

The *Networker*

A publication for Rotarians
and all community minded
people.



Rotary



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month in Rotary

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Quick Links:

The Rotarian: https://rotarianmagazine-us.rotary.org/rotarian/january_2020/

Rotary On The Move: <https://rotaryclubofmiltonulladulla.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-12-Rotary-on-the-Move-Newsletter-Zone-8.pdf>

Interplast: <https://www.interplast.org.au/>

Donations in Kind's new website: <https://rotarydik.org/>

Rotary Down Under: <https://rotarydownunder.com.au/>

SAVE THE DATES

Rotary Leadership / Learning Institute 2020

Sunday February 16th at Montague Learning Centre South Melbourne—one day special 9-5

Sunday February 23rd in Bendigo—one day special 9-5

District 9800 News

District Recognition Awards

Each year Rotary District 9800 takes the opportunity to recognise and thank Members and clubs for their hard work and dedication to a wide variety of projects, both locally and internationally.

Traditionally these awards have been selected closer to District Changeover in June and awarded then.

This year the awards will be presented at the District Conference from 27-29 March 2020. The bigger audience will provide more gravitas to the awards and allow for celebration with more members of your club and broader District.

This means that Nominations are due in by COB Friday 28 February 2020.

[More information is here.](#)

[The application form is here.](#)

Well Done to Rotary Hawthorn

Hawthorn is the first Club to have sent in ALL their Volunteer Declaration Forms to the District Secretary.

Thank you so much and very well done to the President. Charlotte England. This requirement for the completion of the Volunteer Declarations to support the Working With Children Check process has been mentioned during the DG visits and is an important part of our compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards, Rotary requirements and also good governance principles.



Year 11-12 Foundation Scholarships Now Fully Subscribed

The D9800 Rotary Foundation District Grants for Year 11-12 students have once again been enormously successful. Congratulations to the following clubs that have been awarded grants, from which a total of 20 students will benefit in 2020-2021.

Club	School
Bendigo Sandhurst	Victory Christian College
Flemington Kensington	Kensington Community High School
North Melbourne	Simonds College
Laverton-Point Cook	Laverton P-12
Werribee	Wyndham Central College
Kew	Swinburne Secondary College
Melbourne	Melbourne Girls College
Melton	Melton Secondary College
Keilor	Keilor Downs Secondary College
Essendon	Rosehill Secondary College
Castlemaine	Castlemaine Secondary College
Footscray	Braybrook Secondary College
Kyneton	Kyneton High School
Bendigo	Catherine McCauley College



District Governor Grant Hocking

Seasons Greetings Rotarians

As we near the end of the first 6 months of the Rotary it's time to reflect and celebrate on our achievements. So much has happened across all clubs and the District and we are achieving results. This is due to the dedicated efforts of every Rotarian in every club and the District support team at every level. The heartbeat of Rotary is at the clubs.

Recently at the RYLA event I made the comment that if anyone asks you what Rotary does a simply response is **'We Change Lives'**. This is evident in all our activities locally and across the world. It applies across all the Areas of Focus and in everything we do.

For more than 110 years, we've connected the world to champion peace, fight poverty, provide education, clean water, sanitation, and fight disease including the eradication of polio.

We know that Rotary changes the lives of others, but it also changes our lives. We are enriched by the friends we make, the things we do, and the lives we change.

As clubs wind down for a rest over the next few weeks remember to celebrate your achievements and refocus your goals for next year.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and wish you all a new year full of health, happiness and prosperity.



Grant Hocking ASM (Melissa)

Woodend Rotary

District 9800 District Governor 2019-2020

Email: granthocking64@gmail.com

Phone: 0429 802 722



Did you miss out on the special early bird ticket prices for the District Conference?

Never fear, we've released a special allocation of tickets for the **month of December for just \$325** (only \$25 more than the early bird prices!) but make sure you get in before the end of the year, because once the clock strikes midnight on NYE - the tickets will go up to full price!

It will be a fantastic weekend filled with interesting guest speakers and a chance to network. The Marketplace is where you will gather Rotary information and this is the place to hear about projects. You can also enjoy the hospitality of Bendigo and spend time in this wonderful regional centre.

So what are you waiting for? It is time to book. Melissa and I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Guest Speakers: <https://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/conference2020/guest-speakers>

<https://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/conference2020/district-9800-conference>

Showcase your Project at District 9800 Conference 2020!

This is an amazing opportunity for your members to experience rotary beyond your club. A chance to see and experience some of the wonderful projects and programs that are being undertaken throughout our district, throughout our country and indeed throughout the world.

D9800 Conference 2020 Showcase will be held in the school gymnasium adjacent to the Ulumbarra Theatre - an ideal location for us to explore possibilities and opportunities all whilst enjoying our breaks from the Conference. Does your club have a project that you would like to promote throughout the district? Registrations are now open for you to come on board, attend Showcase 2020 as an exhibitor and join in the fun of D9800 Conference 2020 where we will be enjoying *Conversation, Connection, Collaboration and Celebration*.

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=512765>

Midsumma Festival

Over the last few years Rotary District 9800 has joined the Victorian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter-sex (LGBTI) community to celebrate at the [Midsumma Festival](#).

In 2020, Rotarians from D9800 will once again be participating in 2 main events as part of the festival;

- ** Midsumma Carnival on Sunday 19th January at Alexandra Gardens on the Yarra
- ** Pride March on Sunday 2 February, meeting near Fitzroy St, St Kilda. Details out soon.



Midsumma is a fantastic event to be part of and I look forward to seeing you there. More details will be available soon or contact Sue Vincent at the Rotary Club of Prahran siv1966.sv@gmail.com.

Please keep an eye on the [Diversity Equity Inclusion web page](#) and the [Diversity Facebook page](#).

Chartering of the Rotary Passport Club of Melbourne

Saturday November 30th was the celebration and formal charter of the newest club in the District. The tables stretched the length of the Donations in Kind aisle again as Rotarians and friends from across the District gathered to welcome the new members. A large number of Rotary leaders supported the new club including Past District Governors John King & Elaine, Jim Studebaker & Carol, Peter Frueh & Ann, District Governor Nominees Dale Hoy and Bruce Cameron from District 9810. Grant and Jenny were ably assisted by Victoria Porter and Deb Sloggett in the organising of the day.

Mark Tognon President of the Rotary Club of Keilor East presented Jenny Foster with a plaque in recognition of their chartering as the mother club.

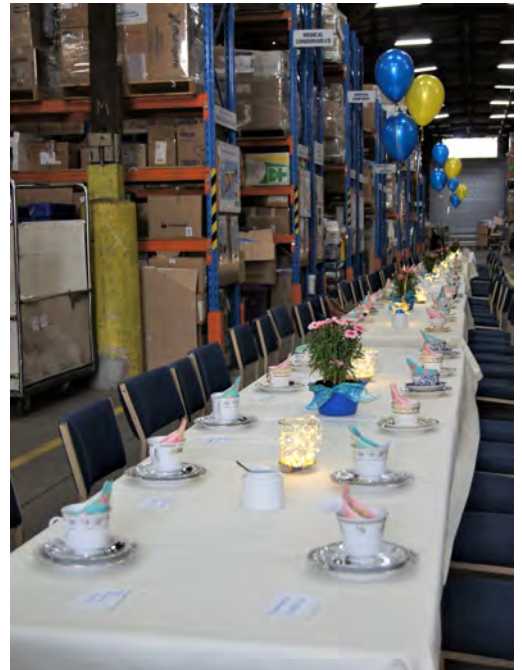
Charter President Maria Hicks was formally inducted by District Governor Grant Hocking before assisting with the induction of the 40 new members {some of whom could not attend due to overseas commitments}. These new members are already working in or committed to projects in Cambodia, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Timor Leste, Malawe and Vanuatu.



Jenny Foster was made speechless and brought to tears with the announcement of the 41st member: husband Charles who was a Rotary Exchange student to Africa during apartheid. He has resisted Rotary for many years but has now taken the plunge along with Jenny's son Nick. Jenny's father, a long time Rotarian was there to witness her efforts in establishing the Passport Club come to life.

The ladies from Essendon CWA provided a magnificent High Tea served on beautiful afternoon tea china and with tiered cake stands filled with home made delights. Many thanks to Jenny Nola and her team.





Rotary Wyndham Harbour cleans up the river

Clean, healthy rivers reduce human health risk and improved quality of life. Less trash increases recreational activities along rivers— clean and safe walk and runs trails for the community. As recreational activities increase, tourists will be attracted. Thus, affecting both the economy and well-being of the community.

In a bid to tackle the environmental burden in our community, we decided to clean up the downstream mess in the river! On November 24th November at the Riverbend Historic Park Werribee, members of the club alongside about 60 other volunteers from various groups cleaned up the Werribee river.

1000kg of litter and rubbish, 95 glass bottles, 200 plastics and 63 cans were retrieved from the river and its bank. Other groups such as Ocean Crusaders, Green Living in Wyndham, Melbourne water and Beach Patrol were in attendance.

Kids were not left out of the fun as they had a prep talk at the beginning of the clean-up exercise about the advantages of waste reduction and proper waste disposal.

We hope to get involved in more clean-up exercises in the future as we fight to beat plastic pollution in our community and the world at large.

Mamode Osikoya

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<https://www.facebook.com/RCofWH/posts/552346872164013>



Newport Lakes EarlyAct Club

Members of the EarlyAct Club together with teachers presented to the Rotary Club of Williamstown last month.

EarlyAct Clubs strive to promote goodwill, understanding and peace through the active participation of their student members, so that with committed citizenship and effective leadership they may improve the quality of life of their school, local and global communities. Involvement in an EarlyAct Club teaches values such as caring, respect, responsibility, tolerance, compassion, friendship and leadership.

At a young age, all students can easily be encouraged to be caring and helpful. Their minds are open to recognize the dignity and worth of each individual which builds respect for others. EarlyAct also engages students in character-building activities and prepares them for leadership roles to identify and carry out projects that benefit all. The children meet at lunchtime in their own time. 35 of the children of Newport Lakes Primary are participants.

The children explained what EarlyAct has meant to them.

- Helping community in different ways
- Developing skills, teamwork, critical thinking, leadership
- Raising awareness for St Jude school in Tanzania
- Planning and establishing a Book library at the school
- Good feeling to helping others less fortunate
- Providing life essentials for homeless.
- One person can make a difference
- Awareness of issues that exist in the world and how to make changes

For the last few months the children have been working on a community library which will operate via a book swap method where tokens are exchanged for books. The library box will sit outside the school fence.



Bushland Dreaming at Quarry Hill Primary School

On November 15th, Quarry Hill Primary School celebrated the launch of their Bushland Dreaming space.

The Bushland has always been a big part of the school with significant work being done over the years to create a **space that promotes creative, imaginative play. This was, in part, in response to the state government's investigation** in 2007 into playground spaces in Victoria where they found that young children need exposure to natural environments to appreciate complex variations of texture, sound, light, smell, colour and temperature.

Fast forward to 2018, when the *Friends of Bushland* group was formed. This group of enthusiastic parents, teachers, students and community members brainstormed ideas to make the space more meaningful and vibrant whilst still keeping it child friendly and fun.

Collaboration began between the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation and the school that saw us form a partnership for a project. It quickly became clear that we would benefit from connecting with, and learning more from, the traditional owners of the land. After a number of discussions, it was decided that we would like to use part of the bushland space to give our students and the wider community the opportunity to better understand how our local Aboriginal People lived and cared for our local environment.



The mural depicting the 6 seasons and the plants and animals

We learnt that the Dja Dja Wurrung and other local Aboriginal clans had a different approach to measuring the rhythms of the Australian landscapes. Depending on location, the number of seasons varied, and the transition from one season to the next was marked by natural events such as the appearance of certain birds, the flowering of different plants and other natural phenomena.

The Dja Dja Wurrung recognised six seasons, acknowledging Early Winter, Deep Winter, Pre-Spring, True Spring, High Summer and Late Summer. This was something that the group felt the school could replicate through the planting of indigenous plants and the creation of seasonal garden beds.

The 'Bushland Dreaming' vision started to form.

A grant for this project was accessed through Strathfieldsaye and Districts Community Enterprises. The generous grant and other school fundraising allowed us to employ the very talented Dja Dja Wurrung local artist, Natasha Carter to work with our staff and students to paint a mural depicting the birds, plants and animals associated with the six seasons. It also allowed us to create the six seasonal beds, a Welcome Gateway, interpretative signage, and a very impressive dry river bed! We were also fortunate to be able to purchase two wonderful wooden carvings created by the amazing local sculptor Linton Torr.

When Bendigo & Strathdale Rotary Club heard about the project, they quickly came on board and donated a sizable monetary contribution to assist with the purchase of the plants and trees. Their generosity meant that our indigenous plant selection could be closely matched to the conditions of each season. A lot of hard work by a lot of enthusiastic people has resulted in a very beautiful space of which we are incredibly proud.

The
Rotary
Foundation



District 9800
Community Grant

Greg Penno
PP RC of Bendigo Strathdale
dragoncity@hotmail.com

Dennis Johanson, Strathfield-
saye and Districts Community



The champ creator of Probus clubs

Rotary clubs, focused on holding their own membership, don't often set up new Probus clubs. Rotary started the Probus movement in 1976 for retirees who want to make friends and keep active rather than do charity work. With the bulge of baby-boomer retirements, there's now plenty of potential for new Probus clubs. In District 9800, there's 89 Probus clubs with 7100 members, compared with 65 Rotary clubs and 2188 members. Rotary D9800 set up eight clubs from 2010-16, but none since:

Year	Probus Club	Members as at 6/2018	Sponsor Club
2010	Melb. Sunrise	95	Central Melbourne
2013	Taylors Lakes	65	Brimbank
2013	Keilor East	200	Keilor East
2014	Sanctuary Lakes/Pt Cook	120	Laverton/Pt Cook
2014	Deepdene	33	Glenferrie
2014	Maribyrnong Riverside	30	Flemington
2016	Carlton Gardens	50	Carlton
2016	Avondale Heights	72	Keilor East

A champion creator of Probus clubs is retired electrical engineer Robert Renshaw 78, of D9810's Glen Waverley Rotary (about 60 members). Since 2016 he's helped set up eight new Probus clubs.

Glen Waverley RC, in District 9810, has a long history with Probus. In 2002 it ran an "interest meeting" for a new Probus club and got 200 applicants – so it started two Probus clubs at once. Members at the Syndal Combined Probus and Wheelers Hill Combined Probus have since grown to 300.



Year	Probus Club	Members as at 6/2018	Sponsor Club
2016	Glen Waverley	80	Glen Waverley
2016	Croydon Park	125	Boronia
2018	Wantirna South	35	Rowville/Lysterfield
2018	Endeavour Hills	40	Endeavour Hills
2018	Doncaster Valley	40	Doncaster
2018	Kerrimuir	35	Box Hill Central
2019	Mont Albert N.	40	Mont Albert
2019	Ringwood Lake	40	Mitcham

Robert straddles the Rotary and Probus worlds.

He's been 47 years in four Rotary Clubs, is District 9810's Probus Chairman, is Syndal Probus's current president, and was a Probus national director from 2016 to 2018.

Wearing multiple hats, he helped start these D9810 Probus clubs:

Robert explains, "We scan census and suburb data looking for big groups of retirees. Probus South Pacific suggests 4% of retirees in an area would support a club but I work on 3%."

Clubs typically start with about 30 members and grow by word of mouth.

"The challenges in starting a club are effective marketing of the initial meeting and finding a right-sized but low-cost venue. Commercial venues often charge too much. City council facilities work well – there's about eight Probus clubs all meeting at Monash City Council.

"We've got 18 Probus clubs in the Monash City zone, but a decade ago we had 26. Some clubs start with 60 year-olds but don't keep recruiting. Members get old, don't join the committee and scale back activities until the club folds.

"Some Rotarians see Probus as a competitor. That's silly. They cater for different markets. Help from Rotary clubs can revive Probus clubs and Probus people's adult kids can be Rotary recruits."

Want to get a Probus club started? Contact District 9800's Mark Schirmer, mark@hyp.net.au or Probus – Joshua Stojanovic on 1300 630 488.

Tony Thomas, Rotary Central Melbourne

Interplast in Mongolia

15-year-old Enkhzaya saw on Facebook that an Interplast team was to visit Dalanzadgad (known as DZ, a city in the south of Mongolia) this year.

She contacted local partner Dr Batgombo and included photos of her burn scars. Dr Batgombo was able to contact the Interplast team and arrange for Enkhzaya to be seen when they arrived in DZ.

Enkhzaya lives in DZ where she attends school while her family looks after their herds in rural areas. When she was **just two, she fell onto a pot of boiling water which was over an open fire. Enkhzaya's family were migrating their cattle from one area to another, so they were living in a camping-style tent.**

Enkhzaya was very keen to see the Interplast team as her burn scars to her left arm and foot were restricting her activities. She enjoys volleyball which she plays in a local competition however the scar contracture to her left foot was causing her to be unstable and she had fallen and caused herself further injury this year.

Enkhzaya also enjoys dancing and dressing up, but she is unable to wear fashionable shoes and is restricted in some of her movements. She is the eldest of three girls and she loves spending time with her sisters.

Enkhzaya had release surgery of the burn scar to her foot with a full thickness skin graft and a Z-plasty repair to her arm. A full thickness skin graft is where a wound is closed with a graft which consists of the epidermis (outermost layer of the skin) and the entire thickness of the dermis (main layer of skin). A Z-plasty is a surgical technique to release pressure on a scar using a Z-shaped cut.

Enkhzaya's family were very happy she was able to have the surgery required to improve her mobility and activities as she aspires to studying law at university and wants to continue to play volleyball competitively.

Enkhzaya would greet the team every morning at ward rounds with a huge smile. The night after her surgery **Enkhzaya messaged Dr Batgombo with "Thank you for everything and please send my deepest thoughtful words to the Australian Doctors. I am so happy, even if I say many thanks to you it is not enough. I owe a lot for your Doctors. Thank you very much."**

The Interplast program in DZ was supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and other donors.



Pictured: Enkhzaya with volunteer nurse Mary Gow and with her young sister.



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Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives
in the Asia Pacific region

The Rotary Foundation honours

The Rotary Club of Camberwell was acknowledged as being the highest per capita contributing club in District 9800 at the Paul Harris breakfast in November..

The Club donated US\$47,500 at a Per Capita rate of US\$658 per member.

The Rotary Club of Balwyn was acknowledged as the second highest donating Club in total and second highest per capita donating club.



Above: Graeme Hope, Camberwell receiving the banner from District Governor Grant Hocking.

Left: District Governor Grant Hocking presenting the banner to Jim Cary, Balwyn.



The Rotary Clubs of Port Melbourne and Williamstown receive banners for being the only two clubs in the District with a 100% personal contribution rate by their members. Graeme congratulated all members of Camberwell Rotary for their support of the Rotary Foundation.



Above: AG Rosemary Waghorne accepting the banner from DG Grant on behalf of the Rotary Club of Port Melbourne.

Left: PP Nils Oman accepting the banner for the Rotary Club of Williamstown from DG Grant

World Health Organisation update

While December is known as Disease Prevention and Treatment Month in Rotary, 3 specific issues have come to the fore in recent days.

1. More than 140 000 die from measles as cases surge worldwide

Worldwide more than 200 000 people died from measles in 2018-19 according to new estimates from WHO and CDC. These deaths occurred as measles cases surged globally, amidst devastating outbreaks in all regions. Most deaths were among children under 5 years of age. Contracting the measles virus can have further long-term health impacts, with the virus **damaging the immune system's memory for months or even years following infection. This 'immune amnesia' leaves survivors vulnerable to other potentially deadly diseases, like influenza or severe diarrhoea, by harming the body's immune defences.** Measles is preventable through vaccination. However, vaccination rates globally have stagnated for almost a decade. WHO and UNICEF estimate that **86% of children globally received the first dose of measles vaccine through their country's routine vaccination services in 2018, and fewer than 70% received the second recommended dose.**

Poorest countries hardest hit but measles remains a staggering global challenge with the worst impacts of measles were in sub-Saharan Africa, where many children have persistently missed out on vaccination.

This year, the United States reported its highest number of cases in 25 years, while four countries in Europe - Albania, Czechia, Greece and the United Kingdom – lost their measles elimination status in 2018 following protracted outbreaks of the disease

2. Malaria: The number of pregnant women and children in sub-Saharan Africa sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets and benefiting from preventive medicine for malaria has increased significantly in recent years, according to the World Health Organization's [World malaria report 2019](#).

However, accelerated efforts are needed to reduce infections and deaths in the hardest-hit countries, as progress stalls. Last year, malaria afflicted 228 million people and killed an estimated 405 000, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Pregnancy reduces a woman's immunity to malaria, making her more susceptible to infection and at greater risk of illness, severe anaemia and death. Maternal malaria also interferes with the growth of the fetus, increasing the risk of premature delivery and low birth weight – a leading cause of child mortality.

Although progress in many high burden countries has stalled, a growing number of countries with a low burden of malaria are moving quickly towards the goal of zero malaria. In 2018, 27 countries reported less than 100 cases of malaria, up from 17 countries in 2010. **At least 10 countries that are part of WHO's "E-2020 initiative" are on track to reach the 2020 elimination milestone of the global strategy.** Globally, a total of 38 countries and territories have been certified malaria-free by WHO.

3. Climate Change. Safeguarding human health from climate change impacts is more urgent than ever, yet most countries are not acting fully on their own plans to achieve this, according to the first global snapshot of progress on climate change and health. [The new report](#) draws on data from 101 countries surveyed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and reported in the *2018 WHO Health and Climate Change Survey Report*.

Countries are increasingly prioritising climate change and health, with half of the countries surveyed having developed a national health and climate change strategy or plan. Worryingly, only about 38% have finances in place to even partially implement their national strategy of plan, and fewer than 10% channelling resources to implement it completely.

Forty-eight percent of countries have conducted an assessment of the climate risks to public health. The most common climate sensitive health risks were identified by countries as heat stress, injury or death from extreme weather events, food, water and vector-borne diseases (such as cholera, dengue or malaria). However, about 60% of these countries report that the assessment findings have had little or no influence on the allocation of human and financial resources to meet their adaptation priorities for protecting health. Mainstreaming health in national and international climate processes could help access the necessary funds.

Previous work has shown that the value of health gains from reducing carbon emissions would be approximately double the cost of implementing these actions at global level, and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement could save about a million lives a year worldwide by 2050 through reductions in air pollution alone. However, many countries are not able to take advantage of this potential. The survey shows that less than 25% of countries have clear collaborations between health and the key sectors driving climate change and air pollution; transportation, electricity generation and household energy.

The health gains that would result from cutting carbon emissions are rarely reflected in national climate commitments, with only one-fifth of NDCs mentioning health in the context of emissions reductions and 1 in 10 NDCs mentioning the expected health gains.

ROTARY 100 YEARS PEACE SYMPOSIUM UPDATE:

Rob Helme (Rotary Melbourne) is seeking some support especially with contacts for our indigenous community to facilitate the proposed session on Indigenous reconciliation. Rob has presented his update on the Peace Symposium to be held on April, 22 & 23, 2021 in Melbourne.

"As you know, Rotary Melbourne, through and with the District 9800 Foundation Committee, has maintained an unbroken record of mentoring successful Peace Fellows from the start of the program in 2001, firstly under the guidance of Bob Fels and more recently by myself.

We believe we are the most successful District in the world in this Internationally competitive process. The number of endorsed candidates from D9800 selected for Peace Fellowships now stands at 40.

Next year we will be adding another interested community organisation to our network who assist us in identifying possible candidates, The SES in Victoria. This adds to the group consisting, in particular, RedR, Victoria Police and past Fellows. Rotary Melbourne members are also asked to continue their support.

This year we had a record four successful candidates from 6 endorsed by the D9800 committee in June of this year, 4% of the world total! The four successful candidates this year were:

- Essan Dileri. He was nominated by past Peace Fellow Jessica Trjisberg. Essan was a refugee from Afghanistan with a price on his head, now an Australian citizen working in Local Government at Melton. He will enter the Certificate course at Chulalongkorn in June 2020
- Jenelle Fuller was nominated by Victoria Police and maintains their record in the program with now 9 out of 9 applicants being successful in gaining admission to the Certificate program. She will join with Essan in the June 2020 intake at Chula.
- Eva Mackinley was nominated by PDG July Mason from Wyndham Rotary Club through to Rotary Melbourne. **Eva is well known to Rotary Melbourne's Bob Fels as she was selected on the team of young adults which attended the RI President's Peace Conference in Hiroshima six years ago led by him and Tania Militec; our first Peace Fellow.** Eva undertook a late entry degree at Deakin University. Eva will be going to Bradford University to undertake a **master's degree starting in the Northern summer of 2020.**
- Natascha Hryckow, a Latrobe University graduate, came to us through RedR. Her career has been unusual, even for RedR. Natascha, educated at LaTrobe University, lives in Paris and undertakes consultative work for the WHO, UN, EU and NATO in regional crisis and conflict situations. However, in the past few days Natascha has been offered a position as co-ordinator for the Somali Sanctions Committee of the UN and is now unlikely to be in a position to take up the Fellowship.

You will recall that one of our Peace Fellows, Lucienne Heyworth was honoured by RI as a Rotary Person of Action at an Award ceremony in New York earlier this month. Lucienne, a graduate teacher from the University of Melbourne, came to us as a consequence of interest provoked by her UN employer in a Jordanian refugee camp, and was quickly mentored jointly by the Rotary Club of Fitzroy and Melbourne Rotary.

Since graduation from Uppsala University in Sweden in 2017 she has been employed in the middle east by UNESCO and Caritas in education program design and implementation for refugees in Jordan, Syria Yemen and Lebanon. A tough environment in which to work for peace!

A number of our Peace Fellows and Rotarians are currently engaged in developing the program for a Peace Symposium entitled **"The future of Peace Leadership"** to be held as part of the celebrations surrounding the Centenary of Rotary in Australasia in 2021.

We aim to enhance collaboration between Rotarians, Peace Fellows and the community through this initiative. I ask you **to note the "Save the Date" flyer we have provided for April 21 and 22, 2021 and join with us at that time to** celebrate and, simultaneously, learn how peace programs and projects will develop through the 21st Century in our region.

The program is not fully set in concrete and Rob would particularly like to ask for help in respect of any contacts you may have to enable the indigenous community to facilitate the proposed session on Indigenous reconciliation.

Dorothy Gilmour

Melbourne Rotary

Disc Golf in Bendigo

The Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale has resolved to introduce Disc Golf into the Bendigo Community.

We are doing this from a Membership Perspective hoping to connect to a younger generation. We aim to show that Rotary can be fun, that we share concerns for our natural environment, and we can promote physical and mental health by engaging in this simple act of walking and enjoying health exercise, and promoting a healthy lifestyle, having fun as we go.

After attending the RICON (Rotary International Conference) in Toronto we visited Portland Oregon where we saw the game being played. Upon my return to Bendigo I went to see the City of Greater Bendigo to see if we could garner support for such a venture and I WAS advised that I was timely, in that the Council had already just commenced discussions with young people keen to introduce Disc Golf into Bendigo.

After linking up with Bendigo Disc Golf I was successful in getting the Rotary Clubs of Bendigo and Kangaroo Flat to link with us, and we received a Rotary Foundation District Community Grant, matching our funds to \$3,000.

Bendigo Disc Golf and Rotary, together with support from Quarry Hill Golf Club and Quarry Hill State Primary School, applied to the City of Greater Bendigo for a Grant of \$10,000 and we were successful, without too much pushing I might add. Hopefully we should see a 9 hole Disc Golf Course completed at Quarry Hill Golf Course this month.

There is no better way to connect to the community than having fun in a light-hearted activity, that promotes friendship and fitness in the natural environment. As a Club we intend to start a group initially as a friend's group, Strathdale Rotary Disc Golf. From our first "Come and Try Day" with over 100 in attendance we can see a fantastic future for this initiative.

There are a few courses in Victoria, Inverleigh Golf Club, Barwon Valley Disc Golf, Ruffey Lake Disc Golf in Doncaster, Clarinda, and Blue Gum Reserve Frisbee Golf Course on Philip Island.

We hope to have our Bendigo Course up and running for the start of the New Year, but what we would love to see is other Rotary Clubs getting involved and sharing our experience.

Greg Penno
Rotary Strathdale
dragoncity@hotmail.com



WHY DISC GOLF

A FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY

Disc golf is a healthy lifestyle activity, perfectly suited for people of all ages and abilities. It can be enjoyed both individually as a recreational sport and played casually with family and friends. With similar rules to traditional golf, players throw specially designed golf discs from a tee area into an elevated target basket. With over 8000 courses now found in more than 40 countries, it is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Disc golf is a passive sport which provides low impact, aerobic exercise – all whilst connecting people with nature. The unique challenge offered by disc golf helps diversify the recreational opportunities available for local communities. As a low-cost entry sport that's easy to begin playing, disc golf is suitable for a wide demographic from all socio-economic backgrounds. Disc golf provides participants with a walk in the park with purpose. Many people find themselves "hooked" on the sport, playing regularly to hone their skills and enjoy both the positive social and physical health benefits it offers. It takes only one hour to learn, but a lifetime to master!

PDGA Membership 2018 - Age Group



WHO PLAYS DISC GOLF

Disc golf can be enjoyed by anyone despite age and level of experience, providing an inexpensive means of fitness for life. Disc golf is so easy to learn. Therefore, no one is excluded, making it an excellent

DISC GOLF
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choice for families to enjoy together. The Professional Disc Golf Association, with a member base of over 115,000, is the governing body for the sport and sanctions competitive events for men and women of every skill level from novice to professional. In 2018, PDGA memberships grew by 13.13% to 46,457 active members. Whilst male participants make up 92% of the total membership base, female participation has increased by an astounding 300% over the past decade, with a modest 906 female PDGA members in 2008, growing to 3619 members in 2018.

GROWTH

The past few years have seen huge growth in disc golf participation, with more and more courses, clubs and people casually playing the sport all over the world. There are now over 8,000 courses and over 20 million regular players made up of an exceptionally wide and diverse demographic.

GROWTH & PARTICIPATION IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia, disc golf is experiencing significant growth. There are now over 70 courses in the country, with more than half of these courses installed in the last 5 years alone. Our RAD designers have been responsible for 90% of the total course development. With this increased accessibility to the sport, participation in disc golf has grown dramatically in a short period.

Rotary Internal President's Report

December 2019

There is no experience quite like attending the Rotary International Convention.

Discover the true spirit of aloha and Rotary with your family, friends, and fellow Rotarians from 6 to 10 June in Honolulu. It is the perfect setting for the entire family of Rotary to celebrate, collaborate, and connect.

There are two types of people who enjoy visits to Hawaii — those who have never been to the islands and are about to have unique and wonderful experiences, and those who have had those Hawaiian moments etched into their memories already and cannot wait to create some new ones.

The convention is the best place to find and share your aloha, which you will soon discover is much more than a greeting. Just as Rotary is a way of life for Rotarians, aloha is a way of life for Hawaiians — one that focuses on living in harmony, being patient, treating everyone with respect, and sharing joy with your family, or 'ohana.

Our host committee has arranged some fabulous events for you and your family. This includes a Hawaiian Culture and Lunch Boat Cruise, a two-hour tour that will feature spectacular views of Diamond Head, Waikiki, and the Kahala Gold Coast. On board, you can learn to play the ukulele, take part in hula dancing, and create your own Hawaiian flower lei.

You will also have the opportunity to enjoy a full range of island hospitality events, from small backyard picnics to multicourse family meals. There will be fantastic service projects to see, including two ancient Hawaiian fishponds. And a sunrise Walk for Peace will take place at the beautiful Ala Moana Beach Park, a 3-mile stroll in the shadow of the iconic Diamond Head crater.

Inside and outside the convention halls, we are going to hold the most family-friendly convention in Rotary history, including a family-centered opening ceremony and family-focused events in the House of Friendship. The opening session will, of course, include our traditional flag ceremony.

Our 2020 convention will also be a time to celebrate Rotary's historical ties to the United Nations. As I mentioned in my November message, June 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations charter. On the day before the start of the convention, Rotary and the UN will host our fifth joint event of 2019-20, one focused on environmental sustainability.

In addition, we are planning the greenest convention in Rotary history — and I will share more details about this in the months ahead. But now, go to riconvention.org and click the REGISTER button right below the Honolulu Hawaii 2020 logo. Early registration discount pricing ends 15 December, so do not delay.

Rotary Connects the World in no better way than at the Rotary Convention. Bring your family to meet our family. See you in Honolulu!



Mark Daniel Moloney December 2019





Nominations NOW OPEN

Rotary's Southern District 'Shine On' recognition program is an outstanding annual recognition program, acknowledging exceptional service by people with disability to their local and wider community.

The Southern Districts covers five districts, including our own District 9800.

- Do you know of somebody with a disability who provides outstanding support to others with disability?
- Are they a community leader or involved in a community group?

Do you have a relationship with a local organisation that supports people with disability who may want to nominate somebody for Shine On?

Well it is time to get to it and reach out to your local community and identify people with a disability, who are worthy of a Shine On Certificate of Commendation.

To be eligible, nominees should:

- Demonstrate the active involvement of the nominee in community service for the benefit of others and have demonstrated a significant level of personal achievement whilst managing a specific medical disorder/disability, and Be endorsed by your Rotary Club.

Examples of personal achievement may include:

- Leadership and/or mentoring of others with the disability
- Membership and/or leadership in community groups
- Service to the community and/or a history of community achievement

Other special awards or forms of recognition

Nominations may be made by anybody in the community, and are open to people aged over 15 years.

Rotary Southern Districts 'Shine On' is a multi-district project covering all of Victoria (and small parts of SA and NSW), and acknowledges exceptional service to others by people with disabilities. Clubs may nominate people who meet the criteria and all nominees will receive recognition with a Certificate of Commendation.

A Rotary club must endorse each Nomination. The nominee must sign a consent form and include a small or passport sized photo, as well as other supporting documentation.

All relevant details including a nomination form are available on the District 9800 website at the following link:

<https://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/community-service/shine-on>

Nominations close on 1 January 2020. District 9810 is hosting the Event on Saturday 14th March 2020.

Venue: The Uniting Church Hall, Anderson Creek Rd, Doncaster East

Seniors Award to Dr Rodney Syme



Dr Rodney Syme has been a distinguished surgeon and physician in Victoria for over 50 years. While he could have limited himself to treating physical conditions, his conscience and compassion have led him to } examine the needs and concerns of patients at the end of their lives.

Dr Syme has drawn attention to the limitations of palliative care and } fearlessly campaigned for the last 25 years on the need for a regime where patients, in limited and guided circumstances, have the right to choose how they die. He has been a tireless advocate for considered public debate, public education and law reform to provide options and control of choices to those individuals with end stage terminal illnesses.

His strong and successful advocacy for the availability of medically assisted death with many safeguards has become law in Victoria since June 2019 in the form of the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation. In relation to this legislation, Dr Syme has stated that few people who are given access to the law will use it, rather it will encourage doctors and patients to have an open dialogue and give dying people greater autonomy over the end of their life.

Good communication and support will hopefully alleviate patients' fear and the psychological and existential suffering about their death.

Dr Syme's public advocacy for medically assisted death has caused him many fights with the medical establishment over the years. In 2016 he successfully appealed a ban imposed on him by the Medical Board of Australia aimed at stopping him providing advice to terminally ill patients.

Once dubbed by the broadcaster Andrew Denton as "Australia's oldest outlaw", Dr Syme can now point to the adoption by the Victorian Parliament of the Dying with Dignity legislation, and the likely adoption of similar legislation in other States, and his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year, as his welcome in from the cold.

Dr Syme meets all the criteria for the Rotary Club of Melbourne's Seniors Award and is a very worthy winner.

Dorothy Giomour
Rotary Club of Melbourne
Bulletin Editor

Welcome to our newest Rotarians ...

The Rotary Passport Club of Melbourne inducted 41 charter members on 30th November.

Maria Hicks OAM President

Jenny Foster Vice President and Membership Director

Russell Hayes Secretary

Lorena Hayes Treasurer

Luigi Soccio Foundation and Project Chair

Peter Gray International Chair

Victoria Porter Youth director

Johanna Peek

Madhuri Makey

Christina Robertson

John Ioannou

Selba Luka

Wilson Nzigye

Johanna Bisinella

Cameron Gardner

Charles Foster

Hannah Fromont

Sudeep Maskey

Aviv Palti

Nicholas Foster

Kwacha Luka

Jessica Whitney

Elizabeth Dymock

Russel Gauld

Darrel Steer

Peter Hall

Jessica Palti

Carolyn Walker

Jenny Nola

Michael Gallus

Alice Kennedy

Robert Rindzevicius

Justine Hissedji

Lois Beckwith

Emily Williamson

Benjamin Quansah

Pam Wood

Leopoldina Guterres

Isabelle Carriere

Sangita Sibakoti

The Rotary Club of Brighton has welcomed Ian Stacey as a new member. Ian has transferred from the Rotary Club of Christchurch, New Zealand and comes with excellent references according to PP Ivan Voljay. Ian is Managing Partner in the Taplow Group and business has brought him back to Melbourne. RC Christchurch are sorry to see him leave as he had been a Board member. Welcome Ian and Heather.



There was another induction at last week's meeting when Ian Stacy was welcomed to the club. There to carry out the procedure was from left Pres Keith Cameron, Director of Membership PP Ivan Voljay and Ian with wife Heather.

The Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst has welcomed 3 new members in November.

Chris Purton is a new Rotarian while Allie Lyall and Julia Grace have transferred from the Rotary Club of Echuca.

Allie joined Rotary in 1985 at Pakenham in District 9820, then transferred to Bunyip and Dromana before coming to Echuca. She was District Governor 9820 in 2002-2003. She has a keen interest in ROMAC and Interplast and was a nurse.

Julia joined the Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama in 2018, being inducted at their 70th birthday function.

She is also a nurse.

Chris Purton and his partner Petrice McCarthy have recently moved to Bendigo following retirement.



Pictured: Petrice, Allie, Julia and Chris.

Around the Clubs

President Kelly Abfalter of Essendon Rotary presented Don Knee with Honorary Membership for his many years of commitment and service. Congratulations and thank you to Don and Janet for their contributions and friendship.

Wyndham Harbour Rotary has welcomed David Mullins as a new member this month. He is pictured with President Rose Mary Kinuga and Vice President Domenic Cichello.



VALE George Waters

George Waters, Past President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst died after a massive heart attack in Bendigo Hospital on 29th November.

George was a larger than life, enthusiastic and exuberant Rotarian who participated actively in every activity.

As recently as October he attended the RLI course in Eaglehawk with fellow Bendigo Rotarians, even though he had participated previously. He wanted to be there to support others. An indication of the high regard in which George was held was the very large attendance at his funeral, including an impromptu Guard of Honour in Rotary dress. George was President under the leadership of District Governors Neville John and Peter Frueh, and Peter sent a copy of an email he had received from George on taking on the Presidency in 2017. It is a true indication of the warmth and with George displayed.

Our condolences to his partner Bernadette and his children.



VALE Gail Leask

Gail Leask, wife of Essendon Rotarian Roger passed way after a lengthy illness in November. She was farewelled by a large number of Essendon Rotarians at a service on 2nd December. Our sympathies to Roger and family.

For those wanting to make a donation to her memorial supporting Royal Melbourne Hospital Palliative Care you can do so at

<https://rmhinmemory.everydayhero.com/au/gail-leask-palliative-care-unit-fundraiser>



VALE Jim Shields

The Rotary Club of Williamstown mourns the passing of Jim Shields who was President 1971-72 .



Paul Sadler Swimland Est. 1972

Presented by

Rotary
Club of Brighton



Swimland Great Australia Day Swim 2020



Sunday 26 January 2020 at the Middle Brighton Pier

A great way to celebrate Australia Day!

FEATURING:

- 1400m and 2500m Open Water Swims.
- 650m Intermediate Swim.
- Swimland Junior Dash for 8-12 YO's.
- Registration from 7.45am.
- Main race 11.00am.
- Food stalls, live entertainment.

COMPETITORS RECEIVE:

- Free ticket for \$4,250 of Raffle Prizes, including Trip for 2 to Le Meridien Resort Noumea.
- Entrants receive an event T-shirt, colour-coded swim caps, drink, fruit and ice cream.
- Trophies and prizes for Open and Age events.
- Supervised by the GADS Water Safety Committee and the Brighton Lifesavers.



Australia Day



John Bertrand AO
PATRON

Principal Partner:



Paul Sadler Swimland

Event Partners:



Bayside Glen Eira



PURE SUPPLEMENTS



Check out
our Website:



www.greataustraliadayswim.com.au



The Rotary Club of
Essendon North

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday 26th January 2020

~ *Frank Costa AO OAM* ~

Hyatt Place Melbourne
Essendon Fields

Time: 7:45 arrival for 8:00am - 9:30am

Cost: \$40 per head - Buffet Breakfast

Proudly Supporting:



**WESTERN
CHANCES**

Sponsored By:

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 **Bendigo Bank**

Bookings Essential: www.trybooking.com/BGDDO

Contact: Peter Sturrock - 0419 871 953
Rod Gurry - 0412 338 844
David Mott - 0466 872 045

Save the date!

International Women's Day Breakfast

THURSDAY | AT 7AM - 9AM
5 MARCH 2020 | THE PALLADIUM



This event brought to you by Rotary Brighton North & Rotary Melbourne

Presenting Partner



Principal Partner



Major Sponsors



Event Sponsor

