

THE SOCIAL PRESCRIPTION R_x



Welcome to the spring edition of the District newsletter and pleasingly, some more sunshine, and warmer weather.

The past month has seen me in Preston for their hugely successful Circus Quirkus event over two days that saw 1800 disadvantaged children enjoy the thrill of the circus. The joy on their faces was a clear testament to the Rotary Club of Preston's meaningful connection with the community.

It was a privilege to be part of the catering team of the combined Rotary clubs in and around Shepparton, as they catered for the "Biggest Ever Blokes Lunch" that saw 80 Rotarians feed and water 1300 "blokes" for an event that raised awareness of male, mental and physical health, as well as raising funds to support specialist nursing care at the Goulburn Valley cancer centre. Led by the slick organization of David Earle and his efficient band of team leaders, there was lots of hard work, teamwork, and great fellowship that made the day remarkably successful.

I was then off to Sydney to attend training on the Multi-District organisations (MDO's) with my DGE cohort which was again informative and enjoyable.

Official newsletter of
District Governor Paul Miegel

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

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Photo credits: Cover, 14-15: David Redfearn; 4: Paul Miegel (supplied); 7: Patti Bulluss (supplied) 10-12: Greg Paull (supplied); 13: Penny Paxman (supplied) 16: June Anderson (supplied); 17: Linda Gidlund (supplied)

Cover: DG Paul with the finalists at the Vic RESCA Awards in Kew - full story on pages 14-15 (Image: David Redfearn)

Paul's overdose

I was privileged to attend the gala opening of the Eltham Art Show, which showcased local and regional artists and sculptors. A huge undertaking by the Rotary Club of Eltham who should be congratulated on their efforts to produce a classy, sophisticated event to open the two-week exhibition.

D9790 again sponsored this year's RESCA awards held in Melbourne and I was proud to represent the District and present certificates to candidates of a high calibre that showcased these amazing people who, not only respond when we need them most, but also go above and beyond to volunteer in their communities.

I attended the RYPEN camp in Axedale run in conjunction with District 9800 that provided a personal growth experience to thirty-four students and presented them with their certificates. Congratulations to the two RYPEN chairs including our own Sally West for their efforts in conducting the camp and developing our young people.

I was honoured to lead the parade at the Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair on a glorious spring day that certainly brought out the crowd. It was great to connect with members from the Rotary Clubs of Eltham and Bundoora and witness the massive efforts of the members of the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek who were rewarded with an extraordinarily successful event.

The past month has seen the clubs within D9790 vote in favour of the proposed merger with D9800 and D9780. All three districts have now voted in favour of the merger, and I am meeting with my fellow Governors in the coming weeks to map out the process for the next 21 months. The conclusion of this vote now allows us to seek nominations from Clubs for the position of District Governor Nominee for the 28-29 Rotary year which will be the first year of the new District. Nominations close on 27th October 2027.

On a sombre note, it was heartbreaking to learn of the devastating floods in Nepal that have affected so many people. As per usual, Rotary was quick to respond with a RAWCS appeal established, and supported by, my Governor cohort that raised \$180,000 in 6 days. RAWCS are coordinating with Rotary clubs in Nepal to deliver relief and support, where most needed. Shelterbox are also offering support and I thank all those clubs and members that have supported these initiatives.

On another sombre note, we mourn the passing of Rotarian Nigel Liggins from the Rotary Club of Shepparton South. Nigel served as an Assistant Governor and NSYF chair for the district.

As we get close to October, remember that it is Polio month and the "polio baton" is making its way around the district. I encourage you, and your club, to get involved and continue the innovative and fun ways that have been developed in promoting Rotary's global promise to the children of the world.

Remember to have fun and enjoy your Rotary journey!



Paul Miegel
District Governor 2026-28

Paul's overdose



Biggest Ever Blokes Lunch in Shepparton



Circus Quirkus in Preston



Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair



2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Corowa: March 19, 20 & 21



Friday

Pre-conference Program- Friday 19th March

- Golf- 18 Holes (Corowa Golf Course)
- 18-Mini Golf (Club Corowa)
- Lawn Bowls (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Paint and Sip (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Rutherglen Wine Tour (Tour of 3 Wineries)

Conference Opening and Welcome Reception

A welcome drink and fingerfoods on the lawn of Cofields Winery

When: Friday 19th March, 5.30pm- 7.30pm

Where: Cofield's Winery, Distillery Rd, Wahgunyah.

Register Now



Saturday

Conference Day 1: An array of inspiring speakers and the first District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.

When: Saturday 20th March, 9.00am- 4.30pm

Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea are included in the ticket price

Gala Dinner and Entertainment- A separate ticket is required

When: Saturday 20th March, 6.30pm - 11pm.

Where: The beautifully restored 105 year old, heritage-listed, flour mill that is now home to the Corowa Whisky and Chocolate Factory.

Sunday

President's Elect Breakfast: A separate ticket is required

This Breakfast is reserved for the President's elect

When: Sunday 21st March, 7.30am - 8.30am

Where: Miss Birdie Restaurant, Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Conference Day 2: Inspiring Keynote speakers and the second instalment of the District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.

When: Sunday 21st March, 9.00am- 12 midday

Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Morning Tea is included in the ticket price



The Good Medicine

Rotary
District 9790

2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Corowa: March 19, 20 & 21

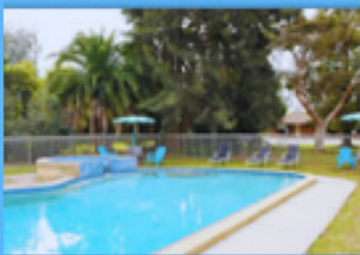


ACCOMMODATION

Greenacres Motel

91-99 Federation Ave, Corowa

Ph: 0490 539 769



Motel Menere's

146 Federation Ave, Corowa

Ph: 02 60331066



Statesman Motel

2 Edward Street, Corowa

Ph: 02 60332411



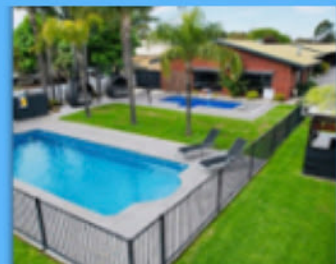
Accommodation has been booked at the motels listed. You **must** call your preferred motel directly and mention the "Rotary Conference".

There are also four Caravan Parks and Air-bnb accommodation available.

Federation Motor Inn

330 Honour Ave, Corowa

Ph: 02 60332022



Heritage Motor Inn

25 Edward Street, Corowa

Ph: 02 60331800



The End Polio Baton continues its journey around our District:

The Baton relay is on its way. DG Paul Miegel handed the baton on to Yea Rotary President Ann Drysdale at the joint group 4 cluster meeting in Seymour.



From there Yea Rotary's big day of activities and celebration was forced to change direction due to the inclement weather, but in true Rotary spirit the planned event took place in a slightly different format. With local and visitors getting into the spirit and supporting Rotary's signature project, and yes, the Pinkies were painted purple.



From Yea the baton joined big Ted on its journey to Alexandra in Rotarian Ken Maxwells vintage Jaguar.



The aim of the relay is not only to raise funds for Rotary's number one humanitarian project but to also make the general public aware that polio is still around and closer than we think, with the detection of it in wastewater in Perth earlier this year and the onset of paralysis in a young boy in Papua New Guinea last year.

Although we are so very close to eliminating POLIO, we are not finished yet. We need to keep spreading the word and making awareness, raising funds and keeping Rotary's promise to the children of the world.

The Polio Baton will visit every club in District 9790 .

What has your club got planned ?

Do you know when your club will have the Baton?

Some ideas that are being planned are, ensuring your Polio collection bucket is at your club meetings, take it to your club BBQS organise a special event, a fun run, a pushbike ride, a car rally, a wheelbarrow race, invite your community to participate , lets show that we are serious about eliminating this hideous disease and we can do it having fun doing it.

The Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges made a fabulous video clip of the Baton being passed from business to business, and DG Paul carried the Baton while leading the parade at the renowned Diamond Creek Town Fair on the 12th of September, watch this space for the photos.

On completion of the Polio Batons journey around all clubs, it will be presented to District Governor Paul at the Conference in Corowa

Patti Bulluss OAM
Foundation Chair

October is Mental Health Month

Lift the Lid on Mental Illness is the national mental health fundraising and awareness initiative of Australian Rotary Health (ARH). The aim is to raise much needed funds for mental health research and thereby improve the health and well-being of all Australians.

Established in 1981, ARH has allocated more than \$55 million to research, awareness programs and education. Mental health research has been the priority since 2000, with the mental health of children aged 0-12 being the focus since 2023. ARH is now the largest non-government funder of mental health research in Australia. In 2026 2 million dollars has been allocated by ARH for research, programs and health scholarships, thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, Rotary clubs and the community.

Why Mental Health?

- "Tragically, nine people take their own lives every day in Australia and 150 others attempt suicide each day"
- "Almost one in five Australians will experience a mental illness in a 12-month period and almost half the population will experience a mental illness at some stage in their lives"
- "At least one third of young people have had an episode of mental illness by the time they are 25 years old"
- "14% of children aged 4-11 have experienced a mental disorder"
- "Mental illness is not discriminatory and no one is immune to mental health problems"

By continuing to create public awareness to break down the stigma of mental illness and to raise funds for mental health research, we can make a positive step to improving these outcomes.

World Mental Health Day is Saturday October 10, 2026

During the month of October Rotarians and Rotary clubs throughout Australia are encouraged to get involved to create awareness and raise funds for mental health research.

Why not host a Hat Day event, organise a community BBQ, place collection tins at retail outlets or your local coffee shop, set up a mental health awareness table at your local shopping centre, conduct a walk in your community, or ask a mental health practitioner or a person with lived experience to speak at your club.

You are most welcome to join Coburg, Moreland and Pascoe Vale Rotary clubs at the Merri-bek LIFT THE LID WALK for Mental Health on Sunday October 11, 2026, at Coburg Lake Reserve, starting at 9.30AM

Event website: <https://www.liftthelidwalk.com.au/moreland>

Let's make an effort and ensure that Lift the Lid on Mental Illness is a great success for Australian Rotary Health this year.

For more information about Australian Rotary Health visit: www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Please contact **Rosemary Freeman** if you would like further assistance.

Moreland Rotary

D9790 Australian Rotary Health Chair

freemanrl32@gmail.com

0418 104 964

LIFT THE LID WALK

PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Join us for a walk and talk in our local community as we raise vital funds for mental health research



MERRI-BEK

**SUNDAY 11th
OCTOBER 2026**

**THE STAGE,
Coburg Lake
Reserve**

FROM 9:30AM

**Become
part of the
solution**

Australian Rotary
Health invests millions
each year to fund
breakthrough Research
into Mental Health.

**WHY
DON'T
YOU
JOIN
US?**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**



**Be KIND
to YOUR
MIND**

Rotary
Districts of Australia



Wow. Just Wow. The Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair Did It Again!

40,000 visitors. 2,800 in the parade. One unforgettable night of fireworks.



What a day! The 2026 Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair well and truly delivered, with over 40,000 people packing the streets, a parade 2,000 strong, and a fireworks finale that had every single face in the crowd tilted skyward. If you were there, you felt it. If you weren't, grab a cuppa, because you're about to wish you had been.

“The three best parts of being a Rotarian,” says *Nathan, one of our Rotary volunteers*, “are seeing the many hours spent planning, preparing and organising a project come to fruition; seeing first-hand the impact that project has on the community; and doing it alongside people who share the same values of community and Service Above Self.” And this Fair, twelve months in the making, hits all three out of the park. It takes an army of Rotarians, families, other clubs and community volunteers, all pulling together for one big day.



And what a day it is! The main street shuts at 10am for a parade of 2,800 locals, kindergartens, bands and community groups. By 2pm the CFA brigades are locked in their annual tug of war, always good for a laugh. At 7pm the torchlight parade rolls in with crews from right across Melbourne, and the crowd's roar for those volunteers is something else. Then at 8pm, the fireworks light up the sky to send everyone home with a smile. In between, there's a whole day of free fun for the kids, from reptiles and a petting

zoo to face painting and circus tricks, which matters even more with so many families watching their

budgets these days. As Nathan puts it: “even as membership in volunteer organisations declines around the world, there are a great number of people out there willing to step up and help. You just have to ask.”

Behind the scenes, the day started a lot quieter than it finished, according to *Linda, our Parade and Entertainment Organiser*. “Saturday's Town Fair began quietly at 6:00am, with the Rotary control tent the hub for sign-in, radios and safety vests,” she says, before stallholders, volunteers, SES and Rotarians from right across the district arrived and the calm turned into organised chaos. The parade gathering kicked off at 9.30am, and by 9.50am most groups were finding their way to the marshalling area without a hitch. This year's Lights, Camera, Action theme brought out some real creativity, Linda says, “from Minions to cameras and everything in between,” with five prizes awarded for the standout interpretations. Entertainment kept the energy going on the fairground stages from late morning right through to evening, but for Linda, the moment that stuck with her had nothing to do with the schedule: a man approached the Rotary tent after seeing the Polio Relay Baton and shared that his mother was a polio survivor, asking how he could donate to help eradicate the disease. “It was a powerful reminder of why Rotary keeps the fight against polio alive,” she says. She also loved seeing Rotarians from different clubs come together to march in the parade, “a great expression of what Rotary can achieve when we work together.”

“The Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair last weekend was absolutely excellent,” says *Nina, a visitor who brought the family along twice*, once for lunch and stalls, then back that night for the torchlight parade, fireworks and rides. “Each part of the day had a completely different vibe, and both were fantastic in their own way,” she says, before naming the fireworks the undisputed highlight: “It was spectacular, and a wonderful way to finish the evening.” Her verdict on the organisers and volunteers? “A huge congratulations and thank you... your hard work made for a truly memorable community event. Well done!”



“The atmosphere throughout the precinct was vibrant and welcoming,” says *James, from Nillumbik Shire Council*, who noticed straight away how well this year's revised layout worked, improving the flow of the site without losing the community feel that makes the Fair so special. For James, the real magic is in the partnerships: Rotary, council, emergency services, local businesses, stallholders, performers and carnival operators, “demonstrat[ing] the very best of community spirit.” As he puts it, “it is a wonderful example of a community-led event that creates connection, civic pride and a sense of belonging.”



It wasn't all smooth sailing behind the scenes! *Dennis, our Stallholder Coordinator*, admits the team approached this year cautiously: “We weren't sure we'd be able to exceed last year's result,” he says, on top of tighter safety requirements and a rebuilt layout after feedback the year before. A tip-off from the Eltham Town Fair crew led us to a new software system, and after a few Zoom calls with its owner in Canada, he could see it had “real potential.” The final product was outstanding, and the stallholders were genuinely impressed,” Dennis says, adding that safety documentation and communication were praised by both council and stallholders alike. His stand-out memory, though,

was the sheer size of the crowds, with none of the usual quiet afternoon lull. Special mention to the Fair's 12-year-old feature singer, who wowed the crowd right before the fireworks!



“The Town Fair! It happens every year!” says Roger, Chair of the Town Fair Committee, with a laugh. “More risk, more action items from the council, bigger hoops to jump through, and the sore feet and backs. I'm not doing that AGAIN!” And yet, every single year, the same small band of volunteers rocks up with a smile and a lot of pride. “The local community look forward to OUR Town Fair every year,” Roger says. “There are nearly as many people in the morning parade as there

are spectators. It's a community event!” His final word says it all: “We did it again, like we knew we would. And we will all rock up next year to do it all over again.”

“Honestly, this one was by far one of the best events we've ever been part of!” says Angie, a stallholder with Luna Lemon, who was thrilled at how organised, well thought out and welcoming the whole day felt, and grateful to the committee for squeezing her stall in at such short notice. “Events like this don't happen without a huge amount of work behind the scenes,” she says. “We feel very lucky to have been a small part of such a fantastic day.”



Diamond Creek Rotary President Greg commented that “without the Town Fair, we would not be able to do all of the good that we do in our community. It is our main fundraiser, and whilst a lot of effort goes into the event, the rewards to our community in terms of social cohesion, cooperation, fun and joy make it all worthwhile. The financial aspect is a bonus!”

So there you have it: 40,000 people, eight perspectives, and one massive team effort. Bring on 2027!

Thank You

To every Rotarian, volunteer, performer, stallholder and partner organisation who made the 2026 Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair possible, thank you. Special thanks to Nillumbik Shire Council, Bendigo Community Bank, the Men's Shed, the CFA, SES, Victoria Police and St John Ambulance for their ongoing support. See you all again next year!

A Huge Shout Out to our Club Membership Chairs



At the time of writing, there are 34 representatives of our clubs willing to stand up as Membership Chairs and this month we'd like to acknowledge them and all they do.

Within their clubs, they remind us of the need for continual recruitment of new members - an ongoing process not to be left till the last moment. Sometimes a potential new member presents themselves to the club, other times members have to search, involve and then get a commitment from them to join.

Membership Chairs work best with a team in which they have a creative, a sales rep and a person with lots of Rotary experience and knowledge. Someone has to work with the Public Image chair to make the club visible and appealing to potential members. A Sales Rep knows how to work with potential members to find out what they are looking for and how Rotary can help and then there's the person in the club who is a dedicated Rotarian and keen to share all they know. There's one more team member who plays an important role in maintaining the members you already have. It's the person who cares for the Family of Rotary and supports existing members with things like phone calls, birthday cards and hospitality in their own homes.

Within District, Membership Chairs are continually receiving information and updates to pass onto their clubs. This year our DG Paul Miegel offered clubs an incentive to create a membership initiative, the District Membership Committee is offering Membership Sessions where Membership Chairs and others can come together and brainstorm membership as a whole and to help grow your membership, there is the Membership Action Plan which leads clubs through a process to build membership.

You may have a Membership Chair, someone who already does all this, but have you registered them in Club Runner or with the Secretary of the District Membership Committee?

We would love to offer them our support.

Penny Paxman
District Membership Committee
ppaxman@outlook.com

Membership Initiative Rebate

- **\$25 rebate per club member (using 1 July 2026 figures)**
- **Proposal forms have been sent to clubs**
- **Submit your proposal to Penny Paxman: ppaxman@outlook.com**
- **Membership Committee meets 3rd Sunday each month**
- **Approved initiatives are eligible for rebate after completion**
- **Let's turn great ideas into membership growth!**

2026 Vic RESCA Awards

An incredible array of 135 emergency workers, their families, sponsors and Rotarians gathered at Green Acres Golf Club in Kew on Saturday 29 August for the annual Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (Vic RESCA), presented to emergency workers who have made an outstanding contribution to their community and organisations.

These awards — one for a volunteer in emergency services and one for a paid emergency worker — recognise recipients for their commitment to the Rotary value of service above self.

There were twelve finalists from a range of agencies and organisations, including ambulance, police, firefighting (both professional and voluntary), and even Wildlife Victoria, Red Cross, and Life Saving Victoria, all of whom showed enormous commitment not just to their normal duties but went above and beyond, both for their organisations and for their local community.

Vic RESCA has been operating for four years now, and in that time 49 emergency workers have been recognised, with several going on to win the national awards in Canberra.

This year's winners were Jennifer McGuirk OAM, a volunteer chaplain with the VCC Emergencies Ministry and Ambulance Victoria, and Sergeant Brendan Vann, a Victoria Police officer and CFA volunteer. Jennifer and Brendan will go on to the national awards at Government House in Canberra in October.

The Vic RESCA committee is chaired by PDG Grant Hocking ASM from District 9800, himself a senior figure in Ambulance Victoria, and includes Rotarians from other Victorian districts, including D9790 representatives Lorraine Greenwood from Numurkah (Secretary), David Redfearn from Moreland, and now Lex de Man from Whittlesea.

The awards are generously supported by a range of sponsors, including EML, Bendigo Bank-Community Enterprise Foundation, Victorian Transport Association and Gritential Coaching, as well as Districts 9790, 9800 and 9815.

Presentations to the finalists were carried out by the District Governors of the three districts — Paul Miegel, Graeme Hope and Emma Clark. The awards were announced by RESCA Treasurer Kerri Hicks and Rick Jones from our Platinum Sponsor, EML and presented by Emergency Management Commissioner Tim Wiebusch.

Each winner will also receive a one-on-one coaching package with Kerri Hicks of Gritential Coaching.

Rotary also proudly supports the Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) Scholarship Program which leads to paid and volunteer staff from an Emergency Service agency having the opportunity to undertake a study tour that will lead to improvements in emergency service management.



Volunteer winner: Jennifer McGuirk OAM

We welcomed ESF Board Director Tony Pearce to our event and we heard from keynote speakers, ESF alumni Paul Fitzgerald, a psychologist with Fire Rescue Victoria, and Mark Welch, Commander Performance and Assurance at Fire Rescue Victoria.

In the words of our Patron, Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria: "Few Victorians are ever asked to carry the kind of responsibility that falls on those who serve in our emergency services. At times, that means making difficult decisions within seconds. It is demanding work, and it is work that keeps us all safe." When you consider that our finalists and winners have also given above and beyond that through their community service, it is indeed a great honour for Rotary to recognise these courageous and selfless people — people who put service above self.

**David Redfearn
Vic RESCA Committee. Member**



Paid Emergency Service winner: Sergeant Brendan Vann

2026 Vic RESCA Awards



The finalists with the DGs and PDG Grant Hocking ASM. DG Paul is in the back row second from the right.



Vic RESCA Treasurer Kerrie Hicks receiving a Paul Harris Fellow from DG Graeme Hope



The proud winners



MC Koren Harvey conducting proceedings



The program booklet



Make a difference to the emergency services in Victoria

The aim of the ESF scholarship program is to provide an opportunity for both paid staff and volunteer personnel from ESF member agencies to undertake a study tour that will lead to improvements in Victoria's emergency management sector. It provides successful applicants with a valuable opportunity for self-enrichment and career advancement through the pursuit of knowledge and experience on a topic they are passionate about.

2027 ESF Scholarships supported by Rotary

The Emergency Services Foundation has entered a partnership with Rotary to support the longstanding ESF scholarship program.

This partnership with Rotary builds on strong collaboration between the two organisations at the local level, through Tony's Trek early in 2024, and the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards. The partnership will help fund scholarships in 2027.

Applications close: 1 October 2026

For more information or to apply, go to:

<https://esf.com.au/our-research/esf-scholarships/scholarship-application/>



Unity Inspire and Australia–China Economy, Trade & Investment Expo

Rotary e-Club of Unity Inspire was proud to take part in the Australia–China Economy, Trade & Investment Expo, held 10–12 September at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

More than 300 businesses and organisations gathered over the three-day event to showcase their work, share knowledge and explore new collaborations. Amid this vibrant setting, our volunteers proudly represented Unity Inspire, sharing our commitment to making a positive difference locally and globally.

The Expo offered valuable opportunities to hear from business leaders, community representatives and experts from both countries, with discussion ranging across innovation, technology and AI and their role in shaping the future. The opening forum featured Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria, who reflected on the long-standing relationship between Australia and China and acknowledged the Chinese community's contribution to Australian society since the gold rush era.

For our club, the experience reinforced a core Rotary principle: when people from different cultures, professions and communities come together in a shared spirit of service, meaningful connections follow. Our volunteers spoke with attendees about Unity Inspire's focus areas—diversity and inclusion, multicultural communities, women's and family wellbeing, youth leadership, peace and community service—and our local and international projects.

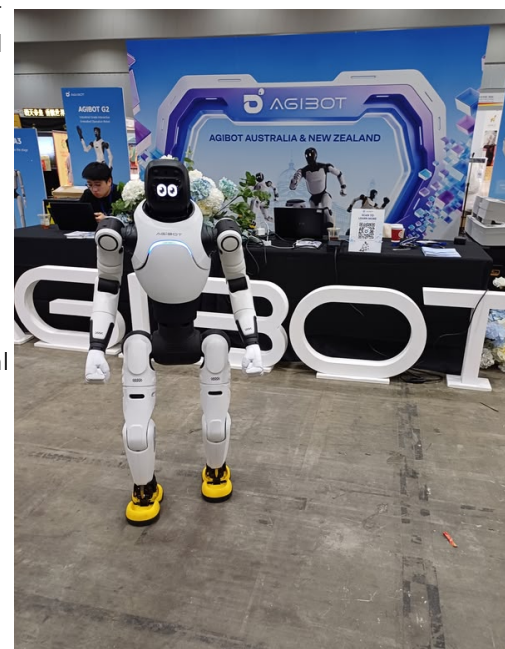
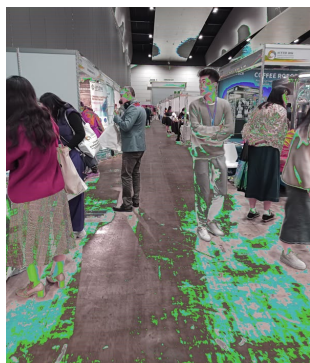
The Expo also opened doors to new relationships across cultural and professional lines, with potential for future partnerships on community and international service projects.

As a newly established e-Club, taking part in an event of this scale was a valuable milestone. It strengthened our confidence in representing Rotary and underscored the role community organisations can play in building connections across cultures and borders.

Sincere thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm across the three days.

Together, through friendship, service and collaboration, we continue building lasting positive impact—locally and globally.

June Anderson
President, Rotary Unity Inspire



Tropical Trek Adventure Week! Why?



It is wildlife time, probably crocodiles.



Rotary Youth Exchange Students with Rodger as they prepare for the diving adventure.

What a week! Roger and I had! If you told me two years ago that I would be chaperoning exchange students to the Whitsundays, I would've said you were crazy. We had a lot of fun and we got to do incredible things. I never thought I would do like scuba dive on the great barrier reef. I was extremely grateful for the opportunity to do that and to get to know some really cool kids from all over the world. Rotary Youth Exchange continues to give this family amazing opportunities.

Taking Rotary Exchange Students on trips, such as Tropical Trek provides them with the opportunity to explore the amazing landscape of Australia. Over a week they saw the Great Barrier Reef, tropical bush land, ate camp fired damper and learnt about many native animals.

Sharing the joy of those discoveries was wonderful. The highlight though was seeing the connections made, sharing stories and games that come from Mexico, Poland, Germany and Australia, teaching each other about what 'home' looks like, so that everyone felt more connected to different parts of the world. These students really are citizens of the world with all their new connections.

Mel Anstis
Albury Rotary

S



Mel and Rodger Anstis playing cards an end of the day activity and apparently Rodger is very skilled at winning.



Mel and Rodger Anstis, Albury Club Rotarians, with Rotary Youth Exchange students on the Tropical Trek 2026.

Community Car Raffle 2026



Enable other charities to raise funds.

Increase Rotary impact:

Do you know a charity in need of funds?

The local cemetery trust, pregnancy support, croquet club, world vision, land care group, fishing club, whatever your non-Rotary charity is, the Rotary Club of Mooroopna invites **charity organisations** to use our car raffle as **their fund raiser**. Not for profit organisations are welcome to apply. Rotary Clubs from anywhere in Victoria or NSW are also welcome to apply

First Prize: An automatic KIA Stonic Sports valued at \$30000. On-road costs included.

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 and all other costs. Zero risk for your charity.

Ticket price: \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20 **Ticket sales:** From September to December 20th for on-sellers. **Raffle draw:** December 31.

The charity 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 charity will also be listed for on-line sales through Rafflelink.

To register interest please contact Richard Speedy at rspeedy@iinet.net.au



BUILD SKILLS. MAKE FRIENDS.
FIND YOUR VOICE.

About Us

RYLA 9790 (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a week-long residential leadership program for young adults aged 18–30, run by Rotary District 9790. It focuses on building confidence, leadership skills, and personal growth through workshops, guest speakers, and shared experiences, empowering participants to create positive change in their communities.

Why should you go?

RYLA offers a unique opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and connect with like-minded young people from across the district. Participants leave with lifelong friendships, practical skills, and a stronger sense of their own potential and ability to make a difference.



**NETWORKING WITH
PEERS**



PERSONAL GROWTH



LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



**Sign Up
Here**



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.

Rotary Months

September 2026

Basic Education and Literacy Month

October 2026

Community Economic Development Month
Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 7 October
24 October — World Polio Day

November 2026

Rotary Foundation Month
5 November — World Interact Day (World Interact Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 5 November, Interact's anniversary)

December 2026

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

January 2027

Vocational Service Month
10-14 January — International Assembly, Orlando, Florida, USA

February 2027

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month
23 February — Rotary's anniversary

March 2027

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
World Rotaract Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 13 March, Rotaract's anniversary

April 2027

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

May 2027

Youth Service Month

June 2027

Rotary Fellowship Month
26-30 June — Rotary International Convention, Barcelona, Spain
30 June — Club Excellence Award nominations are due

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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 10 October 2026 All articles and photographs images to: 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

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IMPACT***

