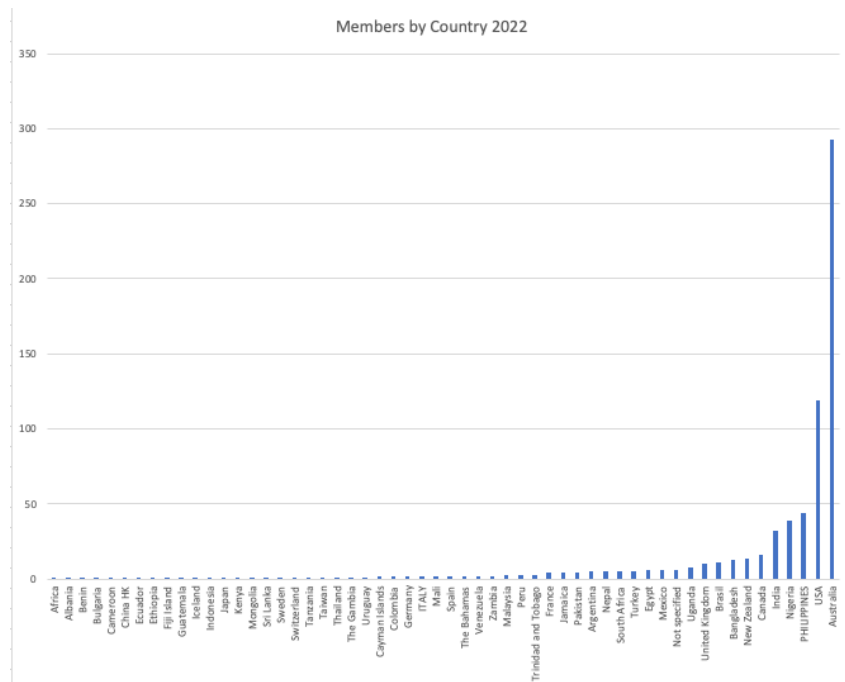




2021-22 Annual Report to Members



Activities during the year

This year we again report against our Strategic Plan initiatives under its three main headings:

1 AWARENESS and ADVOCACY

All our activities have a component of Awareness as we publicise them to our members and beyond.





As a reminder that the landscape is continuously evolving, our members active in the Goldfields area of Victoria, with their #sayNO2familyviolence project have had to reconfigure the local advocacy element as some of the institutions through which they were working ceased to exist. Is this an issue in your community? They met the challenge with a 'Brand Refresh' and the recruitment of new representatives; from social services, not-for-profits and police to reconstitute an effective local voice. In addition, they have committed with other local Rotary Clubs to introduce the "Toilet Door" project within their Shire area. This project involves putting an awareness poster behind every toilet door in the Shire. They have received co-operation from the Shire council, industries, businesses and entertainment venues. A reminder of how many local interests might get behind your own project if asked!



In Canada - and on the high seas on a cruise - our Board Member Dr Frank Stechey continued to educate Rotarians and others on the topic of signs & symptoms of IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), DV (Domestic Violence), both Child & Senior abuse. An added current topic is the trauma of silent trafficking of people between the USA and Canada which leads to more violent exploitation of young victims usually between 12 – 25 years of age, ultimately resulting in sexual slavery.

The development of our regional areas Trauma training in Australia continued to show local health networks the benefits of cost-effective intervention to prevent decades-long morbidity and loss of contribution to society. As we now see in many parts of the world, drought and wildfires have been followed by extensive flooding, creating new community stresses up and down the east coast of the Australian continent.



In November 2021 we again participated in a global Hush Foundation event, the Gathering of Kindness, providing information about Trauma. We also co-sponsored a major international Conference with talks by leading experts in EMDR* under the auspices of the EMDR Association of Australia, which was led by Board Member Pam Brown. This week-long online Professional Development event had a global faculty and was well attended.

*[Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing](#)

We remind members of the **Rotary Safe Families** program, whose awareness materials have now been translated into a number of languages, some languages sourced through your Action Group. [This page](#) shows the current list of languages: consider whether you have a language community in your own area that could benefit from one of these translations? Or if you are in a country with a language not listed – could you perhaps arrange the gift of a translation for your own language community? Spanish, French and Portuguese would of course be strategic languages for such a project.

2 EDUCATION

We remind Members that for adults in Rotary Clubs and in the Community generally, we endorse and recommend the Rotary Safe Families training. If you and your Club have not yet tried this, please do so. There are opportunities to take the materials provided on the website www.rotarysafefamilies.org.au and customise them for your own community.

Customisation would make an excellent District level project too. Why not spread the word in your District?

The training empowers Rotarians and other adults to become active supporters of those suffering abuse, and teaches how to do this safely and without imposing on the sufferers. This year videos for children and men have been published. There are regular online Meet-Ups for Clubs that are working with Rotary Safe Families.

We continue to liaise with the Rotary Fellowship of Educators, looking for ways in which we can cooperate.

Our focus, as you know, is on respectful relationships education. We know that there are many programmes in schools in different countries, but we do not yet have the ability to source and recommend programmes to cross from one system to another, or if necessary,



from one language to another. These are areas where we could develop a Program of Scale if we can first identify the right basis.

Special Needs Education

We continued to give moral support to the **Supporting Adolescents with Autism** project, started as a partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Colombo Reconnections District 3220 and Brisbane (Australia) District 9620. The project targets the stresses that build up in families where there are children with special needs, often resulting in violence within the family. Building on the success of the initial project in Colombo, the project is now reaching out to other cities and Rotary clubs in the Subcontinent. If you or your Club would like to support this program, please contact us in the first instance. This is a very cost-effective program, and contributions as low as USD 100 can make a big difference to the lives of the families who are given the training. Repeat and continuing annual donations of small sums would be especially welcome as the program grows. As this is a worldwide issue, we believe it has the potential to grow into a Signature Project.

Please contact us at ragfamsafe@gmail.com if you would like to be kept informed.

3 Trauma Recovery – Healing the Hurt - our Signature Project

During the year our initiative known as Healing the Hurt slowly expanded Trauma Training of mental health specialists in regional areas of Australia. Continuing waves of Covid 19 inhibited the ability of the training teams to travel, of trainees to assemble and of trainers to gather the people together for in-person training, as required.

Nevertheless two trainings were held in the second half of the year, with 38 therapists given their initial training. We have been able to schedule the remaining trainings for 2022-3 so barring interruptions we will have nearly completed these projects by the time of our next annual report. We are also looking at ways to cope with the bottleneck caused by the small number of accredited trainers in this specialised area, leading to a genuine Humanitarian Assistance Program for the continent.

Sadly there is no shortage of new natural disasters, especially in the rural, remote and regional areas where we intend to keep building up the capacity of local specialists to treat trauma. Training scheduled for 2022-3 will take this program into southern New South Wales.



New Partnerships for broader engagement

During the year we signed MoUs with the Australian Bravery Association and with the Australian Tennis Foundation. Both these organisations aim to improve the lives of young people, and we have offered our help in arranging trauma treatment for the first and a major, repeatable fundraising event with the second.

4 Member Engagement

We are always on the lookout for involving more Members in the administration and development of the RAG. And we know that we are only reporting on a few of the activities our members undertake each year while pursuing our mission. Please do let us know during the year when you have the end of a project to celebrate, so we can share your achievements with other members. We could still do with help in our media and member administration, as well as an assistant Treasurer. Please put your hand up if you would like to try one of these roles!

Rotary Partnerships

We believe there are good reasons for us to partner with other RAGs, especially Slavery, Maternal and Child Health and Microcredit, and during the year the RAGs Council was able to bring us together on video calls. If you have useful contacts, please let us know, as well as suggestions for other partners.

We are pleased to be supporting various Clubs in their initiatives and encourage you to contact us to see if we can help you in yours.

5 Organisation and Finance

The progress of the Trauma Recovery Network has helped us to plan more fundraising for that activity and augment our projects budget.

We continue to rely on Donations to cover our basic expenses, so we would appreciate more of you taking up Paid membership, at the modest cost of A\$5 a year.

Our largest country memberships continue to be in Australia and the USA, followed by the Philippines and Nigeria. This year India overtook Canada but both countries increased their members. Membership grew to 699 during the year. We are now represented in 56 countries. We did lose some members who retired or changed emails without notifying us. Please remember to let us know of changes!



6 Board Changes

We were sorry to lose Dr Frank Stechey, who retired from Rotary. He continues to be active as a member, but we miss his participation at Board level. We welcomed Rishy Gudhka as our Treasurer-elect, pending his joining a Rotary Club. His advice has been very pertinent and helpful during the Audit. Finally, after 8 years helping to guide our organisation through the stages of Committee, Incorporated Association and full-fledged Charity, I will be stepping down as Chair and from the Board at the AGM, to allow refreshment and new leadership. Your remaining experienced Directors will announce their choice of Chair in due course.

Yours in Rotary
Norman Taralrud-Bay
Chair
