

COMBINED DISTRICTS 9815 & 9830 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2026



Rotary
Districts 9815 & 9830

PEOPLE of ACTION

13 – 15 March 2026



All Hands on Deck — Be Inspired in Hobart

Can you believe we're already this close? I'm absolutely thrilled to share that we're currently sitting at 460 attendees — what a fantastic result!

With ticket sales closing on 27 February, please make sure you've booked in... because this is one weekend you really don't want to miss out.

As Conference Chair, I've been having a few "wow" moments lately. I can't believe how quickly the Conference has come around, and I'm genuinely so grateful for the amazing group of people around me who have supported, guided, and encouraged me every step of the way. I couldn't have done it without them! This is the first time I've ever taken on something like this, and I feel incredibly thankful for the opportunity.

I often say that Rotary has opened up opportunities I never expected — and it's helped me grow my leadership skills and self-confidence in ways I'm truly proud of. I wouldn't be where I am without this incredible organisation and the people within it.

I'm also delighted to announce that our RIPPR (Rotary International President's Personal Representative) is Jessie Harman (OAM). What a wonderful addition to our Conference — she will be incredibly inspiring and I know you'll all enjoy hearing from her.

This Conference weekend is going to be filled with inspiring stories — and I truly believe you'll walk away feeling even prouder to be a Rotarian. The stories you'll

hear (and the ones you'll share) will create lasting memories. You might shed a tear, have a big laugh, sit quietly soaking it all in... and then dance the night away while making wonderful new friends.

And if you join in on the Friday activities, you're in for a treat. You'll have a heap of fun while discovering the history and culture of Hobart, taking in some stunning views, and maybe even picking up a new skill or two along the way.

Plus — don't forget — you'll be wearing your free green polo with pride throughout the weekend (and hopefully for many Rotary moments to come). What a special memento.

To everyone who has already booked: thank you. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your confidence in allowing me to take on this role. I'm really looking forward to meeting you, saying hello, and sharing this amazing weekend with you all.

See you at Conference — I can't wait! ♥

Monique Smith (RC Boronia), Conference Chair

Tickets Still Available for
Conference & Optional
Sessions

Introducing the Rotary International President's Personal Representative: Jessie Harman AM

From a participant in RYLA to a director on the board of Rotary International, Jessie Harman knows firsthand how Rotary service changes lives.

Her own experience in Rotary has been diverse and rewarding. In addition to serving on the board, Jessie has chaired several Rotary International Committees including the Membership Committee and currently the Communications Committee. She has facilitated learning for Governors at Rotary's International Assembly, supported clubs to strengthen their membership as a Rotary Co-ordinator, and led District 9780 as Governor. In her 25 years in Rotary, Jessie has also seen the power of Rotary's Foundation to deliver good in the world and she continues to support the Foundation as a donor and Chair of Rotary Foundation Australia.

All these experiences are underpinned by Jessie's most significant role – as a member of the Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast in Ballarat.

Outside of Rotary, Jessie is a professional non-executive director, a keen long-distance walker, wife to Andrew, and mum to Claire, Georgia and James.



Conference Polo Reminder

All adult full experience/conference delegates will be provided one (1) Conference polo upon collecting your delegate bag and lanyard.

Wear it proudly during the plenary sessions and throughout your journey in Tasmania! Hotel Grand Chancellor does have a Guest laundry facility (charges apply).

We encourage registrants to wear it on the First Conference Day in particular.



Deadline Reminders

- Extended booking deadlines:
 - Conference Bookings: 27 Feb 26
 - Gala Dinner Only Bookings: 27 Feb 26
- Alumni Lunch: 20 Feb 26
- Golf: 27 Feb 26
- Bowls: 27 Feb 26
- Historical Storytelling Experience & Morning Tea: 27 Feb 26
- Welcome Drinks: 27 Feb 26
- Lunch with optional Gin Tasting: 6 March 26
- Whisky Tasting: 6 March 26
- Making Connections Dinner: 6 March 26
- Conference First Timers & 0-3 Years Membership Breakfast: 6 March 26
- Foundation Breakfast: 6 March 26
- Called to Higher Service & New Members: as soon as possible
- Refunds/Cancellations:
 - Up to 28 days before - Refund available 100%.
 - Between 27 and 15 days before - 50% refund available.
 - Within 14 days before - No refund available from this date, or for non-attendance, however registrations can be transferred to a new person

Speaker Spotlight: David Brill AM ACS

David Brill has had a remarkable life. His career as a cinematographer, journalist and documentary filmmaker has stretched over 55 years.

David has covered peacekeeping missions, conflicts and wars in Vietnam (including fall of Saigon in 1975), Somalia, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, Uganda, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Laos, Iraq (four times), the Falklands, Cambodia, Sarajevo, Chad, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. David has always believed the media is so important and powerful in getting the message across and explaining to the world what is going on – the power of television! This started with the Tasmanian bushfires in 1967 (Black Tuesday). As a cadet with the ABC, he was dispatched to film the disaster. When that film went all around the world and brought aid into Tasmania, he realised you can make a difference and that's stuck with him to this day.



David has had a remarkable career considering he is partially dyslexic, a condition that wasn't properly understood back then.

David is the only living cinematographer to be inducted into the Australian Media Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Order of Australia, national ambassador for the Australian Cinematographer Society, member of the Australian Press Council, and has won six United Nations peace awards.

Bill will be speaking at the Foundation Breakfast (optional ticketed event) on Sunday morning at the Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel.

Entertainment Spotlight: Leon Moore



Leon Moore is a member of the Rotary Club of Manningham City in Melbourne. His vocational field is in finding ways for music to empower those with disabilities.

His early beginnings were in the Tasmanian highland town of Tarraleah, learning ukulele from his dad, and getting steeped in guitar, violin, Beethoven and country music. After teaching in Sydney and working in television for many years, he moved to Melbourne, and only a few weeks after joining Rotary, was asked to be the musical director of the Stroke a Chord stroke survivor's choir. Realising there was a wider need for people with Parkinson's disease, MS, ABI and many other chronic conditions to have a safe environment to belt out a joyful noise, he formed the Laughing All Abilities Really Friendly Singers in 2013. They now have over 100 members who meet every week for singing and sticky buns.

In 2025 Leon was awarded the Doreen Stoves award for excellence in volunteering, and the Manningham Citizen of the Year award.

Leon will be providing interactive entertainment throughout the Conference

Rotary International Expo

Visit the Rotary Expo at the 2026 Rotary District 9815 and 9830 Conference to learn more about our diverse range service projects, scholarships, youth development opportunities, action groups, social groups (fellowships), affiliated programs and organisations along with a selection of speaker stands sponsor and tourism stands along with other charity stands.

Access is available to all conference delegates and open to the public on Saturday between 2pm and 3pm. Clubs are encourage to help advertise the public access to the Expo.

Venue: Grand ballroom, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

Exhibitors*

Subject to Change

- Australian Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM)
- Australian Rotary Health (ARH)
- City Mission Hobart
- City Mission Launceston
- Connected Travel (Sponsor)
- Dingley Design Jewellery
- District 9815 Conference 2027
- Hobart Travel Centre
- International Service
- Interplast
- Knitted Knockers
- Motiview
- Oz Harvest
- Ping Pong a Thon & Treasury Made Easy
- Prostate Cancer Project
- REACH Siem Reap
- Red Energy (Sponsor)
- Rotaract
- Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)
- Rotary Down Under (RDU) Supplies
- Rotary Gin Fellowship
- Rotary Tasmania Community Care
- Rotary Zone 8 Conference
- Shelterbox Australia
- SIM Branding
- Speakers
- The Rotary Foundation
- We Can't Wait (Operation Toilets & Operation Cleft)
- Youth Programs



04/08

Checkout the [Discover Tasmania website](#) to learn more & plan your holiday

Conference Program*

Times are approximate and Program is subject to change

A copy of the program is available on the District Conference Webpage and a succinct Program will be provided on the back of you conference name tags

Saturday 14th March 2026

7:30: FIRST TIMERS & 0-3 Yrs MEMBERSHIP NETWORKING BREAKFAST
8:30: Rotary Expo Opens
10:00: Doors Open
10:15: Entertainment
10:30: Welcome
10:47: Acknowledgement of Country
11:00: Minister Abetz: Special Welcome
11:13: Official Open & Welcome by District Governors
11:26: RIPPR Segment #1
11:44 Platinum Sponsor Segment - Red Energy
11:57: Entertainment
12:09: Robert Pennicott 'From Little Things Big Things Grow'
12:53: LUNCH, ALUMNI LUNCH & ROTARY EXPO
1:36: Entertainment
1:47: Dr Kirk Williams 'Interplast'
2:20: Emily Williamson & Solky Tep - 'REACH Siem Reap'
2:48: Entertainment
2:56: Saroo Brierley: 'Listen to your Dreams'
3:43: AFTERNOON TEA & ROTARY EXPO
4:16: Captain Sarah Parry AM - Windeward Bound
4:54: 2027 D9815 Rotary Conference Launch
5:00: Conference Day 1 Concludes
6:30: Arrival Commences for Gala Dinner
7:00: GALA DINNR

SUNDAY 15th March 2026

7:15: FOUNDATION BREAKFAST
8:30: Expo Opens
8:30: Doors Open
9:00: Doors Closed until Call to Higher Service Finishes
9:00: Higher Service Presentation with musical accompaniment
9:16: New Members Presentation with musical accompaniment
9:26: Simon Tyrell - 'Artificial Intelligence'
10:09: Foundation Projects of Impact
10:32: Rtn Jahangir Alam - 'Walk For Life Project and Balanced Food for Underprivileged Pregnant Mothers'
10:45: Youth Exchange
11:03: MORNING TEA & ROTARY EXPO
11:33: Sophia Tehranitash & Rtn Trish Carr - 'Bee Education & Protection'
11:50: Mark Smith - Knox Rocks! (RC Boronia Project)
12:08: Katy Cooper - 'Through the Looking Glass - A changing community perspective'
12:41: RIPPR Segment #2
12:59: DGs Final Remarks
1:20: Concluding Comments
1:26: Entertainment
1:37: LUNCH/Conference Concludes

Salamanca Market Visit



The Conference will commence at 10am on Saturday to allow interested registrants to visit the Salamanca Market, an approx 11 minute walk from the Grand Chancellor.

Market is open 8:30am - 3pm Saturdays

05/08

Checkout more of our speaker bio's via the District Conference [website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions



Admission

For optional ticketed events, the event host will have a list of registrants. Please provide your name upon entry. If you have collected your lanyard by the commencement of the ticketed event, we encourage you to wear your Conference lanyard for ease of identification and networking.

Booking Closure Date

The last day to register for the Conference and optional ticketed events is Friday 27th February 2026, that is two weeks prior to the Conference. Due to venues needing final numbers for staffing and ordering requirements we will generally not be able to cater for last minutes registration requests.

Attire

For conference attire we recommend smart casual with comfortable shoes (no thongs). The Gala Dinner has a nautical theme and therefore it is recommended you dress in theme otherwise cocktail style (semi-formal). We also recommend smart casual for the optional non-sport ticketed events except for the welcome drinks where we recommend you wear cocktail style. For the sporting events please see the event details on the website or booking site for further details. You are not required to wear your Rotary pins, name badges or Rotary branded attire for any events however you are most welcome do so and will assist with brand awareness. Note your Conference Lanyard will mention both your name and Rotary/Rotaract Club (if applicable). We do though encourage you to wear your Conference Polo during the Conference and in particular on the first day.

Conference Shirt

All delegates will receive one (1) Green Conference Polo Shirt as part of their registration fee as per the size they selected when they registered. Delegates are encouraged to wear their Conference Shirt on Day 1 (Saturday) of the Conference.

Airport Transfers

There are several options available to travel between the Hobart International Airport and Hobart City: SkyBus airport shuttle, taxi, rideshare (Uber), or private car. SkyBus is the most cost-effective, followed by taxis and rideshares.

Sky Bus meets most flights coming to and from Hobart. It drops off at various Hotels around Hobart and cost is \$22 one way. One of the normal stops is at the Grand Chancellor Hotel.

They need 48 hrs in advance to ensure care for Disabled customers can be facilitated.

<https://www.skybus.com.au/hobart-express/timetable/>

Upon arrival at the airport, if you have any questions, feel free to approach one of our Conference volunteers who will be present during select arrival times on the Thursday and Friday.

Conference Photos

Official Conference photos will be taken by our Conference photographers throughout the Conference and optional sessions. A link to these photos will be placed on the Conference website. The Conference Committee and District may use these photos for marketing and promotional purposes.

Delegates are also welcome to take their own photos and share their conference experience. We do ask that as a courtesy to our presenters, entertainers and fellow delegates you are cautious as to the use of your flash and the timing of taking photos.

Dietary Requirements

All venues can cater for dietary requirements. If you have a dietary requirement please ensure you note this when booking your tickets and if you have dietary changes subsequent to your booking your tickets please contact David Button via david.button@rotary9815.org.au to update your booking.

Children

Children are welcome to attend the Conference. Those aged 16 and under are free. Please ensure you register them when making your Conference bookings. Children will receive their own delegate bag and lanyard but not a Conference Shirt.

Frequently Asked Questions



Conference Program

A copy of the Conference Program is available on the Conference website and a condensed version on the back of your registration lanyard name tag.

We understand some registrations may wish to pick the sessions/speakers of interest and only attend those events. Noting that the majority of our speakers volunteer their time to present or at a heavily discounted price, in respect for their efforts we encourage you to attend all sessions where possible. Speaking to a near empty theatre may put them off speaking at another Rotary event.

We also request that when moving in and out of the plenary sessions you do so with minimal disruptions as possible.

Loss of Lanyard

Please see the registration desk on Friday/Saturday otherwise contact the Conference Secretary on the Sunday.

Feedback

Delegates will have the opportunity to provide feedback via an online anonymous optional survey following the Conference. A link will be provided to delegates during and post the Conference. Feedback will be provided to future Conference Committees for their consideration.

Late Registration for Optional Ticketed Events

Due to venue catering and staffing arrangements we will generally not be able to accommodate requests for registering for optional ticketed events once bookings for those events have closed. Noting also that limited tickets are available for each of those events we encourage registrants to book ahead for events of interest so as not to miss out.

Meals

Your full Registration includes afternoon tea, lunch and the Gala Dinner on the first day and morning tea and lunch on the second day. Those who have registered for the Alumni lunch should attend Harbour View 2 for their lunch on the Saturday. Ticketed breakfasts are held both the Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Non-Conference Material

No literature is to be distributed, no goods offered for sale, or fund raising by any means may occur at the Conference without prior approval from the Conference Chair.

Registration, Help Desk, Lost & Found

The registration and help desk along with lost and found will be located in the lobby level. If the registration desk is closed please then contact the Conference Secretary, Annette Griffin on 0418 373 676.

Messages/Announcements

All announcements will generally be made by the MCs. If you have any messages or announcements, please contact Conference Chair Monique Smith or Conference 2IC Kehela (Keels) Vandenberg for consideration. Messages should relate to matters concerning the Conference and not general Rotary matters or other events.

Mobile Phones

We welcome and encourage the sharing of your Conference experience on social media. We do though ask that as a courtesy to our presenters your camera flash be turned off during presentations and phones are on silent during sessions.

Public Access

Only registrants can join for the Conference. Therefore, if any non-Rotarians or non-Rotaractors wish to join they are welcome to do so via registering their attendance.

Thank You

2026

District Conference Sponsors



PLATINUM SPONSOR

**BUSINESS
EVENTS
TASMANIA**

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Tasmanian
Government



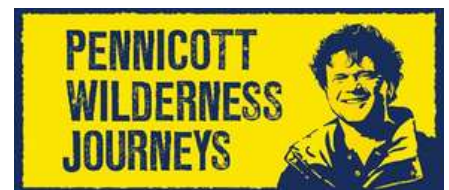
Connected Travel



SPIRIT OF
TASMANIA



LARK
MADE OF TASMANIA



08/08

Learn more about our sponsors by
clicking their logo & check out deals
via our [website](#)