

FANTASTIC ROTARACT CONFERENCE IN RADELAIDE

More than 100 Rotaractors from Australia and New Zealand came together in Adelaide for a weekend of personal development and networking at the 2019 Australian Rotaract Conference (ARC).

HELD at the prestigious Adelaide Oval on February 9-10, the conference highlighted the gorgeous city of churches and sought to motivate Rotaractors for the year ahead.

Taken from the 2018-19 Rotary theme *Be the Inspiration*, the conference keynote speakers used their personal struggles with being labelled to show Rotaractors that by doing what they are passionate about, good things will come.

Katrina Webb OAM spoke about her struggles with acknowledging

her Cerebral Palsy diagnosis and how she went from trying to ignore her differences to winning gold medals at a Paralympics Games.

Likewise, South Australian Police Special Tasks and Rescue (STAR) Group Officer, Derrick MacManus, challenged the audience to adjust their mindset when things get tough by retelling his incredible story about being shot 14 times in the line of duty then returning to full duties just two years later.

His message about being a risk

manager and having those tough conversations before jumping into something resonated with lots of people in the room.

Founder of the Zarah Foundation, which helps women fleeing domestic violence, Arman Abrahamzadeh OAM spoke from the heart when he told his story about having to deal with his father killing his mother. "You can't be what you can't see," he said, meaning you should always be genuine when you pursue your passions.





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Rotaract puts a great deal of emphasis on personal and professional development and the highlight of the conference was the eight Rotaractors who presented in breakout sessions.

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The conference dinner, held at the Adelaide Zoo, was a chance for the Rotaract community to highlight incredible projects and events, and Rotaractors who have done extraordinary things since the last conference.

The winners of the 2019 Rotaract Australia Awards were also announced at the conference. The winners were:

- **Rotaractor of the Year:** Samantha Fewster (District Rotaract Representative for WA)
- **Most Outstanding Project:** Rotaract Club of Otway, Vic, and the Rotaract Club of Adelaide City, SA
- **Most Fun/Creative Event:** Rotaract Club of the Hunter, NSW
- **Highest Number of Volunteer Hours:** Rotaract Club of Perth, WA

- **Highest Fundraising Club:** Rotaract Club of Perth, WA
- **Best Engagement of the Community:** Rotaract Club of Otway, Vic
- **Most Outstanding Event:** Rotaract Club of Perth, WA
- **Highest Membership Increase:** Rotaract Club of Katanning, WA

The conference would not have been possible without the continued support of Rotary clubs around Australia, which supported Rotaractors attending the conference. It is clear that the passion exuded by Rotary International president Barry Rassin has well and truly found its way to Australia.

A special mention must go to the Rotary Club of Salisbury, SA, as a gold sponsor, and the Rotary clubs of Gawler, Galwer Light and Adelaide, SA, as silver sponsors.

Overall, the 2019 conference was a huge success and we can't wait for the next Australian Rotaract Conference! •

