

DG Ian Hope Club visit notes 21 Oct 2026 at Jetty Lounge 8.15am

The meeting focused on Rotary club updates, community projects, and district-level changes. Colin opened with a motion to donate \$2,500 to the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) during UQ Giving Day to double the impact, which the board approved. Kerrie Anne Dooley MP [KAD], an honorary member and registered nurse, discussed the Moreton Bay Dementia Alliance and their work on dementia-friendly gardens at the Botanical Gardens, noting that dementia has superseded heart disease as a leading cause of death. KAD announced a \$1,000 sponsorship for the club's upcoming Highland Fling event and shared information on dementia awareness. District Governor Ian provided a detailed update on the district's membership decline and the ongoing redistricting process, explaining that districts below 1,100 members are being merged or reorganized. He described the upcoming district conference in March, which will feature a "pitch" competition where six clubs will present project ideas for a \$5,000 grant. The discussion also touched on the need for clubs to innovate their meeting formats and find ways to offset high venue costs through community-focused projects and partnerships.

Next steps

Colin

- Donated to the QBI service to secure the \$2,500 donation as being made today (UQ Giving Day) to double the impact. - DONE
- Provide the club with the date for the upcoming presentation with Dr. Gill [4th Nov 2026] and Dr. Daniel Blackwell [25th Nov 2026]

Collaboration

- Rotary clubs: Consider applying for the district project grant by submitting an application for a project they want to do before the end of December.
- Rotary clubs: Explore ways to offset the cost of Rotary dues through community-facing projects or fee-for-service initiatives.

Summary

Dementia Research Fundraising Initiatives

The meeting focused on several key topics. Colin announced a \$2,500 donation to QBI (Queensland Brain Institute) on UQ Giving Day, which would effectively double to \$5,000 due to matching funds. PaulH discussed plans for a Highland Fling event next year to support dementia research, with a \$1,000 sponsorship commitment from the Moreton Bay Dementia Alliance. KAD also discussed a new dementia-friendly garden project at the Botanical Gardens, with plans for a meeting in February. DG Ian Hope provided an update on district challenges, noting a decline in membership in the Zone Oceania from 30,000 to 24,000 members over the past 10 years, with a target of 1,100 members per division for financial viability.

Australian District Status Review

DG Ian discussed the status of districts in Australia and New Zealand, noting that seven districts are below 1100 cutoffs and have driven the regional process. He mentioned that while some pilot programs have been running for three to four years, their zone [D9620] has not been part of them, and focus has shifted toward governance models over the past three years. DG Ian also discussed boundary issues with districts 9620 and 9640, which span across Queensland and New South Wales.

DG Ian Hope Club visit notes 21 Oct 2026 at Jetty Lounge 8.15am

Queensland District Merger Planning

DG Ian discussed plans for a district merger involving 35 clubs from Queensland that will take effect on July 1, 2028. The group is currently working on governance models, board structure, and the selection process for a new district governor who will be appointed on October 1. DG Ian mentioned that the nomination process for the listed governor position will close at the end of November, with a selection panel process to follow using criteria from 9640 and 9620.

District Governor Experience and Challenges

Dg Ian discussed his experience as district governor, mentioning both challenges and enjoyment in the role. He addressed issues related to financial reporting and project costs, including a specific project in June that had significant expenses. The conversation touched on membership numbers and decisions affecting different districts, particularly in South Australia and North Queensland. Dg Ian also referenced previous discussions about decreasing membership numbers and Rotary's internal efforts to address this trend.

Community Impact Club Initiatives

President Colin discussed how their club has focused on making an impact in the community through various projects, including ClubRunner, [CBSHS Native Garden](#) and the Talk About Environmental Series listed on our Calendar. He questioned whether other clubs are doing something differently, noting that some clubs like Glasshouse Country and Forest Lake have folded. Colin shared examples of successful community initiatives, including partnerships with local councils and organizations, and emphasized the importance of evolving relationships with other community groups to manage and grow projects effectively.

Rotary Club Initiatives and Planning

DG Ian discussed various Rotary club activities and initiatives, including regular monthly meetings, project funding, and community events. He outlined plans for an [upcoming district conference in March](#), which will include project demonstrations and a pitch competition where six selected clubs will present for a chance to win \$5,000 in funding. The discussion also covered challenges in maintaining member engagement and balancing project costs with community benefits, with DG Ian emphasizing the importance of finding ways to make Rotary activities more accessible and inviting to new members and the broader community.