

APRIL 2021

# BRUCE'S BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of Rotary District 9790 Inc  
[www.rotary9790.org.au](http://www.rotary9790.org.au)

WHAT THIS ISSUE CONTAINS  
(AMONG LOTS OF OTHER THINGS)

District Conference Report and Images  
Is your Rotary event Plasticwise?  
Malaria Awareness Day Fun Run  
Youth News



## BRUCE'S COLUMN

*Written by District Governor Bruce Anderson*

Welcome to the latest DG's Newsletter for 2021 Rotary Year with less than three months to go to round out our year with the theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities". At the time of writing (April 9th) we are winding down after a hugely successful, live District Conference in Wangaratta. A conference report and lots of photos appear later in this bulletin but a hearty round of congratulations must go out to everyone concerned with the event, especially the Organising Committee headed by PP Peter Dunn, the generous sponsors, quality speakers, exhibitors, volunteers, and, of course, the attendees for the conference and the associated events. The "buzz in the room" at each function was proof positive that everyone had been looking forward to getting back together again!

(continued on page 4)



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## Calendar of events

Event	Location	Date(s)	Contact
Virtual Victoria Multi District Conference	On line	1-2 May 2021	<a href="https://events.humanitix.com/virtual-victoria-multi-district-rotary-conference-2021">https://events.humanitix.com/virtual-victoria-multi-district-rotary-conference-2021</a>
District 9790 Changeover Lunch	TBA	Sunday 27 June 2021	<a href="mailto:info@ryla9790.org.au">info@ryla9790.org.au</a>
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)	TBA	Sunday 30 May 2021 12.30-4.40 pm	Linda Gidlund, 0418 173 279 or <a href="mailto:llegidlund@gmail.com">llegidlund@gmail.com</a>
Multi-district Interact Conference	By Zoom, -hold the date		

## District/club deadlines

Grant applications for 'Supporting the Environment'	Projects will be accepted from 1 July 2021	Phil Clancy on <a href="mailto:philip.clancy1@gmail.com">philip.clancy1@gmail.com</a> or 0428 834 162
Rotary Citation for Rotary Clubs Award nominations	30 June 2021	2020-21 Club Presidents

## April 2021

## Maternal and Child Health Month

APRIL IS



Rotary District 9790

"Among the most sacred gifts you can give your child is the gift of health." Dr Rand Olson



## District Governor's page



Conference Chair Peter Dunn and DG Bruce

Marilyn and I were on hand with the R100 Baton to farewell the Ride to Conference participants on Thursday morning March 18th and we welcomed them back at lunchtime. Congratulations to the riders for their efforts and their contribution to Australian Rotary Health.

Our R100 Baton has been to Cobram, Mansfield, Nathalia, Broadmeadows, a combined meeting with Broadmeadows, Strathmore and Craigieburn, Rotaract Diamond Valley, Preston, Numurkah, the Youth Exchange Rebound weekend, District Conference and Greenvale. Given that we are heading into "Club changeover season" expect to see the R100 Baton out and about more parts of the District before the Rotary Year comes to an end.

As advised previously, the "other" four Victorian-based Districts have organised a Multi-District Conference "Virtual Victoria" to be conducted for two hours on each of Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd and I have agreed that D9790 will participate actively. Further details on "Virtual Victoria" appear later in this bulletin, it will be a great opportunity to celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Victoria and is open to all members, free of charge. I urge you to register now at:

<http://rotaryconference.org.au>

**Polio Eradication:** RI President Holger Knaack requested all Clubs to strive for a donation of US\$1500.00 to END POLIO NOW as one of his goals for the year, it is acknowledged that not all Club's will be able to reach that goal but it is very important that all Club's support the END POLIO NOW program as best they possibly can. Individual Rotarians can help by contributing \$10.00 per year to join the "Clem Renouf Club" in honour of one of our greatest leaders. Use the following link to make a contribution to Rotary's priority project.

<https://www.endpolio.org/donate>

**Rotary International Convention:** The Rotary International Convention, scheduled for 12-16 June 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan, will be a virtual event. For more details about the 2021 Rotary International Virtual Convention, and to register, please visit :

<https://convention.rotary.org/en/taipei>

It is pleasing to see all clubs and members getting back to "normal" with Bunnings' barbeques, weekend markets, regular face to face meetings, inductions of new members, celebrations of club anniversaries, running projects, and all those activities that make it great to be Rotarians. Let's hope the path to "normal" continues and accelerates with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout!

Stay safe!

DG Bruce, April 9th, 2021



DG Bruce wraps up the Conference



## **Important Message regarding the International Convention**



### **Rotary Opens Opportunities**

**Please join us for 2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities, 12-16 June. Registration opens in mid-April.**

**This year's event will connect you, virtually, with members around the world. It will open new opportunities to learn and to engage with the family of Rotary, near and far. Together, we'll inspire action, strengthen our commitments, work on our challenges, and celebrate our successes.**

**Visit the convention event page on Facebook to connect with other participants and share what you're looking forward to experiencing with #Rotary21. The Virtual Convention is open to all Rotary members and participants, so invite a friend to join you or share the event with your community.**

**For more information, go to <https://convention.rotary.org/en>**

## Virtual Victoria Multi District Conference

**Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May 2021 - 11am to 1pm**

This Rotary year is unique in so many ways. Whilst we have experienced significant challenges with the pandemic, we have also much to celebrate. After all, it is the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, and our achievements continue, despite COVID restrictions.

Rotarians are extraordinary. We achieve amazing things. Our strength is our unity and our passion for making the world a better place for all. It is also our ability to adapt to a world that is unpredictable and create opportunity from adversity.

This year we celebrate 100 years of Rotary Australia delivering projects that have made and continue to make a very real difference, locally and globally. We are also about to celebrate our 89th Annual Conference. And, just as this year has been unique in our need to practice social distancing, so too will be the Conference.

For the first time, all five Victorian Districts will be involved in an incredible online event – Virtual Victoria – to be held on 1st and 2nd May from 11am to 1pm.

You are guaranteed to be inspired by the outstanding guest speakers who will share the extraordinary stories that have made Rotary a force for doing good in the world. They will include some of Australia's most prominent public figures, community strategic planners, leaders of business and academia, and our own Rotary leaders, all of whom have inspirational tales to tell in regard to how we can each make a difference in the lives of others.

We invite you as Rotarians, along with all in your networks, to join this free online event...to celebrate what you have achieved and be inspired to go on and do more.



### GUEST SPEAKERS

	<b>Ian Riseley</b> 2017-218 Rotary International President		<b>Sally Capp</b> Lord Mayor Melbourne	
	<b>Jessie Harman</b> Zone 8 Rotary International Director 2021-23	<b>Sharon &amp; David Hamilton</b> CEO and Director Fella Hamilton Fashion Group	<b>Robert Pradolin</b> Director Housing All Australians	
	<b>Katey Halliday</b> Founding Member Adelaide City Rotaract Club		<b>Vic Grosjean</b> Past President Melbourne City Rotaract Club	
		<b>David Lalley</b> Founder Goodwill Wine		

## Virtual Victoria Multi District Conference Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May 2021 - 11am to 1pm



### Special Donations

There is no cost for the Virtual Conference, but donations are encouraged to the following fund-raisers for each District:

Rotary District 9780  
Donations for - End Polio  
Rotary District 9790  
Donations for - Rotarians Against Malaria  
Rotary District 9800  
Donations for - Rotary Foundation  
Rotary District 9810  
Donations for - End Polio  
Rotary District 9820

Donations for - Rotarians Against Malaria: **END MALARIA IN VANUATU – FOR GOOD** Vanuatu – Rotarians Against Malaria ([rawcs.com.au](http://rawcs.com.au))

You can donate by signifying your District when booking.

TO BOOK, GO TO: <https://events.humanitix.com/virtual-victoria-multi-district-rotary-conference-2021>



## Important Message from RI President Holger Knaack regarding Youth Exchange



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Rotary Youth Exchange is where my heart is. As you probably know my wife Susanne and I hosted more than 40 youth exchange students over the past years.

Many Rotarians over many generations have shared in this experience, and I want to thank Youth Exchange officers, host families, and other volunteers for their contributions. Together, we've helped young people build an understanding and appreciation of different cultures, learn new languages and forge lasting friendships across the globe.

To ensure that our legacy continues, these valuable, life-changing experiences must build from a foundation of safety and well-being for all our students, families and communities. To that end, Rotary's Board of Directors has been regularly monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities around the world to determine whether it is safe to reinstate the Youth Exchange program for the 2021-22 school year.

With the continued uncertainty of the pandemic and COVID-19 virus variants, inconsistent disease mitigation efforts, and the global imbalance of vaccine access – the board has decided to suspend the Youth Exchange program through 30 June 2022.

The board's decision was informed by scientific data, global health guidance and a number of factors required to guarantee a safe, equitable and quality experience. Careful consideration was also given to ease and availability of international travel, access to medical care and insurance coverage, school delays and closure, potential financial impact on participants' families and Rotary volunteers.

Given the global imbalance of access to the COVID-19 vaccine and the financial impact of the pandemic, many areas of the world would be unable to participate in 2021. Moving forward with only the limited number of participating countries with access to the vaccine would contradict Rotary's core value of fairness and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Our ability to meet in person is limited now, but we know that Rotary Opens Opportunities, always. Now is the time to get ready, so that when the pandemic is behind us, Rotary's Youth Exchange program will come back stronger than before, serving a world that is yearning to reconnect.

Sincerely,

Holger Knaack  
President, Rotary International 2020-21

ONE ROTARY CENTER  
1560 SHERMAN AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-3698 USA  
ROTARY.ORG

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE – MARCH 17-21 WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

### Reflections on District Conference by Conference Chairman Peter Dunn

The support from Rotarians and partners for the Wangaratta Conference was great and we pretty much filled the venue to the COVID based capacity with 350 registrants.

The on again, off again nature of the pandemic made life very tough for DG Bruce and the Committee but we managed to hold our nerve through the various lockdowns. We certainly achieved our goal of “Getting Together Again”. It was wonderful to see such warm embraces from friends that we haven’t seen for such a long time. On the Saturday we had almost 400 people on site once you counted the band and the singing group, and it looked very busy with a packed theatre.

Strathmore is quite a small Club yet it delivered what has been described by others as the best conference in recent memory. The right people in the right jobs make all the difference and we all have memories that will stay with us forever. Thank you to all those that took the time to send/post the hundreds of calls, texts, emails and Face book received.

I have been asked by many what I felt were the standout presentations which is a bit like being asked to pick your favourite grandchild. Even without a sports day the bike riders had three days in the saddle and came to the Sports Dinner on the Thursday night. Tokyo bound Olympian Jemima Montag gave us a great talk on what it means to her to be an elite sports person and how dedicated you have to be.



Conference Chairman Peter Dunn thanks ABC political journalist Barrie Cassidy



The Saturday morning session should truly be remembered as iconic. For a moment you could be forgiven for thinking that we had hired three comics to entertain you. Each of those speakers, Barrie Cassidy, Sir Peter Cosgrove and the Deputy PM Michael McCormack offered very heartfelt congratulations to Rotary achieving 100 years of Service in Australia. They entertained and educated us and there was some great humour in-between. Whilst all that was going on I was plotting for the surprise of the day with the Pipes and Drums of The Scot’s School Albury band marching into the theatre. Many happy tears were seen; they were delightful and wonderful young musicians. There were many Rotary sessions, always a pre-requisite, but much better when you make them enjoyable.

It is the responsibility of the DG’s Club to plan and run that year’s Conference and it is a great pleasure for Members as it brings them together over a long period and challenges them often.

Above all it is Rotary in Action and a bonding exercise for the Members. It was our great pleasure to deliver the 2021 District Conference to you all.

Footnote: The Host Organising Committee (HOC) for the 2023 Melbourne RI Convention has announced the appointment of Peter Dunn as the Director – Host Hospitality.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE – MARCH 19-21 WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (WPAC)



### In the engine room



The wonderful WPAC team



Our wonderful conference organisers



Our very able MC PP Rebecca Gauci-Maurici



Our very welcoming registration team

### Ride to Conference in support of Polio Plus





## DISTRICT CONFERENCE - MARCH 19-21 WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**GENERAL SIR PETER COSGROVE, AK, CVO, MC, FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA**



A WONDERFUL ADDRESS

HE SCOTS SCHOOL, ALBURY PIPES & DRUMS  
WITH GENERAL SIR PETER AND  
LADY LYNNE COSGROVE AFTER THEIR  
INSPECTION BY SIR PETER

BOOK SIGNING

**HELEN HAINES MP**  
MEMBER FOR INDI IN THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT



**THE HON. MICHAEL MCCORMACK MP**  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA



DEPUTY PM THE HON MICHAEL MCCORMACK SPEAKS ABOUT  
100 YEARS OF ROTARY SERVICE

**BARRIE CASSIDY**  
POLITICAL JOURNALIST, TELEVISION  
HOST, RADIO HOST, COMMENTATOR



**PROFESSOR DAVID KAROLY**  
LEADER EARTH SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE HUB, CSIRO





*DISTRICT CONFERENCE - MARCH 19-21 WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE*  
*HAVING FUN AT THE CONFERENCE DINNER DANCE!*



*AND THE WINNER IS ELTHAM - ATTENDANCE AWARD*



*REBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS*



*THE SCOTS SCHOOL ALBURY PIPES & DRUMS BAND;  
 STUNNING PERFORMANCE*



*DGN DAVID MCPHERSON WITH PRESENTER PDG DENNIS  
 SHORE (D1800) AFTER HIS HUMOROUS FOUNDATION  
 PRESENTATION*



## DISTRICT CONFERENCE – MARCH 19–21 WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

### PETER TOOMEY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR CONSTABLE DEBRA MILNES (ALBURY POLICE) AND SERGEANT CON MATSAMAKIS (HEIDELBERG POLICE) – NOMINATED BY LAVINGTON AND ROSANNA ROTARY CLUBS

### FOUNDATION RECEPTION



### PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECTS' BREAKFAST





## District Conference - March 19-21 Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre Around the conference including the House of Welcome



### Future leadership



L-R: District Governor Nominee David McPherson, District Governor Elect Anne Reid and District Governor Nominee Designate Neta Kirby



**District Changeover Date**

**"Save the Date" for lunch on  
Sunday June 27 2021!**

**Event and booking details to follow soon.**

**Malaria Awareness Day**

MALARIA AWARENESS DAY  
30 APRIL 2021

RAM  
AUSTRALIA  
FUN RUN

[www.ram.rawcs.com.au/malaria-awareness-day](http://www.ram.rawcs.com.au/malaria-awareness-day)



## Is your Rotary event Plasticwise?

The world is drowning in its own waste. In particular, the copious amounts of plastic being produced and then carelessly disposed of is threatening wildlife, both on land and at sea. To create a sustainable future, Plasticwise groups work to encourage the reduction and recycling of plastics that would otherwise end up in landfill or as litter damaging our environment.

Enter your Rotary club. Likeminded, socially engaged groups with Rotary's strength of being locally, nationally, and internationally connected have the power to aid in this work.

Rotary events often create a lot of rubbish, but there are ways that we can work to reduce this waste and be conscious of our footprint before, during, and after events.

### Before the event

#### Publicise

- Use electronic publicity and social media, rather than printed flyers.
- As well as cutting back on your use of paper, this also allows event goers to keep their invites in a single spot that is not the fridge or dining table!
- When promoting the event in the local media, stress the plastic wise element. This is not only a means of raising awareness, but also an invitation for the public to change their own behaviour.
- Advance publicity should include reminders to bring own bags, drink bottles, cutlery etc. You can even tie this in with a discount with stall holders for people bringing their own!

#### Collaborate

- Consider inviting initiatives that promote recycling. For example, Boomerang Bags make cloth bags to reuse. This can also provide a good take-home message.
- Involve the local Men's Shed in constructing containers, signs, displays.
- Rather than have paper cups, arrange a supply of china cups from a church or community group that can be washed and returned after the event.
- Rather than balloons, use flags or make fabric bunting. You may wish to involve other community groups.
- Invite local water authority to provide bulk water containers so people can refill their own water bottles.

#### Mitigate

- Buy local, or Australian, rather than items that are transported long distances. Buy items in recyclable containers where possible.
- When completing the risk assessment for the proposed activity, include as a risk, the danger that excess plastic and rubbish that will be created.
- Approach local council for permits and involve their Waste management team in strategies for reducing this rubbish.
- Discuss with council the need for plenty of bins at the event, and to confirm the recycling options and when the rubbish is to be removed.
  - The bin system of your council will guide your waste management strategies. It is important to know whether your council has a third bin for organic waste. For example, sugar cane products, paper plates can be recycled, only where there is an organic bin collection.



## Is your Rotary event Plasticwise?

### On the day

- Provide information (laminated handout or guidelines that can be used again next year) for volunteers/organisers as well as stall holders or participants, and the public, on how and why to separate recycling from rubbish.
- Distinguish between degradable, biodegradable, and compostable, and ensure bins are clearly labelled and there are plenty of them. Set up different types of bins together to make it easy for people to use the right bin. **Suggested sources of links for more information in your area are provided at the end of this article.**
- Check food handling guidelines and ensure as many volunteers as possible are familiar with these.
- Avoid excess packaging, for example, when buying supplies for a sausage sizzle, buy in bulk.
- Use incentives to encourage stall holders to be plastic wise or encourage them to provide incentives to customers who are Plasticwise. For example, you may have a raffle ticket for those who bring their own coffee cup rather than use a disposable one.
- When drawing up rosters, minimise waste. Ideas include ensuring one longer stint wearing disposable rubber gloves, have volunteer's carpool to the event, and provide a supply of cups just for the volunteers.
- Try to avoid having any plastic straws. Have a few paper straws for those who ask, but otherwise no straws at the event. Rather than single-use plastic plates, cutlery consider using paper or reusable ones.
- in landfill or as litter damaging our environment.

### Clean Up

- Carry out a bin audit to check things have gone in the right place.
  - Provide volunteers with clear instructions about what goes where – be specific.
  - Bread bags go into soft plastic recycling (Redcycle bins at Coles & Woolworths stores).
- Rotary E-Club is collecting the bread tags or find a collection point in your area.
- Consider if there is a local organisation or business which can use food leftovers such as coffee grounds.
- Give feedback (via Social media) about the successful avoidance of plastic at the event. You can publicise the number of attendees while emphasising the lack of plastic straws.

## Links and further information

**Consider entering links for your area. e.g.**

- **Local Recycler**
- **Local council**
- **Social Media**

# Cycle Dindi



over the hills and not so far away

## SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2021

A charity bicycle event along  
the Great Victorian Rail Trail  
THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Registrations open January 2021  
Email [cycledindi21@gmail.com](mailto:cycledindi21@gmail.com)

The event on the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be centred on the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra and will include an opportunity to ride across the iconic Bonnie Doon bridge

This event is a fund raiser for Rotary Youth Projects

### Rotary



Clubs of Alexandra and Yea  
and the Friends of the GVRT

cycle dindi 2021 poster.jpg

**What do I get for my money?**

- Billy tea, damper and BBQ lunch at Cathkin
- Free admission to Nutfield a working farm, with free Devonshire Tea in the shearing shed, sheep dog demonstration and trailer ride.

### How Much?

That depends on which distance you ride

**CHOOSE  
YOUR OWN  
ADVENTURE**

DISTANCE	ADULT	SNR	CONC
Yea to Bonnie Doon (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Yea (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Cathkin (return) 80 km	\$50	\$40	\$10
Yea to Cathkin (return) 42 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Yea to Alexandra (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Yea (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Cathkin (return) 26 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10

• Concession applies to school age children - Under school age free  
• SNR - relevant seniors (and must be held) - Group discount available on request

**Interested?**

contact Melinda (Alexandra) 0418 378 806

Julie (Yea) 0447 762 557

or Ross (Mansfield) 0439 046 199

[www.rotaryalexandra.org.au](http://www.rotaryalexandra.org.au)

[www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)



## *Youth News* *A Path to Rotary*

In 2004, I was interviewed by the Rotary Club of Belvoir Wodonga for Rotary Youth Exchange sponsorship. Unfortunately, I was not selected and missed out— weird way to start a story. Today I am a member of the Rotary Club of Belvoir Wodonga, a committee member for youth in my club and a committee member for the District Rotary Youth Exchange program. This all started back about 30 years ago. My father George Bedson joined Rotary, and where ever he went, I went with him. Learning about Rotary and the Youth Exchange program, my eyes opened to the possibilities the program offered. When I was old enough, I finally applied and was ready to be interviewed.

I missed out to a friend of mine, who was selected. I was saddened by this but kept applying to other clubs. Hoping that someone would pick me! No one did... until one day after school, I arrived home to receive a home call from our president at the time who was calling to let me know my friend had pulled out. She was selected to go to Brasil but refused, as she did not want to learn another language. I was given the option to either go to Brasil or not go at all.

Six months later, I was on my way to Brasil. I lived in a small town called Rio do Sul, in the south of Brasil. I had three host families, six parents, seven siblings, and many more cousins that today I think of as my family. I had so many fantastic experiences, sleeping in a boat in the Amazon rain forest, walking the entire length of the Rio de Janeiro carnival colosseum, dressing in costumes, plus learning to speak Portuguese fluently. I went to school, made lifelong friends, fell in love, my heart was broken more than once! The worst time was when I had to fly home to Australia after 12 months away. I have been back to Brasil seven times and looking at making it eight next year for my host brother wedding.

My Rotary club gave me a massive opportunity, and now I want to give back as much as possible. I have help select, mentor and send four exchange students overseas in the past five years: Lochlan, Sophie, Ruby and Scarlet. I enjoy helping and watching them grow into adults, and seeing them grow just like I did. Having been on Rotary Youth Exchange myself I identify with their nervousness, anxieties, joys and celebrations as well as how difficult it is to return after such an amazing year.

At the same time, I have sent two students to the National Youth Science Forum, two to RYLA, and already lined up two students to attend RYPEN and other rotary programs. I believe Youth now will one day be our newest leaders and Rotarians in the future.

I am very passionate about Rotary, and very very passionate about Rotary Youth Exchange. I always encourage my returning students to consider eventually joining Rotary or a Rotary program and continue to be involved in the Rotary World. I look forward to seeing where Rotary takes me next! Jaegar Benson, Rotarian, Belvoir Wodonga





## Youth News

### Keeping up with Sarah - the story of an outbound Youth Exchange Student (continued)

#### Rotary

While staying with my 3rd host family I joined a class with 5 of the Rotary ladies. We studied the 'art of traditional tea'. I learnt a lot about the Taiwanese culture of tea, how to serve it and appreciate the taste and aroma. I would liken the art of pouring tea in Taiwan to a performance/ceremony, you have to be very elegant and must remember and follow a lot of rules. I was, by a long way, the youngest and most likely the least elegant in the class. My 'classmates' and teachers were lovely, and I joined them on an outing to Yinge, a place in Taiwan famous for its tea and pottery. We spent all day looking through the tea shops and tasting tea.

I attended my first ever thanks-giving dinner while in Taiwan! I learnt new traditions that I was asked to continue on. I went to multiple Christmas parties with Rotary. We gave gifts, sang karaoke and ate lots of Taiwanese food. All of the kids dressed up in Christmas costumes and gave out candy.

In early December I gave my final presentation to my Rotary club and showed my blazer off to the room full of Rotarians. After my presentation the president awarded me with a photobook full of photos from my exchange, as a wholesome souvenir to bring home.



#### trips and outings

As well as being busy with school and Rotary, I made sure I used up every other spare moment exploring Taiwan. I made lots of new friends and learnt so much about not just the culture of Taiwan, but other countries too.

In November I took a short trip to Tainan in the south of Taiwan with my friends' family. We explored a lot and it was a great chance to see more of Taiwan, as well as make bonds with a new family. We visited some famous sights and I tried Ramen for the first time in my life, yes, I know... that's just sad. We looked around some famous sights in Tainan that have a lot of old history, we visited the beach and some cool museums as well as exploring the Japanese style streets.

Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory

As part of squishing in everything I could in my last 3 months I made a lot of day trips, I saw multiple caves, beaches, light houses, mountain tops, parks, flower fields, night markets, shopping centers, waterfalls, cat villages and more!

2 weeks before I was due to fly home, I had an impromptu house move. I moved in with one of my favorite teachers from school and her family, my bedroom was on the 4th floor of their house! I had two new host siblings; both were younger than 10.

The next morning, right after I had moved into my new family, I left for a 4-day trip to explore the east coast of Taiwan. The east coast was somewhere I hadn't yet seen. The atmosphere was so much different, I felt people were extra generous and generally happier, must have been the nice sunny weather! We stayed in a few different places including a natural hot spring resort. We saw a lot of the east coast; the views were astonishing. We explored towns on bikes, saw night views from mountain tops, played on the beach, ate lots of food and even had a car breakdown- which turned into a fun adventure.

## Youth News

### *Keeping up with Sarah - the story of an outbound Youth Exchange Student (continued)*

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget

I never thought this moment would come, but here we are...seemingly too quickly. Enjoy my last report...it should be packed! (pardon the pun)  
Goodbye Taiwan

#### **flying home**

After filling out what seemed like 100 different forms, re-booking flights and getting covid tested, I triple checked everything was submitted so I was able to return home during the pandemic. My bags were packed, and it was time for my last sleep in Taiwan. Still not hitting me that I would be returning home to see my friends and family whom I haven't seen in a year.

After little sleep, we were on our way to the airport very early in the morning. We had some slight complications getting on the plane, but we made it home safe and sound. Many Taiwanese friends, family, Rotary members and even our teachers met us at the airport to say goodbye. In typical Taiwanese Rotary fashion, we took lots of pictures before heading through the gates...carrying our now VERY heavy rotary blazers all the way to the opposite side of the airport.

Still seeming unreal that I was returning home, I boarded the plane, duty free shopping in hand ;)



## Youth News

### *Keeping up with Sarah - the story of an outbound Youth Exchange Student (concluded)*

#### **final thoughts**

After dealing with all the stresses and last-minute complications at the airport, I realised I was too busy to feel sad about leaving my life, friends and family that I'd built in a year. When I left Australia in January of 2020, I wish I'd hugged my friends and family tighter, but the silver lining, it gave me good reason to return home.

To the people I wish I'd hugged tighter when leaving Taiwan, I now have reason to visit my second home again. See you in a few years -love Sarah.

Thank you to all the Rotarians, my new and old friends and my family who have supported me in every way possible this year. My Rotary Youth exchange was truly a unique, rewarding and unforgettable experience. I grew up sitting around the campfire well past midnight, listening to family members tell countless life stories, every single one, never failed to fascinate me. These stories are what inspire me, to get out there...are start making ones of my own, the year of 2020 will certainly be one to add to the collection.

Goodbye Taiwan



### *Youth Programs Contacts*

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**Interact** – Linda Gidlund, M 0418 173 279, Email – [lleegidlund@gmail.com](mailto:lleegidlund@gmail.com)

**District Rotaract Committee** – Chris White, M 0420574978, Email [chris-white77@hotmail.com](mailto:chris-white77@hotmail.com)

**National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)** – Nigel Liggins, M 0400 694 618, [nigelligins@bigpond.com](mailto:nigelligins@bigpond.com)

**Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)** – Bruce McIntyre, M 0427 623 142, Email – [bruce.mcintyre1@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.mcintyre1@bigpond.com)

**Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)** – Kerry Jones, Secretary M 0414 861 557, Email [info@ryla9790.org.au](mailto:info@ryla9790.org.au)

**Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment** – Contact Malcolm Watt, M 0439 158 274, Email [watt.malc@gmail.com](mailto:watt.malc@gmail.com)

**Rotex** – Contact Rotex by email [rotex9790@gmail.com](mailto:rotex9790@gmail.com)

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If you would like further information please contact **Linda Gidlund** on **0418 173 279** or [lleegidlund@gmail.com](mailto:lleegidlund@gmail.com)





# BARRELS INVENTED FOR WINE, REINVENTED FOR WHISKY.

A Rotary Australia Centenary Project.

THE BOLD GO  
STARWARD

*Profits from the  
Starward Rotary  
Centenary Project will  
be donated to the  
Rotary Foundation  
and used in Rotary  
projects.*

## STARWARD TOASTS ROTARY'S CENTENARY.

Starward are pleased to be joining Rotary Australasia to celebrate their 100th anniversary as part of Rotary International, with a special Starward Single Barrel release.

Starward Single Barrels are the truest expression of our whisky style. Highlighting our premium Australian red wine barrels, the nuances of oak and of course, the maturation that is truly unique to Melbourne. These barrels are a special, one off display of these characteristics and all that makes Starward.

We worked closely with the Rotary Club of Strathmore (D9790) to find the best barrels to mark the Centenary. Three single hogshead barrels were chosen to perfectly celebrate the momentous occasion, each to be released separately over the coming months.

The first barrel release is special, as it amongst the last remaining barrels produced at our first distillery in Essendon. Released this December 2020 exclusively to Rotary Australia, this single malt whisky was fresh filled and matured in a red wine barrel from the Barossa Valley and finished in a charred American hogshead. Unique to Starward as this barrel was matured for a total of four and a half years in barrel, whereas most of our barrels are bottled at three and a half years.

### TASTING NOTES

- COLOUR** Jarrah with a cherry red hue.
- AROMA** Tropical fruit with pineapple, mango and toffee.
- FLAVOUR** Fruity with soft bread and caramel, balanced by the charred oak.
- FINISH** Long soft finish with delicate tannins from the barrel.

### ABOUT STARWARD

Just like our hometown, Melbourne Australia, our Starward whiskies are versatile and a little different. We craft from local ingredients and mature in barrels from the famed Australian wine industry to make the epitome of a distinctly Australian spirit. Awarded and lauded the world over. We champion a new way of thinking, crafting and experiencing. Of course, we're still whisky but it is whisky done different.

Limited to 400 bottles from this barrel, is one to collect and enjoy. Priced at \$175 per bottle, including postage and handling via the Starward webstore. To place your orders go to [starward.com.au/rotary100](http://starward.com.au/rotary100)



## 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.**

### **APRIL 2021**

#### **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH**

**30 APRIL — ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS AND TICKET CANCELLATIONS ARE DUE**

### **MAY 2021**

#### **YOUTH SERVICE MONTH**

### **JUNE 2021**

#### **ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH**

**SOURCE: [HTTPS://MY.ROTARY.ORG/EN/NEWS-MEDIA/CALENDAR](https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/calendar)**

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**Rotary**  
DISTRICT 9790



**Conference 2022**  
**Marysville**  
**18 – 20 March**



# Embracing Change

Service above self

- ✓ Golf Day supporting Mental Health
- ✓ Ride to Conference supporting Indigenous Scholarships (ARH)
- ✓ Ruth Konig Walk
- ✓ Rotary Showcase
- ✓ Koala preservation
- ✓ Environmental Projects
- ✓ High Profile Guest Speakers
- ✓ Celebratory Dinner on Saturday



**Bookings link and further information on [rotary9790.org.au](http://rotary9790.org.au)**

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**Marysville**



**Murrindindi**

Rotary Clubs of Alexandra, Mansfield, Kinglake Ranges,  
Yea, Southern Mitchell, Numurkah and Seymour