



People Planet Peace

ROTARY SOUTH PACIFIC ZONE 8 CONFERENCE

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A delegate who participates fully in the RSP26 Conference will leave with a clear, energising, and deeply practical understanding of what People • Planet • Peace looks like across Rotary South Pacific today — and how emerging global forces, including artificial intelligence, are reshaping the landscape in which Rotary leads. Across three days of plenaries, panels, breakouts, and lived-experience keynotes, delegates will follow a deliberate narrative arc: beginning with trust, partnership, and community-led service; moving into real-world pathways for climate resilience, water security, and long-term disaster recovery; and culminating in a forward-looking exploration of peacebuilding, digital security, and the societal impacts of AI.

Delegates will gain concrete tools to strengthen clubs, grow membership, build respectful relationships with Indigenous and Pacific communities, support mental health and WASH initiatives, and communicate Rotary’s story with greater clarity and impact. They will also leave with a deeper understanding of how technology is reshaping communities — and how Rotary can provide ethical leadership, digital resilience, and human-centred connection in an AI-accelerated world. Most importantly, delegates will leave with renewed confidence that Rotary is modernising with purpose — and with the agency, insight, and inspiration to lead meaningful change in their own clubs and communities.

Message from the Convenor — RI Director Jennifer Scott AM



Welcome to the Rotary South Pacific Zone 8 Conference for 2026. It is a privilege to gather with you in Melbourne as we explore what People • Planet • Peace means for our region at this moment in Rotary's history. Across these three days, you will hear from leaders, practitioners, scholars, and community voices who are shaping the future of service in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific.

This program has been designed with intention: to deepen our understanding of community led partnership, to strengthen our response to the challenges of climate and water security, and to expand our vision of peacebuilding in a rapidly changing world. Most importantly, it invites each of us to consider how Rotary can modernise with purpose — and how we, as leaders, can help our clubs grow stronger, more inclusive, and more impactful.

Thank you for your commitment to Rotary and to the communities we serve. I hope you leave this conference energised, connected, and confident in the role you play in shaping Rotary's future.

Message from the Conference Chair — Tony Monley OAM

Welcome to RSP26. Over the past year, our team has worked to create a conference that is not only informative and inspiring, but genuinely useful — a place where Rotary leaders can gain practical tools, fresh ideas, and renewed confidence for the work ahead. *People • Planet • Peace* is more than a theme; it is a framework for how Rotary can lead with relevance in our region.



This program reflects the issues our clubs are facing today: building trust with communities, strengthening resilience in the face of climate and disaster, supporting mental health and wellbeing, and navigating an increasingly complex global environment. It also reflects the optimism that defines Rotary — the belief that when we work together, we can create lasting change.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I hope you find space here to learn, to connect, and to imagine what Rotary can become. Your leadership matters, and your presence here strengthens our region.

Letter from Rotary International President 2026-27 Yinka Babalola



Dear friends,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your Institute. Your tireless dedication to Service Above Self is what makes Rotary unique, and it makes me proud to be a Rotary member alongside you.

During this Institute, I encourage you to aspire to be better than your best. While we traditionally celebrate clubs that raise the most funds, attract the most members, or run the biggest projects, the healthiest competition is not between clubs at all. It is between ourselves. It is between our past and our present, what we have already accomplished and what we have yet to achieve.

We often share how Rotary inspires lasting change in communities, but we rarely discuss how it transforms us. Consider how Rotary has changed your life and helped you be better than your best, and share your story widely. If we can do that, we will engage current members, expand our reach, forge exciting connections with like-minded partners, and solve some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Let us continue to Create Lasting Impact through Rotary—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. I look forward to working alongside you in service.

Letter from The Rotary Foundation Chair 2026-27, Past Rotary International President Jennifer Jones

Dear Fellow Rotary Leaders,

Congratulations on your Rotary Institute! This is a special time of learning, connection, and shared purpose. Institutes offer a unique chance for current, past, and future Rotary leaders to gather, exchange ideas, and align around our shared mission.

I want to express my deep gratitude for your leadership—for the way you guide with clarity, compassion, and conviction. Your generous hearts and your personal gifts to The Rotary Foundation fuel the work that allows Rotary to shine its brightest.



Because of you, our Foundation remains one of the most trusted and effective forces for good in the world.

The Rotary Foundation is our most powerful tool for creating lasting change. It funds initiatives that save lives, promote peace, and build stronger communities. With your leadership—and your continued generosity—we ensure these projects are not only impactful but sustainable and measurable.

Our work to end polio remains Rotary's top humanitarian priority. As we approach the finish line, every effort matters. I am grateful for the countless hours, advocacy, and resources you

have already invested. I encourage you to work with your club, district, and zone teams to promote this work and plan activities that raise awareness and support.

Yet our mission extends far beyond polio. Through The Rotary Foundation, we invest in solutions that address the root causes of conflict and inequality. From clean water to peace education, from disaster relief to economic development, our grants and partnerships create real, measurable impact. Your leadership—and your personal commitment to giving—make this possible.

As you participate in this Institute, I encourage you to explore new opportunities, strengthen relationships, and bring fresh energy and ideas back to your clubs and districts. Your dedication continues to build a more hopeful and peaceful world, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

Our International Rotary VIPs

Rotary International President Elect Larry (& Jill) Lunsford

Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza Missouri, USA

Larry A. Lunsford, a certified public accountant, serves as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Bernstein-Rein Advertising Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. A recipient of bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Truman State University, he has served his alma mater on its Alumni Association Board and its Foundation Board.



Lunsford is a board member of Global Ties KC, part of Global Ties U.S., a nonprofit network that advances international understanding through citizen diplomacy, and his local church's foundation.

His passion for Rotary service began during his college years. In 1981-82, he travelled to Australia as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, which he called a "nine-month daily immersion in Rotary."

Lunsford joined Rotary in 1991 and has held numerous global leadership roles, including RI director, aide to RI President Mark Daniel Maloney, and Rotary Foundation trustee and vice chair. He has served on RI and Rotary Foundation committees, including the RI and Foundation finance and executive committees, and chaired the RI Membership Growth Committee and Rotary Peace Centers Committee.

During a morning walk in Evanston in August 2023, while he was serving as a Rotary Foundation trustee, Lunsford developed the idea to mirror the Foundation's successful US\$2.025 billion by 2025 Endowment fundraising campaign with a membership goal: 1,250,000 Rotarians by Rotary's 125th anniversary in 2030. The RI Board adopted the goal in October 2023.

For the past 25 years, Lunsford has served as the "shoes cheerleader" for the signature service project of District 6040 (Missouri), which has donated nearly 500,000 pairs of shoes through the Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls project in partnership with Buckner International. He has travelled to the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, and Russia to deliver new shoes to orphaned children.

During a delivery trip to Russia, Lunsford gave a pair of boots to a boy whose name was Victor. About a year later in Guatemala, he discovered that another child he had helped shared that name.

"Two years, two trips, two countries, two Victors," Lunsford says. "It was a complete reinforcement that I was on the right track. In Rotary, we just need to be in the right place at the right time."

Lunsford is a former college baseball and basketball player and all-around sports fan.

His honours include The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award, and the RI Service Above Self Award.

He and his wife, Jill, have two children and one grandchild. Larry and Jill support The Rotary Foundation as Major Donors, Benefactors, and members of the Paul Harris Society, PolioPlus Society, and Bequest Society.



The Rotary Foundation Chair-elect Gordon (& Heather) McNally

Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland

Gordon McNally was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh and at the University of Dundee, where he earned his graduate degree in dental surgery. He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and operated his own dental practice in Edinburgh until 2016. McNally was chair of the East of Scotland branch of the British Paedodontic Society and has held various academic positions. He has also served as a presbytery elder, chair of the Queensferry parish congregational board, and commissioner to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

McNally joined Rotary in 1984 at age 26. He has served as president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. He has also served RI as a director and on several committees, including as chair of both the 2018 Toronto Convention Committee and the Operations Review Committee. McNally served as RI president in 2023-24.

McNally takes special pride in the way Rotary members all around the world embraced the focus on mental health and well-being that was initiated during his presidency and the fact that this focus is continuing.

McNally is a patron of the UK-based nonprofit Hope and Homes for Children and led a partnership between that organisation and RIBI to support children in Rwanda who had been orphaned by the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. He is a patron of Trade-Aid, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven, England, which provides sustainable humanitarian aid to individuals, families, and businesses in the developing world. He is also an ambassador for Bipolar UK, a national mental health organisation. In August 2022, he was made the humanitarian laureate of the Sino Phil Asia International Peace Awards Foundation.

In his free time, McNally enjoys rugby, good food and wine, and stick dressing, the traditional Scottish craft of making walking sticks.

McNally describes The Rotary Foundation as “the engine that creates the energy to do Rotary service.” He and his partner, Heather, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Borderlands (Passport Group), are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation, and members of the Bequest Society.

Rotary International Director Elect, 2027–29 Edna (& Martin) Sutter

Rotary Club of Fort Bonifacio Global City, District 3830, Philippines

PDG Edna R. Sutter has been a Rotarian since 1999 and serves as Rotary International Director for 2027–2029. Elected to the Rotary International Board from Zone 10A (Philippines), she has dedicated her Rotary journey to growing membership, strengthening The Rotary Foundation, developing leaders, and advancing environmental sustainability.



As District Governor of Rotary International District 3830 in 2016–2017, Sutter led one of the district's most successful years. District 3830 achieved the highest membership growth in Rotary Zone 7A, recording a net increase of 587 members (21.73%), and became the first district in the zone to surpass US\$1 million in Total Giving to The Rotary Foundation during a single Rotary year. The district earned the RI Zone 7A Rotary Foundation Cup for Per Capita Giving, received the Zone awards for the Highest Membership Growth in both absolute numbers and percentage, and was awarded the Rotary International District Citation with Distinction.

Her international Rotary service includes appointments as Rotary International Assembly Learning Facilitator, Rotary International President's Representative, Major Gift Initiative Adviser for Environment, Major Gift Initiative Adviser for Basic Education and Literacy, and Endowment/Major Gift Adviser. In 2021, she chaired the Rotary International Presidential Conference on Environment and Livelihood, which brought together approximately 20,000 participants across the Asia-Pacific region and received international recognition as Vfairs' Best International Virtual Event of the Year.

A licensed civil engineer, Sutter is President and Chief Executive Officer of DDC Land, Inc., a Philippine real estate development company. She was recognized as one of the All-Time Top 10 Outstanding Alumni of the University of Northern Philippines. She and her husband, Martin, are members of the Arch Klumph Society Foundation Circle, reflecting their enduring commitment to The Rotary Foundation and Rotary's humanitarian mission.

Sutter champions a vision of a Younger, Greener, and Stronger Rotary, believing that Rotary's greatest legacy lies in the leaders it develops, the partnerships it builds, and the lasting change it creates through Service Above Self.

RSP26 DAILY OVERVIEW¹

Friday 30 October — Opening Day

Morning & Early Afternoon

- Registrations open (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)
- Multi-District Organisation Annual General Meetings
- Rotary Foundation Masterclass with Trustee Gordon McNally
- Rotarians Against Malaria Seminar
- Exhibitor bump-in from 12:00pm

Conference Opening (4:00-6:00 PM)

- Welcome to Country
- Addresses from Rotary International Director Jennifer Scott AM, Melbourne Lord Mayor, DG Graeme Hope, and the Governor-General
- Rotary International President Elect Larry Lunsford keynote address
- Simon Kriss - Emerging Technologies, Human Futures, and the Role of Civic Leadership

Evening

- Friday Fellowship Dinner (ticketed)
- District Governor Year Group Dinners (own arrangements)

Saturday 31 October — People & Planet Day

Morning

- Registrations (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
- Presidents' Breakfast with Rotary International President Elect Larry Lunsford

Plenary Session (8:45–10:15 AM)

- Dr Jill Gallagher AO — Trust & Partnership with Aboriginal Communities
- Robert McGuirk - Ending Trachoma
- Rotary South Pacific Awards
- The Rotary Foundation Trustee Gordon McNally — Mental Health & Hope
- The Rotary Foundation Trustee Dennis Shore — The Rotary Foundation Perpetual Trophies

Midday Plenary (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

- Bridget Teirney - Water & Community Resilience
- Patrick Pagkale & A/Prof Brian McIntosh - Water Sanitation & Hygiene Scholar Journey
- Tim Wiebusch - Climate & Disaster Leadership
- Resilience Panel — PDG Grant Hocking, DGE Haran Ramachandran OAM, Lynne Duckham OAM, Mahir Momand
- Regionalisation update

Afternoon Breakouts (2:00 PM – 2:45 PM)

- The Regionalisation Pilot in Action: From Vision to Impact
- Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Membership
- Dr Patricia Armstrong - Catalysing Climate Action in Rotary
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group - Open Workshop

Late Afternoon - Evening

- End Polio Now Walk — Novotel Hotel Entrance
- The Rotary Foundation Major Donor Recognition Event (invitation only) — Clarendon Foyer Level 4
- Conference Dinner — Masquerade Ball (6:30pm – late) - Sovereign Room

¹ All times are Australian Eastern Daylight UTC+11

Sunday 1 November — Peace & Future Pathways Day

Plenary Session (8:45–10:15 AM)

- In Memoriam
- RIPE Larry Lunsford — Membership & Vibrant Clubs
- Assoc Prof Sebastian Kaempf — Geopolitics of Cyberspace
- Dr Tania Miletic — Preventing Conflict in the Indo-Pacific
- Arch Klumph Society Presentation

Breakouts (11:00–11:45 AM)

- Panel: Peace in Practice — A/Prof Kaempf & Dr Miletic, moderated by PDG Murray Verso
- Panel: Rotaract to Rotary Pathways — Joe Martinovic, Amanda Barnes, Stephen Lovison, Nicholas Egan, Laura Telford
- Public Image Masterclass — Rotary Down Under

Closing Plenary (11:45–1:30 PM)

- Annette Schneider - Intercultural Education & Peace
- Michele Berg - Global Trends & Rotary's Future
- RI Director Jennifer Scott AM - A Region at a Crossroads
- PDG Lisa Hunt - International Convention Promotion
- PDG Jennie Herring - 2027 RSP Conference Promotion
- Wrap-up & closing entertainment

Lunch

- Own arrangements

Dress Code

Conference Sessions: Business Casual — smart, comfortable professional attire (e.g., collared shirts, Rotary-branded polo shirts, blouses, smart trousers, skirts, dresses, or jackets).

Saturday Gala Dinner: Masquerade Cocktail / Semi-Formal — elegant evening wear suitable for a gala dinner. Cocktail dresses, evening dresses, jackets or suits are appropriate. Guests are welcome to wear a masquerade mask or themed accessory.

RSP26 FULL PROGRAM

Friday 30th October

7:30 am to 4:00 pm	Registrations	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
Multi District Organisations Annual General Meetings and Presentations Registration not necessary		
8:00 am: Rotary Oceania (ROZOps Ltd); Rotary Clubs Charitable Trust	8:20 am: Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
9:20 am: Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)	9:00 am: Australian Rotary Health (ARH)	
Rotary Foundation Seminar This is a ticketed event. Register HERE		
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	The Rotary Foundation: Impact, Innovation, and Inspiration — A Pre-Conference Masterclass Hosted by Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator David Anderson . Featuring Incoming Trustee Chair, Past Rotary International President Gordon McInally	Clarendon Room A Level 4
Australian Rotarians Against Malaria Seminar This is a free ticketed event. Register HERE		
10:30 am to 2:30 pm	Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must. Presented in partnership with the Australian Centre of Research Excellence in Malaria Elimination.	The Alfred Education and Innovation Hub, South Yarra
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Exhibitor Bump In	Clarendon Auditorium Foyer Level 1
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Conference Opening	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
Welcome & Introduction		Rotary International Director Jennifer Scott AM
Jennifer Scott sets the tone for a purposeful, modern, and region focused conference that equips leaders with clarity, confidence, and practical pathways for impact.		
Welcome to Country		Daniel Ross Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
A grounding moment that honours Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung custodianship and frames the conference in respect, relationship, and truth-telling.		
Welcome to District		Rotary District 9800 Governor Graeme Hope
A welcoming to District 9800 — acknowledging the diversity of clubs across the district of Melbourne, regional Victoria, and the Murray.		
Welcome to Melbourne		The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Nicholas Reece
A civic welcome highlighting Melbourne’s commitment to inclusion, sustainability, and global engagement as a natural home for People • Planet • Peace.		

Flag Ceremony

This session recognises and celebrates the nations participating in this Conference.

Keynote Address (via video)

**Governor General, Her Excellency
the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC**

A recognition of Rotary's long history of service in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, highlighting Rotary's role in strengthening communities, supporting youth, advancing health, and responding to disasters.

PEOPLE PLANET PEACE - A Rotary International Perspective

**Rotary International President Elect
Larry Lunsford**

Larry Lunsford connects Rotary's global mission to the South Pacific context, inspiring delegates to lead with hope, unity, and purpose.

Emerging Technologies, Human Futures, and the Role of Civic Leadership

Simon Kriss customer experience
and artificial intelligence futurist

Simon Kriss reveals how artificial intelligence is reshaping society, trust, and community cohesion — and what this means for Rotary's future. This session sets a forward-looking frame for the conference, inviting delegates to consider how People • Planet • Peace must evolve in a world transformed by intelligent systems.

6:30 pm	Friday Fellowship Dinner This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	Melbourne Cellar Door 25 Dukes Walk, South Wharf VIC 3006
	District Governor Year Group Dinners	Own Arrangements
	Rotaract G'day Games This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	

Saturday 31st October

8:00 am to 12:00 pm	Registrations	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
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Presidents' Breakfast [This is a ticketed event. Register \[HERE\]\(#\)](#)

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Presidents' Breakfast featuring Rotary International President 2027–28, Larry Lunsford	Clarendon Room Level 4
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8:45 am to 10:15 am	Conference Plenary	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
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Closing the Gap Starts with Trust: What True Partnership with Aboriginal Communities Requires

Dr Jill Gallagher AO,
CEO Victorian Aboriginal
Community Controlled Health
Organisation Inc

Dr Gallagher shows that genuine partnership with Indigenous communities begins with trust, humility, and community-led decision-making.

Ending Trachoma in Australia: A Decade of Rotary Action, Partnership and Community Strength

Robert McGuirk, Rotary Club
of Melbourne

This session demonstrates how Rotary's decade of partnership-driven action is bringing Australia closer to eliminating trachoma for good.

Rotary South Pacific Award Presentations: Rotary Community Groups and Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Edith Chaney and
Stephen Lovison,
Directors, Rotary South Pacific
Ltd

The awards celebrate grassroots Rotary leadership initiatives strengthening community connection and service impact.

Mental Health, Hope & The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation
Trustee, Past Rotary
International President,
Gordon McNally

Gordon McNally highlights how Rotary can destigmatise mental health and create hope through compassionate, community-based initiatives.

Presentation of The Rotary Foundation District Perpetual Trophies

The Rotary Foundation
Trustees **Dennis Shore** and
Gordon McNally

Dennis Shore recognises districts whose commitment to The Rotary Foundation drives sustainable, high-impact humanitarian outcomes.

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Morning Tea

Clarendon Auditorium Foyer Level 1

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Conference Plenary

Clarendon Auditorium Level 1

Water at the Heart of Community Resilience: Practical Pathways for People, Planet and Peace

Bridget Teirney MSc, BEng (Hons)

Bridget Teirney shows how water security underpins climate resilience, community wellbeing, and long-term stability across the region.

From Scholarship to Service: Building Pacific Water Resilience — A Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Scholar's Journey

Patrick Pagkale, 2026 WASH
South Pacific Scholar
**Assoc Professor Brian
McIntosh**, Academic Advisor,
International Water Centre
(IWC), Griffith University

This session demonstrates how Rotary's investment in emerging leaders strengthens Pacific water resilience and community-driven solutions.

Rising to the Challenge: How Communities Survive and Rebuild in a Changing Climate

Tim Wiebusch, Victorian
Emergency Services
Commissioner

Tim Wiebusch outlines how communities can prepare for, withstand, and recover from increasingly complex climate-driven emergencies.

Panel: From Crisis to Capacity: How Rotary Builds Community Resilience Beyond the Emergency

Moderator:
PDG Grant Hocking
Panellists:
DGE Haran Ramachandran
OAM, Lynne Duckham OAM,
Mahir Momand, CEO RAWCS

This panel explores how Rotary supports communities long after the emergency ends by building capability, resilience, and local leadership.

Stronger Clubs, Greater Impact: How Regionalisation Is Powering Our Future

PDG Jennie Herring, Chair
Rotary South Pacific Ltd
(Regional Council)

The Regional Council demonstrates how regionalisation is creating stronger, more vibrant clubs with greater capacity for impact.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Lunch

Clarendon Auditorium Foyer Level 1

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm	Breakout Sessions	
The Regionalisation Pilot in Action: From Vision to Impact	Stephen Lovison, Amanda Barnes, Ian Scott AM	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
Delegates gain clarity on how regionalisation will strengthen club operations, leadership pathways, and long-term sustainability.		
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): A Pathway to Stronger Clubs & Growing Membership	Edith Chaney, James Smith	Clarendon Room D Level 1
This session shows how diversity, equity, and inclusion practices help clubs grow, thrive, and better reflect their communities.		
Catalysing Climate Action in Rotary: Climate Solutions for Mobilising Clubs, Districts and Communities	Dr Patricia Armstrong	Clarendon Room E Level 1
Delegates learn practical ways Rotary clubs can accelerate climate action and environmental stewardship across the region.		
3:00 pm to 3:45 pm	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group Workshop This event is open to all delegates – registration not required	
S.N. Srikanth, Chair of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group – WASH-RAG - invites South Pacific DGs, DGEs, DGNs and WASH enthusiasts to a discussion about WASH in the South Pacific.		Clarendon Room E Level 1
3:30 pm to 4:15 pm	End Polio Now Walk This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	Novotel Hotel Entrance
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	The Rotary Foundation Major Donor Recognition Event This is an invitation-only event	Clarendon Foyer Level 4
6:30 pm to Late	Conference Dinner <i>Masquerade Ball</i> This is a ticketed event. It may be included in your Conference + Dinner ticket or dinner-only tickets can be purchased HERE	Sovereign Room MCEC
10:00 pm to 11:55 pm	Rotaract After Party This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	
Sunday 1 st November		
8:45 am to 10:15 am	Conference Plenary	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
In Memoriam		
Strengthening Rotary’s Future Through Membership Growth and Vibrant Clubs		Rotary International President Elect Larry Lunsford
Larry Lunsford outlines how vibrant clubs and intentional membership strategies will shape Rotary’s future strength.		
The geopolitics of cyberspace: global political trends and their impact on security, privacy, and human rights		Associate Professor Sebastian Kaempf, Director, Rotary Peace Centre, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland
A/Prof Sebastian Kaempf explains how digital conflict and global cyber trends affect security, privacy, and human rights in the Indo-Pacific.		

Preventing Conflict in the Indo Pacific: Local Leadership, Regional Stability, and Rotary's Role in Building Peace	Dr Tania Miletic , Co-Director, Initiative for Peacebuilding, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne
<i>Dr Miletic shows how local leadership and cross-cultural dialogue can prevent conflict and strengthen regional stability.</i>	
Arch Klumph Society Presentations	Zone 8 Endowments & Major Gifts Advisor PDG Wendy Protheroe
<i>These presentations recognise the Zone's latest members of the Arch Klumph Society.</i>	

10:15 am to 11:00 am	Morning Tea	Clarendon Auditorium Foyer Level 1
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11:00 am to 11:45 am	Breakout Sessions	
Peace in Practice: Navigating Conflict, Information Warfare, and Community Resilience in the Indo Pacific	Moderator: PDG Murray Verso Panellists: Assoc Professor Sebastian Kaempf, Dr Tania Miletic	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
<i>This breakout equips delegates with practical tools to navigate misinformation, conflict, and community resilience in a shifting regional landscape.</i>		
From Rotaract to Rotary: Designing a Seamless Pathway for the Next Generation of Leaders	Amanda Barnes, Stephen Lovison, Nicholas Egan, Laura Telford	Clarendon Room D Level 1
<i>The panel explores how Rotary can create seamless, meaningful pathways that welcome and retain the next generation of leaders</i>		
Telling Rotary's Story Well: A Masterclass in Public Image for Clubs	RDU - Rhys and Meagan Martin	Clarendon Room E Level 1
<i>Guided by the editorial and photography team from Rotary Down Under (RDU), participants work through their own story live in the room. The best stories produced in the session will be considered for publication in an upcoming edition of Rotary Down Under magazine.</i>		

11:45 am to 1:30 pm	Conference Plenary	Clarendon Auditorium Level 1
From Prejudice to Belonging: How Intercultural Education Builds Peace in the Next Generation	Annette Schneider , CEO Together for Humanity	
<i>Annette Schneider shows how intercultural understanding and anti-prejudice education build peace in the next generation.</i>		
Rotary at a Turning Point: Global Trends, Emerging Priorities, and What They Mean for Our Region	Michele Berg , Deputy General Secretary	
<i>Michele Berg provides a global perspective on the trends shaping Rotary's future and the opportunities for our region.</i>		
A Region at a Crossroads: Re-Shaping Rotary South Pacific for a Stronger Future	Rotary International Director Jennifer Scott AM	
<i>Jennifer Scott outlines how Rotary South Pacific can modernise with purpose and reshape itself for a stronger, more unified future.</i>		

International Convention Promotion Barcelona 2027	PDG Lisa Hunt
<i>Lisa Hunt highlights the opportunities for global connection and inspiration at the upcoming Rotary International Convention.</i>	
2027 Rotary South Pacific Conference Promotion	PDG Jennie Herring
<i>Jennie Herring previews the 2027 RSP Conference and invites delegates to continue the regional journey.</i>	
Wrap Up & Thank You	Rotary International Director Jennifer Scott AM
Closing Entertainment	

Lunch: Own Arrangements

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Rotaract Days for Girls Working Bee This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	
2:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Rotaract MEL-mazing Race This is a ticketed event. Register HERE	

RSP26 SPEAKER BIOS

Plenary Speakers

Rotary International Director Jennifer Scott AM is Rotary International Director for Zones 8, 10 & 1B and a leading advocate for Rotary's modernisation. With senior public sector leadership experience and long service in Rotary governance, she champions inclusion and strategic clarity. At RSP26 she speaks on Rotary's future direction and regional priorities.



Rotary International President Elect Larry Lunsford is a passionate advocate for membership, youth programs, and The Rotary Foundation. A CPA and higher education executive, he is known for his energetic, people centred leadership. At RSP26 he shares insights on strengthening Rotary's future through vibrant clubs and engaged members.



Past Rotary International President & The Rotary Foundation Trustee Gordon McNally is a global advocate for mental health, peacebuilding, and community resilience. His presidential theme "Creating Hope in the World" continues to shape Rotary's priorities. At RSP26 he speaks on mental health, hope, and the Foundation's impact.



The Rotary Foundation Trustee Dennis Shore (Zones 8, 10 & 1B) is one of our Zone's most respected Foundation leaders. A chemical engineer and long serving Rotarian, he has held major governance, fundraising, and training roles. At RSP26 he presents the District TRF Perpetual Trophies and highlights the Foundation's role in sustainable impact.



Simon Kriss is a customer experience (CX) and artificial intelligence (AI) futurist who advises boards and senior executives on how emerging technologies are reshaping business, society, and customer experience. With more than 30 years' experience leading operations across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe, and North America, he has worked in sectors including banking, insurance, travel, energy, government, telecommunications, and FMCG for brands such as Expedia, HSBC, and Cathay Pacific.



Dr Jill Gallagher AO, a proud Gunditjmara woman, is a national leader in Aboriginal health, self determination, and community led policy. As long time CEO of VACCHO and former Treaty Commissioner, she brings deep insight into trust, partnership, and Closing the Gap. At RSP26 she opens the People stream.



Robert McGuirk, Rotary Club of Melbourne, has been central to Rotary's decade long effort to eliminate trachoma in Australia. With experience in community health partnerships and Indigenous engagement, he highlights Rotary's achievements and the path to ending preventable blindness. At RSP26 he reflects on lessons learned and future priorities.



Bridget Teirney is a water engineer and climate resilience specialist with extensive experience across the Pacific. She focuses on community centred water security and practical adaptation solutions. At RSP26 she explores how water underpins resilience across People, Planet, and Peace.



Patrick Pagkale is the inaugural Rotary South Pacific WASH Scholar, selected in 2026 to undertake a fully funded Master of Integrated Water Management at Griffith University's International Water Centre. His career is rooted in hands-on water access work across Fiji, shaped by his lived experience of communities facing unreliable water supply. Patrick is known for his practical, community-centred approach to water challenges, emphasising that Pacific islands require tailor-made engineering and management solutions depending on geography and climate pressures.



Associate Professor Brian McIntosh is an international, national and industry award winning water sector capacity developer, educator, researcher and boundary spanner. He has significant experience in the design and delivery of applied and interdisciplinary programs to build capacity for innovation, change and adaptation in the water sector at individual, organisational and sectoral scales.



Stephen Lovison, Director of Rotary South Pacific Ltd, has extensive experience in governance, education leadership, and community engagement. At RSP26 he presents the Rotary Community Groups Awards and joins the panel on Rotaract–Rotary pathways and the breakout session on regionalisation case studies.



Edith Chaney, Director of Rotary South Pacific Ltd, based in Aotearoa New Zealand, is recognised across the region for her leadership in building more inclusive, culturally responsive, and future-focused Rotary clubs. At RSP26 she presents the Rotary Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awards and joins the breakout session on DEI.



Jennie Herring is a senior Rotary leader with strong experience in governance, regional collaboration, and strategic program delivery across Australia and New Zealand. A Past District Governor, Jennie has led major events, training programs, and regional governance bodies, guiding multi-country initiatives and building cohesive teams. As Chair of Rotary South Pacific Ltd, she oversees the Regionalisation Pilot, helping ensure the region remains future-focused and positioned for long-term success.



Tim Wiebusch, Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner, is one of Australia's most experienced leaders in disaster response and community resilience. With decades of operational leadership, he brings insights into how communities survive and rebuild in a changing climate. At RSP26 he speaks on resilience before, during, and after emergencies.



Grant Hocking is a Past District Governor and a respected leader in emergency services, governance, and community resilience. With professional experience in emergency management and volunteer coordination, he has long contributed to strengthening Victoria's preparedness and response capabilities. Within Rotary, Grant is known for his strong support for clubs involved in disaster recovery and community safety. He brings a calm, informed presence to discussions on how Rotary partners with communities before, during, and after emergencies.



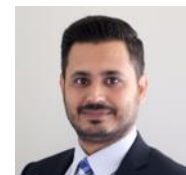
Haran Ramachandran OAM is a respected Rotary leader known for his work in multi-district collaboration, long-term disaster recovery, and community-led development. He has played a central role in major recovery initiatives in both Australia and Sri Lanka, helping communities rebuild infrastructure, restore essential services, and strengthen local leadership. Haran brings deep experience in coordinating Rotary clubs, government agencies, and international partners to deliver sustainable, community-driven outcomes.



Lynne Duckham OAM is a member of The Rotary Foundation Technical Cadre and an expert in project design, sustainability, and community needs assessment. With a background in governance, compliance, and humanitarian project evaluation, she supports Rotary clubs across the region to design effective, culturally informed, and community-led initiatives. Lynne is known for her practical guidance, her ability to translate technical frameworks into real-world action, and her commitment to ensuring Rotary projects deliver genuine long-term benefit.



Mahir Momand is the Chief Executive Officer of RAWCS and a leader in humanitarian development, community resilience, and multi-agency coordination. With experience spanning Australia, the Pacific, and conflict-affected regions, Mahir specialises in helping communities recover from crisis through locally led initiatives, strategic partnerships, and long-term capacity building. Under his leadership, RAWCS supports clubs with tools, governance, and expertise to deliver impactful, community-driven recovery and resilience projects.



Associate Professor Sebastian Kaempf

Sebastian Kaempf, Director of the Rotary Peace Centre at UQ, is a global expert in digital conflict, international security, and human rights. His research examines the geopolitics of cyberspace and information warfare. At RSP26 he explores digital threats and peacebuilding in the Indo Pacific.



Dr Tania Miletic

Tania Miletic, Co-Director of the Initiative for Peacebuilding at the University of Melbourne, is a leading practitioner in conflict prevention and dialogue processes. With experience across Asia and the Pacific, she examines Rotary's role in supporting stability and peace in the region.



Annette Schneider

Annette Schneider, CEO of Together for Humanity, leads national programs in intercultural understanding and anti-prejudice education. With a background in education leadership and social cohesion, she works to build belonging among young Australians. At RSP26 she speaks on intercultural education as a pathway to peace.



Michele Berg

Michele Berg, Deputy General Secretary of Rotary International, is a senior global executive with decades of experience in governance, operations, and organisational transformation. At RSP26 she provides a global perspective on Rotary's future and emerging priorities.



Breakout & Workshop Speakers

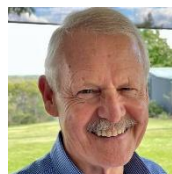
David Anderson, host of *The Rotary Foundation Seminar*, serves as the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) for Rotary South Pacific, supporting districts and clubs across Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific to strengthen their engagement with The Rotary Foundation. Known for his clarity, practical guidance, and deep commitment to TRF's mission, David plays a key role in helping clubs design sustainable projects, navigate the grants process, and build a culture of giving.



Murray Verso, Past District Governor and medical practitioner, is a respected Rotary leader known for his work in public health, governance, and training. He has served in senior regional roles and is an experienced facilitator. At RSP26 he moderates the peace and security breakout session.



Ian Scott AM has played a pivotal role in shaping the strategic design of Rotary's regionalisation model across the South Pacific. A long-standing Rotarian with deep expertise in organisational transformation, Ian has been central to developing the Specialist Hub framework and other structural innovations that strengthen club capability, governance, and member support. Ian joins the regionalisation case studies breakout session.



Amanda Barnes, Director of Rotary South Pacific Ltd, is a Rotarian and community leader with strong experience in youth programs, club development, and leadership pathways. At RSP26 she contributes to the panel on strengthening transitions from Rotaract to Rotary and the breakout session on regionalisation case studies.



Nicholas Egan is an emerging Rotary leader with experience in Rotaract, youth engagement, and club innovation. At RSP26 he brings a next generation perspective to the panel on transitioning from Rotaract to Rotary.



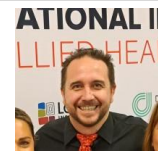
Laura Telford is a Rotaractor and young professional committed to leadership development and community service. She has held roles in district Rotaract leadership and contributes to strengthening youth pathways. At RSP26 she joins the panel on designing seamless transitions into Rotary.



Dr Patricia Armstrong is a respected environmental scientist and advocate for community-led climate solutions. She guides Rotary clubs in practical sustainability projects, championing biodiversity protection, resilient ecosystems, and evidence-based action that empowers communities to create lasting environmental change. Pat leads our environmental sustainability breakout session.



James Smith is a researcher and academic at Flinders University, known for his work in public health, social policy, and community wellbeing. His research focuses on improving health equity, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting evidence-based approaches to social challenges. James is widely respected for translating research into practical initiatives that benefit local communities. James leads our interactive DEI breakout session.



Wendy Protheroe, the Zone's *Endowments and Major Gifts Advisor* for The Rotary Foundation, also a director of Rotary Foundation Australia, leads this year's Arch Klumph Society presentation. Wendy has served on multiple regional and national Rotary committees, bringing strong organisational capability, clear strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to safeguarding youth protection. Her professional background includes senior roles in education and youth program administration, complementing her Rotary work and strengthening Rotary's capacity to deliver safe, high-quality youth programs across the region.



Rhys and Meagan Martin are long-serving contributors to *Rotary Down Under*, known for their commitment to strengthening Rotary's communication, storytelling, and engagement across Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific. Together they bring strong skills in editorial leadership, digital content, and project coordination, supporting Rotary's regional publications and major initiatives. Rhys and Meagan are recognised for their collaborative approach, professionalism, and dedication to showcasing Rotary's impact through high-quality media and member-focused communication. Together they will lead the breakout session on *Telling Rotary's Story Well: A Masterclass in Public Image for Clubs*.



S.N. Srikanth is the Chair of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) for the 2026–2027 term and a past president of the Rotary Club of Madras, India. A dedicated humanitarian, he has led impactful global grant projects, including major rural sanitation initiatives in Tamil Nadu, and frequently advocates for global water security and climate resilience. Professionally, Srikanth is the founder and senior partner of Hauer Associates, a leading maritime and port consultancy firm where he specialises in maritime policy, port development, and logistics strategy.



EXHIBITORS

2027 International Convention Barcelona
2027 Regional Conference
Australian Rotary Health (ARH)
Disaster Aid Australia
EndTrachoma
International Bee Rotary Fellowship
Interplast
Kieser Australia
Lese Oalai School PNG (Rotary Club of Torquay)
LGBTQ+ Rotary Fellowship
Peace Poles Oceania
RDU Photo Booth
RDU Supplies
Regional Environmental Sustainability Programs
Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)
Rotary Balwyn Centenary Grants
Rotary eClub of Changemakers
Rotary eClub of WASH
Rotary South Pacific WASH Scholarship
Rotary International South Pacific & Philippines Office
Rotary Modbury Golden Grove – First Responder App
Rotary Noble Park - Dingley Village Jewellery Sales
Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)
Rotary South Pacific Ltd (aka Regional Council)
Shelterbox
The Rotary Foundation
The Science Experience
Wendy Wu Tours
Wheelchairs for Kids

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION AT RSP26

Rotary South Pacific is committed to ensuring that every delegate can participate fully, comfortably, and with dignity. The following arrangements are in place throughout the conference to support accessibility, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Mobility & Venue Access

- All conference spaces at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre are wheelchair accessible.
- Lifts connect all levels used for plenaries, breakouts, and social events.
- Accessible seating is available in the Clarendon Auditorium; please speak with a volunteer if you require assistance.
- The End Polio Walk route is flat and suitable for mobility aids.

Drop-Off, Parking & Transport

- Accessible drop-off points are located at the Clarendon Street entrance.
- Designated accessible parking bays are available in the MCEC car park.
- The Novotel provides step-free access.

Hearing & Communication Support

- All plenary sessions use amplified audio and large-format screens.
- Reserved seating is available for delegates who require proximity to speakers or screens.

Quiet Spaces & Wellbeing

- A quiet room is available for delegates needing a low-stimulus environment for rest, prayer, reflection, or sensory regulation.
- Mental health support information is available at the registration desk.
- Delegates are welcome to step out of sessions at any time.

Dietary Requirements

- All catered events include vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free options.
- If you have specific dietary needs or allergies, please notify the registration desk or catering staff.

Cultural Safety & Inclusion

- RSP26 is committed to culturally safe engagement with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori, and Pacific communities.
- Delegates are encouraged to approach all sessions with respect, curiosity, and openness.
- A Welcome to Country will be delivered at the Opening Ceremony.

Family & Carer Support

- Carers accompanying delegates are welcome at all sessions.
- Parents and carers may use the quiet room for feeding or settling children.
- Please speak with volunteers, identified in Hi Viz vests, if you require additional support.

Emergency & Assistance

- MCEC staff and Rotary volunteers are trained to assist in emergencies.
- Emergency exits and evacuation routes are clearly marked.
- For immediate assistance, please approach any volunteer or staff member.

Access to Sessions

- Registration badge must be worn at all times to gain access to all conference sessions.

Venue Map

