

DG Connect



January 2025

Well, here we are in 2025. A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had some time to rest and recuperate and are ready to get on with the projects and events that your Clubs are so passionate about.

Reflecting on the first six months of this Rotary year, this is what some of you have been up to:

- Art Show – West Perth
- Dirt and Dust - South Bunbury
- Carine Fair – Hillarys Wanneroo
- Jacaranda Festival - Applecross
- Radio Auctions – Boulder, Geraldton, Northam
- Bull Dust n' Back – Mill Point
- Bricktober - Ascot
- Vienna Pops – Perth
- Community Markets – various Clubs: to name a few
 - Community Market Rockingham (pictured)
 - Stirling Farmers Markets - Karrinyup
 - Artisan Markets – Willetton
 - Community Market - Belmont
- New Years Event - Esperance
- Friday night's Bingo - Byford
- Community Quiz nights - Cockburn
- Wishing Well - Mandurah
- Lift the Lid Walks – various clubs
- Give a Feed donations – so many of you gave generously, thank you



There are so many more, I wish I could mention them all. The Clubs throughout WA bring communities together and give vital support through these events. We have collectively raised over a million dollars. We have volunteered thousands of hours and made a huge difference to people's lives in our State and across the World. There are many more events planned for this year – look out for what's on in the **RotaryWA Roundup**

Vocational Training Team (VTT)

In March, if all goes well, we hope to welcome a team of individuals from California. The team members come from different backgrounds and work in a variety of vocations all with a connection and passion against human trafficking. Some are supporting survivors, some are survivors themselves, some work in law enforcement and all care deeply about human rights.

The VTT lead from Rotary Western Australia is David Uhe and he is supported by the District's Foundation Team. The VTT from the US plan to arrive in March in time to attend the District Conference in Margaret River.



District Governor Elect and Nominee

Our District Governor Elect is also our District Governor Nominee so when Veronica Lawrance takes the lead in July 2025 she will serve a two-year term.

The regionalisation pilot has already seen some changes to the role of the District Governor and there are more to come. Veronica has demonstrated exceptional leadership within her own club and recently as part of the Rotary WA District board.

She is the right person to lead us through the next two years of the regional changes, adapting to work within the new structure and focus on enhancing and growing our clubs.

Leadership is about seeing the vision, understanding the changes needed and guiding us all to the opportunities they bring.

If you have not had the chance to meet Veronica, look out for the District Assemblies or invite her to visit your club.



District Change Over

Save the date of the **Saturday the 14 June 2025** for the District Changeover – celebrating 2024-25 and welcoming Veronica as the incoming District Governor.

Rotary Western Australia Recognition

District Awards to recognize Clubs and an Individual for outstanding achievement in this Rotary year, will be made in the following categories:

- Rotarian of the Year
- Most Improved Club Award – Membership
- Innovation Award
- Public Image Award

To be eligible for Club Awards:

- Clubs must have goals entered in the Rotary Club Central - Goal Centre
- Public image branding must be in line with Rotary International Brand Centre
- Nomination for Club Awards to be submitted by 31 May 2025

If there is someone or a Club you want the G-Train or the DG to consider, you, your Club or a RCL can send us suggestions. Please include the reasons why, some photos or articles to support your recommendation. Thank you.

District Awards Criteria

Rotarian of the Year	Exemplary Rotary service to Rotary WA	DG
Club Award Most Improved Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retention of members• Increased membership• Increased diversity(gender/age)	G-train
Club Award Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club with innovative idea for project, club format, activity etc.	G-train
Club Award Public Image	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposure of Club's projects/service• Correct logo (refer RI Brand Centre)• Current social media• Current effective website	G-Train

Time to Start Thinking about your next District Grant

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in your community and communities abroad.

Your Rotary club has the opportunity to receive a District Grant of up to \$2,500 alongside your Club's contribution to assist a project you would like to undertake in your local community. Applications for 2025-26 District Grants will be called soon and now is the time to plan your project.

The application process is simple and in the 2024-25 grant round, all applications received funding approval. While this is a competitive grant, funds are available for distribution to support projects. The simple eligibility criteria are:

- club representative's attendance at the District Foundation Grants Seminar - to be run in early April 2025
- your club goals loaded in Club Central on My Rotary
- have completed and lodged your District Grant application completed and lodged by the closing date.

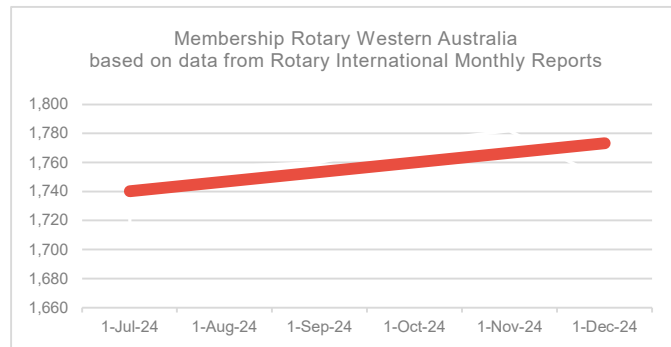
Further information will be provided closer to the application date - but now is the time to be planning your project.

A number of clubs in our Rotary District take advantage of the District Grant to support a project each year. It is an easy way to boost your capability to deliver value in your local community.



The Rotary Club of Como was successful in receiving a District Grant of \$2,000 and with a Club contribution were able to make a Community Donation \$5,000 towards new computer equipment for the Manning Menshed. The computer link to machines to improve dust management in the Shed for Health & Safety purposes

Membership Growth



Based on the RI monthly reports Rotary Western Australia has been a top performer in Zone 8 for membership growth this year.

As happy as that may make us feel, we must continue the good work that has started, keep sharing ideas and working together to grow membership in Rotary Western Australia.

Membership growth and engagement should be a key focus of all that we do. Our projects and community connections engage our members and attract the attention of potential members. Congratulations to those Rotary Community Leaders (RCLs) who have been working with Clubs on the Rotary Community Group Growth Plans. There has been lots of positive feedback from Clubs participating in the Regionalisation Pilot. Some have been inspired by the workshops and are growing their clubs through various ways.



Rotary International report on membership each month. There is a noticeable drop in membership numbers each December and June, which maybe because clubs are leaving past members on their records. I encourage clubs to update their membership records each month to help keep membership numbers as accurate as possible.

Four Way Test Speech Contest

The Rotary Club of Greater Geraldton was successful with their bid to run the Four Way Test Speech Contest across Western Australia. The following message was received from their Club:



The Rotary Club of Greater Geraldton was pleased and excited with being chosen as the Club to lead the way for the 2025 4Way Test Speaking Competition.

The Chair of the Committee is Rotarian Grant Woodhams and during the next few weeks will be contacting Clubs in our District to form the organising Committee. Greater Geraldton is keen to engage with Clubs who have previously supported the Competition and increase the number of Clubs participating, particularly from Regional areas.

It is intended that the Committee will include experienced Rotarians and Schoolteachers from around the State. If you or your Club would like to be involved, please contact Grant at email woodhamsgrant9@gmail.com.

DG Pat Out and About

Rotary Youth Exchange

Be proud Rotary Clubs of Western Australia, there are 22 students heading to various countries to represent our District. It is because of your Clubs support, the many host families and a fabulous committee that brings all of this together. Rotary WA leads the way in our Zone for the number of students we have through this Rotary International program each year. Well done to all involved.



DG Pat Out and About

Rotary WA Camp Opportunity



Visiting Rotary WA Camp Opportunity always brings me joy. What a fun, creative and enlightening week it is for campers and buddies. This wonderful project, which provides a week-long recreational camp for people with a disability, was introduced by PDG Ron Sloan over 40 years ago. Inspirational projects like this one are only sustainable with the ongoing support by Rotary Clubs and the commitment and dedication of Rotarians and volunteers who plan, prepare and run the camps each year. Each year the first campers, their parents and the first-time buddies are given their first exposure of what is possible through Rotary Clubs.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Commitment and dedication are two words that also fit very well with the RYLA organizing committee. Well done to another outstanding week. Close to 40 participants engaged in self-development, team building, leadership skills and establishing friendships that can last a lifetime. A great team lead by Ian Ball (RC Como).

You are all making a positive difference, thank you.