



## DISTRICT 9800 NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

### From District Rotary Foundation Chair Grant Hocking

The first six months of this Rotary year have gone by in what seems like the blink of an eye. A breakdown of the activities over the last six months is provided below.

#### The District Foundation Committee

Thanks to the team of wonderful, dedicated Rotarians who make up the District Foundation Committee. The committee meets every 2 months and has a full agenda with everyone contributing and ensuring Foundation activities and goals are met. The table below shows the team for the 23-24 Rotary year.

| Position  | 2023-24             |
|---|---------------------|
| District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC)                           | PDG Grant Hocking   |
| Deputy Chair  | PDG Murray Verso    |
| Communications / Administration Coordination                      | Jane Pennington OAM |
| Humanitarian Grants - District and Global                         | Richard Blakeman    |
| Foundation Stewardship  | Thelma Hutchison    |
| Fundraising Chair   | PDG Philip Archer   |
| Annual Giving Program   | PDG Philip Archer   |
| Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) - Centurion                      | Amrit Singh         |
| Endowment Fund Programs   | PDG Ian Knight OAM  |
| Paul Harris Society and Major Donors                              | PDG Julie Mason AM  |
| Paul Harris Society Deputy Chair                                  | DGN Peter Shephard  |
| PolioPlus Program   | Jane Pennington OAM |
| Polio Plus Society  | Jane Pennington OAM |
| End Polio Film Club Coordinator                                   | DGN Peter Shephard  |
| Rotary Peace Fellows Program                                      | PDG Murray Verso    |
| TRF Post Graduate Global Grant Scholarships                       | David Gorman        |
| TRF Post Graduate Global Grant Scholarships Deputy Chair          | PDG Keith Ryall     |
| VTT (Vocational Training Teams)                                   | PDG Julie Mason     |
| The Royce & Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarships and Awards Program | David Abbey         |
| Peace Building Program  | Gabe Hau            |
| Foundation Alumni   | PDG Keith Ryall     |

#### The Foundation Grants Committee

You will find more information about our grant guidelines, application forms and all contact details on the District Foundation website. <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/foundation>

The Annual Fund Share will be allocated to the following 2 areas.

1. The Block Grant are the funds to be used for District Local and International Grants and our Year 11-12 school scholarships. **An application for US\$72,000 has been applied for the District Block Grant for the 23-24 year.**
2. The remaining funds are used for Global Grants and RI projects including Peace Centres, Polio Plus, and Global Scholars.

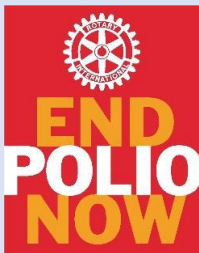
The D9800 Annual Fund Share for the 2023-2024 Rotary year was \$185,209.69 (= 50% of funds donated to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) by D9800 individuals and clubs 3 years ago). We also include \$5176 which is 50% of Available Endowment fund share earnings and \$51,400 carried forward from unspent funds in 22-23.

You may recall from my last report that in 22-23 a total of 15 District grants were approved in 22-23 (\$53k) and the school scholarships (\$12k) amounting to a total of \$65,135 allocated. At the time of writing the \$51,400 carried forward from unspent funds in 22-23 have been fully exhausted for new projects this year.

As part of the district process a total of twenty-six completed grant intention forms have been submitted by clubs, along with several applications and intentions for Global Grants. This is continually changing as more grants are updated and application forms submitted. Most are considered likely to be approved if acceptable grant applications are lodged which will mean a very successful year of projects supported by the Rotary Foundation.

There has also been an excellent response to the Year 11-12 scholarship grants with 17 applications received by the closing date. Although oversubscribed from our initial allocation of 10 grants the committee approved all 17 applications.

## Polio update



As you would be aware Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years, and we have made incredible progress in the fight to rid the world of it forever. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has helped to reduce polio cases by more than 99.9% since the mid-1980s. It is crucial to eradicate polio from the last two countries where it remains endemic and to keep other countries polio-free.

If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year. **No place is safe until polio has been eradicated everywhere.**

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a public-private partnership led by national governments with six core partners - the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide.

The Polio report (2023) shows the progress being made in the battle to eradicate Polio **with only 12 Wild Polio cases confirmed over the 2023 year.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases in 2023</b><br><b>Wild poliovirus (WPV)</b><br>Total global WPV1 cases in 2023: 12<br>Total global WPV1 cases in 2022: 30 | <b>Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases</b><br>Total global cVDPV cases in 2023: 469<br>Total global cVDPV cases in 2022: 870 |
|---|---|

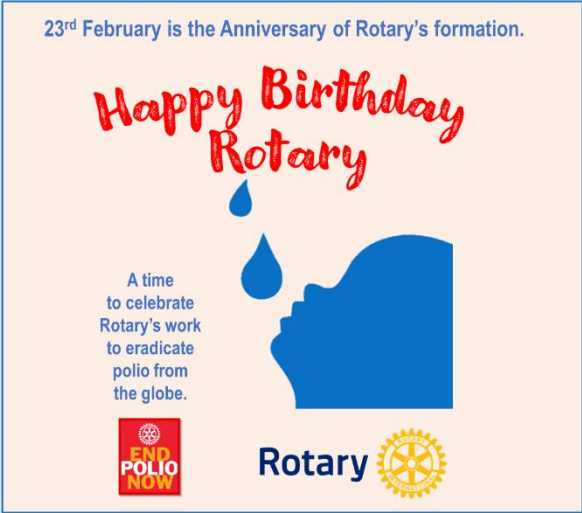
| Country or territory               | Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases |           |            |            |          |           |                            |           | Date of most recent case |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
|                                    | Full year total                   |           |            |            |          |           | 01 Jan-31 Dec <sup>1</sup> |           |                          |
|                                    | 2017                              | 2018      | 2019       | 2020       | 2021     | 2022      | 2022                       | 2023      |                          |
| Afghanistan                        | 14                                | 21        | 29         | 56         | 4        | 2         | 2                          | 6         | 04-Sep-23                |
| Pakistan                           | 8                                 | 12        | 147        | 84         | 1        | 20        | 20                         | 6         | 24-Oct-23                |
| Mozambique                         | 0                                 | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0        | 8         | 8                          | 0         | 10-Aug-22                |
| Malawi                             | 0                                 | 0         | 0          | 0          | 1        | 0         | 0                          | 0         | 19-Nov-21                |
| Iran                               | 0                                 | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0                          | 0         | NA                       |
| <b>Total (Type 1)</b>              | <b>22</b>                         | <b>33</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>140</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>30</b>                  | <b>12</b> |                          |
| <b>Tot. in endemic countries</b>   | <b>22</b>                         | <b>33</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>140</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>22</b>                  | <b>12</b> |                          |
| <b>Tot. in non-end countries</b>   | <b>0</b>                          | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>8</b>                   | <b>0</b>  |                          |
| <b>No. of countries (infected)</b> | <b>2</b>                          | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b>                   | <b>2</b>  |                          |
| <b>No. of countries (endemic)</b>  | <b>2</b>                          | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>                   | <b>2</b>  |                          |
| <b>Total Female</b>                | <b>7</b>                          | <b>18</b> | <b>72</b>  | <b>59</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b>                  | <b>4</b>  |                          |
| <b>Total Male</b>                  | <b>15</b>                         | <b>15</b> | <b>104</b> | <b>81</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>20</b>                  | <b>8</b>  |                          |

# World Rotary Day (Rotary's birthday) Friday 23 February

The significant reductions in WPV and cVDPV cases are worthy of celebration and what better time do that than on Rotary's 119th anniversary on 23<sup>rd</sup> February this year.

Rotary clubs and districts are very effective at raising awareness and funds for polio eradication. **Ensure your club does something on 23 February to celebrate the successes of Rotary's polio campaign. Clubs often wait to later in the Rotary year but why not make your donation on this day.**

This year, February 23 falls on a Friday, so a lunchtime or evening community barbecue on that day would be a great way to **celebrate our number one humanitarian priority – the eradication of poliomyelitis.**



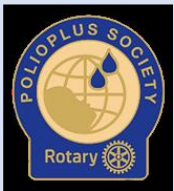
## Rotary Walk with Us End Polio



Over the month of October, District 9800 Rotarians again took to the parks, pavements and walking machines to raise money towards ending Polio in the world. A huge thank you to everyone who participated; walking and raising money during October for our End Polio Campaign. Sixty-five individual walkers in 18 teams raised just over \$47,000, with **Robert Fisher from Rotary Melbourne** topping the individual fundraising leaderboard and the **DG Team** topping the teams' category. Attendance at the new event Paws for Polio and the Studley Park walk was excellent and a **big thank you to District Polio Chair Jane Pennington** for organising the events this year.

**The District Foundation committee will match the first 10 clubs to donate \$1000 to the End Polio Campaign this year.** The district contribution will also be matched by RI. Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million per year over the next three years, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation

## Polio Plus Society



This new fundraising and recognition program supports PolioPlus where Rotary members and others pledge at least US\$100 per year (AU\$160) to the PolioPlus Fund until polio is eradicated from the face of the earth. Contributions will count toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition and Major Donor status and will be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation. Our numbers have continued to grow to 81 members.

End Polio has a stand reserved at the District Conference on 12-14 April 2024. **The new district owned Iron Lung will be on display on the conference.** See more about the Conference at the end of the newsletter.



## Peace Fellow program

Sadly, D9800's "Black Caviar" record of having produced one or more Rotary Peace Fellows every year since the program began in 2001, is no more. For the first time in 22 years, neither of our two endorsed candidates were selected from 22-23 selection process and they were the only two applicants we had this year. Whilst disappointing it is an amazing record and D9800 still stands out as the leading District for overall successful applicants.

District Peace Scholar chair PDG Murray Verso has already convened two meetings of the Peace Fellow committee to review and update our materials and process to improve our approach for 23-24 Rotary year. Confidence is high that we will obtain a successful candidate this year. On the good news front, we have already had contact from two people about applying for the fellowships and applications open in February 2024.

## Global Scholars

There has been quite a bit of activity on the Scholars portfolio over the past few months. Kristine Tay has settled into her course at Oxford – and loving it. Her only complaint is the intense workload.

John Croker was also at Oxford (and attending New Scotland Yard) and he, along with PDG Karen Everleigh (D1090 - Oxford) attended the Rotary Club of Burford with D9800 Scholars chair David Gorman on Monday 16 October. They were the guest speakers for the night.

Our 4 current inbound scholars attended the Paul Harris Breakfast (Central Melbourne Rotary) as guests of D9800.

- -Haruka Tanaka – hosted by Flemington-Kensington – completing a Masters Public Health ACU.
- -Ayase Ishizuka – hosted by Albert Park – International development studies at Melbourne Uni
- -Hikaru Sato- hosted by Glenferrie -Public health studies at Melbourne Uni
- -Dr Guillaume Gersdorff – hosted by Central Melbourne-PhD at the Eye and Ear Hospital

We have another incoming application from Japan: Tsukuba City, D2820. The candidate Mr Hyuga Nishimura has enrolled in a PhD program at Victoria University Footscray Campus commencing in February 2024. Williamstown has taken on the Host Club role.

## Royce Abbey Awards and Scholarship



The **Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship and the Royce Abbey Award** were established in recognition of Royce Abbey's contribution to Rotary as an inspirational Rotarian and leader from 1954 to 2014, and as president of Rotary International in 1988-89. **The Royce Abbey Award** is available to Rotary Clubs wishing to recognise Rotarians showing enthusiasm and commitment to the Ideals of Rotary. By doing so the club contributes AUD\$1,000 to the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund.

The Fund helps finance **the scholarships** which assist communities in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Scholarship recipients would spend up to three months in Australia undertaking practical training in his or her field assisted by funding of USD\$10,000. The Scholarship program covers all Areas of Focus.

Those that follow the district webpage and Facebook page will have noticed the wonderful news that PDGs Murray Verso and Dennis Shore were joint 500<sup>th</sup> Royce Abbey Award recipients (500a and 500b) at a dinner held in November 2023. Congratulations Dennis and Murray.



## Foundation events in the district

As always in the District Rotary Foundation Chair role, I have been kept busy attending the normal meetings of the District Board, DST, Foundation committee, Grants committee, and the Peace committee along with visits to the Rotary clubs of Fitzroy, Wyndham, Woodend, and Kyneton at the end of last year. I have highlighted some of the events held across the district over the last six months.



I was joined by DG Ron and many others district leaders for the **31st Annual Paul Harris Breakfast** on 21<sup>st</sup> November. It was another wonderful event organised by Central Melbourne Rotary.

This annual breakfast has been held since 1992 with all proceeds going to the Rotary Foundation. The guest speaker was Peter Hitchener OAM, who spoke on his career reporting the news.

Peter grew up near a small town in rural southeast Queensland and joined the Nine Network back in 1973. After stints at radio for 4BH Brisbane and the ABC, he joined the ranks as a news anchor for Nine News (1973) presenting the news alongside Brian Henderson and Sir Eric Pearce. He has been presenting the main weeknight bulletin since 1998 after succeeding Brian Naylor. He is always on the move, supporting several community organizations, playing golf and following the action of the St Kilda Football Club and

Melbourne Storm. Peter was a Victorian Senior of the Year finalist in 2015 and awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2017 "for services to the broadcast media and to the community". Another wonderful event by Central Melbourne.



*(The photo shows DG Ron and I with the happy team from Castlemaine Rotary.)*

A great evening was had by all who attended the **Goldfields cluster Foundation dinner** on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in Bendigo. This event has been held annually (I think since I was Goldfields AG in 2013) for 10 years. I believe I have attended them all.

This year I was the guest presenter on the Impact of the Rotary Foundation highlighting all the good we do with the money donated by clubs and individuals. There was lots of interest afterwards with plenty of questions and supportive statements from the audience.

**ESG dinner at Hyatt Place** to hear from speakers Ron Finkel and Mohammed Asideh who were magnificent talking about project Rozana where Israel and Palestine medical people train together in Advance Trauma Life Support and the current challenges. Well done to PDG Philip Archer and team for putting this together.





The Polio Network Victoria seminar in October for Polio Day was held in Hastings and opened by local MP Paul Mecurio (yes—Strictly Ballroom) along with a range of interesting speakers and plenty of networking. Rotarians from Calder cluster (Woodend and Gisborne) attended to support the event being ushers and helping serve the meals.

## Upcoming Foundation events in the district

### 1. District 9800 Conference

The District Conference is being held from 12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> April in Bendigo and is titled **"A Gathering on the Goldfields"**. The program is established with wonderful guest speakers including, Costa Georgiadis from ABCs Gardening Australia and a great selection of entertainment across the entire weekend. Costs are down from previous years and its being held in our district, so there is every reason to attend.

**As is tradition we would love Rotary clubs to make their annual contributions or increase the amount of contribution to the Rotary Foundation at the conference. Come and say hello over the weekend and I will keep track on the totals to announce at the Sunday morning Foundation update.**



Register for the Conference now at: [www.trybooking.com/CMCUD](http://www.trybooking.com/CMCUD)

As mentioned previously we will also have the district Iron Lung on display for the first time.

There is also a **showcase with free allocation of space** so you can promote your projects. Book at [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1149980](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1149980) or to discuss the showcase contact PDG John Clue (Castlemaine) via email [jclue@bigpond.com](mailto:jclue@bigpond.com)

### 2. Save the date for the Paul Harris Society Lunch

**Sunday May 05, 2024, 12pm – 3pm. More details will be available soon.**

Thanks for reading this D9800 Foundation Bulletin. Please let me know your thoughts about the content or to tell me you've read it. It's nice to get feedback.

I hope you continue to enjoy your Rotary experience and thanks for supporting the Rotary Foundation- the Foundation that supports you.

Kind Regards

Grant Hocking ASM

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