

Join us for our free  
Rotary Showcase on  
Saturday 25th February  
9am-5pm  
at the Atrium,  
Federation Square.

Over 25 unique  
displays of great  
Rotary projects &  
programs.



**DOING  
GOOD  
IN THE WORLD**



Following last month's Australia Day celebration around Lake Weeroona in Bendigo, where we had 25 marquees showcasing a variety of community, international and regional Rotary projects and programs, our special day in Melbourne will highlight even more how we do good in the world.

It's a unique opportunity for Rotarians to see first hand the variety of activities we are involved in. It will also be perfect to invite your friends and family with whom you are always talking about Rotary. If your club has anyone interested in joining Rotary or has been a volunteer in any of your projects, this will inspire them even further.

The exhibitors are divided into three broad areas: Youth Development, Community Programs, and International Programs. Internationally, exhibits range from the Solar Smiles Dental Chair program which provides dental care to children in Cambodia to Seven Women that provides vocational assistance to women in Nepal. We will have a ShelterBox on display to highlight Rotary's international disaster relief, plus Disaster Aid Australia will have their sky hydrant water filter that supplies safe drinking water to remote locations. We will focus on Polio Eradication, medical reconstructive surgery, the Sumba Eye programme and Days for Girls, plus much more.

Community Health programs on display include our Rotary Cancer Research, Australian Rotary Health, blood pressure testing and how defibrillators save lives. Showcasing other community programs including BusyFeet, Violence Free Families, and Camp Getaway, we introduce the new Project Embrace. Women in Rotary will promote the diversity of Rotary.

Any Showcase of Rotary could not be complete without promoting our outstanding Youth Development programs, from EarlyAct to the Model United Nations Assembly, or from Youth Exchange to the National Youth Science Forum. We plan to have alumni from all these great initiatives to explain how they make a difference to young lives.

Please take the time to come along on the 25<sup>th</sup>. It will make any Rotarian proud to wear a badge. The Choir of Hard Knocks will perform and on the big screens we will be showing some inspirational stories and videos about Rotary. The event is free from 9am-5pm and suitable for all ages.

In the week of Rotary's birthday, it will be a true celebration of how Rotary truly is Doing Good In The World.

#### Rotary Backs Trachoma Drive

By Tony Thomas, Rotary Club of Central Melbourne

Rotary's 2017-18 International President, Australia's Ian Riseley, wants a trachoma-free Australia by 2021, Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> year in Australia.

Trachoma is an infectious eye disease that can be prevented with good hygiene practices. It is still present in remote Aboriginal communities and can lead to permanent blindness. Australia is the world's only developed country with trachoma. The World Health Organisation has a global goal to eliminate trachoma by 2020.

With surgery and antibiotics, trachoma rates in affected communities have been reduced substantially. The original 200 'hot-spots' have dwindled to around 50, mainly in central Australia. More work is still required to ensure that hygiene practices and the community environments are improved to completely eliminate the disease. Prevention is now the focus.

Melbourne Rotary Club's Rob McQuirk and Albert Park's Kerry Kornhauser have together established a not-for-profit company (insert name of it?) to run the project. It can accept tax-deductible donations. Funds have been raised to enable the engagement of a project manager, Rotary Foundation Scholar and qualified public health worker, Lien Trinh, over the next three years.

Past District Governor Dr Murray Verso has also joined the team, adding his medical experience and understanding.

Rotary International Zone 8 Director Noel Trevasakis is asking all Districts to support the project which will cut the spread of trachoma. This spread occurs by hands, clothing, shared towels, bedding, and from flies which have contacted runny eyes or noses.

Some of the projects clubs can support include:

- funding a communal washing machines or facilities
- subsidising hygiene kits of towels, soaps, and toothbrushes
- sponsoring the operations of remote community swimming pools to help keep kids clean and active

Rob, Kerry and the team are working with other NGO's and corporates to create the projects and to enable the delivery of products and services to affected communities.

Register your interest at: [www.endtrachoma2020.org.au](http://www.endtrachoma2020.org.au)

& like our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/endtrachoma2020>

## A reflection on World of Difference

By District Governor Nominee Bronwyn Stevens

There is so much to share in a personal reflection of my "passion project". Since just stumbling into someone else's idea...and here I acknowledge and congratulate wholeheartedly former Rotary Melbourne South member, Lena Condos, who introduced humanitarian travel to developing countries to Rotary, and the sustainable assistance that can be achieved. She inspired me.

There have been hundreds of friends met along the way, both Cambodian and Aussie. Some were school students from Australia, who left tourists and came back as humanitarians. It has been an utter privilege to be part of that exploration. Often these students have known nothing of the world outside Australia. Gently being shown, with humour and support, rural communities without running water or electricity, starving people surviving by subsistence farming and all the challenges that entails provides the students food for thought. Seeing how supporting the local communities with donations of just 2 pigs, a bore water pump and biosand water filters was a profound education. Getting involved in helping the local people build the filters and pumps forges friendships. Then seeing outcomes of where 2 pigs were donated several years ago to a family is joyous. The family has bred their 2 pigs and sold them for an income stream. The difference that has made to their daily life is irrigation for their crops, a motor cycle, 2 rooms in their little home, wooden walls to replace the thatch, a water bore and water filter, a small generator, a fan and a TV. Affluence! Those two pigs were donated by my son Will on his lifechanging first trip to Cambodia in 2012. Since then he has taught in a remote village school for 3 months, and led 2 student group tours.

Partnerships between Rotary Clubs has enabled such powerful outcomes in terms of large scale projects and sustainability outcomes. Lifelong Rotary friendships have been forged through sharing deep and humbling experiences together where we have laughed and cried at situations too impossible perhaps in Australia to even imagine. I have memories of desperately ill people unable to afford medicines and just sitting quietly waiting to die. Being there at the right time place, with just the simplest most basic antibiotics have allowed lives to be saved.. Unimaginable and unthinkable in Australia.

Hurling down dust tracks in tuk tuks without the thought for a seat belt, sharing the seat with 3 treadle sewing machines and legs over the top of one of them. Sharing a beer in the pool discussing different options for plans. Kat John (Rotary Club of Melbourne Park) had an email footer "Say yes and then figure out the how". You may agree that I can identify with that statement. Thankfully while having these lurches from one world and into another – horror at times in desperate Cambodia and then back into safe leafy Brighton Mark remains, always secure and grounded, ready to counsel. He writes up Foundation grant applications on behalf of clubs, works so closely on the Foundation committee with logistics and financial trails to ensure correct process is followed. So many clubs involved, so many Rotarians and friends willing to action and champion change for better when they understand that World of Difference continually monitors the progress year after year.

I believe that it is imperative that in developing countries that we don't go in with any sense of superiority or wanting to do work for the local people. I personally don't subscribe to projects that go to build homes or schools for locals. I haven't met a person that can't hammer a nail into a bit of wood – even I can (but please don't tell Mark that!) Rithy taught me the lesson of a hand up not a hand out over the past 7 years. He knocked it into me and repeated it over and over. It was very difficult to break a cycle of dependence in a community where we started giving donations. Enabling and working with the people is what Rithy does so well. In his wise words, "he stands beside them".

Rithy is the "World of Difference" project manager in Cambodia. He tirelessly goes about living this reality every day on our behalf. So I should conclude my reflection on acknowledging Rithy. A Rotarian, a humanitarian who knows the needs of his country so intimately, and someone I am privileged to now call my friend.

For more information on this District 9800 Managed project please contact Chair Rob Hines Rotary Central Melbourne [info@wod.org.au](mailto:info@wod.org.au)

A quote from a student that may make a side line:

From Sara...Upper Yarra Secondary College Tour

"Cambodia you've been the most incredible host-Meeting all your people, the ones who needed our help, and the ones who have received it.

Your culture is honest and beautiful and I can't believe we have to leave it already.

Waterfalls in the rainforest, water drilling in Chress village, teaching in schools, donating at FLO, visiting the zoo and changing the lives of an entire community in the remote village.

This has been an incredibly real and beautiful experience, thank you."

International Women's Day Breakfast Planning Under Way

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Early bird tickets available at  
[rotaryiwdbreakfast.org.au](http://rotaryiwdbreakfast.org.au)

# Women Leaders



what does it take?

International Women's Day  
**BREAKFAST 2017** | Wednesday 8th March 2017  
The Palladium Crown Melbourne

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Kitty Chiller*



MC

*Tom Gleisner*

