

The District 9800 Foundation Giving Tree

Multi-District Conference Reflections

Every Conference has its great moment. The Multi-District Conference had many of them and our Peace Summit, which was our lead-in event, delivered just as effectively as we hoped it would.

This was very much a world-class event, with **Brittany Arthur** as our Master of Ceremonies, reprising her role at the Toronto International Convention.

Opened (and closed) by our Immediate Past International President, **Ian Riseley**, the Summit featured powerful keynote speakers and our panel groups were able to demonstrate just how we can achieve “peace Through Service”.

From the front desk to the coffee breaks, the excellent luncheon and finally to the networking session at the end of the day, attendees were engaged and stimulated by the world class keynote speakers and the committed panelists.

The day also featured a session led by Kat John on personal peace and concluded with a magnificent rendering of The Impossible Dream by **Michael Lapina**. It does not get much better than that!

Conferences do not succeed by content alone. Behind every conference there is a group of dedicated people who really provide service above self. So it was for the Peace Summit.

Almost a year ago I asked PDG **Murray Verso** to be our Summit Convenor, knowing that we were in a safe pair of hands. Murray would be the first to agree that we also had a first class Committee who really delivered.

Congratulations to Murray and his Committee of **Bob Fels**, **Gabe Hau**, **Ian Knight**, **Peter Sheppard**, **Mark Stephens** (who had a few other responsibilities), **Kate Strain** and **Dennis Shore**. There was also a great team of supporters who really pitched in before and during the Summit, including **Cheryl Pisterman**, **Austen Burleigh**, **Bec Heitbaum**, **Amritpal Singh** and **Lili Teichman**.

The feedback from more than 260 attendees from across Victoria, Australia and indeed the world was all that could have been hoped for.

Well done and thank you to you all.

Dennis Shore
District Rotary Foundation Chair



More Reflections

What a wonderful program, with stellar keynote speakers, informed panellists, inspirational video clips, outstanding networking opportunities and engaged attendees. It is challenging to capture the experience but these photos will help to record some of that special day.



Associate Professor Tilman Ruff AM gave an inspirational and emotional address which challenged us all to make a real difference. His status as a Nobel Laureate for his campaign to abolish nuclear weapons took on new meaning as he shared terrifying statistics with us.



It was a privilege to have **Bryn Styles** attend in his capacity as Chair of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee to share with us Rotary's commitment to Peace. As a Past Rotary International Director and Past Foundation Trustee he spoke with eloquent authority.



Dr Edna Adan Ismail charmed us and entertained us but her story was both confronting and inspirational. This amazing woman has literally journeyed from White House receptions, political high office and senior UN roles to delivering selfless humanitarian outcomes in Somaliland.



Steve Killelea AM is a successful businessman who has put his money to establish the Institute for Economics and Peace, a think tank that has developed the Global Peace index to track our progress in building a more peaceful world. He has partnered with Rotary to establish The Rotary Positive Peace Academy. His address was enlightening and challenging.

The Institute has partnered with Rotary to establish The Rotary Positive Peace Academy, which provides a free online learning platform that includes modules and interactive tools to teach users how to apply new peacebuilding methods and mobilize communities to address the underlying causes of conflict.

Downloadable resources are available to help Rotarians conduct in-person training and facilitate dialogue to help foster community-based engagement in peace. <http://www.rotary.org/en/institute-economics-and-peace>

And some more ...



Tony Stuart is CEO of UNICEF Australia. UNICEF is an unfunded agency of the UN that finds a way to do its work and as we saw from Tony's presentation, uses innovative technologies when required. UNICEF is partnering with ANZ Rotary districts in the Centenary project, "Give Every Child a Future".



Commander Stuart Bateson is a 30 year veteran and a Peace Fellow from Chulalongkorn in 2013 and a wonderful example and spokesperson for the program. He has had 2 significant promotions since then – to Superintendent and then Commander of the Priority Communities Division.



Jessica Trijsburg, Bryn Styles & Dennis under the pump by PDG Juliet Riseley still found humour in the situation.



Discussing the Rotary's work for peace in Cambodia, Facilitator Julie Mason did not need to work hard to get stirring responses from Bronwyn Stephens, Rithy Lay, Bronwen Foley and Maria Hicks



Rob McGuirk spoke to a very attentive audience to parallel Rotary with Hostelling International and identified potential partnership opportunities



Barry Hickman and Mark Balla made good points and Ruth Carlos-Martinez drove them home to Facilitator Koren Harvey.

In all of the three panel photos the ladies have the microphone — and with good reason. They all spoke powerfully and passionately.



Done and dusted - PDG Murray and DG Bronwyn can now smile.

And more ... it WAS a big weekend!!

The Peace Summit was not the only Foundation Moment at the Mult-District Conference by any means. Many parts of the conference touched us all but none more so than the uplifting story told by **John Soe**, a polio survivor and a Rotarian pictured with MC, **Jonathan Shepherd**.



A Foundation programme would not be the same without **Susie Cole** reminding us that we must continue our fight against polio to the finish. She was joined by **James Mepham**, a Rotarian from Warrnambool, and literally just back from India, who introduced his fabulous video of his trip with DG Bronwyn and others that powerfully reinforced the message. **You can view the video by clicking on the graphic at: <https://vimeo.com/315848756>**

Another recognition is well worth sharing and we thank **Catherine (Kitty) O'Connor**, President of the Rotary Club of Laverton Pt Cook for allowing us to share the impact of the conference on her appreciation of The Rotary Foundation. Inspired by the conference, Kitty joined the Paul Harris Society and told us:

Re the PHS, I'm pretty stoked and rather humbled to be number 136 and the first ever for my club.

The thing that excites me the most, is realising that without the Foundation and our support for it, is that all but a few programmes wouldn't exist. Doing the Prance [for Polio] was fantastic and connecting with everyone involved was brilliant. However, learning even more about what the Foundation, was and is through Bryn (Styles) was an eye opening moment. I wasn't the only one at my table either that came away with a new appreciation for Foundation. Joining then became a no brainer for me. I mean, I looked at it and thought, "you know what Kitty, it's just 1.5 bottles of Veuve a month, you can do that easy". So yes, my liver is thanking me AND I get to play a small part in keeping the heart of Rotary beating. [if you do not appreciate the significance of this reference check out <https://champagnethursday.org/>]

It's an exciting time to be a Rotarian that's for damn sure.

Thank you Kitty for your dedication to the aim of the Rotary Foundation to Good in the World.



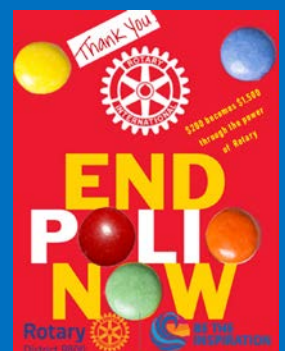
End Polio



\$41,398.68 (2017-2018) *

\$26,063.94 (Year to Date)

*** With District DDF contribution: \$79,399**

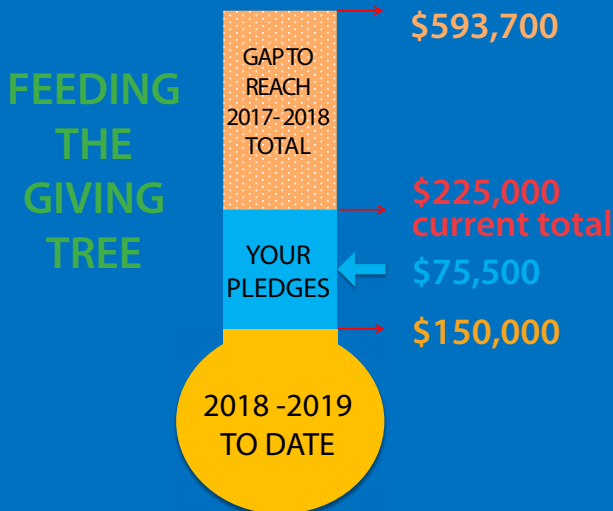


And still more ...

Our support for Foundation programs depends on the generosity of clubs and individual Rotarians. Thank you to the clubs who pledged \$75,000 for annual giving at the Conference, which is in addition to funds previously donated. We do not generally single out clubs but we do want to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Balwyn for a further increase in their annual giving to \$40,000.

Clubs that have already provided their annual giving or have pledged to do so are Albert Park, Altona, Bacchus Marsh, Balwyn, Bendigo, Bendigo Strathdale, Caroline Springs, Caulfield, Chadstone/E Malvern, E-club, Hawthorn, Laverton-Pt Cook, Malvern, Melbourne, North Balwyn, Prahran, Richmond, South Melbourne, Southbank, Toorak, Werribee, and Williamstown. Thank you to all of these clubs. We look forward to receiving the donations from clubs that have pledged and from other clubs yet to confirm their annual giving.

D9800 Annual Giving



The Rotary Showcase provided another connection to Rotarians, Clubs and Districts. It was wonderful to be representing Rotary at our Foundation booth working with PDG **Tony Monley** and **Kathy** from 9810, painting purple pinkies, assisting in the sales of Jeffrey Tan's book (100% proceeds to Foundation thanks to sponsors) and answering questions about the Foundation. We also had the support of **Bruce Allen** and **Mark Anderson** from Rotary's Parramatta office. A serendipitous connection was made with RC Moe and a carton of Smartie jars will do their job in another district.

Another fabulous Foundation program, The Royce & Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship, supported by the Royce Abbey Award, also was able to promote its message.

The conference concluded with a meal packing project to assist the FORaMEAL emergency food relief program initiated by **RC Canterbury** and supported by a District Foundation Grant.

Your Foundation is indeed the engine room of Rotary.



The recognition of PDG **Gordon McKern**, our District Paul Harris Society Chair for nearly the past six years, with Rotary's highest honour, the Service Above Self award, was entirely fitting. To have it presented by Past RI Director and Past Foundation Trustee, **Bryn Styles** (a recipient of the award himself), was extra special.



The pictures say it all!



Bryn Styles entertaining the guests at the Foundation Breakfast



Foundation Breakfast: PDG Gordon McKern PHS Chair, DG Bronwyn Stephens, Bryn Styles, PRIP Ian Riseley, RIPR Stephanie Urchick with Adrian Nelson Major Donor



Polio sufferer, John Soe making a contribution to End Polio by purchasing 2 cookbooks at the booth.



PDG Ian Knight, DG Bronwyn Stephens, Bryn Styles, new Bequest Society member, Bec Heitbaum, PRIP Ian Riseley, and RIPR Stephanie Urchick



Global Grant Scholar, Katie Wilford from Iowa, USA was thrilled to meet PRIP Ian Riseley. Katie shared her passion at the District session.



PDG Gordon McKern, DG Bronwyn Stephens, Major Donors Cheryl and David Pisterman, with Bryn Styles, PRIP Ian Riseley, and RIPR Stephanie Urchick



Rotarians know how to have fun - that award certainly got the girls, Tilman Ruff!

And if you didn't get there ... more pics!



Fighting to End Polio in the World



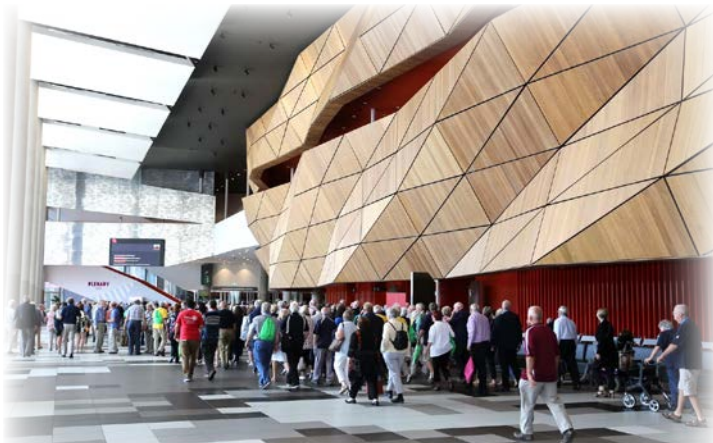
PRIP Ian Riseley with symbol peace, an olive tree



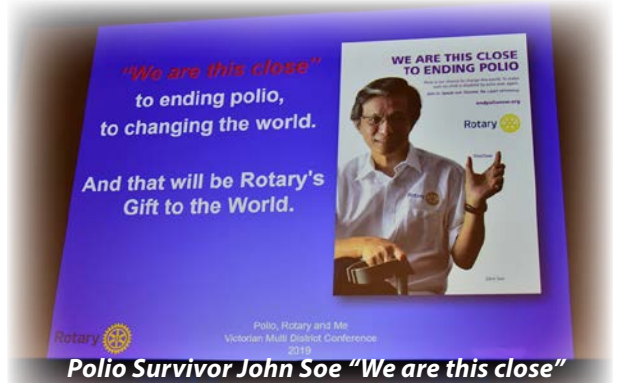
Multi-District Attendees - we did say it was big!



Kathy Monley painting pinkies, Jeffrey Tan selling books to End Polio



*Heading off to Lunch in the Rotary Showcase
PDGs Murray and Peter with Anne MDC Plenary*



Polio Survivor John Soe "We are this close"



DGs from four Victorian Districts with RIPR Stephanie Urchick

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DISTRICT 9800

The
Rotary
Foundation



Doing Good in the World

