

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025



28 - 30 March 2025



The Countdown

Are you ready to help make history?!
Your inaugural District Conference is just 1.5 months away!
Local and international speakers, entertainers, exhibitors and the Rotary International President's Personal Representative (introduced on page 2) are locked in and finishing touches are now being made to the experience that awaits you in Bendigo!

Want to be part of the behind the scenes magic? There are still a range of flexible volunteering opportunities available.

Bookings close on 14 March 25 due to catering purposes. There are still tickets available for the Conference, Gala Dinner and optional offerings. Rambling Wine Tours have also created three exclusive Wine Tours for our delegates. If you are yet to check out the exciting and inspiring list of speakers and additional offerings check out our Conference webpage linked [here](#) along with this and past editions of our Conference newsletter. Also check out how you can enrich your stay in Bendigo on page 6.

As the first District Conference of our combined District, this Conference will serve as a memorable celebration of the efforts of our members as well as an opportunity to learn, be inspired, network, and form new friendships. We encourage Clubs to recommend their new or prospective members, members who have never attended a Conference and Rotary Alumni to attend - its a fantastic opportunity to see the amazing opportunities Rotary can

have as well as the diverse and wide reaching ways Rotarians can make sustainable positive change.

Thank you to our in-kind and financial sponsors for your generosity - their contributions enable us to provide an enhanced experience at reduced costs. Check out our updated current sponsors on the last page and sponsor offerings on page 6. Sponsor packages are still available. If interested in being a sponsor or can recommend a sponsor please contact Wil Cornelissen.

As you start prepare your packing lists, ensure you pack your dancing shoes and costume for our 'Rotary Rocks' Gala Dinner.

See you in Bendigo,
Wil Cornelissen (RC Waverley), Conference Chair & Kehela Vandenberg (RC Mount Waverley), Conference 2IC



**TICKET PRICES
UNTIL 14 MARCH
2025 WILL
REMAIN \$345*
PER PERSON**

*CHILDREN <16 REMAIN FREE

BOOK NOW

01/07

Bookings close 14 March 2025



| District 9810 Conference 2023 | Canberra |

Rotary

Activity Highlight

Conference First Timers Orientation Breakfast

Never attended a former District 9810 or 9820 Conference or were inducted into a Club of the new District 9815 from 1 July 2024 onwards? If this applies to you, you are invited to attend the Conference First Timers Orientation Breakfast taking place Saturday morning at the Red Energy Arena.

The Breakfast is an opportunity to meet Rotarians across the District, learn how to maximise your Conference experience, the benefits of attending a District Conference and of Zone and International Conference opportunities.

Book via this [link](#) to reserve your spot.

Rotary International President's Personal Representative (RIPPR) Announcement

Bharat S. Pandya

Bharat Pandya is a practicing general and laparoscopic surgeon and current Trustee 2022-26 of the Rotary Club of Borivli Maharashtra, India. He and his wife, Madhavi, a gynecologist, own a private hospital in Mumbai. Pandya joined Rotary in 1989 as a charter member of his club. During his year as Governor of District 3140, his district contributed over \$2 million to The Rotary Foundation.



Pandya has been a District Governor, RI Director, Treasurer, Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator, and Learning Facilitator and served on Rotary's Membership, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, and Convention Promotion Committees and on the India PolioPlus Committee. He served as his Club's Trustee Vice Chair in 2023-24. He is also a charter member of his District's Paul Harris Society.

He has received the Service Above Self Award, the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and the Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award. He and Madhavi are Rotary Foundation Major Donors.



Notification: Change of Venue for the Pre-Conference Cocktail Drinks, 4:30pm – 6pm, Friday 28th March 2025

The Pre-Conference Cocktail Drinks will now be held at the elegant and historic MacKenzie Hall at Mackenzie Quarters, 10 & 12 MacKenzie St, Bendigo VIC 3550. Guests will enjoy a greater range of local beverages accompanied by a delicious selection of canapes. This venue is wheelchair/walker accessible (via the rear entrance accessible via the driveway) and parking is available along MacKenzie Street, View Street and off Gaol Road. Tickets are still available.





Activity Highlight

Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Walk Sunday 30th March 25, 2:30pm

Wrap up the inaugural District 9815 Conference by participating in a self-paced Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Fundraising Walk (approx. 1.5km) around Lake Weeroona to help raise funds for much needed hospital equipment. Registration fee will be donated to the DG Partner's Project.

Lake Weeroona is an ornamental man-made lake and reserve set on 18 hectares 5 minutes north of the Bendigo city center. The leisurely stroll will take approx. 20 minutes along a mostly flat and wheelchair/walker accessible circuit with regular park benches dotted along the walk and access to coffee and gelato .

Prior to the event, walk registrants will be emailed a copy of the walk circuit and details of the starting point.

Club Reminders

1. Club Project/Event Showcase Slideshow

- Clubs are invited to showcase some of their signature projects/events via a set number of slides to form part of a Club Showcase Slideshow. This will be shown during meal breaks. Please provide contributions to peter.rawlings@rotary9815.org.au by 28 February 2025.

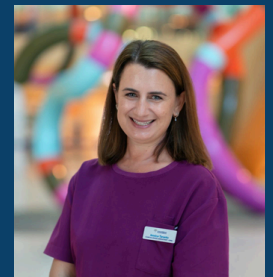
2. Call to Higher Service (in memoriam) Contributions

- On the Sunday morning of the Conference there will be a segment recognising those former members of the combined Districts who have gone to higher service. Please provide judy.degnan@rotary9815.org.au the name, Club and photos (if available) of any contributions by 28 February 2025.

3. Club Banner Displays at Conference

- Clubs are encouraged to display their Club Pull Up or Tear Drop Banner around the sides of the main arena at the Red Energy Stadium. Banners must be positioned in the arena between 1pm & 5pm Friday 28th March and collected between 1pm and 2pm on Sunday 30th of March.

Presenter Spotlight



Jess Taranto

Jessica Taranto is a Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) within the Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service (CPRS) at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

In 2019, Jessica commenced her CNC role where she has been instrumental in the growth and success of the CPRS service.

Jessica travelled to Madagascar in July 2024 to volunteer on board the Mercy Ship as a surgical nurse. This was her third field service. In 2018 Jessica volunteered in Guinea, and then again 2020 in Senegal.



Presenter Spotlight

Garry Spencer AM

In 2021, Garry established a national volunteer Veteran program, Operation Grain Harvest Assist, to train ADF Veterans to successfully transition into roles operating major equipment in Australia's \$60+ Billion Agricultural industry. Garry served in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in tank, armoured reconnaissance and armoured personnel carrier regiments for over 23 years. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, UK. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he served with the US Army for 2 years, as the Armour/Combat Aviation Liaison Officer to the US Army. In 1988, he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional service in the ADF.

Presenter Spotlight

Greg de Moore

Associate Professor Greg de Moore is a psychiatrist, historian and author. He is a consultant psychiatrist with Western Sydney local health district. He is also a Director of the Minds Count Foundation, which advocates for mental health welfare within the legal profession. In addition to his hospital work he is a consultant to Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW providing mental health assessment and care for players and staff. His 4 books include Tom Wills: the insubordinate life of an Australian sporting legend which blends mental health and Australian history. He will talk about his latest book: Finding Sanity: John Cade, lithium and the taming of bipolar disorder, the story of Australia's greatest mental health achievement: the discovery of lithium for the treatment of bipolar disorder.



Presenter Spotlight

Edward Tudor



Edward is the founding CEO of the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS). Prior to MITS, Edward was a mergers & acquisitions lawyer with law firm King & Wood Mallesons, where he completed secondments to KWM's Beijing office and to Leighton Holdings. Edward is a 2017 Jack Brockhoff Foundation Churchill Fellow, having studied organizations supporting the transition of young Indigenous people into mainstream educational opportunities across New Zealand, Canada, the USA and Finland. In 2019 he attended Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management as a Harvard Club of Victoria Non-Profit Fellow and in 2021 he completed the McKinsey & Company Executive Leadership Program as a Not-for-Profit scholarship recipient.



Entertainment Spotlight

Melbourne Soul & Gospel Choir

Melbourne Soul & Gospel Choir (MSG) formed in the early 2000's is a secular, non-auditioned community-based choir.

The choir performs gospel, soul, blues, and songs of purpose across a range of genres with the transformative impact of a congregational choir.

The choir aspires to high standards of vocal technique, interpretation and movement and importantly, provides its members the joy and benefits of singing together.

MSG enjoys performing to a diverse range of audiences at both public and private engagements and actively seeks opportunities to collaborate and study with a range of local and international artists.

Presenter Spotlight



Roxan Fabiano

Roxan Fabiano is the Chief Executive Officer of HerSpace Ltd. She holds a Bachelor of Laws / Commerce (Accounting) (Hon). Roxan practised as a lawyer for national and international clients in the public and private sectors before moving into executive leadership of Non-Profit Organisations. She has diverse experience in business development, legal practice, risk management, financial administration, BPR, project management, and governance. She is a national advocate, raising awareness of modern slavery in Australia as both a speaker and a writer for various publications. She participated in an Australia-first documentary addressing the issue of human trafficking in Australia. She is passionate about helping survivors of exploitation find a healing pathway to a life of purpose.

Presenter Spotlight



Jonelle Colabufalo

Jonelle is a compelling speaker and advocate who transformed her grief from losing her brother Jared into a powerful mission. She co-founded the Jared Dunscombe Foundation to honour Jared by raising funds and awareness for projects that directly benefit young people in need. Over the past decade, the Foundation has positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people, both in Australia and around the world, and continues to grow its community of supporters to make a significant difference. Jonelle will share her personal story of converting grief into positive action. Her blend of heartfelt storytelling and practical advice inspires others to use their own challenges as a springboard for positive change and meaningful impact.

Sponsor Deal by Minuteman Press Prahran

Minuteman Press Prahran (design@minuteman-prahran.com) have a special deal for Rotary Clubs on pull up banners (200cm x 84.1cm) for approximately \$99 + GST (normally \$160). They can assist in preparing the artwork for a fee. Advise you are ordering on behalf of Rotary at the time of contacting them and seek the discount for Rotary Clubs.

Your Opportunity to make History

A range of volunteering opportunities are still available including logistical assistance, coordinating or packing Delegate bags, speaker/performer minders, reception/welcome desk, traffic control, set up/pack down crew, greeters and ushers - just to name a few.

If interested please contact Tony Monley OAM (acmonley@gmail.com) and advise which dates/times you would be available and he will explore volunteering options with you.

Red Energy Arena Coffee Benefit

For every hot beverage purchased on the 29th and 30th March 25 via the Red Energy Arena Kiosks, if using a reusable cup you will receive a 50 cents discount, otherwise for non-reusable cups, 50 cents will instead be donated to Rotary.

Explore Bendigo & Surrounds

Bendigo is a vibrant historic regional city located approximately two hours from Melbourne. The city is a designated UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy. Arrive early or extend your visit to experience some of Bendigo's must see sites and culinary delights.

History & Heritage: Fortuna Villa High Tea, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo Town Hall, Star Cinema, Sandhurst Goal, Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo Joss House Temple, The Great Stupa, Central Deborah Gold Mine, Bendigo Tramways, Bendigo Military Museum, Victorian Goldfields Railway.

Arts & Culture: Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo Pottery, Ulumbarra Theatre, Tours by Djaara, La Trobe Art Institute, The Forest Gallery & Gardens.

Outdoors & Nature: Rosalind Park, Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Buda Historic Home, The Greater Bendigo National Park.

Food: Wine Bank on View, Alium Dining, Balgownie Estate Bendigo, GPO Bendigo, Masons of Bendigo, Ms Batterhams, The Dispensary Bar & Diner, Vin Du Van Estate, Malayan Orchid Restaurant.

Wine Tour for Conference Delegates: Rambling Wine Tours have organised three special tours for Delegates taking place on Thursday 27th, Friday 28th and Monday 30th. For more information, check out the first edition of the Conference Newsletter and Flyer via this [link](#).

Explore more via: www.bendigotourism.com.au
Book Accommodation via: Bendigo Tourism's toll-free accommodation booking number 1800 813 153 or via this [Link](#).



06/07

See the District Conference
webpage for Conference updates
incl. program & speakers

Thank You

2025

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