

# Proposal to the Board of The Rotary Club of Glenferrie

**February 2024: Rotary International Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month**

**PROPOSED: ‘That the Rotary Club of Glenferrie form a Peacebuilding Committee under the leadership of the club Foundation Director to formally apply to Rotary Action Group for Peace to become a Rotary Peacebuilder Club and drive a Peace focused agenda for the club.’**



**“It is true that the way to war is a well-paved highway and that the way to peace is still a wilderness....”**

– Rotary Founder Paul Harris, 1945

## Background

The Promotion of Peace is the No.1 *Area of Focus* of The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International. Rotary District 9800 has been a strong supporter of this area of focus and has sponsored a Rotary Peace Scholar every year since the inception of the Peace Scholar program. The very first D9800 sponsored Rotary Peace Scholar was Dr Tania Miletic, who was guest speaker at our club meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2023. Dr Miletic is now Assistant Director, Peacebuilding Initiative Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne.

The first club in D9800 to become a Peacebuilder Club was the Rotary e-Club of Melbourne.

The Rotarian who leads the Peacebuilder Program for District 9800 is Gabe Hau, of the Rotary e-Club of Melbourne.

## What is a Peacebuilder club?

From the District 9800 website: “Peacebuilder Clubs commit to engage in dialogues and projects that promote positive peace both in their communities and across the globe.”

Most Rotary projects, aimed at improving the quality of life for people within our community and internationally, qualify as ‘promoting Peace’.

Peacebuilder clubs actively promote peace internationally, in our local community and in our personal lives.

“Peacebuilder clubs play a vital role in sparking passion and a direction for peace within their own Rotary clubs, districts and communities. We encourage every club to take action, become a Peacebuilder club, and contribute to creating a more peaceful world.”

*Rotary Action Group for Peace*

To be a Peacebuilder club, a club must:

- Form a Peacebuilding Committee with at least two club members.
  - a. Committee Members are encouraged to:
    - i. Help build momentum and impact of peacebuilding in Rotary by joining and/or supporting the Rotarian Action Group For Peace.
    - ii. Complete online training in the 8 Pillars of Positive Peace available through The Rotary Positive Peace Academy (<http://rotarypositivepeace.org>) and become familiar with other resources available on the Rotarian Action Group For Peace (RAGFP) website.
    - iii. Have at least one committee members serve on the District Peacebuilding Committee.
  - b. Educate and empower Rotarians, Interactors, Rotaractors, and others in your area regarding peacebuilding principles and strategies and individual opportunities and responsibilities for peacebuilding (See attachments)
  - c. Sponsor at least one Peace related project a year (D9800 has some great suggestions here)
  - d. Supporting Rotary Peace Centres: identifying Peace Scholars, raise funds to support Rotary Peace Centres,

**For More Information:** [RAGFP Peacebuilder Club Requirements](#)

## Why Become a Peacebuilder Club?

1. It will more closely align the club with the No.1 Area of Focus for The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International, i.e. Promoting Peace
2. It will focus the attention of the club on Promoting Peace and stimulate the creation of projects aimed at promoting Peace.
3. It aligns the club more closely with the D9800 initiative – D9800 is a Peacebuilder District
4. It will raise the profile of the club in the District.
5. It will broaden the network of contacts for the club, both within Rotary and in the wider world
6. It will give members yet another reason to be proud of their club and its achievements.

## Steps to Becoming a Peace Builder Club

1. Form a club Peacebuilding Committee of at least two members
2. Have Peacebuilding Committee members join the *Rotary Action Group for Peace* (cost US\$20 per year)
3. Lodge an application with the *Rotary Action Group for Peace* to be accepted as a Peacebuilder Club.
4. The club Peacebuilding Committee prepare for the consideration of the club board a list of proposed club commitments to Peace projects and other avenues of support for Peace
  - a. Education of club members
  - b. Engagement with our local community
  - c. Financial contribution to Rotary Peace Centres.

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## Proposal

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## References

[RAGFP Peacebuilder Club 2023.2024](#)

[Rotary Action Group for Peace Website](#)

[District 9800: Rotary Peacebuilding clubs in action](#)

[Learn more about Rotary Peacebuilder Clubs](#)

[Organising an active Rotary Peacebuilding Club](#)

[Peacebuilder Club Application Form](#)



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## APPENDIX: RAGFP GUIDELINES

### **ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR PEACE PEACEBUILDER CLUBS**

#### **Why Should we Become a Peacebuilder Club?**

- You have a peace project which you want to share/receive support from others
- You want to broaden your circle of contacts outside of your Club and District
- You have an interest/passion in promoting peace
- You want to learn more about the multiple facets of peace and the difference between positive and negative peace
- You want to put on a peace conference or peace event
- You want to join up with others both locally and globally who share your interest/passion for peace.

#### **What other benefits could result from being a RAGFP Peacebuilder Club?**

- With several Peacebuilder Clubs in a District this would enable a Peace Committee to be formed with a District Peace Officer (subject to the authorisation from the District Governor).
- With several Peacebuilder Clubs, whether in District or elsewhere, it would enable the sharing and implementation of a project together
- With several Peacebuilder Clubs, whether in District or elsewhere, it would enable the sharing of District Funding and sharing in a Global Grant.

- You will receive the monthly RAGFP Newsletter and other communications
- You will have the opportunity to attend the bi-monthly global zoom meeting of RAGFP Peacebuilder Clubs
- You will have access to the various online programmes produced by the RAGFP i.e. Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Non Violent Communication, Peace Education and Action For Impact, Domestic Abuse, the Inner and Outward Mindset.

## **What does it take to become a RAGFP Peacebuilder Club?**

First ensure that you Club has a designated Team/Committee for Peace (just like Foundation, Membership, Youth etc.)

Have at least two Club members on that Peace Team/Committee

Have the two members be or become members of the Rotary Action Group for Peace (annual cost 20US\$ per member) <https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>

Read the Primer and the Peacebuilder Club Standards (on the RAGFP website)

Fill out the application form and submit [RAGFP Peacebuilder Club Requirements](#)

The Peacebuilder Club Certificate will be sent to you.

Your Peacebuilding Team/Committee will receive communications from the RAGFP

Your peacebuilding Team/Committee can begin educating themselves more in the area of Positive Peace (go to the RI Peace Academy), attend other peace events i.e. conferences, workshops, seminars etc

Share that information with the Club and help the Club see the elements of peace which it is already doing in the projects which they currently undertake.

Be instrumental in identifying possible Peace Fellows and possible Global Grants and think about how much more your Club could do in the area of peace in their community and further afield. Be intentional in identification of peace projects.

## **What Kind of Projects do Peacebuilder Clubs do?**

- Plan to purchase, plant, and/or dedicate a Peace Pole in your community, at schools, parks, libraries, city locations etc.
- Put peace benches in schools/communities
- Create peace gardens
- Persuade your local library to have a section dedicated to books on peace, both for adults and children
- Create and put on competitions for children/youth on peace i.e. painting, video, poetry etc.
- Prepare to have a community event focusing on the UN International Day of Peace on 21<sup>st</sup> September each year
- Collaborate and build relationships with local community organisations

- Find ways to welcome persons seeking sanctuary i.e. help with English, creche/coffee mornings, provision of clothing, invite them to volunteer on projects with you i.e. beach cleans, street cleans, gardening in care homes/schools etc.

### **What shall I do for myself in order to be Intentional about peace?**

- Breathe
- Visualise your happy place, those you love, and those who love you
- Be kind to yourself
- Forgive those who have angered you and eliminate those negative feelings
- Forgive yourself, you cannot change your past, but you can change your future
- Develop gratitude, take time to be grateful for the good in your life.
- Release anxiety, stress is self-induced, stop worrying about things unlikely to happen
- Take care of yourself and your physical needs. If you do not, you cannot take care of anyone else
- Find peace in the service of others
- Accept who you are and where you are