

## **Zone 8 District Rotaract Representative (DRR) Learning & Development Report**

For the second year in a row, the Learning and Development Seminar for District Rotaract Representatives Elect (DRRsE) for districts 9423 to 9830 was split into two parts, an Online Orientation and a Hybrid Seminar.

In April 2023 Rotaract Australia Chair Elect, Eeshwar Rajagopalan organised an online Orientation Session for the Zone 8 District Rotaract Representatives Elect (DRRsE). This covered the basics of the Rotaract Australia structure, presentations from various Zone Rotary leadership and Rotary International staff on membership, regionalisation and the DRR role.

Depending of the time zone of participants (from W.A. to NZ & the Pacific Islands) and some bandwidth challenges in different parts of the Zone meant that not all DRRsE were able to participate fully. Some were able to participate if they turned off their cameras and hence reduced the bandwidth requirement.

The 2023 Melbourne Rotary International Convention provided a valuable and much appreciated opportunity for the Zone 8 District Rotaract Representatives to meet and get to know one another in person before the Convention began. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May the group gathered in a Melbourne city hotel for lunch together prior to the Rotaract Australia DRR-Elect Leadership Seminar which was held in a hybrid fashion.

It was really valuable to be able to meet people in person rather than via a screen. One of the observations over the time we were together in Melbourne was how difficult it was to imagine someone's height when we'd only seen a head & shoulders view via a small screen.

The Seminar itself was opened by RI Director Jessie Harman, who discussed the Rotary Action Plan, which was followed by a goal setting workshop to provide the DRRs an opportunity to explain their plans for the year ahead to the group. The following presentations focussed on developing partnerships to achieve these goals; as well as an exploration of the services and support that the RISPPPO office could provide. That certainly answered a number of questions as well as providing reassurance about a 'go to' place as needed.

It was an excellent opportunity to build on the previous year's achievements and continue with the 'Elevate Rotaract' accomplishments.

At the beginning of the new Rotary year, the DRRs will continue to be supported with learning and development opportunities through the Rotaract Australia Council Leadership Series, generously supported by Fiona Biedermann, who has developed a program of workshops which run throughout the year covering a range of topics relevant to the successful operation of their role.

All materials and recordings developed and presented throughout the year are made available to the DRRs online so that they can refresh their understanding as they feel a need so to do.

Carol Lawton  
Rotaract Representative Training Committee Chair