

THE SOCIAL PRESCRIPTION _{Rx}



As the saying goes “time waits for no man” – and that includes District Governors. I’m already nearly two months into my term! Although the expectation (and funding) from RI to visit every club has been removed, it is a privilege to be invited to attend club and cluster visits, as well as club projects and celebrations. From the planting of a memorial Lone Pine Tree in Mulwala, to a Mental Health Forum in Broadmeadows, the activities that clubs undertake to improve their communities continues to inspire me.

A combined meeting with the Rotary Clubs of Benalla and Euroa, showcased the huge investment in one of Rotary’s best programs, youth exchange, as well as the care for those, not only affected by the bushfires, but also those that were at the forefront of protecting their community.

A cluster visit of the group 4 Rotary Clubs of Alexandra, Kinglake Ranges, Seymour, Southern Mitchell and Yea again provided me with insight into their various projects – from a memory café for people with dementia in Kinglake, to improved activism for the “Say No to Domestic Violence” campaign in Seymour, to the free laundry trailer in Yea, to the provision of firewood in Alexandra, to the school breakfast program across the Shire of Southern Mitchell. All this, as well as the ever-present BBQ’s, catering, and other fund-raisers that support these efforts – it what makes me proud to be a Rotarian.

Official newsletter of
District Governor Paul Miegel

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

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Photo credits: Cover: Linda Gidlund (supplied); 3: Paul Miegel (supplied); 6: Penny Paxman (supplied) 7: Susan Benedyka (supplied); 8: Hamish Jones (supplied) 9: Linda Gidlund (supplied)

Cover: Outbound students at the 2026-27 Rotary Youth Exchange Orientationn Beechworth (supplied by Linda Gidlund)

Paul's overdose

I attended the District's Youth Exchange committee's first orientation weekend in Beechworth for those students heading abroad next year as well as welcoming the newly arrived international students. Not only does this program develop the skills of these young people, it fosters better international understanding – something that is currently much needed in our world.

The District Membership Committee is beginning to receive applications for initiatives from clubs to qualify for the \$25 per member rebate on the Club's District dues on its January Invoice. A reminder that Initiatives should be sent to the District Membership Committee secretary Penny Paxman at ppaxman@outlook.com

Likewise, the District Public Image Committee, are also receiving applications from Clubs to qualify for a further \$25 per member rebate on the club's District dues on the January invoice. These initiatives should be sent to the Public Image Chair Hamish Jones at hamishjones@gmail.com

I encourage all clubs to take up one, or both, of these initiatives either individually or in collaboration with other clubs.

On a more sombre note, we mourn the passing of PDG Neville Miles OAM from the Rotary Club of Kyabram and Shepparton South. Neville served two terms as District Governor amidst a stellar life of service to Rotary and his community. Also Rotarian Clive Faul from the Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume. Clive served as District Secretary on multiple occasions, let a GSE team to Finland and Estonia and, more recently was the chair of the District Grants Committee. Our thoughts are with their respective Clubs and families.

Remember to have fun and enjoy your Rotary journey! Continue to have a lasting impact in your communities and, encourage others to join us in a rotary program, project, or event by relating how Rotary has changed and benefited you. The more people that join our family of Rotary, the greater the benefit to our communities.

Paul Miegel

Paul Miegel
District Governor 2026-28



DG & Meredith with Benalla President Denise Durance and Group 6 Club Mentor Chris Grimes



Speaking at the Group 4 Cluster visit



Handing the Polio Baton to Yea President Ann Drysdale



Speaking at the RYE Long Term Orientation



2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Corowa: March 19, 20 & 21



Friday

Pre-conference Program- Friday 19th March

- Golf- 18 Holes (Corowa Golf Course)
- 18-Mini Golf (Club Corowa)
- Lawn Bowls (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Paint and Sip (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Rutherglen Wine Tour (Tour of 3 Wineries)

Conference Opening and Welcome Reception

A welcome drink and fingerfoods on the lawn of Cofields Winery

When: Friday 19th March, 5.30pm- 7.30pm

Where: Cofield's Winery, Distillery Rd, Wahgunyah.

Register Now



Saturday

Conference Day 1: An array of inspiring speakers and the first District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.

When: Saturday 20th March, 9.00am- 4.30pm

Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea are included in the ticket price

Gala Dinner and Entertainment- A separate ticket is required

When: Saturday 20th March, 6.30pm - 11pm.

Where: The beautifully restored 105 year old, heritage-listed, flour mill that is now home to the Corowa Whisky and Chocolate Factory.

Sunday

President's Elect Breakfast: A separate ticket is required

This Breakfast is reserved for the President's elect

When: Sunday 21st March, 7.30am - 8.30am

Where: Miss Birdie Restaurant, Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Conference Day 2: Inspiring Keynote speakers and the second instalment of the District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.

When: Sunday 21st March, 9.00am- 12 midday

Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Morning Tea is included in the ticket price



2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

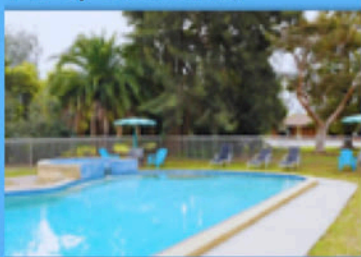
Corowa: March 19, 20 & 21

ACCOMMODATION

Greenacres Motel

91-99 Federation Ave, Corowa

Ph: 0490 539 769



Motel Menere's

146 Federation Ave, Corowa

Ph: 02 60331066



Statesman Motel

2 Edward Street, Corowa

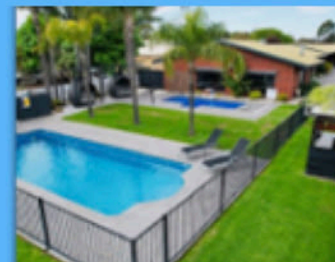
Ph: 02 60332411



Federation Motor Inn

330 Honour Ave, Corowa

Ph: 02 60332022



Heritage Motor Inn

25 Edward Street, Corowa

Ph: 02 60331800



Accommodation has been booked at the motels listed. You **must** call your preferred motel directly and mention the "Rotary Conference".

There are also four Caravan Parks and Air-bnb accommodation available.

District Membership - New Year, New Committee

Our Chair:

Susan Benedyka,
Rotary e Club of Changemakers
Phone: 0417 449 636
susan@susanbenedyka.com



Secretary:

Penny Paxman
Rotary Club of Yea
Phone: 0417 570 801
ppaxman@outlook.com



Ruth Byers

Rotary Club of Seymour
Phone: 0447 300 839
lightwood08@hotmail.com



Gary Gradsack

Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell
0401 841 119
baron3756@gmail.com



Di Murphy

Rotary Club of Benalla
Phone: 0418 482 745
diannemurphy5@bigpond.com



PDG Stephen O'Connell and Carol O'Connell built a great team last year and our intention is to keep adding to the foundation that they created.

We have knowledge and resources to help you both build the numbers of members AND, more importantly keep them well into the future. Shortly, we will be sharing the new Membership Action Plan for 2026/2027 – it's a blueprint and guide to building membership.

In the meantime, why not take a look at all the resources listed on our District's webpage <https://www.rotary9790.org.au/sitepage/membership-committee> . Our District Facebook page will keep you up to date with everything too.

Together, let's start the new Rotary Year with at least one goal- to build our membership and to make Rotary the club people want to join.

Penny Paxman
District Management Committee

Have an Idea to Grow Membership?

District 9790 is investing in membership growth by offering every club a \$25 per member rebate to trial an innovative initiative designed to attract new members.

Whether it's a community event, a new way of engaging prospective members, a partnership with local organisations or another creative idea, the District Membership Committee wants to help clubs put good ideas into action.

The process is straightforward. Submit a short proposal outlining your initiative and how it could contribute to membership growth. The Membership Committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, so proposals can be considered promptly.

We're already seeing some great ideas. The Rotary Club of Ivanhoe has proposed expanding Corporate Membership by working with local businesses to demonstrate how Rotary can help organisations meet their corporate social responsibility goals while creating flexible opportunities for their staff to become involved in service. It's an initiative that could inspire other clubs to think differently about membership.

What idea has your club been talking about but never quite tried? This is the year to give it a go. We'd love to receive your proposal and help turn your idea into the district's next membership success story.

Susan Benedyka
District Membership Committee Chair



Membership Initiative Rebate

- **\$25 rebate per club member (using 1 July 2026 figures)**
- **Proposal forms have been sent to clubs**
- **Submit your proposal to Penny Paxman: ppaxman@outlook.com**
- **Membership Committee meets 3rd Sunday each month**
- **Approved initiatives are eligible for rebate after completion**
- **Let's turn great ideas into membership growth!**

District Public Image Rebate - How to Apply

In 2026/27, District 9790 is offering clubs a **\$25 rebate per member** as a reward for an initiative that enhances your Club's public image.

Here's how the application process works:

1. Send me a short outline of your proposed initiative, including:
 - What the initiative is (e.g. signage, local advertising, banners, digital campaign)
 - How it will increase the profile of Rotary to the public
 - Estimated cost
 - Artwork or mock-ups, so I can confirm the branding meets current Rotary guidelines
2. We'll assess the initiative. We're checking two things: that the branding is correct (current Rotary logo, colours and templates from the Brand Centre) and that the initiative will genuinely raise Rotary's public profile. It's not my intention to knock anything back - if I think it can be improved, I'll offer suggestions.
3. If approved, I'll confirm via email with District Treasurer Rod Bramich cc'd. Once you have that approval, your club can go ahead with confidence that the rebate will be forthcoming.
4. After the initiative is run, send your receipts to Rod, and the rebate will be applied to your club's January district invoice.

A couple of tips:

- Please don't commit to spending before approval is confirmed.
- If you're unsure whether your artwork is on-brand, send it through early - I'm happy to give quick feedback before you finalise anything. The Rotary Brand Centre (brandcenter.rotary.org) has current logos and templates if you need them.

I've attached the proposal and rebate claim forms.

If you'd like to talk it through first, give me a call anytime - **0407 098 089**.

Hamish Jones
Public Image Chair



What's happening in Rotary Youth Exchange?

The Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) space is a constant dance of comings and goings. So, the first 2026-27 Rotary Youth Exchange Orientation was held at the Old Priory in Beechworth in early August. Students and families from Districts 9790 and 9800 joined to learn about Rotary as an organisation, some of the rules and answering the question, "how to be an ambassador?".

It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet our new inbounds, who recently arrived and our outbounds, preparing for their year of a lifetime.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Committee are really excited, as District 9790 is sending our first student to Norway in 2027!

A massive thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Mooroopna, Mt Beauty, Appin Park Wangaratta, Numurkah, E-Club of Changemakers, Albury, Yarrawonga-Mulwala, Deniliquin, Beechworth, Seymour, Kyabram, Mansfield and Benalla for supporting our outbounds in 2027.

Thank you to the Committees of District 9790 and 9800, as well as Rotex who supported on the weekend and special thanks to Reno and Angela at the Old Priory for hosting us again.

There is one more orientation to be held for the students prior to their departure. It will be held in November.

Steph Dean, PP, RC of Kyabram,
RYE Student to Germany & RYE Committee Member



Parents



Rotex



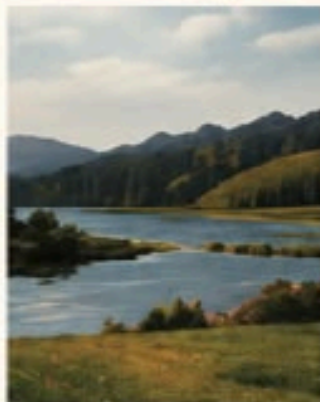
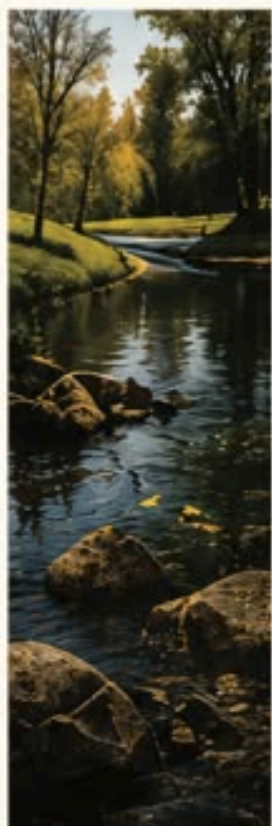
Inbounds 2026-27



Short Term Students



Inbounds and Outbounds 9790 & 9800



ROTARY ELTHAM ART SHOW 26



Rotary
Eltham



MORE THAN AN EXHIBITION

A celebration of creativity,
community and connection
in the heart of Eltham.

- **PAINTINGS**
- **PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **SCULPTURE**
- **CERAMICS**
- **WOODWORK**

Eltham Community & Reception Centre - 801 Main Road, Eltham

OVER 10 INSPIRING DAYS 28 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

OUR PRINCIPAL PARTNER

The REAS26 is supported by the Samuel Nissen Charitable Foundation
and Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund



OUR MAJOR PARTNERS



morrison kleeman



SCAN TO
VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE





Rotary
Club of Corowa



MUSCATS ON THE MURRAY

Join us in celebrating 22 years of President's Muscat.
Come with your inner wine judge, ready to sample back releases
and be wowed by our President's blends.

SEPTEMBER 5TH: 5-8PM
Corowa Whisky & Chocolate

Delicious finger food, and a tast of 3 muscats included with each ticket.

Extra tastings may be purchased on the night.

All proceeds will be donated to the Rotary Foundation to support ongoing humanitarian aid around the world.

Scan the QR code to secure your ticket - be quick, as we are limited to 150 tickets



PRESERVING REGIONAL PARKLANDS WITH URBAN EXPANSION.

As Melbourne's north continues to expand,
how do we protect our wetlands and waterways
for wildlife to flourish,
and improve human wellbeing?



Our Guest Speaker

Dr Peter Ewer

PRESIDENT, MERRI CREEK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Peter has served on the committee of the Friends of Merri Creek since 2020 and is currently President of the Merri Creek Management Committee – MCMC is the community-local council partnership that advocates for the Creek and undertakes restoration works.

He has been a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation for more than 40 years and credits his mother for raising him as an environmentalist – along with watching Disneyland nature documentaries on Sunday nights in the 1960s.

He co-founded the Merri Paddle in 2021, as a sub-group of the Friends of Merri Creek. He lives in Brunswick East about 500 metres from the Creek.



FRIENDS OF
MERRI CREEK
Caring for Country

*“Our creeks are the
lifeblood of our region
– for wildlife,
for people, for the
generations to come.”*



WEDNESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 2026
6:00 pm
EVENING MEETING



DAREBIN RSL
BELL STREET,
PRESTON VIC 3072



ALL WELCOME
GUESTS &
VISITORS MOST
WELCOME!



COST
\$25
PER PERSON –
INCLUDES MEAL



RSVP: Ruth McCall by Sept 14th
mccall.ruth@gmail.com



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR PARKLANDS, WETLANDS & WATERWAYS.

LIFT THE LID WALK

PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Join us for a walk and talk in our local community as we raise vital funds for mental health research



Merri-bek

SUNDAY 11th
OCTOBER 2026

THE STAGE, Coburg
Lake Reserve

FROM 9:30AM

**Become
part of the
solution**

Australian Rotary
Health invests millions
each year to fund
breakthrough Research
into Mental Health.

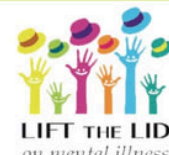
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information:



**Be KIND
to
YOUR
MIND**

Rotary
Districts of Australia



WWW.LIFTTHELIDWALK.COM.AU



BUILD SKILLS. MAKE FRIENDS.
FIND YOUR VOICE.

About Us

RYLA 9790 (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a week-long residential leadership program for young adults aged 18–30, run by Rotary District 9790. It focuses on building confidence, leadership skills, and personal growth through workshops, guest speakers, and shared experiences, empowering participants to create positive change in their communities.

Why should you go?

RYLA offers a unique opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and connect with like-minded young people from across the district. Participants leave with lifelong friendships, practical skills, and a stronger sense of their own potential and ability to make a difference.



**NETWORKING WITH
PEERS**



PERSONAL GROWTH



LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



**Sign Up
Here**



ROTARY CALENDAR

Visit this calendar throughout the year to find award nomination due dates and convention and event information. Develop meeting agendas, projects, or public image campaigns based on these special occasions. All dates are subject to change.

Rotary Months

August 2026

Membership and New Club Development Month

15 August — Interact Club Excellence Award nominations are due

September 2026

Basic Education and Literacy Month

October 2026

Community Economic Development Month
Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 7 October
24 October — World Polio Day

November 2026

Rotary Foundation Month
5 November — World Interact Day (World Interact Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 5 November, Interact's anniversary)

December 2026

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
15 December — Last day for early registration discount for the Rotary International Convention

January 2027

Vocational Service Month
10-14 January — International Assembly, Orlando, Florida, USA

February 2027

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month
23 February — Rotary's anniversary

March 2027

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
World Rotaract Week is celebrated Monday through Sunday during the week of 13 March, Rotaract's anniversary

April 2027

Environmental Month
30 April — Rotary International Convention registrations and ticket cancellations are due

May 2027

Youth Service Month

June 2027

Rotary Fellowship Month
26-30 June — Rotary International Convention, Barcelona, Spain
30 June — Club Excellence Award nominations are due

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Publisher/Editor: David Redfearn *Art Director:* David Redfearn *Advertising:* David Redfearn *Other duties as required:* David Redfearn

NOTE: All photographs/images submitted must include detailed captions i.e. names of people, event locations etc. It is presumed that the supplier of the photograph/image has approval of the owner of said copyright to reproduce the photograph/image

Closing date is 10 September 2026 All articles and photographs images to:
dredfearn@vtown.com.au

NOTE: The views expressed in this publication represent those of the contributor/s and are not necessarily those of or shared by the District, the Committee, any Club, the Members or the magazine

Canva

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CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Rotary 