

Rotary



District 9465

2022 conference



**ROCKINGHAM**

(Virtual visit)



## PROGRAM

### 9:00 am START

- Welcome to conference
- RIPPR PDG Murray Verso
- Rockingham City Council, Mayor Deb Hamblin
- Elizabeth Connolly & Brett King – Rotary WA & Lifeblood – saving lives takes guts
- Margaret Waterton, indigenous teacher scholarships
- Jerry Pilcher, Australian Rotary Health
- Dr Corey Dalton, ARH scholarship recipient
- Rick Dawson — local wildlife conversation

### 10:30 to 10:50 am MORNING TEA BREAK

- welcome back/intro
- Stan Grant – diversity and inclusion
- Keerthana Binu — runner-up in

## PHOTOGRAPHS

THANKS for the Rockingham photographs supplied by Merrelyn Hunter, Rick Dawson, Rae Heston and the Rockingham Visitor Centre.

- the Four-Way Test speech contest district finals
- Evan Burrell, social media, story telling
- Rick Sneeuwjagt, fire risk management

### 12:30 – 1.00 pm LUNCH BREAK

- welcome back/intro
- PDG Dr Jessie Harman, Rotary International director Zone 8
- Dr Craig Challen OAM
- RJ Ruwodo, winner of the Four-Way Test speech contest district final
- Fleur Massey, founder Blue Guardians
- 2023 conference promotion by DGE Ric McDonald

### 2:25 pm thank you, close

- DG Pat Schraven



**ENVOY:** RI president's personal representative

## Murray Verso

VICTORIAN Rotarian, Dr Murray Verso, will deliver a message from Rotary International president Shekhar Mehta.

A retired medical doctor, Murray has been District 9800's governor and District Rotary Foundation chairman.

He joined the Rotary Club of Williamstown in 1981 and has served two terms as president. He has been an assistant governor and membership development director.

In 2012, he led the District 9800 group study exchange team to District 3030 in Maharashtra, India.

He chaired the organising committee for the 1989 District 9800 Conference in Adelaide.

Murray and wife Irene (also a re-

cently retired doctor) lived and worked in Williamstown for 37 years. He was served on the District 9800 Australian Rotary Health committee and has spoken to Rotary clubs and community groups on ARH's work, men's health and mental health awareness.

He has been a council member of the Australian Medical Association's Victorian Branch and is a former board member of the Westgate Network of General Practice.

Murray and Irene have hosted Rotary Youth Exchange students from Denmark, Japan and the USA and have taken part in Rotary Friendship Exchanges to France and Turkey.

Murray is a Paul Harris Fellow with four sapphire recognitions.



## Why Rockingham pics?

ROTARY District 9465’s annual conference committee has tried twice to hold this big event in Rockingham and twice abandoned it because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are meeting online this year, we thought you should enjoy what Rockingham offers.

WITH 37km of spectacular coastline, Rockingham is a popular holiday spot. It’s just a 40-minute drive or train-and-bus ride south of Perth.

Islands, vast stretches of white sandy beaches, yachting in the protected bays, boat and jetty fishing or swimming amongst playful wild dolphins — Rockingham promises memorable experiences.

You will find advice on natural attractions, accommodation, restaurants, vineyard, events or simply things to do in Rockingham at the Kent Street Visitor Centre — on the ground floor of the Gary Holland Community Centre in Kent Street.

Rockingham’s catch-cry is ‘where the coast comes alive’ and the islands and reefs of the Shoalwater

Islands Marine Park offer marine encounters, from penguins and dolphins to dive wrecks and snorkel trails. Dolphins regularly visit these waters, so you can swim with them. If you prefer to stay dry, you can watch these playful creatures — and rare Australian sea lions — from a boat viewing platform as they ride the bow beneath your feet.

Their neighbours on Penguin Island are just as cute, and just a short ferry ride away. At the interpretive centre, penguin feeding and expert commentary are conducted daily, and the Penguin Express will get you there from the mainland between 9am and 3pm.

The penguins share their home with 50 species of seabirds, including WA’s largest colony of pelicans.



**EDUCATOR:** indigenous teacher scholarships

## Margaret Waterton

MARGARET Waterton has worked in education for most of her adult life, starting as a classroom teacher and later holding senior leadership positions within the Department of Education, including being principal policy consultant.

“I’ve been a Rotarian for nearly five years, happily participating in weekly meetings and on club committees,” she said.

“Last year my husband was Melville club president and wanted a

project that the club could get its collective teeth into.

“So, having hooked me in, and

after a bit of collective work, we now have a partnership with Mineral Resources Ltd and Edith Cowan University.

“We are able to offer four scholarships to students identifying as Aboriginal to complete a four-year Bachelor’s Degree in Education.”

Margaret said: “I would like to tell you our story.”





## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

ABC international affairs editor

# Stan Grant

STAN Grant is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's international affairs editor and holds Charles Sturt University's vice-chancellor's chair of Australian/Indigenous Belonging. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Australian Department of Defence.

The multi-award winning current affairs host, author and an adventurer's Aboriginal heritage shaped his personality. He was born in Griffith, south-west New South Wales, in 1963. His mother is from the Kamilaroi people and his father is of the Wiradjuri.

Stan spent most of his childhood on the road, living in small towns and Aboriginal communities across outback NSW. His father was an itinerant sawmiller who worked when and where he could. Stan moved so often he attended 12 dif-

ferent schools before he was in his teens. The early travelling gave him a love of adventure and stories. He grew up listening to the tales of his grandfather, uncles and aunts. Despite poverty and an early sporadic education, the security of his family and the larger Aboriginal community gave him a strong platform for life.

After attending university, Stan won a cadetship with the Macquarie Radio Network, launching a career in journalism that has spanned more than 30 years and more than 70 countries. He has travelled the world covering major stories — from Nelson Mandela's release to the troubles in Northern Ireland, from Princess Diana's death to war in



Iraq, from the second Palestinian intifada to the war on terror, from the south Asian tsunami to the Pakistan earthquake and the rise of China.

Stan has hosted major news and current affairs programs on Australian commercial and public TV. He has been a political correspondent for the ABC, a London-based Europe correspondent for the Seven Network and a senior international correspondent for the international broadcaster CNN, based in Hong Kong and Beijing.

After returning to Australia in 2013, Stan continued covering international events for Sky News Australia and reignited his passion for telling the stories of his own indigenous people. He has worked as the indigenous editor for *The Guardian Australia*, been managing editor of National Indigenous Television and Sky News' international editor.

In 2016 Stan Grant was appointed as the special adviser on indigenous constitutional rec-

ognition to then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Stan has won many major awards including an Australian TV Logie, a Columbia University Du Pont Award (the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize), and the prestigious US Peabody Award. He is a four-time winner of the highly prized Asia TV Awards including reporter of the year.

Stan has written *The Tears of Strangers* and *Talking To My Country* (Harper Collins), and has published many articles and opinion pieces for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*.

He is passionate about justice and humanity. He is deeply immersed in the politics and history of Asia and the Middle East. He can link the importance of leadership and the impact of history and above all believes in the power and resilience of people.

Stan is married to ABC sports broadcaster, Tracey Holmes and has four children. He lives in Sydney.



**LIFESAVERS:** Lifeblood  
**Liz Connolly**  
**Brett King**



LIFEBLOOD — part of the Australian Red Cross — is providing life-changing faecal microbiota for transplant, in Perth. It's a donation that most people flush away, poo.

Two Lifeblood staffers, microbiome manager, Elizabeth Connolly and director of national collections operations, Brett King, will discuss this important Perth-based microbiome pilot to help patients suffering from a serious and life-threatening bowel infection known as recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection (recurrent CDI).

Lifeblood supplies the processed stool — known as faecal microbiota for transplant (FMT) — to Fiona Stanley Hospital for patient treatments. In future, Lifeblood plans to supply FMT for use in research

programs to treat ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, major depressive disorders and in response to adverse events resulting from chemotherapy.

Originally from Cork, Ireland, Liz Connolly graduated with a Bachelor degree in Applied Biosciences (hons) before moving to Australia in 2008. She has worked at Lifeblood for eight years and manages all activity within the Rotary WA Health Innovation Centre, ensuring a safe and reliable supply of life-changing FMTs for hospitals

Brett has also worked at Lifeblood for eight years. He is the director of national collections operations, responsible for about 1780 personnel across Australian Donor Services within Australia.



**MEDICO:** ARH scholarship holder  
**Dr Corey Dalton**



COREY Dalton is a recently graduated medical doctor at Joondalup Health Campus.

He was helped to his Bachelor of Medicine degree at WA's University of Notre Dame by a Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarship.

Before beginning his medical studies, he worked in indigenous development, designing employment opportunities in rural locations.

Corey returned to studies as a mature age student because he had a passion for medicine and his family had a long history of working to lessen the social and health gap between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

When living regionally, he coached local children's basketball. He also volunteered for a not-for-

profit organisation which helped people with acquired brain injuries and their families.

Before gaining his medical degree, he achieved a Bachelor of Business (and was a student prize winner in this field), and a Master of Business (Research) degrees.

Corey hopes to eventually be a country GP. "Living regionally appeals to me," he said. "I can engage and be a part of the community.

"Eventually, my family and I will return to the country to give back and improve indigenous health. This helped drive me to completing the Doctor of Medicine course and becoming one of the very few indigenous doctors in Australia."



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**CONSERVATIONIST:** black cockatoo specialist

## Rick Dawson

RICK Dawson is a consultant specialising in nature protection advice and a long-term member of the Carnaby's and Forest black cockatoo recovery teams.

His consultancy follows 21 years' as a wildlife officer in the Department of Biodiversity Conservations and Attractions (previously Department of Parks and Wildlife) in management and senior roles.

In the past 23 years, Rick has published more than 30 manuscripts and articles on conservation of black cockatoos. He was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) for his work in this area.

At the request of the relevant State conservation agencies, Rick has attended sites in Victoria and Kangaroo Island to advise on artificial hollows, management and handling of the endangered south

eastern red-tail black cockatoo and the critically endangered Kangaroo Island glossy black cockatoo.

Rick has handled more than 2000 black cockatoos and placed leg bands on wild black cockatoos from Ravensthorpe to Kalbarri.

He has installed and monitored more than 360 artificial hollows and successfully repaired 200-plus natural hollows in locations from Coorow to the north, Lake Grace East and Borden to the south.

This work resulted in an eight-year detailed study on developing the ideal hollow for black cockatoos, manuscript published in 2020.



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**EXPERT:** digital media consultant

## Evan Burrell

A DIGITAL media consultant in the non-profit community volunteer sector, Evan Burrell has expanded his skills.

He is now educating professionals, businesses and community groups across Australia and around the world, focussing on the practical use of social media and how to develop it to brand and market their stories.

Evan is an accomplished public speaker, emcee, trainer, social media advocate and hardworking volunteer with more than 20 years of volunteer experience with Rotary International.

He has also been a corporate

and commercial actor for more than a decade, appearing in many TV commercials and TV productions as well as feature films.

He maintains all Rotarians are super heroes "and we all need to promote the heroic acts we do in the community and around the world".



His message is "Let's have fun in Rotary," and with that message he's telling Rotary's digital story.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Thai cave rescue diver, aviator  
and retired veterinarian

# Dr Craig Challen

TWO years ago retired veterinarian Dr Craig Challen and his dive partner, anaesthetist Dr Richard Harris, were named joint Australians of the Year — acknowledging their work in rescuing 12 young soccer players and their coach from the flooded Tham Luang Cave system in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

It was a hugely risky exercise in which a retired Thai Navy SEAL died.

After negotiations between Australian and Thai government officials, Craig and Richard were given diplomatic immunity in case the operation went wrong, the ABC reported.

Diplomatic immunity is usually reserved for diplomats and gave both men legal protection from prosecution under Thailand's laws. It underlined the real threat of injury or death to the boys and their coach.

The long-term friends were nominated for Australian of the Year by their respective states, Western Australia (Dr Challen) and South Australia (Dr Harris). It was the first time two state finalists had shared the national award.

Earlier, on July 24, 2018, the Australian Governor-General awarded Dr Challen the Star of Courage (SC)

and Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his part in the rescue.

And on September 7, 2018, the Thai King had appointed him a Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn.

Craig was about to go on a caving holiday in the Nullarbor Plain in July 2018, when he was called to help the rescue, based on his technical expertise. He thought the rescue would be too difficult but played a leading role in the successful mission.



"We fully expected casualties with this, the result that we got was beyond our wildest dreams," he told the

ABC at the time.

On the day he became Australian of the Year, he added: "The only reason we undertook it was because there was no alternative. If we'd left them in there, it was [leaving them] to certain and probably slow and lingering death."

Working 10 to 12 hours a day in extremely dangerous conditions, he repeatedly risked his life as the children were swum, one by one, through the dark and narrow flooded caves. He was awarded the Star of Courage for his unwavering and self-



**RESCUE:** personnel working to save 12 members of the Wild Boars Thai youth football team and their coach inside the Tham Luang cave, Nam Nang Non Forest Park in Mae Sai district. The boys were passed "sleeping" on stretchers through the treacherous passageways. (Pic: Royal Thai Navy).

less bravery. The mission could easily have failed, had it not been for the expertise of those involved.

One of Australia's leading technical divers, Craig is a member of the Wet Mules, A former veterinarian, CEO and keen aviator, Craig is in high demand as a keynote speaker. He speaks alone or in partnership with fellow cave rescue diver Dr Richard Harris.

Craig later wrote in *The Sydney Morning Herald*: "I have become a fan of the Australian of the Year process for the way it brings to prominence, and celebrates, a diverse group of people contributing to society. I've also observed a commonality among the nominees: the feeling that some mistake must have been made to cause them to be

there ... The year since my award has been a blur. I've been privileged to meet thousands of Australians, given speeches at dinners, interviews to journalists, and co-launched a book, *Against All Odds*. I also became an ambassador for children's education charity, The Smith Family.

"Although already a strong convert to the organisation's cause, I was alarmed to discover how many children are prevented from pursuing their education properly.

"More than one million young Australians are living in poverty. Without extra support, these children have no reasonable chance of gaining a sufficient education.

"There is, in fact, no single greater predictor of one's success in life than education."



**SPEAKER:** fire management

# Rick Sneeuwjagt



RICK Sneeuwjagt has worked more than 50 years in WA state, national and international forest and bushfire management programs.

He specialised in policy, operations, research, prescribed burning, management plans, training and emergency management.

His research resulted in development of WA's Forest Fire Behaviour Tables, considered a world's best practice fire behaviour and prescribed burning prediction system.

Rick was the WA manager of CALM/DEC's fire management from 1991-2010, covering all WA crown lands (about 108 million hectares). He has been responsible for refining WA's bushfire prevention, detection, suppression and recovery programs.

He pioneered development of the Australian Interagency Incident Management System and high-level fire training.

He has led and contributed to development of bushfire management plans for WA parks and reserves.

Rick is recognised nationally and internationally as a bushfire management leader and has led several Australian teams of bushfire control leaders to help combat large wild fires in the USA and Canada.

Rick is now a private bushfire consultant and WA Bush Fire Front committee member.

He was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in 2009.



**SUPPORT:** Blue Guardians founder

# Fleur Massey



OVER the past 25 years, Fleur Massey has gained unique understanding of the challenges facing military and emergency service personnel and their families.

This knowledge has been hard won — through her own service in the UK and Australia.

Fleur Massey grew up in England and has served in the Royal Air Force, South Yorkshire Police and WA Police, after emigrating in 2006.

Five years ago, she began researching support provided to service families. This research identified gaps and Blue Guardians was born as a result. Blue Guardians now provides information, education, re-

ferrals to experts, support and news to the first responder and military community. Its social network provides mental health awareness, health education, links to trusted experts and groups and services that can make a big difference.

Fleur's own business, In Times of Trauma, is one of these services, providing a person-centred approach to tackling the impacts of traumatic events

Fleur's husband is also a veteran and a serving police officer with 35 years of front-line experience.