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**Title:**  
Speech at Rotafest, Henley Beach

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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT ROTAFEST,  
HENLEY BEACH - 9.3.75.

Mr. Rippin, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for inviting me to open the Rotafest. I think it's a great idea and I think too that the Henley Beach Rotarians have done an outstanding job in planning and organising it.

I'm sure you don't want to listen to a long speech this afternoon, but there are a couple of points I'd like to make. First, I want to join Geoff Rippin in urging you to spend a lot of money - by doing this you'll be helping many people who badly need help - those looked after by groups such as the Rotary Homes for the Aged, the Henley & Grange Community Hospital, District and Bush Nursing and, overseas, the people of Bangladesh.

Secondly, in organising this carnival around the theme of the part played by migrant groups in our community, Rotary is providing a diverting range of amusements and it's also reminding us of something important.

All of us are migrants or the descendants of migrants - though for the Aboriginal people, of course, descent is ancestral rather than recent.

Yet for years we chose to ignore this basic fact of our history. In our anxiety to develop a national character we sought vigorously - and sometimes aggressively and boorishly - to eliminate all trace of difference, of variations from the Aussie norm, in dress, cuisine, attitudes and behaviour. We imposed conformism wherever we could.

If it wasn't strine, it wasn't right.

It was a ridiculous notion (and for many migrants, especially the elderly, it was hurtful). But it was a reflection of a basic insecurity.

The great post-war wave of migration, greater travel abroad by Australians and the development of national self-confidence has happily changed that.

We suddenly realised what we'd been turning our backs on - the chance to draw the cultural riches of half the world.

It's a process which is still happening, and one which requires continuing education. You can still find traces of the old attitudes - or rather prejudices to give them their proper name.

But there is now broad acceptance that not only are we a diverse people, we derive our strength from that diversity and should rejoice in it and celebrate it.

We lead - all of us - fuller lives as a consequence.

Rotafest, in drawing on this diversity, gives visitors a pleasant trip out and also serves as a reminder of the depth and range of what is truly the Australian heritage.

I have very much pleasure in officially declaring the Rotafest open.

Thank you.

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