



100 Peace Poles – 100 Years

Celebrating the Centenary of Rotary in South Australia



A Century of Service Since 1924

100 PEACE POLES ~ 100 YEARS OF ROTARY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Peace Pole program had its beginnings in 1955. You can now find Peace Poles in close to 200 countries with over 250,000 placed around the world. They are one of the most recognised monuments dedicated to peace on earth.

Peace Poles are set into the earth, with the Universal Peace Message 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' written on each side in four languages. They symbolise our common wish for a world at peace. They stand as a silent vigil, reminding us to think and act in the spirit of peace.

Rotary Clubs across South Australia are inviting schools, preschools and children's centres to help spread the message of peace by placing a Peace Pole at their site. Peace Poles are donated by Rotary clubs. The Peace Pole project is one of several initiatives developed to recognise the 100 years of Rotary in South Australia during 2023 and 2024.

WHO IS ROTARY?

[Rotary](#) is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

100 WORLD PEACE DAY CEREMONIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Once the Peace Pole is installed then you are invited to participate in a Peace Pole ceremony. We suggest a short ceremony at the Peace Pole where your sponsoring Rotary Club could send members to deliver a peace message to the children, students and the community. In addition, the Universal message

'May Peace Prevail on Earth' could be recited in each of the four languages selected to go on the Peace Pole.

See page 5 for an example of a Peace Pole ceremony for schools.

The words of the Chinese Philosopher Laozi could be recited and are included below.

Words of Laozi

If there is to be Peace in the world,
there must be Peace between nations.
If there is to be Peace between nations
there must be Peace between cities.
If there must be Peace between cities,
there must be Peace between neighbours.
If there must be Peace between neighbours,
there must be Peace in the home.
If there must be Peace in the home,
there must be Peace in the heart.

Yearly ceremony at the Peace Pole

Each year the United Nations [International Day of Peace](#) is observed around the world on 21 September. A special message is made available by the United Nations Secretary-General leading up this day of observance. A Rotary member could be invited to recite this peace message at the Peace Pole each year.



JOIN THE PEACE ROUTE

By joining the Rotary Adelaide and Rotary South Australia Centenary Peace Pole project you will automatically become part of a planned larger peace pole trail, commencing in the Adelaide city centre and extending out to all other Rotary Peace Pole locations across the state.

COST

Sponsorship of the Peace Poles by local Rotary clubs or individuals means there will be minimal or no cost for schools, preschools or children's centres.

The Peace Poles are provided complete with the words *May Peace Prevail on Earth* inscribed in 4 different languages, 1 being English. Each pole will be numbered 1 to 100 and will include a plaque with the name of the sponsoring Rotary Club or individual and a Peace Pole information panel.



The 4 languages chosen for the pole are often based on the languages taught at the school, the local Aboriginal language or focussed on the historical or current conflict regions of the world.

The poles are 90x90mm x 2400mm in length and are made of either 95% recycled PVC or hollow aluminium. The recycled PVC poles are recommended for schools and look great. The poles are set into the ground with concrete.

Extra peace poles can be ordered and are around \$300.

ORDERING

To order your peace pole(s) or to make an enquiry please email Heidi at secretary@adelaiderotary.com.au

When ordering your Peace Pole please include the 4 languages you would like on your pole, 1 being English. We aim to have your Peace Pole delivered within 2 weeks from order.

CREATING A PEACEFUL PLACE

We suggest you place your Peace Pole in an area that provides an opportunity for children, students and your community to reflect and feel at peace. You may like to plant a tree such as a native tree with shade, and add seating close by, like a bench or large rock.

You could add a QR code to the pole, which when scanned, will take observers to examples of how schools and young people are promoting peace. It could also link to a Rotary website where you can learn about the many humanitarian and peace projects being done across the state and the world.

Observers will realise how citizens young and old are actively promoting peace within their communities.

BENEFITS

The Peace Pole can be used to promote learning. It can play a crucial role in furthering children and young people's understanding of peace.

The Peace Pole can be used to spark discussion about what peace is. It can help students to express empathy and demonstrate respect for others. It helps students learn to develop ethical understanding and to develop personal and social capabilities as they learn to understand themselves and others more effectively.

By partnering with Rotary, you work with people who help solve some of the world's most complex and pressing problems. This takes real commitment and vision. Rotary members believe that we share a responsibility to take action to improve our communities. Together, we can make an even bigger impact.

OTHER RESOURCES



Rotary Clubs across South Australia have additional resources to help understand and build peace.

Please contact us for further details at secretary@adelaiderotary.com.au

Peace Pole Ceremony - “May Peace Prevail on Earth”

Suggested for schools

Welcome MC

We are gathering today to reaffirm our commitment to Peace locally and globally and especially in our relationship with each other and in our community.

Acknowledgement of Country by student

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have walked this land, on their own country as custodians to their earth mother.

Their unbroken relationship with the land and sea was and remains to be at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the ----- people, those of the past, the present and the future, and, with gratitude and respect, we recognize their continued relationship, custodianship and their bond of this land and sea throughout the ages.

Opening comments

Peace Pole Info/ History MC

We will share some Peace Pole information and history.

To mark the Centenary of the Rotary Club of Adelaide and Rotary in South Australia, we have set a goal to spread the message of peace with 100 Peace Poles donated to 100 schools and organisations. This goal has been achieved through collaboration with schools, organisations, businesses and Rotary clubs around South Australia.

Student 1

The Peace Pole program which had its beginnings after the Second World War in 1955, was developed by the World Peace Prayer Society Founder, Masahisa Goi. Now, more than 250,000 Peace Poles stand in approximately 200 countries around the globe, symbolizing the common wish for a world at peace.

Student 2

Peace Poles are marked with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in at least four languages, standing in silent vigil for peace and acting as a reminder for all to think and act in the spirit of peace.

Student 3

This Peace Pole stands as a constant reminder of the need for peace. Each year we hope that the school will continue to hold this annual ceremony at our Peace Pole. In doing so we join with Rotary and other peace pole schools as messengers of Peace to all of Australia.

Reflection

Student 4: If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace between nations.

Student 5: If there is to be peace between nations, there must be peace in the cities.

Student 6: If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours.

Student 7: If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home.

Student 8: If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart

Student 9: These words were written by the Chinese philosopher Laozi over 2500 years ago. Laozi teaches that we should live a simple life that is filled with goodness and integrity. Even though he wrote this message thousands of years ago it is one that is very important and still valid for all of us today. These words were also used by the Rotary International President Herb Brown in 1995/1996 as part of his theme of Peace for his presidential year.

Message for the International Day of Peace Ceremony from the Secretary General of the United Nations read by Rotary member

A Rotary Club member could be invited to read the peace message. This message is made available by the United Nations each year leading up to the International Day of Peace which is held on 21 September each year.

The Peace Pole Message “May Peace Prevail on Earth”

Four students each read one side of the Peace Pole, to be read in language as displayed on the Peace Pole

Student 11 Side One Language English

Student 12 Side Two Language

Student 13 Side Three Language

Student 14 Side Four Language

National Anthem

All sing the National Anthem to conclude the Peace Pole ceremony.

MC

Thank you for participating in our ceremony today and a special thanks to <add names>

We are called to remember to always act from a place of Peace and Kindness.

May peace prevail on earth



Contact - Rotary Club of Adelaide

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<https://www.adelaiderotary.com.au>