

**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ENCOURAGEMENT!**

ON MY PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO  
WALK **979.0KM** IN SUPPORT OF  
INTERPLAST....

- I'm up to 437.6km
- Yes...ready for my next pair of shoes!



WELCOME TO THE

# District 9790 Monthly Newsletter



A word from DG Stephen



**District Governor's Update – Celebrating Our Collective Success!**  
I'm absolutely thrilled to share some exciting news with you all! I recently received a phone call from Tony Heyward, Deputy Chair of the Regional Council, who had high praise for the incredible strides we're making in membership growth. He acknowledged District 9790 as leaders across the entire Zone! This remarkable achievement is a true reflection of our collective dedication, hard work, and commitment to growing our Rotary family, all guided by the D9790 Framework for Improvement.

This is a milestone worth celebrating, and it's a credit to each and every one of you. But we're not stopping here! Now is the perfect time to let the world know about the fantastic progress we're making. Can I ask for one small action from you to keep the momentum going?

Please join our District 9790 Facebook group. Show your support by liking the page. This will allow us to share our success stories, connect with each other, and inspire even more people to join us on this incredible journey of service and growth.

Here's the link to join: [District 9790 Facebook Group](#)

↓ In this newsletter you will find:

Latest district news, what's on, projects and much more!  
Keep Reading!



# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



COVER, 3- DG STEPHEN'S NOTES



4 SALE OF CHILDREN FIRST FARM



5-6 2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE



7 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA



8 WALKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH



9-11 YOUTH NEWS



12-25 WHAT'S COMING UP, DEADLINES AND NOTICES

**Photo credits:** Stephen O'Connell OAM: Cover and 3 (supplied); Kotzur via [kotzur.com](http://kotzur.com): 6; Robyn Angus: 7 (supplied); David Redfearn: 8,9 and 22; Linda Gidlund: 10-11 (supplied); Wikipedia: 21; NSW and Housing Corporation website: 27

**Cover:** Carol O'Connell's progress in her personal challenge in support of Interplast

## DG Stephen (continued)

Together, we can continue driving our District forward, building on this momentum, and expanding our reach. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Rotary, and for being such an integral part of this success story.

### Multi-Club Visits.

Our Multi-Club Visits are well underway. Since the last newsletter, we've had the pleasure of visiting Groups 1, 2 and 9, and meeting with the boards from Groups 1, 2, 9 and 10. We are continually impressed by the innovative projects happening across the District, and we're eager to share and showcase the outstanding work of our clubs. One excellent way to do this is for your club to be part of the Hit the Hight Notes video presentation, where you will be able to showcase the incredible work your club is doing at next year's District Conference. Well done to all involved!

### Zone 8 Club Transformation Workshops.

Finally, Carol and I were honoured to serve as coaches, facilitators, and MCs for the recent Zone 8 Club Transformation Workshops in Sydney. With 84 clubs represented from 19 Districts—including five from District 9790—it was an inspiring and memorable weekend. A special congratulations to E-Club of Changemakers, Albury North, Numurkah, Southern Mitchell, and Diamond Creek for their excellent contributions.

Let's keep the momentum going and continue inspiring growth and transformation across our District!

Warm regards,

Stephen O'Connell

District Governor, D9790



Rotary Districts of Victoria Emergency Services Community Awards (Victorian RESCA) 2024 committee: (clockwise from top right) District 9800 PDG Grant Hocking (Chair), Koren Harvey (Awards Night MC), Neville Taylor, \*David Redfearn, Kerrie Hicks (Treasurer), Philip Archer, Kerrie Schmidt, Sandi Fulcher, \*Lorraine Greenwood (Secretary)

\*D9790 representatives on the committee

**See page 23 for the dates for RESCA 2025**

# Sale of Children First Farm

It was recently discovered the Children First Farm in Kilmore has been closed and the property earmarked for sale by the Children First Foundation.

Many Rotarians in our district will be aware that this farm was set up as a haven or badly disfigured, deformed and critically ill children from overseas who were awaiting treatment and operations in Melbourne.

Many will be also well aware of the generosity of Rotarian Noel Baker who donated the land and Fraser McNaught who donated the house along with the many thousands of hours of volunteer time by Rotarians across our district to ensure that that the farm offered the best possible service and support to so many children.

Many will be dismayed to hear that the Children First Foundation has now chosen to close and sell off the farm without reference to its history nor its significance.

Below are letters written to the Children First Foundation by DG Stephen, PDG Terry Grant ( who was in office when the farm was set up) and some background provided by Rotarian Fraser McNaught in the Bright Rotary bulletin, the Bright Grapevine.

**Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians are also encouraged to write to Dr Ruth Mitchell, Chair, Children First Foundation, Level 24, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000 expressing their concerns..**

**Rotary**  
District 9790

Children's First Foundation,  
Level 24, 570 Bourke Street,  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Attention: Dr Ruth Mitchell, Chair

RE: Proposed Sale of Property

Dear Dr Mitchell,

It has come to the attention of the leadership team of Rotary District 9790 that the sale of the Children First Farm is being considered. We would like to remind you that Rotary District 9790 not only provided the land but also undertook and funded the majority of the construction and development necessary to establish this complex.

With over 1,500 volunteers dedicated to serving our communities, the members of Rotary District 9790 are deeply disappointed by this news. After all the support and resources that Rotary has invested, it is difficult to comprehend how the sale of this property could be considered without due recognition of this contribution.

We are aware that several Rotary Clubs and members have already written to your board to express their concerns regarding this matter. Rotary District 9790 fully supports their efforts.

Should your board wish to discuss this matter further, we would be happy to arrange a meeting with Rotarians who were directly involved in facilitating the project.

This letter is written by the three most senior Rotarians in District 9790, all of whom hold leadership positions, including one who serves as an Officer of Rotary International:

- District Governor Stephen O'Connell OAM
- District Governor-Elect Emma Davis
- District Governor Nominee Paul Hugel

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or would like to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen O'Connell OAM  
District Governor  
Rotary District 9790

**Rotary**

PDG Terry Grant,  
38 Vaughan Street,  
Surbury, Vic. 3429

24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The Directors  
Children First Foundation  
Level 24, 570 Bourke Street,  
Melbourne,  
VICTORIA 3000

Dear Directors,

RE: Concerns about a possible sale of the Retreat and desire that the Retreat be gifted to another charity

I request that you please ensure that this letter is passed on to all Directors of the Foundation and is tabled at the next Board meeting of the Foundation.

I write to you as the original Rotary District 9790 District Governor who in 2000 initiated the program throughout the 61 Rotary Clubs and towns in our area to commence the works for this worthwhile, life changing project to commence.

Together with my 2 immediate successors – being DG Don Cox 2001 and DG Syd Lewis I committed the district to a 3 year program of continuity to undertake the creation of this complex. This was a first at the time and something we all believed in.

The land was donated from the Baker family who own the adjacent properties – and this was the start of the project.

I understand that the Board of the Foundation has determined that the Foundation no longer needs the Retreat and can deliver its mission without the Retreat (or an equivalent facility).

I also understand that the Board of the Foundation proposes to sell the Retreat and, rather than invest the proceeds of sale in a new equivalent facility, the proceeds would be invested and used over the same to fund the Foundation's operational expenditure.

I am surprised that the Board has concluded that the Retreat is no longer needed, and that the Foundation can deliver its mission without the Retreat (or an equivalent facility).

However, if that is the conclusion that Board has reached, then we expect that the Foundation gift the Retreat to another charity that can utilise it for its charitable purposes.

I know that over the initial construction period of the 3 years that thousands of hours have been volunteered to build the facility to the World class standard that it is.

Also, I point out that Mr and Mrs Bernie Larnes and their son Peter donated not only time and energy BUT also provided building materials and a team that actually built the in-door swimming pool enclosure, the children's accommodation area as well as the remote barn and shed.

This along with the donation of the initial home by Mr. and Mrs. Fraser McNaught of Bright that started the process.

Members of Rotary from across the district all came together to erect the buildings, carry out site planting, landscaping and building tasks which other Rotarian businesses donated time, expertise and equipment – such as Lloyd Plumbing – to help with the construction.

Together with our business – Alaire serving Pty Ltd we provided an Australian Standard fire detection system throughout the main building.

Ongoing works included the continual upgrade and repair works, the new electrical switchboard as well as the fire pumps and water tanks that were project managed by Mr. David De La Cour of the Preenen Rotary Club.

To continue with the proposed action is a step in the face to all these folk whose only concern was for the children.

I think that I can say on behalf of our friends who have donated their skills and labour for the maintenance of the Retreat, who support our desire that the Retreat be gifted to another charity if it is no longer needed by the Foundation.

It may be the case that legally the Retreat belongs to the Foundation and it can do with it as it sees fit.

However, I strongly believe that the Foundation has a moral obligation to ensure that, consistent with the spirit and purpose of the gift and other contributions to the Retreat made by Rotarians and many other supporters, the Retreat continues to be used by a charity in order to deliver on its charitable mission.

We believe that the Foundation is merely the custodian of the Retreat which it can be used for the Foundation's mission, and if it is no longer needed by the Foundation, it should be passed on to another charity that can utilise it for its mission OR hand the complex back to Rotary District 9790 who facilitated, paid for and built the complex as it can enter again work with an entity that will use it as built.

I note that the Foundation recently sold its property in Chapman Street North Melbourne and has increased the proceeds of sale. The 2013 audited financial report shows that as at 30 June 2013 the Foundation has net assets (ignoring the Retreat) of approximately \$4.6 million. I cannot think of another time at which the Foundation has had more funds available to support its mission. On this basis we believe that the Foundation would have more than sufficient funds to continue to deliver on its mission if it were to donate the Retreat to another charity, rather than to sell it and retain the proceeds of sale.

I understand that there are a number of other individuals, families and organisations that have contributed to the Retreat who hold a similar view to those expressed above.

I look forward to hearing the Board's response to this letter.

Yours in Rotary Service,

PDG Terry Grant.

**CHILD FIRST FOUNDATION**

12 September 2024

Fellow Rotarians of Bright: It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you that the Children First Farm at Kilmore has ceased operations. We recently called in all the farm and were devastated to find it abandoned with the first gate firmly shut.

I already hundreds of men have been put in by this Club and many other Clubs from District 9790 to get the farm up and running as a haven for badly disfigured, deformed and critically ill children from overseas who required and were given the very best of medical treatment and operations at Melbourne hospitals. Most of the children were accompanied by their mothers and the farm became a sanctuary of peace and security in which the children could recover.

Almost 19 years ago a local Kilmore farmer Rotarian Noel Baker donated 40 acres of land on which the infrastructure was built.

Fraser and I donated the timber house which was standing on the block at 10 Indral St, Bright and on which our new ware of Alpine Furnishings was built. It was during a very moving meeting with Maria Kelly and her progress at a District Assembly in Albany that I decided how appropriate and beneficial this house would be for the farm. Two of the children who accompanied Maria that day were the two boys from Iraq Ahmed and Emmanuel Kelly. Both had been subjected to chemical warfare and had badly deformed arms and legs. Emmanuel is now a world class singer (have a look at his 'X Factor audition on YouTube) and Ahmed has progressed to become a superb swimmer and has recently claimed a silver medal in his second Paralympic Games in Paris. These boys are living proof of the life-changing treatment that was successful for them through the farm.

Many other major donations followed suit – the swimming pool, the asphalt tennis court, sealing of the drive, a farm shed etc etc. In all thousands and thousands of dollars worth of donations.

We are grieved that the current board of Children First (many of them being new members with no knowledge of the history of this amazing farm) have decided to sell the farm and we understand that all future overseas children will come into Ronald McDonald house for the duration of their stay.

We cannot imagine what a frightening experience this will be for these children who call poverty stricken, drought ridden and often war torn countries their home.

I am waiting to hear back from Noel Baker as to what the terms and conditions are in the original deeds and, if in fact, the farm can be sold off and money retained by the Children First Foundation which is a not for profit organisation.

Sally Post is well aware of this situation and has written to the Chair of the Board. You would all remember her incredible input in bringing Kylie in from the state island of Tasmania. Kylie has had multiple operations on her leg which had been badly damaged while in the womb. We have regularly donated funds to assist with her prostheses – again, all this was done through Children First and Kylie and her mother spent many months at the farm during her periods of recovery.

I will keep you updated with information as it comes in.

Yours in Rotary – Fraser McNaught

The trees are finally clear and the sun is shining. The Rotary cottages will bring delight.

The farm empty and abandoned. Rotarian Noel Baker and others are already paying millions to bring the farm back to life.

The original Indral St house (where the names of the main building, a wonderful Rotary project going on).

Our medical friend for the moment. Paralympic Games in Paris. A huge inspiration to all.....

**ROTARY GRACE**  
"For good food, for good fellowship, and the privilege to serve through Rotary, we give thanks." AMEN

Rotary Toast  
"Rotarians and guests, please raise your glasses and drink to Rotary and Australia!"

**Rotary** THE FOUR-WAY TEST  
Of all things we think, say or do:

- **IS IT THE TRUTH?**
- **IS IT FAIR to all concerned?**
- **Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

# 2025 District Conference

## CONFERENCE UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Conference Dates April 11, 12 and 13, 2025

**TO REGISTER:** go to <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1269916>

or scan the QR code. Take advantage of the discounted Early Bird rates!

And New Member rates for all members inducted after 22/4/24



### SHOWCASE (HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP)

- ❖ Attendance prediction: 400+
- ❖ Venue: 618 Dean Street, Albury, NSW, Australia, New South Wales 2640
- ❖ Areas available for use for Showcase exhibitors.
- ❖ Limited sites available
- ❖ Full day Conference Saturday 12th April. Half-day Conference Sunday 13th April.
- ❖ House of Friendship open to general public.
- ❖ Operating hours: all day Saturday and half day on Sunday)
- ❖ Sponsorship packages available including donations in kind.
- ❖ Each attendee receives an information bag at registration desk.
- ❖ Promotion of sites throughout the Conference program.
- ❖ For enquiries please contact Gordon Shaw, email: [gordonsac@bigpond.com](mailto:gordonsac@bigpond.com)

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM FEATURE

#### Keynote Speaker - Dr Graham Sattler

Graham began his career as an orchestral trombonist, became a singer specialising in opera and music theatre, a conductor and artistic director, then commenced research in the field of community music activity and musical inclusion. He holds a Diploma of Operatic Art and Music Theatre, a Master of Performance (Conducting), PhD in Music Education and a Graduate Certificate in the Psychology of Risk. From 2001 to 2012 Graham was Director of the Orange Regional Conservatorium (NSW, Australia), during which time he led multiple community music programs across aged, disability, disadvantaged and at-risk youth cohorts, and engaged in the design and delivery of the Associate Degree in Music Education program at Charles Sturt University. From 2014 to 2021 Graham served as Executive Director, Mitchell Conservatorium, and casual academic with Central Queensland University.

Regularly presenting at international Music Education conferences, he has carried out community-focused fieldwork in Australia, North America and Bolivia, collaborated on community music development activity with groups in and from Armenia, and designed and delivered multiple professional learning music courses for non-specialist teachers in Australia. Graham is a Churchill Fellow, and has recently returned from investigating best-practice musical inclusion and community music leadership training programs in the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Portugal and Armenia.

Graham was appointed CEO of Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in late 2021



### ACCOMODATION IN ALBURY

**CHECK OUT VENUES with the Albury Wodonga website:**

<https://www.visitalburywodonga.com/stay-here/>

•Book ahead to ensure you don't miss out.

### OPENING CEREMONY

**5pm Friday 11 April-** The Opening Ceremony features a performance by the internationally renowned Flying Fruit Fly Circus. The Fruit Flies, as they are affectionately known, were established in Albury Wodonga in 1979. They are one of the world's leading youth arts companies, a celebrated producer of contemporary circus-based theatre for young people and a national centre of arts training excellence. You will see our very own Exchange students in action in a jaw dropping flag ceremony, meet the International President's representative, network and more.

Stay in touch with the Conference, program updates and more on the District 9790 web site at <https://rotary9790.org.au/sitepage/conference-2024-2025>

# 2025 District Conference

## CONFERENCE UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

### GOLD SPONSOR - KOTZUR



#### Kotzur Company Profile

With a rich history spanning over seven decades, the Kotzur Group stands as a testament to longevity and stability in the bulk solid storage and handling equipment sector. As a third-generation family-owned and operated manufacturer, Kotzur is committed to quality and innovation.

Founded by Ray Kotzur, his son Andrew is the current Managing Director and grandson Ben is the Chief Technical Officer for the company with humble beginnings on the family farm at Alma Park in southern NSW.

Ray had a passion for engineering and began building farm equipment. As the business grew, Ray moved to Walla Walla in 1953 and established Modern Engineering and Construction Co Pty Ltd, which focused on steel fabrication.

When galvanised steel became available in coils, Ray saw the opportunity to build transportable silos and fifteen years after his contribution to the concrete silo, Ray manufactured the first steel silo in the country, the year was 1962.

Both Andrew and Ben live and breathe silo design and engineering, continuously adapting, improving and innovating grain (and bulk solid) storage equipment to optimise outcomes for their customers. The benefits of their passion are passed on to their customers with quality and long-lasting products.

The business now employs over 200 staff across the country and has two manufacturing sites, including the original Walla Walla site and a newly opened facility in Toowoomba, southern Queensland. Kotzur aims to provide an all-in-one service, with roles across a full spectrum of departments required to deliver its turn-key products and services.

“We manage projects across several sectors, including agriculture, industry and mining, providing custom-made solutions for milling, rail loading, feedlots, stock feed mills, and large grain storage and handling sites at ports.

“Kotzur has been instrumental in projects with large and medium international bulk handling companies, and we have built complexes in Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Asia and Africa,” said Ben Kotzur.

*The Kotzur family is proud to continue its association with the Rotary club via Gold sponsorship of the upcoming district 9790 conference.*



# KOTZUR

## Rotary Club of Ivanhoe & D9790 Partners in Education, January 2025



The Cambodia & District 9790 - Partners in Education Project (RAOAF) RAWCS Project 39 has raised over \$15,000 to support education for students in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Working in co-operation with Cambodia Rural Students Trust (CRST), a team of 17 Rotary Volunteers has been recruited to travel to Siem Reap in January 2025. The team includes 5 young University teaching students to experience first-hand the power of Rotary international community service as guests of our young host club, the Rotaract Club of Siem Reap. Rotary Club of Ivanhoe as the sponsoring club, has been partnered by other Rotary Clubs who have generously donated: including Pascoe Vale, Moreland, Eltham, Rutherglen, Heidelberg, Bellbridge Lake Hume & of course Ivanhoe,

The volunteer trip will provide community needs such as bicycles, solar lighting, and desks to support education for students in Siem Reap, one of the poorest regions of Cambodia. The team will assist teachers and mentor students where needed, to build skills and self-determination, guided by Rotaract Club of Siem Reap members.

Further support to help us achieve "their" community goals would be gratefully received. Also, if other clubs in the D9790 are interested in partnering to grow this project in 2025, could contact us via the below RAWCS link.

We can't wait to work with the Rotaract Club of Siem Reap in January 2025 and into the future with other D9790 Clubs.

**To Donate Now:** Please see the project description on the RAWCS site, with a link to donate <https://directory.rawcs.com.au/39-2023-24>



Offering teaching support in Siem Reap, 2023.



Rotaract Club members receiving University scholarships.



Helping to recycle bicycles for school students

# Mental Health

## MORELAND LIFT THE LID WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH



On a beautiful sunny October Sunday morning many members of our community and Rotarians from near and far gathered at Coburg Lake for the fourth Moreland Lift the Lid Walk and Talk for Mental Health, hosted by Moreland Rotary and Australian Rotary Health. This walk along the beautiful Merri Creek in Coburg helps raise funds for Australian Rotary Health to underwrite research into mental health while also highlighting the importance of good physical health and its contribution to good mental health and wellbeing. It facilitates conversations about mental health and wellbeing among the walkers.



Rotarians from Broadmeadows, Glenferrie, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kinglake Ranges, Pascoe Vale, Preston, Strathmore and Sunbury joined many local community members on the walk.

Moreland Rotary would like to thank all who participated and contributed to the great fundraising effort, including our very generous sponsors, Strathmore Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank, Merri Health, Ray White and Pascoe Vale Rotary whose members provided a fabulous barbecue to the hungry participants after the walk.



**AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH**

Rotary  
 Districts of Australia



Research Scholarships Education Awareness





## Youth News

### Youth Programs Contacts

**Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)** – Meredith Miegel, M 0417 246 546, Email: [chairperson@rye9790.org.au](mailto:chairperson@rye9790.org.au)

**Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)** – Linda Gidlund, M 0418 173 279, Email [info@ryla9790.org.au](mailto:info@ryla9790.org.au)

**Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment (RYPEN)** – Contact Sally West, M 0402 361 551, email [sallywestrotary@gmail.com](mailto:sallywestrotary@gmail.com) or [rypen@rotary9790.org.au](mailto:rypen@rotary9790.org.au)

**Rotex** – Contact Rotex by email: [rotex9790@gmail.com](mailto:rotex9790@gmail.com), see the Rotex District 9790 Facebook page.

**Albury North - Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment (RYPEN)** – Nathan Stuart, M 0412 707 770, Email - [msgnathans@gmail.com](mailto:msgnathans@gmail.com)



If you would like further information please email Youth Programs Chair Nat Hood on [nat990151@gmail.com](mailto:nat990151@gmail.com)

# Youth News

## Rotary Youth Exchange – on families becoming global citizens

Rotary Youth Exchange creates global citizens. The Exchange student also draws their family into the experience. Here is the thank you message of two families

“Hi Meredith,  
We don't want to miss the opportunity to thank both RYE Australia District 9790 and the beautiful Murphy family for the great opportunity given to Rafa to live this great experience.

He came back excited, happy and grateful. He has been telling us about many of the experiences with so many people (family, school, exchange students, Rotary Club...) with whom he lived, travelled and learned so much.

We never cease to admire the greatness of this program; we are sure that these ties will last forever.

Thanks again and congratulations for the great work you are doing.

Regards,  
Guillermo Medina "Willy" & Lissette Pinedo "Peque"  
D. 4110, Mexico”

*Meredith Miegel, Rotary Corowa, Rotary Youth Exchange, Chair*



*Rafa Thumbs Up*



*Rafa exploring Australia's diversity*



“Dear Diane,

We are Leonora and Marco, Anna’s parents.🙏  
This summer in Australia our daughter had a special experience. 😊  
She told us that it was "the most beautiful period of her life" and from her stories we understood that much of the credit was yours and your wonderful family.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you!🥰❤️🙏

We are really grateful to you for having welcomed our daughter with love and availability.

We would love to be able to reciprocate, so if you come to Italy, we will be happy to host you. 🇺🇸🇮🇹🇦🇺

Thank you for everything. We hope to meet you soon!”

*Diane Murphy, Rotary Benalla, Rotary Youth Exchange Team, Host Parent*

*Above left: Anna and Diane the pasta dish and family time - in a new family*

*Left: Anna and Brian Murphy making pasta*

# Youth News

## Rotary Club of Benalla invites youth along to life-changing exchange

The Rotary Club of Benalla has been very involved in Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) for nearly 60 years, and still continues to be very involved in this life changing program for the youth in our Australian and world-wide communities.

This year Rotary Benalla is very proudly sponsoring short and long-term exchange students to a variety of countries: Germany, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

Recently the RYE inbound students, those from overseas, gave a short presentation about their home country as well as their experiences here in Australia. We also had a presentation from Imogen, one of our RYE outbounds who is due to leave on her exchange within the next few weeks.

The Rotary exchange programs offered to youth are the long-term program, 11 months, and two short term programs - either 6 weeks or 12 weeks. All are amazing programs and are life changing for the participants.

The Rotary Club of Benalla is always willing to interview and receive expressions of interest from students in and around the Benalla community.

The age range for suitable candidates are between 15.5 years to 17.5 years of age. If you are older or younger, still contact us and we can recommend other amazing programs which may be available.

For those you know that are interested in RYE, the best place to register your Expression of Interest is...Rotary Youth Exchange Australia at: [ryea.org.au](http://ryea.org.au).

By Bruce McIntyre, PP, RYE Team



**Benalla Exchange Students 2024.**

*The students in the photo are the current inbounds, the current outbounds, students who have been on exchange within the last 12 months and a long-term exchange student.*

*From front left: Oscar - went to Germany; Lyndsey: went to Argentina; Marta - long-term student from Italy; Imogen- going to Brazil; Bronti - going to Italy; Anna- from Italy*

*Back row from left: Finn- went to Germany; Johannes from Germany; Yannick from Germany; Alex - going to Mexico; Rafa from Mexico.*

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Phillipa Huynh, an Australian Rotary Health PhD Candidate, is conducting a study on The Risk and Protective Factors for Complex Trauma in Australian Rural and Urban Men.

Phillipa reports, "..Traumatic events can have a significant impact on someone's well-being and quality of life. By identifying what helps or harms men's mental health, the study could lead to better support and interventions for men dealing with the long-term impacts of traumatic experiences.

This research is especially important as men in rural Australia face higher suicide rates than those in cities. Understanding the unique challenges and strengths of men in both urban and rural areas could provide valuable insights for improving mental health care and reducing suicide rates in the community.

Your participation or support can help us make a difference in promoting the mental well-being of Australian men..."

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Researchers at Swinburne University are looking for men to take part in a study



---



**Who?** Adult men living in Australia, who have experienced prolonged **potentially traumatic experiences** at some time in their life such as:

- bullying
- growing up with someone with mental illness or drug/alcohol problems
- being exposed to violence
- emotional or physical abuse or neglect, or
- sexual abuse



**What?** Complete a survey (up to 60 minutes)



Opt in for a chance to win 1 of 8 \$50 eGiftcards

---



Scan QR code or visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/men-trauma>

For further information  
 contact Phillipa Huynh: [phuynh@swin.edu.au](mailto:phuynh@swin.edu.au)

Image: Freepik.com

# GET BUSHFIRE RESILIENT

INFORMATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN  
RURAL AREAS AND ON THE URBAN FRINGE

Prepare for bushfires and  
hazardous weather.

BRI's webinars are presented by  
eminent subject matter experts.

Learn what your family can do to  
reduce your risks.

Register so you can ask questions before  
or during the webinar and so we can send  
you a link to webinars, recordings and  
website updates.

To register visit  
[br.org.au/webinar](https://br.org.au/webinar)  
or scan the QR code



To learn more about our presenters head to  
[br.org.au/presenters](https://br.org.au/presenters)

Supporters and Sponsors:



COMMUNITY  
GRANTS



**DAVEY**

**Know about insurance for bushfire, storm or flood events - avoiding the pitfalls**

17 October 2024 7.30-9.00pm AEDT

- Annabelle Butler, Hollard Insurance Australia
- Peter Gartlan, Financial Counselling Australia
- Denis Nelthorpe AM, Consumer Lawyer

**Insurance and financial challenges after bushfire, storm or flood - when things go wrong**

28 October 2024 7.30-9.00pm AEDT

- Annabelle Butler, Hollard Insurance Australia
- Peter Gartlan, Financial Counselling Australia
- Denis Nelthorpe AM, Consumer Lawyer
- Sharon Keith, Disaster Legal Help Victoria

**Best practice property bushfire risk reduction**

12 November 2024 7.30-9.00pm AEDT

- Justin Leonard, CSIRO
- Kevin Hazell, Town Planner
- Mark Holland, Country Fire Authority

**Understanding our changing bushfire weather**

28 November 2024 7.30-9.00pm AEDT

- Justin Leonard, CSIRO
- Kevin Parkyn, Bureau of Meteorology
- Mika Peace, Bureau of Meteorology

Gold coin donation appreciated at entry

# 2024 ROTARY eltham FESTIVAL

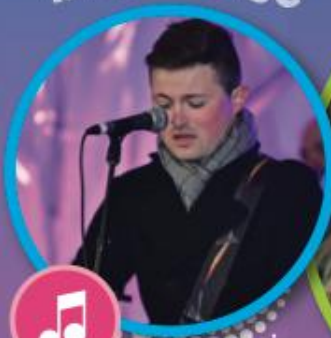


## 9am to 9pm Saturday 9 November

Alistair Knox Park and Eltham Central Park oval

### Celebrating Community – Supporting Local

Main Stage



FOOD, STALLS, ART & CRAFT

Have a Go oval



Community stage

Fireworks



Rides

roving performers



Camels

Carnival

[www.elthamfestival.org.au](http://www.elthamfestival.org.au) Facebook/ElthamFestival

Major Sponsors



Eltham Leisure Centre

Sponsors



Proudly supported by





# Table Top Mountain Charity Walk

**9:00am Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The walk commemorates the visit by Hamilton Hume and William Hovell on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1824

Walkers can place a stone as their contribution to building a Memorial Cairn at the top of Table Top Mountain

Directions: About 30 minutes drive from Albury. Turn right off the Olympic Highway at the Peregrines Reception Centre sign. NO DOGS.

[https://www.kalawa.com.au/peregrines\\_location.pdf](https://www.kalawa.com.au/peregrines_location.pdf)

The 6km walk is suited to moderately fit persons above the age of six.

Waiver to be signed. Participation Entry Charges.

\$25 per car, \$50 per mini-bus, \$100 per coach

Enquiries: [rouvrayw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rouvrayw@bigpond.net.au)

Raffle tickets available before and after the Walk

BBQ / Sausage Sizzle outside Reception Centre after the Walk

Proudly Supporting

**Albury Wodonga** Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund Inc.



**Rotary**



Club of Albury North

# KINGLAKE RANGES



## LIFT THE LID WALK

— PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH —

SUN 17TH NOV

9:30AM START

5.8 KM

# TO WALK & TALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Rotary

Kinglake Ranges



SCAN ME

## STARTING POINT

MEET AT KINGLAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
1 EXTON RD KINGLAKE CENTRAL

ENTRY FEE **\$30**

FOR ADULTS, EARLY BIRD PRIOR TO NOV 1ST INCLUDES AN EVENT T-SHIRT.  
KIDS 15 AND UNDER WALK FOR FREE. KIDS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE VIA THE WEBSITE.  
GUEST SPEAKER - WARREN DAVIES "THE UNBREAKABLE FARMER"  
FREE BBQ LUNCH TO ALL WALKERS  
FOLLOWED BY THE KINGLAKE SHOW N SHINE



Rotary  |   
Districts of Australia  
Australian Rotary Health

[www.liftthelidwalk.com.au](http://www.liftthelidwalk.com.au)

walk with us and be kind to your mind







ROTARY CLUB KINGLAKE RANGES & KINGLAKE AUTOMOTIVE - PRESENTS



# KINGLAKE RANGES



ESTD

2023

## Show 'N' Shine

LIFTING THE LID ON MENTAL HEALTH

### 17TH NOV 2024

**CAR & BIKE DISPLAY**  
**2 BANDS | UGFM LIVE BROADCAST**





**BBQ | BAR | COFFEE VAN**  
**BEST IN SHOW | TROPHIES**  
**KIDS ACTIVITIES | BEARD COMP**

**12PM - 4:30PM**  
**1 EXTONS ROAD, KINGLAKE**  
**ALL BIKES N CARS ARE WELCOME**

**\$10 PER VEHICLE** FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF "LIFT THE LID" ON MENTAL HEALTH

MORE INFORMATION: [INFO@ROTARYCLUBKINGLAKE RANGES.COM.AU](mailto:INFO@ROTARYCLUBKINGLAKE RANGES.COM.AU) FOLLOW  



## Open gardens in your area to explore

Discover a vibrant wide palate of plant shapes, size, texture, colour and creative designs. A garden for everyone. Chat with the Designers on-site.

Victoria's best display of professionally designed gardens

16 & 17 Nov 2024  
Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula

Visit website



# 23 Open gardens by talented Designers

See over →

Principal Partner



Impact for Women is nominated Charity



Brighton North Kew



## Open gardens in your area – Northern Suburbs

Designer

Garden address

Designer

Garden address

- ① Clive Abben 65 William Rd Red Hill
- ② Clive Abben 14 Somers Ave McCrae
- ③ Steve Taylor 11 Capri Dr Mount Martha
- ④ Rob Mihailescu 1 Anita Crt Mount Martha

- ⑪ Ben Hutchinson 12A Swain Crt Heathmont
- ⑫ Michael Seeley 277 Union Rd Balwyn
- ⑬ Diane Beddison 32 Byron St Kew
- ⑭ Mark Vanden Boom 9 Berkeley Crt Kew
- ⑮ Stephen Beavis 68 Cobden St Kew
- ⑯ Sam Egan 17 Longstaff St Kew East

### Gardens in your area

- ⑤ Sam Geoghegan 6 Eliza St Black Rock
- ⑥ Rick Molino 6 Bown Crt Brighton East
- ⑦ Paul Pritchard 14 Grosvenor St Brighton
- ⑧ Carlo Gabriele 16 Tiuna Gv Elwood
- ⑨ Bethany Williamson 48 Celia St Glen Iris
- ⑩ John Patrick 37 Motherwell St Sth. Yarra

- ⑰ Eugen Gilligan 38 Canning St Nth. Melb.
- ⑱ Sam Egan 915 Drummond St Carlton Nth.
- ⑲ Ben Saunders 47 Devon St Eaglemont
- ⑳ Mim Downes 44 Brown St Heidelberg
- ㉑ Paul Morland 101 Liberty Pde Bellfield
- ㉒ Hamish Williamson 142 Keon St Thornbury
- ㉓ Rick Molino 13 Heritage St Moonee Ponds

**Rotary**  
District 9790



**RYLA**  
rotary youth  
leadership awards

# ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RYLA anyone ages 18–30 years old that gives participants the invaluable space to reflect on themselves. The program brings together a selection of experts in their fields to deliver topics and interactive sessions

**Date:**

**24th – 30th**

**November 2024**

**Register via website**

<https://ryla9790.org.au/attend/>

**Find us on Facebook**

[facebook.com/RYLADistrict9790](https://facebook.com/RYLADistrict9790)

# Rotary



Club of Strathmore



PRESIDENT: Dr Bruce Anderson

**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EVENING WITH**

**IAIN FINDLAY**

**Former Police Officer, AFL Player's Advocate,**

**Business Executive, Charity Worker**

**NFP FUND RAISER & Relationships Manager**

**TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025**

**ESSENDON FC SOCIAL CLUB**

**BREWSTER ST ESSENDON**

**6.00 PM Bistro Dinner at Your Own Cost**

**7.00 pm Presentation**

**RSVP by 10<sup>TH</sup> JAN**

**FOR CATERING PURPOSES**

**<https://www.trybooking.com/CUYMJ>**



Hello Rotarian, Greetings from Agra Tajmahal Rotary !!

2 Upcoming Rotary Trips:

**Trip 1: October 2024 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects....**

**Trip 2 : January 2025 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects....**

Please circulate information of October 2024 and January 2025 Polio Routine Immunisation Trip with Rotary Projects at Agra, India, to your club/district Polio Chair and to Rotarian's for Signup, participation during this project of serving Humanity.or to others whom you think might be interested:We Rotarians of Agra, looking forward welcoming in Oct 2024 / Jan 2025 with your club/district Rotarian Volunteers, making End Polio Now and Keeping India Polio Free Campaign a great success.

Wishing the best and Great Rotary Year ahead !!

Feel free to email me.

Thank you in advance for your help in circulation, much appreciated. on another note, We would love to welcome you on other occasions:

Please Plan your own private club/district trip in 2024-2025 on Polio Immunisation with cherishing "Rotary Making a Difference in Lives" under International Service Projects/Global Grants implemented in our district 3110. Let's make magic happen together.Bringing the Social Change !!

Rtn Dr Shiv Sharma |Polio Chair | Jt Secretary|2024-25Rotary Club Agra Tajmahal  
[secretary@agratajmahalrotary.org](mailto:secretary@agratajmahalrotary.org)

**For more information or to book click on title or scan QR codes:**

**Trip 1: [October 2024 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects](#)**



**Trip 2: [January 2025 Polio Trip with Rotary Projects](#)**

## Peter Toomey Police Officer of the Year Award



The Peter Toomey Police Officer of the Year Award is granted each Rotary year to a Victorian or NSW police officer in District 9790 who shows an exemplary commitment to their local community. It is named in honour of the late Peter Toomey, a distinguished Rotarian and long serving police officer, who helped establish this award at both his local club of Pascoe Vale as well as at the district level.

Victoria Police and NSW Police units within the District encourage their members to become involved within their local community and Rotary Clubs can acknowledge this great work through their own local award as well as through the Peter Toomey Award. It is a win - win for both Rotary and the police.



Then DGE Stephen O'Connell presenting to Crystal Croxford who was nominated by Sunbury Rotary and Crystal with the Senior Sergeant at Sunbury, John Bliss.

From a Rotary Club perspective, running your own local club award is a rewarding program with relatively low cost.

You can make your own club award and nominate for the district award or you can nominate directly by **Friday 7 February 2025**

The information pack and nomination form can be downloaded [HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code. For any further enquiries, please contact **David Redfearn** on **0448 852 747** or email [dredfearn@vtown.com.au](mailto:dredfearn@vtown.com.au)





## **Dates for RESCA 2025**

Nominations open **1 March** and close **30 April 2025**

Finalists announced in **June 2025**

The Vic RESCA Awards Dinner will be held:  
**Saturday 30 August 2025**

The Aus RESCA National Event will be held in:  
**October 2025**

**For further information, go to:**  
[www.vic.rescawards.org.au/](http://www.vic.rescawards.org.au/)



# Our car raffle: Your fund raiser



**Rotary**  
Club of Mooroopna



## Community Car Raffle 2024

The Rotary Club of Mooroopna invites charity organisations to use our car raffle as your fund raiser.

**First Prize:** An automatic car valued at around \$28000.

**Prizes 2,3 and 4:** \$1000 vouchers winners' choice for either groceries or hardware.

**Proceeds 60/40:** The on-selling organisations receive 60% of the proceeds and Mooroopna Rotary Club receives 40% of the proceeds. Mooroopna will fund the entire prize pool.

**Ticket price:** \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20

**Ticket design:** The ticket design lowers the profile of Mooroopna Rotary Club and makes a clear statement that the majority of the ticket price goes to the community work of the organisation selling the ticket.

**Ticket sales:** From September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 20th for on-sellers.  
Unsold tickets and all stubs posted to Mooroopna by 20/12/24.

**Raffle draw:** December 31 at the Mooroopna New Year's Eve Festival, 10.30pm.

The Mooroopna Club will provide personalised promotion posters to clubs involved.

You will be selling physical tickets in books of 25. There is no requirement to sell all the tickets you request. Unsold tickets can be returned.

The raffle will be available on-line through Rafflelink. Purchasers will be able to nominate your club. Mooroopna will forward 60% of sales linked to your club. Clubs can nominate to only sell on-line. You could promote it to your family and friends by email.

To register interest please contact Richard Speedy at [rspeedy@iinet.net.au](mailto:rspeedy@iinet.net.au)

Registration forms will be emailed to interested clubs in June/July.



ROTARY COMMUNITY RAFFLE 2022

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

00000

**Rotary COMMUNITY RAFFLE**  
Conducted by THE ROTARY CLUB OF MOOROOPNA Inc.  
in conjunction with other service organisations

**THANK YOU!** The organisation you purchased this ticket from receives the major share of the ticket price. This helps their community.

**HINDAI VENUE ACTIVE**  
MRP: \$27,490 Inc. GST  
6-speed Auto, Bluetooth connectivity  
Colour: Champagne  
permarket Voucher  
Valued \$1,000

Ticket \$5 or 5 for \$20 00000

Consent of Victorian Commission for Gambling & Liquor Regulation given for sale of 40,000 tickets at \$5.00 on 5/10/22 in Victoria from 01/09/2021 to 22/04/2022  
Drawn: 5.00pm on Friday April 22, 2022 at the Mooropna Golf Club.  
Beulah, online at www.rotarymooropna.com.au & Rafflelink (Using Terms 1/14/22)  
BEUNGA BROWN Secretary Permit No. 10495/21 VICKI SCOTT President

Tickets also available online  
www.rotarymooropna.com.au

Figure 1 2021 Ticket to show the style





## **Community Car Raffle** **Registration 2024**

Run by the Rotary Club of Mooroopna, District 9790

**Club name**

---

**District**

---

**President (name):**

---

Email

---

Phone

---

**Raffle Contact person:**

---

Email

---

Phone

---

Postal Address to send tickets

---

---

---

---

**Treasurer (name):**

---

Email

---

Phone

---

**Club account to forward on-line sales income**

BSB

---

Account Number

---

**Number of tickets you would like to sell**

---

More tickets are likely to be available if you wish to sell more

A good starting point might be 20 or 40 books, 500 or 1000 tickets. You can get more or return unused ones.



## ROTARY CALENDAR

Visit this calendar throughout the year to find award nomination due dates and convention and event information. Develop meeting agendas, projects, or public image campaigns based on these special occasions. All dates are subject to change.

### October 2024

Community Economic and Development Month  
30 September–October 6 — Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week  
24 October — World Polio Day

### November 2024

Rotary Foundation Month  
4–10 November — World Interact Week

### December 2024

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month  
15 December — Last day for early registration discount for the Rotary International Convention

### January 2025

Vocational Service Month

### February 2025

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month  
9-13 February — International Assembly, Orlando, Florida, USA  
23 February — Rotary's anniversary

### March 2025

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month  
10-16 March — World Rotaract Week  
31 March — Preregistration discount ends for the Rotary International Convention

### April 2025

Environmental Month  
30 April — Rotary International Convention registrations and ticket cancellations are due

### May 2025

Youth Service Month

### June 2025

Rotary Fellowships Month  
21-25 June — Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada  
30 June — Club Excellence Award nominations are due

9790 DISTRICT ROTARY RAMBLINGS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY DISTRICT 9790 INC.  
[WWW.ROTARY9790.ORG.AU](http://WWW.ROTARY9790.ORG.AU)

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: DAVID REDFEARN ART DIRECTOR: DAVID REDFEARN ADVERTISING: DAVID REDFEARN OTHER DUTIES AS REQUIRED: DAVID REDFEARN

NOTE: ALL PHOTOGRAPHS/IMAGES SUBMITTED MUST INCLUDE DETAILED CAPTIONS I.E. NAMES OF PEOPLE, EVENT LOCATIONS ETC. IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE SUPPLIER OF THE PHOTOGRAPH/IMAGE HAS APPROVAL OF THE OWNER OF SAID COPYRIGHT TO REPRODUCE THE PHOTOGRAPH/IMAGE

CLOSING DATE IS 7 NOVEMBER 2024 ALL ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS IMAGES TO: [dredfearn@vtown.com.au](mailto:dredfearn@vtown.com.au)

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION REPRESENT THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTOR/S AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF OR SHARED BY THE DISTRICT, THE COMMITTEE, ANY CLUB, THE MEMBERS OR THE MAGAZINE

THIS BULLETIN IS DESIGNED ON CANVA ([WWW.CANVA.COM](http://WWW.CANVA.COM))





Hit the high notes

@ District Conference 11-13 April 2025  
Unite. Inspire. Transform

# DISTRICT CONFERENCE ALBURY 2025

Hit the high notes @ District Conference  
Unite, Inspire, Transform

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th April 2025



Book here: