

Conference Speakers



Craig Lapsley Victoria's inaugural Emergency Management Commissioner.

He began his career as a Junior with Bendigo Fire Brigade whilst his father Vince was the Bendigo Fire Brigade's OIC before moving to the Brigade's Volunteer ranks then into his career with CFA Operational staff. Craig was appointed as Victoria's first and only Fire Services Commissioner in 2010 before taking up his present appointment in July 2014.



Dr Robert Webster OAM is President of the Victorian Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, having been an executive since 1989, and Director of Vasey RSL Care since 2004.

He received the Medal of the Order of Australia, in the Australia Day 2017 Awards, for service to veterans and their families and to the community of Victoria.



Priscilla Rogers PhD is currently Vice President at Wintermute Biomedical, a US biopharmaceutical company developing a next-generation antibiotic to combat antimicrobial resistance. Prior to this she was leading the Cognitive Health & Life Sciences portfolio at IBM Research - Australia and co-owner of a medical device company. From a single parent home Yarrowonga, this former Rotary Exchange Student says that the Yarrowonga-Mulwala Rotary Club and District 9790 not just shaped her career, but also prepared her for life's adventures.



Professor Nicola Lautenschlauger has been Professor in Old Age Psychiatry and Deputy Head of School at the University of Western Australia, and the University of Melbourne's Professor of Old Age Psychiatry. She is currently the Director of Research for the North Western Mental Health, Aged Persons Mental Health Program where her current research focus is diagnosis of cognitive impairment and intervention trials for older adults to improve mental health outcomes.



Ron Iddles is a former Australian police detective. His conviction rate was 99% and he was dubbed "Australia's greatest detective". After a career spanning some 43 years investigating serious crime, he took up the role of Secretary of the Police Association of Victoria between 2014 and 2016. In 2017 he was lured out of retirement and is now Victoria's inaugural Community Safety Trustee.



Kristin Graham is the Australian Rotary Health Foundation's inaugural ANZAC PhD Scholar at the Centre for Traumatic Studies, University of Adelaide. She has studied the relationship between war-related trauma exposure and the development and progression of physical and mental health of military personnel, to identify risk and protective factors that may affect symptoms of illness and resilience.



Sam Bailey is a quadriplegic who has conquered his disability to become a successful farmer, ultralight pilot, best-selling author and role model for children. He wants to become the first quadriplegic in the world to fly a helicopter and use it to inspire children to follow their dreams no matter what obstacles they encounter.



Bruce Anderson (PhD) is a graduate University of Melbourne and the University of Miami in Florida. Bruce's research focused on the family of Polioviruses. Within Rotary, Bruce is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Strathmore, a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Paul Harris Society, a member of the District 9790 Foundation Committee and Chair of the District 9790 International Service Committee.



Bruce Allen is Manager of The Rotary Foundation South Pacific & Philippines Office in Parramatta. A Rotarian since 1979, Bruce carries a high level of Rotary experience. Past District Governor, district 9680, Bruce is a member of the Rotary Club of Castle Hill, holding the position of Club Treasurer.



Kate Austin, founder of Pinchapoo, is proudly responsible for creating a cheeky hotel toiletry 'pinching' movement eight years ago... and has redistributed more than 1 MILLION personal hygiene products to thousands of disadvantaged men, women and children around Australia.



Greg Champion is an Australian songwriter, guitarist, radio personality and athlete. Born in Benalla, Victoria, Champion is most recognised for his work as part of the Coodabeen Champions as a songwriter and guitarist.