

United Voices

Official newsletter of
District Governor Emma Davis



As we prepare the final District newsletter for June, we celebrate Rotary Fellowships month, intended to recognise the importance of international fellowship and goodwill among Rotarians. This month has featured plenty of goodwill.

At the Pascoe Vale club Ivor "Monty" Montgomery Community Police Awards, I became emotional listening to Superintendent Wayne Cheesman who celebrated the collective efforts truly making a difference to the lives of others. It was a privilege to present the awards representing true partnerships and commitment to community safety in a world of serious and violent crime. Thank you to event host Bob Taylor, our Rotary and Victorian Police partnership, supported by corporate, Merri-bek City Council and government partners.



HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



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Photo credits: Emma Davis Cover, 5-7, 9-10 (supplied); Shelterbox Australia: 14; David Redfearn: 10; Mandy Gosetti 11 (supplied), Jenny Chellew: 12 (supplied); Laurie Fagan: 14 (supplied); Gale: 16 (supplied); Linda Gidlund: 18 (supplied)

Cover: DG Emma with the Governor General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, and Past DG Bruce Anderson at the RAWCS 60th Anniversary at Government House, Canberra (supplied by Emma Davis)

DG's Column (continued)

For a three day weekend, I had the privilege of supporting Nathan Stuart. I met Nathan as a teenager a dozen years ago, and we are both proud and committed Rotary youth alumni. For the weekend as Program Director, he led nine volunteers for 35 teens for the Rotary Albury North's Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) at Howman's Gap. Individual, small group and large group activities without a dull moment in the program. We focus on goal setting, public speaking, comfort zones with practical and fun camp activities, project management, leadership style, teamwork, values and reflection. Thank you to Albury North for your dedication to funding, to supporters and students.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, serves as the Patron of RAWCS - Rotary Australia World Community Service. Six of our Governor cohort and dignitaries were hosted at the beautiful Government House Canberra for the RAWCS 60th anniversary. This very special occasion highlighted the care, kindness and respect in our communities and the stories behind restoring stability, dignity and hope when Rotary rallies people and resources. Weekends like this reinforce our commitment and connections with the RAWCS staff and team, and our class, many of whom will remain friends for life. We celebrate six decades of extraordinary humanitarian service in this e-book, <https://ebooks.cld.bz/RAWCS>. The event recognised outstanding contributions including a Distinguished Service Award to PDG Dr Bruce Anderson (Strathmore), and Humanitarian Service Award to Brad Quilliam (former member Kinglake Rangers), sending our congratulations!

We hosted our final Committee of Finance and Committee of Management meetings, and welcomed our incoming members for consistent transition into the new year. I take a moment to thank the District executive and board. Reviewing the financial commitments for the year and all of the portfolio reports is rewarding and I am so lucky to have passionate people on the 2025/2026 team.

I made it to Romsey – Lancefield, and whilst we visited their outdoor project on a chilly Winter evening, the best part of the catch up was the real chats over hot chocolate, showing why small town community clubs matter. And whilst we are talking sweet treats, you cannot go past the Milawa Polio High Tea. I loved serving cups of tea and beautifully presented sweet and savoury afternoon tea items. At times the chatter was loud amongst the community hall where everyone was there for the wonderful cause - Polio.

One final visit with Broadmeadows for their slightly delayed Paul Harris evening. The feature speaker was Councillor Jarrod Bell who connected community service, Council and Rotary together so very well. However the highlight of the evening was acknowledging PDG Don Cox and Joan for 50 years service in Rotary. Engaged and visionary members like Don exemplify what it means to Unite for Good. We celebrate the dedication that fuels Rotary's capacity to innovate and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow and thank Don and all long standing members for their service and steadfast commitment to creating lasting change in the world.

District account has funded 57 brand new 10,000L tanks to the value of \$111,422, and more directly from Shepparton South. We have supported an air compressor, valued at \$9,800 for agriculture equipment maintenance and fencing in Tallangatta, and \$15,661 for school books and uniforms for 43 primary and secondary students from fire affected households. We have administered AUS \$74K of Disaster grant funding for Rotary International. An established partnership with RAWCS has resulted in a further \$50K in food and fuel vouchers and a further \$30K in funding for an on the land based relief councillor program. It is important here to acknowledge our RAWCS and Rotary International partnerships, and a sincere thank you to the contributing individuals and clubs from Beechworth, Belvoir-Wodonga, Broadmeadows, Coburg, Corowa, Deniliquin, e-Club of Change Makers, Euroa, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe,

DG's Column (continued)

Mansfield, Mooroopna, Moreland, Mount Beauty, Numurkah, Pascoe Vale, Romsey-Lancefield, Shepparton Central, Southern Mitchell, Strathmore, Whittlesea and Yea who have made financial contributions this financial year. This investment is in the well-being of our members and our community for the people we serve across our Victorian and NSW communities. The commitment is to expend these funds into training and plans currently indicate we will have 100+ new MHFA champions in our District before Christmas 2026.

We are pleased to share one final membership update in that D9790 remains the strongest for membership growth and retention across our Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Zone. Our end of May figures are +58 where we are providing 31% of the total zone's growth of all 19 Districts. Thank you to our incredible membership team, and all membership champions!

In the final days of the Rotary year, I will be attending the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei Taiwan, with 40,000 other Rotary friends from 143 countries representing our remarkable global organisation. I have a handful of changeovers booked in and my sincere apologies for the Changeovers that myself and DGE Paul will be missing whilst we attend Convention – it's always a challenge with June Rotary travel to participate and be present at everything.

We have an exciting action packed 2025/2026 annual report that will be released the week of Changeover. I hope many have been able to purchase early bird \$50 humanitix district changeover tickets and can attend in Wangaratta, 12th of July to celebrate as we close out mine and Damian's efforts as we Unite for Good and celebrate our Creating Lasting Impact with Paul and Meredith.

Thank you again to my incredible support network and team, to all our members and clubs across District 9790 as we Unite for Good 2025/2026.

E. Davis



Emma with RI President Francesco Arezzo



Emma with the Governor General,
Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC



The DG out and about!

RAWCS 60th Anniversary - Government House, Canberra



Broadmeadows





The DG out and about!

Romsey Lancefield



Pascoe Vale



Milawa Oxley



RYPEN



District 9790 Ride to Conference

The D 9790 Ride to Conference is a multi-Club project, under the banner of the Rotary Club of Numurkah. The event took place on Wednesday 18th of March through to Friday 20th of March prior to the D9790 Conference in Melbourne. As the Conference was city based this year, it presented us with a challenge of how to stage this ride in its "to Conference" format. It was decided that riding in Melbourne was not a safe option for a team event. Thankfully one of our riders David Freeman from Seymour Rotary suggested rides based from Seymour. As this area had recently been impacted by bushfires, it was also a way of offering support to the area.

This year a small team of 9 enthusiastic cyclists and 2 support crew participated. Much fellowship was enjoyed by all supporting our worthy ARH cause. Cobram, Eltham, Numurkah and Seymour Rotary clubs were represented. The team was also supported financially by the RC of Corowa, who are the foundation Club for this event, as well as donations from members of the Rotary Clubs of Moreland and Albury North.

Our group stayed at the beautiful Seymour Big 4 Tourist Park, the starting point for each day's ride. Day 1 Tabilk Loop and Tasting, 65kms. This was a great ride and we were spoilt with a very comprehensive wine tasting, thanks to David Freeman's son, a wine maker at the winery. Day 2 Highlands, 80kms. Again a beautiful but confronting ride, through fire affected country. We also gained insight into the operations of the Highlands Recovery Centre.

Day 3 Was meant to be a Broadford Loop of 70kms, but became an out and back to Pyelong. The beauty of being a small group is if Plan A goes west, it's easy to regroup for Plan B which we did and it was a lovely ride.

We enjoyed a great night of Rotary fellowship, being hosted by Seymour Rotary on the Wednesday evening at the Royal Hotel. DG Emma and District Secretary Rosemary Freeman also joined us and we thank them for their support.

Rosemary is a RTC member and D9790 ARH Representative.

Congratulations go to David Freeman winner of the Margaret and Graham Brown Trophy for his work pre-event organising the ride routes while volunteering on the fire truck. Leon Boyd was awarded the Tony Thomas "Spirit of the Ride" and Linda Boyd - the Conference Sports Woman of the Year, no other sports events at Conference this year.

The Ride to Conference is a fund raiser for Australian Rotary Health - for mental health research and the Indigenous Health Scholarship program. This years' ride raised \$5,524, a fantastic effort for a small team. We thank all our supporting clubs, participants and generous sponsors for their financial support and Numurkah Rotary for supporting the Ride to Conference as one of our projects.

It was also with great sadness that we learnt at the District Conference of the passing of one of our regular riders George Maddison from Deniliquin Rotary.

Next year we see the ride heading to Corowa, where the Ride to Conference began. It will be a celebration of the rides history and all that it has achieved over its near 20 year history.

Chris Sutton
D9790 Ride to Conference Coordinator



RICON 26

There is something to love about Rotary events on scale. This past week I've spent the week in Taipei Taiwan for the 117th International Convention. Amongst 40,000 people of action, it was a place to meet new and old friends, top up on Rotary knowledge, share projects and stories, experience the local culture and be proud to be a Rotarian uniting for good.

General Secretary and CEO John Hewko's address talked to meaningful belonging in projects and breaking down barriers we didn't need to build.

Trustee Holger Knack reminded us about our Foundation as the engine to everything we do, the 4 star charity navigator for 17 years and announced the new program of scale, sustainable water and sanitation in Haiti.

Malalia Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel peace prize winner was outstanding as an advocate for 120 million girls still not in girls education following a Taliban attack. The good work Rotary does together travels further than we can imagine, and we must fight for what you believe in even when you are scared.

There was plenty of discussion on positive peace in action, and smashing the stigma of mental health. I enjoyed the week with dedicated changemakers, and solution seekers.

We got to know President Nominee Larry and President Elect Yinka who both tell the story of how Rotary has changed them. I enjoyed chatting to Brian King, who produces the monthly membership reporting we regularly use to thank our members and clubs for their wonderful growth and retention this year, still leading the zone.

It was nice to reconnect with many of the RI staff who I've known for several years now, and enjoy meals and adventures with some of my 2025/26 DG class cohort.

I managed to fit in the National Palace museum, the National Symphony Orchestra, dinners with Rotary Club of Taipei Social Enterprise and the Corowa crew, D9790 dinner and a New Zealand led zone catch up too. I visited a local temple, braved the local traditional hot springs, walked suspension bridges to waterfalls and released a lantern in Shefin. The public transport is wonderful and the polite locals, clean and orderly public spaces really impressed.

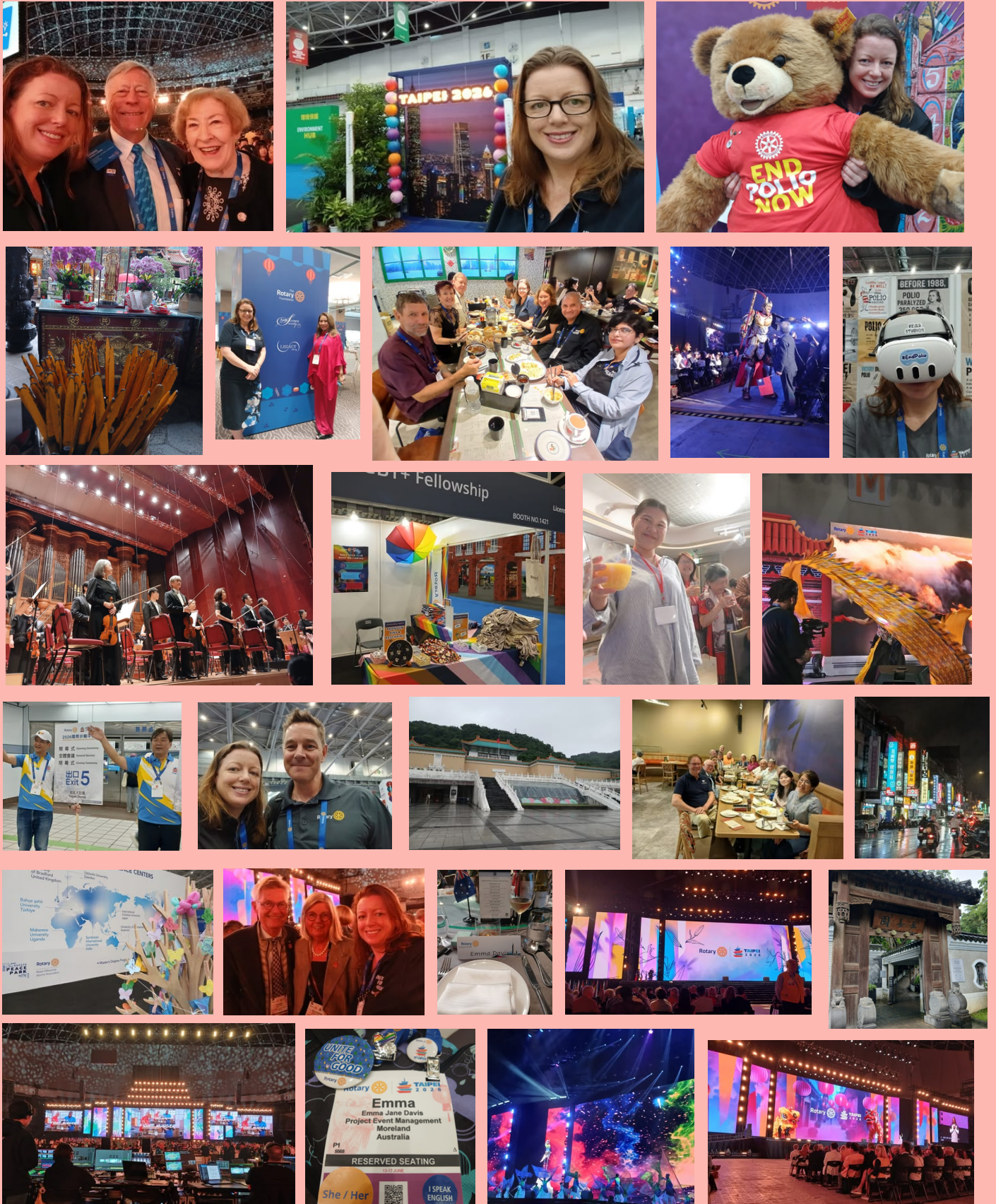
As the RICON26 Zone promotions lead I appreciated the reserved seating right by the stage. I also enjoyed a special event with President Francesco and the ability to move about chatting to Past Presidents, Directors and Trustees.

I also had plenty of meetings including being hosted in the Arch Klumph Society lounge by Director Elect Edna Sutter (Philippines) who has now confirmed my appointment to Zone Institute Chair 2028.

It's in the House of Friendship, the plenary and breakout sessions, on the train, and as we move about the city that we hear the joy when we talk about Rotary. Returning home, full of pride as a Rotarian, and quite a lot of delicious food and bubble tea.

E. Davis

RICON 26



Rotary Youth Community Challenge Launches in the Kinglake Ranges

The Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges is excited to launch the Rotary Youth Community Challenge (RYCC) — a fresh, contemporary reimagining of the former Rotary Junior Community Award, designed specifically for today's young people in regional communities.

Created for Year 6 students, the challenge encourages participants to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence, connect with their community, and develop practical life skills through four key areas:

-  **Community Service**
-  **Physical Recreation**
-  **Social Experience**
-  **Skills Development**

Students complete activities throughout the school year, supported by an engaging booklet and interactive diary designed to be relevant, achievable, and confidence-building for young people.

However, the Rotary Youth Community Challenge is about much more than completing an award. For many young people in regional communities such as the Kinglake Ranges, Year 6 represents a significant transition point. Students leave their local primary schools and move on to a variety of secondary schools, often making it more difficult to maintain connections with peers, community groups, and local support networks.

The challenge has been intentionally designed as an early connection point, helping Rotary build positive relationships with students and schools before this transition occurs. At the same time, it provides young people with opportunities to discover their strengths, develop resilience, engage with their community, and embrace new experiences.

Importantly, RYCC also creates a natural pathway into the many outstanding Rotary youth programs available throughout the teenage years and beyond.

Many Rotary clubs already support exceptional youth development opportunities, including:

- RYPEN (14–17 years) – Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
- Sailing Challenge (15–17 years)
- Science Experience (15–17 years)
- Rotary Youth Exchange – international cultural exchange opportunities
- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) – for Year 12 students
- RYLA (18–30 years) – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Through the challenge, Rotary can begin identifying and supporting young people who may benefit from future leadership, personal development, science, cultural exchange, wellbeing, or adventure-based opportunities.

In many ways, the Rotary Youth Community Challenge is designed to become the first step in a lifelong Rotary youth journey.

The challenge was officially launched at the inaugural Youth Showcase Night in Kinglake, proudly hosted by the Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges.



Rotary Youth Community Challenge Launches in the Kinglake Ranges

The evening brought together schools, sporting clubs, emergency services, youth programs, community organisations, and representatives from Murrindindi Shire Council to showcase the incredible opportunities available to young people across the region.

Programs and pathways highlighted included Junior CFA, SES, Rotary Youth Exchange, STEM initiatives, Sailing Challenge, leadership programs, defensive driving courses, scholarships, wellbeing initiatives, and community volunteering opportunities.

A key message from the evening was simple: When communities invest in young people, everyone benefits.

The Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges will pilot the program with local students and continue refining the challenge through ongoing feedback from schools, students, and families.

We are incredibly proud of what has been created and excited to watch local young people step up, get involved, and discover what they are capable of.

Give it a go. Get involved. Be proud of what you achieve.

Acknowledgement and Development
District 9790 and the Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges proudly acknowledge that the original and highly successful Rotary Junior Community Award was created by the Rotary Club of Mitchell River – Bairnsdale in 1997

The Rotary Youth Community Challenge has been developed from the strong foundations established by that program, building on its longstanding commitment to encouraging community involvement, personal growth, and youth participation.

Following consultation with local students and schools during 2026, the challenge has been reviewed and adapted by Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges New Generations Director Tamara Fowkes, with design support from Club Public Relations Director Jordyn Princi. Updates include a refreshed name, revised activity content, and a contemporary presentation designed to resonate with local young people while maintaining the core values and objectives of the original award. The Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges is grateful for the legacy of the Rotary Junior Community Award and proud to continue its spirit through a program designed to inspire the next generation of community-minded young people.



<https://events.humanitix.com/d9790-district-conference>



**DISTRICT CONFERENCE
COROWA : 19-21 MARCH 2027**

“Let’s Talk About the Elephant in the Room”

Mental health is part of everyone’s story. It affects our families, our workplaces, and our communities. Yet, it’s often the topic we avoid. This year, we’re inviting you to help change that.

Our 2025/2026 District Project, “Let’s Talk About the Elephant in the Room,” is about bringing mental health into the open—where it belongs. We’re focusing on education, early intervention, and community support through Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training.

MHFA is an internationally recognised, evidence-based program developed by two proud Rotarians—Betty Kitchener AM and Professor Tony Jorm. Their work has empowered millions of people around the world to:

- Recognise signs of mental health challenges
- Offer early support and guidance
- Respond effectively in crisis situations
- Reduce stigma and build more inclusive communities

This project reflects Rotary’s commitment to creating lasting change—in ourselves, in our communities, and across the globe. By supporting MHFA training, we’re investing in the wellbeing of our members and the people we serve.

How Your Club Can Help

We’re asking clubs across District 9790 to consider making a financial contribution to support this initiative. All funds raised will be used locally to train Rotarians and community members within our District.

Donation Details:

Bank Transfer

BSB: 633000

Account: 212254981

Reference: club MHFA

(Please do not include “Rotary Club of” in the reference)

Credit Card donations are also accepted.

We’ll be sharing stories and updates throughout the year to highlight the impact of your support. Together, we can give mental health a name, a voice, and a very loud trumpet.

Let’s lead the way—because when we talk about the elephant in the room, we help others find the courage to speak too.

Thank you for your support and commitment to making a difference.

E. Davis

DG Emma Davis

Let's Talk About the Elephant in the Room



District Governor Emma's 2025-26 District Project

**Mental health affects us all
—but it's often ignored. Let's
change that.**

Support Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training

Developed by Betty Kitchener AM and Prof. Tony Jorm, MHFA is an evidence-based Rotary program that helps people:

- Recognise signs of mental health issues
- Offer early support
- Respond in crises
- Reduce stigma

All funds stay local to support training in our District.

Donate Today

Credit card donations

Bank Transfer:

BSB: 633000

Account: 212254981

Reference: [club] MHFA

(Don't include "Rotary Club of" in the reference)



Rotary
District 9790





ShelterBox

Disaster, conflict and climate crisis are forcing more people to flee their homes than ever before. Right now, this is the reality for over 120 million people. ShelterBox is working to change this.

ShelterBox enables people to take the first steps toward recovery, providing emergency shelter and essential aid. ShelterBox helps people build, repair or return home. Listening to what communities need, ShelterBox can respond with the right aid. ShelterBox aid is tailored to each individual situation and community, from different types of tents to suit a range of conditions, shelter kits and tarpaulins to repair damaged homes and essential items like water filters and solar lights. ShelterBox is determined to ensure that no one goes without shelter following disaster. You can help achieve this aim.

ShelterBox began in 2000 as a Cornish Rotary Club's millennium project. With the support of Rotary members and clubs around the world, ShelterBox grew to become an internationally recognised, independent disaster relief organisation. Since 2012, ShelterBox and Rotary have been official Project Partners in disaster relief. Each year, ShelterBox works with Rotarians around the world to deliver emergency shelter and essential items, working together to support more people and access areas that would otherwise be impossible to reach.

When disaster strikes, Rotary is right there – from the earliest planning stages to final evaluations, ShelterBox partners like Rotary help us make contacts on the ground, organize logistics, and reach remote communities who might otherwise go without.

ShelterBox, with the help of Rotary has assisted over 3 million people. From hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes and conflict, ShelterBox responds all over the world.

ShelterBox has 13 global affiliates, all dedicated to raising funds and awareness of disaster relief. The organisation continues to research and develop its equipment, train its ShelterBox Response Team



members (SRTs) and evaluate aid items so that it can respond effectively and immediately to the next major disaster.

We want to see a world where no one is left without shelter after disaster. Join us.
District ShelterBox Representative: Steve Crosling
E. steve@radtest.com.au
M. 0417 595 282

To find out about volunteering for ShelterBox Australia or request a ShelterBox presentation, contact your local District Representative or at the contact below.

ShelterBox Australia -
www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au
PO Box 6625
Norwest
NSW, 2153
Tel: 1300 996 038

CEO: Mike Greenslade
mike.greenslade@shelterbox.org.au



Sponsor Vic RESCA: a High Impact Partnership for Rotary Clubs



PDG Grant Hocking (far left) with 2025 Victorian winners holding their awards

Making a Lasting Impact Together: The Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (Vic RESCA) celebrate the paid and volunteer emergency service people who go above and beyond for Victorians—often quietly, always professionally. Club sponsorship will help keep this important Rotary-led program strong and visible, and position your club as a local champion of community safety and resilience. What your sponsorship supports

Vic RESCA is a state-wide initiative supported by Victoria's Rotary districts. Community nominations lead to recognition at the Victorian awards event, with major category winners progressing to the national ceremony. Importantly, Vic RESCA also contributes to Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) scholarships—typically two study-tour scholarships of up to \$10,000 each—supporting sector-wide improvement, with a particular focus on emergency services mental health and wellbeing.

Why sponsor?

Sponsorship underwrites the costs of a credible, professional awards program and helps broaden



nominations across agencies and regions. Just as importantly, it strengthens Rotary's relationship with the people and organisations that step forward in fires, floods, storms, accidents and emergencies—every day of the year.

Benefits (and great visibility) for your club

- Positive local profile: a strong, community-first story to share across your newsletter, social channels and local media (where appropriate).
- Stronger connections: a natural pathway to engage with local CFA/FRV, SES, police, ambulance and other services.
- Member engagement: a purpose-driven program that boosts pride and participation.
- Recognition opportunities: acknowledgement at the Victorian awards event and in Vic RESCA/district communications (varies by sponsorship level).
- Recruitment and retention: visible service builds credibility and supports membership conversations.

Easy ways to activate your sponsorship

Nominate a club contact, promote nominations through your club channels, and consider inviting a local emergency services representative to a meeting. Attending the awards event with a small club group also creates excellent content for club communications and reinforces Rotary's appreciation in a very visible way.

Become a sponsor

Vic RESCA sponsorship packages are available to suit different club sizes and budgets. Please contact the Vic RESCA committee to request the current sponsorship prospectus (including recognition inclusions) and share it with your board for consideration. Together, Rotary can ensure Victoria's emergency services people are recognised—and supported—in a meaningful, practical way.

Contact: Vic RESCA Committee Chair PDG Grant Hocking ASM - granthocking64@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.vic.rescawards.org.au/>

An article from PDG Grant Hocking ASM

SHARED IDEAS LEAD TO GROWTH IN SMALL AND SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS

All the participants in the Membership Workshop at District Assembly went away with ideas for small experiments to try with their own clubs. Check out what they've been up to!

Kelvin from RC Eltham tells me they are in the process of updating the Rotary information on old business cards, which will be made available to those Club Members that might want them.
 Ruth from RC Seymour wrote: The one thing we have done is to take a laptop to our last market and played on it the promotional video we put together for last year's district conference, it is just a short snapshot of the club and activities but was well received. Now to convince the board we need a larger screen for next time our club is in the public's eye.

Gee from RC Belvoir Wodonga gave a short presentation to members and spoke about the membership workshop and what she took away from it. At the end, she invited members who were interested in club growth to come and chat with her before she started tapping them on the shoulders!

RC Yea tried this small experiment – their Membership Chair spoke to members about asking people to join the club and gave each person a card to give to someone they talked to about Rotary during the upcoming week. The card had contact details for the Membership Chair and invited the recipient to get in touch

Other clubs are changing two meetings a month to social gatherings, offering half price subscriptions for family members and introducing o Instagram as a way to communicate with members and the community – especially younger people.

What will you try next?

Penny Paxman
 D9790 Membership Committee



Rotary
 Club of Yea is turning 40!

**We would love to invite you to join
 this amazing club as a member**

Please take a look at our webpage
www.yearotary.org.au or Facebook page
 then contact Penny Paxman 0417 570 801
 if you'd like to accept our invitation.

District Membership Committee

Contact details:

Susan Benedyka, Rotary e Club of Changemakers: susan@susanbenedyka.com

Penny Paxman, Rotary Club of Yea: ppaxman@bigpond.net.au

Program Contacts

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

CONTACT:

LINDA GIDLUND – RC DIAMOND CREEK

Email: chair@ryla9790.org.au

Rotary Youth Exchange

CONTACT:

LONG TERM PROGRAM – MEREDITH MIEGEL – RC COROWA

Email: chairperson@rye9790.com.au

SHORT TERM PROGRAM – CHRISTINA PIZZINI – RC APPIN PARK

Email: christina@rye9790.com.au

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

CONTACT:

SALLY WEST – RC DIAMOND CREEK

Email: chair@rypen.org.au

Rotex

CONTACT:

NATALIE HOOD & TEGAN MURPHY

Email: rotex9790@gmail.com

Youth Chair

CONTACT:

NATALIE HOOD

NAT990151@GMAIL.COM

What surprised me most about Australia? From our Rotary Youth Exchange Students point of view...



Sara from France...sponsored by Rotary Albury
My what surprised me the most is the coffee culture, everyone knows how to make a good coffee and there is more cafés than bar. And your coffees are so good, I don't know how I'll be able to go back to the French one!



ol from Argentina...sponsored by Rotary Hive
What surprised me the most
* School uniforms (long skirts and dresses even in public schools)
* The slang
* How multicultural Australia is
* Tradies wearing shorts when it's 6°
* Wildlife being part of the everyday life



Pierre from France...sponsored by Rotary Mooroopna
What surprise me the most was probably the small amount of spider and snakes that you can see. People talk about it like it is very common and everywhere.



Freda from Germany...sponsored by Rotary Hive
I think the thing that surprised me most was how cold it actually gets and that is not just because of the temperature but also because the houses and clothes are not really made for the winter. I went skiing here in my first weeks what I didn't expect because Australia is always described as a very hot country.

Ann (An) from Japan...sponsored by Rotary Appin Park Wangaratta
The thing that surprised me the most in Australia was that BBQ grills everywhere! Australian people love BBQ and people call it "Barbie"!!

Emma from Germany...sponsored by Rotary Milawa Oxley
I think the cold winters surprised me the most about Australia.

Liz from Brazil...sponsored by Rotary Albury North
The thing that surprised me the most was that you guys drive in the wrong side of the road!!



Southern Districts Shine On Recognition Awards

D9780, D9790, D9800, D9815

Held
annually

Nominees
need a
sponsor club

RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Focus on the Abilities
Shine On
of those with Disability

Objective

The primary objective of the Awards is to celebrate the successes of people with disabilities and acknowledge the contributions they make in their communities.

Awards

At a special presentation ceremony each nominee is recognised with an Award Certificate of Commendation.

The Award Trophy recognises those who, by their own commitment and actions, serve as 'shining' examples to us all.

Nominations

The Awards are made in two categories:

- Youth (15-25 at closing date)
- Adults (25+ years)

Nominees can come from all walks of life, and all fields of endeavour. Anyone can nominate a candidate but nominations must be supported by a local Rotary club.

Info & Nominations



Nominations close
1st JULY



ROTARY DISTRICTS OF VICTORIA

Rotary International Southern Districts D9780, D9790, D9800, D9815



An evening of Recognition and Celebration



The 2025-2026 Inbound Students on the Safari adventure around Australia before heading home very soon. Do you recognise any flags?

Vic RESCA recognises outstanding community service of both paid and volunteer members of Victorian Emergency Services and supports Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) research scholarships.

Patron: The Governor of Victoria

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC

2026 AWARDS DINNER

Saturday 29th August 2026

6.30 pm Green Acres Golf Club

\$90 per person

Book via QR code or website

<https://events.humanitix.com/2026-victorian-rotary-emergency-service-community-awards-vic-resca>



Rotarians, individuals, agency representatives, colleagues, nominators, and the family and friends of finalists, are all welcome.

BOOKINGS CLOSE Sunday 23rd August - so get in quick!

The program includes

- Special guest speaker
- Recognition of 'Finalists' from each Emergency Service agency
- Recognition of Major Winners in both Volunteer and Paid capacity

Ticket price includes

- 2-course meal and drink on arrival
- Additional alcoholic drinks can be purchased at bar prices
- Carparking
- Discounted accommodation (details on booking site)

To find out more about Vic RESCA go to: www.vic.rescawards.org.au/





Adventure around Australia
Recognise any flags?

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

District Dates and Deadlines

June 2026

13-17 June — Rotary International Convention, Taipei, Taiwan

30 June — Club Excellence Award nominations are due

12 July District Changeover Wangaratta

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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 July 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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