

## World Leader of Rotary to visit Murray Bridge

ROTARY International President Ian Riseley will visit Murray Bridge and plant a tree this weekend in his only South Australian public appearance this weekend.

The itinerary for the leader of the world's 35,000 Rotary clubs will begin at 3pm Saturday 10 March with a ceremonial tree planting in the Adelaide Road Linear Park adjacent to the Maurice Road limestone wall.

The President will then attend a forum and gala reception in the Murray Bridge Town Hall - the program will include an inspection of the latest World War I photographic exhibition in the Regional Gallery, prior to Mr Riseley departing for Adelaide at 5.30pm to catch an early flight on Sunday morning.

Rural City of Murray Bridge Deputy Mayor, Theo Weinmann said the opportunity to meet the world leader of such a prestigious organisation would be an honour.

"Rotary International has a proud history in Murray Bridge and throughout the world," he said.

"This organisation works tirelessly for the benefit of others in the community and we are honoured to host a visit from Mr Riseley during his only South Australian stop over during this trip and showcase some of the beauty to be found in our region."

The Rotary Clubs of South Australia particularly appreciate the assistance provided by the Rural City of Murray Bridge to enable this brief visit to the State by World President, Ian Riseley.

With a membership totalling 1.2 million people, Rotary International is one of the most significant providers of assistance and aid to communities across the globe.

Rotary International's ethos of "*Making a Difference*" will form the focus of the World President's Murray Bridge visit.

Similar to many other service clubs around the world, Rotary was initially formed to serve the growing humanitarian and social needs of local and international communities.

In the 113 years since it was first set up, Rotary has evolved from being a business focused white male-only service club, to being one of most culturally diverse multi-gender community aid organisations.

In addition to its multitude of emergency aid initiatives, the key long term project of Rotary International has been the eradication of Polio from every country in the world.

This has proved to be a genuine challenge to the organisation, due to the numerous zones of conflict and unco-operative governments in some parts of the world.

Despite these political and cultural barriers, Rotary and other allied aid organisations are gradually winning the effort to eradicate Polio across the globe.

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