

### September 2020

#### Meet your LITRAG Board of Directors

Our LITRAG Board is a group of hardworking Rotarians, committed to promoting education and literacy both in our own areas and internationally. The new board members took office July 1, 2020. The Board meets monthly. We are working to create opportunities for more Rotarians and Rotaractors to be involved in LITRAG programs. Please reach out to any board member with your ideas and suggestions of how LITRAG can be more meaningful and supportive to your projects and programs.

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RC Mulund, India

Please join us in thanking LITRAG Board members who have completed their terms: Sylvia Byers, and Chehab Elawar, David Fowler, and Anand Seth. We greatly appreciate their support and involvement with LITRAG and look forward to their continued participation and guidance as Rotarians create and implement quality, sustainable, high impact education and literacy programs.

#### September is Literacy Month!

September is a perfect time to promote how your club is involved Basic Education and Literacy - or to explore how your club might get involved to support education in your community. Education an area of focus that affects every community around the world. Globally 17% of the world's population over the age of 15 are illiterate, that's nearly 775 million adults worldwide. Additionally, 60 million children lack access to education. The financial cost of illiteracy? It is estimated that \$1.2 Trillion in lost annual wages are the direct result of low literacy or illiteracy. The human toll of illiteracy or low literacy is evident in all aspects of a society - from restricted earnings, to generational poverty (and generational illiteracy), to cost of health care - each of our communities benefit when quality literacy is available to everyone. There are so many ways for Rotarians to be involved, depending on the needs of the communities they serve. Rotarians can work with our youngest learners to close the early learning gap, assist adults to improve their literacy or language skills (think: immigrant or refugee communities), mentor or support underperforming youth or out of school youth, or providing access to education for children with disabilities.

To promote local Rotary engagement in education/literacy programs, LITRAG invites your club to share what Rotary is doing locally to support education. **LITRAG will award three clubs whose projects best demonstrate how Rotary strengthens the capacity of their community to provide and support education for all.** More information about how to apply and deadlines is included in this newsletter. This is a great way to spotlight the good work being done by your club - and you may receive a cash award to continue your project!



**LITRAG and Save the Children** partner to support Rotary clubs in their efforts to promote early literacy. We have explored the topics:

- **People of Actin & Save the Children Address the Early Learning Gap**
- **Activation Projects to Promote Literacy**
- **How to Mobilize a Literacy Initiative in your District**

The final webinar in this series will be held October 13 (4:00 PM Eastern Time) A panel of Rotarians and Save the Children representatives will explore "Advocacy: How you can become an advocate for Early Childhood Education. [Register here](#) For more information or resources: [LITRAG.org](http://LITRAG.org) or [savethechildren.org/Rotary](http://savethechildren.org/Rotary)

### BooksPlus Targets the End of “Summer Slide”

By Katie Cooney

Summer has passed and children are not going back to school due to the pandemic. Now, more than ever, the digital divide affects children in poverty by limiting their ability to access online learning and resources. For many years, PAUR donated a children's book, in honor of the weekly club speaker, to Belle Haven Elementary school's library. In 2019, Palo Alto University Rotary (PAUR) Club launched the BooksPlus initiative to “enhance book access for children in under-resourced communities of District 5170 and promote evidence-based strategies that improve literacy and promote early childhood literacy.”

BooksPlus is proud to announce their partnership with Bring Me a Book Foundation, Bookelicious.com and the Family Engagement Institute (FEI) of Foothill College. Bring Me a Book provides book access to under-resourced children and families through partnerships with schools and community-based organizations to foster a love of reading, kindergarten readiness and learning to read. Bookelicious.com is a website for children that promotes literacy by helping children find great books on subjects they are passionate about. FEI “offers non-credit college classes to under-resourced parents/caregivers of children from preschool through high school. FEI bridges educational inequities by strengthening the ability of families, schools, and communities to work together in supporting their children succeed in school.”

BooksPlus is also partnering with the Rotary Clubs of Palo Alto, Los Altos (LARC) and East Palo Alto Bayshore on relevant projects in their community.

Recently, PAUR, LARC and the non-Rotary partners of BooksPlus completed a successful pilot with students living in Sunnyvale and Campbell. Through *Bookelicious*, students chose 5 age appropriate books that honed in on their particular interests. Books were mailed over the summer. Results are evident in the parents' comments below.

*“...all the help they have given us and, above all, for the books for our children's learning. You have given us the books, despite everything that is happening (COVID-19). I want to thank all the dedicated people.”*

*“...this great opportunity to refresh our home library because I think that the books they already have may be boring to them and I also liked finding out what my children are interested in.”*

“Summer slide” reading loss is compounded by COVID-19. Children no longer have access to books at schools and libraries. In addition to building literacy skills, reading offers children the opportunity to develop self-awareness, confidence, empathy, problem solving and resiliency. Reading gives children a way to understand the world around them and the landscape of their own consciousness.

BooksPlus focuses on physical books in the hands of children. Although on-line books are plentiful, internet access and personal devices for income challenged families are not. People of all ages are tired of online meetings and screen time. Books are transportable and give pride of ownership to readers.

Corporate sponsors and foundations look for project impact. How does our work affect childhood literacy? How many children and families participate? That's where you and your Rotary Club play a vital role in expanding the BooksPlus initiative. We are asking Rotary Clubs to partner with BooksPlus to bring more books to more children and create lasting change that supports our children, our communities, and the security of our nation.

We'll share how to launch the BooksPlus program in your community. Please contact Jo RoyC, the Palo Alto University Rotary Club BooksPlus Chair, at [jo@anjoro.com](mailto:jo@anjoro.com) for additional information.

Join us!



Boy After Package Opened + Bookmoji

### "STORYTELLING IS A WAY TO EDUCATE ALL AUSTRALIANS OF OUR PAST - AND WHO WE WANT TO BE"

Adam Goodes is a man on a mission. His goal? To use his giant status to help the smallest Australians. And, he tells Stellar, his work in helping bring Indigenous stories to the wider population begins at home – with his own daughter

The legend of Adam Goodes permeates deep and wide within the Australian psyche. He is an almost unrivalled star in our native sport, was given our nation's highest honour and became a lightning rod for heroism and hate when he found himself in the vortex of an ugly wave of pack brutality. And so he looms like a Greco-Roman god: a figure of worship, a symbol of conflict and a cipher for explaining dark truths about ourselves that perhaps we'd rather not gaze upon directly.

He also looms, literally. In inner-city Sydney, heartland of his beloved Swans, a giant mural of his image is plastered across the full side of a building. But Goodes is not a god. He is just a man, one who has no time to dissect his own mythology. So about that mural? "Well," he tells Stellar, his voice deadpan, "it cost me a lot of money to paint it."

The mural was something the building's owner asked him for permission to undertake more than 18 months ago, but never got around to it. Then when the death of George Floyd electrified America and sent ripple effects to Australia's Indigenous community, that owner and the artists he would eventually engage decided the time was right.

"He was like, 'You know what? With everything going on in the world, we're just going to do it. Are you still OK with it?'" Goodes recalls. "I said, 'Yep.' For me, this is an opportunity for people to see what was going on around the world with the Black Lives Matter movement – and to put a black person's face on a busy corner and to celebrate that sort of symbol means my face on a building."

But Goodes has little time to marvel at his own greatness. In fact, he wasn't even sure which corner it was on. "I've only driven past it once and that was by accident and I thought 'Oh my goodness!' I can only imagine what it would look like my standing there, looking at myself."

Perhaps the most striking thing about Goodes is that someone so iconic is so casual, funny and self-deprecating in person. When we catch up at his photo shoot for Stellar, he is joking about his new-found glamour as a male model. Goodes is here as an ambassador for David Jones, but the real reason he does the job is to raise awareness and money for the Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation (ALNF). This week, David Jones will launch and sell designer "Literacy Is Freedom" T-shirts that will channel vital funds back into the ALNF's life-changing programs.

But all this posing up seems to be taking a back seat to his preoccupation with a dodgy hamstring, one that will stop him playing soccer on the weekend. Yes, the dual Brownlow medallist is now a daggy suburban soccer-playing dad, albeit one who gets tips from former Socceroos star Craig Foster. You have to pity the other blokes pitted against him. For all the lionising of

Goodes as an angel, it's easy to forget that he is a ferociously driven warrior – and not just on the playing field.

The next goal Goodes has his eye on is getting a First Nations voice to Parliament, as called for by the Uluru Statement From The Heart. When hundreds of Indigenous leaders were sent to the Red Centre to develop a form of constitutional recognition in 2017, the Malcolm Turnbull government was shocked when they came back with a proposal not for some token words, but an enshrined constitutional voice. The then-PM panicked that this would be a so-called "third chamber of parliament", and Indigenous recognition was shelved once more.

Three years later, Goodes is still palpably unhappy. "The government pie-faced us once again when they asked what we think and what we want," he says. "That's just another slap in the face for Indigenous people and leaders. But we're now out there working with corporations and CEOs to make them aware of the statement. We, as a small part of the population, can't get this over the line. We need the people of Australia to understand what it is and what we can play to make that a reality."

When he retired from football, Goodes cast his eyes far and wide to seek out where he could do the most good, particularly for Indigenous communities – often the most disadvantaged and obviously the closest to his heart. He quickly realised the magic bullet was to tackle that disadvantage before it calcified, by giving children the tools they needed for success in life, and as early as possible. Hence the ALNF is teaching them before they even get to school and, just as importantly, engaging their parents, as well.

Of course, this goes beyond being a mere academic exercise for Goodes. He and wife Natalie Croker are now parents, and their daughter Adelaide, who was born in June 2019, is just starting to walk and talk. He reads to her constantly and sees first hand how language makes children come alive. This is extremely personal for him. As a child, he never learnt his own Indigenous language and so he is making sure that his daughter knows hers, right down to her middle name. It's Vira, and it means moon. "We want to keep using words like 'hello' and say 'nangga' so she knows they mean the same thing. It's something I didn't have growing up, so we think it's important to teach Adelaide," he tells Stellar.

He is also working on a major project to develop stories to help both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and parents across Australia understand our shared history. "Storytelling is a part of Indigenous culture," he says. "It's a way to educate everyone, all Australians, of our past and our journey, and who we want to be moving forward."

And that's also central to Goodes' understanding of himself. "There's always been something missing in my life. And that was the ability to identify as an Indigenous man, and for me to go on that journey to learn about our history." These days, of course, Goodes hasn't just learnt about history. He has also made some himself.

To get a T-shirt and support Indigenous literacy programs, go to [davidjones.com/alnf](http://davidjones.com/alnf).

## Goals of LITRAG

- Increase awareness of illiteracy and its impact on quality of life
- Create awareness among Rotarians and Club of how they can strengthen the capacity of communities to provide education and literacy to all
- Assist Rotarians to increase the scale and effectiveness of education and literacy projects
- Collaborate with Rotarians to establish partnerships for projects with other areas of focus.



Reading for life

## Educating Girls: A Long Range Community Investment

LITRAG was pleased to participate in the 2020 RI Convention by presenting at one of the virtual break out sessions. Our topic of Girls Education brought together Rotarians involved with four programs that support education of the girl child:

Razia's Ray of Hope  
Remember Niger  
EduGirls  
MAIA Impact

These are all quality programs and are quite interested in further partnerships with Rotarians. Information of specific needs of each organization and how Rotarians might get involved is posted on the LITAG website

A recording of the break out session is available.

## LITRAG Dues

Is your LITRAG membership current? Member dues keep our organization running - maintaining the cost of our website and other administrative costs. More importantly, it's from dues that we are able to sponsor the Literacy Month Awards. We hope to allocate funds toward Basic Education and Literacy projects, but to do that, our members need to keep their dues current. Cost: \$25 for one year or \$100 for a five year membership. Payments can be made with a credit card and are processed through PayPal. Renew your membership today!

## Project Planning?

**Be sure to check these resources in advance:**

Community Assessment Tools  
Basic Education and Literacy Guidelines for GG Funding  
Basic Education and Literacy Project Strategies

## New Webinar Series: Literacy in Difficult Times

With schools closed and classes suspended across the globe as a result of the pandemic quarantine, the education of all students has been put at risk. LITRAG is pleased to partner with RC Washington Global to present a timely discussion of **Promoting Literacy in Difficult Contexts** to help shed light on how Rotarians might support communities in response to this interruption in education services

This webinar, will be held on Thursday, October 15 @ 10:30 AM (Eastern) We will discuss the impact of COVID on education, implications of children being separated from school programs for extended periods of time and the implications and potential of technology to fill the gap.

The webinar will feature keynotes from Halsey Rogers (World Bank) and Rabi Karmacharya (OLE Nepal and a Rotarian in Kathmandu). The discussion will be on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and how to use technology to respond. To attend, please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVTWPS8>.

A second webinar, **Investing in Adolescent Girls**, will be presented on Friday, 13 November at 10:00 AM (Eastern) This session will feature keynote talks on education by Stephanie Psaki (Population Council), health by Nafy Diop (UNFPA), and skills/employment by Markus Goldstein (World Bank). Their presentations will be followed by a panel showcasing a few great projects by Rotary and other CSOs. Part of the focus will be on difficult contexts, including those faced by refugees and migrants. To register

An informational flier is attached



## Is your club involved in a Global Grant? The Cadre of Technical Advisors Can Help

As you are developing your project, be sure to consider contacting the Cadre. We can assist you though helping with designing community assessments, project design/ development, or project implementation. Cadre members, Rotarians with vocational or grant expertise, can provide professional expertise within a specific area of focus or regional expertise to help make connections with host clubs or partner organizations. If you are new to the Global Grant process, a Cadre member can help guide you through the process and help ensure that your proposal is complete and clearly explained - often making the approval process quicker and easier. Many Cadre members are also involved with LITRAG. If you are considering a Global Grant or other project implementation, you can connect with an advisor by contacting [cadre@rotary.org](mailto:cadre@rotary.org)



Rotary Opens  
Opportunities



## **BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH SEPTEMBER 2020**

# Win \$400 USD for your club

Three awards of \$400 each will be made to clubs whose projects demonstrate how Rotary strengthens the capacity of their community to support and provide education for all.

### **Celebrate and Promote Awareness of Literacy Month**

**To enter:**

**Describe your project (500-800 words)**

Explain what your club did and the result

Who benefited from the project?

How were Rotarians involved? (How many were involved?)

How was the project promoted?

**Include 2-3 photos (with captions)**

*(The project does not have to be implemented during Literacy Month, may be an ongoing project)*

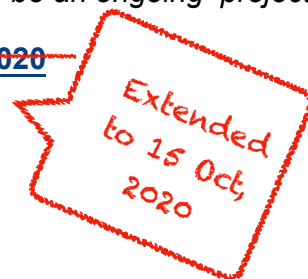
**Applications must be received by 30 September 2020**

Include primary contact information:

Rotarian's name & email

Club President, Club & District, City & Country

Send your application to: [rotary.tas@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.tas@gmail.com)



***The Rotarian submitting the application must be a current member of LITRAG***  
***[www.LITRAG.org](http://www.LITRAG.org)***



*Awards will be announced in the November 2020 LITRAG newsletter.*



## PROMOTING LITERACY IN DIFFICULT CONTEXTS:

### Rotary's Potential Contributions

Webinar, October 15, 2020 - 10:30 am to noon EST

To attend, please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVTWPS8>, so that we can send you the zoom link for the webinar.

Keynote Speakers: **Halsey Rogers and Rabi Karmacharya**



**Halsey Rogers** is a Lead Economist with the World Bank. He served as Co-Director of the World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise. He now helps lead initiatives that advance the WDR vision, including the global Learning Poverty estimates and the Global Education Policy Dashboard. Prior to joining the Bank, he served with the Council of Economic Advisors at the White House, UC Berkeley, the Indonesian Ministry of Finance, and the Korea Development Institute. He holds an AB from Princeton University, an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a PhD in Economics from UC Berkeley.



**Rabi Karmacharya** is a social entrepreneur who launched Open Learning Exchange Nepal (OLE Nepal) with the vision to transform public education by improving access to quality learning opportunities through effective use of technology. Rabi has extensive prior experience in technology as a founder and CEO of a software technology company in Nepal, and as a design engineer at a large network solutions company in the Silicon Valley. Rabi holds Master of Engineering and Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. Rabi is an Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leader, and a Rotarian.

#### Co-sponsors for the webinar

(Rotary Fellowship and Rotary Action Group in formation)



This event is registered under the UN at 75 Dialogue.



To register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVTWPS8>