

District Newsletter

June 2020

A final message from Tania Lowery (District Governor):



This is it, my last chance as District Governor, to have a natter with you all.

It is hard to believe that this is the end of my year as District Governor. It has been a year of two distinctly different halves, or more accurately three quarters and one quarter!

Reflecting on the year that has been, those first 9 months of being busy was the highlight, and has reinforced to Phil and myself that participation in projects and service is what keeps us interested and enthusiastic about Rotary. It is the hands-on stuff that really floats our boat. We hope to keep this going from now on too, heading along to help out other clubs if we are not busy with anything else. We enjoyed working alongside fellow Rotarians and hearing their stories about projects from the past, and ideas for the future. So, to all those clubs that had to postpone events that we were coming along to, don't forget to invite us again when you reschedule! We would love to be there.

There are hundreds of amazing people in our district doing a lot of amazing stuff! Make sure you all keep shouting about it so that the general public can hear about it too. The more we talk about what we do, and post on social media, and feature in the media, the better the chances are of someone thinking "I would like to be involved in that!".

We have made so many new friends, at district, New Zealand and international levels, during all the fantastic opportunities that we had while undertaking training and Rotary duties.

A big thank you to you all as an ~~outstanding team of 5 million~~, (oops, have been watching too many 1pm party political broadcasts 😊), outstanding team of Rotarians. And a big thank you to the amazing team of District officers, always focussed on inspiring the members of District 9980. It is exciting to see that many clubs are now taking a good look at how they do things, and are thinking more about how to keep current members engaged, and providing a product that new members may want to join.

Lockdown has been a catalyst for people to adopt new technology and to think outside the square about how things can be done. The pandemic threw us all a lot of challenges, and as it was something that no-one had experience of we were all trying to work our way through it as best we could, not knowing what the future would bring. We can be confident that, as a District, we will continue to develop new ways of doing things, and continue to encourage clubs and members to do the same. The development of the new District will be an opportunity for all our members to contribute their thoughts for the future, it is an exciting prospect that we can be involved in creating something new and fit-for-purpose in whatever the "new normal" may be.

Flexibility, kindness, patience and understanding will be important as we all work our way through what is ahead.

It was a special moment for both Phil and myself when we were presented with a Paul Harris Fellow at the District AGM in April. It was humbling to be recognised by our peers in that way, and we wear our pins every day with pride! The actual pins did take a while to turn up, amazing how slow the international post was during lockdown and into the lower levels. But receiving the first ever virtual Paul Harris Fellow in our District was very special!

In order to get the most out of the total Rotary experience I encourage you all to continue to seek out new ways to grow your Rotary knowledge. The Rotary International learning centre has dozens of online courses that you can work your way through to help you expand your understanding on all aspects of Rotary. And, of course nothing beats those times when we get to meet face-to-face at District development events, taking the opportunity to talk with our fellow Rotarians and swap ideas!

Look to your neighbouring Rotary clubs as collaborators in the future, get together for service, because then you have a larger pool of resources to draw on, and a new group of friends to work alongside. We all benefit from working together and growing together. And you can have a lot of fun too!

And while I am about to be relegated to the role of "Past District Governor" I will not lose my District connections, and hope to be involved fully in our future. After all, I need to be going to plenty of Rotary events to ensure I can keep wearing all my Rotary t-shirts! The knowledge and experience that I have gained during the past 3 years will be invaluable going forward, in my personal life, my Rotary life, and my professional life. It has been an absolute privilege and a pleasure to serve with you all. Rotary has given us both so much more than we ever imagined (including meeting each other!) and we will work hard to continue to give back in whatever way we can in the future. It's been one heck of a journey so far!

Cheers from,

Tamie

and Phil (the most amazing husband & Wellbeing officer) 😊

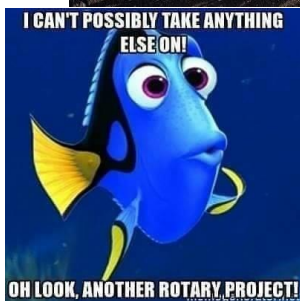


So much fun was had, so many great memories!



Great people, great places!

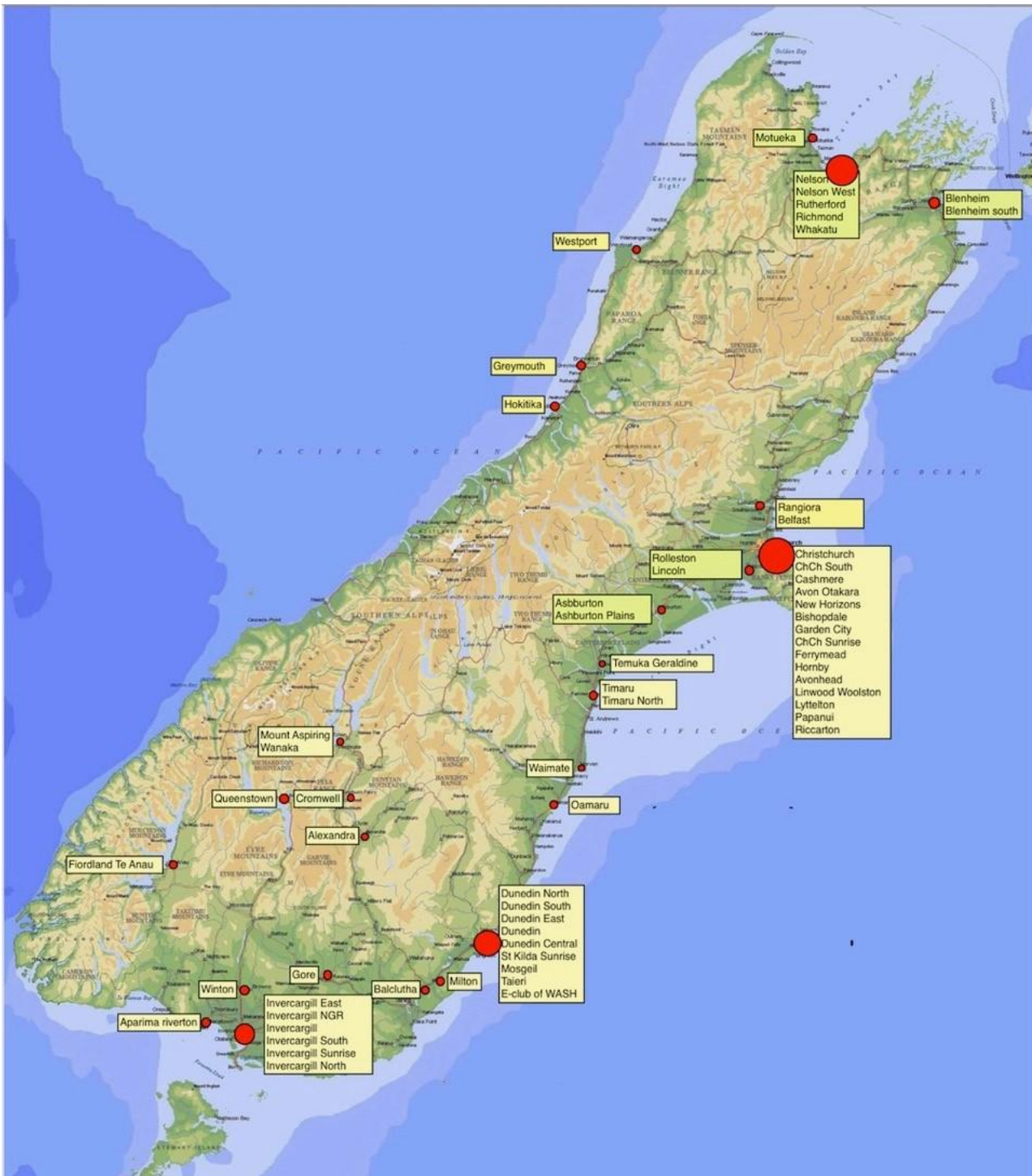
So much still to do, bring it on!



District 9999 – District Governor Nominee

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Jan Boustead, from the Rotary Club of Lincoln, District 9970, as the first District Governor for District 9999 for 2022-23.

Jan joined Rotary in 1998 and has held a multitude of roles during her time. We congratulate Jan on her appointment and look forward to her being involved with our district committees going forward. She will be an integral part of the team working towards forming the new District, and she looks forward to meeting you all and learning more about District 9980 in the lead up to the formation of District 9999.



This map showing clubs in District 9999 was compiled by District 9970 Governor, Gary Hopkinson. It's quite exciting to see us altogether. Gives us a good look at where everyone is and at some of the challenges that we have geographically as a district.

Club and Member Details on the District Clubrunner site

It is important that **all clubs** ensure their details are updated on the District Clubrunner site. Even if your club does not use Clubrunner it is **important to update the District site**. This is because the details of members that you enter here **automatically** update Rotary International. This updating feature **does not** work in reverse, ie if you update Rotary International the changes do not flow back down to District level. Please make sure that all your club officers are entered for the 2020-2021 Rotary year by the 1st of July. This makes it a lot easier for District and other clubs to communicate with you, and ensures you and your club do not miss out on important information during the year.

Many clubs have had to relocate their meetings, as some venues closed due to Covid 19. Please make sure that your new venue is listed on the Clubrunner site. It would be unfortunate if someone could not connect with you because they end up at the wrong venue for a visit!

As a member, you can update your personal details too. So if you change your email address, move house, get a new phone number, then update your profile so you are contactable.

President Elect for 2020-21

Has your club appointed their President Elect? If yes, then congratulations! Make sure their details are available on Clubrunner so they don't miss out on vital updates regarding learning & development for the coming year. This is your year in which to prepare, and District has a big role in ensuring you are ready to hit the ground running, come 1 July 2021.

2020-21 Rotary Theme – Rotary Opens Opportunities



Get your new logo directly from the Rotary International site, and keep your club website, Facebook and bulletin looking fresh and up to date!

And the 2020-21 year is also the celebration of 100 years of Rotary in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, and there is a logo for that too.



Clubs should be thinking about how they are going to celebrate this milestone, and look to using it as a focus to draw their communities into the world of Rotary, showing them just what has been achieved during the past century. This is also an opportunity for clubs to focus on the next 100 years, making sure that they are relevant and attractive as a service club option for those wishing to make a difference.

The Last Hurrah Dinner for Polio



Last week I took part in a Zoom meeting where we were able to listen to Rotary International Past Presidents Bill Boyd (NZ) and Ian Riseley (Aust), Rotary International Past Director Noel Trevaskis and Rotary International Director Elect Jessie Harman. The speakers talked about the End Polio campaign, and encouraged everyone to consider one last push for Polio before the 30th June 2020. District 9980 has been a big supporter of the polio campaign during this year, especially with extra funds being donated as District Governor Tania focussed on polio as part of her year, challenging clubs and members to contribute that little bit extra. That resulted in the best Polio contributions for our district in the past four years, with \$49,477 contributed for polio (an average of \$44.22 per member). Congratulations to each and every one of you for that!

It is staggering to know that some 57% of clubs worldwide have never given anything to the Polio Eradication Campaign (source Rotary Down Under June 2020). Polio eradication remains Rotary's program of the highest priority.

The well established networks around the Polio campaign have been utilised to assist with the Covid-19 pandemic recently, reinforcing how valuable our work has been worldwide. All funds donated towards polio are still targeted towards polio, it is only the infrastructure of our network that has been diverted momentarily to help with the pandemic.

Polio update as at June 25: *Source PDG Bob Aitken AM JP*

Afghanistan – Three WPV1 cases, two WPV1 positive environmental samples, and four cVDPV2 cases.

Pakistan – Two WPV1 cases, and five WPV1 positive environmental samples.

Total WPV1 cases in 2020 – 72 (53 in Pakistan and 19 in Afghanistan)

Should you wish to make one last contribution towards the Polio campaign then check out the speakers, and the Q&A sessions on the following links:

The introduction and presentations by special guest speakers – click here - [Guest speakers](#)

The Question and Answer session at the end of evening – click here - [Q&A session](#)

This presentation could also be used at a club night.

The Rotary Foundation

And following on from the above figures for polio giving, District Foundation Chair, Trish Boyle, reported that 28 of our 31 clubs contributed \$160,404 to The Rotary Foundation, an average of \$143.35 per club member. Another outstanding result, as above, the best in the past four years!

Our foundation giving is important for our future ability to do projects, both here and globally. If you are considering what to do with your personal giving in the coming year, please consider making The Rotary Foundation your charity of choice.



The Australian Bushfires

It may seem like a lifetime ago that our Aussie neighbours were battling with devastating bushfires, given the events of recent months, but it is something that they are still recovering from.

Our District supported two districts with \$10,000 of disaster funding, and we recently received thanks from District 9675 Governor, Di North. Her district was one of the recipients:

"Dear Tania

When Trish Boyle was going to be a RIPPR at our cancelled District Conference she made a donation from your district to ours for our bushfire recovery...

...We have already spent just on \$100,000 to rebuild the Dingo Sanctuary and the Australian Wildlife Sanctuary at Bargo. They were both completely destroyed in the fires, although I was told that the dingoes were saved. Our money will go towards the rebuilding of them as they are both great educational facilities and tourist attractions. Bargo lost a few homes in the bushfires as well so this will do a lot to boost their morale.

We have also put some money into a psychology and art program to assist kids who were traumatised by the fires.

I will let you know exactly where your money goes but please know that, on behalf of my district, I am extremely grateful for your support."

Dianne North OAM

District Governor 2019-20

Rotary Club of West Wollongong



Life at Level 1 – Our “New Normal”

It is a relief that our clubs can now have face-to-face meetings again, and timely that this happened just in time for the changeover season.

But let's not forget about everything we learnt during the lockdown period, and the weeks in which we had to “meet” in other ways. Embracing new technology skills and using them as we go forward is important. Mix up the club experience with the occasional Zoom meeting on a cold wintery night, save a few dollars, and save having to head out in the rain, the frost, the snow!

Try out a hybrid meeting, where you hold your traditional meal and meeting, but enable members to Zoom into the meeting too (especially handy for those out of town for business/holiday, or those feeling unwell). Look at having committee meetings using Zoom, it may be more convenient and easier to find an evening that suits everyone.

Use Zoom to “invite” speakers to your club that you may not have considered in the past. This technology means we can easily access great speakers from anywhere in the world.

Rotary Down Under Magazine

This magazine is a great promotional tool for Rotary and for your club. It is a publication full of all the wonderful things that Rotary does, and also includes tips for Rotarians and clubs to help them with their Rotary experience.

Why not give your speakers a copy to take away with them, it's a great way for them to find out more about Rotary and all that we achieve.

And if your club has a great story, send it in to the magazine! They are always looking for more input directly from clubs.

Rotary 2020-2021

All the best to Dylan Murray, your incoming District Governor, for the coming year.

You will see Dylan, Rebecca and their three future Rotarians around the District, getting to know you all.



Dylan and Rebecca enjoy fine food!



Watch out for these three, already working on their Rotary tshirt collection!

And District Governor Elect, Nick Wood, along with Beth and another couple of future Rotarians (sorry, didn't have a photo of the boys) will be getting to know those incoming President-Elects as a year of learning and planning begins in earnest.



Rotary will open so many opportunities for you all, grab each and every one of them and enjoy your time as a District Governor. You will never forget it!

District 9980 is in good hands, that's for sure!