

NEWSLETTER

Message from the President:

Uniting for Good to Write Our Next Chapter

It is a great honor to serve as your President, and I am filled with gratitude for your trust as we begin to write the next chapter of our club's legacy. I want to express my deepest appreciation to our **Immediate Past President (IPP), Piero Banchetti**, whose exceptional leadership and passion have laid a strong foundation for us to build upon.



This year's Rotary International theme, "**Unite for Good**," is more than a slogan—it is a call to action. It reminds us that every small act of unity, from showing up at a meeting to volunteering with compassion, is a seed from which greater service will grow. As we move forward, my focus will be on **three key priorities**: *strengthening our bonds of fellowship, ensuring our projects meet real community needs, and growing our membership and partnerships.*

Let us all remember that being a Rotarian is a commitment to action. With your support and cooperation, I am confident this will be a year of connection, purpose, and meaningful change. Together, let's make this a year to remember. **Let's Unite. Let's Serve. Let's Do Good.**

Yours in Rotary Service,
Myra Abantao
President, Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf

JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

Kicking Off the Year Strong

The new Rotary year officially began with an enthusiastic **First Regular Meeting** on **3rd July, 2025**. Club members gathered to launch the 2025-2026 term, proudly displaying the year's Rotary International theme: **UNITE FOR GOOD**.



Unite for Good: First Regular Meeting

ECG to Angau

The Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf began the new Rotary year with a monumental donation on **7th July, 2025**, of a modern **ECG Machine** (Electrocardiogram) to the **Angau Memorial Hospital**.

The ECG machine will enable healthcare professionals to monitor patients' heart conditions more effectively, leading to improved outcomes. It's a testament to the **power of community collaboration** and the impact of Rotary's dedication to **service above self**.



A New Era of Service: The Presidential Changeover Dinner

The **2025-2026 Rotary year** kicked off with a splendid and significant **Changeover Dinner on 10th July, 2025.**

The evening celebrated the seamless **transition of leadership** as **Piero Banchetti (IPP)** formally handed over the Presidential Collar to our new **President Myra Abantao.**



Growing Our Family: Welcome, Caroline Kahai!

The Changeover Dinner also served as the special occasion to formally induct a wonderful new member into our ranks. We extend a warm and enthusiastic Rotary welcome to Caroline Kahai!



In photo: New Rotary Officers and Members

Our New Rotary Officers

We are thrilled to introduce our new Rotary Club officers for the upcoming year. Their dedication to the Rotary principles and vision for our club will undoubtedly inspire positive change and new opportunities for service.

- President:** Myra Abantao
- Vice President (IPP):** Piero Banchetti
- Secretary:** Arlon Berja
- Treasurer:** Rodney Bautista
- Public Image:** Michelle Javier
- Service Project Chair:** Hans Mehl

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

Service, Celebration, and Awareness



Club Achievement: Back-to-Back Award

The Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf was honored to receive the prestigious **Club Excellence Award for 2024-2025** in August! This marks the **second year in a row** the club has earned this distinction, a testament to the dedication and successful leadership of **IPP Piero Banchetti**.

Celebrating 40 Years of Service: Honoring Rotarian Hans Mehl



In photo: Hans with his wife and Rotary Members

On 28th August, 2025, our regular meeting became extra special as we celebrated a remarkable milestone: **Rotarian Hans Mehl's 40th Anniversary of Service in Rotary!** We honored Hans for his **four decades of dedicated effort, wisdom, and leadership** to the club and the wider community.



Hans reflected on his 40 years in Rotary, recalling the club's early service projects like helping a young boy receive a hearing aid through Sister Margaret and the Australian Army's support. He fondly remembered the **strong fellowship within the club** — from fish and chips nights and lawn bowls to creative fundraising like night golf and the first Rotary ball — **all showing Rotary's spirit of service, teamwork, and family.**

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2025

Sustained Service: The Ongoing Free ENT Medical Campaign

The **Free ENT Medical Campaign** in collaboration with **Dr. Joseph Garap (ENT Specialist)** will be a **regular service project** for the club. This initiative aims to provide vital ear, nose, and throat medical services to communities with limited access to specialized care.



PART 1



PART 2

A Lifelong Commitment to Community Health

The first two highly successful medical camps were held at **Brian Bell Lae Plaza** in **August 2025**, benefiting a total of **143 patients** across **Part 1 (2nd August)** and **Part 2 (30th August)**. Each session delivered check-ups, initial treatments, and expert advice, addressing various ENT concerns that often go untreated.

This ongoing partnership with Dr. Garap highlights Rotary's unwavering commitment to **sustainable community health and service**. With the enthusiastic participation of club members, volunteers, and medical partners, the Free ENT Medical Campaign continues to make a lasting difference — bringing quality healthcare closer to the people who need it most.

Empowering Athletes: Sports & Social Awareness



Supporting Lae Rugby Team

In August, the Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf proudly extended its support to the Lae Rugby Team through the donation of essential rugby sports gear, reinforcing the club's commitment to youth development and community engagement through sports.



Promoting “No to Domestic Violence”

Beyond promoting athletic excellence, the club also partnered with both the **Lae Rugby** and **Basketball Teams** in spreading a powerful social message. During their recent matches, players proudly wore “**No to Domestic Violence**” shirts — a bold statement against abuse and a reminder of the importance of respect and equality in every home and community.



The combined effort showcased how Rotary, in collaboration with local sports groups, can use the influence of sports to drive positive change and raise awareness on pressing social issues.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS: *Service and Positive Outlook*



In photo: Pres. Myra, Rtn. Liv and Volunteers

Fundraising at the 2025 Morobe Show

The Club mobilized for a significant fundraising project during the annual Morobe Show held on **13–14th September 2025**. The event was set to be a vibrant opportunity for community engagement and financial support toward the club’s service initiatives. Unfortunately, operations had to be ceased on the first half-day due to unforeseen permitting issues related to the gaming board.

Despite this setback, our members remained steadfast, demonstrating teamwork, optimism, and resilience in the face of challenges. While the outcome was not as planned, the experience strengthened our resolve to continue finding creative and compliant ways to raise funds for the community. True to the Rotary spirit, we remain **undaunted in service above self.**



Fellowship and Future Focus



On **18th September 2025**, club members gathered for a special dinner. The evening served not only as a post-celebration of **PNG’s 50th Independence Day**, but also as a meaningful moment for reflection and fellowship following the recent Morobe Show.

Although the club faced challenges during the fundraising initiative at the Show, the dinner was filled with **positive energy, laughter, and renewed determination.**

It was a night that truly embodied the Rotary spirit — celebrating resilience, unity, and the shared goal of making a lasting difference in our community.

Life-Changing Mobility: Wheelchair Donation

On **20th September 2025**, our club facilitated the delivery of a much-needed wheelchair to the father of our newest member, **Caroline Kahai**. The wheelchair was procured through the **Rotary Club of Boroko**, who kindly assisted with the coordination and delivery to the recipient. We extend our appreciation to the Rotary Club of Boroko for their support in ensuring the successful handover.



We are also pleased to share that **additional wheelchairs remain available** for distribution to individuals and families in need, as part of our ongoing commitment to improving mobility and quality of life within our community.

Full House Meeting: Planning for Impact



The **final regular meeting of September**, held on **25th September 2025**, was a lively and well-attended gathering that reflected the club’s strong spirit of engagement and teamwork. Members filled the room with enthusiasm as discussions centered on planning and refining upcoming service projects for the next quarter.

We were also delighted to welcome two special guests, Jeff and Albert, who joined us as prospective members. Their presence added to the dynamic atmosphere, as they learned more about Rotary’s mission and witnessed firsthand the fellowship and commitment that define our club.

Join Us: *Unite for Good!*

Are you inspired by the work the Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf is doing? We are a group of dedicated volunteers who value fellowship, integrity, and service above self.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



We invite you to join us and make a difference!

- **Make an Impact:** Get involved in hands-on projects, like our medical camps and donation drives.
- **Grow Your Network:** Connect with local leaders and professionals who share a passion for service.
- **Learn and Lead:** Benefit from mentorship and leadership opportunities in a supportive environment.

Service Above Self starts with you! You may join us through the following:

 **Meetings:** Every Thursday, 7:00 PM

 **Venue:** Board Room, Lae International Hotel | **or contact us:**

 **Email:** rotarylae2023@gmail.com

 **Facebook:** Rotary Lae | Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf

SAVE THE DATE!



Black Tie Ball 2026

The Biggest Fundraising Event of the Year!

Mark your calendars for the most elegant and impactful evening of 2026!



Date: Saturday, 30th May 2026

The Rotary Club of Lae Huon Gulf is preparing a spectacular night of fine dining, entertainment, and fundraising. **Expect more surprises** as we aim to raise vital funds for our upcoming service projects.

Don't miss out!