



DG Di North & David

Welcome to the May edition of the District Governor's Bulletin.

MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

I hope that all the mothers and grandmothers in our District had a very happy Mothers' Day last Sunday. It would have been a very different day to what we would normally have experienced with our family. I hope you made the most of opportunities available and enjoyed the day regardless.



In 1949, the Rotary International Board adopted the slogan "Every Rotarian an Example to Youth" as an expression of commitment to children and youth in each community in which Rotary clubs exist. Serving young people is an important part of our Rotary program.



Our **District New Generations Chair Anna Hoyles** has written an article for us on Youth Service Month.

Most Rotarians are very familiar with and supportive of the Youth Programs our District runs. We are all aware of the changing world we have had to adapt to over the past few months and the challenges this has brought for everyone. So, this Youth Service update is a time to celebrate the hard work happening behind-the-scenes and the innovative ways our young leaders are adapting to this interesting time we are living through.

What many people aren't aware of is the amount of time that goes into programs like RYLA and RYPEN behind-the-scenes and before the camps happen. Each year we recruit previous RYLA participants to lead our RYLA and RYPEN camps. Our RYLA leaders start planning for the camp 7-8 months in advance. They consider each leader's strengths and passions and try to weave these into the program – allowing it to grow more dynamic and engaging each year. The Rotary leadership team encourages our young leaders to be creative, to take risks and to feel ownership over the program they are creating which, in turn, encourages them to commit their time and energy. We invest in these leaders by offering them training and support, encouraging them to reflect on their challenges, celebrate their successes and, through this process, grow as leaders.

Similarly, we run 2 RYPEN camps each year and welcome previous RYLA leaders to hone their leadership skills as group leaders on the camp – this is an innovative way to let young leaders build on their RYLA skills, to put their learning into practice and to offer young role models to the RYPEN participants. This year we have had to postpone our first RYPEN camp – what has been so impressive is our leaders' commitment to the program; they were still planning and committed to going ahead until we knew that wasn't possible.

Similarly, we recognize how adaptable our Rotaractors have been in moving to online meetings and finding innovative ways to engage members and the community. Some have run online trivia nights to keep members connected and others have pushed community awareness – particularly focusing on the current pandemic and how people can look after each other.

These wonderful young leaders that Rotary is investing in have taken this challenging time as an opportunity to demonstrate their incredible resilience, passion and deep commitment to our shared vision.

RYLA in January (Pictured right: Prior to the health crisis and social distancing but during the devastating bushfires – our leaders had bushfire safety at the forefront of their minds)



Youth Exchange responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Rotary Youth Exchange communities around the world are responding to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, with students and volunteers supporting one another and helping combat the spread of the disease. Here are a few examples:

In District 2042 (Italy), Laura Brianza, governor-elect and multidistrict Youth Exchange chair, collected videos recorded by students still on exchange in Italy, all from the safety of their host families' homes. Using the hashtag #IStayAtHome, students shared videos of themselves cooking, speaking Italian, and enjoying many other home-based activities as a way to promote physical distancing.

In District 7930 (Massachusetts and New Hampshire, USA), outbound students who returned home early from exchange are sharing their experiences in online meetings with local Rotary clubs. This keeps their connections to Rotary strong, says Alexander Falk, District Youth Exchange chair.

Samantha Walley, Youth Exchange chair for District 6840 (parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, USA), worked with an inbound exchange student who has inspired her home and host Interact clubs to take action during the COVID-19 crisis. Through a virtual meeting every two weeks called #InteractiveQuarantine, participants develop plans for service projects that can be completed during this challenging time.

Many Rotary Youth Exchange students worldwide have had to return home early because of the coronavirus pandemic. Now more than ever, students returning home need support from the Rotary Youth Exchange community. Former high school counsellor Michele Hughes and outbound coordinator Pat Carson in District 5080 (part of British Columbia, Canada) offer advice about how to help students mentally and emotionally. More information on how to support Rotary Youth Exchange students during the pandemic can be found [HERE](#).

To find out more about how Rotary is responding to this pandemic please go [HERE](#).

The newly designed Rotary Youth Exchange Annual Report for the 2018-19 Rotary year is now available. Read a message from Past Rotary International President Barry Rassin, along with inspiring stories and statistics about the program [HERE](#).

Highlighting a Rotarian:

Anna Hoyles: Rotary Club of Burwood & District 9675 New Generations Chair

As you are aware we have had to cancel our District Presidents' Meeting, which was to have been held at Bankstown Sports Club on 29 May, due to COVID-19. During the year I have asked Assistant Governors and District Chairs to MC these meetings. For this cancelled meeting our **New Generations Chair Anna Hoyles** (pictured right) had agreed to be the MC. Unfortunately, Anna won't get the opportunity now, so I thought I would like to highlight Anna this month and let you know a little about her.



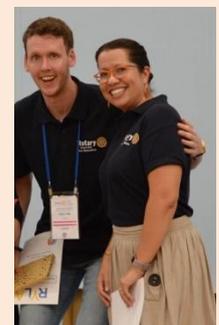
Anna Hoyles is a qualified social worker presently working as a team leader within the Family Referral Service at Barnardos Australia Sydney Head Office, having worked with Barnardos for over 15 years in various roles. She is currently a Team leader to 14 staff, overseeing the Family Referral Service in Schools program with the program targeting new schools with high needs. In her job she coordinates with 14 schools and 2 senior Education workers.



Anna is actively involved in Rotary, having performed well in various roles within both Rotaract and Rotary, at a Club and District level and she is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Anna has spent time volunteering with various organisations both to give back to the community and to improve her own knowledge and skills in human rights and community service. Her many achievements include:

- Member of the Rotaract Club of Burwood for 13 years, being the longest serving member in the Club's history and held the positions of Social Director, Community and International Director, Secretary, Vice President and President.
- District Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Committee Chairperson 2017-19
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Team Leader 2016
- Member Rotary Club of Burwood 2016 – present
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment Committee Member and Camp Leader 2015
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award – International 2014
- Participated in GSE program in May 2013 when she was selected to represent Rotary District 9690 in a group study exchange to District 2400 in Sweden. It was an opportunity to learn how her job worked in another country. She was able to improve her social skills, learn about her vocation and develop a greater understanding of the work Rotary does around the world.
- Family Support Volunteer Westmead Children's Hospital 2010-2013 working with the Palliative Care and Pain Management team as a Family Support Volunteer
- Secretary - Rotaract District 9690 in 2010
- Nominee - Young Australian of the Year 2003



Anna is well known for the Acknowledgement of Country that she delivers at various functions and events.

In her spare time Anna enjoys Yoga, Photography, Snowboarding and Baking. She is married to Liam James who is also a past member and President of Burwood Rotaract Club.

SAVE THE DATE!

Now more than ever, Rotary Connects the World. The 2020 Rotary Virtual Convention is taking place between 20 – 26 June. For information please go [HERE](#).

This will be an exciting opportunity to gather online with the family of Rotary for Rotary's first online convention. You can join with Rotary participants around the world during a time of unprecedented challenges. You will get to experience the spirit of Rotary, be inspired by innovation, celebrate our resilience, and explore how clubs are addressing COVID-19. Experience Rotary in action during the Flag Ceremony, witness the power of connection during the general sessions, learn new ways to engage with Rotary during the breakout sessions, find inspiration from the global speakers, and much more.

We have never needed Rotary nor each other more than we do now. Now more than ever, Rotary Connects the World.

Ideas to help during COVID-19 forced isolation

It is so gratifying to see our District's clubs being flexible and innovative.

- Encourage members to exchange ideas in the Meeting Online learning topic in the Rotary Learning Center (My Rotary login required) [HERE](#).
- Hold an online Trivia Night.
- Hold an online Pet Show – everyone gets to show their dog, cat, budgie or even gerbil.
- Australian Rotary Health has a novel way to fundraise effectively to donate to vital mental health research during these times. It is also fun, mentally stimulating and completely contactless. Fundraise the clever way during COVID-19 [HERE](#).
- Some clubs are charging a small fee to have a great guest speaker as a way to raise funds.
- Run an online sewing lesson and make something for the homeless in your community.
- Run an online cooking class. You can charge for the lesson and donate the food to a local charity.
- Online dinners are a great way to keep in touch with friends and family over a meal.
- **PDG Ingrid Waugh** who is an assistant Rotary coordinator, and a team of leaders from Zone 8 in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands has created a list of tips for keeping members connected during this challenging time. From virtual service projects to phone calls that help clubs check on members, you'll find ideas for keeping social connections strong despite any physical distance [HERE](#).



Zoom Meeting with Rotary International President Mark Maloney

On 28 April I attended a Zoom Meeting with **RI President Mark Maloney**, **Secretary General John Hewko**, **RI Zone 8 Director Raffy Garcia** and the staff from **RISPPPO Parramatta**. Over 50 Rotarians attended from Australia and New Zealand. It was an extremely informative session. RI President Mark reminded us that Rotary really does connect the world, particularly now that the world has shut down. RI President-Elect Holger Knaack has his theme as *'Rotary Opens Opportunities'*. We therefore need to find new ways to do things. It is attributed that Winston Churchill said "Never waste a good crisis". Rotarians need to take advantage and make lemonade out of lemons.



RI President Mark said that the RI Board met and decided there would be no reduction in RI Dues. The reason given was that RI still has many expenses including administration. There is also a loss with the cancellation of the convention in Hawaii. If any club is disadvantaged and is experiencing problems paying the RI Dues they could contact RISPPPO, the RI office in Parramatta, and discuss other options such as smaller payments or deferred payments.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic RI has cancelled all face to face board meetings, trustee meetings and committee meetings. They are all online meetings. There will be no Rotary International Presidents Personal Representatives (RIPPR) sent to District Conferences for the next twelve months. The Australia-New Zealand Conference which was to be held in Alice Springs in September has been cancelled. All District Governors are being encouraged to conduct virtual official DG visits.

The General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International, John Hewko, told us that he doesn't believe that there will be a significant decline in membership at the end of the COVID-19 crisis, based on modelling figures. Rotary came through the Spanish Flu, the Depression era, the second World War, the Global Financial Crisis and others. John believes we will come through this one as well. Rotary is financially sound, although giving to the Rotary Foundation has declined. This may have an effect on District Designated Funds. US\$13m has been given in either Disaster Response Grants or Global Grants for projects related to COVID-19.



It is unfortunate that due to COVID-19 polio immunisations have ceased for the time being. They are monitoring the situation. Bill Gates has said that he will continue to support polio eradication 2:1 as long as Rotary raises US\$50m each year.

John Hewko gave us four calls to action:

1. Minimise the probability of membership loss. Statistically there is a huge decline in membership for members who have been in Rotary for 2 to 3 years.
2. Encourage clubs that aren't meeting online. They need to connect in some way.
3. Think about how we fundraise in this virtual space (for example, his Rotary Club in the Ukraine held a virtual Beer Festival)
4. Think about how we continue to do our projects in this virtual world.

And closer to our home...

I would love to receive invitations to your club online meetings, particularly if I have not attended already.

Many clubs are asking me to give an update on the Interplast Surgical Mission to Myanmar in November as many clubs in the District donated funds to this project.

Some clubs are getting some great guest speakers. One club I know of in Victoria contacted RI President Mark Maloney who was only too pleased to give a 15 minute presentation. The club had to change the time of their meeting to 9AM to accommodate with US time ... but it is a small price to pay. The list of guest speakers is only limited by your imagination. Perhaps have a look at the list of guest speakers for Conference 2020 in the April edition of the DG Bulletin. These people are as disappointed as I am that the conference was cancelled. I know that some clubs are already inviting them to speak. If you are successful please spread the word, so that other clubs can benefit from your ingenuity.

Congratulations to **President David Mutoro** and all the members of the **Rotary Club of Kings Cross** (see photo below). They inducted four new members at their first online meeting on Monday 4 May 2020 - **April Strauss, Brigit Marx, Ailen Provenza and Lachlan Greenbank**. I had the honour to be invited to this online meeting to welcome these new members. As they were inducted they told us a little about themselves. It is very pleasing to see that other clubs have also inducted new members online.



As you are aware the District Presidents' Meeting was due to be held on 29 May. District Trainer, Cheryl Deguara, came up with a new idea of having individual group Presidents' Meetings. Each Assistant Governor has been asked to host the meeting and invite Presidents and Presidents-Elect.

It is different but these meetings still have the same elements of the District Presidents Meeting, with a guest speaker, reports from the DG, DGE and DGN, as well as each of the Presidents telling us how their club is dealing with COVID-19. **District Membership Chair, Rae-Anne Medforth**, has very graciously agreed to give a presentation to each group on getting through COVID-19 intact. Rae-Anne's presentation has been very well received.

Zoom meetings are becoming more wide-spread throughout the District:



Revised requirements for the 2019-20 Rotary Citation

Many of the 2019-20 Rotary Citation goals may be difficult for clubs to achieve during this pandemic, so Rotary International has revised the requirements. Instead of achieving five of the nine goals in the Unite People and Take Action categories, clubs now need to achieve at least three goals in each of these categories. The Presidential Distinction requirements remain the same, and clubs still need to be in good standing to be eligible.

Many clubs continue to work during this time and have had to come up with creative ways to achieve their goals. Clubs can still report their achievements as described in the updated [Achievement Guide](#) and use the Rotary Citation Recipients report on My Rotary to check their progress. Contact Rotary International at riawards@rotary.org if you have any questions.

Bushfire Recovery

I have had many clubs ask me about projects on the south coast of NSW for towns such as Lake Conjola, Bega, Merimbula and Pambula that were devastated by the bushfires. District 9710 has a Disaster Recovery Committee headed by **PDG Phil Armstrong**. The committee is working hard to assist these communities and to direct money to where it is needed most.

The following is a list of their successes so far:

- **Rotary Great Britain and Ireland** have a Disaster Recovery Trust and they have committed \$20,000 to assist recovery in the Batlow area. They have also indicated they would consider other projects to support.
- Sydney Rotary clubs are looking to provide approximately \$150,000 to the recovery projects on the Sapphire Coast.

- A Rotary club from Townsville has provided replacement canoes to a family camp on the South Coast.
- A Rotary club from North Sydney has provided funds to support the Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild. More funds are needed for the Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild to assist with rebuilding their workshop.
- Another Rotary club from Sydney is offering support and it may be targeted at the Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild.
- BlazeAid continues to make a difference for locals, especially farmers, but unfortunately COVID-19 has disrupted the work of BlazeAid in some areas. The normal influx of Grey Nomads and itinerant workers, who normally assist with the work of BlazeAid, has not happened due to travel restrictions. BlazeAid is being supported by Rotary clubs in many communities. A Sydney club has provided a Bunnings voucher to assist the Eurobodalla BlazeAid Camp.
- A temporary set of shops has been set up in Mogo by the Business Council of Australia. Unfortunately COVID-19 has deferred the normal operations of shops in Mogo.
- Accommodation for many people is a top priority. Rotary has held discussions with Minderoo Foundation. This philanthropic organisation is providing “accommodation pods” to people in conjunction with the NSW Government. These are converted shipping containers and allow people to stay on their property while rebuilding takes place.

More information on what is happening in Districts 9700-9710 (soon-to-be District 9705) can be found [HERE](#).

Regional Pilot Planning - Shaping the next 100 years of Rotary

It is a very exciting time to be a Rotarian in our part of the world. With the celebration of 100 years of Rotary and the Melbourne International Convention in 2023 we have a once in a generation opportunity to showcase our impact as people of action.

Whilst we celebrate our longevity and success as a service organisation, we need to also ensure we are well placed to be relevant, compelling and impactful into the next 100 years.

Rotary is great in many ways, and we must keep doing the things that make us who we are – our values, our vision, our passion for helping others.

However, we cannot ignore the data:

- For many years we have seen a year on year decline in membership across our region, and a rising age profile – 24% drop in membership in the last 10 years, the average age in our clubs is over 60. Of the 50% of ages reported in My Rotary, 37.3% are over 60.
- We lose the majority of members who leave within their first 3 years of joining, so we are not engaging them well or not meeting expectations. In many cases we are not reflecting the make-up of our communities and we have some difficulty attracting younger members. We hear that cost and time are barriers to joining.
- Many clubs struggle to get members to take on leadership roles, often because these are seen as being too onerous.

- Global and local research has shown that the Rotary brand is highly respected but not very visible. We do not have a single Rotary voice in our region that not only identifies us but also enables others to easily connect.
- We have few national partners or sponsors.

The plan is to develop a possible structure for our region that will help us be relevant for our members, contemporary, and flexible. This structure will support Rotary clubs for service and growth and enable a coordinated and efficient regional approach to strategy, leadership, learning and development, public image, and local Rotary entities and programs. This will support change while retaining the best of the existing. Our Region, Zone 8, is made up of many different cultures – we are 14 countries. A representative Planning Group and five Working Groups have been developing objectives to describe what we want to achieve/deliver from a regional structure. The proposed pilot regional structure initiative has been featured in both the November 2019 and April 2020 editions of the Rotary Down Under magazine (RDU).

Rotarians in our region will very shortly receive an email asking for your feedback. Please read the attachment.

Update on the Centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand

The R100 Centenary Baton is now available. **PP Linda & DGE Mark Humphries from District 9820** have designed a baton, sourced a manufacturer and created a website and Facebook site to promote the use of the baton. This is a great initiative. You can find out more at the **R100 [Website](#)** and **[Facebook site](#)**.



20 May is World Bee Day.

Wagging for World Bee Day is an Australian-led global celebration. A Waggle Dance was planned but with COVID-19 the live event had to be cancelled. Instead, people all around the world have been asked to help celebrate World Bee Day virtually.

1. **Learn the dance with Costa Georgiadis** - [Waggle Dance Instructions HERE](#)
2. **Upload a video** of yourself/your family performing the dance (submit by 14 May if you want your video to be included in the global compilation video that will premiere on 20 May at the Honeyland online screening ... see [World Bee Day listings @ Honeyland](#)).
3. **Challenge others** to do the same. This is an initiative from the **Rotary Club of Canterbury in District 9800** and they are hoping to set a world record for Wagging to celebrate bees and raise awareness of the important role they play for food security and ecosystem health. A compilation of the submitted videos from around the world will be available for release on World Bee Day

For more information and to register and upload your video, visit the [Global Waggle Dance Challenge](#) website.

Rotary on the Move

The latest edition of the Rotary on the Move can be found [HERE](#).

This is a very special COVID-19 edition. Please take the time to read some interesting articles from Rotarians around Australia on how they are dealing with this crisis.

You can read about the newly chartered Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches. Anything is possible during this isolation.

Read about how we react at this time is how we will be remembered.

How can clubs actually grow at this time?

Evan Burrell, the Assistant Rotary Public image Co-ordinator for Zone 8 gives us some very good tips on how we leap into this technological era in which we find ourselves.

Some helpful direct links to important websites...

District Directory	District Directory - Login
District Website	Rotary District 9675 Home Page
Manual of Procedure	Rotary District 9675 Home Page
District Constitution	Rotary District 9675 Home Page
District Regulations	Rotary District 9675 Home Page
District Speaker List	District 9675 Speaker List
Rotary International	Rotary International Home Page
RI South Pacific & Philippines Office	Resource Guide for Club Officers
The Rotarian	The Rotarian Magazine
Rotary Leader	Rotary Leader

Yours in Rotary – Connecting the World

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Dianne North
District Governor