

# Rotary District 9790 Conference 2025

## Conference Program



# Hit the high notes

@ District Conference 11-13 April 2025

Unite. Inspire. Transform

**All Conference sessions are held at:  
The Commercial Club Albury, 618 Dean St, Albury**

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## Welcome – District Governor Stephen O’Connell, OAM



### Hit the High Notes @ Conference: Unite. Inspire. Transform.

Carol and I are delighted to welcome you to this gathering of Rotarians, partners, family and friends - a time to connect, learn, and be inspired.

At the heart of this conference is our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, values that shape our service and strengthen our communities. This conference is your opportunity to unite with fellow Rotarians, be inspired by powerful ideas, and transform the way we create impact.

#### What Awaits You?

- 🎵 **Networking:** Build meaningful relationships with like-minded people.
- 🎵 **Learning:** Engage in thought-provoking sessions that will ignite new ideas.
- 🎵 **Possibilities:** Discover and share initiatives that are making a real difference.
- 🎵 **Positive Connections:** Foster collaborations that will amplify your Rotary journey..

#### Let’s Make This an Unforgettable Experience!

You’ve arrived at a conference designed to energise and inspire! Over the next two days, we encourage you to embrace new perspectives, celebrate our collective achievements, and fuel your passion for service.

Enjoy every moment—we’re thrilled to share this journey with you!

**Stephen O’Connell and partner Carol  
O’Connell  
District Governor 2024-25  
Rotary International District 9790**

*To Vote for Your  
Favourite Hit The High  
Notes Video...  
Follow this QR Code*



*Visit Albury Wodonga welcomes the Rotary International District Conference 2025 to our region*

## PDG Ken Mugisha - Rotary International President Representative



Past District Governor (PDG) Kenneth Mugisha is a distinguished Rotarian with 29 years of dedicated service having joined Rotary in 1996. A member of the Rotary Club of Muyenga, he has held numerous leadership roles within the Rotary community, contributing significantly at both the club and district levels. His commitment to Rotary's ideals and his extensive experience in leadership, project

management, and fundraising make him a respected figure within the organisation.

PDG Mugisha has been at the forefront of Rotary's global initiatives, notably in fundraising, for The Rotary Foundation, leading significant service projects. His most recent involvement includes a \$1.2 million malaria grant project in partnership with Rotary International, World Vision, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. His contributions have been pivotal in advancing Rotary's mission to promote peace, prevent and treat disease, and protect the environment.

PDG Mugisha has received numerous citations for his service, with an example being Best District Governor in Africa (2017/18) for exceptional leadership and district performance. This included the Rotary 'Mission Green' initiative in Uganda and Tanzania, which aimed to plant 5 million trees annually from 2017-2022.

As Champion of the Rotary Dancing Fellowship, PDG Mugisha will be one to watch on the dance floor!

We warmly welcome PDG Mugisha and his partner Judith, to Albury and to D9790 District Conference.

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JOURNEY BEYOND





Growing up in the small town of Walla Walla in the 1960s and 70s, Andrew Kotzur's early years were shaped by strong family values and a close-knit rural community. He attended Walla Walla Public School and later St Paul's College, laying the foundation for a future deeply connected to regional Australia.

At just 16, Andrew was selected by the Albury Rotary Club to participate in an overseas exchange program, spending 12 months in Eureka, USA. This experience proved to be transformational, broadening his perspective, building confidence, and creating the beginnings of a lifelong global network. Upon returning home, Andrew completed high school and faced an important decision—what path to take next.

After much consideration, he chose to join the family business, Modern Engineering and Construction, which at the time employed around 15 people. Determined to gain hands-on experience, Andrew worked across all areas of the business, from welding and truck driving to assembling and installing equipment.

While working full-time, Andrew completed a mature-age apprenticeship in boiler making and studied part-time for a degree in Business Administration at what is now Charles Sturt University. His design and engineering knowledge grew through hands-on experience and mentorship from industry experts. In 1987, Andrew married his wife Michelle, who has been a constant source of support throughout his journey. Together, they built a life in Walla Walla and raised their two children, Ben and Jessica.

As the business evolved, so too did its capabilities. The drive for automation and technology led to improvements in both product quality and manufacturing processes. In 1989, the family acquired a silo and water tank business in Newcastle, which marked a turning point. This expansion enabled the company to move beyond transportable silos and into large-scale, on-site constructed storage solutions. Recognising the need for innovation, Andrew led a complete redesign of the silo range between 1992 and 1998, much of it done by hand on a drawing board.

The late 1990s and early 2000s saw Kotzur transition into large-scale project work, integrating silos with advanced conveyor systems. In 2009, an opportunity arose to acquire Downfields Engineering in Toowoomba, a key supplier of conveyor equipment. This acquisition established Kotzur's Queensland footprint and expanded its capabilities, further strengthening its position in the industry.

Today, the Kotzur Group has grown significantly, employing over 200 people across its factories and offices, along with construction teams working across the country. With manufacturing facilities in Walla Walla and Toowoomba, and an office in Perth, Kotzur now operates in all states of Australia. While grain storage remains at the core of the business, Kotzur also provides solutions for mining, feed and food manufacturing, and industrial applications.

Despite the challenges facing Australian manufacturing, Kotzur remains committed to maintaining strong local production. At the same time, the company is expanding into the Indian sub-continent, exploring manufacturing opportunities to support the growing need for quality grain storage in India and beyond.



Andrew's journey from a small-town apprentice to the Managing Director of a national manufacturing company reflects a commitment to innovation, resilience, and a passion for Australian industry.

**Andrew Kotzur**  
Managing Director



## Program for Friday 11 April

Time	What's On	Note
8:30am	Golf Day start for golfers who have registered	Thurgoona Country Club, 1 Evesham Place, Thurgoona
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Council of Governors' lunch	Brew House, 618 Dean St, Albury
1pm	Ride to Conference arrives in Albury	Welcome in The Auditorium, The Commercial Club
1pm	Lunch for golfers, non-golfers and Ride to Conference participants who have registered for lunch	Thurgoona Country Club, 1 Evesham Place, Thurgoona
2pm - 5:30pm	Conference Registration open	Wattle Room at Commercial Club Albury, 618 Dean St, Albury
5:05pm for 5:30pm Start 7:15pm Finish	Opening Event  Featuring: Complimentary glass of wine on arrival, Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Flag Ceremony by our Exchange students, Murray Conservatorium ensembles, Finger food	Auditorium at Commercial Club Albury, 618 Dean St, Albury  Wine sponsor is Stanton & Killeen



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## Program for Saturday 12 April

All general Conference sessions for Saturday and Sunday are held at: The Auditorium, Commercial Club Albury, 618 Dean St, Albury		
Time	What's On	Note
7:00am – 8:00am	Presidents' and Presidents' Elect breakfast	In the Waratah Room, Commercial Club, 618 Dean St, Albury. For Presidents and Presidents Elect only
8am – 9:30am	Conference Registration	Wattle Room, Commercial Club, 618 Dean St, Albury
8:45am – 9am	District Governor Stephen O'Connell, OAM	Welcome in The Auditorium, The Commercial Club
9am – 9:20am	Rotary International President's Representative Ken Mugisha	
9:20am-10:05am	Dr Graham Sattler	An extraordinary session with renowned community music leader and educator, Dr. Graham Sattler, as he unveils the unparalleled power of music—the most accessible and inclusive group activity there is. Often called the "universal language," music transcends words. Yet, as Graham will reveal, it is far more than just a language. Music is a transformative tool for uniting, inspiring, engaging, and connecting—a bridge that knows no dialects, no nations, no borders!
10:05am-10:20am	Hit the High Notes videos	Let's see what other amazing things are being accomplished in District 9790! (QR code for voting is on page 2 of this Program).
10:20am -10:35am	Resolutions Session	Registered Club elector(s)
10:20am -11am	Morning Tea	House of Friendship Open
11:05am-11:20am	Hit the High Notes videos	Let's see what other amazing things are being accomplished in District 9790! (QR code for voting is on page 2 of this Program).
11:20am -12:05pm	Dr Graham Sattler	'Sing, Sing, Sing' Whether you're a seasoned musician or someone who claims to be tone-deaf, this session will open your eyes to the incredible benefits of making and engaging with music—and leave you inspired to discover your own musicality.
12:05pm-12:20pm	Hit the High Notes videos	QR code for voting is on page 2 of this Program.
12:20pm-12:27pm	Andrew Kotzur	Kotzur Group - Major Conference Sponsor

## Program for Saturday 12 April

Time	What's On	Note
12:27pm-12:35pm	Voting on Hit the High Notes Royce Abbey Award	Everything you need to know about voting for the Hit The High Notes Videos.(QR code for voting is on page 2 of this Program). A very prestigious award
12:35pm-1:35pm	Lunch	House of Friendship Open
1:40pm-1:50pm	Yves Mounir and Lachlan McIntyre	Lachlan McIntyre accompanied by exchange student Yves on piano
1:50pm – 2:10pm	Mark Balla	Affectionately known as the 'Toilet Warrior', Mark has an absolute and unwavering passion for giving dignity and safety to those in need by providing access to toilets. Drop by the House of Friendship to chat to Mark at his stall.
2:10pm-3:00pm	Movement Break Lauren Jackson with Justin Clancy moderator	So, you've always wanted to see Lauren in person and hear her story? Be ready to be totally engaged in this interview with Lauren.  Proudly sponsored by Zauner construction.
3pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea	House of Friendship Open
3:30pm-3:40pm	D9790 song 'Happy'	Lachlan McIntyre
3:35pm - 5pm	Solar Buddy construction for those involved with this	In House of Friendship Proudly sponsored by RC Belvoir Wodonga and RC Corowa.
3:40PM – 4:10PM	Mr David Morgan from Interplast	Interplast = impact Mr David Morgan will wow us with the significant and sustainable impact of Interplast.
4:10pm – 4:40pm	PDG Dave and Robii Harmon	Robii and PDG Dave Harmon instigated the 'Say no to domestic violence, say yes to respectful relationships' campaign. This now encompasses an education component and has been picked up as an official Zone 8 Rotary project. This project has a groundswell of support behind it including in the police force in the eastern states of Australia.  Proudly sponsored by Solar Integrity.
4:50pm – 5:00pm	Vale session	

# Conference Dinner and Dance

Saturday Evening  
All That Glitters Dinner and Dance



6:45pm	Pre-Dinner Drink	Pre-dinner complimentary drink in the Piano Bar outside the Auditorium, Commercial Club, 618 Dean St, Albury. Lots of opportunities for photos in front of our new media walls. Get your glitter on!
7:20pm – 11pm	All That Glitters Dinner & Dance	Auditorium, Commercial Club Proudly sponsored by Baker Motors and Sam Miranda.



## Program for Sunday 13 April



### *'Wear Something Purple Day'*

Time	What's On	Note
START 7:10am for 7:15am 8am FINISH	DG Partner's Walk – wear your 'Say NO to Domestic Violence T-shirt or something purple.	Meet outside the Atura Hotel, 648 Dean St, Albury
9:00am for 9:15 start  9:20am- 9:50am	MCs Steve Bowen	Welcome back. It's Wear Purple Day! Presentation about the experience of attending my second ever fire event as a firefighter for the 2019-2020 Green Valley fires that was so intense it created it's own weather pattern and formed a fire tornado that took the life of Firefighter Sam McPaul.
9:50am- 10:35am	Leila McDougall	Leila McDougall is the epitome of being inspired, taking on challenges, facing adversity, and transforming her own life and the lives of those around her.
10:45am- 11:15am	Morning Tea	
11:15am- 11:25am	Lachlan McIntyre, Stephen O'Connell OAM	'All Shoulders To The Wheel'
11:30am- 12pm	Dr Graham Sattler	'Sing, Sing, Sing' It's time to film!
12:05pm -12:20pm	District Governor Elect Emma Davis and the 2026 District Conference	
12:20pm - -12: 40pm	Winners of 'Hit the High Notes' Acknowledgements and gifts	Winners proudly sponsored by District 9790. Gifts proudly sponsored by Corowa Whisky and Chocolate
12: 40 pm- 12:45pm	It's a wrap!	



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## Speakers in Order of Speaking Schedule



### Dr Graham Sattler

Graham began his career as an orchestral trombonist, became a singer specialising in opera and music theatre, a conductor and artistic director, then commenced research in the field of community music activity and musical inclusion. He holds a Diploma of Operatic Art and Music Theatre, a Master of Performance (Conducting), PhD in Music Education and a Graduate Certificate in the Psychology of Risk.

Regularly presenting at international Music Education conferences, he has carried out community-focused fieldwork in Australia, North America and Bolivia, collaborated on community music development activity with groups in and from Armenia, and designed and delivered multiple professional learning music courses for non-

specialist teachers in Australia. Graham is a Churchill Fellow and has recently returned from investigating best-practice musical inclusion and community music leadership training programs in the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Portugal and Armenia. Graham was appointed CEO of Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in late 2021.



### Mark Balla

In the decade since joining Rotary, Mark Balla has attended Rotary International Conventions in Brazil, South Korea, Canada, Germany, Australia and Singapore. He has spoken at side events at all of these about his passion project to provide dignity and safety to those in need by providing access to toilets. He has also presented at 20 Rotary District Conferences in Australia, the USA and India as well as numerous other Rotary and non-Rotary events.

Mark is past President of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central and a past Assistant Governor District 9810 in Melbourne. He has recently completed six years on the board of the WASH Rotary Action Group and is a member of the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors.





## Lauren Jackson AO OLY

Lauren Jackson is arguably one of Australia's top sportspeople - considered by many to be the country's greatest female basketballer in history. She was the first Australian in history to be selected as the first overall pick in an international and professional draft. She was crowned an All-Star in her first WNBA season.

Lauren has been on top for 15 years playing at the elite level. She has so many honours spanning across several leagues, including the Australian (WNBL), American (WNBA), European (EuroLeague) and Asian (WKBL) Women's Basketball.

In 2012, Lauren had the great honour of being flag bearer for Australia at the London Olympics and in 2021, she was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2021, the sports' most prestigious award.

Lauren returned to the sport after a 5 year hiatus, playing for the Albury Bandits in the NBL1. Shortly after, she fulfilled a dream by becoming an Opal once again, representing Australia at the 2022 FIBA World Championships in Sydney.

She was instrumental at these games in helping the Opals to a Bronze Medal win and at the 2024 Paris Olympics, become a 5-time Olympic medallist helping the Opals take home the Bronze. Not enough representing Australia, Lauren signed with the Southside Flyers in the WNBL during the 2023/24 season where she finished a WNBL Champion. In November 2024, she was awarded The Dawn Award at the Sport Australia Hall of Fame where which recognises an individual, team or organisation who show courage and bravery and have changed sport for the better.

Away from the court, Lauren is a devoted mother to two boys – Harry & Lenny – and works at Basketball Australia as their Head of Women in Basketball and runs their She Hoops program, empowering women in sport.



## **Justin Clancy MP - BVSc, MVSc, MACVSc, MBA**

### **Member for Albury Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.**

Raised on the land in the southern Riverina, Justin continues to live on a farm outside Albury with his wife Tabitha and their children - on a property which supplies its own energy needs through renewables.

As a veterinary surgeon running his own practice in Albury-Wodonga, Justin appreciates first-hand the importance of a strong local economy to create jobs for young people and provide improved services throughout the community.

He has a strong interest in health and medical research, affordable housing and regional equity in delivery of government services and support.

Justin has a passionate belief in empowering and enabling local communities, leading him to play a role in founding the Fischer Community Leadership – a program which endeavours to grow talented leaders from within their regional communities.

As a rugby enthusiast Justin likes to get involved rather than shout from the sidelines, supporting community projects, sports, health and wellbeing initiatives, as well as participating as a member of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development. Justin is motivated by the stories he hears from his constituents to seek fairness and positive outcomes that promote a sense of wellbeing, making our regional communities great places to live and to do business.



## **Mr David Morgan**

Mr David J Morgan is a Melbourne-based Specialist Plastic Surgeon.

He is currently the Head of the Faciomaxillary Surgery Unit at The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and is involved in all aspects of the management of acute facial trauma. He also runs a private practice performing skin cancer management and cosmetic surgery of the breast, body, and face.

Mr Morgan is the newly-elected President of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), and is Chairman of their Advocacy

and External Relations Committee, and the Cosmetic Surgery Subcommittee. He has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of Interplast, and remains an active volunteer for the organization which provides volunteer plastic surgery services to the Pacific and South East Asia. He has served as the country-coordinator for Tonga for many years.

He has previously been the National Chairman of the Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the body that oversees the training of future Plastic Surgeons across Australia, and led an overhaul of the plastic surgery curriculum and training program.

Mr Morgan is a member of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS), and is an International Member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.



## **Robii and PDG Dave Harmon**

Dave & Robii married in 1984, have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. They both work in the education sector having spent most of their working life in Coffs Harbour NSW, and are committed to community service.

After moving to Ballina, Dave and Robii joined the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond in 2014. In 2019 as President of the club, Dave began a club transformation exercise. His club needed to find its relevance and identity. This transformation has resulted in a 165% increase in club membership over the past 6 years.

Ballina-on-Richmond's Domestic & Family Violence project has been a game changer for their club with Dave being instrumental in forming many partnerships at a local, state, national and international level.

In 2023 – 24 Dave was the District Governor for District 9640. This opportunity enabled Dave to share his club's Domestic and Family Violence Campaign with his 19 fellow Governors of Zone 8 and received unanimous endorsement from them to take the campaign throughout the Zone across 16 countries for the next 3 years.

Dave and Robii are multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipients.



## Steve Bowen OAM

Steve Bowen is the Managing Director of Bowen's Entertainment and is a professional MC, DJ entertainer and Wedding Coach. Steve was inducted into the Albury/Wodonga Business 'Hall of Fame' in 2021 and has been inducted into the DJAA 'Hall of Fame' as a founding member and former Chairperson of the DJ Alliance Australasia Inc.

Steve is a Firefighter and President of the Glenellen Fire Brigade. Steve was honoured with an Order of Australia (OAM) medal in 2022 for his dedication and community work within the Albury Wodonga Region.



## Leila McDougall

Leila McDougall is a renowned entrepreneur, filmmaker and influential advocate for women in agriculture, who passionately promotes and celebrates farming life. Originally from a sheep farm in Walcha, NSW, Leila's career has evolved from fashion designer to rural teacher, and now to a filmmaker.

A decade ago, Leila founded the nonprofit organisation Live Rural, which supports the health and well-being of farmers. Her leadership and advocacy earned her a place on the Young Farmers Advisory Council and the 2014 Emerging Leader in Agriculture award. Leila's commitment to the agricultural community is further highlighted in her latest venture, the feature film "Just a Farmer," released nationally in March 2024.

Leila not only conceived and penned the script amidst the challenges of COVID-19 then went on to co-star in the film and being the executive producer. Leila aims to use the film as a medium to shine a light on farming in Australia along with supporting and uplifting rural communities.

Leila continues to be a powerful mentor and role model, championing the cause of mental health in the agricultural sector and encouraging the next generation of female leaders. Her work embodies a deep-rooted passion for her community and a commitment to using her diverse talents to effect real change.

## Performers



### Anne Hayward

Anne became a member of the Albury North Rotary Club in April 2015, taking on the roles of Membership Director in 2016-18 and President in 2021-22.

Beginning her journey in bands and music theatre in the late 1960s, she eventually transitioned to a full-time music career that included a few overseas residencies. More recently, Anne has channelled her creative energy into becoming a qualified Visual Artist

After joining Rotary, she was invited to lead group singing sessions, which led to the creation of "RCAN Voices," a choir made up of RCAN members. This choir flourished for seven years, featuring regular rehearsals and local performances



### Murray Conservatorium Junk Band, Saxophonics and Big Band

The Murray Conservatorium has a huge impact in our community delivering music education programs to schools, individual tuition and a range of ensembles. The Murray Conservatorium Junk Band, Saxophonics and Big Band is a new ensemble and collaboration. It

features musicians new to music all the way to professionals. Stay tuned for their uplifting music making, as well as rhythmic and contemporary beats.



### Flying Fruit Fly Circus

*Ordinary Kids doing Extraordinary Things!*

Australia's Flying Fruit Fly Circus is one of the world's premier youth performing arts companies. In 1979 it began as a local circus project for school kids. Since then 'the Fruities' have tumbled their way into the hearts of millions of people throughout Australia and the world.

They combine energy, expertise, and commitment to demonstrate in a most spectacular and joyful way, the limitless potential of young people.



## Lachlan McIntyre

Lachlan is a classically trained singer, who toured Victoria recently with Lyster Opera's production of Rossini's L'Italiana in Algeri. He performed on scholarship with Opera Scholars Australia for several years appearing with David Hobson, Marina Prior, James Morrison, Silvie Paladino and Anthony Warlow, among others.

Performance highlights include appearing as a soloist with internationally recognised conductor Warwick Stengards (Volksooper Wien, Opera Australia), the new production Musical Island: A Silent Spell at Bondi Theatre, Les Kendall in Strictly Ballroom and as Raoul in The Phantom

of the Opera. His current professional collaborations include performing with touring entertainer Rodney Vincent, and jazz composer Stephen O'Connell, with whom he was pleased to collaborate on the Rotary Song 'All Shoulders to the Wheel'.



## Yves Mounir

Yves Mounir, a Rotary exchange student from Switzerland, is currently staying in Wodonga. He is a passionate pianist, who started on the keys when he was just eight years old. Yves has performed at numerous concerts, including solo performances and accompanying a violin orchestra and singers. Two years ago, he founded his own band, playing original songs and covers from ABBA, Billy Joel, and the Beatles.



## Stephen O'Connell

Stephen is committed to advancing the notion that all art forms are vital for the ongoing health of communities. Stephen has been a committed professional musician and composer for over 40 years and is highly active as a professional musician and recording artist. He has written many pieces of music in response to the amazing environment of the Central Australian Outback. He has recently written the multi arts shows, has performed his own compositions as featured soloist with full symphony orchestras in Australia and overseas and has been recorded on over 50 albums for both his own original music and for other artists.



## Groove Factorie

Wagga's own Groove Factorie, hammer out cover music with the horn section fundamental to their sound. The band brings together musicians who have played nationally and internationally and cover the music that shaped them individually and as a band. The band is capable of dipping successfully into any musical style they choose and proof of that is their live performances

## Solar Buddy - Service Project



At District Conference our Youth exchange students and participants under 18 years, are invited to build a solar light under the instruction of Deb D'Aprano and other members of RC Pascoe Vale. This service opportunity has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of RC Belvoir Wodonga and RC Corowa.



SolarBuddy is an impact organisation aiming to illuminate the futures of all children. One of the biggest obstacles facing the world is extreme energy poverty; one of the worst forms of poverty that hardly anyone knows about. It is a complex challenge, impacting the health and wellbeing, educational outcomes, and economic stability of the communities experiencing it as well as our environment.



SolarBuddy seeks to solve this challenge by gifting solar lights to children experiencing light poverty and by inspiring, educating and empowering people to build solar lights for those in need.

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District 9790



# Hit the high notes

@ District Conference 11-13 April 2025  
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