass on sincere thanks to all those Rotarians who have contacted him in various ways after his recent cerebral hemorrhage.

The numerous flowers, cards, prayers and greetings, sincerely touch him and Hazel. He believes this has been a life changing experience. While his vision is considerably impaired with ongoing treatment he is anticipating some improvement.

## New Conversion Rate

Clubs are advised that as from **1 January 2003** that the conversion rate for \$A to \$US has changed. It will now be:

**1.78A\$ = 1\$US**

This is a slight drop from the existing one.

## New Members

**A warm welcome to:**  
**Tony Gasnier**  
RC of Runaway bay  
**Drew Moffatt**  
RC of Runaway Bay  
**Grant Gasnier**  
RC of Runaway Bay