



## **Important Message to all Rotarians in District 9810 and 9820**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The Board of Rotary International at its June 2021 meeting resolved that Districts 9810 and 9820 would merge as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, subject to the membership numbers in D9810 being below 1100 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In addition, both Districts were set the task of considering this resolution and consequently formed a joint Consolidation Committee to formulate a plan to bring this merger to fruition. Following agreement by the Boards of both Districts this plan was submitted to the Board of Rotary International in late November 2021 and gained its approval at their meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**As a consequence, the Boards of D9810 and 9820 met independently yesterday (6th March 2022) and unanimously approved the move to merge Districts 9810 and 9820 as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.**

The new District will include some 2,000+ Rotarians in over 80 Rotary clubs and six Rotaract clubs and will be known as **District 9815**, because the number 9815 is halfway between 9810 and 9820. **D9810** covers the area from the 'Bay to the Hills' in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne from Chelsea to Healesville, while **D9820** serves the Mornington Peninsula and Casey to East Gippsland.

It should be noted that the merging of Districts is not an unfamiliar process in Rotary. Both Districts in WA will merge at the end of this Rotary year and SA is in the first year of merging all its Districts into one entity, while the six Districts in New Zealand are working towards merging into just a North Island and South Island body.

Both Districts of 9810 and 9820 are already working together on programs such as the recently held Multi District President Elect Training Seminar and the forthcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). In addition, the DG's, DGE's and DGN's of both Districts are in regular contact with each other via the medium of the monthly Zone 8 meetings of their respective cohorts.

It can be noted that as at 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the membership figures for D 9810 stood at **1018**, some 82 people below the RI cut-off figure of 1100. To date in this Rotary year, D9810 has experienced a net loss of just 9 members, having lost 63 members but also gaining 47 new Rotarians. The corresponding figures for D9820 are **1100** members at end of February, right on the cut-off figure. D9820 has suffered a net loss of 31 members so far this year with 12 Rotarians being Called to Higher Service.

### **What does it mean for Rotarians in the new D 9815?**

- District boundaries will change and now include all clubs from both Districts
- There will be different leadership opportunities at all levels of Rotary
- All programs in Areas of Service will combine as is already happening with RYLA
- The structure of clusters or groups will change and include more clubs
- District fees should remain stable
- Opportunities for sharing of projects will greatly increase
- Day to day club operations and projects can continue as usual

**Dr Daryl Moran - District Governor**

Ph: 0404 069 751

DarylMoran@rotary.org.au

Web [www.dg9810for2021-22.org](http://www.dg9810for2021-22.org)



### **Is there a process for managing the change to become D9815?**

A Transition Management Team can now be established and using the Consolidation Plan already agreed to by both District Boards, can begin to set up opportunities for Rotarians to be active in various district roles, committees, projects, and programs. This will provide a chance to share ideas and work with their counterpart(s) in the other current district to develop these activities for D9815.

### **The Next Big Decision**

Just one District Governor will be appointed for D9815 and nominations for the 2024 – 25 DG will be called for in the next few days. That person will be assisted by a Team of Service Chairs and Area Governors who will work closely with clubs.

### **Where to from here?**

- Please direct any questions you might have about this merger to a member of your District's G Train in the form of either the DG, DGE or DGN.
- Stay tuned for the call for applications for the D9815 DG for 2024-25.
- Be prepared to serve and assist on any joint Transition Teams to ensure that all is in place for the launch of our new District 9815 on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
- Keep Serving to Change Lives.

**Dr Daryl Moran**  
**DG 9810**

**Bill Degnan**  
**DG 9820**

**Dr Daryl Moran - District Governor**

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