



HOT AIR

17 September 2026 — Basic Education and Literacy Month

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The President's Post

What Was

Last week we welcomed Dr Grace Maano, who spoke to us about Saving Mothers and Babies Through Skills, Partnerships & Rotary. Through dedication to obstetrics, valuing human life and utilising Rotary Global Grants, Dr Grace is another amazing human whose action and ideas 'Create Lasting Impact' through Rotary. Dr Grace has so much energy and was busy connecting ideas and people before, during and after our meetings.

What Is

As we continue through Basic Education and Literacy Month, we are reminded of the many ways Rotary can help create opportunities and strengthen our communities. It is also wonderful to have opportunities to come together outside our regular meetings, with our Sip & Stick Fellowship Afternoon happening this Saturday, 19 September. I hope many of you can join us for an afternoon of good company, good faith, a little creativity and plenty of laughs.

What Will Be

This week we are delighted to welcome Peter Davis from Bloodbikes Australia. Peter founded Bloodbikes Australia in 2019 after being inspired by the Bloodbikes movement in the UK. What began as a volunteer service in Brisbane has grown to more than 400 volunteers across Australia, providing free, last-resort medical transport to healthcare providers. I am looking forward to hearing more about this wonderful volunteer initiative and the difference it makes in supporting our healthcare system. I hope you can join us for what promises to be another fascinating morning.

What Could Be

RYLA 2027 – Invest in Tomorrow's Leaders: Sponsor a young adult (20–30) for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, Lake Cooby, 17–23 January 2027. Limited to 40 participants, and run alongside Districts 9640 and 9560.

Since 1959, RYLA has built leadership, citizenship and personal growth skills through seven days of challenge, mentorship and connection with like-minded peers from business, education, government and community sectors.

Give someone in our community a transformative week of self-discovery and leadership development. Rotary Brisbane High-Rise is committed to Sponsoring an applicant - so reach out to those you know who might value the opportunity.

See Page 2 for more info and a QR code for applications.

In Fellowship & Service, Cindy Kemp

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Yuggera and Turrbal people, and pay our respect to their elders past and present.

Rotary Grace: For the fellowship of Rotary, we give our thanks.

Last Week's Meeting

Dr Grace Maano spoke to us about the amazing work she has done, and continues to do, training doctors, midwives & nurses in remote locations around the world to reduce preventable maternal deaths in childbirth by being trained and ready to act quickly. To view her presentation click [here](#).



Cindy Kemp, Guest Speaker Grace Maano & Bill Phillips



Loretta Lynch & Ros Mumford



Loretta again, this time not winning the Joker Draw, & Russell Postle

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thu 17 Sep | Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – RSVP
Gary Lindsay, Bloodbikes Australia |
| Sat 19 Sep | 3pm Sip & Stick Fellowship Afternoon – RSVP
Fellowship and wine labelling |
| Thu 24 Sep | Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – RSVP
Club Assembly |
| Thu 01 Oct | Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – RSVP
Bethany Conroy |



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA – Empowering the leaders of tomorrow and inspiring positive change in the community

Dates:

17th – 23rd January 2027

Location:

Camp Cooby
Geham QLD



What will you Gain from RYLA?

At the end of RYLA, participants are equipped with personal, leadership and citizenship skills which position them for success in all areas of their life.

Specifically, RYLA's learning outcomes are:

Personal Development

- ✓ Develop an understanding of the uniqueness of oneself
- ✓ Develop lifelong learning skills
- ✓ Display appropriate communication skills
- ✓ Display self-confidence

Leadership

- ✓ Identify the qualities of a leader
- ✓ Promote team work
- ✓ Embrace change
- ✓ Create an action plan which ensures:
 - The transfer of key program learnings
 - Life-long learning habits

Citizenship

- ✓ Discuss the purpose of good citizenship
- ✓ Understand and promote the values of Rotary

In addition to all of this, you'll walk away from the RYLA program with new memories, friendships and a support network which lasts a lifetime.

In the words of past participants, "RYLA was the best week of my life".



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an exciting and challenging program designed to equip current and aspiring leaders, aged 20 to 30, with the personal, leadership, and citizenship skills needed to thrive in all aspects of life.

Set in a rural environment, the program offers participants an unforgettable experience filled with learning, personal growth, and plenty of laughter.

The RYLA Experience

Your RYLA experience begins the moment you step onto the bus, where leaders and fellow participants are eager to help you make the most of this incredible opportunity.

RYLA brings together talented, like-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds to engage in seminars, workshops, outdoor adventures, and reflective exercises.

Of course, no experience is complete without fun! Daily activities and sessions are designed to keep you energized and on your toes throughout the RYLA week.

Why RYLA is for you

Whether you're a young professional, a tertiary student, or anywhere in between, RYLA offers an incredible opportunity to learn, grow, have fun, and make new friends.

Participants who embark on the RYLA journey often find they can successfully apply the skills they've gained to their personal lives and careers, while also making a positive impact on their communities.

Additionally, Rotary initiatives and local Rotaract Clubs work closely with participants, inspiring them to create, support, or contribute to projects that address both local and global issues.



Where is RYLA?

RYLA takes place at Camp Cooby, located north of Toowoomba, an inviting venue with scenic lake views and a welcoming staff committed to providing the best opportunities and experiences for participants. Transportation to RYLA is provided by bus, departing on Sunday morning and returning on Saturday evening.

How is it Funded?

Successful applicants are sponsored/ co-sponsored by Rotary clubs or their employer.

This means that applications don't have to pay to come to RYLA!

How Do You Apply for RYLA?

Applying for RYLA is easy!

Scan the QR code to fill out a 2027 application form →

If your application is successful, you'll be contacted by a RYLA leader and invited to attend a Rotary meeting with your potential sponsor club. You will also receive all the necessary information prior to RYLA to ensure you're fully prepared for a life-changing week.



What Makes RYLA Special?

The People

"Everyone at RYLA was there for different reasons, but we all seemed to be on the same wavelength from the start. I was able to form new friends and I developed a support network for my everyday life."



The Program

"I'm not sure I've ever been through such an intense, valuable and fun program. The learnings from the activities related directly to our everyday lives as young adults – core values, personality types, teamwork, communications, goal setting, time management and leadership; all while having a lot of fun!"

The Challenges

"RYLA challenged me to face my fears, to step out of my comfort zone, and gave me the confidence to deal with unfamiliar situations and different (or difficult) people".

Rotary

"RYLA brought together three nations, creating international friendships. The program afforded participants the opportunity to learn more about Rotary and how we could get involved in our local communities".

Take Up the RYLA Challenge

Do you have what it takes to become a dynamic leader and change not only yourself but the world around you?

By applying for RYLA, you will be taking the first step in realising your leadership potential.



Find Out More:

[f @RYLADISTRICT9620](https://www.facebook.com/RYLADISTRICT9620)

ryladistrict9620@gmail.com

Follow us on social media to ensure you're up to date on all RYLA announcements.

Why not take a break from your everyday life and explore this personal and professional development opportunity!

Upcoming Events



Register Now for RSP26

THREE days in the world's most liveable city. A region's worth of Rotarians standing in the same room, energised by the same purpose. Melbourne is set to host one of the biggest South Pacific Zone gatherings in years, when the Rotary South Pacific Conference 2026 (RSP26) opens at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. Under the theme People. Planet. Peace, delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific will come together to be challenged, moved and reminded why they said yes to Rotary in the first place.

SPEAKERS WHO'LL GET YOU THINKING
RSP26 brings a line-up that goes well beyond Rotary's usual voices. Dr Jill Gallagher AO, CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, will speak on community-led partnerships with the kind of honesty that changes how you see your own club's work. Tim Wiebusch, Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner, brings a first-hand, front-line view on climate resilience and disaster response – the sort of story that makes the stakes feel real. And CX & AI futurist Simon

Kriss will unpack what artificial intelligence means for the way we serve, a conversation every club will eventually need to have, and one you'll want to have been in the room for.

A RARE CHANCE TO MEET ROTARY'S INCOMING PRESIDENT

Club presidents and presidents-elect: how often do you get to sit across from the person who will shape Rotary's global direction? RSP26 is your opportunity to meet and speak directly with RI President-elect Larry Lunsford, alongside Past RI President Gordon McInally and RI Director Jennifer Scott AM. Conversations like these don't come around often – bring your questions, and bring your ambitions for your club.

Current presidents, presidents-elect and presidents-nominee are especially encouraged to book the separately ticketed Presidents' Breakfast. Seats are limited so book yours now!

- **Presidents' Breakfast with Larry Lunsford:** bit.ly/sppbreakfast

30 October – 1 November 2026
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Vic
bit.ly/rsp26-info
bit.ly/rsp26-tickets
Accommodation: Novotel Melbourne South Wharf (limited block available)



Conference



Tickets



Accommodation

MORE THAN THE MAIN STAGE

The best conferences aren't just watched from a seat; they're felt in the corridors, the walks, the dinners and the friendships that pick up exactly where they left off. Alongside the plenaries, RSP26 offers the End Polio Walk, a Rotary Foundation Masterclass, Rotaract activities and the Friday Fellowship Dinner – ways to turn big ideas into shared moments and to reconnect with old friends.

- **End Polio Walk:** bit.ly/rsp-epnwalk
- **The Rotary Foundation Masterclass with Gordon McInally:** bit.ly/rsp-masterclass
- **Now We Can – The Path to Malaria Elimination, Friday 30 October (free):** bit.ly/nowwecan
- **Rotaract Activities:** bit.ly/rsp-social-events
- **Friday Fellowship Dinner:** bit.ly/rsp-fellowshipdinner

MAKE A TRIP OF IT

Why not make the most of the trip? With the Melbourne Cup falling the following week and Victoria's wine regions within easy reach, a couple of extra days either side of the conference could turn RSP26 into the Melbourne getaway you've been meaning to take.

The conference concludes by 1.30pm Sunday 1 November. Preferential accommodation at the Novotel Melbourne South Wharf (10% off rack rate) is available using Client Code SCP4537877 and Access Code R0443AU516 at accor.com.

Dr Jill Gallagher AO

Tim Wiebusch



REGISTER NOW!

Conference + Saturday Dinner: \$485
Conference Only: \$380
Saturday Dinner Only: \$125
[BIT.LY/RSP26-TICKETS](https://bit.ly/rsp26-tickets)

International Convention June 2027 Early Bird Tickets Open Soon and Closing Fast!



Join Rotary's global community in Spain for the Rotary International Convention, 26-30 June 2027. Registration opens 17 September 2026, with early bird rates until 21 September 2026.

The 2027 Rotary International Convention is heading to Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia, Spain, known for its rich history, modernist architecture and Mediterranean coastline.

Held in a different city each year, Rotary Conventions serve as a hub for members and participants to connect and learn from each other and be inspired by world-class speakers.

The 2027 Convention in Barcelona will bring its wide cultural mosaic to one of the largest and most modern fair venues in Europe, the Fira Grand Via, characterised by its design and functionality, with the comfort of enjoying a convention set in one venue that is well connected to the public transport network.

Organised by Rotary International in conjunction with the Barcelona Host Organising Committee of local Rotary members, registrants of the convention will also get the opportunity to experience Barcelona.

“ Let's take our Zone to the world – and bring the world back to our clubs! ”

A modern Catalan capital, proud of its heritage, Barcelona cultivates an inspiring joie de vivre, with its vibrant Mediterranean lifestyle, combining culture, beaches and a sunny climate.

The city is inextricably linked to the work of Antoni Gaudí, known as the master of modernism and the creator of the famous Basílica Sagrada Família, which dominates the skyline with its soaring towers, and Park Güell, with its colourful mosaics and spectacular panoramas.

Join us in Barcelona from 26 to 30 June 2027. Registration opens on 17 September 2026, with special promotional rates available for a limited time. Check your time zone in the table below and be ready to register via convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration as soon as the offer opens.



SAVE THIS DATE

Rotary District 9620 Conference 2027

March 12 - 14, 2027

The Pavilion Conference and Reception Centre, Gympie

OBJECT OF ROTARY

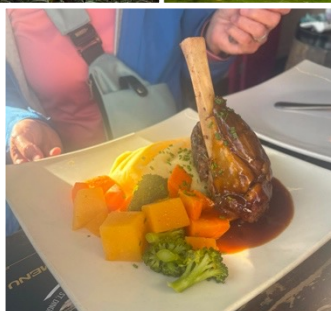
The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- 1 The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- 2 High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- 3 The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- 4 The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

International Travellers – food theme!



Yvonne Robson traipsing around Ireland



Susan Rix in Germany catching up with her Youth Exchange host sister



Rob O'Donovan in Japan renewing his acquaintance with Spam and enjoying pastries

Board Members 2026-27

President	Cindy Kemp
Past President	Greg Beard
President Elect	Ann Maree Buttner
Secretary	Ann Maree Buttner
Treasurer	Loretta Lynch
Community Projects	Jane Andersen
Marketing	Taking applications
Membership	Deb Le Garde
Rotary Foundation	Susan Rix
Youth	Taking applications
Assisted By:	
Rotaract Liaisons	David Bunce & Lindsay Marshall
Fellowship	Margot Baillie
Speaker Liaison	Dyls Bertelsen
Administration	Rosemary Meadows
Hot Air	Steve Knight

Duty Roster

REMEMBER: If you won't be there on the day then it's your responsibility to arrange a replacement

Setup, Greeter, Closedown	Chair	Cashier
Thu 17 Sep	Rob O'D	Kym McC
Thu 24 Sep	Ros M	Lindsay M
Thu 01 Oct	Rob O'D	Cindy K
Thu 08 Oct	Ros M	Susan R
Thu 15 Oct	Bill P	Greg P
Thu 22 Oct	Debra H	Jennifer E
	Wendy P	Russell P
	Yvonne R	

International Toast

This week we are celebrating:

The Rotary Club of Sarnia-Bluewaterland, Ontario, Canada



The annual used book sale of the **Rotary Club of Sarnia-Bluewaterland** has been a fixture for more than 25 years.

"We realized we were in this because we loved books, we wanted to encourage others in the community to access great books at a reasonable price, and, yes, it was a wonderful way to generate funds to support local nonprofits," says coordinator Dale Wilcox.

In January, the sale raised more than US\$42,000, with leftover books being distributed to several organizations and groups, including a Canadian Armed Forces unit stationed in Latvia. "Troops are already digging into the massive collection and finding a good book to keep at their bedside or take into the field," Lt. Col. Colleen Grebstad reported in a letter to the club.