

Centenary of Rotary– Down Under 2021

In 2021 we will celebrate 100 years of Rotary ‘Down Under’.

This is a fabulous opportunity to raise awareness of Rotary in this region and to showcase the incredible work we do in our local communities and around the world.

Now is the time to start planning what you can do to celebrate this important milestone.

The campaign is underway to Raise Awareness, Inspire Engagement and create a Call to Action. For an easy introduction, please watch our short video <https://youtu.be/32TmluuZXmA>

There have been many items in the “pipeline” over the past five years laying the foundations for a bigger program. Excitingly these are now coming to fruition:

1. One in 16 children die before the age of 5 in 9 Pacific nations. Rotary is going to stop that! The vaccination program “Give Every Child A Future” has been launched and initiated by 4 Centenary Clubs, RC Melbourne, Wellington, Auckland and Sydney along with UNICEF.
2. Have you heard? The Canadians are coming? Charter Clubs, Calgary and Halifax have been invited to celebrate the Centenary and participate in inaugural Ralston-Davidson Golf Challenge, honouring the two Canadians who got the ball rolling for us!
3. A commemorative Stamp will be issued in 2021 by Australia Post. What an exciting way to present the Rotary brand across the nation in 2021!
4. How good will it be to create a legacy by stamping out Trachoma? A campaign to stop this scourge on indigenous health unique to Australia.
5. New Zealand have launched their centenary program with a special event at Government House.

Rotary’s first headlines

The Argus, Melbourne 29th Saturday 26th March 1921:

“Lieut.-Colonel J L Ralston, CMG, DSO, KC, and Mr. James W Davidson are visiting Australia as commissioners for the extension among professional and business men of the ‘Rotary Club’ movement which claims about 80,000 members in Canada, the British Isles and the United States. The Rotary Club movement had its beginning in 1905 and has for its slogan ‘He profits most who serves best’. In each club there can only be one representative of each line of business and each profession. Its aim is to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and profession.”

Ralston and Davidson only met in Los Angeles on their trip to Australia and New Zealand. But from their endeavours, within weeks, the first Rotary meetings were conducted in Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington and Auckland.

From there, our history Down Under began!!

Save The Date! **Wednesday, 21 April, 2021**. A Grand Event at a world class venue attended by dignitaries and vice-regal representatives, participants from anywhere across Australia/NZ and a rolling program of face to face events in multiple locations!

Audacious? Yes, but our history is big and bold when we combine our energies! We are not only celebrating the Centenary of 4 Rotary Clubs but the Centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand. This will create a platform for the next 100 years of Rotary Community Service!

What is now on the horizon?

Activity is happening on both sides of the Tasman. Some Big Ideas being developed include:

- A million trees planted across New Zealand;
- An International Peace Building Symposium that is both compelling and focuses on achievable action;
- Facebook is going gangbusters with updates, stories and videos; <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary100downunder/>
- A Baton relay! This will reach multiple Clubs finishing at a combined celebration in 2021;
- One Hundred “Peace Poles” planted by 100 Primary Schools who visit the Canberra Peace Bell;
- Documentation of our Centenary via books and stories;
- Friendship Exchanges with international Clubs celebrating Centenaries in 2021;
- An awareness campaign that encourages all Clubs to create their own action.

More information—contact R100 Team Leader, Hugh Bucknall: hbucknal@bigpond.net.au, Ph 03 9819 3309

