

## **A Farewell to Australian Rotary District 9520**

Rotary District 9520 was created on 1 July, 1977, and will cease to exist as a separate District on 1 July, 2020, when it merges with neighbouring District 9500 to create new Rotary District 9510.

For the first 14 years (1977 to 1991) it was known as District 952; but became District 9520 in 1991, when Rotary District numbers world-wide were increased from 3 to 4 digits, through the addition of a “zero”. During its 43 years there have been no changes to its geographic boundaries.

Over that time its description has been: *“District 9520 stretches from the south coast of South Australia, through the southern half of the metropolitan area of Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Lower Murray, the Riverland area of South Australia to the Sunraysia district of Victoria, and on to Wentworth and Broken Hill in New South Wales.”*

## **The Evolution of Rotary Districts in Australia**

Rotary began in Chicago (USA) in 1905, when founder Paul Harris met with three other businessmen, and gradually spread nationally; and then internationally from 1910. The intervention of World War 1 delayed the spread of Rotary to many parts of the world, including Australia.

Australia’s first Rotary Clubs were formed in 1921 (Melbourne in April & Sydney in May). By 1927 there were 17 Rotary Clubs across Australia: Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, Adelaide, Hobart, Launceston, Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat, Rockhampton, Parramatta, Mackay, Townsville, Perth, Wollongong and Albury.

In September 1927, these 17 Clubs were deemed sufficient to form **Australia’s first Rotary District – District 65 “for all Australia”** - enabling the appointment of Australia’s first District Governor, and the beginning of annual District Conferences. Today there are nearly 1,100 Clubs in 21 Rotary Districts across Australia.

A Rotary District is regarded as a manageable administrative unit for both Rotary International and the District Governor; so as the number of Rotary Clubs in Australia grew, so did the number of Rotary Districts. By 1930, the growing number of Clubs in **New South Wales and Queensland** was deemed sufficient for them to detach from District 65 to form their own District 76.

Following this detachment in 1930 our District 65 was then officially described as: *“that portion of Australia including South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory, the City of Broken Hill and that part of New South Wales south of the Murrumbidgee River.”* It was during this period that our District’s two oldest Rotary Clubs were formed (**Mildura 1933** and **Unley 1935**).

As further Rotary Clubs were formed across Australia, and new Districts detached from our District, the enormous geographic area of our District gradually reduced. At the time our District's third oldest Club was formed (**Victor Harbor 1947**), **Tasmania and the Eastern half of Victoria** had just detached from our District; and at the time our District's fourth oldest Club was formed (**Red Cliffs 1951**), **Western Australia** was about to detach from our District to form their own District 245.

By **1961** the **Northern Territory** had also detached to join District 255, and in **1965** **Western Victoria (excluding Sunraysia) and the south-eastern corner of South Australia** detached from District 250 to form new Rotary District 278.

## **Rotary Districts 9520 and 9500**

From 1965, the significantly-reduced District 250 continued its steady growth, rebuilding to 44 Clubs in 1967 and 52 Clubs in 1971. By 1977, District 250 had grown to 65 Clubs with 2,829 members; prompting a further division of the District.

At the same time, Rotary Districts world-wide were being re-numbered (with a '9' replacing the '2' in the prefix) so, in 1977, District 250 split to become Districts 950 and 952, giving us the geographic boundaries that have remained unchanged until the present.

This division of former District 250 attempted to *“ensure a more equitable distribution of the existing industrial and residential areas, and city and country Clubs, of former District 250.”*

New **District 952** began 1977 with 34 Clubs (16 city & 18 country) with 1387 members; while **District 950** retained 31 Clubs (18 city & 13 country) with 1442 members.

Since then, the geographic area of these two Districts has remained unchanged; only the District numbers were changed from three to four digits in 1991 with the addition of a 'zero'.

At the present time (May 2019), Districts 9520 and 9500 are two of 21 Rotary Districts in Australia – quite a change from the one Rotary District for the whole of Australia in 1927!

## **A Glimpse into Rotary Life in Early Australia**

As our Rotary District 9520 approaches 1 July 2020, and the merger with District 9500 to form new Rotary District 9510, many of our Rotarians are speculating on the potential difficulties that this new, larger geographic District might create - for District Governors, and for Rotarians.

However, for the older Rotarians amongst us, it will simply be a case of “Back to the Future” when, on 1 July 2020, our new District 9510 simply reverts back to the geographic boundaries that existed in our former District (250) from 1965 to 1977, immediately prior to being split into the areas we've now known for decades as Districts 9520 and 9500.

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## **Our Early District Governors – Travel & Support**

In early post-War Australia the level of car ownership was quite low (1 car to every 5.3 persons in 1955); the vast majority of regional/rural roads were unsealed; and regular road coach routes and regional air travel were still in their infancy; so getting out to regional or country Clubs from a capital city was often by train (or coastal steamer when Tasmania and Western Australia were still in our District). On arrival, the lack of taxis or rental cars made getting around while there difficult as well.

If DGs were in a position to use their own cars for Club visits, there were still many hindrances: the unsealed roads played havoc with punctures and broken windscreens common; cars had no air-conditioning; automatic transmission or cruise control; there were few roadhouses and no 24-hour petrol trading. Cars required regular servicing (often an oil change every 1000 miles); and there were limited or no roadside breakdown services.

Punt or ferry river crossings in place of bridges were common on some popular routes; and there was no national road numbering, so navigation was by large fold-out road maps and occasional fingerboard signs.

These early Governors did not have the assistance of a District Secretary, District Committees or DG Reps/ADGs. Often, the greatest assistance a DG could have was a wife with secretarial skills and a portable manual typewriter. A file copy of correspondence was usually made with carbon paper, and for multiple copies (such as the DG Newsletter) a messy process with ink duplicator was required.

In addition, there was no internet, mobile phones, voice-mail or messaging; so when away from home the only contact was via public telephone. Most communication was by letter, or telegram in an emergency. Surface mail between Rotary HQ and Australian Clubs often took two months or more for a response.

With no debit/credit cards or ATMs, any extra cash needed on a trip required a visit to a branch of your own bank with your passbook.

### **A Few Early DG experiences ...**

Just imagine DGE Arthur Bolton of Bendigo (Vic.) planning his Club visits for 1937: ***“It is my intention to visit the Western Australian Clubs in the Autumn, the South Australian Clubs about the same time, and the Tasmanian some time during the summer. I shall endeavour to make all the visits in Victoria before Christmas”*** (the Rotary year in Australia at that time being 1 October to 30 September, to allow our Incoming Governors time to return from the International Assembly and Convention – by ship – and prepare for their year).

Any wonder he advised the 1936 District Assembly in Melbourne: ***“That is at present as far as I can inform you, but I will give you at least two weeks’ notice, and shall be happy to accommodate myself to your convenience. If, however, it’s necessary for me to ask some Clubs to alter the date of their meeting so that I may be able to visit two or three Clubs in one week, I hope you’ll be able to meet my convenience in that respect.”***

When Mildura was chartered in 1933, and Red Cliffs in 1951, both District Governors were from Perth. On 29 March 1951, DG Vic Webb of Perth (W.A.) wrote to the inaugural President of the new Red Cliffs Club as follows: ***“Dear Archie, This confirms my telegram advising that Red Cliffs has been accepted into membership of Rotary International on 26 March ... You are now permitted to function as a Rotary Club, and it will be our job now to arrange for the big night ... Woodville has also formed a Provisional Club and I expect that they will be granted a Charter during next month ... I will keep in touch with you so as to make the date coincide with that of Woodville and if possible will arrange to visit both Clubs for these special occasions.”***

So, after his official Club visit to Mildura during 1950-51, DG Vic Webb (of Perth) fitted in an extra trip East in June 1951 to charter the new Clubs of Red Cliffs (Vic.) and Woodville (S.A.); then returned again in September 1951 for his District Conference in Ballarat (Vic.). These three events alone would account for more than 20,000 kilometres of travel, and a month of the District Governor’s time – and there were still all the other District Clubs and events to attend as well!

Thirteen years after Western Australia ceased to be part of our Rotary District, PDG Leo DeGaris of Naracoorte (S.A.) told the 1964 Conference at Warrnambool ***“the Governor in his twelve months in office spends around 10 hours in each Club in the District, and during this time will write more than 4,000 letters. It can be physically exhausting when he has to travel 31,000 miles”***.

Rotary’s early vision for the program of Club visits was often very demanding on District Governors – and sometimes on Clubs as well – as DGE Arthur Bolton of Bendigo described the role play Incoming Governors received for club visits at the 1936 International Assembly: ***“During the Governor’s official visit to Clubs the Board of Directors was catechised by the visiting Governor, the Club Assembly was duly held, and generally speaking, the Club was turned inside out, dusted, shaken up, then smoothed down a little – and sent on its way staggering, but rejoicing.”***

He then optimistically noted: ***“I am hoping that I may be able to reproduce something of the sort when I make my Club visits, but I am just a little doubtful as to how Rotarians here will react to this typical American once-over”***.

After receiving similar “training” in America the following year, DGE J. Burgess Watt of Hobart (Tas.) explained his plans for Club visits to his 1937 District Assembly in Perth: ***“On arrival I will have a conference with the President and Secretary, after which I will address the Club on matters of Rotary, and I would advise that be an internal meeting of the Club. Then I shall meet with your Club Assembly, and then the Board of Directors. You may desire to have some social entertainment, but as you cannot have a social gathering and an Assembly at the same time, I suggest that you put the Assembly before any social function”***.

And if that wasn’t sufficient for one evening, Governors were then often invited back to the Club President’s home with the Board of Directors for supper ***“where we had another session and finished at midnight”*** (DG Reg Etherington of Mildura, 1950).

Nevertheless, some Governors still managed to give that little extra during their official visits, as DG Alan Drayton of Colac (Vic.) reported at his 1953 Conference in Unley: ***“My official visit to all Clubs was made during the first five months of my year, and most Clubs appeared to be appreciative of the early visit. I shall long remember the happy experiences of these visits and the co-operation and assistance given to me. Members of some Clubs were sick, and I was pleased to have the opportunity of visiting them in hospital”.***

### **... and our District's Early Rotarians**

In addition to the travels of earlier District Governors in the course of their official duties, earlier District Rotarians were also a rather hardy bunch as well (especially in relation to Conference attendance) – right from Australia's very first District Conference in 1928 (for all Australia). DG Fred Birks from Sydney held that Conference in Hobart, with all 400+ attendees travelling there by ship from all parts of Australia.

Conference travel in earlier decades was often a major undertaking for attendees (in time and expense), depending on Conference location. In 1933, 1949 and 1951, our District Governors from Perth variously held their District Conference in Bendigo, Warrnambool and Ballarat; while in 1938 the District Governor from Hobart held his Conference in Perth! All these Conferences had average attendances of 350+. Melbourne to Perth by rail at that time took around four days and nights (and three changes of train, because of different rail gauges), and cost between one and two months' wages.

Following the detachment of Western Australia from our District in 1951, three of our DGs from Adelaide held their Conferences in Port Lincoln/Whyalla, with average registrations in excess of 500 attendees; and a further four Adelaide DGs held their Conferences in Broken Hill, with average registrations of 650+.

In the early years of Rotary in Australia it was common for the District Conference (which usually went over 3 or 4 days) to be held in conjunction with the District Assembly, making a full week of Rotary activities for those with the time to attend. Fewer Clubs, larger Districts and longer travel times (often by train or ship) influenced this arrangement.

At the concluding session of our 5-day combined District Conference and Assembly in Tasmania in 1937, one unhappy Rotarian announced: ***“I've been here in Hobart for this Conference and have seen nothing else. I am heartily weary of it, and I think we are entitled to have some little leisure at these Conferences”.*** How times have changed!

So, if decades of earlier District Governors could 'cover the ground' adequately, and decades of earlier Rotarians could maintain high registrations for week-long combined District Conferences and Assemblies in often distant localities, then perhaps our imagined obstacles for new District 9510 really have little foundation!

## **Rotary District 9510 (2020 onwards)**

On 1 July, 2020, our District 9520 merges with our neighbouring District 9500 (Western South Australia) to create new Rotary District 9510. District 9510 will begin with around 94 Rotary Clubs with over 2,000 members.

Since the beginnings of Rotary in Australia in 1921, the geographic area covered by our Rotary District has been getting progressively smaller, due to the increasing number of Clubs being formed and the desire to keep each Rotary District to a manageable administrative unit, for both the District Governor and for Rotary International.

In 2020, for the first time in a century, our Rotary District will be enlarged rather than reduced, due to a combination of factors:

- Falling Club membership, resulting in the closing or merging of some former Clubs.
- Developments in communications and technology that reduce the need for physical presence (teleconferencing, skype, etc.).
- Improvements in roads, cars and regional transport connections, etc.

The aim is to ensure Rotary's relevance and attractiveness into the future.

The following comment appeared in DG Tait Kidman's Monthly Newsletter in July 1977: "*A New District is born – District 952. What a marvellous opportunity to give everything a shake! Stand back and take a good look at what we have been doing and think how we can improve the Rotary image; firstly in your own Club, and then in the community.*" Perhaps this is just as appropriate in 2020 – with the birth of new Rotary District 9510!

## **Rotary District 952 / 9520 Year by Year**

### **1977-1978 – District 952**

- Rotary Theme: *Serve to Unite Mankind* – RI Pres. Jack Davis, Bermuda
- District Governor: **Tait Kidman** (Barbara) – Victor Harbor
- 1st Annual Conference of District 952: **Victor Harbor, SA,** April 13-16, 1978  
Victoria Theatre Registrations: 541

### **1978-1979 – District 952**

- Rotary Theme: *Reach Out* – RI Pres. Clem Renouf, Australia
- District Governor: **Chris Maywald** (Nell) – Tailem Bend
- 2nd Annual Conference of District 952: **Glenelg, SA,** March 29-April 1, 1979  
Cinema 1, Glenelg Registrations: 439

### **1979-1980 – District 952**

- Rotary Theme: *Let Service Light the Way* – RI Pres. James Bomar Jnr, USA
- District Governor: **Harry Allen** (Lillian) – Mildura
- 3rd Annual Conference of District 952: **Mildura, Vic** April 17-20, 1980  
Club Da Vinci, Deakin Avenue Registrations: 503

### 1980-1981 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Take Time to Serve* – RI Pres. Rolf Klarich, Finland
- District Governor: **Gwyn Adams** (Joan) – Victor Harbor
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: **Victor Harbor, SA** March 19-22, 1981  
Victoria Theatre Registrations: 533

### 1981-1982 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *World Understanding & Peace Through Rotary* – RI Pres. Stanley McCaffrey, USA
- District Governor: **Les Mead** (Dot) – Edwardstown
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Hahndorf, SA** March 25-28, 1982  
CWA Hall Registrations: 448

### 1982-1983 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Mankind is One: Build Bridges of Friendship* – RI Pres. Hiroji Mukasa, Japan
- District Governor: **Bernie Jones** (Barbara) – Marion
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Broken Hill, NSW** March 10-13, 1983  
Civic Centre Registrations: 680

### 1983-1984 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Share Rotary – Serve People* – RI Pres. William Skelton, USA
- District Governor: **DG Jeff Nankivell** (Rhonda) – Unley
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Irymple, Vic** March 29-April 1, 1984  
Irymple Leisure Centre Registrations: 740

### 1984-1985 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Discover a New World of Service* – RI Pres. Carlos Canseco, Mexico
- District Governor: **Bill Rufus** (Heather) – Glenelg
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Morphetville, SA** March 22-24, 1985  
ABCOS Centre, Racecourse Registrations: 605

### 1985-1986 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *You are the Key* – RI Pres. Edward Cadman, USA
- District Governor: **Kevin Parkinson** (Connie) – Campbelltown
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Campbelltown, SA** April 3-6, 1986  
St Bernards Youth Centre Registrations: 435

### 1986-1987 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Rotary Brings Hope* – RI Pres. MAT Caparas, Philippines
- District Governor: **Stuart Hart** (Pamela) – Glen Osmond SA
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Renmark, SA** March 19-22, 1987  
Chaffey Theatre Registrations: 600

### 1987-1988 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Rotarians – United in Service – Dedicated to Peace* – RI Pres. Charles Keller, USA
- District Governor: **Terry Edwards** (Chris) – Glenelg
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Victor Harbor, SA** April 15-17, 1988  
Victoria Theatre Registrations 913

### 1988-1989 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Put Life into Rotary – Your Life* – RI Pres. Royce Abbey, Australia
- District Governor: **Bruce Edwards** (Audrey) – Flagstaff Hill
- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Mt Gambier, SA** April 27-30, 1989  
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Registrations: 720

### 1989-1990 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Enjoy Rotary!* – RI Pres. Hugh Archer, USA
- District Governor: **Russ Mead** (Mary) – Renmark
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Renmark, SA** April 26-29, 1990  
Chaffey Theatre Registrations: 780

### 1990-1991 – District 952

- Rotary Theme: *Honour Rotary with Faith & Enthusiasm* – RI Pres. Paulo Costa, Brazil
- District Governor: **Keith Shaw** (Joan) – St Peters
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 952: – **Adelaide, SA** April 5-7, 1991  
Adelaide Convention Centre Registrations: 500

**In 1991, Rotary District numbers world-wide changed from three to four digits**, with the addition of a zero. District 952 became District 9520, and began 1991 with 52 Clubs and 1810 members.

### 1991-1992 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Look Beyond Yourself* – RI Pres. Rajendra Saboo, India
- District Governor: **John Hardy** – Glenelg
- 1st Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Marion, SA** March 27-29, 1992  
Westminster Performing Arts Centre Registrations: 625

### 1992-1993 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Real Happiness is Helping Others* – RI Pres. Clifford Dochterman, USA
- District Governor: Ken Knights (Gwenda) – Strathalbyn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Ballarat, Vic** May 15-17, 1993  
Her Majesty's Theatre Registrations: 365



### 1993-1994 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Believe in What You Do – Do What You Believe In* – RI Pres. Robert Bath, Switzerland
- District Governor: **John Thomas** (Ursula) – Campbelltown
- 3rd Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Irymple, Vic** May 20-22, 1994  
Irymple Leisure Centre Registrations: 685

### 1994-1995 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Be a Friend* – RI Pres. Bill Huntley, England
- District Governor: **Dennis Henschke** (Kath) – St Peters
- 4th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Victor Harbor, SA** May 26-28, 1995  
Victa Theatre Registrations: 660

### 1995-1996 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Act With Integrity – Serve With Love – Work for Peace* – RI Pres. Herbert Brown, USA
- District Governor: **Alan Lawrie** (Marjory) – Brighton
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Marion, SA** April 19-21, 1996  
Westminster Performing Arts Centre Registrations: 420

### 1996-1997 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Build the Future with Action and Vision* – RI Pres. Luis Giay, Argentina
- District Governor: **DG John Jackson** (Heather) – Blackwood
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Tanunda, SA** May 9-11, 1997  
Barossa Convention Centre Registrations: 581

### 1997-1998 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Show Rotary Cares* – RI Pres. Glen Kinross, Australia
- District Governor: **Geoff Norman** (Rosalind) – Glenelg
- 7th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Broken Hill, NSW** April 2-5, 1998  
Entertainment Centre Registrations: 715

### 1998-1999 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Follow Your Rotary Dream* – RI Pres. James Lacy, USA
- District Governor: **Geoff Simpson** (Joy) – Flagstaff Hill
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Renmark, SA** May 20-23, 1999  
Chaffey Theatre Registrations: 650

### 1999-2000 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity* – RI Pres. Carlos Ravizza, Italy
- District Governor: **Ian Oliver** (Lyn) – Waikerie
- 9th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mildura, Vic** May 18-21, 2000  
Midway Centre, Gol Gol NSW Registrations: 720

### 2000-2001 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Create Awareness , Take Action* – RI Pres. Frank Devlyn, Mexico
- District Governor: **Doug Beasy** (Alys) – Merbein
- 10th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mildura, Vic** May 17-20, 2001  
Midway Centre, Gol Gol NSW Registrations: 435

### 2001-2002 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Mankind is our Business* – RI Pres. Richard King, USA
- District Governor: **Peter Sandercock** (Pam) – Holdfast Bay
- 11th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mt Gambier, SA** May 3-5, 2002  
The Barn Palais Registrations: 545

### 2002-2003 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Sow the Seeds of Love* – RI Pres. Bichai Rattakul, Thailand
- District Governor: **Arthur Robinson** (Nesta) – Mildura
- 12th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Tanunda, SA** April 3-6, 2003  
Barossa Arts & Convention Centre Registrations: 40

### 2003-2004 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Lend a Hand* – RI Pres. Jonathan Majiyagbe, Nigeria
- District Governor: **Graeme Dodsworth** (Chris) – Glen Osmond
- 13th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Swan Hill, Vic** April 23-25, 2004  
Swan Hill Town Hall Registrations: 552

### 2004-2005 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Celebrate Rotary* – RI Pres. Glenn Estess Snr, USA
- District Governor: **Euan Miller** (Jill) – Norwood
- 14th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Port Lincoln, SA** April 21-24, 2005  
Port Lincoln Leisure Centre Registrations: 641

### 2005-2006 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Service Above Self* – RI Pres. Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, Sweden
- District Governor: **Arthur Manser** (Shirley) – Berri
- 15th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Broken Hill, NSW** April 6-9, 2006  
Entertainment Centre Registrations: 615

### 2006-2007 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Lead the Way* – RI Pres. William Boyd, New Zealand
- District Governor: **Bob Northcote** (Margaret) – Campbelltown
- 16th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Tanunda, SA** May 3-6, 2007  
Barossa Arts & Convention Centre Registrations: 592

**Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, our District “experimented” with Annual Conferences early in the Rotary year** (to focus on inspiration for the year ahead), giving us two Conferences in 2007 and no Conference in 2011.

**2007-2008 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *Rotary Shares* – RI Pres. Wilfred Wilkinson, Canada
- District Governor: **Peter Ochota** (Meredith) – Somerton Park
- 17th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Marion, SA**      October 12-14, 2007  
Westminster Performing Arts Centre      Registrations: 451

**2008-2009 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *Make Dreams Real* – RI Pres. Dong Kum Lee, Korea
- District Governor: **Peter Shipp** (Judy) – Holdfast Bay
- 18th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mt Gambier, SA**      October 17-19, 2008  
The Barn Palais      Registrations: 450

**2009-2010 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands* – RI Pres. John Kenny, Scotland
- District Governor: **Dick Cuttle** (Karina) – Onkaparinga
- 19th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Lobethal, SA**      October 8-11, 2009  
Centennial Hall      Registrations: 274

**2010-2011 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *Building Communities, Bridging Continents*- RI Pres. Ray Klingensmith, USA
- District Governor: **Malcolm Lindquist** (Antoinette) – Brownhill Creek
- 20th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Bendigo, Vic**      October 7-10, 2010  
All Seasons Resort      Registrations: 449

**From 2012, Conferences reverted back to late in the Rotary year**, allowing a celebration of the year just ending.

**2011-2012 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity* – RI Pres. Kalyan Banerjee, India
- District Governor: **Bruce Richardson** (Kathy) – Berri
- 21st Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mildura, Vic**      April 26-29, 2012  
The Setts Function Centre      Registrations: 458

**2012-2013 – District 9520**

- Rotary Theme: *Peace Through Service* – RI Pres. Sakuji Tanaka, Japan
- District Governor: **Roy Armstrong** (Marilyn) – Marion
- 22nd Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Tanunda, SA**      April 25-28, 2013  
Barossa Arts & Convention Centre      Registrations: 412

### 2013-2014 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Engage Rotary, Change Lives* – RI Pres. Ron Burton, USA
- District Governor: **Wendy Gaborit** (John Jury) – Mobilong
- 23rd Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Warrnambool, Vic** March 20-23, 2014  
Lighthouse Theatre Registrations: 366

### 2014-2015 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Light up Rotary* – RI Pres. Gary Huang, Taiwan
- District Governor: **Jerry Casburn** (Briony) – Unley
- 24th Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Ballarat, Vic** April 16-19, 2015  
Federation University Registrations: 402

### 2015-2016 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Be a Gift to the World* – RI Pres. Ravi Ravindran, Sri Lanka
- District Governor: **Dick Wilson** (Liz) – Stirling
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Renmark, SA** April 28- May 1, 2016  
Chaffey Theatre Registrations: 441

### 2016-2017 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Rotary Serving Humanity* – RI Pres. John Germ, USA
- District Governor: **Sam Camporeale** (Lee) - Mitcham
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: – **Mt. Gambier, SA** April 27-30, 2017  
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre Registrations: 354

### 2017-2018 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Rotary Making a Difference* – RI Pres. Ian Riseley, Australia
- District Governor: **Bob Cooper** (Marilyn) – Burnside
- Combined Conference of Districts 9520 & 9500: – **Tanunda, S.A.** March 23-25, 2018  
Barossa Arts & Convention Centre Registrations: 594 (372 from D.9520)

### 2018-2019 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Be The Inspiration* – RI Pres. Barry Rassin, Bahamas
- District Governor: **Kim Harvey** (Paul) – Holdfast Bay
- 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of District 9520: - **Broken Hill, NSW** April 5-7, 2019  
Broken Hill Entertainment Centre Registrations: 436

### 2019-2020 – District 9520

- Rotary Theme: *Rotary Connects the World* – RI Pres. Mark Maloney, USA
- District Governor: **Tim Klar** (Bronwyn) – Coromandel Valley
- The Final Conference of District 9520: **Mildura, Vic** March 26-29, 2020  
Mildura Arts Centre Registrations:

**Note re Registration figures:**

The Registration Numbers shown are as listed in the relevant Conference booklet, and should be regarded as minimum numbers. They are not meant to add fuel to the hoary old debate amongst some PDGs that “mine was bigger than yours”!

Being printed in the Conference booklet means that late registrations are not included; and over the years the registration of Exchange Students, GSE teams, Keynote Speakers, and Visiting Rotarians has been inconsistent.

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