

**ROTARY DISTRICT 9830 (TASMANIA)**  
**PICNIC TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF ROTARY IN TASMANIA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**TENNIS PAVILION, TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to this picnic to mark the centenary of Rotary Tasmania.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

As we know, in 1922, Rotary was established in Melbourne and Sydney, and followed by the charter in 1924 of the two longest serving clubs in Tasmania, the Rotary Clubs of Launceston and Hobart.

Today, we celebrate the growth of Rotary from small beginnings to a multi-talented large group of people involved in service, fellowship and community: 100 years of Rotary in Tasmania; of living by the motto "Service Above Self" and transforming lives.

Over the past 100 years, Rotary has assisted and supported many Tasmanians through a diverse range of projects including:

- The Taroona Camp, providing joy and adventure to thousands of children;
- The Sixty and Over Club offering valuable social opportunities for our seniors, combating isolation and fostering connections;
- Responding swiftly in times of crisis, with relief and support, such as with our 1967 bushfires;
- Supporting gynaecological cancer research; and
- Funding research in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence Anne Palmer / Paula Chatwood 2 September 2024

In March, the theme for your annual Conference was “*How can Rotary assist to address the issues of Domestic Violence and Homelessness?*” I am pleased that this has been a focus as part of your centenary celebration, as family violence is a significant health and welfare issue. Family violence occurs across all ages and backgrounds, but mainly affects women and children.”<sup>2</sup> It can negatively affect their psychological and physical health, their education, housing and employment. Children exposed to domestic and family violence over a sustained period of time may experience trauma symptoms that can have long-lasting effects.<sup>3</sup> The rates of family violence are unacceptable and must not be tolerated. Homelessness is also a widespread, complex and significant issue that needs to be addressed.

I commend you for supporting worthwhile projects to help address family violence and homelessness.

Rotary Clubs of Tasmania have not only aimed to effect change for our local communities. You have also aimed to effect change for the better for overseas communities, with Clubs being involved in projects, including:

- Ending Polio globally;
- Conducting eye camps in Nepal; and
- Addressing food security issues through Food Plant Solutions.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, Rotary has been committed to our youth with programs such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, the National Youth Science Forum, and the Windward Bound Leadership Challenge. These have all supported young Tasmanians, and equipped them with valuable skills, while encouraging them to contribute positively to society.

These programs reflect Rotary’s belief in the potential of our youth. You continue to engage young people, encouraging them to join Rotary and become the next generation of community leaders.

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<sup>2</sup> [aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/resources/fdsv-summary](http://aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/resources/fdsv-summary), accessed 24/09/2024.

<sup>3</sup> Jaffe, P.G., Wolfe, D., & Campbell, M. (2012) Growing up with domestic violence: Assessment, intervention, and prevention strategies for children and adolescents. Cited by Campo M. at page 7.

<sup>4</sup> Correspondence Anne Palmer / Paula Chatwood 2 September 2024.

I thank you all for your significant contributions to projects here and overseas, which all make a significant difference to the lives of many.

I am honoured to have celebrated your centenary with you all this year, by participating in and hosting several events. As we enjoy the picnic today, we acknowledge all volunteers, and the community spirit that has made your 100-year journey possible. I invite you all to raise a toast to 100 years of Rotary in Tasmania, and to your next 100 years of service and fellowship.

Happy centenary.

Thank you.