

# Help make us Trachoma free

## Rotary backs End-Trachoma by 2020 campaign

To mark Australia's centenary of Rotary in 2021, let's help make our country trachoma free by 2020! **This is the message from Rotary International's President-elect Ian Riseley**, from the Sandringham Club in Victoria.

The World Health Organisation has as its goal the global elimination of trachoma by 2020. Last year China, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Morocco, Myanmar and Oman all reported the successful elimination of trachoma. Let's make Australia next!

Trachoma is a preventable eye infection that if left untreated, can lead to permanent blindness. **Australia, to its shame, is the only developed country still with trachoma. It primarily affects young indigenous Australians, living around Central Australia. It is mainly caused by unhygienic living conditions.**

Rotary in Australia is taking up Ian Riseley's challenge. By focusing on better hygiene and environments for these children, Rotary will complement the good work being done by the medical professionals.

Funding has been obtained to support the engagement of a project manager Lien Trinh for the next three years. Lien is a qualified, experienced optometrist/public health worker and was a District 9800 Rotary Global Grant scholar.

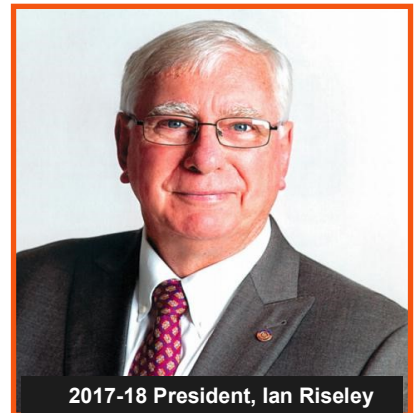
The Rotary Club of Melbourne, and Rotarians and other clubs primarily from District 9800 are leading the project. Further information will come from them about the project and how each District can help.

This project will provide the means for all clubs to participate in supporting indigenous Australians and will ensure that we have a great reason to celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Australia in 2021.

Look out for further information on this project and get behind it!



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**



2017-18 President, Ian Riseley

### What is Trachoma?

- A bacterial eye infection
- Spread from person to person through unwashed hands, shared face-wiping cloths and flies that have been in contact with the discharge from their eyes or nose of an infected person
- Women suffer more frequently and severely than men
- Treatment includes eyelid surgery to correct inverted eyelashes, antibiotics, facewashing and improved sanitation and access to clean water
- **Key to prevention is to help communities emerge from poverty.**

Source: Fred Hollows Foundation website