

WWS15

IT ALL STARTS WITH WASH 

Friday, May 26, 2023
Melbourne, Australia

WORLD WATER SUMMIT 15



WASH-RAG gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors:



Agenda

7:00-8:30 AM Registration / Coffee / Networking *hosted by SATO*

8:30-9:40 Plenary 1

Moderator: **Julia Phelps**, Chair, WWS#15

- Welcome & Introductions of Special Guests
- Introductory Minute - UNICEF
- Introduction of Plenary Speaker by **Maggie Close**, UNICEF

Plenary Speaker: **Ann Thomas**, Senior Advisor, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF

9:40-10:10 Break / Networking *hosted by AquaTabs*

10:10-11:45 Breakout Sessions

TRACK #1:

WASH, Hygiene, & MHMRAG - BIG change, Small Actions. The Power of Engaging Community to Take on Taboo.

Moderator: **Celeste Mergens** Founder of Days for Girls

Panelists: **Anita Byegon Chero** (Kenya)
Sharmila Nagarajan (London/Malaysia)
Ines Murua (Argentina)
Mary Connelly Gale (Australia)

TRACK #2

"A Healthcare Facility without WASH is NOT a Healthcare Facility." Learn how healthcare issues, such as infection control and disease management drive priorities for sustainable WASH in hospitals, clinics, and maternity wards. While basic water and sanitation are always important, hygiene may have a bigger impact on health outcomes. And sustainable WASH requires a shift in focus from infrastructure and hardware to capacity building, training, performance measures, monitoring, and feedback.

Moderator: **Ron Denham** WASH-RAG Director

Panelists: **Dr. John Philip**, Chair, Int'l Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals
Mildred V. Vitangcol, DG D3830
Brian Gower, Rotarian, World Vision

TRACK #3

WASH in Schools projects fail too often because of the limited focus on either one-time hardware or software components. Join this session to learn how to make WASH in Schools projects more sustainable and successful in the long run by laying equal emphasis on both hardware and software components, stakeholders training, hygiene education, operations, maintenance, and capacity building as applied in some successful WinS projects in India, Kenya, and Central America

Moderator: **Ramesh Aggarwal**

Panelists: **Geeta Manek** Trustee, Rotary Foundation
Mark Balla Rotarian
Erin McCusker, Senior Vice President and Leader, SATO and LIXIL Public Partners

11:45-1:00 Lunch / Meet our Sponsors

1:00-2:00 Plenary #2

Moderator: **Neil Van Dine**, Chair, WASH-RAG

Introductory Minute - **Business Connect**

Introduction Speaker by **Luke Pinneo**, Business Connect

Plenary #2 Speaker: **Barry Rassin**, Past RI President & TRF Chair-elect
Rotary Overcomes All Challenges to Make Transformational Change

Introductory Minute - AquaTabs, Kate Devereux

2:00-2:30 Break / Networking hosted by UNICEF

2:30-3:55 Breakout Sessions

TRACK #4:

WASH and Community Development - how various water projects around the world (Australia, India and Honduras) involved the people in the communities that would ultimately benefit from the project right from the start. It will focus on setting realistic goals, determining accountability for the work that needs to be done, plus training for the community and how to utilize the improvements gained with the new water or sanitation facilities

Moderator: **Bonnie Sirower**, Rotary Club of Fair Lawn Sunrise

Panelists: **Brian Ashworth**, Rotary Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hill

Ruth Carlos Martinez, Rotary Club of Melbourne

Madhumita Bishnu, Rotary E-Club of Melbourne

TRACK #5:

CADRES as a resource for Project and Global Grant Planning - This breakout answers the questions we all have regarding the Cadre. Why should we include a Cadre member in Global Grant planning/implementation? What do they do? How do we contact one?

Moderator: **Wade Nomura**,

Panelists: **Lauren Sterenberg**, TRF Cadre Stewardship Supervisor

Carolyn Johnson, Cadre Vice-Chair

Patrick Coleman, Cadre Technical Advisor

4:05-5:00 Closing Plenary

Moderator: **Julia Phelps**

Introductory Minute - **SATO**

Introduction of Plenary Speaker by **Kate Devereux**, Aqua Tabs

Speaker: **Mark Balla**, Rotarian & Author - *A Journey to the Toilet*

5:00-6:00 Reception

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Keynote Speakers

Ann Thomas is Senior Advisor, Sanitation and Hygiene at UNICEF. She is an environmental engineer with over two decades of development experience, within the UN system and aid organizations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Her passion is driving strategic policy decisions in the WASH sector – an often-overlooked investment-multiplier in emerging economies – that translate directly to improved health and economic development outcomes. Ann has served as advisor to national governments across Africa and Asia, aligning national strategies for water and sanitation with global best practice, climate change considerations, and innovative financing opportunities.

Ann's work is motivated by front line experiences in disasters and cholera outbreaks, witnessing the disproportionate vulnerability of populations without access to basic WASH services. Having worked in

Barry Rassin is a director and former president of Doctors Hospital Health System in Nassau, Bahamas, where he retired after a 38-year career. He was the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in the Bahamas and was honored with the National Award of Health Hero by the Bahamas Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization.

A Rotarian since 1980, Rassin served as RI president in 2018-19, when he advocated for closer partnership between Rotary and Rotaract clubs and presented the measure that broadened the definition of membership in Rotary International to include Rotaract clubs at the 2019 Council on Legislation. He has served RI in many other capacities, including as RI director, Rotary Foundation trustee and vice chair, chair of both the Finance and the Shaping Rotary's Future committees, RI training leader, and seminar trainer. In 2010, Rassin coordinated Rotary's disaster relief efforts in Haiti after a devastating earthquake.

Mark Balla is a member of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central, a former member of the WASH-RAG board and a member of the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors. He joined Rotary ten years ago bringing with him a WASH in Schools Project in the Indian City of Nasik. Since then, his club has been

several of the the world's most disaster-prone nations, recognizing the enormity of the gap between resources and needs, Ann considers partnerships and coalition building as foundational to accelerating progress. Ann has advocated new financing and community engagement models with Islamic financing agencies in Indonesia, resulting in scalable and culturally relevant programs for the poorest, and at the same time has worked with multinationals to innovate and test market solutions to identified gaps. As part of the Government of Indonesia's COVID response, Ann developed protocols which were deployed nation-wide in a variety of settings, to support infection prevention and control, monitoring of behaviors, reopening of schools and continuity of municipal services - while advocating for the centrality of WASH in mitigating further outbreaks.

That included supervising the completion of 105 relief and development projects throughout Haiti that were made possible by the \$6.5 million raised by Rotary members worldwide. He is currently active on the Bahamas Rotary Disaster Relief Committee and working on relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outside of Rotary, Rassin chairs Volunteer Bahamas, a national program to create a culture of volunteerism in the country. He also helped found the Haiti National Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Strategy (HANWASH), a collaborative program to bring potable water and adequate sanitation to all the citizens of Haiti. In 2018, the government of the Bahamas named him as an Officer of the Order of Distinction.

Rassin has received the Service Above Self Award. He and his spouse, Esther, are Rotary Foundation Major Donors, Benefactors, Paul Harris Fellows, and members of the Paul Harris Society.

the international partner in seven global grants in India and Ethiopia with many other district and club funded projects around the world. Among others, Mark's club has partnered with Delhi Ashoka in three major global grants.



Moderators & Presenters



Ramesh Aggarwal is a member of the Rotary Club of Delhi Ashoka, Delhi, India, holds a postgraduate degree in architecture from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has expertise in designing and developing low-cost sustainable infrastructure, including for water and sanitation. He served as 2012-13 governor of District 3010 and as a member of the WASH in Schools Target Challenge Committee and WASH Major Gifts Initiative Committee. Ramesh serves on the Board

of WASHRAG as the Director for three years - 2nd consecutive term ending in 2023. He also serves as a primary contact for global grants for WASH in Schools and other water-related projects. Ramesh has received the Service Above Self Award and is a member of the Arch Klumph Society. A Cadre member since 2019, he has completed six site visits. He currently serves the Cadre Technical Coordinator WASH for a three-year term ending in 2025.



Brian Ashworth has been a Rotarian since 1995 during which time he has been a member of 7 clubs due to moving for work. Prior to retirement Brian Ashworth worked in the UK and Australian water industries as a chartered engineer. He joined Disaster Aid Australia, (a project of the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills) in 2017. Some highlights over the past 5 years Include: DAA being recognised in 2019 as

an example of World's Best Sustainable Practice at the international 'Energy Globe Awards' for its work in the Philippines; Completing a project to provide safe water to 120 Schools in Bhutan; Providing safe water to 10 new communities a year in the Philippines; Assisting partners in; Myanmar, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Timor Leste, Cambodia, India; Continuing to deliver International Aid through the COVID pandemic.



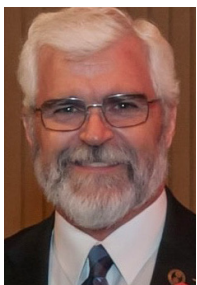
Madhumita Bishnu Past President & Community Service Chair of the E Club of Melbourne, Dist 9800, Australia, Madhumita Bishnu lives in Kolkata, India. She joined Rotary in 1999 in India and changed to E Club of Melbourne in 2013. She is member of several Rotary Fellowships (including the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians, the Birdwatching

Fellowship and the Travel and Hosting Fellowship) as well as several Action groups. Madhu has worked in Global Grants and is a TRF Cadre member for BEL (Basic Education & Literacy). She has been Rotary Volunteer in Bangladesh and Taiwan teaching Communicative English and Cultural Ambassador.



Anita Byegon Chero is an elected member of the County Assembly Bomet County, Kenya where she assists with creating policy and educational opportunities, mother, and entrepreneur. A beloved leader, she runs the Days for Girls Bomet Enterprise and

is an Ambassador of Women's Health, as well as working with 100 Humanitarian in implementing and instructing in sustainable sanitation, educational, and agricultural solutions for her community.



Patrick Coleman has been a Rotarian since 1993. He is married to Sherry Coleman - also a Rotarian since 1995. He is a member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400

He served as District Governor in the 2006-7 Rotary Year. Patrick's professional training is in education. He is a trainer of trainers both in his professional life as well as in Rotary. His passion is to train and prepare people for life skills and empower them to become

leaders in their field of interest. He has been able to do this in Rotary in Club, District and Zone level.

Since then he has served in various areas of responsibility including: Zone 20A South Water and Sanitation Coordinator - 2008-11; Reach Out To Africa Water and Sanitation Coordinator - 2011-14; Assistant Rotary Coordinator - 2012-15; GETS Trainer - Spouses 2012; RRFC 2016-19; GETS Trainer - 2016

Ron Denham is the Chair Emeritus, WASH-RAG, and has been a passionate Rotarian for over sixty years. When RI President Glenn Estess Jr. appointed Ron to the position of General Coordinator of the Water Resources Task Force in 2004, he may not have envisaged just how far this would lead. Building on his engineering expertise and strong consulting skills, coupled with his empathy and compassion for the plight of world's poorest peoples, Ron launched WASRAG – the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group - in 2007. Originally Chair of the group, Ron is now Chair Emeritus and leads the group's Professional Resources Team, advising on all aspects of sustainable WASH projects.

Ron Denham grew up in Yorkshire, England, where his early education included a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, and, amongst other things,

Mary Connelly Gale is the President of Days for Girls Australia and studies Commerce and Communications at Curtin University. A respected global leader, she is passionate about global health and specializes in working with the pacific islands. Her events bring people from far and wide. She is

Brian Gower is Sr. Director for Foundations and Partnerships, World Vision United States. Brian brings nearly 20 years of international development experience in the areas of partnership, strategic planning, leadership development, fundraising, program management, and sustainable community development. He has a long track record of building strong rapport, working across multiple teams and partner organizations to successfully execute high quality, complex, multi-sector projects. Today Brian serves as a Senior Director for Foundations and Partnerships at World Vision US. He is the main point of contact in the 20-year partnership between World Vision and Rotary. Brian is also an active Rotary member with the Rotary Club of

a lifelong love of cricket. He moved to Canada in the mid-fifties. A subsequent MBA and positions in a variety of diverse organizations led him to a long career in the management consulting profession. As a Senior Partner and Vice Chair of KPMG Management Consulting, Ron directed the international consulting practice, playing a major role in development projects in Peru, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Senegal, Cuba, and many other countries.

Ron has served in many positions in Rotary. He is currently a member of the US AID/Rotary Steering Committee overseeing WASH programs in Ghana, Uganda and Madagascar. WASH in Health Care Facilities, an emerging area of desperate need in the developing world, has become a focus for his recent efforts.

married to her best friend Allen. You can find her at the Days for Girls' booth in the Friendship House this week.

Federal Way in District 5030. Brian's prior role was leading the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team in World Vision US, responsible for strategic donor investments, partnerships and reporting for WASH projects and programs around the globe. This portfolio included an unprecedented effort to ensure 20 million people have access to safe water, dignified sanitation, and improved hygiene in 35+ countries by 2020, which was achieved.

Brian holds an M.B.A. in International Development from Hope International University and a B.A. in Theology. He and his wife Holly live just outside of Seattle, WA with their five children and enjoy camping, gardening, and traveling.





Carolyn Johnson is a member of Yarmouth Rotary and served as District Governor for D7780 in 2013-14. She is Vice-Chair of TRF Cadre of Technical Advisors and Chair of the Basic Education & Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG). She is District 7780 Grants Chair.

Carolyn is an educator with many years experience as a teacher, administrator and consultant. She was honored as a Maine Distinguished Educator. Carolyn is the founder of the The Culture of Reading Program (CORP), the early literacy component of the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP). She serves on the Board of Safe Passage, an organization that

provides education programs supporting children and their families living in the neighborhood of the Guatemala City Dump. Both organizations have strong partnerships with Rotary.

Carolyn served as an advisor to the Rotary Foundation's Water Sanitation & Hygiene In Schools (WinS) Program Committee. She has been a member of the screening committee for TRF In 2008, Carolyn was honored to receive Rotary's Service Above Self Award.

Carolyn and her husband, PDG Peter Johnson, live in Yarmouth, Maine, USA.



Geeta Manek graduated from business school in the United Kingdom is a second-generation Kenyan. Geeta joined Rotary in 1997. Geeta served as the District Governor of Rotary District 9200 in 2012-13. After serving in numerous positions at the District and International level, She currently serves as the Trustee of The Rotary Foundation. For her

service in Rotary, Geeta has been honored with the prestigious Service Above Self Award by Rotary International. She and her husband, PDG Kaushik — who also served as the District Governor of Rotary District 9200 in 2008-09 — are Arch Klumph Society members.



Ruth Carlos Martinez is a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, D9800. She has served as International Service Chair (2006-2017), Brighton Beach WASH Coordinator, Southern Region Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), and RAWCS WASH Coordinator since 2011. Ruth has been involved in the implementation of many WASH programs and grants. She has developed, mentored and led a team to implement work programs

overseas towards sustainable economic community development.

Ruth received the Australian Government recognition for valued contribution to developing countries achieve sustainable development and the Philippine Presidential Linkapil Award for leadership and commitment towards sustained projects in clean water and health care.



Erin McCusker is Senior Vice President and Leader, SATO and LIXIL Public Partners at LIXIL. She is responsible for the new LIXIL Public Partners and Hydrific ventures. These new initiatives in LIXIL recognize the need for innovation and new partnerships with consumers, and with the public sector, to solve the water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges to build resiliency and adapt to our

changing world. Mrs. McCusker is also Vice-Chair of the Toilet Board Coalition (TBC), a unique business-led partnership with the ambition to accelerate the Sanitation Economy. She holds a BS, Bioengineering from FW Olin College of Engineering, an MBA from Duke University, and a certificate in Social Sector Leadership.



Celeste Mergens is the Founder of Days for Girls, a global award-winning organization that has reached more than 2.8 million women, girls, and people in 145 countries. Celeste is a Rotarian from District 5050's Pacific Northwest Passport Club. She is a sought-after keynote speaker and often speaks at District Conferences. A consultant, and thought leader and has been featured in Oprah's O Magazine and Forbes. She was awarded the

AARP Purpose Prize, Conscious Company Global Impact Entrepreneur Top Ten Women, 2019 Global Washington Global Hero and Women's Economic Forum's Woman of the Decade.

Her new book, The Power of Days—A Story of Resilience, Dignity, and The Fight for Women's Equity comes out in the fall 2023 and is expected to be a bestseller, raising more awareness around the world.

Ines Murua is a member of San Telmo Constitution in Buenos Aires, Argentina Rotary Club and Treasurer for RAGMHH. A sought-after speaker, her focus is on women in vulnerable communities. She is married to Edgardo and the mother of three and

runs the family accounting firm in Buenos Aires. You can find her at the Rotary Action booth in the House of Friendship this week.



Sharmilla Nagarajan is the Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Menstrual Health and Hygiene with over 500 members. Born and raised in Malaysia before moving to India where she became engaged with Rotary. She has been Rotarian of the Year twice

and currently lives in the United Kingdom where she is President of her Rotary Club and a frequent speaker for many events.



Wade Nomura is the Regional Organizer of Cadres for North America, past Technical Coordinator for Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Community and Economic Development in English and Spanish speaking countries, and on the Long-Term planning committee for Cadres.

Wade has received Rotary International's highest individual award the Service Above Self award and Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and their highest individual award, the Distinguished Service award.

Wade is the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group's (WASHRAG) Operations Chair Elect and Technical Officer. For HANWASH, he is on the Steering Committee and Project Support Committee Chair. Wade is also the Multidistrict PETS Alliance Executive Director.

Wade is a Charter member of the Rotary Club of Carpinteria Morning, and District Governor in 2011-2012. He is also the Multidistrict PETS Alliance Executive Director, a Rotary Rose Parade Float Director and past 2 times chair, District Leadership Training Director, and a Rotary International Presidents Representative.



Dr. John Philip is a retired Surgeon, currently engaged in full time voluntary work mainly through Rotary and also through other organisations.

number under his leadership and is now a cohesive and purposeful organisation with huge potential to do good in the world. They're passionate to help achieve equitable and safe healthcare everywhere, believe that no person should be harmed in health care, and everyone receive safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere.

John has been a Rotarian for over 35 years, and served as District Governor for D1040 during 2008-9.

He has organised several international projects, led teams to India for NIDs and has visited several developed and developing countries.

John chairs the International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals and am involved in several projects. The Fellowship has grown in strength and

John is a member of the Rotary Foundation Cadre member, and served for three years the Coordinator for the Area of Focus - Disease Prevention and Treatment. He leads the Cadre in RGBI, as well as the D1090 Foundation Team.





Julia Phelps Ed.D., Rotary Foundation Trustee (2017-2020) a Rotarian since 1997, and was District Governor of District 7930 in 2007-2008. Julia served as a President's Representative and the Rotary Foundation Alumni Chair (RFAC) for Zone 32. Julia prepared Governors-elect on the Foundation's new grant model at the International Assembly in 2012 and 2013. She served as International Director from 2014-2016 and was a member of the Operations Review Committee. In September 2017, Julia was appointed as a Trustee of our Rotary Foundation and

is currently serving on the Foundation's Stewardship Committee.

Julia is the recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service. Steve McKenzie, her husband, and Julia are Majors Donors and charter members of the Bequest Society. She is also a Paul Harris Society member.

She has retired from the Massachusetts Department of Education where she served as the Associate Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction.



Bonnie Sirower served as District Governor in 2012-13 for Rotary District 7490 in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties, New Jersey. She worked in the non-profit sector as a fundraiser for more than 36 years, raising more than \$50 million for various non-profit groups.

Bonnie is a member of the Fair Lawn Sunrise Rotary Club, closer to home than her previous club in Paterson, NJ. She will be chairing Mid-Northeast Multi-District PETS and will chair that event in 2024.

Bonnie has been honored with both the Rotary Paul

Harris Fellowship Award (x8) and her district's Walter Head fellowship and was awarded Rotary International's Service Above Self award in Spring 2010. In April of 2013, she was named as one of 12 White House Rotary Champions of Change. She is also a member of the RI Foundation Bequest Society.

When Bonnie retired from fundraising six years ago, she became certified as a fitness instructor in Tai Chi, water fitness, and Chair Yoga. She lives in Glen Rock, NJ with her husband of nearly 50 years, Marty, a newly-retired biomedical engineer.



Lauren Sterenberg is the Stewardship Supervisor at The Rotary Foundation responsible for managing the Cadre of Technical Advisers program, a network of Rotary members who work to strengthen the impact of Rotary global grants and projects. Lauren has been with Rotary International since 2013. Prior to working with the Stewardship Department, Lauren was a Regional Grants Officer who managed the review and evaluation of global and district grant applications for projects taking place throughout

Europe and Africa. Growing up, Lauren learned about Rotary early when she participated in a Rotary Youth Exchange in the Czech Republic. Lauren has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a master's in Sustainable Urban Development, and currently resides in Chicago, Illinois with her husband and son.



Neil Van Dine has dedicated 32 years to advancing the development of the country of Haiti, where he has lived since 1989, on the front lines of defining managed water and sanitation in developing countries, with the goal of every household having access to sustainably managed clean water. Past President of the E-club of WASH, Board

Member of the Rotary HANWASH initiative and Board Chair of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG), Neil works with fellow Rotarians on the creation of a set of international tools to permit data-driven decision making and work tracking for Rotary WASH initiatives worldwide.



Dr. Mildred Vitangcol is a medical doctor and District Governor of Rotary District 3830. Mildred has a Master in Hospital Services Administration, and Strategic Business Economics Program at the University of Asia and the Pacific School of Economics. She is Council Adviser, Philippine Cancer Society, 2021 Vice-Chair, Women In Finance and

Chair Person for Junior FINEX, June 2021-June 2023 amongst many other roles. Mildred has served in many positions in Rotary, and is a Major Donor and Paul Harris recipient.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE WORLD WATER SUMMIT #15 PLANNING COMMITTEE:

MICHAEL BROWN

RON DENHAM

NANCY GILBERT

BRIAN HALL

WADE NOMURA

JULIA PHELPS

BONNIE SIROWER

WASH-RAG gratefully acknowledges the support of our NGO sponsors:

HANWASH
Haiti National Clean Water,
Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy

