

# DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2024



Rotary  
District 9815



28 - 30 March 2025



## The Countdown

We only have 120 days till we start the first District 9815 Conference in Bendigo on the 29 & 30th of March 2025. It is also less than a month for you to take advantage of the pricing for the Conference. If you book and pay before 31st December, you can take advantage of the low price of \$345.00pp, which covers both the Conference and the Gala Dinner at the RED ENERGY ARENA. Reminder kids are free.

The Conference committee is working hard to ensure the Conference is of interest to all members. We are happy to report most of our speakers are confirmed as well as most of the 30 EXPO/House of Friendship exhibitors.

Committee members are visiting Clubs as well as providing updates on our Conference Facebook page, webpage and this newsletter to ensure Rotarians and Rotaractors have all the details they need about the Conference, and the other events that will happen around the actual Conference. Apart from the Gala Dinner, you can also join in the golf day, bowls or enjoy a brunch and other events - all on Friday, 28th March 2025. If you would one of our committee members to visit your Club, please reach out to me: via [wil.cornelissen@rotary9815.org.au](mailto:wil.cornelissen@rotary9815.org.au).

So why would you visit the Conference? It's not only to be inspired, learn all about Rotary and the activities of Clubs in our new District but also to meet and form new friends.

We have many sponsors who are kindly supporting our Conference. From a gold and silver sponsor, to small to medium businesses from within and outside our District, who understand the benefit local communities derive from Rotary. We have been able to obtain enough sponsorship to keep the price down and the quality of the experience high.

Please be sure to thank the sponsors if you see any of them, either in your local communities or at the Conference.

As this is the first year of the NEW District 9815, wouldn't it be great to see at least one or two members of each Club in the District attend and enjoy the Conference and be able get back to the Club to encourage others to attend these big events in the future. Imagine the increased impact the new connections and inspiration could have!

I urge you to this opportunity to meet up with old friends and new and even take a few days extra in Bendigo to enjoy the many tourists attractions Bendigo has to offer.

Now, "WHAT DO YOU BUY A ROTARIAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING?" - "TWO TICKETS TO THE FIRST DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE IN BENDIGO!"

See you in Bendigo,  
*Wil Cornelissen (RC Waverley), Conference Chair*

## Pickleball Opportunity

At the Conference Launch we received a request to hold a Pickleball Competition. If interested in playing a social game on the Friday 28th March AM please contact Peter Faulkner at [kiwinda2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kiwinda2@bigpond.net.au). A social game, to trial, will be organised and tickets made available if sufficient interest is received.



01/05

Are you Interested?



# Activity Highlight

## Gala Dinner

A highlight of a District Conference is the Saturday evening themed social dinner and dance known as the 'Gala Dinner'. You are encouraged to bring your dancing shoes and come in the theme of 'Rotary Rocks'. Attendees will be treated to a three course meal whilst rocking away to music across the decades.

Your Conference ticket includes entry to the Saturday evening Gala Dinner at the Red Energy Arena. Only a limited number of Gala Dinner only tickets remain!

Note: no public transport available. Attendees are encouraged to car pool & drink responsibly.

## Club Promotion @ Conference

This inaugural Conference will provide a fantastic opportunity for members across merged Districts 9810 and 9820 to not only make new friends but learn, if not already known, of the Clubs and areas that form part of the new District and importantly, of some the impactful projects and events being undertaken by Clubs. In addition to the Expo (almost full), Clubs will have two further opportunities to showcase themselves:

### 1. Club Banner

- Clubs are encouraged to display their Club Pull Up or Tear Drop Banner around the sides of the main arena at the Red Energy Stadium. Banners must be positioned in the arena between 1pm & 5pm Friday 28th March and collected between 1pm and 2pm on Sunday 30th of March.

### 2. Club Project/Event Showcase Slideshow

- Clubs are invited to showcase some of their signature projects/events via a set number of slides to form part of a Club Showcase Slideshow. This will be shown during meal breaks.

Clubs will be emailed details regarding both opportunities in the nature future.

## MC Spotlight

### Jonathan Usher



As a young boy, he always wanted to be a Doctor but his parents urged him to work hard and forge a career as a Magician. Hailing from Cromwell, Central Otago, Jonathan is now one of New Zealand's best MC and corporate entertainers. Over the years, he has performed and MC'd thousands of events all over New Zealand and Australia.

He is a multi award winning Magician and in 2022, was voted the top variety artist in the country by the Variety Artists Club of New Zealand.

Jonathan has been a Rotarian since 1997 and has held numerous positions including District Governor in 2014/2015. He recently transferred to the Rotary Club of Cromwell and will be the President of that Club in 2026/2027.

Jonathan is married to Lisa and they have an adult daughter Amy.





# Activity Highlight

## Foundation Breakfast

Celebrate the Rotary Foundation and all its work over breakfast on Sunday 30th March with speakers D9815 Foundation Chair Alma Reynolds and RI South Pacific & Philippines Office Mark Anderson.

Mark is the Company Secretary and Major Gifts Officer, RI South Pacific & Philippines Office. His Rotary experiences include Past President, Past Assistant Governor and over forty years' experience in Interact / Rotaract / Rotary Clubs, Foundation Major Donor, and Rotary International.

## Help Make History: Volunteers Wanted

You can help make our inaugural D9815 Conference a memorable success. A range of volunteering opportunities are available including logistical assistance, coordinating or packing Delegate bags, speaker/performer minders, reception/welcome desk, traffic control, set up/pack down crew, greeters and ushers - just to name a few.

If interested please contact Tony Monley OAM (RC Manningham City) and advise which dates/times you would be available and he will explore volunteering options with you.



## Presenter Spotlight

### Annie Ford



Annie is a marine scientist, explorer, world record holder, cold water sailor, mountain biker, CEO, and environmental activist. Annie combines adventure and activism, using her bike to tell stories, fundraise, and raise awareness of community and environmental issues. Annie believes in the power of community, the importance of intergenerational thinking, and activation of individuals to become custodians of land and sea. Her most recent 3000km bike ride shed light on the world's largest offshore seismic survey for oil and gas, which has since been cancelled due to community pressure.

Annie is also a Rotary Alumnae having attended RYLA in D9810 and D9830's (Tasmania) Rotary Professional Development Exchange in NZ.

# Sponsorship Opportunities

Do you know any organisations that may be suitable sponsors? Their support, through financial or in-kind contributions or active participation, will help to foster meaningful values within their organization and the community and enhance the Conference experience. We have a range of sponsorship packages available. Please contact Stephen Palamara (Rowville-Lysterfield) and Wil Cornelissen (RC Waverly) for more details or to express sponsorship interest.

Gold Sponsor (\$10,000)	Silver Sponsor (\$5,000)	Bronze (\$2,500)	Gala Dinner Sponsor (3x \$2,000)	Foundation Breakfast Sponsor (2x \$2,500)
Golf Competition Sponsor (2x \$2,500)	Bowls Competition Sponsor (2x \$1,000)	Morning Tea at Art Gallery Sponsor (\$1,500)	Orientation Breakfast Sponsor (2x \$1,500)	Alumni Lunch Sponsor (2x \$1000)
Opening Ceremony Sponsor (2x \$1,500)	Rotary Expo Sponsor (3x \$1000)	Speaker Sponsor (varied up to \$3,000)	Afternoon Tea Sponsor (2x \$2500)	Welcome Drinks Sponsor (4x \$2,500)

## Other Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in being a sponsor but the above opportunities, amounts or events are not of interest. Please contact us and we can explore a mutually beneficial arrangement. In-kind sponsorships are also welcome.

## Sponsorships Benefits

In addition to naming rights for specific event sponsors, all sponsors will have their logo displayed on the Conference website, social media and Conference newsletters. Other benefits will depend on sponsorship level, and may include one or more of the following:

Complimentary Conference Registration/s	Complimentary Gala Dinner Registration/s	Complimentary Registration/s to Sponsored Event	Opportunity to display banner/s at the Conference	Exhibition Stall
Acknowledgment by the MC or Event Chair prior to a named Event	Opportunity to meet sponsored Speaker	Opportunity to supply promotional material to registrants	Company Logo Displayed during breaks	Company Logo printed on all Conference material

Intermediary Conference Prices END:  
31 December 2024

## Sponsor Deal by Connected Travel

### Spoil yourself for Xmas...Tahiti Sounds Nice

Return Economy Class Airfares with Air Tahiti Nui ex Sydney/Brisbane/Melbourne

5 nights at Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa in a Garden Pool Bungalow - 5\*

2 nights at Hilton Hotel Tahiti in a King Bed Standard Room - 5\*

Airport Meet & Greet with Flower Lei

Return Shared Transfers Tahiti International Airport to Hilton Hotel Tahiti

Return Shared Transfers Hilton Hotel Tahiti to Papeete Ferry Terminal

Return Ferry from Papeete to Moorea

Return Shared Transfers Moorea Ferry Terminal to Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa

Daily American Breakfast in Moorea

Daily stocked Minibar with a selection of soft drinks, beers and bottle of water at Hilton Moorea

Free Wi-Fi in Tahiti and Moorea

FROM - \$4152.00 per person - Book and deposit by 13 Dec travel up to March 2026.

T&Cs apply.



## Christmas Present/End of Year Gift or Prize



Consider gifting an opportunity to be inspired, to make new friends, to learn the reach & impact of Rotary, to discover different ways to help the community and develop skills by purchasing a Conference ticket or social or sporting ticket for another person.

A Conference ticket could also serve as a meaningful Club or Work prize for an award.

Note the Intermediary price of \$345 ends on 31 December 2024 and will become \$375pp from 1 January 2025.



# Thank You

## 2025

### District Conference Sponsors



# 05/05

See the District Conference webpage for Conference updates incl. program & speakers