

COMBINED DISTRICTS 9815 & 9830 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER
MARCH #1 2026



Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION
Districts 9815 & 9830

13 – 15 March 2026



All Aboard – Less Than a Month to Go!

With our Nautical theme, I thought I would add a bit of flare to my message.

Wow – can you believe we’re now less than a month away from coming together for our Combined District Conference? The excitement is really starting to build, and I can’t wait to welcome you aboard for a weekend that’s set to be equal parts inspiring, fun, and meaningful.

As we chart our course toward conference weekend, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible crew working behind the scenes. My team has put in a huge amount of effort to bring this event to life, and it truly is the small details that make the biggest difference – the things you might not notice at first glance, but that help the whole experience run smoothly from bow to stern.

I also want to sincerely thank everyone who has supported me throughout this journey – especially my own club, the Rotary Club of Boronia. Your encouragement, enthusiasm, and steady support have meant more than I can say.

I’m really looking forward to meeting many new friends, reconnecting with familiar faces, and soaking up the “Be Inspired” atmosphere that will be set right across the weekend. And yes – you will be delighted with the

entertainment we have organised! We’re aiming for a weekend that’s not only productive and full of great content, but also one where we laugh, connect, and create memories together.

So, keep your eyes on the horizon – we’re nearly there.

See you soon... and get ready to set sail into an unforgettable conference weekend!

Monique Smith (RC Boronia), Conference Chair

 We Will Be Emailing You Soon!



Prior to the Conference we will be sending you a copy of your tickets and important information for some of the optional sessions

**- Sales Closing Soon -
Tickets Still Available for
Select Optional Sessions**

Why attend a District Conference?

I recently asked a very simple question of a very experienced Rotarian: Why do Rotarians enjoy going to Conferences?

Jack Cooper from the Rotary Club of Mordialloc Mentone has attended an extraordinary 52 Rotary Conferences. When asked why he had attended so many, Jack's answer was simple and heartfelt. He said it's because every Conference is a different experience—the chance to reconnect with old friends, form new friendships, learn from outstanding guest speakers, and share moments that stay with you long after the event has ended.



For many of us, Conferences are much more than just another Rotary gathering. They are an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the spirit of Rotary, to be inspired, and to remember why we joined in the first place. If I were a Club President, one of the first things I would do would be to encourage new members to attend a Conference—it's one of the best ways to truly experience the breadth and heart of Rotary.

This year is particularly special, with our wonderful Rotarians from Tasmania joining us. Add to that the Rotary EXPO, a GALA dinner, the opportunity to visit the world-acclaimed Salamanca Market, and the chance to share fellowship in a unique setting, and all the ingredients are there for something memorable.

No matter how many Conferences you have attended—or whether this will be your first—one thing we know for certain is that it will be an experience you won't forget.

DG 9815 Peter Behm

Care Pack Project Reminder

Reminder that we are inviting every attending Rotarian and Rotary Club to be part of a simple, hands-on service project during the Conference that will leave a tangible legacy in our host communities of Hobart and Launceston. Throughout the Conference expo, attendees will have the opportunity to pack hygiene care packs for people doing it tough, in partnership with City Mission Hobart and City Mission Launceston. Afterwards each Club represented at the Conference will have their Club name applied to a care pack.

Thank you to the Clubs who have contributed to the cost of purchasing the supplies for the care packs.

Soap Aid has recently advised they will donate soap for our Care Packs. Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation committed to saving children's lives through improved hygiene while positively impacting the environment. They provide recycled soap bars free of charge to eligible community organisations, with the aim of improving access to hygiene while reducing waste.

Deadline Reminders

- 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

Registration Desk Open Hours

- Friday 13th March: 1pm - 4pm
- Saturday 15th March: 8am - after lunch

Attending Friday Ticketed Events

Your delegate name tag is not required. Those coordinating the event will have a list of registrants. Please see one of our Committee Members in a volunteer vest upon arrival.

Team BEAP – Bee Education and Protection

Team BEAP—short for Bee Education and Protection—is a remarkable student-led initiative from Parkmore Primary School in Victoria, Australia.

Launched in early 2024, BEAP is the brainchild of five passionate students who set out to raise awareness about the vital role of Australian native bees in our ecosystems and food production. Their mission became even more urgent with the growing threat of the varroa mite, which affects European honeybees but not native species.

Native bees are essential pollinators for over 33% of our food, including avocados, macadamias, and even coffee. Unlike European honey bees, they're not affected by the varroa mite, making them crucial to Australia's ecological resilience.

Team BEAP has designed and built a Bee Safe native garden, partnered with scientists to study native bees like the Blue Banded Bee and Stingless Bee, qualified for the 2025 Future Problem Solving World Championships in Indianapolis, USA—the first Australian state school team to do so, presented their work to the State Environmental Minister and collaborated with Beechworth Honey and launched a community competition to design bee hotels and educate locals on bee-friendly plants and water sources.

The Team BEAP initiative isn't just about bees—it's about youth leadership, environmental stewardship, and showing how even primary school students can drive real-world change.

Learn more about Team BEAP and Bee education and protection on the second day of the Conference.



Alumni Lunch

The Rotary Alumni Lunch on the Saturday provides an opportunity for Conference delegates who are beneficiaries of Rotary's Youth and/or Foundation programs and scholarships to reminisce, network and hear two brief enlightening talks.

Campbell De La Torre, a Tasmanian Rotary Youth Program and Rotary Foundation alumnus is a 14 year old student in year 9 at St Virgil's College who took part in a 10-day voyage from Beauty Point to Hobart aboard the tall ship Windeward Bound. The experience challenged him to step outside his comfort zone, work closely with a crew of fellow young people and embrace life at sea

He is grateful for Rotary's support and looks forward to sharing how the voyage shaped his confidence and perspective.

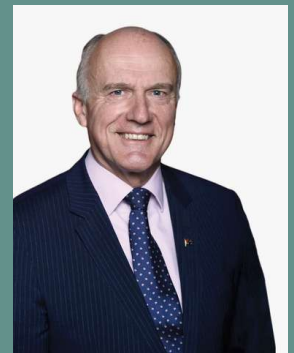


Jessie Harman AM, our Conference Rotary International President's Personal Representative and former RYLarian will provide some practical tips and tricks on how our members who are Alumni can help champion within our Clubs and Districts to continue our connection with our Youth and Foundation alumni.

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

The Honourable Eric Abetz MP

Minister Abetz is the current Treasurer, Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal and Leader of the House in the Tasmanian Parliament. He is the Liberal member for Franklin and a former government Senate Leader



Minister Abetz has a wide community involvement includes membership in many organisations including church, school, aged care, disability care, local community radio, local museum, Rotary and as a foundation member of the (Premiership) Kingborough Tigers.

Outside of Parliament, Minister Abetz runs an advisory consultancy, serves on boards and is the national campaign chair of the Australian Monarchist League -NO Republic campaign.

Minister Abetz will be helping open our 2026 District Conference.

Conference Photos



Our Conference photographers and videographers will be capturing elements of Conference. You will be able to access them by visiting the Conference website. We recommend sharing some of the video clips with your members following the Conference.

Speaker Spotlight: PDG Alma Reynolds & PDG Ross Carlyle

Foundation Projects of Impact



Alma Reynolds is the current Chair of the District 9815 Foundation Committee and has held positions of D9810 District Governor (2020-21), District Secretary, Assistant Governor, Club President, Club Secretary, District Foundation Committee (District Grants), and Club Foundation Chair.



Ross Carlyle is a Past District Governor (2018-19), current District 9830 Rotary Foundation Chair, past leader of a Group Study Exchange to Montana, active in RYDA and End Polio Now, and is the current President of RC Sandy Bay.

Alma and Ross will be sharing a sample of projects from their respective districts that have been supported by a grant from the Rotary Foundation.

The District Foundation Committees of 9815 and 9830 are staffing two displays in the House of Friendship – one about grants and one about fund raising. Please, come and say hello at one or other (or both) of the stands.

Speaker Spotlight: Jahangir Alam

Walk For Life Project and Balanced Food for Underprivileged Pregnant Mothers

Rotarian Jahangir Alam is our passionate overseas guest speaker from the Rotary Club of Dhaka New City, Bangladesh who will be presenting on two Projects: 1) Walk for Life Project and 2) Balanced Food for Underprivileged Pregnant Mothers.

Walk For Life provide treatment for children in Bangladesh with Clubfoot. Every year more than 4000 thousand children are born with Clubfoot deformity in Bangladesh; most of them going untreated. The project provides a non-surgical ponseti treatment method. Beginning in 2009, there now 43 clinics providing treatment around Bangladesh and over 36000 children have been treated. The project is supported by National and International funding.



Expectant mothers from low income families in Bangladesh can suffer from malnutrition and impacts to their health. Lacking nutritious food, medical care and with limited awareness about healthy and hygienic environments they unfortunately give birth to malnourished babies. The Rotary Clubs of Dhaka New City and Jashore, with support of funding from overseas Clubs, distributes nutritious food to pregnant mothers from underprivileged families. During the food distribution, health, nutrition, and hygiene issues are discussed to create awareness among the pregnant mothers. In addition the physical condition of these mothers are regularly monitored.

Rotary Conference Checklist

Accommodation Booked

Optional Session/s Booked

Friday Night Dinner Sorted

Conference Ticket/s Booked

Travel to/from Hobart Booked

Gala Dinner Costume Organised

Conference Committee

Introducing your Conference Committee... we have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure our Delegates have a memorable and inspirational Conference experience. Should you have any questions during your attendance please see one of our friendly Conference Committee Members or dedicated volunteers, both of which will be wearing Rotary Volunteer purple or yellow vests.



Some of our Conference Committee, L >R: Craig, Gus, Jyoti, Heather, Monique, Ken, Mark, David, Peter, Kehela & Di



D9815 DG: Peter & D9830 DG: Craig

Name	Role
Monique Smith	Conference Chair, Friday activities
Kehela (Keels) Vandenberg	Deputy Conference Chair/2IC, Friday activities
PDG Heather Chong	D9830 Liaison, Volunteers
PDG Una Hobday	D9830 Liaison, Volunteers
Annette Griffin	Conference Secretary, Gala Dinner
PDG Tony Monley OAM	Conference Treasurer
Wil Cornelissen	Sponsorships, Stage Manager
Sue Cornelissen	Rotary Expo/House of Friendship
David Button	Registrations, Bookings, Website/IT
PDG Ken Miller	Speakers Finder
Di Harrison	Gala Dinner, Theming, Entertainment
Jyoti Sharma	Green Room Manager
Gus Rozycki	Website, IT, General Hand
PDG Ian Ballentine	Photographer
Alanah Vidic Wirth	Assistant Photographer
Peter Muire	Script Writer / AV Liaison
Ex officio Members	
DG Peter Behm	D9815 District Governor
DG Craig Perkins	D9830 District Governor
PDG Shia Smart	RIPPR Minder



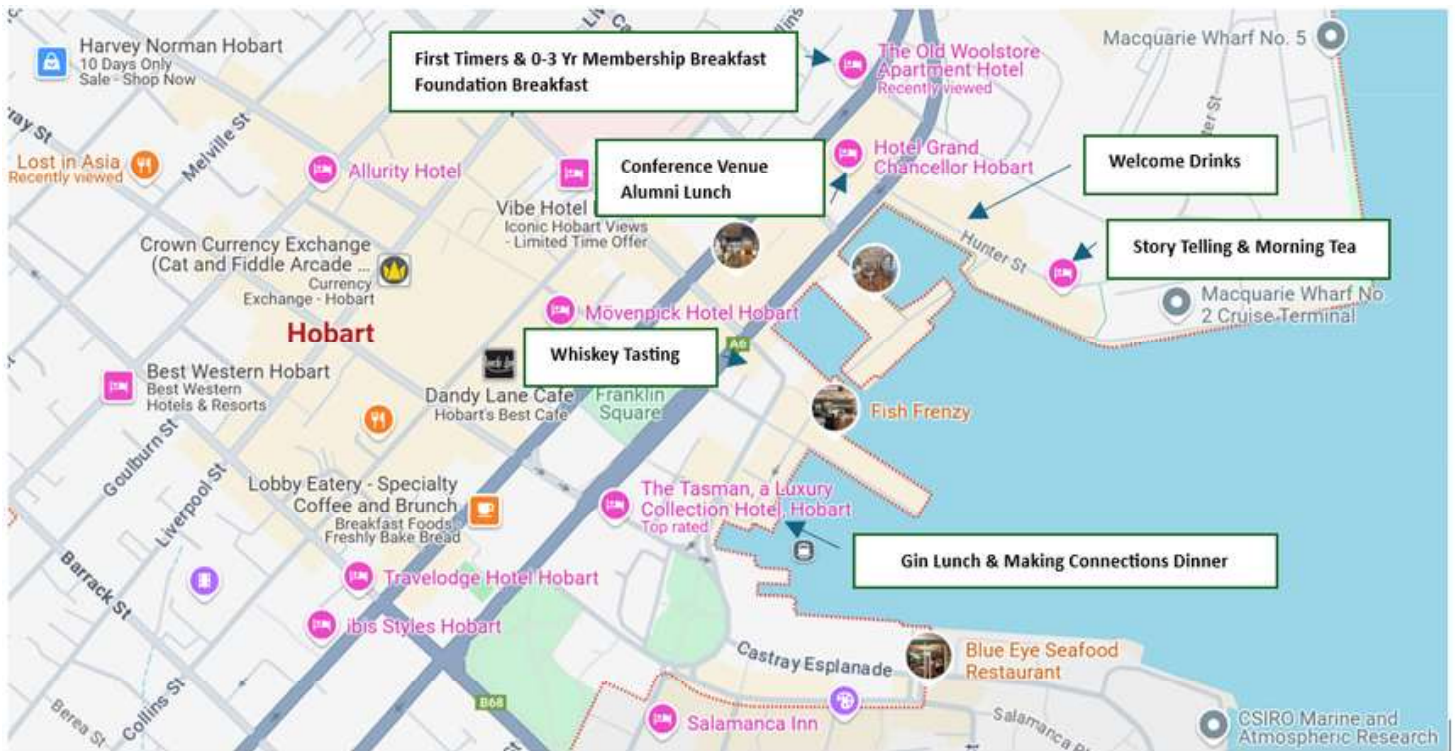
Conference 2IC: Kehela & Conference Chair: Monique



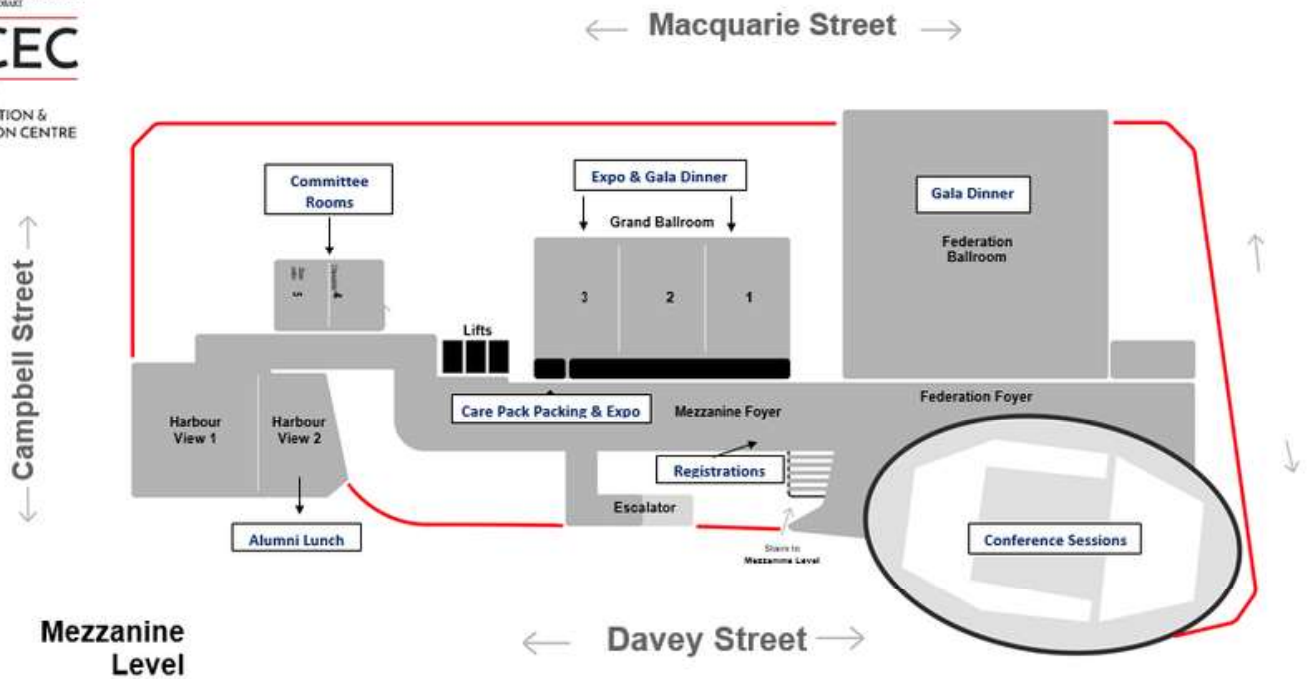
RIPPR Minder: PDG Shia

Map & Floor Plan

Conference Event Location Map



Conference Venue Floor Plan



FLOORPLAN

Have you booked your Friday night Club Dinner?

The Drunken Admiral Seafarers Restaurant

An iconic maritime themed family run restaurant that specialises in seafood

17-19 Hunter Steet, Hobart

Mures

Provides fresh, local, sustainable seafood from hook to plate, via 4 different restaurants

Hobart waterfront at Victoria Dock

Waterline Lounge Bar & Eatery

Enjoy cocktails, sharing plates and an extensive wine list right on Hobart's waterfront

Brooke Street Pier , Hobart

Amaranta Grill & Bar

Elevated Indian cuisine with unparalleled artistry, richness of tradition and sophisticated contemporary dining

40 Murray Street, Hobart

Frank Restaurant

Modern Australian with South American influences offering a la carte, and share-style set 'feed me' menu

Franklin Wharf, Hobart

Institut Polaire

Cold climate wine bar and brasserie embraces Tasmania's long held status as the gateway to Antarctica with a passion for everything coldhearted

1 / 7 Murray Street, Hobart

Pancho Villa

A dramatic and inventive Mexican kitchen and tequila bar

Corner Elizabeth St & Pitt St
North Hobart

The Ball and Chain Grill

Situated in the historic Salamanca Place and built by chain gangs of convicts this restaurant specialises in grilled dishes

87 Salamanca Place Battery Point

Old Wharf

The menu nods to Hobart's past while championing celebrated produce and boutique Tasmanian growers

18 Hunter Street, Hobart

Peppina

Peppina embodies local culture, showcasing incredible seasonal produce and ingredients in Italian dishes

2b Salamanca Place, Hobart

Urban Greek

Greek Restaurant that brings rich culinary traditions of Crete, an island known for its idyllic landscapes and vibrant culture

103 Murray Street, Hobart

Lost in Asia

Serves traditional Southeast Asian dishes and street food, heightened with modern technique,

131-133 Murray St, Hobart

Conference Feedback

Post the Conference, we invite you to provide your anonymous feedback to the Conference Committee and to Business Events Tasmania. Your experience, reflections, and ideas are invaluable—and they play a vital role in shaping Conferences of the future. The Committee survey will be open from 15 March to 5 April 2026



Rotary 
Districts 9815 & 9830

Post 2026 Conference Survey

Help shape future Conferences by
providing your Anonymous
Conference Feedback by 5 April 26

Scan the QR Code to complete >
or click this [link](#).



SCAN TO WIN!

Go into the draw to win
AUD\$500 VISA gift card!

Your event is making a
difference. The Tasmanian State
Government supports the
business event industry and
values your contribution to our
local economy.

Please help us continue to build
and understand the broader
value of business events by
filling in this short survey.



[SEE CLEAR HERE](#)

**BUSINESS
EVENTS
TASMANIA**

Terms: The promoter is Business Events Tasmania (ABN 33009589584). Entries open on the first Monday of each quarter and close on the last Friday of each quarter (March, June, September, December). Entry is restricted to Australian, non-Tasmanian residents attending a business event. Prize will be awarded randomly. See long form T&Cs for all details.



Image: Skallo Hubert

08/09

Links to the surveys are available via the
[Conference Website](#)

Sponsor Deals

With the Conference just a few weeks ago, below is a friendly reminder of discounts available from our some of our generous sponsors



**Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart**
Discounted room rates



**The Old Woolstore Apartment
Hotel**
10% off room rates



Spirit of Tasmania
Discounted fares



The Henry Jones Art Hotel
10% off room rates



LARK Cellar Door, Hobart
10% off purchases



**Pennicott Wilderness
Journeys**
15% off tours



MACq 01
10% off room rates



**McHenry Distillery, Brooke
Street Pier**
10% off purchases



Red Decker Bus Tours
20% off all tours



RACV Hobart
*15% of room rates if non-
member otherwise 20% if a
member*



**Waterline Lounge Bar &
Eatery, Brooke Street Pier**
10% off bill



**Connected Travel: Pre & Post
Conference Trip**
*See Conference website for
details*



Bargain Car Rentals
5% off car rentals



Minuteman Press Prahlan
Discounted pull up banners for Rotary Clubs

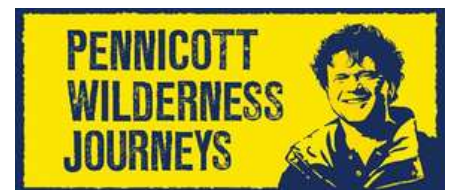
09/10

Check out more information on the
deals via the [Conference Website](#)

Thank You

2026

District Conference Sponsors



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