



WELCOME TO THE

District 9790 Monthly Newsletter

◆
A word from DG Stephen



Celebrating RYLA 2024: A Transformative Experience
Carol and I had the privilege of attending RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) on 29–30 November, and what an incredible experience it was! A huge shout out to Linda Gidlund, Grant Godino, Nat Hood, and the rest of the RYLA team for organising an event that is sure to transform lives. Their dedication, passion, and hard work made this a truly memorable event for all involved.

The week-long commitment of the training team showcased their dedication to shaping the future of Rotary and empowering the next generation of leaders. Here's to the adventure, growth, and friendships that lie ahead for these young leaders. Bravo to everyone who contributed to this outstanding program!

↓ 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



4-5 2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE



6-8 YOUTH NEWS



9-13 WHAT'S COMING UP, DEADLINES AND NOTICES

Photo credits: Stephen O'Connell OAM: Cover and 3 (supplied); District 9790 website: 4; David Redfearn: Cover, 6, 8 and 10

Cover: DG Stephen and Carol with a group of RYLA participants and team members (David Redfearn)

DG Stephen (continued)

Council of Governors Meeting: Collaboration at its Best

On Sunday, 1 December, immediately after RYLA, we gathered in Shepparton for a fantastic and informative Council of Governors meeting. It was wonderful to join the current G-Team—Emma Davis, Paul Miegel, and myself—with Past District Governors and partners from across the District.

The meeting was filled with productive discussions celebrating the remarkable achievements happening across District 9790. It was inspiring to reflect on the progress we've made and strategise for the future. The day concluded with a lunch that strengthened connections and camaraderie among attendees. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this day. Together, we are making a real difference!

Taking a Stand Against Domestic Violence

On Monday, 9 December, we joined the community in Albury for the “Say No to Domestic Violence” walk, an impactful event in collaboration with NSW Police and other local organisations. This was a powerful reminder of the importance of standing together against domestic violence and supporting those affected. Let's continue to raise awareness and take action in our communities.

Season's Greetings

As we approach the festive season, Carol and I would like to wish all Rotarians and their families a joyful and peaceful holiday period. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to making our communities better. Here's to another year of service, fellowship, and making a difference in 2025!

Warm regards,

Stephen O'Connell

District Governor, Rotary District 9790



Say No to Domestic Violence Walk in Albury



Council of Governors 2024



RI Foundation Chair Past International Sat No to Domestic and Family Violence - Holbrook Rotary Christmas Market



2025 District Conference

CONFERENCE UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 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

CONFERENCE PROGRAM FEATURE

How Did Lauren Jackson Comeback and Win Her Fifth Olympic Medal!

Find out at District Conference!

Lauren Jackson has agreed to come on board as a keynote speaker at our District Conference in April next year! Lauren is actually a local from Albury Wodonga. She is one of Australia's top sportspeople - considered by many to be the country's greatest female basketballer in history.

Go online here <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1269916> to book your ticket to hear Lauren at the District 9790 Conference, 11-13 April, 2025.

Lauren was the first Australian in history to be selected as the first overall pick in an international and professional draft. She was crowned an All-Star in her first WNBA season.

In 2012, Lauren had the great honour of being flag bearer for Australia at the London Olympics and in 2021, she was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2021, the sports' most prestigious award. Lauren returned to the sport after a 5 year hiatus, playing for the Albury Bandits in the NBL1. Shortly after, she fulfilled a dream by becoming an Opal once again, representing Australia at the 2022 FIBA World Championships in Sydney. She was instrumental at these games in helping the Opals to a Bronze Medal win and at the 2024 Paris Olympics, become a 5-time Olympic medallist helping the Opals take home the Bronze.

You can see the full Conference program and speaker line-up here <https://www.rotary9790.org.au/sitepage/conference-2024-2025>



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>

DISTRICT 9790 CONFERENCE 2025 - ALBURY NSW

Rotary  District 9790



Hit the high notes

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

Things to do ...



If you would like to know more about what you can do around Albury Wodonga before and after Conference...

AW ALBURY WODONGA

<https://www.visitalburywodonga.com/>

CONFERENCE
TICKETS VIA



Youth News

RYLA: A Transformational Journey Worth Supporting

"Absolutely 10 out of 10!" That's how we would describe our experience at RYLA 2024. Stephen and I had the privilege of being involved for two days, and it was truly extraordinary. Having heard glowing endorsements from past Rotary visitors, we were eager to witness this exceptional program firsthand—and it exceeded all expectations.

The dedicated team behind RYLA is nothing short of inspiring. Their talent, skill, and passion for youth development result in life-changing experiences for participants. Through RYLA, young leaders gain invaluable skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork. They leave the program with newfound confidence and challenging personal goals to propel them forward.

These participants represent the future of Rotary.

While some might already be committed Rotarians, many are at a perfect stage to join our Rotary family. If your club sponsored a young person to attend RYLA, thank you! You've given them a gift that will last a lifetime. Now could be the perfect time to invite them to join your club or connect them with Nat Hood, our District Youth Chair, to explore further opportunities within Rotary.

Across the District, Stephen and I have seen how investing in youth energises clubs. It fosters enthusiasm, revitalizes membership, and strengthens recruitment and retention. Programs like RYLA create a ripple effect of positivity—not just for participants, but for the clubs and communities that support them.

We need your help to sustain this incredible program.

The continued success of RYLA depends on financial contributions and support from clubs. To ensure RYLA thrives, perhaps considering creating partnerships with industry groups might be helpful. These collaborations are a win-win: they help fund RYLA participation, raise Rotary's profile, and potentially boost membership growth.

If your club has sponsored a participant in RYLA before, please continue this wonderful tradition. For those ready to dive in, now is the time. Together, we can ensure RYLA's life-changing impact continues for generations to come.

Carol O'Connell



DG Stephen and Carol O'Connell with RYLA participants and team members



**Greetings
from the
World!**

**Feliz Natal,
Brazil**

**Ten una buena navidad,
Spain**

**boldog karácsonyt,
Hungary**

**Joyeux Noël !,
France**

**聖誕快樂
Taiwan**

**Hyvää joulua,
Finland**

**メリクリ!
Japan**

**Og Godt Nytår és boldog új évet,
Denmark,**

**Frölichi Wiänächtu.
Switzerland**

**Feliz Navidad, próspero
Año y Felicidad,
Argentina**

**Šťastné a veselé,
Czech Republic**

**buon natale!
Italy**

**Veselé Vianoce a šťastný Nový rok,
Slovakia**

**Feliz Navidad y próspero
Año Nuevo, Spain**

**즐거운 크리스마스 보내세요 and 메리 크리스마스
South Korea**

**Glædelig jul,
Denmark**

**rotary
youth
exchange**

**Feliz Navidad
Chile**

Rotary 



Youth News

Youth Programs Contacts

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

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

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

Rotex – Contact Rotex by email: 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



If you would like further information please email Youth Programs Chair Nat Hood on nat990151@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2025!

Key Dates in District 9790

22 and 23 Feb 2025

PELDS for Presidents Elect, Shepparton

4 May 2025

Assembly for Presidents Elect and boards, all members welcome

6 July 2025

**Changeover 'new location', all members welcome
Wangaratta**

Yours in Service,
Emma Davis

District Governor 2025–2026 RI District 9790
+61(0)407 628 388 emma.jane.davis

Albury Wodonga

BOOKFAIR

Sat 14th, Sun 15th JUNE, 2025

SAT 8.00am to 4.00pm

SUN 9.00AM TO 3.00PM

PCYC
Andrews Street,
North Albury

**\$2.00
Entry**



Rotary
Rotary Club of Albury North

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





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/



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 10TH JAN

FOR CATERING PURPOSES

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

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

Image: Freepik.com



2024 FREE
WEBINAR SERIES

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
or scan the QR code



To learn more about our presenters head to
br.org.au/presenters

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COMMUNITY
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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

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Hurstbridge and Eltham

Bendigo Bank



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.

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

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

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CLOSING DATE IS 7 DECEMBER 2024 ALL ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS IMAGES TO: dredfearn@vtown.com.au

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Season's greetings!



District Governor Stephen and Carol wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Refreshing Holiday Season and we hope 2025 proves to be an enjoyable and prosperous year for all members, families and friends.



Rotary
District 9790

