ROCCATU DOWN UNDER Australia | New Zealand | Oceania

Your guide to doing good.



SAFE WATER FOR EVERY CHILD SkyJuice

SPONSOR A SAFE WATER PROJECT FROM JUST \$1,000

That is enough to deliver safe water to a community of 1,000 people or a school of 3,000 students.

Donate today and get involved in SkyHydrant™ or SQUIRT™ safe water projects across Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America. We welcome the opportunity to visit your club meeting and explain the projects.

- World-leading, patented passive membrane filtration technology
- Proven success: Over 500 installations delivered by Rotarians alone
- Trusted by 50+ global aid organisations and NGOs
- Reliable, sustainable, clean water for under 50 cents per person per year – with no ongoing costs

Donate directly or contact SkyJuice today: +61 438 880 621 | www.skyjuice.org.au Acc Name: SkyJuice Foundation Inc BSB: 062-217 | Acc No: 1047-3370



Safe Water for Every Child

contents

ISSUE 683 (JUNE 2025)

08 News Bulletin

World Press Photo Exhibition returns to Auckland; Kenthurst tackling homelessness; Blue sky thinking on the Gold Coast; Gnomes dig deep for *PolioPlus*; Putting Peace Poles on the virtual map; Community collaboration in South Australia; Rotary South Pacific DEI Club Framework; Breaking membership records across Zone 8; Support for Queensland flood victims.

24 New Gen Governors

Three district governors under the age of 45 are breaking stereotypes in their own unique way.

28 Wetland Warriors

The Rotary Club of Te Awamutu, NZ, is leading the way in conservation and education.

30 The Road to Friendship

Rotary fellowships provide a wonderful opportunity to make friends around the world, explore an interest or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience.

COVER IMAGE: Past District Governor Jonathan Usher is a professional magician and dedicated community volunteer bringing *The Magic of Rotary* to life on and off the stage. (Photo: Georgie Daniel Photography)

Rotary Down Under Offices: Australia (Head Office)

PO Box 7044
Norwest NSW 2153
Phone +61 2 9633 4888
Web www.rotarydownunder.org

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Editorial & Administration Toll Free from NZ 0800 287 682

Editorial Submissions

editorial@rotarydownunder.com.au

Advertising Enquiries

advertising@rotarydownunder.com.au

General Manager – Gay Kiddle gaykiddle@rotarydownunder.com.au

Editor – Meagan Martin meaganmartin@rotarydownunder. com.au

Subscription Enquiries – Sam Ausburn subscriptions@rotarydownunder.com.au

Accountant

finance@rotarydownunder.com.au

Proofreading – Gwen Walker Advertisement Design – Melinda Merton melindamerton@bigpond.com

Publisher – Rotary Down Under ABN:6211348579 | ACN:001408377

Printer - IVE Group

RDU Supplies

sales@rdusupplies.com.au www.rdusupplies.com.au



Rotary International Regional Office

L1 25/1 Maitland Place Norwest NSW 2153 PO Box 6985

PEFC2+31-119

This product is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources

This product is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources

PEFC2+31-119

PEFC2+31-119

This product is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources

This product is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources

or responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information or advertisements contained in this publication and readers should rely on their own enquiries in making decisions concerning their own interests. In particular, no responsibility is accepted for the quality of goods or services supplied by advertisers or for the accuracy of materials submitted for reproduction. To the extent permitted by law, the publishers, their employees, agents and contractors exclude all liability (including liability and negligence) to any person for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising as a result of material appearing in this publication. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation.





The best is yet to come



By Stephanie Urchick President Rotary International

I HAVE had so many wonderful experiences over the past year, but as comforting as it might be to dwell on the past, we must look toward the future.

We are closer than ever to ending polio, but that does not mean we can relax. We still have a promise to keep to the children of the world and their families, and we will only fulfill that promise through fundraising, advocacy and the power of our collective action.

I was amazed at the capability and commitment of the peacebuilders at the Presidential Peace Conference earlier this year. Our Peace Fellowship program and our many other peace initiatives bring healing to a divided world, but they need our support to remain effective and relevant.

Amid a worldwide loneliness epidemic, Rotary offers friendship, purpose and belonging. If we hold true to our ideals – to The Four-Way Test and our spirit of inclusivity – we will remain a beacon of light even in the darkest times.

The Action Plan can serve as a guide to make our clubs and districts simply irresistible, but it is up to us to take that advice and put it to use.

Family of Rotary, there is nothing we cannot achieve when we come together and work toward a common goal.

You are *The Magic of Rotary*, and I can't wait to see the lasting change you bring to the world. RDU

1. RI President Stephanie Urchick gets up close with Florida's wildlife while preparing for the International Assembly. 2. Under snow in Istanbul, Stephanie helps dedicate a peace pole during the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference. 3. While in London to attend events for Commonwealth Day, Stephanie greets King Charles III. 4. During a tour of Africa, she celebrates with participants at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event in Uganda. 5. Stephanie meets with Željko Komšić, the Croat member of Bosnia and Herzegovina's presidency. 6. In Alabama for a Rotary institute, Stephanie prepares for liftoff at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. 7. While exploring the pyramids of Giza, Stephanie indulges in some photographic fun.















GUEST EDITORIAL

Together we connect, share and grow Rotary – beyond the club



By PDG Ingrid Waugh 2025 Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference

AS chair of the upcoming 2025 Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference, I am delighted to have this opportunity to connect with you all, to highlight the enriching experiences that wait beyond the familiar and valuable fellowship of our individual Rotary clubs.

While club meetings form the essential foundation of our Rotary journey, offering camaraderie and the platform for local impact, a vast and vibrant landscape of Rotary engagement extends far beyond these regular gatherings. Exploring these broader avenues can significantly enhance our understanding, our connections, our satisfaction with the Rotary experience and, ultimately, our capacity to make a meaningful difference in the world.

One of the key avenues for connection beyond your club is through your Rotary Community Group. By collaborating with fellow clubs, we

can glean innovative ideas to inspire our own club initiatives, identify potential partners for combined efforts and broaden our network to increase community impact.

Another avenue is a District Conference, or indeed a combined District Conference, offering an energising immersion into the larger Rotary community. These gatherings create a stimulating environment for learning, sharing best practices and gaining inspiration from a diverse range of speakers and workshops.

For those seeking an even broader horizon, the Rotary International Convention presents an unparalleled experience. Surrounded by Rotarians from across the globe, one gains a truly international perspective on our shared mission. The cultural exchange is invaluable, and the connections forged can extend across continents, enriching our Rotary journeys in profound ways.

You have probably already guessed that I would particularly like to draw your attention to the 2025 Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference, taking place on the Gold Coast from October 31 to November 2.

This conference promises to be an exceptional occasion to connect with an even wider group of fellow Rotarians from across our beautiful South Pacific region. We are curating an engaging program featuring inspiring speakers, informative sessions and valuable networking opportunities.

We will be emphasising connection beyond your club – within our diverse zone and beyond – through international speakers, workshops and especially looking at what Rotary offers each of us through fellowships, Rotary Action Groups and TRF cadres.

This is more than just a conference; it is an investment in your Rotary experience, an opportunity to make new connections, share ideas and grow your knowledge. I sincerely encourage you to consider extending your Rotary involvement beyond your club and join us on the Gold Coast. Discover the immense possibilities and the collective power that lies within our wider Rotary family. **DU*

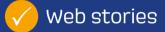


Your Rotary, Your Way Launching July 1, 2025

Rotary Down Under is evolving! Welcome to RDU.ONE – the new central communications hub for all Rotary news across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

FOR ONE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE you get all inclusive access to the following channels and all for **less** than the cost of your current RDU subscription:











FAQs

What is the new web address? This will be revealed on July 1, but the existing website will also forward to the new domain.

will all of this content reach non-Rotarian eyes? That's our aim with the new media platforms – to reach out to a much broader audience.

Is this a recognised entity with a formal partnership with Rotary International? Yes, it is.

What do you mean by bi-monthly? The print and digital magazine will be published every second month starting with the July edition.

Is this magazine replacing Rotary Down Under, and are we being asked to pay twice? No, this isn't replacing Rotary Down Under, it's just delivering it in a different way. You are not being asked to pay twice.

What will happen to my existing Rotary Down Under subscription? Your current Rotary Down Under subscription will be converted to the new RDU.ONE subscription, giving you more than just a magazine subscription – all for less than you pay now.

What's the cost? \$39 per annum.





World Press Photo Exhibition returns to Auckland

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Auckland, NZ, the 2025 World Press Photo Exhibition will run from July 26 – August 24.

THE internationally acclaimed World Press Photo Exhibition returns to Auckland later this year, showcasing the best and most important photojournalism and documentary photography from around the globe. The exhibition, which presents the winning photographs of

the prestigious annual World Press Photo Contest, will head to Tāmaki Makaurau, thanks to the Rotary Club of Auckland.

Presented in more than 60 cities each year, the exhibition invites viewers to step outside the news cycle and think critically about important topics in our world. Key themes range from politics, gender and migration to conflict and the climate crisis.

This year, New Zealand is well represented. For the first time ever, a New Zealander was appointed as a judge. Iulia Durkin MNZM – founder and CEO of the Auckland Festival of Photography served on the judging panel for the Asia Pacific & Oceania regional winners, while Nelson-based photographer Tatsiana Chypsana was announced as the Asia Pacific & Oceania - Long Term Projects winner, with her powerful series Te Urewera - The Living Ancestor of Tūhoe People.

The 2025 global Photo of the Year winner and two runners-up have also been announced.

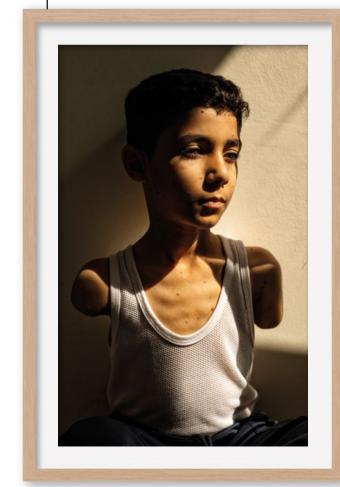


Photo of the Year Mahmoud Ajjour, Aged Nine, by Samar Abu Elouf, for The New York Times

Mahmoud Ajjour (9), who was injured during an Israeli attack on Gaza City in March 2024, finds refuge and medical help in Qatar. As his family fled an Israeli assault, Mahmoud turned back to urge others onward. An explosion severed one of his arms and mutilated the other. The family were evacuated to Qatar where, after medical treatment, Mahmoud is learning to use his feet to play games on his phone, write and open doors. Aside from that, he needs special assistance for most daily activities, such as eating and dressing. Mahmoud's dream is simple: he wants to get prosthetics and live his life as any other child.



Runner Up

Night Crossing by John Moore, Getty Images

Chinese migrants warm themselves during a cold rain after crossing the US-Mexico border.

Unauthorised immigration from China to the US has increased dramatically in recent years due to a host of factors, including China's struggling economy and financial losses after strict zero-COVID policies. Moreover, people are being influenced by video tutorials on how to get across the border, shown on Chinese social media platforms. This image, both otherworldly and intimate, depicts the complex realities of migration at the border, which is often flattened and politicised in public discourse in the United States.



Runner Up

Droughts in the Amazon by Musuk Nolte, Panos Pictures, Bertha Foundation

A young man brings food to his mother who lives in the village of Manacapuru. The village was once accessible by boat, but because. of the drought, he must walk two kilometres along the dry riverbed of the Solimões River to reach her. The Amazon River is experiencing record low-water levels due to severe drought intensified by climate change. This ecological crisis threatens biodiversity, disrupts ecosystems and impacts local communities reliant on rivers for survival. As droughts intensify, many settlers face the difficult choice of abandoning their land and livelihoods for urban areas, changing the social fabric of this region permanently. This project makes the effects of climate change, which can so often be abstract or difficult to represent, appear as a tangible and concrete reality shaping the futures of vulnerable communities closely connected with the natural world.



Asia Pacific & Oceania – Long Term Projects Winner (all photos this spread) Te Urewera – The Living Ancestor of Tühoe People by Tatsiana Chypsanava, Pulitzer Centre, New Zealand Geographic

The Ngāi Tūhoe people of the Te Urewera region in New Zealand have maintained a staunch independence. Tühoe have never lost their connection to their language and cultural identity, and in a groundbreaking 2014 agreement, the New Zealand government opened the way to Tuhoe managing their ancestral lands according to their cultural values. Recent changes by New Zealand's right-wing government are seen as reversals of such hard-fought progressive policies regarding Indigenous peoples. Yet the Tataiwhetu Trust farm in Te Urewera offers a revitalising model for a younger generation.

i

World Press Photo Exhibition Auckland

- 🚃 Dates: July 26 August 24
- Times: Sunday Tuesday: 10.30am 6pm. Wednesday – Saturday: 10.30am – 6.30pm
- Location: Level 1, Smith and Caughey's Building, Elliot St Entrance
- Tickets: On sale soon
- worldpressphoto.org
- worldpressphotoexhibitionauckland.co.nz

The exhibition is also going to Wellington from September 5 – October 5 and will be held on the Ground Floor, TAKINA Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre – next to Te Papa – National Museum of New Zealand









Supporting vital health research through Rotary

THE support of Rotary clubs, individual Rotarians and friends of Rotary has been instrumental in enabling Australian Rotary Health (ARH) to fund a wide range of research initiatives focused on mental health and other critical health conditions. In an increasingly competitive funding environment, the grants provided through ARH are both highly valued and impactful.



By Joy Gillett OAM CEO Australian Rotary Health

We actively encourage researchers who receive ARH funding to engage with their local Rotary clubs by presenting their work and sharing insights into their research outcomes. These presentations may be delivered in person, where practical, or via video link. If your club is interested in hosting a speaker, please contact us and we would be pleased to facilitate this.

Despite advancements in diagnosis and treatment, the prevalence of mental health challenges remains a significant concern. Alarmingly, research indicates that approximately 50 per cent of mental health disorders emerge before the age of 14, often continuing into adolescence and adulthood. The need for sustained research and early intervention remains critical.

In 2025, thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, ARH is proud to be funding the following:

- 10 research project grants focused on improving the mental health of children aged 0–12
- 1 Ian Scott PhD Scholarship focussing on improving the mental health of children aged 0-12 years
- 4 Post Doctoral Fellowships focussing on improving the mental health of children aged 0-12 years
- 32 new and continuing Funding Partner PhD Scholarships across a broad range of health areas
- 8 new Rural Medical Scholarships
- 5 new Rural Nursing Scholarships
- 80 new and continuing Indigenous Health Scholarships

We extend our sincere thanks to all our donors and supporters. Your contributions make it possible for Australian Rotary Health to continue funding vital health research and delivering meaningful impact across Australia.



From street to shelter

How the Rotary Club of Kenthurst is tackling homelessness

From hot meals to transitional housing, the Rotary Club of Kenthurst is proving that community-driven compassion can change lives.

Kenthurst Rotary Food Van for the Homeless

The Rotary Club of Kenthurst, NSW, has a proud tradition of community service, and one of its most impactful projects is the Kenthurst Rotary Food Van for the Homeless. The initiative provides warm, nutritious meals to those in need, ensuring no one in the local community has to go hungry.

Homelessness and food insecurity are pressing concerns throughout the region. In response, the

Rotary Club of Kenthurst launched the food van with a clear mission: to offer immediate, practical assistance to individuals and families facing food insecurity. Beyond nourishment, the van brings dignity, compassion and connection to those it serves.

The van runs entirely on community goodwill and volunteer support. Its success depends on a few key components:

• Scheduled service locations: Regular routes

- are established in areas where homeless and disadvantaged people gather, ensuring meals are accessible to those who need them most.
- Nutritious meal preparation: Meals are freshly prepared by volunteers, with attention to dietary needs and preferences whenever possible.
- Collaboration with local businesses: Restaurants, grocery stores and food suppliers partner with the initiative, generously donating ingredients and supplies.
- Hygiene and safety standards: All food is prepared and served under stringent health protocols.

At the core of the food van's success is its dedicated team of volunteers. From cooking and serving to logistics and fundraising, these generous individuals embody the spirit of service.

Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to get involved, offering a meaningful way to give back to the community.

Since its inception, the food van has delivered countless meals and smiles to those in need. But the club is not stopping there. Future goals include expanding service routes, partnering with more local sponsors, offering additional support services such as hygiene kits, clothing and housing referrals, and acquiring a storage facility.



RIGHT: Rotary Club of Kenthurst President Kathleen Bray (second from left), Vocational **Director Peter** Bray, Pina Lombardo, Hills Transitional Housing Director Dennis van Someren and Foundation Chair Paul Rapp visited Mosman Women's refuge in March to prepare lunch for the ladies on International Women's Day.





The Hills Transitional Housing Project

Building on its commitment to address homelessness, the Rotary Club of Kenthurst has expanded its efforts to include transitional housing solutions, with a focus on vulnerable demographics, particularly older women at risk.

In partnership with volunteers and service organisations, the club supports The Hills Transitional Housing Project. This initiative transforms available properties into secure, supportive homes, allowing older women to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

The project's success stems from strong community partnerships. Transitional Housing works closely with groups like Wesley Mission, Hills Community Aid, The Hills Branch of Soroptimists International, other Rotary clubs in the Hills, Parramatta Mission, Women's Community Shelters and The Older Women's Network.

These partnerships, along

with financial support and hands-on volunteering, have brought the transitional housing vision to life.

More than 110,000 women over the age of 45 in New South Wales are homeless or at risk. Causes range from domestic violence to insufficient retirement savings. The Rotary Club of Kenthurst's proactive approach offers tangible hope to this often overlooked group.

The program seeks compassionate homeowners with vacant properties to join the initiative. Through a partnership with Wesley Mission, Transitional Housing provides secure rent guarantees, property maintenance support, peace of mind for homeowners and homes for those in need.

Food Barn collaboration with Hills Community Aid

In a further demonstration

of community care, the Rotary Club of Kenthurst is collaborating with Hills Community Aid (HCA) and has established a Food Barn – Community Food Aid, which supplies food staples, breakfast and beverages as well as information and referrals to other agencies.

The Rotary Club of Kenthurst addresses immediate needs with hot meals through its food truck initiative. HCA complements this by offering long-term support including social, financial and educational programs.

Together, they are creating a holistic support system for vulnerable individuals and families throughout the Hills District.

Community support

Community support is essential to sustain these initiatives. You can make a difference by:

- Volunteering for meal preparation, housing support or logistics
- Donating food, funds or services
- Spreading awareness within your networks
- Partnering as a business, offering supplies, discounts or sponsorships.

These initiatives are more than charity – they are lifelines. With continued support, the Rotary Club of Kenthurst will ensure that hope, dignity and kindness remain at the heart of the Hills District. RDU

LEFT:
The Kenthurst
Rotary Food
Van for the
Homeless
provides warm,
nutritious
meals to those

in need



For more information, visit www.kenthurstrotaryclub.com.au



"Sometimes,

to truly soar,

our gaze, to

connect with

a wider vista

of ideas and

inspiration.

Conference

precisely that opportunity."

The Zone

offers

we need to lift

Blue sky thinking on the Gold Coast

Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Gold Coast, the 2025 Rotary South Pacific Conference promises to embrace 'blue sky thinking' and expand your horizons.

Roslyn Teirney Rotary South Pacific 2025 Conference Committee

WHEN the logo for the 2025 Rotary South Pacific Conference was designed last year, we wanted it to reflect the warm Queensland sun kissing our faces, the rhythmic waves, exciting skylines and lush vegetation.

Conference Convenor Jennifer Scott loved the colours sky blue and grass green. Rotary gold was an obvious choice along with azure blue for the sea. As we discussed the different blues, Conference Chair Ingrid Waugh called out a phrase with all the emotion of "Eureka, I have found it" – "Blue sky thinking!"

That enthusiasm is awaiting us at the Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference at Twin Towns Resort on the Gold Coast from Friday, October 31 to Sunday, November 2. Think of it as a weekend where 'blue sky thinking' isn't just encouraged – it's inevitable.

For too long, perhaps, our Rotary lives have been focused on the immediate horizon – the next fundraising event, the upcoming club meeting, the pressing needs of our local community. These are vital, of course, and are at the very heart of what we do. But sometimes, to truly soar, we need to lift our gaze, to connect with a wider vista of ideas and inspiration. The Zone Conference offers precisely that opportunity.

The theme 'Connect – Share – Grow' sums up the promise of our gathering. Imagine the power of connecting with 500 Rotarians, Rotaractors and youth leaders from across the South Pacific. These are individuals who share your passion for service and dedication to making a difference.

There'll be conversations over coffee, bonds forged

during dynamic workshops and friendships blossoming over shared meals overlooking the stunning coastline. This isn't just networking, We'll be building









Last chance for Early Bird Draw: Early Bird Registrations for the Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference close on June 30. All those registered as early birds go into the draw for two tickets to the Saturday evening Dinner Dance. For more information, visit: **rotaryzone8.org/sitepage/2025-zone-8-conference-gold-coast-australia/welcome**



a stronger, more vibrant Rotary family.

And what will these connections bring? The invaluable opportunity to share. Think of the innovative projects your club has spearheaded, the challenges you've overcome, the lessons you've learned. The Zone Conference provides a platform to share these experiences, to inspire others and, in turn, to be inspired by the successes and insights of your peers. You will return to your club armed with a wealth of new ideas, fresh

perspectives and practical strategies that can invigorate your local efforts.

This sharing of knowledge and experience is the fertile ground in which we grow. Professionally, personally and as Rotarians. The conference program is carefully curated to offer sessions that will challenge your thinking, expand your skills and deepen your understanding of Rotary's global impact. You will engage with thought leaders, learn about cuttingedge initiatives and discover new avenues for service.

Our Zone Conference is about investing in your growth as a leader and a changemaker. Be ready for an immersive experience designed to re-ignite your passion for Rotary and equip you with the tools and connections to make an even greater impact.

Register for the Rotary
South Pacific Zone
Conference today. Your
club, your community and
your own Rotary journey
will thank you for it. We look
forward to welcoming you
to Coolangatta! **DU

BELOW: The Gold Coast skyline and iconic Surfers Paradise Beach (Photo:

Paradise Beach. (Photo: Ian Macleod, Rotary Club of Devonport North, Tas)





ABOVE: Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis and Gnome Master David Clark at this year's Australian Gnome Convention. ON Easter Friday, David Clark from the Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads packed up his collection of more than 2,500 garden gnomes from his property in Rydal (150kms west of Sydney) and transported them to Rhododendron Garden in Blackheath, NSW, at the top of the beautiful Blue Mountains, where he holds the Australian Gnome Convention over Easter Saturday and Sunday.

David took over the job of Gnome Master in 2020 after the passing of PDG David Cook from the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, who used to hold the convention at Glenbrook Park on Australia Day.

David was approached by the committee that runs Rhododendron Garden to see if he would run a Gnome Convention around the dam and pond over Easter to encourage more people to come through the garden at other times, besides when the Rhododendrons are flowering in late October and November.

"This was our third year holding the convention and every year has been better than the year before," said David. "We started off with 1,000 gnomes and now have more than 2,500.

"This year we also had entertainment, a coffee van, a barbecue, face painting and a surprise visit from Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis, who spent five hours entertaining the children as well as signing his *Gnome Garden* book. This made the day a wonderful success."

The original aim of the convention was to raise money for the upkeep of the garden and for future years' running costs. Everyone who works at the garden are volunteers, and they get no funding from anywhere apart from a \$5 per adult entry fee, which allows visitors to wander through the beautiful grounds and enjoy the colours of the Rhododendrons.

David decided to place donation buckets around the gnomes, raising \$500, which he donated to the *PolioPlus* campaign via his club. Given that most people don't have cash these days, David was very happy with the amount, but is looking at going to a tap and go donation system at next year's convention.

Putting Peace Poles on the virtual map

The Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads is encouraging all Rotary clubs to share their stories of peace on the Virtual Peace Pole Map, ensuring their efforts are recognised globally.

THE Rotary E-Club of Australia Nomads (Rotary Nomads) has been involved in placing 22 Peace Poles across Australia. These poles have either been donated by Rotary Nomads or co-hosted with other Rotary clubs across Australia, expanding on the Rotary Nomads' motto of 'Helping Hands Across the Land'.

The club is in the perfect position to spread the message 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' as members travel and live in various states within Australia, enabling them to connect with other Rotary clubs either in their communities or while travelling.

"I first became involved [in the Peace Pole project] after listening to Rotarian Don McQueen encouraging club members to get out there and spread the message through a simple conversation with other clubs," said Rob Curtis, Peace Pole Coordinator for Queensland and member of the Rotary Nomads.

"Through dedication and engagement, these conversations have resulted in the placement of 22 Peace Poles, demonstrating that Rotary Nomads embraces the peace message."

Like many club members, Rob started to wonder how to ensure these Peace Poles don't just sit in a location and get forgotten, despite the reaffirmation ceremony available to use every year on September 21, giving clubs, schools and local Councils the opportunity to revisit the pole and refresh their peace pledge.

"I started considering alternative methods of continuing to spread the peace message, including emailing Queensland clubs about planning for the next World Peace Reaffirmation Ceremony. This process directed me to many club websites and Facebook pages, where I discovered a multitude of pictures and stories about their Peace Pole journeys. There was so much rich history available on various platforms and yet very few people would know about the great work Rotarians are undertaking across Australia," Rob said.

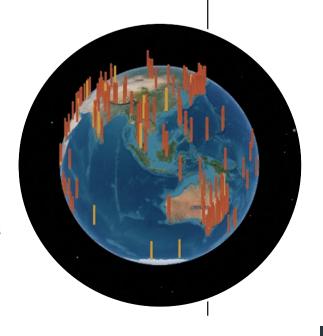
"This prompted me to start looking for Peace Poles globally and I found the website of the World Peace Organisation Virtual Peace Pole Map (worldpeace.org/ peace-pole-map-2) and discovered thousands of Peace Poles with stories from around the world.

"I zoomed in on Australia and noticed there was minimal information compared to the rest of the world. This motivated me to start including the 22 Peace Poles the Rotary Nomads have placed across Australia, including the various pictures and stories that had been accumulated. They are now part of this global picture, including a pole installed by the Rotary Club of Loganholme in Pioneer Park, Shailer Park, Qld, as a trial."

To process one pole on the map takes approximately 10 minutes and all you need is a group ceremony picture, the location of the pole and a story behind your club's journey.

"Considering the number of poles installed across Australia, I sincerely urge all Rotary clubs to take 10 minutes of their time and add their Peace Pole story to the Virtual Peace Pole Map."

May Peace Prevail on Earth. RDU





Community collaboration in South Australia

ABOVE:

Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, left, helps members of the Rotary Club of Magill Sunrise unveil one of the five memorial seats installed at The Gums Memorial Garden in Tranmere, SA.

WHEN Rotary clubs Unite for Good and bring other service clubs along for the ride, amazing things happen.

As a community project, the Rotary Clubs of Magill Sunrise, Campbelltown and Morialta, SA, joined with the Magill RSL Sub-Branch and the Athelstone-Rostrevor Lions Club to provide five seats for The Gums Memorial Garden in Tranmere, South Australia.

Each seat, made from Australian steel and crafted by David Wynes from Plasma-Art, is personalised with a different military theme and bears the name of a participating club across the middle of the back rest, with

the Rotary seats having the Rotary Wheel on the legs, the Lion's seats the Lion's logo and the RSL seats a soldier in reversed arms.

These seats not only serve as a lasting tribute to those who served our nation in war, conflict or peace-keeping operations but will foster a sense of community in providing a place for families to reflect on their service and provide additional seating for the annual Dawn Service.

"We were honoured to have the unveiling ceremony of both the seats and the commemorative plaque by Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and

Her Worship Jill Whittaker OAM, Mayor of the City of Campbelltown, along with Rotary 9510 District Governor Marie-Louise Lees, Acting RSL President SA/NT and Broken Hill Meredith Burgess, Lions District Governor for MD201 C1 Steve Fawcett and the presidents of each service club, making it a very special occasion and an evening for all of us to remember with pride," said President of the Rotary Club of Magill Sunrise Pauline Hill.

"Together, we have created a lasting legacy for our community along with highlighting the work of collective service clubs in the area." RDU

Introducing the Rotary South Pacific DEI Club Framework

ROTARY South Pacific is excited to share the DEI Club Framework that has been developed to align with Rotary International's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and the global Rotary Action Plan.

Team DEI believes the Regionalisation Pilot provides a unique opportunity to priorities Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. DEI plays a crucial role in creating an inclusive environment where every individual is seen, heard, valued and empowered. This fosters a sense of belonging and respect to attract new members who share the same values of *Service Above*

Self and positive, purposeful community impact.

The responsibility of the Rotary South Pacific DEI Team is to champion and advocate the benefits of a diverse and inclusive culture across the region in alignment with the work of the RI DEI Advisory Council.

The team envisions that Rotary South Pacific will become a global leader in championing DEI transformation, weaving DEI into everything they do.

The DEI Club Framework logic is adapted from the McKinsey 5 A strategy framework for success:

1. Aspire: Set a bold but achievable DEI aspiration –

Embrace diversity, promote equity and foster inclusion.

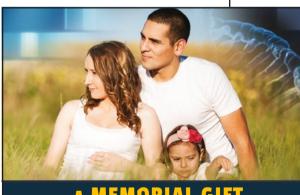
- Assess: Build the fact base

 Develop a quantitative
 and qualitative
 DEI baseline.
- **3. Architect:** Develop the plan Identify Initiatives to support the bold DEI aspiration.
- **4. Act:** Mobilise capabilities and resources Support DEI initiatives with appropriate resourcing.
- 5. Advance: Measure progress to plan and sustain momentum DEI evaluation to reflect on achievements and build new skills and knowledge. **DU*

MEET THE TEAM

Team DEI are proud Rotarians and Rotaractors ready to use their varied skillsets and knowledge to extend their service into the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion portfolio. The team is made up of:

- Regional Council Lead Edith Chaney (Te Arawa & Ngāti Raukawa Iwi), President of the Rotary Club of Manukau Sunrise, NZ, Membership Director 2024-26, D9920 Learning and Development Lead and an Education Facilitator
- Professor James Smith, Past President of the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise, NT, Peace Fellow Chair and Cadre Technical Adviser (Disease Prevention & Treatment; Basic Education & Literacy)
- Teresa Ali, of the Rotary Club of Lautoka, Fiji
- Rotary Club of Granville, NSW, President Nominee Atri Baran Bose, 2023-24 Club Treasurer and Acting District Treasurer 2026
- Rotaractor Lucy Shao
- Jayasudhasri Jaiganesh (Jay), of the Rotary Club of Karori, NZ, Data and Analytics Manager



THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL AUSTRALIANS

Donations made in the memory of a loved one will improve the future health of Australians, through research.

To make a donation in memory of a loved one, please contact us today.

australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Ph: 02 8837 1900 E: admin@arh.org.au







Rotary on the lise: Breaking membership records

across Zone 8

Rotary membership in Zone 8 is on the rise, recording its strongest growth in vears and proving that our future is brighter than ever!

By PDG Andy Rajapakse Membership Director **Rotary South Pacific** Regional Council, **Councillor Rotary Down** Under Inc.

FOUNDER of Amazon Jeff Bezos often said, "We can't be in survival mode. We must be in growth mode." This leadership mindset of continuous innovation and expansion is crucial for longterm success. It's especially relevant to membership organisations like Rotary, where members are our lifeblood. Without members, there are fewer friendships, fewer projects and fewer funds. Growing our clubs brings new leadership and helps prevent burnout among our senior members, who have given many years of their valuable time to Rotary.

I was motivated to read the 2025 Membership Report sent by Brian King, our Rotary International Membership Director in the US, to RI President Stephanie Urchick, President-elect Mario César Martins de

Camargo and directors of the Rotary International Board. In a key highlight, 11 Rotary zones are showing net membership gains as of April 30, 2025, compared to their performances on April 30, 2024. This includes our Zone 8 recording a net growth of 250 members since July 1,

On April 30, 2024, Zone 8 reported a net loss of 102 members and ended July 1, 2024, with a huge loss of 1,579 members. On April 30, 2023, we reported a net loss of 66 members following a net gain of 30 members in 2022. So, 2025 is Zone 8's best membership performances in four years. And we still have 30 days to go! All of us can play a key role in keeping our zone growing by encouraging more members to stay in Rotary or by introducing one new member to your club.

Globally, 19 zones have gained more than 500 members this year. Here is the current Rotary snapshot:

Worldwide Rotary membership: 1,169,405 (+35,102 this year)

- Clubs: 36,573 (+65 this year)
- Female members worldwide: 26% (Zone 8: 32%, led by D9640 at 41%)
- Rotaract members: 134,491 (+18,865 this year)
- Rotaract clubs: 9.411 (Zone 8: 909 members in 65 clubs)
- Members under 30 worldwide: 94,208 (Zone 8: 340, up 85 - the best in three years)

Attracting alumni is key to boosting female and under-30 membership. D9560 leads with 16% alumni, followed by D9920 with 15%.

Early wins

This year, 239 Rotary clubs in 7one 8 have achieved net growth for the first time in four years - 20% of all clubs! The Rotary Club of Melbourne, Vic, leads the way with a net growth of 15, maintaining its status as our largest club with 158 members. Of the 83 clubs in the Regionalisation Pilot's 'Fit for Purpose' program, 37 have gained members and 27 have retained all members - 77% showing growth. Resources from the program are available at creatingtomorrowrotary.org or rotarysouthpacific.org.

Rotary Community Groups, a key feature of the Regionalisation Pilot model, are already showing promise. The Southeast Rotary Community Group in District 9705 leads the way with a net increase of 37 members as of May 15, 2025.

Last year, Zone 8 admitted 3,000 new members but lost around 4,500. This year, as of May 15, clubs have gained 2,500 and lost 2,224. District



Membership Comparison to 1 July (Count as of 31 May 2025)

		PRIOR YEAR			ROTARY YEAR ACTIVITY TO DATE				
		1 July	2023-24	Net Inc / Dec 2023-24	2024-25 Start Figures 1 July 2024*			31 May 2025	Net Inc / Dec 2024-25*
District	Zone	# Club	# Member	# Member	# Club	# Member	# Club	# Member	# Member
9423	8	87	1,863	(151)	80	1,712	79	1,767	55
9510	8	83	1,898	(99)	81	1,799	80	1,811	12
9560	8	84	1,617	(85)	82	1,532	84	1,618	86
9620	8	103	2,017	(101)	96	1,916	97	1,953	37
9640	8	55	1,188	(36)	54	1,152	55	1,155	3
9660	8	94	2,063	(107)	90	1,956	90	2,002	46
9675	8	52	1,105	(50)	49	1,055	48	1,041	(14)
9685	8	64	1,557	(96)	62	1,461	62	1,453	(8)
9705	8	72	1,751	(89)	71	1,662	71	1,681	19
9780	8	52	1,304	(86)	50	1,218	50	1,255	37
9790	8	64	1,455	(70)	63	1,385	62	1,432	47
9800	8	62	1,861	(145)	60	1,716	60	1,735	19
9815	8	81	1,959	(62)	76	1,897	76	1,950	53
9830	8	43	1,046	(44)	42	1,002	42	993	(9)
9910	8	38	829	(57)	34	772	34	739	(33)
9920	8	51	1,103	(38)	51	1,065	52	1,135	70
9930	8	49	1,271	(79)	48	1,192	46	1,169	(23)
9940	8	36	1,102	(67)	36	1,035	34	991	(44)
9999	8	62	1,902	(117)	60	1,785	59	1,726	(59)
# of Districts:19		1,232	28,891	(1,579)	1,185	27,312	1,181	27,606	294
Report Total Districts:19		1,232	28,891	(1,579)	1,185	27,312	1,181	27,606	294

^{*} Based on the membership transactions as of 1 July 23:59:59 CDT. Does not include Honorary members.

9560 leads with 248 new members. Encouragingly, we are reducing member resignations, one of our Pilot's key goals. It looks like we are on track!

These early positive signs indicate many club leaders, members, district governors and community leaders are taking club transformation seriously so we remain relevant in this fast-changing environment. Transformation in organisations happens when an outside influence shakes up an organisation, presenting a clear and

urgent need for overhaul by sharing a common goal, focus, vision and mindset. Our Regionalisation Pilot is successful in keeping membership front of mind for our club leaders.

This Rotary year, our zone has formed more Rotary clubs than last year and attracted more than 250 new members to our Rotary family.

We have also seen 11 of our 18 districts in the Zone 8 Pilot showing growth on April 30. This is the highest number of net growth Rotary districts we have seen in three years. Last year, only six of the districts in the Pilot record growth. As of May 20, our growth districts have further increased their growth to move Zone 8 forward by recording a net +294 members. D9560 leads with +86, followed by D9920 +70, D9423 +55, D9815 +53, D9790 +47 and D9660 +46 members.

As an International Marketeer, I watch trends to forecast the future. Right now, the trend looks positive. Let's keep the momentum going – the future is ours to win! **DUTTO**

^{*} Note Numbers in Net Inc/Dec

^{*} Green - increase 51 members or more

^{*} Orange – increase 0-50 members

^{* (}Red) – decrease



Outstanding support for Queensland flood victims

More than \$575,000 has been raised to support Queensland communities affected by the recent floods.

DURING the Rotary Impact Seminar at Mission Beach, Qld, on March 29-30, District 9560 Governor Andrew Gillespie was getting increasingly worried: the reports from the Western regions of District 9560 in Queensland were not good. Following recordbreaking rainfall, the region was inundated by the worst floods to hit communities in 50 years, with more rain forecast for the next few days.

Hundreds of residents were forced to evacuate, thousands of homes were damaged and farmers lost substantial amounts of stock, significantly impacting the wellbeing of their families and their livelihoods.

The Rotary Foundation team at the Rotary International office in Sydney reached out to Andrew and District 9620 Governor Sue Mulraney to see what help they needed to mobilise Rotary support for immediate help and grant projects further down the line.

Districts 9560 and 9620 had already appointed a disaster coordinator, who conducted an initial needs assessment and contacted state and local government authorities to collaborate.

"Rotarians from Districts 9640 and 9620 have been working tirelessly in local communities, providing immediate relief and vital support to those affected by the floods," said Sue.

"Their commitment goes beyond the initial response - this is an ongoing effort as they continue to identify needs and address the evolving challenges faced by impacted communities."

Andrew responded to the TRF team's offer immediately and a region-wide fundraising campaign addressed to all Rotarians was created, detailing options to give to the district's emergency fund and The Rotary Foundation Disaster Response fund.

What followed was an incredible stream of donations

to both funds – testament to the solidarity Rotarians and Rotary clubs felt with affected communities. Between the district fund, the TRF fund and the RAWCS campaign, more than \$575,000 has been raised to date, with further support trickling in. This is a strong indicator that increased coordination for fundraising efforts and collaboration in the promotion to all Rotarians leads to never-before-seen results!

"Congratulations to the incredible Rotarians and Rotary clubs whose generosity has helped raise more than \$575,000 for the Western Queensland Flood Appeal," said Andrew. "Your support is making a real difference - helping farmers rebuild and communities recover. Special thanks to The Rotary Foundation Australia, RAWCS, the Rotary Club of Balwyn, Vic, and the 230-plus clubs and many individuals whose contributions are truly life changing." №



Go the extra mile for disaster relief



Register for \$1!
Use DOLLAR-REG
discount code BEFORE
June 30!

One of Australia's most magnificent 8-day walks awaits! Cape to Cape, WA.

Staying at iconic Margaret River, you will walk cliff tops and pristine white sandy beaches, with a glittering backdrop of turquoise waters. Watch dolphins off the coast, enjoy the exhilarating soundtrack of waves crashing on the shore, wonder at limestone caves, giant red granite boulders, colourful wildflowers, visit an historic homestead and be dwarfed by enormous shady karri forests.

ABOVE: Incoming District Governors Emma Davis (left), Evan Burrell and Jenn Wong are all under 45 years of age and ready to shake

up Rotary

leadership.

From TikTok to top job

Three new gen governors are spinning the Rotary wheel their way

In a refreshing and revealing conversation, we sat down with three of Rotary's youngest and most dynamic district governors.



ncoming district governors Evan Burrell, 43 (District 9660, NSW), Emma Davis, 41 (District 9790, Vic & southern NSW), and Jenn Wong, 37 (District 9910, NZ) are proving that age is no barrier when it comes

to leading with passion,

purpose and a good dose of personality.

These trailblazers represent a new era of Rotary leadership: energetic, digitally savvy and unafraid to shake things up.

Their leadership style is collaborative, cheeky at times and deeply committed to service with impact.

These three authentic changemakers are truly spinning the Rotary wheel their own way – and inviting others to hop on for the ride.

Here, they speak candidly about their unexpected paths to governorship, and how they're infusing their districts with fresh ideas – from TikTok takeovers and creative club collaborations to grassroots projects that truly connect with their communities.

You're under 45 and a Rotary District Governor - what inspired you to take on such a big leadership role at a relatively young age in Rotary terms?

Evan: Honestly? I've got three young kids, a full-time job and barely time to think... so why not add district governor to the mix [laughs]? But really, I've been part of the Rotary family since I was 18, starting out in Rotaract, so service and leadership have been in my blood for a very long time.

Taking on the role of district governor under the age of 45 might be seen as 'young' in Rotary terms, but to me, it felt like the right time. I've spent 26 years having fun in Rotary, building connections, taking selfies and using creativity and social media to modernise our message. I wanted to bring fresh energy to the role – to show younger members and future leaders that Rotary isn't just for those with grey hair. Rotary can be exciting, inclusive and full of potential opportunities.

Plus, if not now, when? Rotary needs diverse voices and bold ideas now, not later.

Emma: Rotary leadership did not reflect our community. Seven years ago, I rang a governor elect and said, "The board is all old white men. What are you going to do about it?" He said, "You can help me". I joined the district board. As a young woman, committed Rotarian and busy working millennial, I wanted our district leadership to reflect the community we serve - true diversity and inclusion. I'm aware 'young' is a term based on age, not on the years of dedicated service or extensive experience given I've been around Rotary for 26 years. I'll be 41 as governor, the youngest DG in our district and my state, and I'm proud of that achievement.

Jenn: I wanted to make a difference and challenge some of the common stigmas. I wanted to show that Rotary is still relevant in today's world – and open to everyone. When I stepped into the DG role, I had a three-month-old baby, and he's come to most

of my Rotary events. It's been amazing to see how welcoming the clubs have been to a first-time mum and her baby!

What first drew you to Rotary, and what made you stick around long enough to end up running the whole district?

Evan: What first drew me to Rotary? Honestly, free food and the chance to find a girlfriend! I was 18, I went along to a Rotaract meeting in Manly, and I thought, "Hey, this looks fun and there are free snacks!" But what made me stay wasn't the party pies or sausage rolls - well, the party pies were pretty good - it was the new people I met, the purpose and the potential to actually do something good in the world. Plus, as a bonus, I did meet a girl!

Over time, I realised Rotary gave me a platform not just to serve, but to grow as a leader, be creative, have fun and connect with people from all walks of life. I stuck around because it never stops inspiring me. And as for running the whole district? Oh boy! Well, let's just say I couldn't resist the challenge – and maybe the cool lapel pin.

Emma: I was approached for high school debating at 15. I was then privileged to be part of two great alumni programs, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) and the Group Study Exchange program. I was so appreciative and got involved and joined in my 20s. Within weeks, I was on the club

board, and I've served a diverse range of club, district and zone portfolios. The more you do, the better you feel... and the more you do. Everything I've done with Rotary is my way of paying it forward.

Jenn: I'm a secondgeneration Rotarian – my dad has just completed 50 years of service, so I basically grew up with Rotary. When I started university, I had some free time and wanted to give back to my community. I Googled 'Rotaract', found the Rotaract Club of Dunedin, joined... and the rest is history!

What bold, fresh goals do you hope to accomplish as DG - something that maybe previous governors didn't dare try, or simply couldn't crack?

Evan: As district governor, I really want to shake things up – in a good way! One bold goal of mine is to revolutionise how Rotary is seen by the public. I want to supercharge our public image and digital messaging with creativity, storytelling and social media in ways a DG hasn't fully embraced before. It's certainly something I've been trying to do for over a decade. I've got some amazing clubs doing some incredible work out there, but the world doesn't always see it. I want to fix that.

I'm also focused on making Rotary simply irresistible to younger generations, especially younger families like mine, by modernising how we "I'm also focused on making Rotary simply irresistible to younger generations, especially younger families like mine, by modernising how we meet, how we engage and how we lead. That means more flexibility, more fun and less formality. Rotary can still have tradition and TikTok!"

meet, how we engage and how we lead. That means more flexibility, more fun and less formality. Rotary can still have tradition and TikTok!

Emma: I'm a busy active Rotarian living in Melbourne with our district stretching up to Holbrook in southern NSW, over to Deniliquin and across to the mountains of Corryong and Mount Beauty. I'm intentionally balancing full-time work and the Rotary service aspects of my life to normalise the future of Rotary leadership. Governor visits in the traditional sense - having a meal and repeating an international president's theme – is no longer valuable to members. My district's clubs know I am going to be on the ground for their service activities and community engagement projects. I'm getting out and about and being part of their communities and the things that are important to them. We need to focus on service and celebrations, not meetings. It's just different. Different is good.

Jenn: Well, showing up to club visits with a toddler definitely hasn't been the norm [laughs]! I try to approach things differently and bring a fresh energy. I've had Rotarians at every club up and dancing - it's about shaking things up and making Rotary feel inclusive and dynamic. I'm also encouraging clubs to embrace technology more - tools like Canva, Al and improving their social media presence. The ideas of yesterday might not appeal to the Rotarians of tomorrow, so we must continue to evolve to stav relevant!

Okay, real talk - did you take on the DG role for the chance to make a difference... or was it the irresistible combo of fancy name badges and the bling, being fawned over at club visits or being able to say 'Past District Governor' in your LinkedIn bio?

Evan: Look, I'd love to say I took on the DG role purely for noble reasons like making a difference and uniting for good, but let's be honest... have you seen the bling [laughs]? I mean, who doesn't want a fancy name badge to wear 24/7 and have an excuse to update their bio across every social media platform? But in all

seriousness. I did it because I do care deeply about Rotary's future and the role I play in it, plus the chance to make some change and hopefully make a difference too.

Emma: I will admit that wearing a Rotary badge and showing the world that I'm a proud Rotarian is important to me, but that can also be done in a practical way. I'm proud to have been involved in district leadership for the past seven years; as assistant governor for three, and then nominee designate, nominee, elect and now governor. It's not the title that's important, it's what the role represents, the connector between member, club, community, district, zone and Rotary International. I've had many celebrations to be proud of and challenges that I've supported for our People of Action in District 9790.

Jenn: [laughs] Definitely the LinkedIn title! But the funny thing is, most people in my professional network don't actually know what a district governor is - or even what Rotary really does. That's part of what drives me: I want to change that narrative. I want to show that Rotary is for everyone and, yes - kids are welcome too! RDU

BELOW: These new

gen governors are proving that age is no barrier when it comes to leading with passion, purpose and a good dose of personality.



Skyguice Foundation Safe water for

every child



SkyJuice Foundation Inc. is an Australian not-for-profit organisation based in Sydney providing sustainable, low-cost water treatment systems for humanitarian, emergency and disaster relief projects.

SINCE 2005, SkyJuice has partnered with organisations like Rotary to deliver safe drinking water to communities worldwide, transforming lives through innovative technology and strong partnerships.

At the heart of Skyluice's impact is the SkyHydrant™, its flagship water filtration system. SkyHydrant™ is a gravity-fed unit that produces safe drinking water without electricity, chemicals or complex infrastructure. It is designed for rapid deployment and long-term use. Powered by patented passive membrane technology, it delivers 10,000 litres of safe, clean water daily for schools,

communities and disaster zones

Today, more than 10,000 SkyHydrant™ units operate in 74 countries, providing daily access to safe water for more than three million people.

Beyond SkyHydrant™, Skyluice offers householdscale filters to compact emergency units (500 litres per day) and permanent installations for schools and villages. Each solution is designed to be reliable, costeffective and easy to deploy even in the most challenging environments.

Beyond Rotary, Skyluice systems are trusted by more than 50 global aid organisations including UNICEF, World Vision, Red Cross and Oxfam.

Throughout 2025-26, Skyluice is delivering its Equal Access Safe Water donations program, partly funded through winning the 2025 Zayed Sustainability Prize in the Water Category. It is also accelerating and expanding its safe water programs in countries like Bhutan, the Philippines and Colombia.

Its vision is clear: Safe water for every child. The impact extends beyond health - safe water reduces school absences, lowers household costs and frees up time for women and girls to pursue education and opportunity. It builds the foundation for stronger, more equitable communities.

Be the difference and sponsor safe water today

A \$1,000 donation can bring clean water to a community of 1,000 or a school of 3.000 students.

Support a SkyHydrant™ or SQUIRT™ project in Asia, the Pacific, Latin America or beyond. Your support will deliver real, measurable and lasting impact.

Skyluice ambassadors are available to speak at your club or organisation to share how its technologies are changing lives - because every child, everywhere, deserves safe water. RDU

Learn more or donate at www.skyjuice.org.au or call 0438 880 621

Wetland Warriors:

Leading the way in conservation and education

At Rotopiko Wetland, the Rotary Club of Te Awamutu and the National Wetland Trust are joining forces to restore nature, protect biodiversity and educate the next generation on the vital role wetlands play in our environment.

By Stephen Cox Environmental Spokesman, Rotary Club of Te Awamutu, NZ

ROTOPIKO is a peat lake and semi-swamp forest near Ōhaupō in New Zealand's Waikato Region, where the National Wetland Trust manages a major wetland restoration and education centre. The Wetland Trust is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Te Awamutu, NZ,

which has provided voluntary support at Rotopiko over the past three years. All mammalian pests and grazing stock have been removed from within a pest fence enclosing 10ha of the reserve complex, which is being re-vegetated and enhanced with visitor facilities.

Wetlands are of cultural and spiritual significance in New Zealand. Traditionally, and still today, they provide food, harakeke (flax) for weaving, and other materials for rongoā (medicine), building and craft use.

Wetlands also support a greater diversity of native birds, fish, invertebrates and plants than most other habitats. They have extremely high recreational value and perform vital ecosystem services such as improving water quality and reducing flood risks. They are also essential in managing climate change. Healthy peat bogs are year-round sinks of two to five tonnes of carbon per hectare - locking it up in their soil indefinitely.

A significant ecological problem has emerged from the effects of exotic birds, which shelter in their thousands overnight and leave waste/droppings behind when they depart.

Trial cameras, sound recording equipment and strobe lighting has been installed, and the behaviour of sparrows and starlings is being monitored. This will allow decisions to be made regarding altering the roost bird behaviour and reducing the harmful build-up of guano and its effect on water quality and visitor enjoyment at Rotopiko.



RIGHT:
RYLA
participants
clear inkweed
from last
year's Swamp
Comprosa
planting at
Rotopiko
Wetlands.





The Rotary Club of Te Awamutu has developed an online iunior science education resource for schools visiting Rotopiko Wetlands. The resource includes six posters, which are also displayed at the Wetlands Discovery Centre to help generate activities and meaningful discussion.

Rotary volunteers have helped with pest surveillance, native plantings, the construction of viewing benches for visitors to the site and, most recently, the development of an online junior science education resource.

The resource includes six posters and two worksheets that will be available to schools when studying wetlands and visiting Rotopiko.

The posters are now a feature of the Wetlands Discovery Centre and help generate activities and meaningful discussion.

The posters cover the following topics:

- · What are wetlands?
- What do wetlands do?
- Why are wetlands important to Ngāti Apakura?
- The predator proof fence, keeping the pesky predators out!
- Why do we need to have predator-proof fences?
- What is Rotopiko?

The downloadable work sheets are entitled 'Wetland Wonders' and 'Uncovering the Secrets of Wetlands' and relate to the posters.

The Rotary Club of Te Awamutu and the National Wetland Trust continue to work together and are planning to assist with further native planting sessions. The Rotary Club of Te Awamutu hosts RYLA sessions on an annual basis, under the theme 'Environmental Service; Leadership in Action'.

This year, the RYLA team completed a bird monitoring exercise, checked the predator proof fence for any intrusions, monitored the tracking tunnels and found signs of skinks, wetas and the odd mouse... but, fortunately, no rats!

The group then 'released' the previous year's Swamp Comprosa planting from inkweed infestation.

This was very much appreciated by the Rotopiko management. ****





Rotary fellowships provide a wonderful opportunity to make friends around the world, explore an interest or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience.

By Anne Matthews D9560 Passport Rotary Club

ROTARY fellowships are global groups that share a common interest, vocation, hobby or leisure activity. They began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in the artificial language Esperanto joined together.

The language was created in 1887 by Dr LL Zamenhof, a Polish linguist and optometrist, with the goal of facilitating international communication and promoting peace. Dr Zamenhof saw the language as a way to fight nationalism, and promote internationalism and mutual understanding.

In the 1920s, French and British Rotarians wanted to work together for 'Peace and Understanding', but each group hoped to speak the language of its own country. This resulted in the decision to promote Esperanto for use among Rotarians who spoke different languages.

Most speakers are based in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Brazil, the United States, Poland, Italy, Germany and France. However, there are also many Esperanto speakers in Australia, China and Japan.

Today, the original Rotary Association of Esperanto Speakers is officially called the Esperanto Rotary Fellowship. This pioneering fellowship paved the way for the 117 officially recognised Rotary fellowships that unite Rotarians across the globe today.

They cover an incredible array of interests – everything from artificial intelligence to comedy, caravanning and camping; fishing and flying; scuba diving, surfing, skiing and shooting to fashion, fine arts and genealogy. There are also sports fellowships and groups for various beverage enthusiasts.

This month, we discover a handful of our vast and varied Rotary fellowships. *****



The Fellowship of Rotarian Magicians

Rotary and magic collide in the inspiring story of Jonathan Usher – a professional magician, Rotary leader and dedicated community volunteer bringing *The Magic of Rotary* to life on and off the stage.

ABOVE: PDG Jonathan Usher's journey into magic is anything but typical. (Photo: Georgie Daniel Photography) ROTARY International President Stephanie Urchick's 2024-25 theme, *The Magic* of Rotary, celebrates the transformative power Rotarians have to create change – with every project completed, every dollar donated and every new member welcomed. It's a fitting sentiment to introduce the unique Fellowship of Rotarian Magicians (FORM).

FORM began in the early 1960s, launched by a Clergy Rotarian who struggled to keep it active. It vanished in the late 1970s but was revived in 1992 by Past District 5550 Governor Jim Toth of the Rotary Club of Regina, Canada, following encouragement from Rotary International after his term as governor. A clergyman and educator, Jim brought FORM back to life and into the Rotary fellowship community.

In the years that followed, FORM members Stan Sorrentino (Rotary Club of Providence, US) and Jim Lang (Rotary Club of Trumbull, US) modernised the fellowship. They updated its constitution, embraced electronic communications and collaborated with Rotary leadership, including past RI Vice President Abraham Gordon, to build membership and increase visibility.

FORM even shared a booth with the Rotarian Wine Appreciation Fellowship at the 2017 RI Convention in Atlanta, where members performed magic to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation.

In Zone 8, one of FORM's most active members is Past District Governor Jonathan Usher from Cromwell, New Zealand. Jonathan, a professional magician, served as District 9980 Governor in 2014-15 – the year of RI President Gary Huang's theme, *Light Up Rotary*, another fortuitous nod to his magical profession.

Jonathan's journey into magic is anything but typical. There was no childhood magic kit or inspiring visit to see a magician. Instead, it began by chance when he was 29, at his wife's Christmas party in 1999. A simple trick with a red hanky sparked his curiosity. After seeing the secret behind the illusion, he was hooked.

The very next day, he ordered the trick from Robert Clark's Castle of Magic in Christchurch and began performing for family and colleagues. Each subsequent trip to Christchurch saw new purchases and new tricks. He soon began performing at children's birthday parties and eventually took out a

Yellow Pages ad. Bookings soon started flowing in.

A pivotal influence on Jonathan's journey was Greg Britt, aka Elgregoe the Magician.

"I found out that Greg was performing close-up magic at the Christchurch Casino, so I followed him around and finally plucked up the courage to say hello. He was incredibly supportive and gave me some great advice," Jonathan says.

Greg recommended he attend one of Sean Taylor's Superday Magic Weekends in Sydney – conventions that brought together some of the world's leading magicians.

"These and other magic conventions made a real impact and played a huge part in helping me understand the varied types and styles of performing magic," Jonathan says

Inspired by these events, Jonathan began inviting international magicians to New Zealand's deep south, either to lecture in Dunedin or to take a break from their travels and relax in Central Otago.

Guest lecturers in Dunedin have included Karl Hein, Marcelo Insua, Francis Menotti and Trevor Duffy. At his Cromwell home, he's hosted renowned names like Michael Ammar, Chris Congreave and John Carey.

Today, Jonathan's professional work spans corporate events, comedy shows and MC gigs across New Zealand and Australia. He still performs at school fairs, A&P Shows and children's parties, keeping his performances accessible and inclusive.

But Jonathan's impact reaches beyond the stage. He has volunteered extensively with Rotary and other organisations, including the JR McKenzie Trust, ShelterBox, ChatBus, Business Mentors, Triathlon NZ, local government (Saddle Hill Community Board), the Malcam Trust and the Cancer Society.

His dedication to community and magic has earned widespread recognition. In 2015, he was named Local Hero of the Year in the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Magic New Zealand for his contributions to the art and the community. At the 2021 NZ Magician Day Convention in Auckland, he swept three awards -Best Comedy Magician, Best Performance of the Convention and Best Performance in the Gala Show. In 2022, the Variety Artists Club of New Zealand honoured him with the prestigious Lou Clauson Variety Artist of the Year award.

Behind the scenes, his wife Lisa plays a key role – testing new tricks, offering feedback and warmly welcoming visiting magicians from around the globe.

Through his magic and service, Jonathan embodies *The Magic of Rotary*, reminding us that joy, wonder and service can go hand in hand. POU

"Inspired by these events. Ionathan began inviting international magicians to New Zealand's deep south, either to lecture in Dunedin or to take a break from their travels and relax in Central Otago."

For more information, visit rotarymagic.com

International Travel and **Hosting Fellowship**

For seasoned traveller Madhumita Bishnu, of the Rotary E-Club of Melbourne, Vic. the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship turns every trip into an exciting adventure with newfound friends around the world.

By Brad Webber

LIGIA Corredor, a devout globe-trotter, frequently travels solo, but she's rarely lonely. For her, travel is first and foremost a friendmaking quest. Whether she's landing in Australia, Singapore, Taiwan or California, she can easily find someone to meet for coffee, share a meal, show her around their favourite neighbourhood or host her for a few nights at their place - even if, as is often the case, they've never met before.

Where does she find these instant besties? The International Travel and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF).

"First of all, being a single person and a woman, I find I feel comfortable," says Ligia, a member of the Rotary Club of Miramar-Pines, US, talking up the benefits of the Rotary fellowship she's been part of for more than 25 years.

"It feels safe when I travel to ITHF friends" since they're Rotary members. Best of all, it feels like family, whether she's being hosted or hosting visitors at her home along a meandering waterway just outside the Everglades.

With 923 members from 45 countries, the travel and hosting fellowship is one of the largest within Rotary. It allows its members to enrich their travels through crosscultural exchange by visiting local Rotary members for everything from quick meetups at cafes to several days in their home.

Though the fellowship was officially recognised in 1989, the idea was sparked a few years earlier. The group formed from a growing circle of connections that started with an American Rotary member and his wife, who were struck by the hospitality of Rotarians they encountered on an extended stay in Europe in 1986. When they, in turn, hosted a group of Australians who had the same interest in exchanging visits, they knew they were on to something.

"What we do is give you an opportunity to connect," says Madhumita Bishnu, of the Rotary E-Club of Melbourne, Vic, who logs on from her home in Kolkata, India, as the fellowship's current chair.

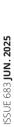
Members can reach out to each other through the website and arrange to connect.

RIGHT:

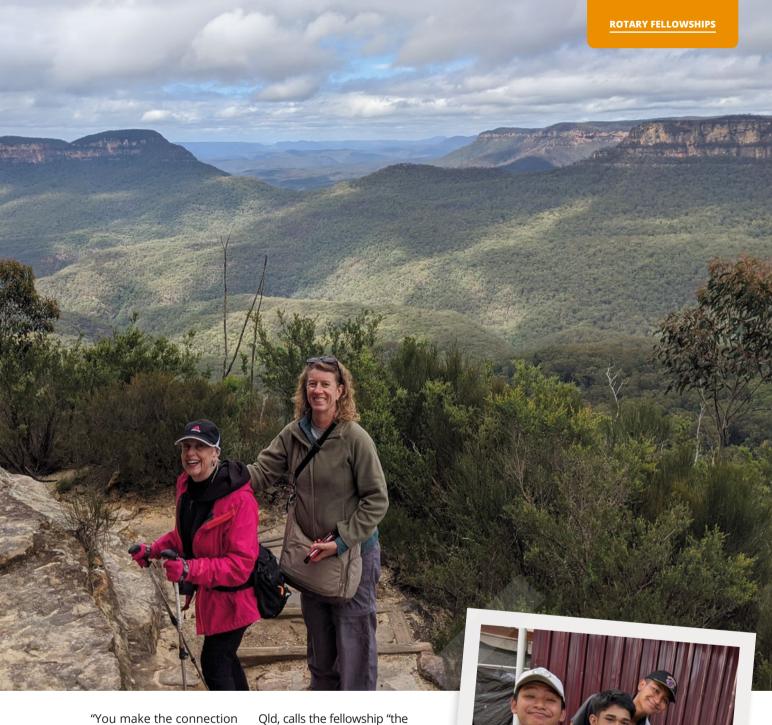
On a 2021 hike, Tracey Wyatt (right), of the Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly, Qld, shows the Blue Mountains to Nancy Fleming, a longtime US Rotarian before her passing.

INSET:

Ligia Corredor, of the Rotary Club of Miramar-Pines, Florida, with members of the Ball Wiguna Selat Interact Club during a fellowship tour of Bali.







"You make the connection and stay with the person or be invited to a club meeting. It could be a local sightseeing trip, a visit for a cup of tea or coffee, any kind of hosting," Madhumita says.

"Connections can involve home stays over a few days but can also be as simple as just meeting for a meal," says Sheila Hart, president of the Rotary Club of Nelson Daybreak, Canada, and a past chair of the fellowship.

Tracey Wyatt, of the Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly,

Qld, calls the fellowship "the best-kept secret".

"It's far deeper and more insightful than any tourist experience," she says. And the expert local knowledge is helpful. Tracey, for example, regularly cautions travellers not to underestimate Australia's vastness and set unrealistic travel plans.

Rick and Mary Ellen Harned, members of the Rotary Club of Louisville, US, note that some Rotarians lack room at home to accommodate guests.



ABOVE:

Fellowship members from Canada and the US enjoy a swim in Brazil.

OPPOSITE:

International Travel and Hosting Fellowship Chair . Madhumita Bishnu (right), of the Rotary E-Club of Melbourne, Vic, with fellowship member Tam Agosti Gisler, of the Rotary Club of Anchorage East, Alaska, at Flury's, a 1927 Bakery in Kolkata, East India, where Madhumita lives.

RIGHT:

Sheila Hart, of the Rotary Club of Nelson Daybreak, Canada, with fellowship members at Iguassu Falls during a tour of Brazil.

"In Japan, I would not necessarily expect home hospitality, where they just don't have space," says Rick, a fellowship past administrator. But a simple meet-up can be equally enriching.

For their visit to Osaka, lapan, for instance, a Rotarian-hosted walking tour and dinner at a Japanese sports bar were memorable highlights. During a visit to Germany, the wife of a Rotarian stocked their rented apartment with light

victuals, and Rick delivered a presentation about Rotary life in Kentucky to the Rotary Club of Detmold-Oerlinghausen. On another trip, Australian Rotarians introduced the couple to the kangaroos romping on a friend's property. The landowner, it turned out, was a Rotarian the Harneds had met on an earlier fellowship group tour.

The fellowship also encompasses domestic exchanges; the Harneds visit Rotarian friends in Wisconsin and enjoyed a short trip to neighbouring Tennessee in April 2024 to experience a solar eclipse with a Rotarian there.

"We tend to do what they do in their communities," savs Mary Ellen. "In the smaller communities, you see things an average tourist wouldn't see."

Ligia has hosted visitors who were excited just to help tend to her garden, which is adorned with palm trees and lush greenery. On another occasion, a couple from Canada who arrived in time for a breakfast with Santa event for kids that she was attending tagged along and volunteered all day to hand out gifts. And when Ligia was staying with an Australian member near Brisbane, she went with her to check out a club project to teach teens and adults with disabilities how to sail.

"I would have never seen anything like that if I had not been with Rotarians," she says.

The fellowship also organises group tours,





including excursions around the Rotary International Convention. After the convention in Singapore last May, Ligia joined a fellowship tour in Bali, Indonesia. A Rotarian there arranged for them to take a cooking class in which they even got to pick the vegetables and herbs from a garden. Another recent fellowship tour was planned for Patagonia and Antarctica. And the connections start even before the trips; members often get to know each other ahead of time through lively WhatsApp groups.

"The biggest takeaway is the long-term relationships that I've made," says Ligia.

"I have a lot of friends I've made that are not in the fellowship. But we convince them. Every time, you need to join us. It's the camaraderie that you develop." "

Experiencing Rotary beyond the club



By PDG Jennifer Scott Incoming Rotary International Director Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains, NSW

I LOVE my Rotary club, but it is not my whole Rotary world. I belong to a few Rotary fellowships, each one offering me a different group of friends and a different experience.

There are so many Rotary fellowship options, ranging from wine, whiskey, beer (BREW) and gin, to multiple sports like skiing, table tennis and scuba diving, as well as hobbies and professional groups.

I meet the members of the Rotary Fellowship of Past Governors once a year at the Rotary International Conventions.

My husband, PDG Ian Scott, was a member of the Australian Defence Force with the RAAF for over 50 years. I was an Airforce Reserve Legal Officer for 10 years, so it was only natural for Ian and I to join the Rotary Fellowship of Military Veterans. Our active and retired armed forces members come from all corners of the world, including a strong contingent in Ukraine. Our focus is on building peace and supporting mental health initiatives.

I recently joined the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR), a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting Rotary and aviation as an opportunity for fellowship and service. I will be joining the group on a fly away after the Calgary Convention, involving 56 Rotarians from around the world and 13 aircraft. We will be travelling through the Rocky Mountains visiting Yellowstone, Glacier and Whitefish national parks.

Perhaps one day I would like to start the Fellowship of Camino Walkers. Anyone interested in joining me? My next walk is the Nakasendo Way in Japan, after the 2026 Taipei Convention. ****

Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide Fellowship

By Brian Coffey BREW Director – South Pacific

OPPOSITE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

LEFT): Members of the **D9660 BREW** Chapter from six clubs gather at Murrays Brewery in Port Stephens for lunch; Rob Foran, of the Rotary Club of Echuca. Vic, receives his BRFW Life Membership badge at the Melhourne Convention from then District Governor Kevin Stevens from Chicago, US; A large gathering of BREW members at Hamburg University during the 2019 RI Convention in Hamburg, Germany.

RIGHT:

A group of international Rotarians relaxing after a guided pub crawl during the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Vic.

IF you've ever wondered who the people are walking around RI Conventions in bright yellow shirts covered in bubbles, they are BREW members.

Founded in 2013 and launched at the 2014 RI Convention in Sydney, NSW, the Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide (BREW) Fellowship is an officially recognised Rotary fellowship, created for Rotarians around the world who love to drink and make beer. BREW is not just about raising glasses; we're about raising impact!

The purpose of this fellowship is to foster and encourage fellowship between Rotarians while supporting international projects of The Rotary Foundation. BREW has formally partnered with WASHRAG (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Rotary Action Group), supporting their project expertise and dedication to providing access to clean water since water is the primary ingredient in beer!

BREW donates 25 per cent of its annual membership

revenue to WASHRAG every year at the RI Convention.

The Board of BREW has nine members, chaired by Moses Aryee from Ghana, serving the 1,550 lifetime members in 59 countries. There are two female directors, with a nomination from a female for one of the vacant positions.

Records indicate Australia has 89 BREW members and 17 in New Zealand. District 9660 has the only BREW Chapter.

With a following of nearly 6,000 Facebook members, BREW is very active on social media, hosting well attended international events and fun information sessions via Zoom. A highlight of all RI Conventions is the BREW/ WASHRAG events, which generally sell out quickly.

At the Melbourne RI Convention in 2023, I organised three different events to cope with the demand – a river tour, a walking tour and a sit down dinner. In 2026, I will organise a Friday night BREW social for the combined D9660/D9685 Conference in Newcastle, NSW. These events seem to be an increasing part of Rotary Conferences.

Life Membership of BREW is US\$100, providing you with our new brand correct membership pin, the 'What's Brewing' newsletter each quarter, early information on the Convention party tickets and a \$25 donation to WASHRAG. You can also purchase the new branding approved shirts.

Join us, connect with beerloving Rotarians worldwide, and let's brew good together! *DU



For more information, visit rotarybrew.org







Rotary Fellowship



THE Rotary Fellowship of Gin (RFOG) was formed in 2020 following the meeting of Robert Breton and Raquel D Juncal at the Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada, where they noticed an opportunity for a fellowship for gin lovers.

Since that initial thought, the fellowship has been holding regular gatherings on Zoom as 'Gintastics' and is expanding to start regional events with board members spread throughout the world.

Today, following the Singapore Convention last year, where Gintastics were seen consuming Singapore Slings, the fellowship has more than 150 members and 500 followers on Facebook.

The online meetings generally involve a guest distiller, who speaks about their process and products. The time of the meeting is rotated each month so that different time zones can participate. So, you might join the meeting at night in time for gin o'clock or be making gin pancakes for breakfast!

They also have an active Facebook group where they share discoveries and information about gins, different craft gins from all over the world, gin cocktail recipes, favourite botanicals, how to make a compound gin and how to cook with gin.

Since gin production and consumption depend on clean water, the fellowship supports water, sanitation and hygiene programs by raising funds and supporting projects worldwide. In 2022-23, they supported

Aquabox with its project to provide clean water filters for Ukraine. Funds are raised from events and from part of the membership fees.

In the UK, members sell Purple Passion gin in partnership with a local distiller to raise funds for *PolioPlus*.

Serving on the Gin Fellowship Board is our very own Teresa Mitchell from the Rotary Club of Warragul, Vic. Teresa, together with Ted Faigle from the US, Ashley Gray from England and David Harrison from Scotland, are directors and mixologists.

"The Rotary Fellowship of Gin is a wonderful group to be part of, and not just for gin lovers," says Teresa.

"It's the connections you make in a fun way – social gatherings both online and face to face. But it's also our fundamental purpose of providing access to clean drinking water facilities, which aligns our service to others, particularly in emergency and conflict situations.

"It's a fun way to connect with others around the world using a product that is made around the world."

The fellowship will be holding events at the RI Convention in Calgary, Canada, this month; at the South Pacific Zone 8 Conference on the Gold Coast, Qld, in October; and at the Combined District 9815 and District 9830 Conference in Hobart, Tas, in March 2026.

Follow the Gintastic adventures on Facebook and register as a member via www.ginfellowship.org



THE Rotarian Jazz Fellowship (RotaryJazz) brings together jazz-loving Rotarians and musicians from all over the world. Founded in Germany in 2010 as a joint venture with Rotary clubs in the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland, this fellowship recognises the global impact of jazz music.

After a thorough accreditation process, Rotarylazz received the seal of approval by Rotary International in June 2012 and is listed in the official Rotary Fellowships Directory.

RotaryJazz is a musical network of socially committed individuals. Their aim is to raise awareness of jazz and initiate and promote social music projects. They see themselves as mediators and door openers when it comes to giving young talent a platform.

They consider themselves a service provider for Rotary districts and clubs, supporting their health and education initiatives as

well as projects to combat poverty through their performances.

District 9790 Governor Stephen O'Connell OAM is a member of the fellowship. Readers of RDU and attendees at the Melbourne RI Convention in 2023 will remember Stephen from his performance of 'All Shoulders to the Wheel', for which Stephen wrote the music and Lachlan McIntyre the lyrics.

"Being part of the Rotarian Jazz Fellowship is a natural fit for me - it blends my love of music with Rotary's commitment to service," says Stephen.

"Music has the power to connect people across cultures and generations, and jazz in particular has a spirit of freedom and collaboration that reflects the best of Rotary. It's

an honour to contribute through performance and help amplify Rotary's impact through the universal language of music."

Stephen has been a professional musician and composer for more than 35 years. He has performed his own compositions, as a featured soloist, with full symphony orchestras, bands and other groups in Australia and overseas. Stephen played the saxophone at the Zone 8 Conference Gala Dinner in Canberra in 2022.

John Seal from the Rotary Club of Greater Geelong, Vic, is also a member of the RotaryJazz. John says he is a percussionist first and foremost, but he is also a drummer. However, his real passion is playing a Vibraphone. RDU

ABOVE: District 9790 Governor Stephen O'Connell OAM says being part of the Rotarian Jazz Fellowship blends his love of music

with Rotary's commitment to

service

For more information, visit rotaryjazz.com/about-rotaryjazz

International Bee Rotary Fellowship

"The fellowship offers Rotarians a way to act locally while thinking globally. By supporting pollinators, members contribute to food security, environmental resilience and the health of future generations."

BEES are more than just insects – they are a key part of the biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. These small, social wonders are responsible for pollinating more than 75 per cent of the crops that feed the world, making them essential to global food systems, biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

But bees are under threat. Habitat loss, pesticide use, disease and climate change are all contributing to dramatic declines in pollinator populations across the globe.

Recognising the critical

importance of bees to both people and planet, Rotary launched the International Bee Rotary Fellowship in 2020. This global fellowship brings together Rotarians who are passionate about protecting bees and raising awareness of their vital ecological role. From backyard beekeepers to biodiversity advocates, members of the fellowship unite under a shared mission: to educate. advocate and take action for pollinator health.

The initiative is grounded in Rotary's broader commitment to

environmental sustainability. As bees face increasing pressures, the consequences of inaction are stark. A world without bees would face widespread disruption to food production, severe declines in biodiversity and irreversible damage to ecosystems. The Bee Fellowship offers a platform to spotlight these concerns and mobilise meaningful community-based efforts.

One of the fellowship's key allies is the Rotary Pollinator Task Force, which focuses on community-driven strategies to improve pollinator health. These include planting pollinator-friendly gardens, advocating for pesticide-free zones, promoting native flora and delivering education programs in schools and local communities.

The fellowship also highlights the oftenoverlooked intelligence and



social complexity of bees. Within a hive, each bee plays a unique role – whether foraging for nectar, caring for young or defending the colony. Their famed 'waggle dance' is a remarkable form of communication used to direct others to food sources and is just one example of their highly developed teamwork.

Complementing these efforts is Rotarians for Bees. an Australian-based initiative established under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Canterbury, Vic. This group of concerned Rotarians focuses on reversing the dangerous decline in bee and pollinator populations worldwide. Their mission is to build awareness among Rotary's 1.2 million members and encourage action to support pollinators and their role in agriculture and horticulture.

"Both native bees and introduced honey (Italian) bees give so much to humans," says Rotarians for Bees Chair PDG Jeremy Wright AM. "We have to protect them or we threaten our own long-term survival."

The International Bee Rotary Fellowship and Rotarians for Bees offer Rotarians a way to act locally while thinking globally. By supporting pollinators, members contribute to food security, environmental resilience and the health of future generations.

As Rotary expands its focus on the environment, initiatives like the Bee Fellowship demonstrate how small creatures can have a mighty impact – and how Rotarians, through service and fellowship, can help protect them. ROU

The International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians

From fly-ins and global friendships to life-saving medical flights and youth aviation scholarships, the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians connects Rotary's spirit of service with a passion for the skies.

THE International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR) is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting aviation as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of or controlled by Rotary International.

Mike McFarlane, of the Rotary Club of Kew, Vic, is the IFFR World President for 2024-2026.

"IFFR is one of the oldest Rotary fellowships and was formally established in Seattle, US, on January 1, 1965, primarily through the efforts of Mr E 'Edison' Kennell. For nearly 60 years thereafter it has been facilitating Rotary aviation friendships all around the world," says Mike.

"Membership ranges from those aspiring aviators who simply must look up when an aircraft passes overhead, to air traffic controllers, engineers, aircrew, balloonist, glider pilots and, of course, many general aviation pilots plus, more recently, 'sim-ers'. Some are active, some retired, some wishing to retire, others just wishing to be more involved by participating in aviation activities with like-minded people."

Mike says joining IFFR is an ideal way to experience aviation, provide service to the wider community and enjoy lots of fun and fellowship all rolled up in one. Membership also provides a great opportunity to enjoy fly-ins twice a year in your home state or country, plus participate in other international IFFR events organised around the globe.

Fly-ins are organised for interesting destinations with lots to see and do, where members can attend by flying their own aircraft, hiring one, taking a commercial flight or driving with friends. >



"There is no better form of flying for a pilot than Angel Flights, where you can enjoy your passion for aviation and at the same time make a real and visible difference to another person in need of ongoing medical help."

< The fly-ins incorporate hosting executive meetings, usually including an Annual General Meeting. They are normally brief, typically held on the Friday evening and followed by fellowship. The fellowship continues all day Saturday and Sunday, usually enjoying a coach tour of the local area and sharing the Saturday night dinner with fellow aviators and a local Rotary club.

Hundreds of events have been held over the years in many of the 60 countries in which Flying Rotarians reside.

Globally, there are circa 1,100 IFFR members, mostly active Rotarians, who proudly wear their IFFR 'Wings', spreading the word about Rotary in their respective communities while linking their passion for aviation.

"It really is an international fellowship," says Mike. "In the past month there have been fly-ins in Australia visiting Broken Hill, William Creek and the Barossa Valley, Te Awamutu near Hamilton in New Zealand, and a European gathering in Dusseldorf in Germany."

In vast countries like North America and Australia, where the distances are great and town centres remote, IFFR pilots have used their own aircraft to help with aeromedical aid, flying regularly with organisations such as Angel Flight and AirCare Alliance; or by offering transportation in one-off emergencies.

This concept of Public
Benefit Flying provides
people who are socially or
geographically disadvantaged
with a service to help
alleviate the distress that
goes with travelling long
distances seeking ongoing
medical or surgical services;
and in doing so reinforces
Rotary's enduring motto of
providing Service Above Self.
At the same time, it increases
IFFR and Rotary's public
image and awareness within

the community.

"There is no better form of flying for a pilot than Angel Flights, where you can enjoy your passion for aviation and at the same time make a real and visible difference to another person in need of ongoing medical help," says Mike, who is a long-time Angel Flight volunteer pilot with 120 missions under his belt.

A recent global initiative has been to hold meetings at which young people are introduced to the wonderful world of aviation. In 2023, IFFR Australia launched a flying scholarship in memory of Brian Condon, a past member and former IFFR World President. The concept was to foster an interest in aviation as a career or hobby, within the context of Rotary's many youth initiatives.

IFFR provided a flying scholarship to the value of \$5,000 as a starting contribution towards the successful applicant's Recreational Pilot Licence as a first step in obtaining their

For more information, visit iffr.org.au



Private or Commercial Pilot Licence.

"The sky is the limit," says Mike, who has been a private pilot for most of his adult life.

On retirement as a "mature-aged student" Mike up-skilled to a Commercial Pilot License as part of a personal growth wish-list to improve his aviation knowledge and flying skills.

Mike started flying when he was 17 and has held multi-engine endorsements and a ME CIR; now holding a SE CIR with circa 2,400 hours experience, having missed a whole lot of flying in the middle of his life as his kids were growing up.

In 1989, he decided to really jump in the deep end and purchased his first aircraft, a 1979 Cessna 337G, commonly known as 'Charlie' or as he called it the "push me, pull you aircraft".

Over the years he has owned a handful of aircraft, including the Cessna 337G, plus a Piper Seneca II, Zling 242L, a Cirrus SR22 G5 and, until last month, a Cirrus SR22 G6 'Australis'.

"The quality, finish, avionics and capabilities of the Cirrus SR22 G6 provides a remarkable flying platform," says Mike. "There is so much information and backup that every flight can provide a new learning experience."

As a "belt and braces" kind of guy, the concept of "the plane with the parachute" hit a chord with Mike.

"The added redundancy if something goes wrong is a real bonus as, heaven forbid, in say a pilot medical episode in the Seneca there was no way my wife could land it, and having an extra engine wouldn't help!"

Mike is married to Sali, having recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. He and Sali have four adult sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, none of whom have much interest in aviation but enjoy the occasional flight going from A to B. RDU

The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians

IN 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary emblem from their masts. And, thus, the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) was formed in Great Britain, becoming the second official Rotary fellowship following the Esperanto Rotary Fellowship.

Today, there are 120 active Rotary yachting fleets in 31 regions throughout the world. These include Argentina, Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China (Hong Kong SAR), Colombia, Crimea, Croatia, Czech and Slovak Republics, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and the USA.

IYFR has a worldwide membership of 3,537 mariners who are 'enrolled' in the 120 fleets and in the World E-Fleet, which was created to connect mariners who have no other fleet they can join. **DUTTO**



For more information, visit infr.net

The International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians

The International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians brings together Rotarians from across the world with a shared passion for these two great organisations dedicated to service.



ABOVE:

PDG Mike Patten
OAM (left) with
Past RI Director
John Thorne, who
says Rotary was a
natural progression
of service to
the community
following his
Scouting service.
(Photo: Adam
Reibel)

OPPOSITE:

PDG Michael Plunkett (right) with his wife Gayle and PDG Mike Patten. (Photo: Chrissy Ratcliffe) By Mike Patten OAM Chief Commissioner Scouts Tasmania, 2010-16 Rotary District 9830 Governor, 2023-24

TWO years apart in the early 1900s, on either side of the Atlantic, two of the largest community service organisations in the world were created. One, Scouting, looked to develop leadership and resilience in young

people. The other, Rotary, allowed adults to work together to create a better world.

Although not initially linked in any way, it wasn't long before their common goal of service to others saw them working side by side – world peace was a shared goal, especially after WWI.

Young people involved in Scouting and Guiding are prime candidates for Rotary

youth programs, and later in their lives, Rotary is a natural option to continue their service to the community.

Friendships made in one organisation flow naturally into the other, and when leaders were needed in Scouting, Rotarians have the skills required.

My own first contribution to Rotary at a district level was an extension of my knowledge of child protection learned in my role as a Scout Administrator. The recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse were very important to the future programs of both organisations and needed to be explained at both club and district level.

Almost every Rotary club in Australia has ex-Scouts and Guides among its members. Even more surprising is the number of Rotarians who have been Scout or Guide Leaders or parent supporters, often for very significant periods of time. My own club, the Rotary Club of Lindisfarne, Tas, has seven members who have been Scout Leaders and several more who were Scouts or Guides.

For more information, visit scoutingrotarians.org

"IFSR's goals are to recognise Rotary clubs and Rotarians who support Scouting and to foster stronger links between Rotary clubs and their local Scout and Guide groups."

Visiting Rotary clubs around our district is an ongoing reunion with Rotarians I have previously known in Scouting or Guides. Our shared interest in both organisations is an instant bond.

I first became aware of the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR) at the 2014 World Scout Conference in Slovenia. IFSR is a Rotary fellowship that brings together Rotarians from across the world with a shared passion for these two great organisations.

IFSR's goals are to recognise Rotary clubs and Rotarians who support Scouting and to foster stronger links between >

My Scouting and Rotary journey

By Michael Plunkett District 9830 Governor 2020-21

GROWING up, I became a Cub Scout at eight years of age, which started a 40-year journey in Scouting as a youth member followed by a number of leadership roles.

Scouting aims to empower "young people to be resilient, self-fulfilled change makers in their community" (Scouts Australia) and comprises five youth sections, with Rover Scouts for young adults aged 18–25 years old.

For me, it was the best youth grounding where I was able to have fun, apply what I had learned since Cub Scouts, make lifelong friendships that continue to this day and give back to the community.

The motto of Rover Scouts is *Service* aligning with Rotary's motto of *Service Above Self*.

My Rotary journey began with my wife Gayle when we were both invited to join and charter the Rotary Club of Sumner Park in Brisbane, Qld. Starting a new club was fun and, again, many lifelong friendships were made that continue to this day. Our Rotary journey has taken us from Brisbane to Cairns and Cairns Mulgrave for 17 years, and now Deloraine, Tasmania. We have fond memories of many community events including duck races, bike races and shows, and currently contribute to the iconic Tasmanian Craft Fair.

There are many parallels between Scouting and Rotary, which both strive to serve their communities.

I joined the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians at the Brisbane Convention in 2003 and, like my friend PDG Mike Patten, continually run into Rotarians who have been or who are active in Scouting.

Gayle and I are attending the RI Convention in Calgary, Cananda, this month and see it as an opportunity to meet up with Scouting Rotarians from around the world.





ABOVE: PDG Mike Patten OAM with fellow Rotary Club of Lindisfarne members Susan Gardner, Tony Peck and Nigel Grey, who are all current or past Scout Leaders. < Rotary clubs and their local Scout and Guide groups. Their quarterly magazine is a regular source of Rotary and Scouting information.

In the House of Friendship

at the RI Conference in Melbourne in 2023, and again in Singapore in 2024, I had the opportunity to meet up with Scouting Rotarians from around the world. They each share a passion for doing good in the world and, over coffee, their stories of service to young people were both fascinating and inspiring. These amazing people quietly go about their dual service commitment all over the world.

Getting to know your local Scout group is a great way to source outstanding young people to participate in Rotary youth programs and for Rotary to provide funding to make the Scout program more effective. It is an excellent way to support youth in your community. Scout and Guide Leaders and parents are also a fertile recruiting ground for your club.

Fellowships - The hidden gems of Rotary

Embrace the power of promotion to spread the word about the many benefits Rotary fellowships provide.

By Madu Bishnu Rotary E-Club of Melbourne, Vic

ROTARY International designates June as 'Fellowship Month', providing a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Rotary fellowships, form new fellowships or invite a Rotarian who is knowledgeable about our fellowships to give a presentation at clubs, district events or in Rotary Community Groups.

Rotary fellowships were established with the philosophy that Rotarians should not only engage in community work but should also have fun with fellow members who share common interests and hobbies, to expand their knowledge and make lifelong friends.

Every year during the Rotary International Convention, Rotarians gather at the House of Friendship and visit the various fellowships' stalls to learn more about them, to meet new members and to catch up with old friends. Many fellowships also take the opportunity to host dinner or breakfast events to get members further involved and enjoy the camaraderie of Rotary.

During Convention breakout sessions, I have moderated on the topic 'Rotary Fellowships – Hidden Gems'. Rotarians come in large numbers to learn more about our fellowships in general and to understand the difference between club



and district fellowship versus RI fellowships.

Following the breakout sessions, many Rotarians go back to the House of Friendship to join new fellowships. However, there are still many Rotarians who have not yet heard about RI fellowships. It is our job to introduce our fellowships and action groups to as many Rotarians as possible.

During the breakout sessions, I encourage attendees to spread the word about fellowships through presentations at their Rotary club and beyond.

In Zone 8, there are less Rotarians who are part of a fellowship than those who are not. Promotion through presentations at every club in Zone 8 is necessary to invite Rotarians to join at least one fellowship or action group. Those who do will never regret their decision.

The International Travel and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF) is a wonderful example of the power of promotion. Pre-COVID, ITHF had 1,100 members from 52 countries, but during and post-COVID we lost many members due to old age, death of a partner or leaving Rotary. However, with regular presentations at district events and at club level, we have built our membership back up to 932 members from 50 countries.

Another suggestion to come out of the Convention breakout sessions is that each district governor

appoint a fellowship chair to promote our fellowships and action groups and encourage more Rotarians to join.

To further boost membership, the Rotary International Board recently made the decision that non-Rotarians should be invited to join a Rotary fellowship. By 2027, all fellowships and action groups will need to ensure that non-Rotarians have been invited to join at least one fellowship. It is interesting to note that many non-Rotarians who join a fellowship have subsequently joined a Rotary club.

Fellowships offer the best part of Rotary, beyond serving our communities, and are truly the 'Hidden Gems' of Rotary. RDU

ABOVE (FROM LEFT):

Madhumita 'Madu' Bishnu (right) with International Travel and Hosting members from Malaysia, Taiwan and the US at the 2024 RI Convention in Singapore; Madu with ITHF President Elect Ligia Corredor from the US, Administrator Sivaprasad S Pillai from India and Taiwanese ITHF members at the ITHF Presidential dinner in Singapore; Madu pinning Marsha María Gavrilyeva - a new ITHF member from Russia - at the House of Friendship during the Singapore Convention.

For a full list of current Rotary Fellowships, details on how to form a new one and contact details of Fellowship chairs, visit rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships

The Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists

By Scotney Hayter Rotary Club of Horsham East, Vic

MY fascination with family history began early, sparked by stories shared at family gatherings and nurtured by the dedication of my grandmother – who turns 100 this month – and two aunts who were avid researchers. That curiosity blossomed into a lifelong passion.

For 11 years, I served as president of my local Family History Group, dedicating countless hours to unearthing not only my own ancestry but also that of my wife. Genealogy, for me, became more than a hobby – it was a meaningful connection to the past and a way to honour those who came before us.

When I joined the Rotary Club of Stawell, Vic, in 2018, I was introduced to Rotary fellowships and immediately gravitated toward the Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists. Though new to Rotary, I was no stranger to its values. My daughter had been a Rotary Exchange Student, joined Rotary at the age of 18, and made history as our club's youngest



president at just 18 years and 10 months. I was also fortunate to receive early mentorship from my aunt, Jenny Coburn, a past district governor.

Genealogy strengthened family bonds in unexpected ways. My aunt, Di Dowsett, in Adelaide, had spent years researching our lineage. I introduced her to digital tools like ancestry.com and other resources through the Genealogy Group. Together, through shared documents, calls and visits, we traced

one family line back to the 12th century – an incredible achievement completed shortly before her passing.

Today, I'm a proud member of the Rotary Club of Horsham East, Vic, and will serve as district secretary for District 9780 in 2025-26. Although time is now scarcer, my passion for genealogy remains unwavering. This journey isn't just about discovering names and dates, it's about preserving stories and forging connections across generations. **DU

century – an incredible achievement completed shortly before her passing."

Clui I wa fella grar Fell Ger

"Together,

documents,

calls and

visits, we

traced one

family line

back to

the 12th

through

shared

For more information on the Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists, visit rotariangenealogists.org

The LGBT+ Rotary Fellowship

THE LGBT+ Rotary Fellowship came about after the Rotary International Conference in Atlanta in 2017. During a panel discussion on LGBT+ inclusion in Rotary, a question was asked regarding LGBT+ Rotarians and if a fellowship or Rotary Action Group existed already.

The answer was no. At that breakout session the decision was made to establish a fellowship.

The LGBT+ Rotary Fellowship was officially recognised as a Rotary fellowship on June 22, 2018. It is a group dedicated to promoting global friendship, service and education with the goal of creating an inclusive, understanding and welcoming community, fostering goodwill and peace, and realising a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for LGBT+ people.

The LGBT+ Rotary Fellowship connects members of the Rotary family and works to build an organisation that is welcoming to members of the LGBT+ community.

They work to connect members in friendship, educate clubs to be more inclusive, and work with the Rotary family to develop and support service projects that impact and benefit LGBT+ communities.

The fellowship is also available as an LGBT+ advisory group, contributing to and consulting on practices to be an inclusive club, policy development and projects of significance to the LGBT+ community.

PDG Craig Bowen from Brisbane, Qld, is an active member of the fellowship. Craig, who was the charter president of the Rotary Club of Briz Pride in August 2023, says the fellowship is Rotary's largest. ROU

BELOW: "Did someone say selfie!?" Rotaractors and Rotarians enjoying one of the first LGBT+ Rotary Fellowship events at the Toronto Pride Parade, which coincided with the 2018 RI Convention in Toronto, Canada



A Calgary sneak peek

ATTENTION last-minute adventurers: Many of you still have plenty of time to join thousands of members in Calgary for the Rotary International Convention. Lots of members register in these final weeks leading up to the big event – or even pay at the door.

The schedule for Calgary, June 21-25, is crowded with bold voices and big ideas to help you grow your club's impact and membership. We hear it all the time: Everyone should attend the convention at least once. "A convention is where Rotary comes to life," RI President Stephanie Urchick says.

The event, as always,

offers world-class speakers, including women's rights advocate Tawakkol Karman, the first Arab woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, and climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, named on one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People lists.

Breakout sessions are a build-your-own learning experience on topics from using artificial intelligence in Rotary to recruiting young leaders and diverse members. The House of Friendship is like the town square, where Rotary's global community mixes with friends and percolates project ideas.

And your destination

is downright fun to visit, with views of the Canadian Rocky Mountains on the horizon and a Western heritage that you'll notice throughout the easy-to-tour modern city.

"Calgary is a breathtaking mix of warm hospitality and natural beauty," Stephanie says.

Everyone at a convention is part of a family, says Elizabeth Villafranca, of the Rotary Club of Carrollton-Farmers Branch in Texas.

"This has been something that has changed my life, my perspective, and has given me enough energy to continue working to make our world a better place." **DU



Every year, 1 in 5 Australians will experience



One of the most significant barriers to improving Mental Illness prevention and treatment is the low priority given to Mental Health research.



Help Improve the Health of all Australians. Become a Friend or Companion

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

- Ensure Australians of all ages, from all walks of life, will lead healthier lives.
 - Receive Australian Rotary Health updates.
- All donations are fully tax deductible and cumulative.

www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au



Ph: 02 8837 1900



FRIENDSHIP: INDIVIDUALS

Friend - \$100 Bronze Friend - \$500 Silver Friend - \$1,000 Platinum Friend - \$2,000 Diamond Friend - \$2,500

COMPANIONS: INDIVIDUALS, A CLUB OR CORPORATION

Companion - \$5,000 Gold Companion - \$10,000 Ruby Companion - \$20,000 Emerald Companion - \$50,000 Diamond Companion - \$100,000

E: admin@arh.org.au • PO Box 6161 Norwest NSW 2153

What you make possible

THIS past year, my wife, Gay, and I have been privileged to witness the impact of The Rotary Foundation. From dialysis centres in India to environmental projects in Taiwan and educational initiatives worldwide, we have had a front-row seat to the life-changing results of your generosity. To see the work of our Foundation first-hand gives one a deeper understanding of Rotary's power to transform lives by spreading peace, hope and health.

In Bangkok, we saw a specialised life support machine for critically ill patients with lung and heart problems at a public hospital – only the second machine of its kind available to the city's 11 million residents outside of private care. Funded through a global grant, this technology is saving lives because Rotary members saw a need and responded.

Everything Rotary accomplishes through the Foundation – Rotary Peace Centres, Programs of Scale, global and district grants – relies on a strong and growing endowment. This is *The Magic of Rotary* that you make possible through your generosity.

That is the reason I am so passionate about our goal to build the net assets and commitments of The Rotary Foundation Endowment to \$2.025 billion by June 30, 2025. The Trustees set this goal in 2016, after exceeding earlier targets and recognising the growing interest in endowed giving. Thanks to your extraordinary support – including gifts from the estates of members – the net assets and commitments of the Endowment have grown substantially and are within reach of our goal.

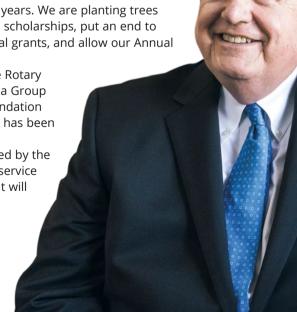
To contribute to the Endowment, talk with your endowment/major gifts adviser or your major gifts officer, or visit rotary.org/donate. Your generosity can help us reach our goal, which we will celebrate at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary this month.

The fruits of these gifts may not be seen for several years. We are planting trees – trees that will grow to fund Rotary Peace Fellows and scholarships, put an end to polio, support high-impact Programs of Scale and global grants, and allow our Annual Fund to spread more hope.

During my 40-year journey in Rotary leadership, The Rotary Foundation has always been at the core. From leading a Group Study Exchange team in 1986 to serving as district Foundation chair, trustee, RI president, and now as trustee chair, it has been the honour of a lifetime.

I am fortunate to have experienced and been inspired by the magic that you have created through your dedication, service and action. Together, let us continue planting trees that will provide fruit for generations.

PRIP Mark Daniel Maloney Foundation trustee chair









Sharing stories supporting farmers

Discover the wonders of Aussie wildlife through books

By Shobha Srinivasan Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads, Qld

AS a passionate advocate for both literacy and our unique Australian wildlife, I'm thrilled to introduce my series of children's books, designed to ignite a love for reading and a fascination with the creatures that call our land home. My current collection of three books – What Aussie Animal is That in the Water?, What Aussie Animal is That on the Land? and What Aussie Animal is That in the Tree? – offers a vibrant and engaging read-aloud experience for children aged five and up.

In today's digital age, the tangible magic of books can sometimes be overshadowed. These stories aim to gently nudge young minds away from screens and towards the captivating world of literature. Each book explores different landscapes and habitats, introducing children to the incredible biodiversity that surrounds us. Through colourful illustrations and engaging text, I hope to foster a lifelong interest in reading and a deep appreciation for our native animals.

Beyond the joy of storytelling, I believe in giving back to our community. That's why I'm reaching out to Rotary clubs with an exciting opportunity. I would be delighted to present my books to our Rotary club members and offer a meaningful way to support the vital work we are currently undertaking for disaster relief for farmers. For every book purchased through Rotary clubs, I pledge to donate 25 per cent of the proceeds directly to this crucial fundraising effort. The books are printed locally on the Gold Coast and retail for \$20.

This partnership offers a unique way to:

- Promote literacy: Encourage reading and a love for books in young children.
- Foster environmental awareness: Cultivate an appreciation for Australian

wildlife and its habitats.

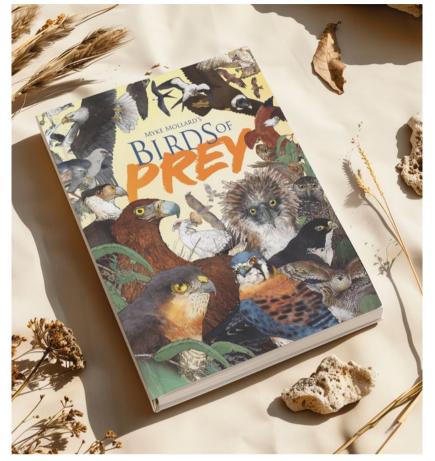
 Support farmers in need: Contribute directly to Rotary's disaster relief efforts.

Looking ahead, I'm also excited about my upcoming book, currently being illustrated, which will serve as a child's very first introduction to the diverse and colourful world of Australian birds. Perhaps it will even inspire the next generation of "twitchers"!

I believe that by sharing these stories, we can sow the seeds of curiosity, compassion and a lifelong love for both books and the natural world. I would be honoured to connect with local Rotary clubs and share the magic of these books while contributing to such a worthy cause. I hope we can work together to inspire young minds and support our resilient farming communities. **DUT TO THE STATE OF THE STATE

To check out the books or greeting cards that feature illustrations from the books, please visit shobhasrinivasan.com. For more information on supporting this cause, contact Shobha via shobhaus@gmail.com









BIRDS OF PREY

Myke Mollard Woodslane Press RRP: \$24.99

Myke Mollard's signature illustrations and engaging text bring kids up close and personal with over 150 of the world's most powerful, ingenious and charismatic birds of prey.

From Ospreys to owls, eagles to condors, there are magnificent representatives from every continent.

The birds are not only beautifully drawn and coloured, but the accompanying text vividly describes their lifestyles and habits. The wonderment of these stunning creatures, delivered in an engaging cinematic punch, will excite the imaginations of children for life, and fully engage any adult with a love of raptors and other birds of prey.

Pride of Workmanship Awards



RECOGNITION

Acknowledge employees that display outstanding qualities



INVOLVEMENT

A program which enables involvement in the community.



OPPORTUNITY

An opportunity for connections which can lead to new members.



For more info go to **www.pride-of-workmanship.com** or contact Rotary Club of Pennant Hills Contact us for a FREE program guide Ph: 0444 565 780 or E: orders@pride-of-workmanship.com



MELALEUCA

Angie Martin HarperCollins RRP: \$34.99

A country town, a brutal murder, a shameful past, a reckoning to come.

Aboriginal policewoman Renee Taylor is planning to stay the minimum amount of time in her remote hometown – only as long as her mum needs her, then she is fleeing back to her real life in Brisbane.

Seconded to the town's sleepy police station, Renee is pretty sure work will hold nothing more exciting than delivering speeding tickets. Then a murdered woman is found down by the creek on the outskirts of town.

Leading the investigation, Renee uncovers a perplexing connection to the disappearance of two young women 30 years earlier. As she delves deeper and the mystery unfurls, intergenerational cruelties, endemic racism and deep corruption show themselves, even as dark and bitter truths about the town and its inhabitants' past rise up and threaten to overwhelm the present.



LOOKING FOR IMANI

LOOKING

Dianne Bates Woodslane Press RRP: \$16.99

Told mostly from the perspective of Nabila, the eldest child of a one-parent immigrant family to Australia, this novel focuses on how the wider community pulls together, despite the family's fears of discrimination, when the youngest child, Imani, goes missing.

Looking for Imani is a tale that weaves together a variety of themes into a heartfelt story of a community coming together and overcoming prejudice.

NSW author and teacher, Dianne Bates, has had over 100 books published. Several of them have won state and national awards, and she herself has been awarded the Lady Cutler prize for services to children's literature.



For your chance to win a copy of Melaleuca email giveaways@ rotarydownunder.com.au with 'Melaleuca' in the subject line. Please include your contact details, including delivery address.



For your chance to win a copy of Looking for Imani email giveaways@rotarydownunder.com.au with 'Looking for Imani' in the subject line. Please include your contact details, including delivery address.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2019 CHRISTCHURCH TERRORIST ATTACK: LESSONS IN HEALING, RESILIENCE, AND PEACEBUILDING

The free program is online via Zoom: bit.ly/4jJrR44 Meeting ID: 893 8987 2261

Passcode: 242784 lucy@claypartners.com

Please join the Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney on Sunday, June 15, at 7:30 pm to hear Imam Gamal Fouda's reflections on the day that a terrorist stormed his mosque. In 2019, the lone gunman, live streaming his actions on social media, carried out the worst terror attack in New Zealand's history, killing 51 people. Forty-three other people were killed at Al Noor Mosque that day, followed by seven at the nearby Linwood Islamic Centre. Eighty-nine others were injured. The shooter's youngest victim was just three years old. The massacre sent shockwaves



through New Zealand and around the world.

But despite the gravity and scale of the attacks, the response from New Zealand's political and community leaders offered something surprising. Among them was Imam Fouda.

Imam Fouda will share how his community is managing to cope six years on, the growing issue of Islamaphobia, his journey to Australia and his future aspirations. Most importantly, he will discuss how we can all contribute to peacebuilding.

SSUE 683 JUN. 2025

ROTARY AT A GLANCE

Rotarians: 1.167.285 in 36.568 clubs in 528 Districts in 221 countries/geographic areas.

Rotaractors: 133,377 in 9,382 clubs in 504 districts

in 181 countries/geographic areas.

Interactors: 381,593 in 16,585 clubs in 486 districts

in 144 countries/geographic areas.

Rotary Community Corps members: 200,615 in 13,937 clubs in 267 districts in 101 countries/ geographic areas.

As at February 17, 2025, there are 21,407 Rotary members in 940 clubs in 14 districts in Australia, and 5,896 Rotary members in 238 clubs in five districts in New Zealand and the Pacific. In addition, there are 481 Rotaract members in 45 clubs in Australia and 422 Rotaract members in 22 clubs in New Zealand and the Pacific. Australian and New Zealand districts include Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, where there are 606 Rotarians in 37 clubs and 357 Rotaractors in 15 clubs.

OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

RI General Officers 2024-25

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK

McMurray, Pennsylvania, US

PRESIDENT-ELECT MÁRIO CÉSAR MARTINS DE CAMARGO Santo André, São Paulo, Brazil

VICE PRESIDENT HANS-HERMANN KASTEN Aachen-Frankenburg, Germany

TREASURER RHONDA 'BETH' STUBBS Maryville, Tennessee, US

DIRECTORSGHIM BOK CHEW
Bugis Junction, Singapore

EVE CONWAY-GHAZI Redbridge, England

PATRICK FAKES Crescent (Greensboro), North Carolina, US

CHRISTINE ETIENNE Petoskey, Michigan, US

DANIEL C. HIMELSPACH Denver Mile High, Colorado, US

NAOMI LUAN-FONG LIN Taipei Lily, Taiwan

ISAO 'MICK' MIZUNO Tokyo Tobihino, Japan

SALVADOR RIZZO TAVARES Monterrey Carlos Canseco, Mexico

ANIRUDHA ROY CHOWDHURY Calcutta Mega City, India

SUZAN STENBERG Östersund Åre, Sweden TRICHUR NARAYAN 'RAIU' SUBRAMANIAN

DANIFI V TANASE Suceava Bucovina, Romania

ALAIN VAN DE POEL Wezembeek-Kraainem, Belgium

HENRIOUE VASCONCELOS Fortaleza-Alagadiço, Brazil

YEONG HO YUN Masan South, Korea

GENERAL SECRETARY Kyiv, Ukraine

Trustees of The Rotary Foundation 2024-25

CHAIR MARK DANIEL MALONEY Decatur, Alabama, USA

CHAIR-ELECT HOLGER KNAACK Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln,Germany

VICE CHAIR

LARRY A LUNSFORD Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, US

TRUSTEESANN-BRITT ÅSEBOL
Falun Kopparvågen, Sweden

MARTHA PEAK HELMAN Boothbay Harbor, Maine, US

CHING-HUEI 'FRANK' HORNG Pan-Chiao West, Taiwan

CHUN-WOOK HYUN Seoul-Hansoo, Korea **IENNIFER IONES** Windsor-Roseland, Ontario Canada

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY South Queensferry, Scotland

AKIRA MIKI Himeji, Japan

IJEOMA PEARL OKORO Port Harcourt, Nigeria

BHARAT S. PANDYA Borivli, India

GREG E. PODD Evergreen, Colorado, US

CARLOS SANDOVAL San Nicolás de los Garza, Mexico

DENNIS J. SHORE

GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN HEWKO Kyiv, Ukraine

Rotary District Governors 2024-25 Patricia Schraven (D9423); Marie-louise

Patricia Schraven (D9423); Marie-louise Lee (D9510); Andrew Gillespie (D9560); Sue Mulraney (D9620); Lisa Hunt (D9640); Bruce George (D9660); PDG Warwick Richardson (D9675); Niranjan Deodhar (D9685); Rob Uhl (D9705); Lesley Shedden (D9780); Stephen O'Connell (D9790); Michael Lapiña (D9800); Colin Byron (D9815); Pam Scott (D9830); Jenn Wong (D9910); Vidya Nand (D9920); Nick Dangerfield (D9920); Lesley Hard (D9400) (D9930); Jocelyn Hogg (D9940); Dave McKissock (D9999)

Rotary Down Under Council

PDG Kalma McLellan (Chair); Past Governors Liz Courtney (Deputy Chair); Brian Peters; Wayne Milnes; Andy Rajapakse; DG Jocelyn Hogg; DGE Evan Burrell.

United for Good

July 1 sees the launch of RDU.ONE – an exciting new era of communications – and the first edition of our revamped, glossy, 80-page Rotary Down Under.

To celebrate the launch, we are embracing RI President Mário César Martins de Camargo's call to Unite for Good.

Do you have a story of connection and collaboration?

We would love to hear about it!

Please send details to:

editorial@rotarydownunder.com.au



UNITE FOR GOOD







Directors Lapel Pin Set \$75.00







RDUSIJPPI IFS

Officially Licensed Rotary Merchandise











