

# Rotary

## Club of E-Club of District 9650



Saturday, October 4, 2025

### Birthdays

Peter L. Kenny  
October 24th  
Jonathan Gaukroger  
November 3rd

### Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding  
Anniversaries Found

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



### Account Leaders

Jonathan Gaukroger  
District Rotaract Rep  
Evan Burrell DG  
District Governor  
Diane Carolyn Hall DGE  
JP  
District Governor-Elect  
Peter Comino DGN  
District Governor-  
Nominee  
Jacqueline Kate George  
District Secretary  
Simon Keough  
District Treasurer  
Patrick Healey  
Finance Chair  
Bruce George  
Past District Governor  
Brian Daniel Morgan  
Rotary Foundation

### Presidents Message

The meeting last week introduced Gail Sykes from the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club in South Africa as guest speaker on a range of activities that a very active club of 52 members could do in their local area and in their District. Peter Farquhar offered the toast to Gail's club and had Gail respond to the toast, telling us all about her Club.

Of particular interest Gail spoke about the Computer Hub they had installed at Bundles of Joy which is already opening new doors for kids ages 2 to 6, many of whom come from rural, underserved areas where technology is hard to come by. This new Hub is their first step into digital literacy, giving them tools and skills that will help them in school and beyond. With fun, age-appropriate educational programs, the Hub is turning learning into an exciting, hands-on adventure!

For these kids, who may otherwise have little exposure to technology, the Hub is a bridge to new opportunities, building confidence and giving them a head start on their education. It's more than just computers – it's a way to help them dream bigger and reach for a brighter future.

The club has already participated in global grants from The Rotary Foundation and offers an opportunity for our Club to work with them on a global project that would see further computer hubs introduced into their District.

Rotary District 9350 has 80+ clubs operating in the Western and Northern Cape of South Africa, Angola, and Namibia. They unite passionate individuals of all ages and partner with their local communities to create positive change. This was very evident by the message given to us by Gail. We gave Gail the opportunity to leave the meeting, but she chose to stay and hear of the activities of our Club and seemed most impressed.

We also had a very short Board meeting after the regular Club meeting to discuss a proposal from Keiran regarding the club website and associated social media sites. To make progress on the website, we will need to purchase a hosting service. It was resolved that we purchase this web hosting, and this is now proceeding behind the scenes. What it will mean is that we will have a very informative website that is current and up to date as will our social media presence.

What this highlights is that as members of the EClub, we can all work in our local communities or with projects of interest. I will be particularly interested this year in hearing of such local projects, such as the one that John Mackay has worked on with the local Lions Club in Maclean. Lyn Duncan continues to have close connections with Rous Public school and during the last week we paid for the badges for the executive at the school. Thanks to all my fellow Rotarians in the EClub for all that you do in supporting your local communities. I continue to look forward to a productive year in which we will once again support each other for the good of all the communities that we serve, and particularly the students at Rous Public School.

This week I would like to have a club assembly to give all members the opportunity to discuss several proposals. I have raised the possibility of working again in the National Park near Ebor with a koala habitat funded

from a District grant. The grants applications will close at the end of October so I will be asking Steve Beaton while he is down in Tamworth to assist me with the grant application.

Last week, I also had a meeting with the Joint Presidents in Cluster 6 with John Boag, the Rotary Community Leader for that District, and a very active member in our club.

I am pleased to report that the EClub has been assigned to Carinya Christian School in Calala, following on the great work done by John and Dorothy Barwick some years ago with the school. I will be making an appointment to see the Principal and attempt to establish relations with the school that will enable students from that school to participate in the many Youth activities available through the Rotary district.

The Clubs also discussed two upcoming events. The district semi-finals will be in Tamworth on October 18 at Red Cross House, in Kable Avenue, Tamworth. Di and I will be at these semi-finals with Henrique, and I am working with the EClub members to do the morning tea. There are funds available for this, and these funds, after costs, will go into our administration account. It won't be a huge amount, but every small addition to the account is worthwhile.

The team has also planned a World Polio Day movie fundraiser on October 24th, selecting "The Traveller" as the film to be shown at Forum 6 cinema here in Tamworth. Cost will be \$30 per head as a fundraiser for Polio eradication. I am working with Simon Guest from First Light Rotary Club to have this film shown at Tamworth as a polio fundraiser, and a great night here in Tamworth is anticipated. If other club members would like to have the film available in their local community, then please contact me for the details and work with the other Rotary clubs in your local communities to enable this to happen. This will then provide funds that will go towards our club's polio fundraising efforts this Rotary year.

Henrique Borin has confirmed that he will be arriving in Tamworth on 8<sup>th</sup> October as our Rotary exchange student from Brazil. Di and I will be over on the coast that evening for the RYLA dinner at Macksville that Peter and Deb Farquhar will also be attending. We have organised with Marina Hearn to collect him from Tamworth airport and look after him until we arrive back in Tamworth the following day. He will be attending Oxley High School as a Year 12 student from 13<sup>th</sup> October, and we will be having a welcoming night here in Tamworth at our house for him on 11<sup>th</sup> October. All members of the Club are welcome to attend if they have the time and opportunity to travel. We will provide the BBQ and the three exchange students in Tamworth will be doing the sweets so it should be a great night. Just let Di know if you are able to attend and will be coming on that evening.

The following two meetings have been booked. Tahni Triffitt will be our guest speaker on her RYLA experience at our meeting of 23 October. I would like our meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November to be the night when we examine the new Club constitution and bylaws ready for their acceptance at the AGM in December. I will discuss this more fully at the club assembly this week.

Until then continue to enjoy the school holidays and I look forward to catching up with all the member news in the next few days.

Ken

## Vale Bronwyn Hacker

**VALE Bronwyn  
Hacker: A Life of  
Grace and Service**

The Rotary  
community has lost a  
cherished member



with the passing of Bronwyn Hacker, who died peacefully at her Port Macquarie home on 5 June, surrounded by the love of her family.

Bronwyn was the beloved wife of Past District Governor Barry Hacker, who served with distinction as governor of the former District 9650 during 2011-12. Throughout Barry's leadership journey in Rotary, Bronwyn stood as his steadfast partner, offering quiet strength and

unwavering support to both him and the broader Rotary family.

After a courageous ten-month battle with ovarian cancer, Bronwyn passed away in the comfort of her home, with her husband Barry and their two daughters by her side. Her grace and dignity during this difficult time reflected the character that endeared her to so many in the Rotary community.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barry, their daughters, and all of Bronwyn's family and friends during this time of grief. While we mourn her passing, we celebrate a life well-lived and the positive impact she made on countless lives.

The Rotary motto "Service Above Self" found true expression in Bronwyn Hacker. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

## **eClub Flyers - Get yours at Showcase**

By Keiran Paul Kennedy Rodgers on Tuesday, September 23, 2025

## **Club Website update**

I'm pleased to confirm that work is well underway on building our new club website, which will serve as a fantastic platform to showcase who we are, what we do, and the positive impact we make in our community and beyond.

To make this website truly representative of our club's spirit and

achievements, I'm reaching out to request your contributions. If you could please send through any information, photos, or stories you have on the following topics, it would be enormously helpful:

- **Club Testimonials**

Share your personal experience of being a Rotarian and what the club means to you (these can be anonymous if you prefer)

- **Local Projects**

Any content, descriptions, or photos from community projects you've been involved in

- **International Projects**

Stories, updates, and photos from our global initiatives and partnerships

- **Youth Programs**

Content and photos showcasing our work with young people in the community

- **The Four-Way Test**

Your personal reflection on what the Four-Way Test means to you and how it guides your actions

- **Club History**

Your perspective on our club's journey and milestones (these will be combined into a feature piece about our heritage)

- **Why Join Us?**

Your thoughts on what makes our club special and why others should consider becoming members

- **Photos**

This is a big one! Please send through any photos you have of your involvement in club projects, activities, events, or gatherings. We'd love to create a vibrant visual story of our club in action.

Please send your contributions to [Rotary@Rodgersgroup.au](mailto:Rotary@Rodgersgroup.au) at your convenience. There's no strict deadline, but the sooner we receive content, the sooner we can get our new website live and showcasing the amazing work we do.

Thank you in advance for your time and contributions. Together, we'll create a website that truly reflects the heart and soul of our Rotary club.

## Tech tip update

### Tech tip



Get mobile with Rotary Learning Center

Help your clubs and district embrace change with the new **RotaryLearn** app! Members can start or complete courses, review their progress, and explore other Learning Center resources anytime, anywhere, right from their phones.

Getting started is easy. Download the app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), sign in to My Rotary, and start

## Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club in South Africa

Gail Sykes from the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club in South Africa shared insights about her club, which has 52 members, including 38% women. Gail Sykes provides an overview of her club, its location in Somerset West, and its membership demographics. Gail highlights the club's activities, including its social side, Interact clubs, and the diversity of its members. Gail Sykes describes the club's location, its proximity to Cape Town, and its beautiful surroundings. The club has 52 members, with 38% being women, and includes part-time members from Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The club meets weekly at 7 am and is the largest in the district, with four Interact clubs.

The club has contributed over 6 million Rand to various projects, including equipping a COVID ward and providing ultrasound equipment for a state hospital. Early childhood development is a significant issue, and the club is providing playground equipment and educational toys. The club has distributed over 42,000 articles of clothing and has set up fit-for-purpose computer centers in schools. The club is involved in teaching local communities how to grow and sell produce, providing employment and organic produce to restaurants. Some community members have progressed from this to establishing their own businesses in restaurants and growing food.

The club has set up a food garden to teach children about agriculture and provide food for school meals. The club has installed a Rotary Peace Pole in Cape Town and conducts annual blanket drives for the community. Youth empowerment programs include training students in writing CVs, etiquette, and job interview skills.

Gail expresses interest in connecting with other clubs and districts for similar initiatives and projects.

Gail discusses the challenges of fundraising and the club's success with global grants. The club uses networking, social media, and hybrid meetings to attract new members.

Gail emphasizes the importance of making new members feel welcome and providing opportunities for them to get involved. The club has a dedicated committee for global grant applications and focuses on one pillar of interest per application.