

WHAT'S IN THIS BULLETIN

20 February 2024

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- Gallery

Meeting Responsibilities

Chair
FOWLER, Paul

Greeter/Zoom Host
SALVANO, Neil

Reporter
BROUWER - REITH, Annet

Photographer
THORNTON, Roger

Bulletin Editor
HARVEY, Koren



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NEXT MEETING

This is a **face-to-face** meeting at the RACV Club.

If you would like to visit our meeting, you are welcome to join us at the **Theatrette, Chancery Level of the RACV Club**. There is no charge for attending the meeting.

If you would like a more general discussion about attending a Rotary meeting, please contact the club secretary at rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com

The meeting will **commence at 7:40am** and conclude no later than 8:30. Members and guests are invited to stay for coffee or breakfast in the club Bistro following the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER - 20 FEBRUARY 2024



Gordon Conochie: The world's longest serving prime minister & Cambodia's pursuit of democracy

Gordon will reveal how Cambodia's prime minister, the world's longest serving prime minister, nearly lost power, regained control and has held on for longer than any other. He'll also discuss democracy in Asia and the battle between the West and China.

Gordon Conochie is an adjunct research fellow at La Trobe University and the author of *A Tiger Rules the Mountain - Cambodia's Pursuit of Democracy*, which was a pick of the week in The Australian and Canberra Times. It has been praised by Gareth Evans (former Australian Foreign Minister) as "intriguing and enriching". You can find out more about the book, published in 2023 by Monash University, at its website: <https://atigerrules.com/>

Gordon was born in Scotland, where he worked as a journalist and has master's degrees in politics and international relations. He lived in Cambodia for nearly three years where he predominantly worked on education strategy and policy, working closely with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and the World Bank and Cambodian charities. After leaving to work in the health sector in Australia, Gordon continued to return to Cambodia to interview people for *A Tiger Rules the Mountain*. Gordon also now works in Aboriginal health policy.

FROM THE LAST MEETING

Reported by **Roy Garrett**

Meeting opened by President Michelle who introduced Guest Speaker, Janette Etherington.

Chair, Puja Ganguli overcame the Zoom link, which we have all wrestled with from time to time, to take over from Michelle during Janette's presentation.

Presentation: Interplast – repairing bodies and renewing lives. Janette Etherington, Interplast Engagement Coordinator.

- Interplast was founded in 1983. The objective was and is to change lives for the better in Pacific and Asian countries where some services just don't exist. This is achieved through surgical procedures and practical training of locals. Thus both patients and trainees benefit. Funding comes from Australian Government, Rotary Districts, corporate and private donors. Medical specialists provide services on a voluntary basis.
- Janette's presentation included many actual examples.
 - Gladi, in Laos who had a 3kg benign tumour removed,
 - Rockson, Pacific Islander who had very severe cleft lip and palate repaired using a bone graft of one of Rockson's ribs,
 - James from PNG with very severe burns. In this case, COVID intervened in 2020 but was defeated by Interplast use of remote training and webinars.
 - Dil in Nepal received surgery for badly broken leg. Not only was the leg saved, but probably Dil's life.
- These are typical examples of the many thousands of lives saved or repaired.
- Post-COVID allowed a return to "normal" starting with trip number 145 to Fiji in 2022. Targets resumed their previous lifts, now looking to services in 20 countries and 80 hospitals
- A truly wonderful Rotary project. No wonder Janette described her position as her "dream job".

Chair, Puja introduced Subramanian, a visitor from Chennai, India. Subramanian explained that he is visiting Melbourne to see his daughter. He may attend our "in the flesh" meeting at RACV next week.

Announcements

- Neville advised that sausage sizzles will happen – on Saturday at Bunnings Collingwood and on Sunday at Bunnings Port Melbourne. He also reported that the wedding of daughter Kat at Nev and Bec's on Saturday went very well.
- Kerrie announced that Emergency Service Community Award nominations open on March 1. Awards can go to both paid and volunteer emergency services agents and nominations can be made by friends, colleagues, family, community, Rotarians on <https://resca.awardsplatform.com/> More information is on www.vic.rescawards.org.au/ or contact Kerrie Hicks or Neville Taylor.
- Anne King reported that she has 16 members' advise that they will join for the Friday dinner at the Bendigo District Conference. Any members wishing to add to that should contact Anne.
- President Michelle praised Interplast as a really precious and effective Rotary project. She advised that a Club Strategy Meeting will be conducted at Anne King's on March 2. Details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well deserved recognition

We were delighted to learn that two of our own received Australia Day Honours:

- **Peter Duras AM** for significant service to sports physiotherapy, and to the community.
- **Marjorie Gerlinger OAM** for service to the community through a range of roles.

We offer heartfelt congratulations to both Marjorie and Peter who join a company of club recipients. You can read their citations in more detail [here](#).

Dates for your diary.

- **Club Strategy Day** on Saturday 2nd March - details to follow

WHAT'S NEW IN DISTRICT 9800?

Here is the first edition of What's News for 2024 as we welcome the new year.



From DG Ron

Welcome to all for the next half of our year in which we 'Create Hope in the World.'

The focus for the next period will remain on doing the wonderful things that make a difference in our communities and across the world, however we will now have the added challenge of supporting planning efforts of those in our clubs and District who will take on responsibility for leadership in 2024-25.

Regionalisation will see a change in how our clubs are grouped, but essentially the work we do at club level will continue and sound planning is most important to ensure our ongoing effectiveness.

Our District Update – "What's News" will continue to be our fortnightly communication of administrative matters and issues of importance. I again ask our presidents and secretaries to whom this is circulated to ensure your members are kept informed by sharing its contents.

Have a wonderful 5 months to come!

Ron

District Support

Over the course of the next 5 months our District Team will continue our focus on providing support to individuals and clubs where needed. Remember that your Assistant Governor is your first point of contact.

Our next support activity, focusing on learning about Clubrunner, will be held tomorrow. Sandi Fulcher has been sending the detail to clubs over the past couple of months but this is a last-minute reminder. Please let your club members know the detail on registration highlighted below.

To book your virtual seat, please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CNSGO>

Date: Saturday 3rd February

Time: 10am to 11:30am

Where: Online via Zoom - so bring a cuppa

Who: ClubRunner Product Specialist - Mickey (direct from Canada) will take us through a range of topics with time for you to ask questions:



Rotary International President Opportunities to meet.



Arrangements are in train to provide opportunity for Rotarians to meet with RI President, Gordon McNally during his only remaining visit to Australia during his presidency.

Details are on the third page of this Update.

This will sell out very quickly so take action if you would like to attend either event.

Dates to Remember

March 23	PETS 2
April 12-14	District Conference
April 20	PETS 3
May 11	Council of Governors
May 18	District Award applications close
May 19	District Assembly
May 25-29	International Convention Singapore
June 16	Combined Board & DST Final meeting
June 30	District Changeover



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



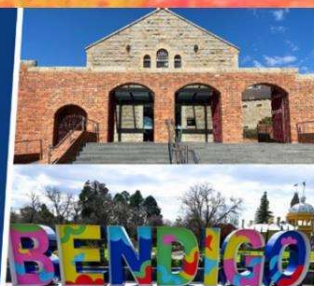
District Conference

Rotary
District 9800

Bendigo Conference

12-14th April 2024

GATHERING ON THE
GOLDFIELDS



Registrations

45 Clubs have members attending.

Are your Club members registered in big numbers?
We have space for more to attend and would love representation from all Clubs in the District.

Essendon, Glenferrie, North Balwyn and Woodend have the highest number of registrations so far. Please challenge them!

[Click here to book](#)

The closing date for registrations is 25 March 2024 so contact your members now and encourage them to register.

Showcase

Do you have a project of which you are particularly proud or would like to encourage others to join?

A primary focus for our Rotary year is Public Image and promotion. A good way to share the detail of your project is through having a stand at our District Conference Showcase.

If interested in spreading the news of your efforts or inviting others to become involved in your Project

[Book a Showcase site here](#)

If you seek further clarification, please contact [Showcase Coordinator John Clue](#) (0499223328).

New Booking Option

There is now the option to book for the Friday Night Welcome Event and / or the Saturday Night Dinner only.

This is ideal for partners who would like to join these events but not attend the Plenary Sessions.

[Click here to book for this option or the entire event.](#)

Friday Night Dinner

There is a Welcome Function at the Town Hall from 5.30pm to 7.00pm on the Friday evening.

Then there is the opportunity for Club dinners or groups to have dinner together.

It is up to you where you would like to dine and someone from your Club needs to book this for your members.

More information is on the District Website including profiles of the Guest Speakers, details on the Entertainment and details of the Program.

[Here it is.](#)

In Memoriam

It is a tradition at the District Conference to honour those who have Gone to Higher Service.

Please could you send to Jane details of any of your members who are no longer with us with some brief details and a photo, if available.

Jane is at: Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



District Membership

The efforts of clubs in the first half of our year saw that as of 30 November we had 64 clubs, including 2 Rotaract, with 1885 members.

This resulted in an increase of 13 members across the District for that five month period. A positive achievement!

A common trend of decline across all Zone 8 clubs has continued however. On entering the new year our District Treasurer has paid levies based on My Rotary membership figures entered by our clubs that see us with 1840 members, a drop of 32 since the beginning of our Rotary year (1872) and 45 from November 30.

Membership is an ongoing challenge but I'm sure you'll join me in taking up this challenge. **Let's all aim from this point to increase our current club membership by 1 at June 30.**

In this way we will at least do our bit to halt the decline with this modest target.



Potential Donation

A message from Trevor Pang of Rotary Richmond:

I have a potential donor who is considering a one-off donation to a Rotary Alzheimer Project.

Is there a Club currently working in this field?

If so, please contact Trevor to advance this.

Email: tpang@premiertrading.com.au



Do you love Celtic Music? Would you like to celebrate St Patrick's Day in style?

Here is your opportunity at the Celtic Music Festival held at The Mission to Seafarers.

More information and how to book is here.

Proceeds will go to The Rotary Foundation.

**The Rotary
International President
Gordon McNally,
will be in Victoria in
June!**



*Join us for lunch with
Gordon & Heather*

Rarely does the Australian Rotary family have the opportunity to meet the Rotary International President and hear him first hand. Please consider this invitation in context of a fantastic opportunity being afforded to all of us. Think about getting a group together and coming along to show some Aussie support from our Districts.

Where: RACV Cape Schanck Conference Centre

When: Sunday 2nd June, 12:00 pm

Cost: \$145.00 - 3 course meal, including welcome drink, then drinks at bar prices

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1166596>

Book early to avoid disappointment, strictly limited spaces



Let's talk about Elephants...

A contemporary and practical understanding of current-day mental health conditions and navigating through recognition, understanding, and support of those around us.

A one-day mental health and wellbeing symposium;

Leaders looking after self and others.

Full-day event Frankston Arts Centre
Monday 3 June
Booking through Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1166608>
Cost \$85.00 pp
Includes morning, and afternoon teas and Lunch



Special guest:
Rotary International President
Gordon McNally will talk about his personal story and how Rotary is working to support mental health outcomes.



[Register for the Lunch Here.](#)

[Register for the Symposium Here.](#)

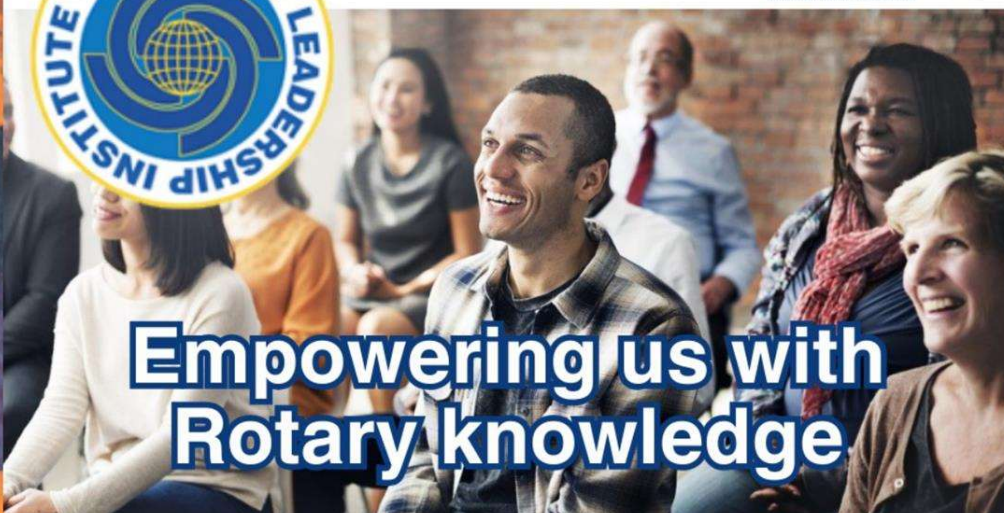


The Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute is an online learning opportunity, ideal for presidents-elect, new members and members who would like to explore Rotary further.

Please circulate this information to them and encourage them to register and benefit from this wonderful program, full of beneficial information.

Registrations to Jane Pennington at: Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org



Empowering us with Rotary knowledge

Parts 1-4: Saturday 10, 17 & 24 February
10am-11:30am via Zoom

To book, email: jane.pennington@rotary9800.org

Spaces are limited so book your space asap



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

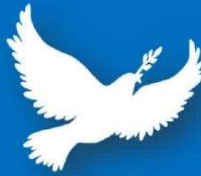
District 9800 has produced 42 peace fellows since the program began in 2002. This is more than any other district in the world – a record of which we can all be proud. We are keen to maintain it.

Changes to the selection process this year mean that it is quite likely that candidates may contact your Rotary Club out of the blue. This is because they are now being asked to contact a local club to learn about Rotary and to seek guidance and mentoring during the application process.

If this happens, I urge you to contact me so that I, or someone from the district selection committee, can guide your club and the applicant through the process. Applications close on May 15.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in Rotary Service
PDG Murray Verso



Each year, Rotary offers 130 fellowships for fully funded training in peace building and conflict resolution at seven university-based Peace Centres.

APPLICATIONS TO DISTRICT 9800 CLOSE ON 15 MAY 2024

On-line applications for peace fellowships require District endorsement. District 9800 has recruited and mentored more successful Rotary Peace Fellow applicants than any other district, worldwide.

Do you have?

- A strong commitment to peace building in your profession
- Excellent leadership skills
- Proficiency in English
- A bachelor's degree and five years of relevant work experience [Professional Certificate]
- A bachelor's degree, plus three years of relevant work experience [Master's Degree]

Why become a Rotary Peace Fellow?

Rotary Peace Fellows become leaders and catalysts for peace and conflict resolution. Typically, they work in national governments, NGOs, the military, media, law enforcement, peace education, international organisations such as Red Cross, the UN and World Bank, and grass roots community organisations. This is a signature program for Rotary International.

How to apply?

- All Rotary Peace Fellows are selected through a competitive worldwide process.
- Speak to a Rotarian you know.
- or contact a Rotary club.
- Review the process online via the QR code or www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships



What is a Rotary Peace Fellowship?

A two-year Master's Degree:

Students from diverse backgrounds and professional experience undertake programs varying in length from 15 to 24 months and include two to three months of applied field experience designed by the peace fellow. The fully funded post graduate study is at an internationally recognised Peace Centre in England, Japan, Sweden, or USA.

Professional Development Certificate:

Designed for mid-career professionals in fields of peace and conflict resolution to study in Uganda or Turkey. Applicants must have connection with Africa or the Middle East. The Certificate program includes:

- Preliminary online course
- 10-week on-site course
- Field studies
- A social change initiative
- One-week on-site capstone seminar

What does a Rotary Peace Fellowship cover?

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Round-trip transportation
- Field study expenses
- Health insurance

For Further Information contact:

- **Murray Verso:** E. verson@netspace.net.au T. 0417 595 217
- **Bob Fels:** E. robertmfels@gmail.com T. 03 9417 6550 or
- **Tania Miletic,** Peace Fellow Alumnus: E. taniamiletic@yahoo.com T. 0437 272 287)

PLEASE SHARE THIS FLYER WITH ANYONE WHO MAY BE A SUITABLE APPLICANT.

SAVE THE DATE: FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US

As President of Rotary Melbourne, I am pleased to inform you that most recent former Australian Ambassador to the USA, The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, will be delivering the prestigious 2024 Angus Mitchell Oration. Given global flashpoints in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia and the expertise of our speaker, the oration will be highly informative and topical.

In attendance will be leading members of our business, diplomatic, charitable and Rotary community. The previous oration was delivered last year by former Prime Minister The Hon John Howard OM AC. The event was sold out well in advance.

Please save the date in your calendar as we expect this event will also sell out quickly. We expect booking to open on 24 January via our website.

I look forward to seeing you at the Angus Mitchell Oration.

Cheers,
Dr. Chris Sotiropoulos
President 2023-24

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 21st February 2024



2024 Angus Mitchell Oration
The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO
Former Australian Ambassador to USA
12.45-2pm at Sofitel on Collins

Rotary
Melbourne
rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au



SUSIE'S SHELVES ARE A LITTLE EMPTY



Due to a strong demand for household goods by the support agencies who are working with the Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN), there is an **immediate need for small electrical appliances e.g.**

toasters, kettles, microwaves, irons, fans, heaters and televisions to restock the warehouse.

If your family or friends have one or more of these items that you are able to donate, please contact Rohan Williams at rdwrcm@gmail.com to arrange for collection.

Thank you to Tom Callander, Peter & Sue Duras and Elias Lebbos who have recently donated items to RIMERN and Alan Seale and Roger Thornton who are currently making small furniture items.

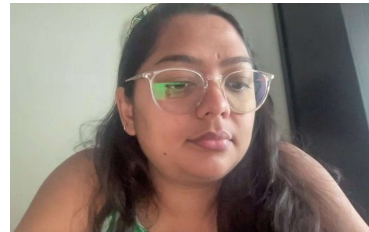
GALLERY



Group Meeting



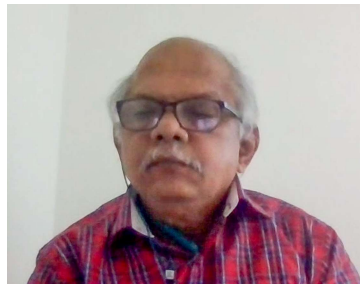
President Michelle



Chair Puja Ganguli



Guest speaker Jeanette Etherington, Interplast



Visitor Subramanian, Rotarian from Chennai



Kerrie Hicks



Xavier Ah Tong, son of proposed new member, Anastasia, attended as a volunteer at the Collingwood Bunnings BBQ for the first time.



Anastasia attended the Collingwood Bunnings BBQ as well.