NUMBER 10

LEADING TOGETHER: DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

MAY 2025



WELCOME TO THE

District 9790 Monthly Newsletter

A word from DG Stephen



New Interact Club Launched in Yarrawonga

It gives me great pleasure to announce the chartering of a new Interact Club in our district, established by the Rotary Club of Central Murray Sunrise. The club will be known as The Interact Club of Murray Youth. Congratulations to everyone involved in mentoring and supporting these young leaders – a wonderful step forward in youth engagement.

A New Satellite Club on the Horizon

Continuing our momentum, a new Satellite Club is in development. While still in formation, the proposed name is The Freestylers. We look forward to welcoming this innovative group into the Rotary family as they shape their vision for service and fellowship.

Congratulations on a Successful District Assembly

A heartfelt congratulations to District Governor-Elect Emma Davis and her team for a well-run and inspiring District Assembly. The energy, planning, and thoughtfulness that went into the day were evident, and it was fantastic to see so many incoming leaders and club members engaging with the year ahead.

In this newsletter you will find:

Latest disrict news, what's on, projects and much more!

Keep Reading!

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH



COVER, 3 DG STEPHEN'S NOTES



4-6 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY AND DISTRICT CHANGEOVER



17 BASIC CAR MAINTENANCE



8-9 YOUTH - YOUTH EXCHANGE SAFARI


Don't miss your chance to win!

Rotary South Pacific Conference

31 October - 2 November 2025

CONNECT SHARE GROW GOLD COAST 2025

DON'T MISS OUT:

Register before 30 June for **early bird rates** and **a chance to win!**

Rotary South Pacific | Rotaract South Pacific

REGISTER NOW

Now is the perfect time to save your spot at the biggest Rotary gathering in our region.

The 2025 Rotary South Pacific Conference is an amazing opportunity to expand your Rotary network and learn from inspiring speakers. All Rotary and Rotaract members, and alumni of Rotary programs, are welcome to attend.

If you register before 30 June 2025, you'll not only pay a reduced early bird rate for the conference, you'll automatically go in the draw to **win two free tickets to the Gala Dinner on Saturday 1** November.

11-13 WHAT'S COMING UP, DEADLINES AND NOTICES

Photo credits: Stephen O'Connell OAM: Cover (supplied); Mandy Gosetti: 7 (supplied); David Redfearn: Cover, 3-5, 10; Linda Gidlund: 8-9 (supplied)

Cover: DGE Emma addressing the District Assembly at the Benalla Town Hall (David Redfearn)

DG's Column (continued)

Recognition of Excellence in Community Policing

Carol and I were privileged to attend a special event hosted by the Rotary Club of Pascoe Vale to honour outstanding work in community safety through their Community Policing Awards. It was a powerful reminder of Rotary's connection with those who serve and protect our communities, and we commend the club for this meaningful initiative.

Update on the Regionalisation Pilot and District 9790's Position

There have been important developments in recent weeks concerning the Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot. As members are aware, District 9790 voted overwhelmingly - with an independently audited result of 86.2% - to withdraw from the pilot. Initially, our decision was not accepted, and we were informed that participation was required.

However, there has since been a notable shift in language and tone from the Regionalisation leadership. Participation is no longer being described as mandatory but rather as "encouraged."
Additionally, Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko has requested the resignations of the Regionalisation Steering Group's Chair and Deputy Chair. The RI Board has also announced it will no longer fund the pilot using Rotary's reserves, raising substantial concerns about the project's ongoing viability.

District 9790 remains steadfast in upholding the democratic will of our members and in pursuing a respectful and fair outcome. We remain focused on strengthening clubs and supporting Rotarians — guided by Rotary's values of transparency, equity, and self-determination.

Membership Growth – April Results In

I'm delighted to share that our district has continued its upward trend in membership. As of April, D9790 has grown by 47 members. This is a remarkable achievement and a direct result of your dedication to creating vibrant, welcoming clubs. Well done to all — and keep up the great work!

DG Stephen O'Connell



DG Stephen addressing District Assembly in Benalla



Presenting the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World on behalf of the Rotary Foundation to Melissa Hebberd

Rotary
District 9790

Unite For Good - 2025 District Assembly

On Sunday 4 May, we had 175 Rotarians and 55 clubs represented at our annual District Learning Assembly. After some venue complexity due to the election weekend, we found ourselves in the beautiful Benalla Town Hall, aptly branded and set up for the style of event.

The program featured updates from DGE Emma Davis, a panel on Polio and presentations child safety standards and diversity, equity and inclusion. When we separated out into workshops, highlighting Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation grants management seminar, youth and youth protection and public image. With an ability to adapt, the presidents voted on the annual budget, spoke with DGE Emma about the changes to Governor visits under pilot conditions confirming we are focusing on service over meetings, and robust conversation on regionalisation updates in the crisp sunshine.

"The day struck a wonderful balance between meaningful learning and genuine fellowship–an ideal way to prepare us all for the year ahead. Well done, and thank you to everyone who contributed to such a positive and energising event". DG Stephen O'Connell

Many thanks to Benalla Rotary for the catering, District's Learning and Development lead Grant Godino and incoming District Secretary Rosemary Freeman for our planning and efforts for the weekend.

DGE Emma Davis.









Rotary
District 9790

Unite For Good - 2025 District Assembly

















Rotary
District 9790

District Changeover

Book now -late bookings not accepted!



6 July 2025

Changeover, Wangaratta Turf Club Wangaratta

To book, CLICK HERE
or scan the QR code

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME BUT PLEASE BOOK NOW FOR CATERING PURPOSES!

Basic Car Maintenance - Pascoe Vale

I'm Mandy, and I'm honoured to be writing this article as part of Pascoe Vale Rotary. My journey into community service started seven years ago when I founded I'm Still Learning (ISL),a not for profit focused on providing basic life skill programs. ISL was born from personal loss, but it quickly became a space where people could grow, learn, and support each other.

Unfortunately, due to overwhelming interest and limited resources, I had to close ISL at the end of December 2024. But one of ISL's strongest supporters Pascoe Vale Rotary, reached out, and though I wasn't sure at first, joining Rotary turned out to be a smart decision. The incredible network of volunteers and the potential to reach even more people convinced me that this was the next step in my journey of service.

I'm excited to contribute to meaningful projects, learn from all of you, and continue making a difference together.



A collaboration of Pascoe Vale, Moreland, and Strathmore Rotary Clubs alongside the SES and Victoria Police successfully ran a 3 and a 1/2 hour Basic Car Maintenance Youth course on Saturday 3 May for 5 participants with an overall satisfaction rating of 94% as anonymously rated by our participants and some of the feedback was:
"Really informative and lots of fun!"



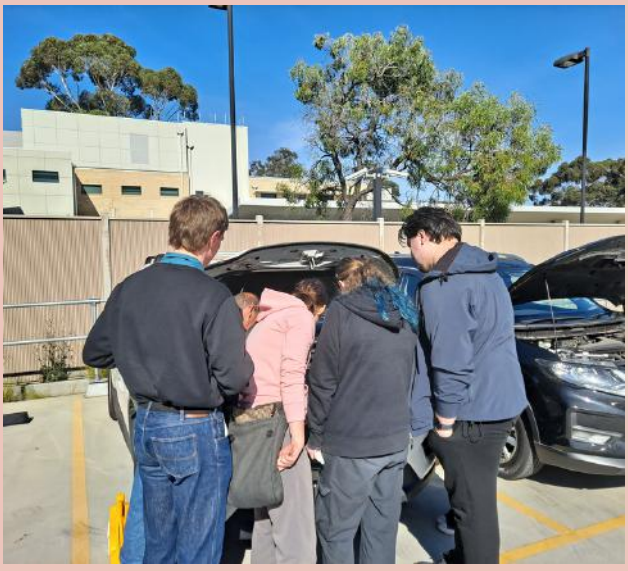
"Great way to get a basic understanding of car maintenance and presented with a smile."
"Have multiple 'levels' or follow-up courses maybe."

The other notable occurrence was that 3 out of the 5 attendees expressed an interest in learning more about Rotary.

The fact that this course can be replicated anywhere means its impact can extend far beyond just one location. Equipping young people with practical car maintenance skills, building confidence, promoting road safety, and fostering self-reliance.

Our replicable course covers:

- Check and top up fluids including engine oil, coolant, wiper water plus more if relevant.
- Monitor tyre pressure and tread depth for safety and better fuel economy.
- Replace windshield wipers when they start leaving streaks to ensure clear visibility.
- What to do in the case of a breakdown.
- How to change a tyre.
- Roadworthy and what to look for.
-



This course can serve as a foundation for other Rotary clubs to build partnerships with organisations like SES, Victoria Police, and L2P. These collaborations can strengthen community ties, provide valuable educational opportunities, and empower drivers with essential basic car maintenance skills.

The cost and man power is minimal, anyone who is a car mechanic or enthusiast would be able to instruct and we would recommend partnering with other Rotary clubs in your area. We will be holding a demonstration of our Basic Car Maintenance course on 14 June at the Fawkner SES for any club that may be looking at adopting the program. Feel free to contact me at mgosetti3@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the demonstration or for further information.

Mandy Gosetti, Pascoe Vale

Youth News

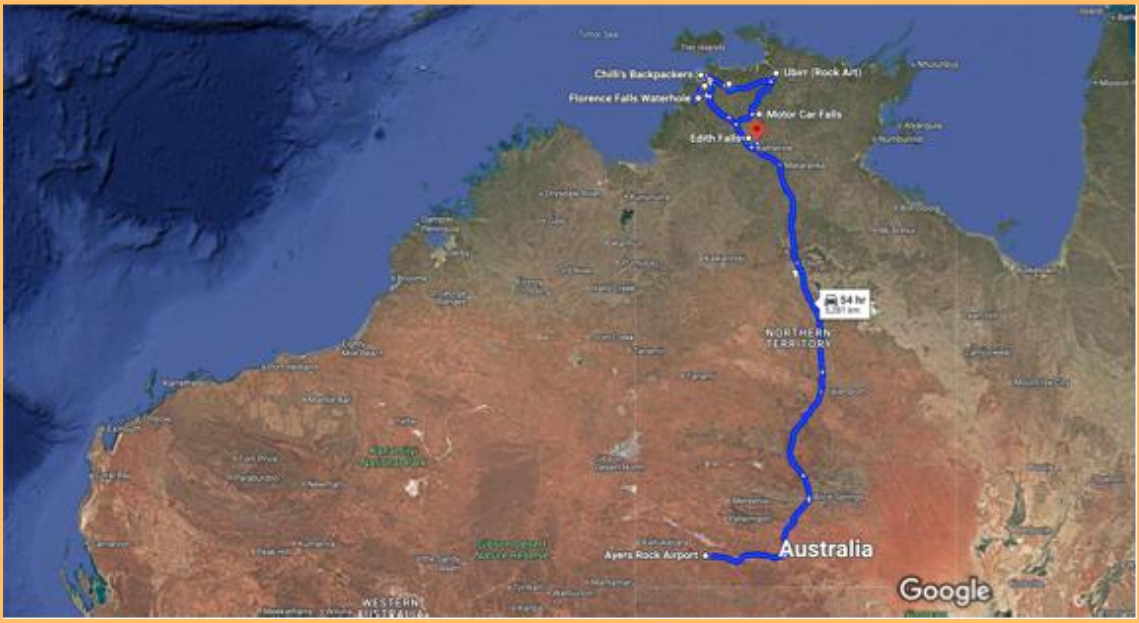
Youth Exchange Safari

Olga Kovanen, Finland
I learned more about the history behind Australia, behind Aboriginals. I learned a lot about aboriginals' art and their paintings.
Going to zoos/national parks taught me about multiple plants, rocks and animals such as Crocodiles, Echidnas and more!
Benefit of this trip is definitely understanding more, gaining knowledge and also making stronger connections with other exchange students!

==========
Vale Santamaria Blanco, Spain
The Australian Safari was a turning point for me. It has shown me a lot about Aboriginal culture and traditions. As well as to listen to the land and to those who know about it.
It has shown me that the part of Australia where the soil is red has a lot to teach us about resilience and teamwork. I am extremely grateful to the Rotary team for making this trip possible.
I am positive any of us will forget about it. Val

==========
Yves Mounir, Switzerland
The Safari trip has been an incredible experience. One of the biggest things I've learned is just how massive this country truly is. Driving along the Stuart Highway for hours without passing any towns or even small settlements really showed me how much open space there is in Australia.
In Switzerland, especially in the Alps where I live, space is limited. Cars have to drive around villages, lakes, and mountains, so everything feels much closer together. A long drive for us means anything over an hour. Here, that's considered just a quick trip down the road ;)
Thank you so much for making it possible. Yves

==========
Karolina Kolenciak, Slovakia
Thanks to the Safari Trip I gained a very good feeling of how Northern Territory looks like. Starting at the coast in Darwin and travelling 1500km to the well-known Red Centre is a unique experience. We learned a lot about Aboriginal culture, and we realised how significant the connection between the Indigenous people and the land is. The Red Centre is a very spiritual place, and it makes you to look at things from a different perspective.
Thank you very much for the great trip, Karolina



Youth News

Youth Exchange Safari



Our group



Litchfield national park



Kakadu



Shirts



Rock art guided tour



Students' flags



Meredith Miegel, RYE Chair and Paul Miegel, DGN, Outback Safari Australia Chaperones

Youth News

Youth Progams Contacts

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) – Meredith Miegel, M 0417 246 546, Email: chairperson@rye9790.org.au

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) – Linda Gidlund, M 0418 173 279, Email info@ryla9790.org.au

Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment (RYPEN) – Contact Sally West, M 0402 361 551, email sallywestrotary@gmail.com or rypen@rotary9790.org.au

Rotex – Contact Rotex by email: rotex9790@gmail.com, see the Rotex District 9790 Facebook page.

Albury North - Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment (RYPEN) – Nathan Stuart, M 0412 707 770, Email - msgnathans@gmail.com



If you would like further information please email Youth Programs Chair Nat Hood on nat990151@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2025!

A Key Date in District 9790

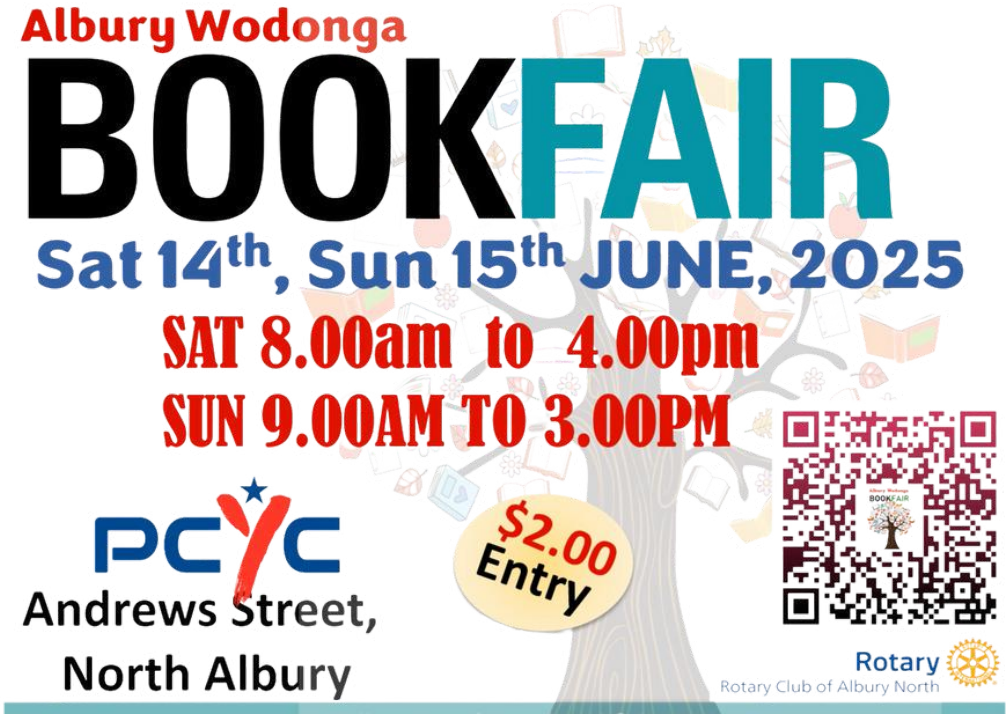
6 July 2025

Changeover, Wangaratta Turf Club, all members welcome

Wangaratta

To book, CLICK HERE or scan the QR code

Yours in Service,
Emma Davis
District Governor 2025-2026 RI District 9790
+61(0)407 628 388 emma.jane.davis



ShelterBox

TREK 4 SHELTER CAPE TO CAPE 2025

14 - 21 October 2025

Go the extra mile for disaster relief



SCAN HERE!

Trek Cape 2 Cape

Scan to find out more

One of Australia's most magnificent 8-day walks awaits! Cape to Cape, WA.

Staying at iconic Margaret River, you will walk cliff tops and pristine white sandy beaches, with a glittering backdrop of turquoise waters. Watch dolphins off the coast, enjoy the exhilarating soundtrack of waves crashing on the shore, wonder at limestone caves, giant red granite boulders, colourful wildflowers, visit an historic homestead and be dwarfed by enormous shady karri forests.

To find out more and register, visit **www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au/events/**

ROTARY SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE 2025

Don't miss your chance to win!

Rotary South Pacific Conference

31 October - 2 November 2025

CONNECT SHARE GROW
GOLD COAST 2025

Rotary South Pacific

Rotaract South Pacific

DON'T MISS OUT:

Register before 30 June for **early bird rates** and **a chance to win!**

REGISTER NOW

Now is the perfect time to save your spot at the biggest Rotary gathering in our region.

ıe 2025 Rotary South Pacific Conference is an amazing opportunity to expand your Rotary networ d learn from inspiring speakers. All Rotary and Rotaract members, and alumni of Rotary programs are welcome to attend.

you register before 30 June 2025, you'll not only pay a reduced early bird rate for the conference, you'll automatically go in the draw to **win two free tickets to the Gala Dinner on Saturday 1 November**.

One lucky person will have the cost of their Gala Dinner ticket – and that of another attendee – reimbursed or covered. **That's almost $200 worth of tickets for free!**

Register now for your chance to win.

Good luck!

Register now



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.

May 2025

Youth Service Month

June 2025

Rotary Fellowships Month

21-25 June — Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada

LEADING TOGETHER, DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY DISTRICT 9790 INC. WWW.ROTARY9790.ORG.AU

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 JUNE 2025 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

THIS BULLETIN IS DESIGNED ON CANVA (WWW.CANVA.COM)