

Welcome to Conference

Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee's Special Representative, PDG Manjit Sawhney and Rita, Past, present and future officers of RI, my fellow Rotarians, and friends

Welcome to District 9680's Golden Jubilee conference

Three years work goes into each conference, and I am sure that the hardworking committee are confident that they and the host club of Beecroft will deliver to you a stimulating, motivating, educational two days. We have an excellent venue, and here in Wollongong we have a very welcoming city too.

While the overall pattern is similar to previous conferences, there are two significant innovations that we hope will make the conference particularly club-friendly.

The first is to extend our Saturday lunch break to allow time for you to enjoy the Club Showcase, as well as time to chat and swap project ideas while you catch up with old friends and make new friends.

The second is to trial the idea of some interactive sessions, so over Sunday lunch we have a new session called "Speak your Mind". Registrations for this have been very encouraging and this session will be facilitated by PDG Barry Philips who is our Rotary Leadership Institute Chair.

Throughout the conference we will be entertained by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, and we have a great line-up of speakers and presentations.

We welcome not only our District 9680 Rotarians, but also visitors from other parts of the world. In particular Assistant Governor Robin and Cecilie Stevens from the Rotary club of Bourne End and Cookham in district 1090. They have attended now several of our conferences and we welcome them again this weekend. Robin has a banner to present and I'd like him to come forward now to do that and receive our District banner in return.

Presentation of Banner

So please enjoy yourselves over this weekend. I wish you all a wonderful time here in Wollongong.