



ABOVE: Ravi and wife Vanathy with District 9675 governor Di North at the Sydney event.

Ravi said The Rotary Foundation currently held US\$1.3 billion in assets and was aiming for US\$12.5 billion by 2025 – at which time TRF will be self-sufficient and the pressure of fundraising should ease.

He went on to tell audiences that Rotary continues to survive because of support from people like those present.

“We now have over 500 Arch Klumph Society members across 30 countries, including Australia and New Zealand, and 1.7 million Paul Harris Fellows – more than our membership,” he said, urging Rotarians to be “very proud” of our organisation and its impeccable administration.

“For an 11th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation accumulated 100 points and a four-star rating from the international Charity Navigator – better than 99 per cent of the world’s major charities,” he said.

“Because of our *PolioPlus* program, we have international recognition – number three in the world’s top 10 charities – ahead of organisations like American Red Cross, World Vision, Save the Children and many others – all of which have a three-star rating.

“We should all be extremely proud to belong to one of the world’s best philanthropic organisations. You have changed many lives. You are making dreams come true.”



ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

New presidential theme announced



Rotary International president elect Holger Knaack is encouraging Rotarians to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers to enrich their lives and the communities they serve.

Holger, a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany, announced the 2020-21 presidential theme, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, to incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, US, on January 20.

“Rotary is not just a club that you join. It is an invitation to endless opportunities,” Holger said in his address. “It opens opportunities to serve in a project as big and historic as *End Polio Now* and also in a small community project, where you just plant a tree.”

Holger also asked Rotarians to embrace change to enable Rotary to expand and thrive, saying creating new club models and rethinking what it means to be in Rotary is one way to address this.

“Young people should be the architects of these new clubs,” Holger said, but placed the impetus of forming these clubs firmly on district governors.

“You have the power to implement them. It will be up to you to make it work. Rotary International has already embraced change. Now it is up to you to make these new clubs a reality.”

Continuing past RI presidents’ push to address environmental issues, Holger reinforced that this is a pressing concern of younger generations.

“One way that we can listen to younger generations and make existing club membership more appealing to them is to focus more on the environment. Recent disasters – such as the bushfires in Australia – underscore the importance of taking strong action.”