



There is no special designation for May in the Rotary year. So I would like to dedicate this month to acknowledge the many great things that happen in Rotary; *that is, how we Light Up Rotary – our theme for this year.*

You would be aware of two major natural disasters that have recently occurred – in Vanuatu and Nepal. As always the response of Rotations has been remarkable. Contributions – both financial and practical – have been significant. I sent information to each Club about possible ways to contribute, including Shelter Box and Rotary World Community Service Australia (RAWCS). I encourage every Rotarian to read the reports that can be found on the RI website: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Communities in Vanuatu and Nepal will require long-term support and I know many Australian Rotary clubs are already actively assisting in relief work. After a very successful District Conference we are able to make a number of donations to important Rotary programs. More than \$19,000 has been donated to End Polio Now Rotary Foundation, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC), Rotarians against Child Slavery, Shelter for Success and Shelter Box.

Grace would like to thank everyone who has participated in her fundraising project for ROMAC. The project raised approximately \$6000 which will make a significant contribution toward an operation for a child. Well done!

Rotarians often tell me they feel overwhelmed by the number of Rotary causes seeking funds; a sense of compassion fatigue. This can be quite daunting. However what I have noticed is that clubs tend to find their own space, passion and priorities and somehow most causes are well supported. It has been good to see some of the zone groups of clubs work together on common issues. This year one zone group of eight clubs has started work towards funding an Interplast team. Another is working on a program for local youth. Both are equally exciting and highlight the strength of partnership and collaboration. This year I have regularly mentioned TEAM – **t**ogether **e**veryone **a**chieves **m**ore. I strongly encourage your club to identify opportunities and achieve significant outcomes through partnerships. A wonderful example is the Microscopes in School project lead by the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay. Last week saw the launch of Rotarians for Melanoma, a partnership between the Rotary Club of Claremont Bayview and Edith Cowan University. So many great things are happening in Rotary; significant collaborations achieving excellent outcomes in local and international communities.

I recently had the pleasure to present the Vocational Service Leadership Award to Peter Stone from the Rotary Club of Morley. This is a Rotary International award that recognises a Rotarian who has made a significant impact in advancing vocational service, exemplifying integrity and high ethical standards in their vocation and in Rotary; and using their vocational talents to serve the community. A district presents this award only once each year. I know you will join me in congratulating Peter on this achievement.

Planning is well underway for 2015/16 Rotary Year and I congratulate DGE Jerry and his team for the excellent President Elect Training Seminar and recent District Assembly. District Change Over will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June at the Parmelia Hilton. Let's celebrate the year that was and look forward to another exciting year in Rotary.

<http://www.rotarydistrict9455.org.au/index.php?action=event&id=8120>

### Rotary clubs worldwide mobilize in support of earthquake-ravaged Nepal

**EVANSTON, Ill., USA (April 29, 2015)** — Rotary International President Gary C.K. Huang is urging the humanitarian organization's 1.2 million members worldwide to assist the victims of earthquake-ravaged Nepal in any way possible, including contributing to [ShelterBox](http://ShelterBox.org), the international disaster response charity that is Rotary's project partner for disaster relief.

"Rotary members worldwide stand together in expressing a profound sadness at the devastation resulting from this weekend's deadly earthquake in Nepal," said Huang. "As we mourn the thousands of lives lost, Rotary joins other international agencies in providing immediate relief to survivors through our partnership with ShelterBox and mobilizing our expertise to support long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts throughout the country."

A donation of approximately US\$1000 will allow ShelterBox to deliver emergency shelter and other lifesaving equipment to a family that has lost everything following a disaster.

Rotary's 34,000 clubs around the world may also pursue other ways to help including holding local fund-raisers, food and supply drives, and by giving to other established relief agencies. Rotary clubs in the United States, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Bangladesh and others are coordinating their support for immediate needs such as dry foods, tents, blankets, first aid kits and safe drinking water.

Looking ahead, Rotary will focus on intermediate and long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. The experience and knowledge of Rotary members in Nepal will be essential in ensuring that resources are used for projects and programs that address true community needs.

The Rotary Club of *Kathmandu*, chartered in 1959, is Nepal's first Rotary club. Today there are 84 Rotary clubs with a total membership of nearly 2,800 men and women. Rotary clubs in Nepal carry out a wide array of successful humanitarian initiatives – often in partnership with clubs in other countries -- including water and sanitation projects, medical and dental missions, adopt-a-school programs and reforestation plantings.

#### **About Rotary:**

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org).

#### **About ShelterBox**

Based in Cornwall, United Kingdom, with 21 international affiliates, ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth, and dignity to people made homeless by disasters worldwide. The agreement with Rotary broadens the charity's volunteer base, enhancing its capacity to respond instantly to disasters while keeping costs low. For more information, visit [shelterbox.org](http://shelterbox.org).

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### **The Rotary Success Conference - September 2015**

The Rotary Success Conference is ready. Are you?

Everything is in place for the Rotary Success Conference on 5– 6 September 2015.

Who should be attending? All Rotary Leaders, Presidents and Presidents Elect, PR Chairs, Membership Chairs and Future Rotary Leaders and Rotarians who want to be involved in the continuing success of Rotary in Australia. At this conference you will be able to participate in breakout sessions on various topics such as Membership Retention, Membership Recruitment and Extension, Diversity in Rotary, Flexibility and Innovative Clubs in the Future, Leadership, Public Image and Media, and more. As well, people will find out what has been successful for some clubs in growing and getting stronger. Social media will also be explored with Rotary Public Image Coordinator Wendy Gaborit leading discussion. Wendy has a great grasp on social media and how it can work for clubs and getting engaged with the local community.

There will be presentations about a number of new innovative ideas on a wide range of topics, all practical ideas that you can use in your club.

The program will be mainly breakout groups enabling everyone to be able to participate and interact over the weekend in a practical, worthwhile and meaningful way.

Coupled with the Rotary Success Conference this year will be a Youth Summit for people under 40 years of age. The Youth Summit will be an opportunity for people to put forward ideas and practical thoughts on how Rotary clubs can interact with younger people ... how and why Rotary clubs need to become more involved with Rotaract and Interact.

This Conference will be focussing on the future. We are positive that every Rotarian will gain practical knowledge and new ideas to take back to their Clubs and Districts from this Conference. You will meet Rotarians from across Australia and be able to share with them your ideas and hear their ideas; it will be a great experience for everyone.

Register now at: <http://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/success-conference.html>