

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9820

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Prepared by

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR
LINDA HUMPHRIES
2023-2024**

The last District 9820 annual report.

This is being presented to the merged Districts of 9810 & 9820 annual general meeting.

Inaugural 9815 annual general meeting

17th November 2024

Rotary 
9820

INTRODUCTION



What a great year was had by everyone. Every club served its community with distinction, and many great projects across our District have changed lives and brought our communities closer together.

During the year, the District has also achieved many milestones and has been actively involved with clubs, other districts, organisations, and international projects. None of these could be achieved without the assistance of the leadership team and most importantly with the support of our clubs our members.

During President-Elects development, I introduced a couple of projects that clubs could get behind and have support from the District Leadership Team.

This is the last Annual Report for District 9820. Our District merged with District 9810 to form a new Rotary District 9815.

District 9820 has for a long time served its local communities with pride and passion. Achieve great things over a long period of time. We have seen communities grow, and we have helped communities during fires, droughts, and floods. We have changed countless lives.

It has been a great honour to help guide this excellent District for the last time. I see this as 9810 coming back to where they started from. Originally, 9810 was a part of our District 982. We are one again. As a newly merged entity and with regionalisation moving forward, our communities can be assured that Rotary will still be supporting them.



**Inspired
by our clubs**



YEAR IN REVIEW 2023-2024

PEACE POLES

In 2021, to commemorate 100 years of Rotary, Peace Poles were introduced in Australia. This significant initiative has seen over 300 Peace Poles installed in schools, early learning centres, and public parks across the country. Peace Poles are a way to promote peace in our communities.

Each Peace Pole is made from a natural wood post and is sealed for longevity. Each side of the post has a plaque featuring the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in four languages. In our local community, two plaques are in English and Noongar, while the individual school chose the other two.



Several clubs across the District took up this opportunity and had Peace Poles installed. Thank you for supporting this project.

SAY NO TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Spearheaded by District 9640 Governor Dave Harmon, of the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond, NSW, the campaign is backed by all 20 districts across Australia, New Zealand and the South West Pacific.

The purple 'Rotary Says NO to Domestic Violence' shirts are a key element of the campaign, whereby staff at local businesses don the shirts every Friday for the 'Purple Friday' initiative.

This project was also highlighted in Rotary Down Under magazine. Although none of our clubs specifically took up this project, they did embrace several anti-violence and mental health programs.



RESCA



Rotary Emergency Service Community Award is a project that I truly believe all clubs should be supporting. Within all our communities, we have outstanding people in our emergency services who go far beyond what is expected of them. These are the people who we should recognise. The clubs nominate the awardees. Several are then shortlisted and invited to a presentation dinner. At the dinner, both a paid and volunteer of the year is selected. These two individuals are then invited to attend Government House in Canberra for the national competition. Winner is announced and presented by the Governor General.

During 2023-2024 Inaugural Victorian Awards, District 9820 supported Graham Symons from the CFA. Graham won both the State and National title of Volunteer of the year. Congratulations Graham.

Continuing on into 2024, Gary Luxford from the CFA and Rotary member, was announced Volunteer of the year. Gary is from Tooradin



ROTARACT & INTERACT

It was great to be a part of the re-invigoration of the Peninsula Rotaract club. The club had been struggling for a couple of years. With some new young and enthusiastic members lead by Lilly, the club has again started to flourish. The club has already begun working with three Rotary clubs, successfully completed many projects, and is planning to visit Nepal to work with a Rotaract club on a project. Fantastic effort.

Interact is an area that District 9820 has supported, and there has been a growth of new clubs during the year. There is a concerted effort in working with schools to help provide an environment where young people can thrive and learn about volunteering and working within their local communities.



RYLA & MUNA

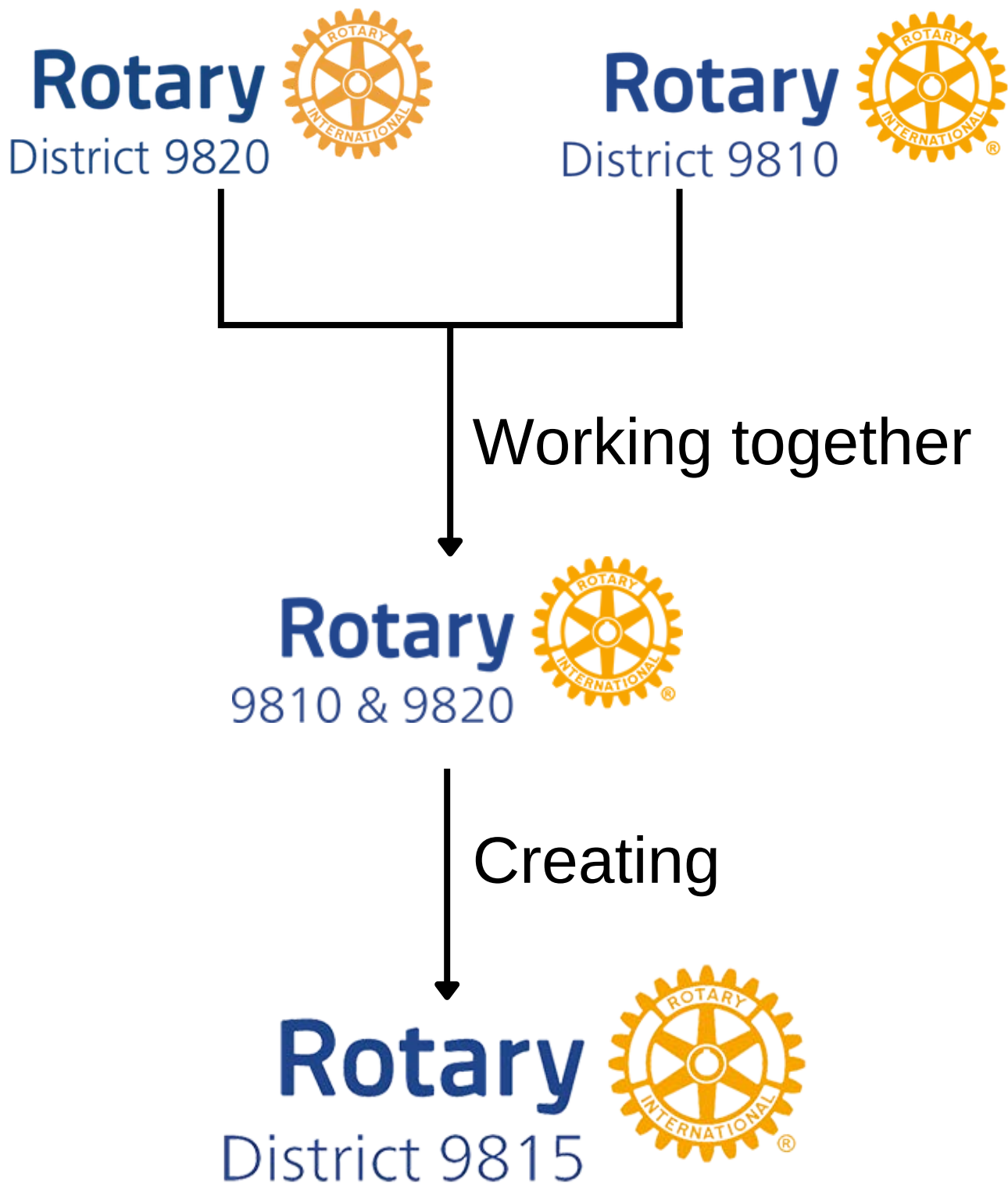


Both RYPLA and MUNA are two of my favourite youth programs. I have attended both of these events many times over the past few years and taken on an active participative position in each of the events. Seeing how our youth transition from often shy nervous people into competent young leaders is amazing. Both these programs need our club to find young people and encourage and support them into these programs.



TRANSITION FROM 9820 – 9815

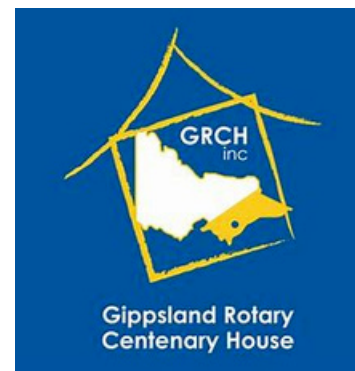
During the year both Districts 9810 and 9820 worked on the process of merging. There was a tremendous amount of work to be done. Updating rules, bylaws, policies, procedures, accounts, IT services, and so much more. Thank you to the team for making the transition from District 9820 to 9815 a smooth process. There was a great team effort.



DISTRICT DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursement of District 9820 funds allowed us to support two of our greatest legacies: Australian Rotary Health and Rotary Centenary House in Gippsland.

I was so please to have the backing of the board and support these programs with some additional funds from our winding up. Both organisations received a District donation of \$50,000.00 each.



FOUNDATION

The
Rotary
Foundation



Foundation has been a passion of mine over many years, being a proud supporter of our Foundation, it became a big focus during the Rotary year. Our overall District giving has increased year on year for the past couple of years. Our involvement with grants also increased. We also had our first peace scholarship for many years. We also made a large District Donation to End Polio Now, Past Governor Murray Verso presented our District with a certificate as being in the top seven givers who give more than 20% of their DDF to PolioPlus. A great honour indeed.

I would also like to acknowledge the many years of service Past President Geoff Magor has given to the Foundation. He has held several positions both at Club and District level in supporting the Foundation. Thank you Geoff.



MEMBERSHIP

We received a positive acknowledgement from Zone Membership Leader Andy Rajapaske congratulating us. See below excerpt:

Congratulations District 9820 for a 5-year high growth in membership. It's been a long time since D9820 was in the Top 3 growth districts in our Zone. You are at number 3 now just behind D9920 and D9660.

I am so impressed with your 3.5% growth. This makes D9820 the highest membership growth rate district in Zone 8 as of today. But mostly impressed with your low number of resignations. At a glance I think, your District as of today has the lowest number of member resignations in Zone 8. Only 66 members resigned from your clubs in the last 10 months! A super record to hold on to.

One of my Zone 8 Membership Strategies is to reduce our current member resignations by 20%. You are a great example to us all of how to reduce member resignations.

I am encouraged to see that clubs of District 9820 are embracing new ways of attracting and retaining members. This is a credit to all your hard work and enthusiasm.



CONFERENCE

I was disappointed that I was unable to run a District conference due to low numbers. On a personal note, I believe that conferences as a whole need to be reassessed from an International level, we have District conference, Zone conference and International Convention. Many people are having to decide what conference to attend. Costs of attending conferences are high, and with cost of living as it is today, people need to make a decision.



REGIONALISATION

Rotary
Zone 8



Regionalisation
Pilot

This is our opportunity to change. We all talk about the need for change, and this is our chance to show the world a new way of doing Rotary. I for one am excited to see where this will lead. I am fully aware that we all need to come along the journey together and embrace the challenges that will come. Where we start is not going to be the final option, we need to adapt along way. Be brave when we see something is not working, adapt to something different. I have been active in talking about this at club visits, through my newsletters and any opportunity presented to talk about the opportunities regionalisation will present.

Rotary
South Pacific



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GORDON MCINALLY VISITS

Back in November 2021, I approached Rotary International President Nominee Gordon McNally to ask him if he would visit our District. It was pencilled into his diary, we had to wait till about six months out for conformation that he would officially visit. The visit was co-ordinated between District 9820 and 9810.

It is a great honour to have the International President visit your District.



President Gordon came to our District straight after the International Convention. He was exhausted. However, he still came and gave us all his personal attention. Gordon and Heather expressed heartfelt thanks for the wonderful restful time we organised for them and the inspiring lunch and breakfast events.

They were here for 4 days, during this time we ensured they had some well earned rest. They made a surprise visit to Peninsula Rotary 2.0, where 16 people were inducted into membership. How many people can say that they had the International President help welcome them to Rotary? President Gordon also presented a Paul Harris fellow to President Diana O'Malley. It was great night enjoyed by all.

President Gordon also attended special functions, a luncheon and a breakfast with Professor Patrick McGorry, an Irish-born Australian psychiatrist known worldwide for his development and scaling up of early intervention, youth mental health services, mental health innovation, advocacy and reform. He is executive director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, and founding editor of the journal "Early Intervention in Psychiatry"

This was an opportunity for President Gordon to hear some of the amazing work being done in Australia by people like Professor Pat and our clubs and communities.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GORDON MCINALLY VISITS

President Gordon was positive that we are achieving great things and was keen for us to keep our energies focused on achieving outcomes in the mental health space.

Working with Past International President Ian Riseley, District Governor Ian Ballantine, Past District Governors, Juliet Riseley, Mark Humphries, Philip Headly and Philip Archer was an honour and privilege. Also, I thank Gael Traa, who was my rock and shoulder who supported me along the way.

A special thank you also goes to Assistant Governor Peter Rawlings, who helped to mastermind the luncheon and breakfast events. What an outstanding effort.

I cannot thank the team enough for supporting this event, and a special thank you to everyone who attended this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



IN CONCLUSION

One has to remember that a Rotary Year is not about “My Year” it is about Rotary and how we can help impact people's lives to make things better. A “Rotary Year” is a year when everyone is of great importance, a year where opportunities arise. We must embrace these opportunities to make a difference in our communities. Being Governor give you a unique chance to work closer with Clubs, other Districts, Organisations and some great people.

I am truly humbled to have had an opportunity to work with amazing people and clubs, it is you who have achieved so much and made this a better place for everyone.

To the team that has worked with me during the year I thank you for your unwavering support of Rotary projects and activities. To the clubs and Rotarians, we could not achieve as much as we did without your support.

**WITH EVERYONE'S HELP AND SUPPORT, WE HAVE
“CREATED HOPE IN THE WORLD”**



Rotary
District 9820



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**