

PEACEBUILDING – IT'S IN OUR DNA

Rotary has a long history of being at the forefront of many international peacebuilding initiatives, including the United Nations.

On March 17, at the Town Hall in Sydney, NSW, Rotary International president Ian Riseley will host a Presidential Peacebuilding Conference that will focus on the relationship between peace and economic and community development. This is one of a series of peacebuilding conferences being held around the world during the current Rotary year. Each one will focus on peace and one of the other areas of focus – with one being devoted to peace and the environment. The findings and recommendations arising out of these conferences will then be discussed at a Peace Summit to be held in Toronto just before the start of the 2018 RI Convention.

Why, you may ask, is there such a focus on peace this year? In fact, Rotary has a long and proud history of being at the forefront of many international peacebuilding initiatives. Soon after Rotary was formed in 1905, Rotarians in North America were expressing concern about the forces of nationalism that were sweeping across Europe. Following the end of WWI in 1918, Rotarians came together in Edinburgh in 1921 to adopt a resolution to incorporate peacemaking into Rotary's constitution and bylaws. "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill



**Guest
Editorialist**
PDG Peter Kyle
*Chair, Rotary Peace
Centres Committee*

and peace through a worldwide fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service" became the Fourth *Object of Rotary*.

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for "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word and respect for human rights". This action became one of the most acclaimed moves in Rotary's role as a peacemaker, and provided the framework for the

United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted in 1948. In 1942, in London, a meeting of our members planted the seeds for UNESCO. Another highlight in Rotary's peacebuilding history occurred in 1945 in San Francisco. Of the 800 delegates and advisers assembled to witness the chartering of the United Nations, no less than 49 were Rotarians. Today, almost 70 years later, Rotary still maintains the highest consultative status with the United Nations of any NGO and has close relationships with many UN agencies. Every year we celebrate this relationship with a Rotary Day at the UN event.



RI president Ian Riseley speaks at the 2017 Presidential Peace Conference in Atlanta, USA. Ian will also be a Key Speaker at the 2018 Presidential Peacebuilding Conference in Sydney on March 17. (Photo: Monika Lozinska Rotary International)



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In the '60s, Rotarians began establishing peace parks, peace monuments, peace poles and even peace cities. Wagga Wagga, NSW, became the first Rotary Peace City in 1993 – now there are over 60 around the world. The Rotary Peace Centres opened their doors in 2002. Currently, over 1150 Rotary Peace Fellows drawn from over 80 countries are actively working in a wide variety of peacemaking and peacebuilding capacities. In 2009, “Peace” was one of the areas of focus introduced as part of the Foundation’s Future Vision Plan. More recently, we have seen the emergence of peace chairs, peace projects, peace symposia, peace conferences and a peace action group, and soon we will have a peace academy and peace workshops.

A recent partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace –

which produces annually the widely acclaimed Global Peace Index (GPI) – is helping Rotarians identify eight concrete pillars of peace. These are the drivers of peaceful societies. Examples include the equitable distribution of resources and well-functioning government; low levels of corruption and high levels of human capital. When we launch a Rotary project to support education, health or economic development in our local communities, we are building the ideal conditions for positive peace. How do we know this? Because the empirical data in the GPI enables us to measure the value of local interventions and how these lead to positive peace and more peaceful societies.

These are some of the exciting issues that will be explored at the Presidential Peace Conference in March. It is not too late to sign up.

You won’t want to miss this significant peacebuilding initiative!

Clearly, peace is in our DNA. As Rotarians look back on their 112 years of service, they can be justly proud of the many actions taken and to be taken to advance “international understanding, goodwill and peace”. •

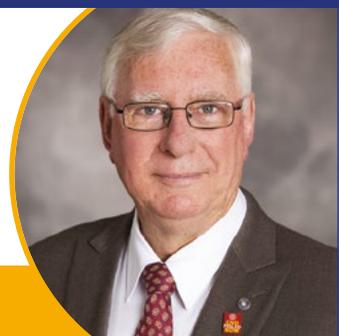
The Rotary International President's Peace Conference Projects Fund

To support RI President Ian Riseley’s focus on Peace, a fund has been established to provide Peace Programs for Scholars within Australia/New Zealand and internationally, the Peace Centre at Queensland University of Technology and any other worthy peace projects.

Rotary



PRESIDENTIAL
PEACEBUILDING
CONFERENCE 2018



Donations* can be made at www.rawcs.org.au

* Tax deductible in Australia

Project No: 51
Year Registered: 2017-18

SPEAKING OF PEACE

The 2018 Presidential Peacebuilding Conference will see academics, political leaders, peace activists and business and community leaders descend on Sydney in March to explore how all of us can help prevent and resolve conflict and, ultimately, build peace through the work of Rotary. As a follow-on to our first listing of guest speakers (*RDU*, November 2017, pages 18-21), here we give a brief overview of the remaining inspirational line-up.

Dave McCleary

Dave is on a mission to do whatever he can to end modern slavery. He was appointed Worldwide Vice Chair of Action Group Rotarians Against Child Slavery in 2013 and is the founder of advocacy organisation End Human Trafficking Now. He was responsible for assembling the main panel on Human Trafficking for the RI Convention last year, including Ashton Kutcher, US Senator Bob Corker and slavery survivor Rebecca Bender. He previously chaired a World Summit with President Carter on ending human trafficking and moderated a panel on Human Trafficking at the United Nations.



Tony Stuart

Tony Stuart is the CEO of UNICEF Australia. Prior to joining UNICEF, Tony was the Group CEO of National Roads and Motorists Association (NRMA), Australia's largest member organisation. Previous roles include CEO of Sydney Airports Corp, Director of Development at Manchester Airport and General Manager at British Airways. Tony is Chair of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Advisory Board, founding Director of the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Tony holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Canterbury.

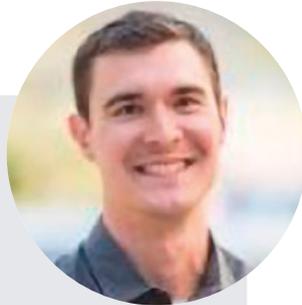


2018 Presidential Peacebuilding Conference

March 17, 2018
Town Hall, Sydney, NSW

Book now:
<http://rippc2018.com.au>

SPEAKING OF PEACE



Nicholas Drushella

Rotary Peace Fellow
Nicholas Drushella graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelors degree in International Studies. He has worked with several youth development non-profit organisations, including Imagine Scholar in South Africa. He is heavily involved with Rotary and has spoken to over 50 clubs about engaging youth in proactive peace processes. He is conducting his Applied Field Experience at the United Nations Population Fund in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Perla Padilla

Peace Fellow
Perla Padilla is an advocate for the rights of immigrant and vulnerable youth, with her work with immigrant youth on the Mexico-US border assisted in reconnecting over 100 children with their families. She has further collaborated with the Honduran, Salvadorian and Mexican consulates to introduce policies aimed at accelerating the process of bringing families back together. In San Diego, she worked in marginalised areas to support homeless, low-income, pregnant and parenting youth in educational and employment programs.



Shen Huang

Peace Fellow Shen Huang is working to protect public health and the environment within marginalised communities through engineering improved water and sanitation. She has helped advance the human right to water with Californian farm-working communities at the local, state, and federal levels. Other projects have included renewable energy and sustainable farming in Nicaragua, Zambia, and China. Complementing her current studies at UQ, Shen is working with Indigenous Australian and Pacific Islander communities to improve health outcomes, including assisting Rotary's End Trachoma by 2020 program and researching if there is a link between unsafe drinking water and kidney disease.



Dr Melissa Curley

Melissa is a senior lecturer in International Relations and Director, UQ Rotary Peace Centre. She co-facilitates the UQ Working Group on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in the TC Bernie School of Law. Before joining the School in January 2006, Melissa was a researcher in the China-ASEAN project at the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong, where she also coordinated a consultancy project on Southeast Asian affairs for the Hong Kong Government's Central Policy Unit. In 2015, Melissa joined the Executive Advisory Board of Bravehearts, an Australian not-for profit organisation that aims to educate, empower and protect Australian children from sexual assault.

Jean Nepo Sibomana

Nepo is co-founder and director of The Mustard Seed Institute, a social enterprise working at the grassroots level on poverty alleviation, reconciliation and sustainable peace through agriculture, vocational training and research in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region of Africa. Born in Eastern Province, Rwanda, Nepo is a genocide survivor and has been a long-time advocate for the rights of survivors, youth empowerment and peace.



Together for Humanity – Madenia Abdurahman, Rabbi Zalman Kastel, Kate Xavier, Taha Allam

Together for Humanity works towards the development of children's intercultural understanding, aiming to nullify hatred and intolerance.

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, during the Apartheid era, Together for Humanity president Madenia received her teaching degree in 1966. She became involved with the struggle of underprivileged students, creating in them an awareness of the power of education. After moving to Australia in 1981 she continued her charity work and currently acts as chairperson of Muslim Aid Australia.

Muslim Lebanese Australian Taha grew up with media coverage 'hammering his religious beliefs'. At the same time, a group purporting at big ideas such as protection and justice was being marketed to his demographic – which we now know had an adverse agenda. Taha advocates on the importance of education to protect youth from being radicalized.

Zalman was ordained as a Rabbi in the Chasidic Jewish tradition in a racially divided part of Brooklyn, New York. Encounters with Christians and Muslims transformed him and inspired a passion for interfaith dialogue. He has run interfaith workshops and countered alienation amongst Aboriginal and Muslim youth since 2002.

Kate is a Christian high school teacher specialising in Studies of Religion and Geography. She has a graduate certificate of Interfaith Dialogue and was a member of the Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship in Canberra in 2009.

Jeremy Blackman

As a member of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation's Knowledge and Innovation team, Jeremy focuses on issues surrounding social media, online behaviour and cyber safety. Jeremy has been ambassador for the Australian Internet Governance Forum, convened sessions at the Global IGFs, presented on the dynamic coalition on child online safety and organised the first cyber safety stream at the sixth World Congress on family law and children's rights. Jeremy is also on various industry roundtables and panels, collaborating with businesses such as Google and McDonald's.



Shane Phillips

Shane is CEO of the Tribal Warrior Association, a non-profit organisation directed by Aboriginal people and Elders offering training for employment and helping at a grassroots level, with emergency relief for struggling families. His biggest personal achievement is the Clean Slate Without Prejudice Program, run in collaboration with police since 2009. The program is based around a morning boxing program run three days a week, which has seen the number of crimes committed by local youth decline by 80 per cent.



**DON'T MISS
YOUR CHANCE to
see Key Speakers RI
president Ian Riseley and
Nobel Peace Prize winner
Professor Muhammad Yunus
at the 2018 Presidential
Peacebuilding Conference.
Book now at [http://
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