

BOOKS FOR BABIES ...

A very simple national Rotary program launched in 2011 to help raise Rotary's profile in a club's local community.

Rotary clubs visit the maternity section of their local hospital during Literacy Month. Each baby is presented with a copy of Mem Fox's **Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes**—approved by Rotary International because this appealing book, with its delightful images by Helen Oxenbury, carries a message which echoes Rotary's ethos of no discrimination on the grounds of gender, colour or religion.

Introduced in 2016 to Rotary Adelaide West (now **Adelaide Central**), the club adopted the idea of "Let's celebrate Rotary's birthday with a gift of this special book to a new-born baby." Since then, the club has presented nearly 1,000 copies and has built a strong relationship with the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital—as far as possible on or near 23 February. A special bond has been forged with the Neonatal Intensive Care and Special Care Baby Units, where parents are encouraged to read aloud to their tiny infants. Other projects have developed from the association.

The annual budget for the Books and other projects is approximately \$1,000. It is a ready-made, very affordable, extremely popular, feel-good project. The book is available from Penguin Random House at a very generous discount at \$6.75 per copy.

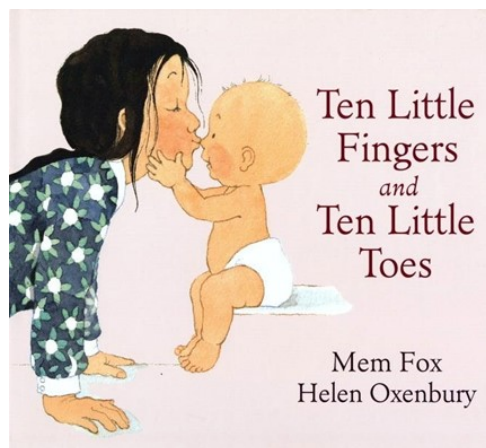
Each book has a stick-on label with a message from the club and highlights Rotary's birthday and Literacy as a major area of Rotary focus. With our multi-cultural society, many babies born today will be first-generation Australians whose parents' first language will not be English.



Mem Fox is an enthusiastic supporter of this special Rotary program. *"I am thrilled to endorse the excellent work of Rotary, in particular their read-to-your-baby birthday program. Reading aloud and sharing the magic world of books brings great joy, laughter and peace to everyone involved. And literacy follows—as night does day. Well done, Rotary."*

A great project especially for country clubs, contact Rotary Adelaide Central Club Secretary, Glenda Sherwin-Lane, who is happy to share

further information to get you started; however, it will be each club's responsibility to undertake their own project. Contact Glenda at international@rotaryadelaidecentral.org.au. ■



Salmana Heart Foundation Hospital

A hospital project of a different kind ...

Members, family and friends of Rotary Adelaide Central will very soon say farewell to a 40 foot container, filled with hospital equipment and medical supplies. It is bound for Salmana Heart Foundation Hospital, a 30-bed hospital in Tumbu/Tombo, Sierra Leone. (The name depends upon which map you're using.)

Click on this link to [read about the club's project itself](#) and follow the other links therein. Meet [Ibrahim Barrie](#), one of our newest members, and learn how the Salmana Heart Foundation Hospital grew out of the joy and tragedy of his and his partner's daughter, Salmana.

Through their dedication over more than nine years, the building of the first level of the hospital (funded by themselves and a good construction friend in Freetown) is nearing completion. Some one hour, twenty minutes from Freetown, it will provide the only access to medical facilities in the immediate area. The journey included building a bridge and a community hall in Tumbu, and

contending with Ebola and COVID-19, during which Ibrahim lost many friends.

The Salmana Heart Foundation has received NGO status in Sierra Leone. Thanks to the hospital, electricity has come to the village and along with that, the opportunity for the villagers to prosper.

Rotary Adelaide Central thanks the many people who assisted with shipping the container for the hospital. ■



IPP Bill Marles & President Eileen Fagioli showing off our Rotary Branding