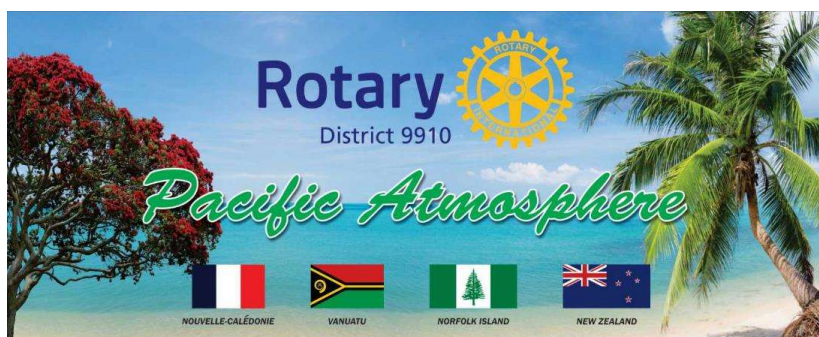




From Governor Ian - 19th March 2020

Kia ora koutou - watewieh yorlye - Bonjour à tous – halo evriwan

COVID-19 Pandemic

Welcome to this special edition Governors Newsletter.

Jasmine and I hope that this communication finds you all safe and healthy in this time of unprecedented global chaos resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Events have certainly escalated rapidly in the last 10 days and our Rotary organisation at District, Zone and International level has been drastically affected. Jasmine and I arrived home on Norfolk Island this last weekend. In addition to travel restrictions and isolation measures now in place in Australia and New Zealand, on Tuesday 17th March a travel ban was instituted for Norfolk Island and we are now unable to leave Norfolk Island for at least 32 days. Our thoughts are with those of you who may have also been caught up in travel restrictions.

Most of you would now be aware that we have cancelled our District Conference in Vanuatu. This was a very upsetting decision to have to make, but subsequent events and developments have proven it to be the correct thing to do. Jasmine and I share the disappointment of our Vanuatu Rotarians that this has happened for a second time. Thank you to all Past Governors and Rotarians that have sent messages of support following the announcement.

As the Covid-19 situation has evolved there have been further impacts locally and internationally.

- All NZ & Australian Rotary District Conferences have been cancelled.
- The Rotary International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii has been cancelled
- District 9910 RYLA for 2020 has been cancelled (9920 RYLA has also been cancelled)
- Challenge Camp 2020 has been cancelled
- MUNA 2020 has been cancelled
- Orewa-Millwater 2020 Rotary Swimathon has been cancelled
- Henderson Rotary GRS Charity Golf Tournament postponed
- Milford NRG Rotary Charity Ball postponed

At district level we will continue to monitor the situation and review arrangements for planned District meetings and events as they fall due on the calendar. The health and safety of our members are our top priorities.

I encourage you, as leaders in your community, to provide whatever assistance your community needs at this difficult time. Best wishes from Jasmine and I for the health and safety of your family and of all the members of our Rotary District family.

Governor Ian & Jasmine



Governor 2019-2020
Rotary
District 9910



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Mobile NZ 0211 475 527



17th March 2020

Notice from Governor Ian Kiernan re: D9910 District Conference - Vanuatu

Dear Rotarian friends,

Due to ongoing concerns about the current outbreak of COVID -19 (Coronavirus) I have made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 District Conference. It is with a heavy heart that I make this announcement and it is hugely disappointing and upsetting. It was a key goal of mine to have this year's conference in Vanuatu, particularly after our last Conference in Vanuatu 4 years ago also had to be cancelled.

The well-being and safety of our Rotary community is my top priority. Furthermore, there are unacceptable levels of district financial risk which may well be exacerbated by further delaying this decision. We have been closely monitoring the situation and have considered advice from the World Health Organisation, the New Zealand Ministry of Health and Rotary International before making this decision. The recently announced self-isolation measures announced by both Australia and New Zealand have further complicated matters.

My thoughts are with all those who have worked so hard to prepare for the conference, particularly our Vanuatu team. The Conference Committee and I can assure you this decision was not made lightly. Taking all aspects into consideration though, I believe the right decision has been made.

You should be aware that ALL New Zealand Rotary Districts have now cancelled their Conferences including those being held in New Zealand. Most Australian Rotary Districts that have not already held their Conference are also cancelling.

Due to various advisories and restrictions being put in place for events and gatherings there will be no postponement, relocation or re-scheduling of our District Conference. Some consideration may be given to digital presentations via online platforms.

This has been a very difficult and unexpected situation and has been the most difficult decision for me to date. I ask for your understanding and support, particularly for our Vanuatu Rotarians who have worked so hard and been looking forward to this event.

Kind regards

IAN KIERNAN

Governor 2019 – 2020
Rotary District 9910
NZ Mobile: 021 1475 527
Email: iankiernan.rotary@gmail.com
www.rotarydistrict9910.org



ROTARY 9910 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

22 – 26 April 2020, VANUATU

Q & A

1. Why has the District Conference in Vanuatu been cancelled?

Due to ongoing concerns and the unknown nature of the current outbreak of COVID-19 we have made the very difficult decision to cancel the District Conference in Vanuatu.

The Conference Committee and Governor Ian can assure you this decision was not made lightly. It is hugely disappointing as it was a key goal of Governor Ian to have this year's conference in Vanuatu. Taking all aspects into consideration we believe the right decision has been made.

2. The New Zealand Government's travel restrictions allow travel to/from the Pacific Islands. Why aren't we continuing with the district conference?

Whilst travel to/from Vanuatu is still possible, we believe the risks of the New Zealand Government or the Vanuatu Government imposing greater restrictions, along with the risk of someone coming down with the virus in Vanuatu, is just too great to ignore.

The Vanuatu Health Service does not have the capability to handle a COVID-19 outbreak.

3. The Vanuatu Government says they are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and are putting safety measures in place. Why isn't that enough?

Public and Government concerns in Vanuatu have escalated and it is reported the Vanuatu President will make an official address to the nation regarding border restrictions, strict control and preventative measures to be implemented. *Source – Vanuatu Daily Post, 17 March 2020.*

4. Why don't we wait a bit longer to see if the situation stabilises or improves

Given the daily escalation of the worldwide COVID-19 situation, many Rotarians had expressed concern and sought clarity regarding the status of the district conference. This, combined with the potential increased financial risk to the district of delaying a decision meant action needed to be taken.

5. I have already paid for my flights. What do I do now?

Those who booked through House of Travel, Milford be assured they are working with Air Vanuatu regarding options available. Please be patient. They are under pressure at the moment due to the changes occurring in the travel industry and will make contact with you in due course.

If you have booked travel through another travel agent we suggest you contact them directly and request advice on the options available to you.

6. I booked flights directly with Air Vanuatu and they are still operating. Will I get a refund?.

We recommend you contact Air Vanuatu direct to explore the options available to you.

7. I booked accommodation in Port Vila – will I get a refund?.

If you booked accommodation at Warwick Le Lagon through House of Travel, Milford they will be in contact regarding refund. Once again, please be patient whilst they work through all the ramifications of the current situation.

For those who have independently booked accommodation elsewhere or through another travel agent, we suggest you contact them directly about any refund.

ROTARY 9910 DISTRICT CONFERENCE 22 – 26 April 2020, VANUATU

Q & A

8. Where will the District Conference be now?

Due to various advisories and restrictions being put in place for events and gatherings there will be no postponement, relocation or re-scheduling of our District Conference. Some consideration may be given to digital presentations via online platforms.

All the other New Zealand Rotary districts, and most in Australia, who have not already held their district conferences have cancelled these events.

9. Will I get a refund on my registration fee?

While a deposit fee has been paid to the Warwick Le Lagon, we hope that we can refund most, if not all the fee you have paid. To assist in this process can you please email the conference registration officer, Christine Rasmussen, at rasfambc@gmail.com with your name, registration number and your bank details so a refund can be made to you.

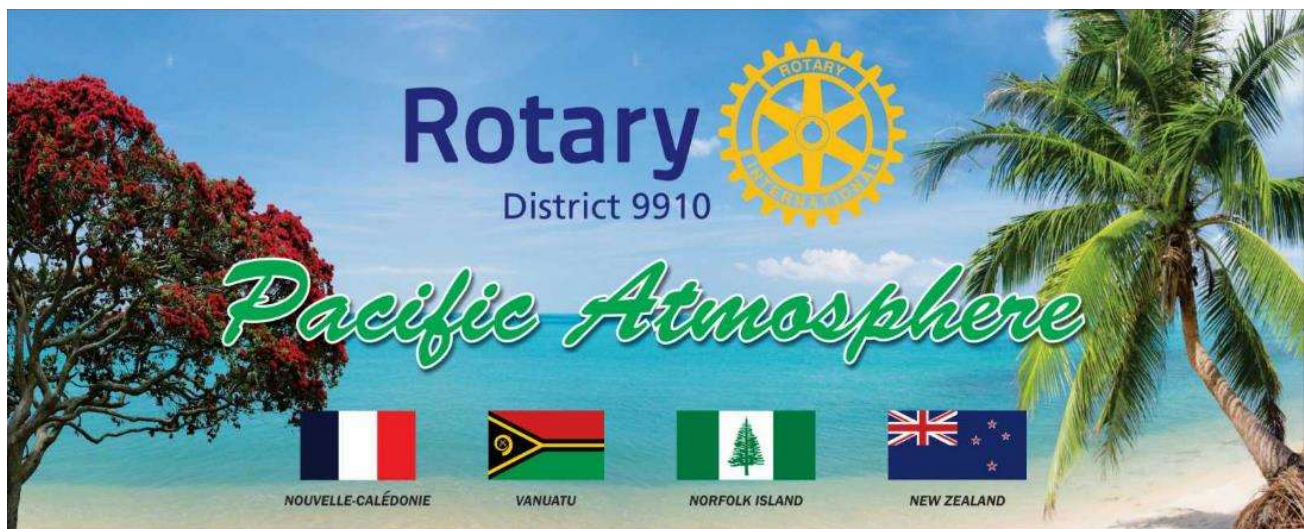
10. If we still want to use our flight and accommodation bookings and travel to Vanuatu, can we do so?

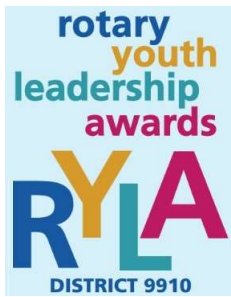
This is your decision and you will need to discuss this with your travel agent, taking in to account any of the Government restrictions.

11. This is the second district conference scheduled for Vanuatu which has been cancelled. What is the district doing to support our fellow Rotarians there?

Our thoughts are with all those who have worked so hard to prepare for the conference, particularly our Vanuatu team. who were looking forward to this event.

The district will continue to support and promote projects undertaken in Vanuatu, both by the local clubs and those based in New Zealand.





Rotary



District 9910

D9910 RYLA – Decision to cancel RYLA 2020

We wish to advise that regrettably, due to ongoing and growing concerns about the current outbreak of COVID-19 (with the number of reported cases in NZ starting to rise quickly - reaching 20 as I write this), we have made the difficult decision to cancel our District 9910 RYLA 2020.

It is very disappointing to have to do this, as RYLA is an important Rotary leadership development programme for young leaders and our previous participants tell us that the RYLA experience continues to have a significant impact. However the wellbeing of everyone attending RYLA is of paramount importance and, despite having prepared a robust RYLA Covid-19 Policies document in line with the current MoH guidelines, we reached the point where we were no longer confident we could provide the appropriate protection for everyone's wellbeing.

Due to the various advisories and restrictions being put in place for events and gatherings, we are not currently considering deferring to a date later in the year.

My thoughts are with my team – Fay, Megan and Dave - who have worked so hard to prepare for RYLA 2020. I also want to acknowledge and thank the participants and their employers for agreeing to support them. Hopefully we will see many of you at RYLA 2021.

I can assure you this decision was not made lightly. Taking all aspects into consideration though, I believe the right decision has been made.

Peter Garnett
Rotary District 9910 RYLA Chair





TO MEET OR NOT TO MEET

In the current environment it is up to each club to make its own decision on how to proceed with meetings, projects and events although erring on the side of caution is sensible. If meetings continue then members should take the advised social precautions now well communicated in the media.

It would seem to be a good idea for clubs to have a discussion to gauge the mood of members regarding whether and when they may continue to meet and probably to discuss other creative ways to meet in smaller groups if felt appropriate, or the online meeting possibilities; and if for the time being suspension of future meetings and projects is decided then how to remain connected etc.

Please follow the advice of the New Zealand Ministry of Health (MOH) Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) guidance - Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz> and the World Health Organization when considering whether or not to proceed with meetings, projects and events. Covid-19 specific Healthline 0800 358 5453 / Tele-health line (anytime) is 1737

Where meetings continue it is a good idea to remind those attending of the New Zealand Ministry of Health (MOH) Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) guidance and also to speak to the venue as to their hygiene practices and whether any additional measures need to be put into place to ensure the health of all present.

Maintain clear communication with members and community contacts.

If anyone is considering visiting another club it is advisable to check with that club ahead of the meeting as to any changes to the normal meeting details as some clubs are meeting as usual for the moment, some are meeting with reduced numbers (sometimes in a different location/format) and some have suspended meetings for the moment.

GUIDE TO MAINTAINING ENGAGEMENT

A useful guide has been provided by District 6690 intended for their members but equally of use for us.

It covers:

- Interim virtual meetings
- Engagement through social media
- Engagement through service
- Creative engagement strategies
- Important links and resources (most are relevant)

Getting the guide:

- Document Download link is <documents/en-au/adf9d1ef-427e-4c4e-b1ce-f9e1f2e1923d/1>
- Direct link to webpage is <https://rotary6690.org/maintaining-engagement>



COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK

SOME WELLBEING TIPS FOR CLUBS



FACTS, NOT FALSEHOODS

Check the latest information from. Health Departments and .
Rotary International's web page is here:
<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak>



KEEP PEOPLE INFORMED

Plan - Stay in touch with club members and community contacts and have a way for them to contact the club.
Uncertainty is the greatest killer of trust.



MEETING BY ANY MEANS

Move club and committee meetings to online when recommended. Think regular, meaningful use of Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp etc of right duration.



SERVICE STILL NEEDED

Adapt projects. Find ways to keep members engaged like Rotary learning, planning projects etc. Be aware of members needing a helping hand.



HANDWASHING – THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Protect others. Wash hands for 20 seconds after toilet use, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing and right before eating. Keep hands away from face.



Rotary

REGULARLY CHECK DISTRICT & RI WEBSITES AND FACEBOOK PAGES

Please keep an eye on your District website and Facebook page for District notices.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RotaryDistrict9910/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict9910/>

<https://www.facebook.com/rotary/>

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>





Mark Daniel Maloney

Rotary International President 2019-20
Rotary Club of Decatur
Alabama, USA

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends,

Let me get right to the unfortunate news — the RI Board of Directors has decided to cancel the 2020 Rotary International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. We are all part of the Rotary family, and your safety remains our highest priority. Like the more than 20,000 registrants who planned to attend this year's convention, I am very disappointed. However, this is the right and necessary decision to protect the health and safety of convention attendees, as well as those who call Honolulu home.

At this point, we are unsure that Rotary could adequately protect convention-goers from the risk of COVID-19 infection en route to, during, and after the convention. We are also unsure if restrictions on travel to the United States will be lifted by June. We have heard from a number of you who voiced concerns about gathering at the convention this year. I also heard from many who were hopeful that we could continue with the convention as planned. The Board was very diligent and considered all the facts before taking this decision.

At this time, we kindly ask that you do not contact RI Registration to inquire about your registration, ticket or housing cancellations as we work diligently to inform all attendees. Here is an overview of our plans for handling refunds and travel logistics.

Convention refunds

Anyone who registered for the convention will receive a full refund. This includes purchases made for the Rotaract and Youth Exchange preconvention events and ticketed meal events. We will send instructions on how to receive your refund soon. For those who had already canceled prior to today, you will also receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee. You can help expedite the process by canceling your registrations online using your [My Rotary](#) account.

Rotary Foundation and United Nations events

If you registered through Rotary International for Rotary Foundation events or *Rotary and the United Nations: Celebrating a 75-year Legacy of Humanitarian Cooperation*, you will receive a full refund. We will provide details soon.

Host Organization Committee ticketed event registrations

If you are registered for a host-ticketed event, the Host Organization Committee will contact you soon. As you can imagine, our Rotarian and Rotaractor friends in Hawaii are dealing with a difficult and evolving situation, and in most cases, are working remotely as so many of us are right now. So please be patient.

Hotel Rooms

If you booked an individual room within Rotary's official housing block, you will receive a follow-up communication and your credit card will not be charged. If you booked as a group within Rotary's official housing block and made a full or partial payment, you will receive a follow-up communication and instructions on receiving a refund.

Your ticketed travel

Many airlines are updating their cancellation and change policies to accommodate travel restrictions put in place by countries. Please work with your airline or travel agency.

Planning the Honolulu convention was hard work, and I want to thank the 2020 Honolulu Convention Committee, the Host Organization Committee, the 2020 Honolulu Convention Promotion Committee, and Rotary staff for planning what would have been one of the best Rotary conventions yet.

The convention has always been an opportunity for us to generate new energy for Rotary and to draw inspiration as we come together to celebrate, learn, and grow. Now is our moment to demonstrate that *Rotary Connects the World* in innovative ways. Let's redouble our focus and energy on the work we do in our communities. We know the power and potential that lie within our simple acts of connecting. This is particularly true when we lend helping, hopeful hands to others, especially those dealing with the effects of isolation and fear. As we do this, so too can we continue to collaborate on big projects using all of the technology and expertise at our disposal.

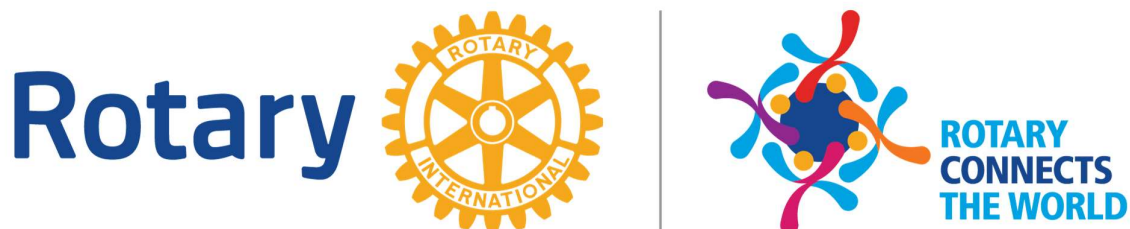
We are exploring how we can share a convention-like experience with you through a virtual event, which could be a great example of us following the Rotary Action Plan goal of increasing our ability to adapt. We will have more to say on this in the near future.

I have no doubt that we will come through this and gather in the future to celebrate with an even deeper appreciation for our work, our experiences, and the many connections we have made through Rotary.

Until then, thank you for your understanding of this difficult decision. Please know that we will make decisions as quickly as we can. As I am sure you can imagine, both Rotary members and staff are operating in a challenging situation. Please be safe as you continue to take action and do good throughout the world.

Aloha and kindest regards,

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International, 2019-2020



Rotary SOUTH PACIFIC & PHILIPPINES OFFICE

Dear Club Officers,

Please be advised that effective today, 16th March 2020, this office will be operating under an alternative setup both to ensure the well-being and safety of our staff as well as to lead the community to make an effort to flatten the curve and allow our health systems to cope with the surge of confirmed cases of COVID19 in our communities.

Work from home arrangements have been offered to all staff and while we carry on as normally as possible, there will be some areas of our operations that will be impacted.

Calls will still go through to our phones and we encourage you to contact us if you need any assistance. Our [Contact List](#) would be helpful in identifying who to call for your particular query. Our [Resource Guide for Rotary Club Officers](#) also provides helpful links to resources that you may need.

Some of our staff will be coming in on Tuesdays and Thursdays to check on mail and bank any cheques that come by post. Dispatch of regalia via Australia Post will also be done on those days. Fedex to the Philippines will only be done on Thursdays.

We strongly encourage you to use MyRotary to make dues payments and contributions. Other alternatives would be to do a funds transfer (instructions are included in the [Resource Guide for Rotary Club Officers](#)), properly identifying the club or donor; or by credit card. These methods can be done with minimal delays.

With the uncertainty in the economy, it is expected for the exchange rates to take a bad turn. If you are intending to send in funds, please do so before the end of March.

The situation we are faced with is unprecedented and we are trying to be as adaptable as we can be without sacrificing the service levels that we are committed to delivering. I am proud to be leading such a dynamic team who are passionately supportive of Rotary's causes and ideals.

Please reach out to us if you need anything as that is what we are here for. If you have any suggestions or feedback on how we can serve you better, please let us know. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. Let's look out for each other in these challenging times.

Best Regards,

Grace

Grace Ramirez

Manager, International Office and Financial Services

rotary.org

Direct Line: (612) 8894 9830

Office Line: (612) 8894 9800

Facsimile: (612) 8894 9899



Rotary



Rotary New Zealand World Community Service www.rnzwcs.org
Registered Charity CC26860

Signatory to the Council for International Development Code of Conduct

With a number of clubs cancelling meetings for the foreseeable future, we would be pleased to receive any donations still to be passed on for the following. A number of clubs have reported on facebook and other social media that they have raised funds for these activities.

The account number is the same for all.

Acccont No. 03 1702 0192208 01

Please include the Reference Number applicable to the activity.

Ref. No. 421	Pacific Measles Outbreak
Ref. No O11	Australian Bushfires
Ref. No. 419	Give Every Child A Future
Ref. No. 308	Emergency Response Kits (ERKs)
Ref. No. 408	Annual Cataract and Eye Surgery, Taveuni
Ref. No. 015	Annual Educational Scholarships for Disadvantaged Children, Taveuni
Ref. No. 402	Rotary Pacific Water for Life
Ref. No. 420	Rotary Family Health Days for Family Health and Aids Prevention

Alternative cheque to

RNZWCS Limited (Rotary New Zealand), PO Box 20309, Christchurch 8543

IT'S NOT ABOUT US, IT'S ABOUT THEM

19 MARCH 2019



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**