



Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour Daybreak
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Club Bulletin
Edition for 17TH September 2025

Our next Club meeting is on 1st October - CH Golf Club 7:15 for 7:30am

**NOTE – 24th September 7:30am, Social Breakfast at
Stef & Co The Promenade Coffs Harbour**

Our Meeting Report

Club President Marilyn Brien opened the meeting with an acknowledgement to country.

“I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Gumbaynggirr people, who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and hope for a future with reconciliation and renewal at its heart.”

Welcome to Guest Jade Symons

Apologies Ingrid Gardiner, Linda Kirkwood, Liz Donnan –
Di Leach – Loretta Rigby – Fran Bramwell

Toast presented by – Peter Leonard to **Rotary Club of Coolamon**

Coolamon is 35 kilometres from Wagga Wagga and close to Junee and Narrandera.

Coolamon is on the Junee to Hay Railway Line, which now terminates at Yanco.

The Rotary Club has 30 members with the average of 20 attending meetings.

The meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7pm, at the Coolamon Sports & Recreation Club.

The club was chartered on 3rd March 1971, being sponsored by The Narrandera Rotary Club.

The current President is Mary Potts, Secretary is Paul Weston & Treasurer is Vicki Langtry.

One of their projects/fund raiders is the Gears & Beers Event, an annual cycling and craft beer festival.

The festival is celebrated in Wagga Wagga on the October Long Weekend.

The cycling routes start & finish in Wagga Wagga with some routes going close to Coolamon.

And yes, Coolamon has a railway station, picture below.

Also pictures of their Mental Health Hat Day.



Guest Speaker today – **Jade Symons**

Jade shared with us her goal to publish a book of 25-30 stories of diverse storytellers from Refugees to First Nations community, everything in between

The Why

'Refugee Welcome Zone' by the NSW Government, and through the Humanitarian Settlement Program more than 5,500 refugees from Burma, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan amongst other areas now call Coffs Harbour home.

Further, close to 7% of the local population identifying as Indigenous (double the national average) and on average experience worse health, social and educational outcomes than their metropolitan counterparts.

The Storytellers

Mitra Hussani, Afghan human rights activist



Sami Sheebo, Yazidi refugee and President House of Yazidi



Lily Clegg, Gumbaynggirr Knowledge Holder



Htun Htun Oo, Burmese surgeon, and community leader



Outcome

Directly contribute to the social cohesion of the area through amplifying, including and celebrating the diverse stories, opinions and cultures of Coffs Harbour

For more about Jade's journey and their stories go to her website;

<https://jasymons50.wixsite.com/the-guest/post/the-guest-post-one>



WHO AM I - Ian Leach



Ian shared some of his working life with us today – aligning his 1982-1987 Africa experience with Jane to the movie Out Of Africa. Appropriate - as today Robert Redford one of the stars of the movie sadly passed away. Ian said their Africa experience truly was as amazing as the movie. From there they spent 1987-1990 in Bulgaria (very different to African relaxed experience!) 1990-1995 Budapest then 2 years in Singapore before coming to Australia.

Thank you Ian for this sharing – most interesting.

President Marilyn's News

- Rotary District Showcase 21-23 November – please put this in your diary, Country meets the Coast – a Western theme. Our club has been offered the opportunity to present on our RYMARINE project – Bev Stalling and Mark Spencer will be presenting.



In November the District Showcase and AGM will be coming to Coffs and it is the perfect opportunity for members and partners to see what happens at this Annual District event, without much cost and no travelling.

Costs are as follows:

Whole weekend \$99

Saturday night Dinner only \$65

Saturday Showcase \$35 which includes morning tea and lunch

Registration is required for this event. PLEASE try to attend as this is meant to be the Coffs Harbour area SHOWCASE – promote OUR club.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/1451176/sessions/5828737/sections/2787446/tickets>

- Thank you to all who are supporting and helping our fortnightly recycling efforts.
- Countdown to our Golf Day on 26th September – GREAT raffle and TEAM prizes with awesome auction items for our auctioneer Michael Crossland.

Treasurer Report – Lynda Soderlund

Lynda presented the Treasurer's report to the club with all bank balance details, thank you!

Club News – Ingrid Gardiner

Thank you to everyone who was able to help out at Bunnings BBQ at the weekend. All proceeds raised go towards MHERV unit for Men's Health.

Social breakfast next week is at Steff & Co, Coffs Promenade.

International News – Bev Stalling

September theme is Basic Education and Literacy

Literacy is a human right.

Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to opportunity and empowers individuals to transform their communities.

Rotary program in Belize (north east coast of Central America) Literacy Alive! was established 10 years ago and has been supported by 8 Rotary Foundation Global Grants. The program is based on phonics and science and teachers were updated on how to teach and focused on how students really learn. Data was collected on reading skills improvement over six months.

After demonstrating that teachers had integrated new practices into daily instruction the project snowballed and the Belize Ministry of Education took notice.

Today, more than 1,300 teachers have been trained and more than 20,000 students have benefitted.

The program is now compulsory in Belize primary schools and teachers say how confident they are that they can change students' lives.

Timor-Leste declared malaria-free by the WHO (World Health Organisation)

From a peak of 223,000 cases in 2006 the country has recorded zero indigenous cases since 2021. The result is years of coordinated effort between the Timorese government, international health bodies and partners including Australian Rotarians Against Malaria (ARAM) and a program of Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). ARAM has been at the forefront of malaria elimination distributing long lasting insecticidal nets, supplying indoor residual spraying machines, diagnostic tools and delivery community education programs.

Youth News – Mark Spencer

RYLA dinner invitation for Wednesday Oct 8 in Macksville. We can do some car-pooling if members wish. I'll be attending and can take three passengers.

Guest speaker for the dinner will be Chantelle Doyle, Chantelle is an enthusiastic advocate for conservation genetics and biodiversity preservation. Chantelle is based at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

RYLA aims:

- To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth
- To encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth
- To provide leadership training experience for young people to assist them to be actively and effectively involved with their communities and their workplace.

Rotary
District 9660



RYLA
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

**DISTRICT 9660 CELEBRATES ONE OF
ROTARY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS**

WED 8TH OCTOBER 2025

6PM for a **6.30PM** start

**MACKSVILLE EX-SERVICES CLUB
16 COOPER ST, MACKSVILLE**

HOST CLUB: RC NAMBUCCA VALLEY

\$40 per person

Dress: Cocktail/Jacket & Tie

DIRECT DEPOSIT | ACCOUNT: ROTARY CLUB OF NAMBUCCA VALLEY

BSB: 533 000 | Account: 1066 5486 | Reference: RYLA, Name, Club

On separate email please advise Kerry Dedman: dkldedos@bigpond.net.au
of payment date, names of guests, seating request and dietary requirements

RSVP: MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

DIARY NOTE FOR ALL 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month is our Formal meeting at the Coffs Harbour Golf Club

Social catch up 24th September at Stef & Co The Promenade Coffs Harbour.

Please see the Roster below – if not available please let Ingrid or Marilyn know.

Meeting Date	Door	Toast	Thank Speaker	Who Am I?	Rotary Down Under
6/8/25	Lynda S	Ann Gee (International)	Deb Farquhar		Ian Leach
20/8/25	Di Leach	Vanessa Simpson (Aust)	Ian Leach	Peter Leonard	
3/9/25	Ingrid G	Bev Stalling (International)	Ann Gee		Michelle Anthony
17/9/25	Lynda S	Peter Leonard (Australian)	Loretta Rigby	Ian Leach	
1/10/25	Di Leach	Mark Spencer (International)	Lynda Soderlund		Linda Kirkwood
15/10/25	Lucie S	Di Leach (International)	Rita Wilson	Marilyn Brien	
5/11/25	Lynda S	Michelle A (Australian)	Bev Stalling		Rita Wilson
19/11	Di Leach	Ingrid G (Australian)	Liz Donnan	Bev Stalling	

RECYCLING ROSTER – Moonee Reflections Caravan Park

29th September – please advise Marilyn of availability

Other Dates for your DIARY

Next Board meeting is 3pm Monday 29th September at Lucies'

Combined clubs Charity Golf Day – 26th September

Rotary District Showcase- 21-23 November at the CEX

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/1451176/sessions/5828737/sections/2787446/tickets>

Combined District Conference in Newcastle 20-21st March 2026

Rotary Leadership for 2025-2026

Rotary International President	Francesco Arezzo (RC of Ragusa, Italy)
District Governor D9660	Evan Burrell (RC Greenhills, Maitland)
District Governor Elect D9660	Di Hall (Rotary E Club 9650)
RCG4 Leader	Richie Goddard (RC Dorrigo)