

Robert M Fels

For Your Service to Rotary District 9800, The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International

This award recognises the service by Robert M Fels, or Bob as we all know him, to Rotary District 9800, The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International. Bob is uniquely qualified for this special recognition to acknowledge his service and achievements in relation to the Rotary Peace Centers and the personal assistance extended in the development of individual Peace Fellows.

His contribution covers support and leadership from Club level to District and national level and to international participation and impact.

Built on Bob's leadership, D9800 is the only district in Rotary to have successfully nominated at least one candidate every year from the very first intake in 2002. More than that, has been the ongoing commitment of many of the Fellows back to Rotary and the program over the years since their nomination, which demonstrates the special bond that has been established through Bob's efforts. Bob has also encouraged our District to be a Peacebuilder district.

District 9800's success is not just luck or coincidence but reflects a very thorough and rigorous process that continues throughout each year and a detailed understanding of the personal and academic qualities that each candidate needs to bring to their application. Bob is no longer chair of the district committee but remains an active member. He has also groomed his successor, Rob Helme, well and the process continues as a well-oiled machine.

Because of his success, Bob was a member of the international committee for 2 terms (6 years), so valuable was his contribution at a district level and then at the international level. He was also appointed to lead the International task force of the Peace Center review committee.

As we have just passed the 15-year anniversary of the program, it seems particularly appropriate to recognise the contribution and achievement of Bob with a special award that recognises his sterling contribution.

This 15-year period also coincides with his tenure as Head of College at International House in Melbourne, which provided the strong foundation for his commitment to world understanding and peace. Bob was the recipient of The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in 2013-14 for D9800 to recognise his district contribution and this award now recognises also his global contribution.

On behalf of Rotarians in our District and worldwide and on behalf of Peace Fellows everywhere, we extend our sincere appreciation for your outstanding contribution, your service and through your service in Rotary, making a difference in the world.