

District Conference 2012 – Speakers’ Profiles

Michael Costello.

Michael is the CEO of ActewAGL and is a member of the Advisory Council of the Australian National University's Crawford School of Economics and Government.

ActewAGL and Better Place recently signed a landmark deal for the supply of renewable energy to Better Place’s electric car charging network in Canberra.

Ramesh Ferris

After he contracted polio at age six months, and his legs were left paralyzed for life, Ramesh was adopted by a Canadian family.

Since 2001, graduating with his diploma in Social Work from Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario he has been active in youth work, recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by his Rotary Club of Whitehorse Rendezvous.

In 2008, Ramesh hand-cycled 7140 kms across Canada, determined to raise money in order to make a difference in the lives of polio survivors and to prevent polio from claiming new victims.

Prof Ian Hickie

Sponsored by Australian Rotary Health, Professor Hickie can be heard on Saturday morning. Executive Director of the Brain & Mind Research Institute, Professor of Psychiatry University of Sydney, and a NHMRC Australia Medical Research Fellow, Professor Hickie is often interviewed for press, radio and TV when an expert opinion is required. Brain & mind Sciences is one of the most fascinating areas of medical research. At its centre is improving our understanding of the nature of our most human experiences – emotion, affection, cognition and social relationships.

Jenny Horton

Jenny has been a front-line Polio Fighter since 2000. A highly experienced nurse as well as being a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Kenmore in Queensland, Jenny has volunteered her nursing skills throughout the developing world to put an end to Polio. Jenny has presented to UN conferences and is highly respected for her knowledge of the front-line factors influencing the rate of immunization in the few remaining countries where Polio still has a foothold.

Jenny has been recognised by Rotary International for her amazing work, being presented with multiple Paul Harris Fellowships, the Service award for a Polio free World, the Service Above Self award and the citation for Meritorious Service.

Chris Joscelyne

Chris is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He has served as the Australian spokesman at the Global e-Business Forum at the United Nations in Geneva, and as the leader of the Australian industry delegation in bilateral talks with the United States on protection of the National Information Infrastructure. He has also served on the IT security certification advisory board of the Defence Signals Directorate in Canberra.

Chris is a prominent guest speaker and MC in Australia and overseas and has been the MC at the last two Australian Rotary Institutes.

Michael McQueen

Michael is recognised internationally as a leading authority in youth trends and strategies for engaging with Gen Y and bridging the generation gap, Michael is sought after internationally as a conference keynote presenter in addition to his work in the government and education sectors. Last year Michael was a plenary speaker at the 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans. Michael is a member of the Rotary Club of Crows Nest.

Ilyasi Siraji

Ilyasi was born in war torn Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire. During the Congolese conflict he and his siblings became refugees and escaped to a refugee camp in Uganda from where he was granted a humanitarian visa and came to Adelaide in 2007.

He is now studying to be a teacher and is a charter member of the Rotaract Club for Global Peace in Adelaide. He has participated in RYLA, is a RYLA team leader and attended International RYLA as an Australian representative at Montreal convention.

Ilyasi is a powerful speaker with an amazing story of perseverance and challenge.

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