



**Rotary**



**Murray  
Connects the  
District 9790  
June 2020**



**Rotary**



**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**

**On behalf of District 9790**

**District Governor Brian Peters**

**Invites you to attend**

***A Virtual District Changeover***

**To be held via ZOOM**

**On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Time: 11.15am for 11.30 Commencement**

**Come and witness the first virtual District Changeover, celebrate the 2019-2020 Rotary year and the introduction of the 2020-2021 Rotary year.**

**If you've never been able to attend a District Changeover this is a good opportunity to be part of an important Rotary event.**

**No need to register ☐ just attend on the day. Details on how to connect are in the email.**


**Enquiries: Clive Faul ☐ [clive\\_faul@hotmail.com](mailto:clive_faul@hotmail.com)**

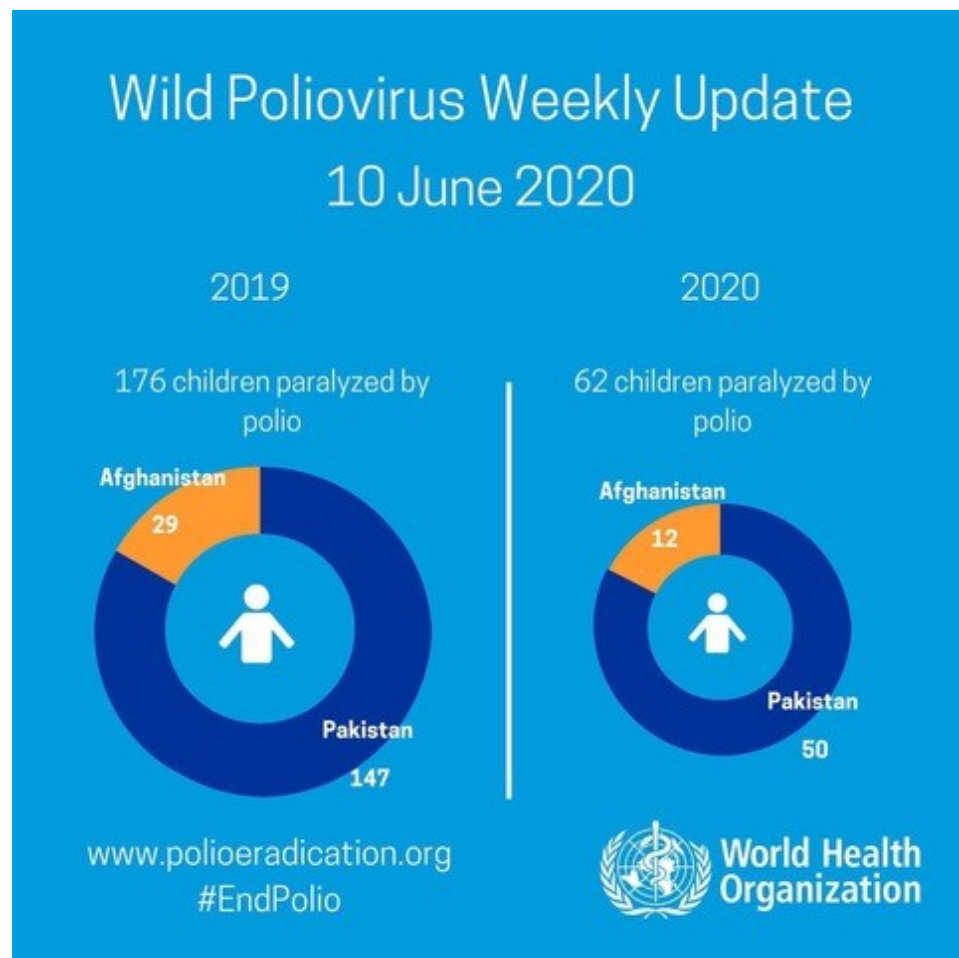
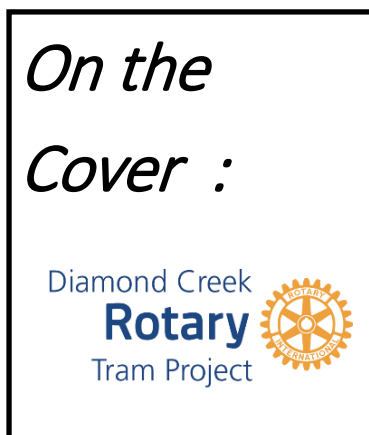
**Rotary**



**Rotary Opens  
Opportunities**

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**Murray Connects the District 9790** is the official monthly publication of Rotary International District 9790 Inc.

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Chief Cook and bottle washer : Greg as well

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**Closing date is by the 26th of each month. (give or take a bit)**

Note: The views and opinions 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.





Well here we are with the penultimate “Murray connects District 9790”. What a ride! It’s been one heck of a journey summed up in one word – challenging.

I hope you’re all staying safe and enjoying your Rotary meetings in whatever format you’re using. For me as a DG it’s been an excellent opportunity for me to join other Rotary Clubs. I’ve heard some excellent speakers from all over the world. It’s amazing how a Rotary Club can use technology and organise excellent world class speakers. I hope that as we return to ‘normality’ (whatever that means) Rotary Clubs will continue to embrace technology and utilise Zoom so that Rotarians who can’t physically attend a meeting can still attend Rotary – a hybrid way of meeting? Something to think about anyway.

DGE Bruce has done an outstanding job of conducting the District Assembly via Zoom over several weekends. In another innovation Bruce had to use an online survey to get the District Budget for 2020-2021 approved.

Ordinarily when we hold a District Conference, we also hold a Resolutions session if we need to update the Bylaws. Well clearly, we weren’t able to do that this year but RI advised Districts that they could hold electronic ballots or votes if they needed to. As a result, we organised the first ever online Resolutions survey and all the various Resolutions were passed and have now been adopted.

The other night I joined a Zoom meeting held by Belvoir Wodonga Rotary to hear Jessie Harman, incoming Zone 8 RI Director, talk. It was very interesting hearing about the various options that RI is adopting with regards to clubs. We already are aware of Passport clubs. Well, now ‘cause’ based clubs can be formed and the first one that has been formed wants to tackle Human Trafficking.

The age limit on Rotaract has been removed and Rotaractors can remain past the age of 30. Again, good news.

## District Changeover

Invites have already been sent out for Rotarians to join our first ever virtual District Changeover on Sunday 28 June 2020 at 11:30am. It is going to be held by Zoom rather than cap attendance at 50. The details of how to connect are in the email that was sent out at the weekend.

## 2019-2020 District Dues Refund

At the May District Board and Finance meetings a recommendation was made to provide a part refund of the District Dues in this, the 2019-2020 Rotary year.

This recommendation comes in light of the pandemic circumstances we currently find ourselves in.

### *What was agreed was:*

The amount of the refund will be \$25 per Rotarian who has renewed and paid their Rotary International membership fees by Friday 31 July 2020.

The refund will be made to the Clubs in District 9790 and paid into the Club Account.

This is a gesture of goodwill and should be seen as such. The monies used will come from the 2019-2020 District Funds (not 2020-2021).

The monies are not to be used to fund projects.

The monies must be used for the benefit of Rotarians - this can either be a reduction in Club Membership fees or for a social event. It is the responsibility of the Club and the Club Members to decide which works best.

The refund is connected to ensuring we have engagement and renewed membership of Rotarians. It’s been a tough couple of months and hopefully we’ll all be able to enjoy some well-earned fellowship in the coming months.





## Bushfire Recovery

The Bushfire Recovery Committee continues to do excellent work. The other week I attended the first meeting of Corryong Rotary in several months. They've been doing some amazing work and been heavily involved in fundraising at various events before the pandemic took effect. Like everyone else they've been in lockdown ever since so it was good to be at their first meeting.

The really good news is that District 9800 want to partner with District 9790 Clubs in Bushfire Relief Grants. The aim is for 9790 Clubs to partner with 9800 Clubs and apply for a matching Grant on a 1:1 basis up to a maximum of \$15,000. More details to come and will be announced by the Bushfire Recovery Committee. This is an excellent way to maximise resources and gain access to funds that were donated to the National Bushfire Appeal through the Bendigo Bank. These grants are not District Grants.

## Youth Exchange

Unfortunately, we've had to suspend the Youth Exchange programme during 2020 but we are hopeful it will resume in 2021. We still have a number of Youth Exchange students in our District but they are due to return in July/August. The students currently overseas are in good health, a couple may return home early but the majority it is hoped will complete their Exchange. It's been a difficult time for Youth Exchange and I'd like to thank Bruce McIntyre and the team for the hard work they've put in to making the programme a success.

*DG Brian*





## Preston Rotary's COVID-19 Community Impact

**P**reston Rotary actively supports the community outreach of Bridge Darebin (BD) and Reservoir Neighbourhood House (RNH), situated in Melbourne's Northern suburbs.

Since March, Bridge Darebin and Reservoir Neighbourhood House have not been able to safely deliver their usual weekly food and social support services under the COVID-19 restrictions. Bridge Darebin normally runs a free weekly Friday lunch and Sunday dinner, with up to 80 attendees for each meal who also receive a second meal and some grocery items to take home. Reservoir Neighbourhood House provide a daily community pantry with free grocery items and breads, monthly community lunches, weekly soup days and grocery support to local public housing estates via Foodbank.

Although both Houses were providing food relief, the introduction of COVID-19 meant community need for food support became next-level virtually overnight. At RNH, Angie Davidson, Executive Officer, opened her grocery giveaway the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> to a line of people stretching up the street. Numbers she had never experienced before, and social distancing was definitely not the first thing on their minds. Angie had over 150 people in need, without the building space and staff numbers to manage this demand.

Rotary Club of Preston were instrumental in supporting the very first community food relief initiative with Reservoir Neighbourhood House in the first week of lockdown. Together, they were able to support the sourcing and delivery of 200 meals within four days. The following week the program was extended to increase the outreach to vulnerable community members living in public housing estates in East Reservoir.

It was becoming extremely difficult to source bulk foods and keep social distancing measures in place whilst the need for more support for community kept growing. The neighbouring organisation Bridge Darebin assisted through their bulk foods store to support the program. Within a matter of days, donations had transformed their front community hall into a packing hub. In a remarkably short period of time both Neighbourhood

Houses formed the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses food relief response for COVID-19.

With support from Preston Rotary and the Donations In Kind truck, collections from FareShare and Foodbank grew.

By the beginning of April both Neighbourhood houses had distributed:

- 4,040 FareShare two-person meals
- 3,300 grocery bags (1,100 deliveries)
- 2 pallets of fruit and veg and 2 pallets of dairy products
- 400 hygiene packs
- Supporting 13 welfare/community organisations to access between 20 – 80 meals each week for their communities.

From mid-May, the meals were estimated at 1400 per week. So as the need for food relief grew, Preston Rotary continued to support the Darebin wide program. Hygiene packs sourced from Pinchapoo have been greatly appreciated, along with donated fresh bread. The Darebin Neighbourhood Houses have been resourceful in seeking other much needed donations, such as Halal meals, baby goods and nappies.

Rotarian Ruth McCall notes "As a relatively new Rotarian, I am continually inspired by my club's readiness to assist in providing much needed relief to a vulnerable community. The response to the COVID-19 Pandemic rapidly enacted by Reservoir Neighbourhood House, and Bridge Darebin partnerships demonstrate a passionate commitment to their communities."

The need for food relief assistance will continue long after COVID-19 lockdowns have been lifted. A fundraising campaign has been set up by Bridge Darebin and Reservoir Neighbourhood House to support the continuation and longevity of food relief in Darebin for as long as is possible. Whilst this support continues, so will the program.



The program has attracted media articles, video diaries and social media posts;

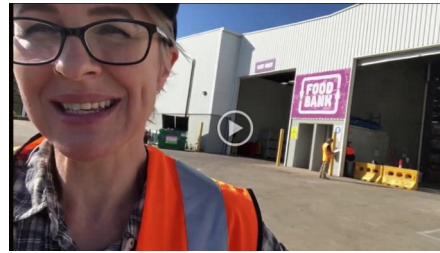
- Herald Sun article: [https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/south-east/ubers-drive-to-help-hungry-australians/news-story/11889fd9e4ef04f3090f6fd5b99b8895?fbclid=IwAR2GlxW0mR\\_JIGKM85zZZgXTnFcJXTESRv9Rmo35tJmgJgAmZlj-f\\_bh7Zg](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/south-east/ubers-drive-to-help-hungry-australians/news-story/11889fd9e4ef04f3090f6fd5b99b8895?fbclid=IwAR2GlxW0mR_JIGKM85zZZgXTnFcJXTESRv9Rmo35tJmgJgAmZlj-f_bh7Zg)

- Video Part 1 of COVID-19 Food Relief response:

<https://youtu.be/uAZG1Zq2ASU>

- Video Part 2 of COVID-19 Food Relief response:

<https://youtu.be/Gl1EdQrt8as>



- Fundraising Campaign page:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/darebin-covid-food-relief>



Yours in Service,

Emma Davis

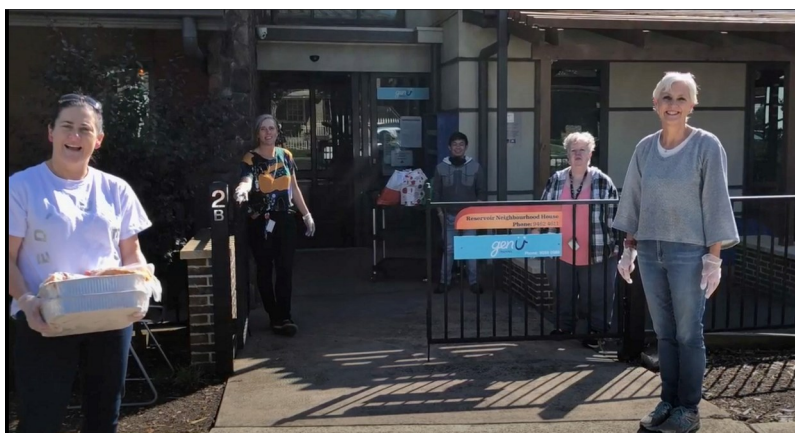
Assistant Governor (Group 2) District 9790

Past President, Paul Harris Fellow, Royce Abbey Awardee

Rotary Club of Strathmore



Darebin Council and the Department of Health and Human Services







# Diamond Creek Rotary Tram Project



In May 2018, the Victorian State Government announced they that would be giving Victorians the opportunity to acquire one of 134 Retired W Class Trams. Schools, community groups, not for profit organisations and other public institutions were invited to submit an Expression of Interest in order to acquire one.

The Rotary Club of Diamond Creek was approached by the Diamond Creek CFA and the Diamond Creek Men's Shed to put in a joint submission to acquire one for Diamond Creek. A small group of members from each organisation worked closely with the Nillumbik Shire Council to do this.

It was agreed that the tram would be sited in a significant place in Diamond Creek and after restoration and refurbishment, would be turned into a 'pop up' coffee shop which would be run on weekends by local community groups. These groups would be rostered in turn to run it, and would recoup the profits from it.

In September 2018, the successful applicants were announced and we were proud to be deemed as the best successful application from the 1500 which were submitted. A story appeared on the Channel 9 News with members of our group being featured.

In the meantime, the Nillumbik Shire Council had received \$2.5 million to construct a new state of the art playground in Diamond Creek. As well as traditional playground equipment, the playground will include educational apps that support augmented reality discovery learning experiences. It was deemed that this playground would be the ideal site for the tram.

Whilst still supportive of the project, the Diamond Creek CFA and the Diamond Creek Men's Shed have stepped back from the project and it is now being solely run by the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek.

The quest for the tram has been ably led by Joshua Allen, a member of the CFA, and now a member of the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek. Without Josh's hard work, none of this could have happened!

He has lived and breathed 'the tram' ever since it arrived and we are all proud of his efforts!

On 13 June 2019, the project really came to life with tram 812 being delivered to Diamond Creek after being in storage at the Newport depot for approximately twenty years.

And what a journey it has been since, renovating the tram into a coffee shop configuration whilst trying to keep as many original components as possible.

Fast forward a year and we find the tram nestled up on a small hill between trees, on the only parcel of council land, above the flood zone in Diamond Creek. The construction phase of the project is nearing completion as a fully refurbished tram café with a large deck and pergola to make it a real attraction.

This project is up there with the biggest that the club has ever undertaken. It has seen community support and business donations of an absolutely incredible nature. The generosity and support for this project has led to a facility that will serve the community for years to come.

A crazy idea, that many doubted would eventuate, has been made a reality by good people and hard work.

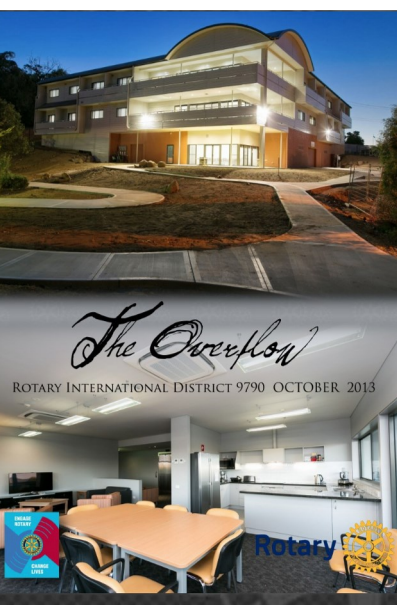
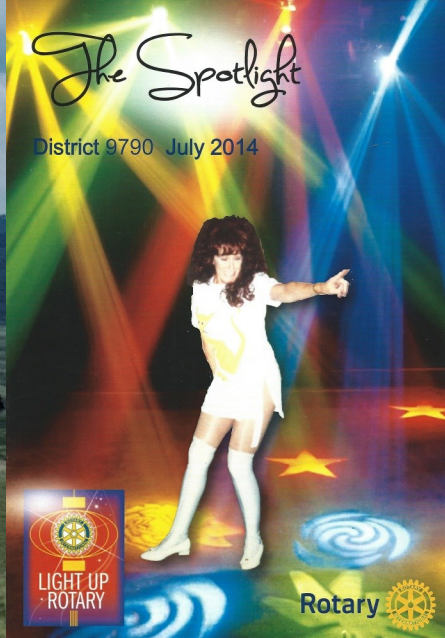
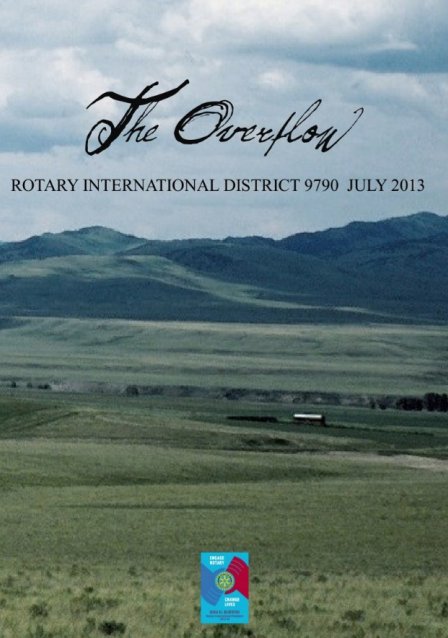
Kerry Jones Rotary Club of Diamond Creek











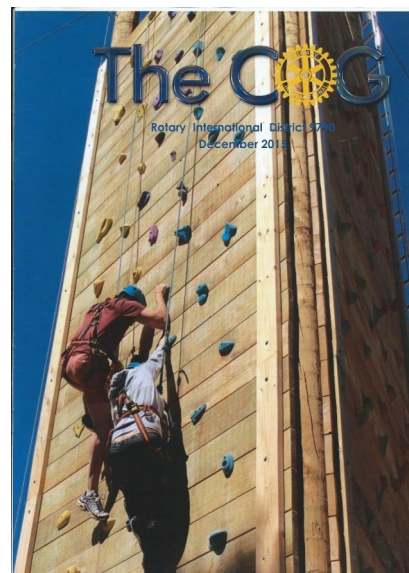
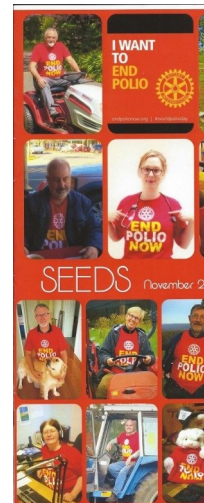
PDG Philip Clancy 2013/14 - *The Overflow*; PDG Patti Bulluss 2014/15 - *The Overflow*; PDG Tony Bramley 2016/17 - *SEEDS*; PDG Bernie Bott 2017/18 - *Whispering in Rotary* and DG Brian Peters - *Murray Connects the District*.

**T**hank you all for allowing me be your Editor of the Official Rotary Magazine.

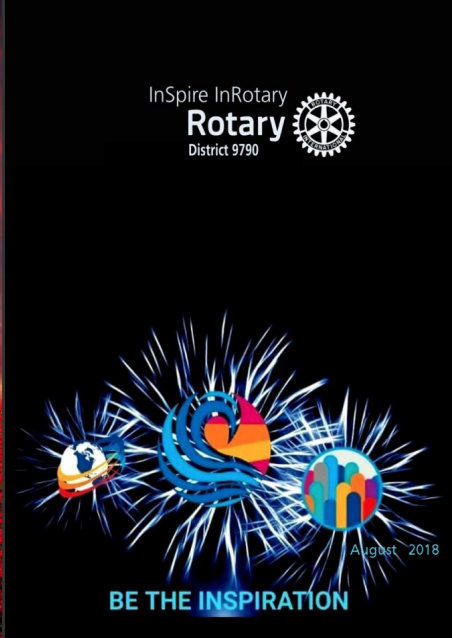
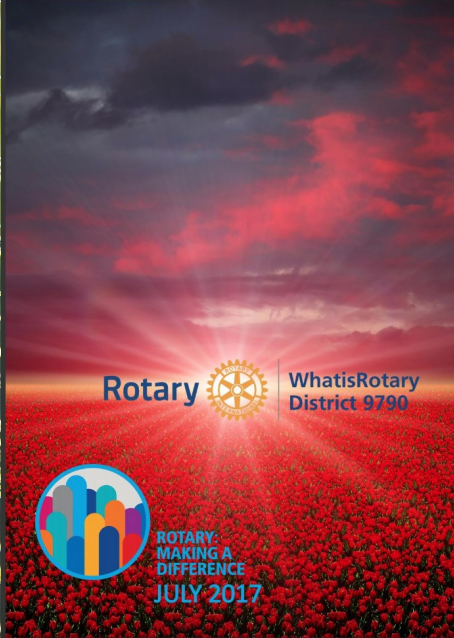
Thank you to PP Kerry Jones, my proof reader (read: DG representative), for the many articles and photos, It does make the job easy, thank you.

In the first edition I said 'Every Rotarian has a specific moment in their life. Some call this their '*Rotary Moment*' I believe that it is very important to share it so far; a personal experience can open doors and make friends.

Each of us has experienced the joy of a Rotary Moment It's taking the time to share it, we can change people's lives.'







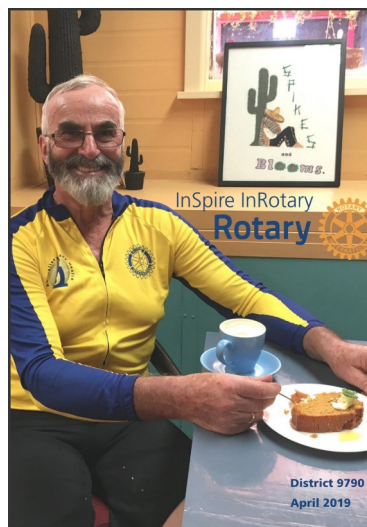
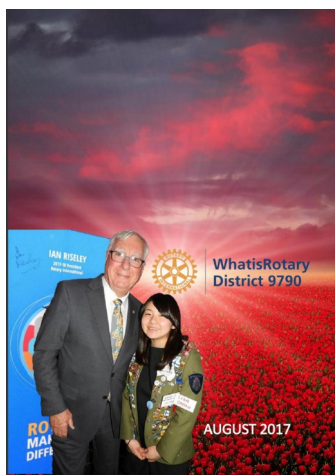
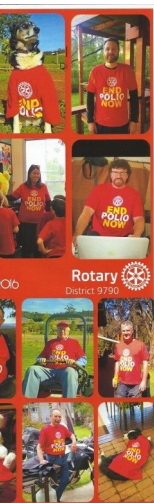
14/15 - The Spotlight; PGD Richard Luke 2015/16 - The COG, PDG; WhatisRotary District 9790; PDG Malcolm Kerr 2018/19 - InSpire

Rotary International District 9790 DG's newsletters.

(short corrector!) and contributor and to all the other contributors who help me.

in their lives that stands out and holds a special meaning to them. It is important to share this moment with others. Facts and figures can only tell part of the story.

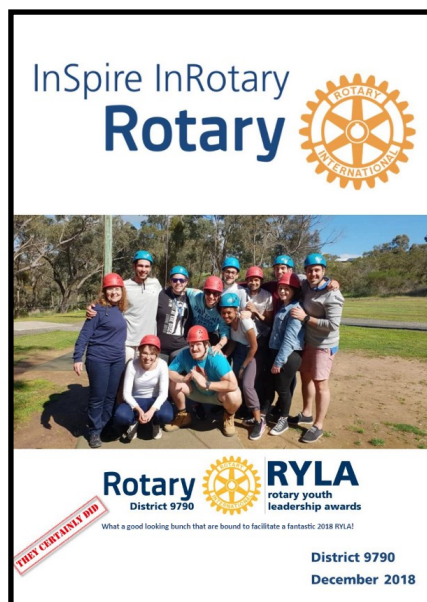
taking the next step and understanding that when we share these stories



The top row is the first edition for each Rotary year and below is an assortment of what we do ! Each copy is a live link.

I wish David Redfearn Moreland Rotary all the best, 'sharp pencil and smooth pages' !

Greg Adams Editor







## Sir Clem Renouf, AM 19 April 1921 11 June 2020

When I visited Rotary Clubs as part of my District Governor visits, I often used the story of Sir Clem Renouf as an example of how one person can make a difference in the world.

At his RI President acceptance speech at the San Francisco Convention he stated "I am here because Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible. I am here because Rotary cares for people." His theme for the year was "Reach Out".

1978-79 was a memorable year in Rotary history. It was the year in which the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3H) programme was launched.

When President Clem launched the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to provide initial funds for the 3H programme, inviting clubs to contribute \$15 per member to receive a banner they responded. This laid the cornerstone of the funds that are now available through The Rotary Foundation today.

In 1985 the End Polio Now programme finally got underway. The inspiration was the elimination of smallpox in the late 70's. The idea was to eliminate Polio. The WHO didn't believe it was achievable and didn't join Rotary until 1988. In 1985 there were 350,000 cases of Polio worldwide. As at 10 June 2020 there have been 62 cases of Polio in two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Because of the work that Sir Clem Renouf began in his year as RI President there are 17 million people on this planet who've not experience paralysis through Polio. Think about it...17 million people. Polio was endemic in 126 countries back in 1985 and today it is two. The whole of Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia is Polio free...because of Rotary and the leadership of Sir Clem Renouf.

In addition, Vitamin A was added to the vaccine and there are a further 1.5 million children alive today who haven't died due to Vitamin A deficiency.

Rotary truly does 'Connect the World' and next year it will 'Open Opportunities'.

Vale Sir Clem Renouf but what a life well lived and what a difference *you made*.

*DG Brian*





**"Rotary takes  
ordinary men and  
women and gives  
them extraordinary  
opportunities to  
do more with their  
lives than they ever  
dreamed possible"**

o rotarianevanburrell



SIR CLEM RENOUF

SAVE  
THE  
DATE |

**NOW MORE THAN EVER,  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD**  
**THE 2020 ROTARY  
VIRTUAL CONVENT**

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20-26 June 2020 | Learn more at [rotaryconvention.org](https://rotaryconvention.org)



Have you ever wanted to attend a RI Convention?

Well now you can! And it's FREE!

This year the RI Convention in Honolulu had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. That was disappointing but it has provided an opportunity for every Rotarian to attend a Virtual Convention. Even if you can't make the time of the sessions they will be recorded and you will be able to watch them on demand.

Register for free. Take advantage of the experience. Last year I went to my first RI Convention in Hamburg and it was excellent!

*DG Brian.*

### Day 1: General Session

20 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Together, We Connect

### Day 2: General Session

21 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Together, We Learn

### Day 3: Breakout Sessions

22 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Using Virtual Tools to Engage Members

23 Jun, 3am (AEST) - Engaging Rotary Alumni

23 Jun, 9am (AEST) - Greening Rotary Events

### Day 4: Breakout Sessions

23 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Grow Rotary Through New Club Types

24 Jun, 3am (AEST) - President-Nominee Session

24 Jun, 9am (AEST) - Microfinance Projects

### Day 5: Breakout Sessions

24 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Adopt-a-River Initiative

25 Jun, 3am (AEST) - Rotaract Elevated, Now What?

25 Jun, 9am (AEST) - Disruptive Innovation in Rotary Clubs

### Day 6: Breakout Sessions

25 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - How to Submit a Great Global Grant Application

26 Jun, 3am (AEST) - President-Elect Session

26 Jun, 9am (AEST) - Using Tech to Engage Millennials

### Day 7: Breakout Sessions

26 Jun, 11pm (AEST) - Engage Young Families

27 Jun, 3am (AEST) - The Rotary Brand

27 Jun, 9am (AEST) - Personal Growth Opportunities

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vention.org



Jefferson Memorial, Washington DC

So this is the last chance for me to share my 'favourite' images from my travels.





The Cheesemaker, Crete



Mount Ararat, Eastern  
Turkey but viewed from  
Armenia



LIFE  
OF  
BRIAN



Polar Bear, Svalbard, Arctic

Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile







Tiger, Bandhavgarh National Park, India

Kolmanskop Ghost Town, Namib Desert, Namibia







That's all from me folks! Deadvlei, Soussusvlei, Namibia

