

# Rotary Matters

August 2020 DG Newsletter



Dear fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

The year of **Rotary Opens Opportunities** has commenced, and Lyn and I have been warmly welcomed during our first 6 DG visits where we have met with 10 clubs.

It is our start toward sharing Holger's message throughout the District and encouraging clubs to initiate effective strategic initiatives for our future.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month, which means it's time to celebrate your Rotary club, your members, and the good you do in your community and around the world.

Membership should be part of your club's strategic plan and be supported by some action items. Equally it is a time to share our successful membership initiatives.

Membership has always been a value proposition and whilst we are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic we must help members maintain realistic and positive perspectives to planning service projects that help people feel a sense of purpose



*"Select new members carefully.*

*Make sure they are a good fit for your club and that your club meets their expectations.*

*Engage them and take care of them. There is no wrong age to become a Rotarian"*

**Conference Update** the inaugural District Conference scheduled from 16th-18th April in Bendigo is now becoming a concern to all of us due to the COVID situation in Victoria. The Conference Committee is currently reviewing its options. No registration forms are being sent out at this stage.

**Rotary Matters** will be our official monthly publication and I thank Editor Euan Miller (Norwood) and Graham Fussen (D9510 Online) for the production which will continue to be distributed 1st week of each month. This is an opportunity for you to tell your Rotary story. [euan@gdaysa.com.au](mailto:euan@gdaysa.com.au)

**Rotary Classifieds** the first edition of Rotary Classified is due 15th August and will be a mid-month publication to provide an avenue for clubs and District Committees to promote their events and fundraisers. Articles should be sent to District Secretary, David Fenton by the 7th of each month. [secretary20-22@rotary9510.org](mailto:secretary20-22@rotary9510.org)

**In August** Lyn and I are scheduled to visit a further 16 clubs including those in the Riverland. It is great that clubs are starting to resume normal meetings and that some fundraising opportunities are returning. I am sure like me, many of you are wondering what will become the new norm in our world and Rotary life. Whatever that may be, we must maintain our resilience and ability to adapt during these challenging times.

Yours in Rotary  
David Jones

# Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo



## District Grants - closing soon

**August 21st 2020**

Applications for District grants close on August 21 2020. Details have already been sent to clubs and there is a pre-qualification requirement that can be completed online. The Grants are available for club projects here and overseas that are in line with the conditions on the use of Rotary Foundation funds.

This is your chance to use the benefits of Foundation Grants to enhance your fundraising on a locally designed project. There is minimum form-filling. You describe the project and the proposed budget and then complete a one page report on its completion.

Further information email Helen Charles  
[FoundationGrantsChair@Rotary9510.org](mailto:FoundationGrantsChair@Rotary9510.org)



## ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE

We all know the Rotary Foundation is used for grants to enable projects to be conducted overseas. But do we know we have an equivalent organisation that is home-grown that also conducts Rotary projects, with and without Foundation Grants, here in Australia and our near neighbours?

RAWCS as it is commonly known, has 4 areas of focus:

- Project Volunteers that sends teams of Rotarians and other volunteers overseas usually to undertake basic building or infrastructure construction employing local labour, in neighbouring developing countries.
- Rotarians Against Malaria which is part of a world-wide push to eliminate the disease. It has a major project to eliminate malaria from the Solomon Islands and a number of teams have been sent there to provide infrastructure support.
- Safe Water Saves Lives focuses on clean water, hand washing and sanitation services and again sends teams and equipment to developing countries in the region.
- Donations in Kind is a mega Op Shop that collects used educational and medical supplies for reuse primarily in developing countries.. It is based at Edinburgh SA in a series of warehouses and working bees are held there every Saturday morning. It recently equipped the Wakefield Hospital in Adelaide as a temporary specialist Covid-19 hospital.

While many of the projects are club-based, individual Rotarians can join any teams or projects of interest. Most teams work on 10-14 day projects. All programs and projects are tax deductible so donations can be made and personal expenses incurred on overseas trips are also tax deductible.

For club speakers contact Jerry Casburn [jerry@thecasburns.com.au](mailto:jerry@thecasburns.com.au) or 0407 646 396

*[Click here for Further information](#)*

## Meet your neighbours... An ongoing series introducing the clubs in the District

Clubs are invited to submit a story about themselves of around 200 words and a photo. We would like to include as many clubs as we can throughout the year so please keep them coming. (The Editor - Euan Miller) email: [euan@gdaysa.com.au](mailto:euan@gdaysa.com.au)

### Rotary Club of Gawler Light

Gawler Light, though relatively young by Rotary standards, chartering in 1996; has already been involved in two ground breaking programs. They joined with their sister club, the Rotary Club of Mabalacat in 2006, to hold the first ever joint Rotary meeting in cyber space and conducted the first, and as of today only, Rotary Youth Exchange with the Peoples Republic of China. The suspension of the YEP program this year means that this will be the first year the club has not hosted and sponsored a student since it's charter.

They are currently active in their community with a highly successful Wheels in Motion program and internationally with a programme providing employment in rural Cambodia by building chicken farms and all the training needed to run a successful business.

Previous programs have seen the support of students and infrastructure, including a new library and a pig growing project to support the villagers to enable them to keep their children at school and receive a good education at a school in Bali.

Supplying a mobile dental surgery and a container of goods supporting a vocational school to their sister club in the Philippines.

Currently with thirty members the club enjoys good recognition and respect in its local community. It has sent Rotary volunteers overseas, and has district appointments in Youth and Donations In Kind. Two club members have been awarded Service Above Self.





At the beginning of May, when many of us were still socially isolated, the Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay embarked on a project that would not only connect members of the Club but would eventually connect people within our local community and across the globe.

The 1000 Paper Cranes project was initiated by Natsumi Oda, a Rotary Foundation Scholar from Japan who is studying a Masters of Social Work at Flinders University.

Natsumi is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ogaki naka and hosted by the Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay.

In Japan there is a tradition to make 1000 paper cranes to send a message of peace and healing - Senbazuru.

The goal was to make the 1000 paper cranes and bring them together in a piece of art by the end of June. With the support of Brighton Central shopping mall Natsumi and Rotarians set up a display over two week-ends in May to promote the project by making cranes and inviting members of the community to make a crane at home and bring it back to the mall to contribute to the 1000 cranes artwork.

Other organisations including the Australia Japan Association of SA and Flinders University International Students Services came on board to help us reach our target and at the beginning of June we had our 1000 paper cranes. Rotarians and partners from the Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay, and friends from the organisations listed above, participated in several working bees to thread the 1000 cranes and on June 26 the Positivity Tree was assembled at Brighton Central where it stayed on display until mid July.

The 1000 Paper Cranes Facebook Group (#1000craneletters) was also created and over 230 members from across the globe are posting photos of their paper cranes as well as positive messages of peace and healing.



*Positivity Tree at Brighton Central*



*Natsumi Oda (kneeling), Marilyn Tiver (partner of Rotarian), Kyoko Katayama VP Australia Japan Association of SA*

## IS COVID-19 INFECTING ROTARY?

Both former districts has some of their biggest losses in membership last year with 9500 losing 46 members and 9520, 88 members. Unfortunately we were not alone, because the Zone (Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific) lost a total of 1568 members which is 35% greater than the loss between the previous two years. Our age profile is against us with most Rotarians now in the over 70 years' category, so unless we can attract younger members our numbers will continue to decline. While Zoom meetings attracted larger attendances at most clubs, it appears the pandemic may have crystalized in some members minds that now was a good time to go.

Our giving to the Rotary Foundation also declined and this mirrored a decline across the Zone. Again the impact of Covid-19 could be the cause although it is intriguing to see that both our neighbouring countries – the Philippines and Indonesia recorded increases in per capita giving.

The results were

	2018-19	2019-20
D9500	\$65.06	\$51.99
D9520	\$53.58	\$48.23
Zone	\$80.70	\$65.85

Our new district 9510 starts the year with 86 clubs and 2048 members. This district now has the largest number of clubs and one of the largest memberships in the Zone and embraces more States and territories than any other district. A challenge for DG David as he starts his round of official visits.

## Rotary Club of Encounter Bay - BRINGS LITERACY TO HAITI

They are doing it tough in Haiti. It is the second poorest country in the world. Only 15% are literate and the country of 11 million people are in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic. Being illiterate makes written communications almost impossible and being poor means social isolation doesn't work as people need to earn money to feed their families. Things we take for granted like clean running water and soap, and a social security safety net aren't available. Following the Cholera outbreak in 2010 where 80,000 people died many were killed, as this was their way to control that epidemic. Many want a similar approach to COVID-19, so it doesn't pay to declare illness in Haiti. Deaths are escalating rapidly.

The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay has worked over a three-year period to help the Haitians learn to read in their own language (Creole) and in the official language, French. It is currently publishing children's books written by a team of authors from within the club.

This year, 7 books were written by Rotarians that reflect the Haitian culture, and 6000 copies will soon be made available to schools, libraries and teachers. As part of this project, the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay employed a language specialist from Haiti, and employed 7 different Haitian artists to illustrate the books, which will also be printed in Haiti. These books, and those previously supplied, will form the basis of a thrust to help the predominantly African (slave) population become literate while also supporting their need for employment.

The authors this year were Madeleine Jenkins, Ken Carter, Cherilyn Fleming, Kathy Carter, and Peter Manuel. Any funding to help with distribution would be appreciated.





## Bread tags for Wheelchairs

**QUESTION:** How many bread tags need to be recycled to buy a wheelchair?

**ANSWER:** Around 200 kg.

The Rotaract Club of Adelaide University (9500) has set itself a challenge collecting 200 kg over 4 months! If you fill one standard loaf plastic bread bag you get around 500 gms of tags so the club believes it needs 5-6 plastic garbage bags full to reach its target.

The tags are then sold to a thermoplastic recycling company, Transmutation, based in the small historic fishing village of Robe, SA. This company is making kitchenware, bags, clothing and footwear - all from various recycled plastics. With the funds raised the club can buy a wheelchair for a disabled child in South Africa.

Why most clubs would consider this project unworkable, perhaps even laughable, the Rotaract club is setting up an impressive network of partners to achieve the target.

They have researched which businesses use a lot of bread each day. University food outlets, school canteens and boarding houses, aged care facilities, cafes and lunch providers all consume multiple loaves and even Rotary clubs' Bunnings sausage sizzles use 40-50 loaves a day. They are also setting up collection points at some of these businesses for customers to donate their tags as well.

*[Click here to download Flyer](#)*



**Rotaract**  **Adelaide University Rotaract Club**

# BREAD TAGS for wheelchairs

Collect your bread tags, change a life!  
Help us collect 200kg by 2nd Nov 2020!

Drop your tags at these locations to contribute to the project:

- MOSH - P.O Box 484, Welland SA 5009
- MOSH - 86 George Street, Thebarton SA 5031
- MOSH Op Shop - 52 King William Street, Southern Cross Arcade, Bottom of Escalators, Adelaide SA 5000
- Adelaide Sustainability Centre - The Joinery, 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000



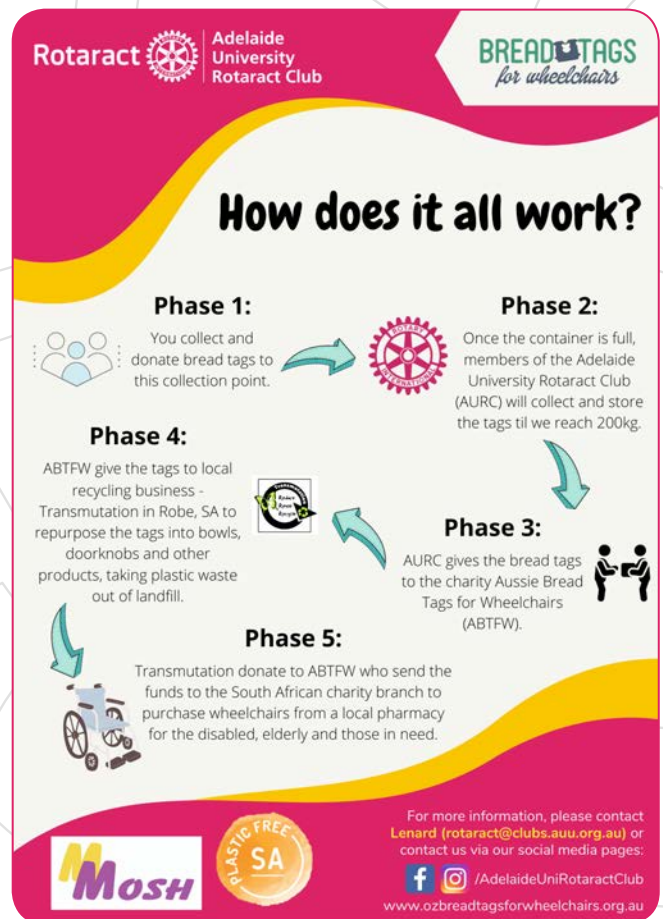
1 WHEELCHAIR = 200 KG OF BREAD TAGS


For more information, please contact Lenard ([rotaract@clubs.aau.org.au](mailto:rotaract@clubs.aau.org.au)) or contact us via our social media pages:

  /AdelaideUniRotaractClub

[www.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au](http://www.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au)



**Rotaract**  **Adelaide University Rotaract Club**

# BREAD TAGS for wheelchairs

## How does it all work?

**Phase 1:** You collect and donate bread tags to this collection point.



**Phase 2:** Once the container is full, members of the Adelaide University Rotaract Club (AURC) will collect and store the tags til we reach 200kg.

**Phase 3:** AURC gives the bread tags to the charity Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs (ABTFW).



**Phase 4:** ABTFW give the tags to local recycling business - Transmutation in Robe, SA to repurpose the tags into bowls, doorknobs and other products, taking plastic waste out of landfill.

**Phase 5:** Transmutation donate to ABTFW who send the funds to the South African charity branch to purchase wheelchairs from a local pharmacy for the disabled, elderly and those in need.

For more information, please contact Lenard ([rotaract@clubs.aau.org.au](mailto:rotaract@clubs.aau.org.au)) or contact us via our social media pages:

  /AdelaideUniRotaractClub

[www.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au](http://www.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au)

## Meet your neighbours - Rotary Club of St Peters

For more than sixty years the Rotary Club of St Peters has served our communities.

From the very beginning our Club has been a good fundraiser. Our first annual jumble sale was held at Dunstone Grove in 1961 establishing our connection with the local community. In 1994 our Rotary Rummage shop opened in the Marden Shopping Centre. Operating 5 days a week & staffed by Rotarians & volunteers it increased our community connection.

In 2014 the shop was relocated to our Rotary shed where our 'Rotary On Linde' op-shop & café was established.

All the Club's fundraising projects have provided members with a direct connection to our local community. Currently locals can come to our shed on a Saturday morning & not only pick up a bargain but can meet members & enjoy food & drink from our café. This connection with our community has resulted in increased membership & volunteers for our Club.

Over the years the Club has been a strong supporter of many Rotary projects – local, national & international.

We have provided leaders in our Rotary District & sent project volunteers teams over seas on numerous occasions. We have connected with our locals schools with our very successful Music & Vocational Awards programs. We continue to be a strong supporter of the Rotary Foundation and Australian Rotary Health.



*Our float at the Norwood Christmas Pageant*



## RAWCS Bushfire Relief Fund

The RAWCS Southern Region has an allocation of funds from the National Appeal which is being used to assist with Bushfire recovery in the Adelaide Hills and the western end of Kangaroo Island.



Bill Walsh from Rotary Club of Glenelg and former resident of Kangaroo Island has spent a considerable amount of time on KI assisting with re-fencing and assessing the needs of KI residents affected by bushfire. The RAWCS Bushfire Relief Fund has begun to financially support the community and to date has funded \$15,000 of fodder (with more on the way in the next few weeks) shoes for children who lost theirs in the fires and fuel vouchers totalling \$5,000 which will be available from the Recovery Centre to help with fuel costs to run generators for those living in temporary housing pods while their homes are being rebuilt.

On weekend of 25th—26th July, Bill was joined by Les Dennis from Rotary Club of Regency Park and DG David and Lyn Jones to meet with locals from both Western Districts Sporting Complex and Stokes Bay Community Hall both devastated by the fires. The rebuilding process is costly due to stricter building regulations but the enthusiasm of these locals to rebuild was evident and were grateful Rotary had taken an interest in their plight and with our willingness to assist wherever we can.

A Rotary car load of linen from DIK was also delivered to the Parndana Community. The linen is from mining camps provided through the generosity and assistance of Rio Tinto, Fortescue Metals Group, and Toll Transport, and is a project of the Rotary Club of Mill Point in WA. A container of linen made its way to DIK last year and is being distributed as needed.



*Delivery of Linen from DIK*

## Christmas In July

Sunday was the highlight as RAWCS funded a Christmas in July celebration for local families whose Christmas was not so joyful due to the Bushfires. Held in the Parndana Hotel, it provided a unique opportunity for 60 locals to come and spend time together sharing stories and updating each other on the progress of their rebuild. Father Christmas found his way across to the island (Les) with elf support (Lyn). Presents for the kids were funded by RAWCS as were as gift vouchers for the adults. There was much praise to the organisers who provided this much welcomed opportunity. Thanks to Bill and Les for their organisation of this event and to KI resident Kathy Bald. Principal Engagement Officer – Bushfire Project.

*Hi Kathy, Just a quick thank you for yesterday. It was lovely to sit and have some time to unwind and enjoy a nice meal. We caught up with some friends and met some new ones. The efforts of yourself and Rotary were much appreciated by us and I am sure by the community. Gert and Anne Hatton*



L-R Bill Walsh, Les Dennis, Greg Bald (Western Districts Sporting Complex) DG David and Lyn

