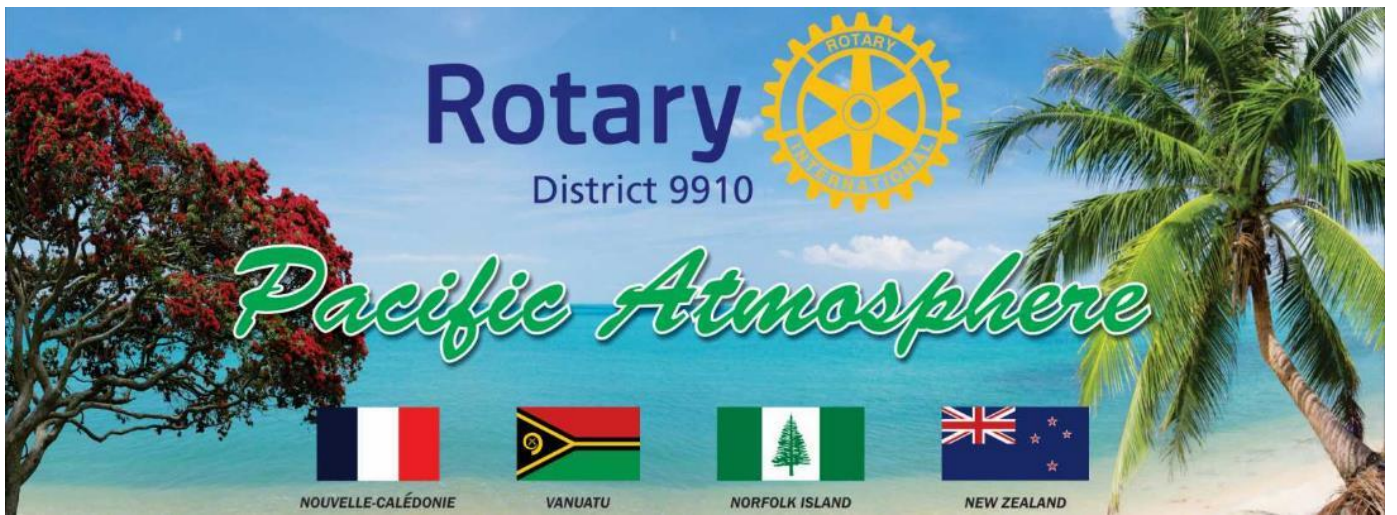






From Governor Ian - June 2020

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

Greetings Rotarians and friends all,

Welcome to this, the last Governor Newsletter from myself & Jasmine.

So, we come to the end of another Rotary year, and what a year it has been - certainly not one that I envisaged. To say that the year has had challenges is a bit of an understatement.

At the beginning of the year and during my club visits I shared RI President Mark Maloney's message of changes needed within our Rotary organisation. I did not expect that a worldwide pandemic would be arranged to force the issue. Rotary clubs around the world have had to adapt and change rapidly to accommodate our new reality, and if there is any kind of a silver lining to the worldwide Covid-19 crisis, for us in Rotary, surely it is that we have the opportunity to embrace change and emerge as a stronger and more agile organisation that remains relevant in the new normal.

We were barely out of the starting blocks mid-July last year when District 9920 advised us they were withdrawing from the process to create a new amalgamated District. Past Governor Bruce Rasmussen and our re-districting team had put a lot of time and effort into the Tangata Moana project and I thank them sincerely for their perseverance. The unfortunate outcome was not our decision and entirely out of our hands.

There is still the opportunity for our District to increase our membership above the RI mandated threshold of 1,100, and we remain committed to trying to achieve this goal. Our District submitted a comprehensive Membership Growth Action Plan to Rotary International and the Re-Districting Committee, and they have given us until 1st July 2023 to achieve the membership growth required.

Regretfully the Covid-19 situation has restricted action on membership growth since March, but there are some promising signs for the new Rotary Year. I am aware of plans underway for several new Satellite Clubs that will hopefully come to fruition, and I look forward to updates from Membership Chair Matthew and Governor Elaine as the year progresses.

During this year Jasmine and I tried hard to involve ourselves in Club activities outside of our Official Club visits and District events. We did manage to participate in many club projects and activities but of course it was physically impossible to be everywhere. Thank you to those clubs that allowed us to be involved. We gained an invaluable insight into the extent and variety of great work that our clubs do whilst enjoying the comradery of shared purpose and achievement. Our District can be proud of the difference that we make in our local communities and the wider international scene.





There were of course other activities outside of our involvement at club level. Never one to turn down a challenge, especially for a good cause, I accepted the dare of my District 9920 counterpart Gary Langford to jump off the Auckland Sky Tower to raise funds for Cure Kids. Thanks to the outstanding support of Clubs and Rotarians in our District as well as friends & whanau, we managed to raise \$5,500. Overall, our Rotary team of six raised just over NZ\$20,000 for Cure Kids.

There was also the inaugural "Ride the Train to End Polio" event which was held in conjunction with District 9920. Friday 1 November 2019 saw a day of red polio shirts throughout the Auckland train system. Rotarians, Rotaractors and celebrities such as Miss New Zealand Lucy Brock, MPs Simon Bridges and David Seymour plus others were riding to Tag Polio Off.

Participants rode the entire Auckland AT train network to publicise Polio Eradication and Rotary's role in this global initiative. Most train stations had a Rotary Polio presence as well and clubs were getting onto the train to present their club contribution to the Polio campaign. I would like to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Onehunga – One Tree Hill and their late member Dr Ian Devereux who contributed over \$43,000 on the day. In total over \$73,000 was raised, and of course this will be matched 2 for 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.



As we all know, mid-March saw our Rotary journey come to a screeching halt due to the rapidly escalating situation with Covid-19. With borders rapidly closing throughout our Pacific region we had no choice but to cancel the District Conference in Vanuatu. Other District event cancellations soon followed and then of course the complete lockdown of NZ which meant no Rotary club events or meetings at all. Nobody would have blamed us for simply shutting up shop and hibernating, but Rotarians are made of sterner stuff.

Instead, we said how can we stay in contact? how can we maintain Club solidarity, engagement, and fellowship? And most importantly, what can we do to assist our communities in this cataclysmic situation? Well we found a way to do all of that, and in the process have likely laid the groundwork for fundamental change for the better. It made me proud to see how Rotary International, our District and Clubs rose to the challenge.

On Monday April 6th Cyclone Harold slammed into Vanuatu causing widespread destruction, but once again our District rallied to the cause of our Vanuatu whanau. Our clubs in Santo and Port Vila were busy on the ground distributing Emergency Response Kits and other aid whilst Past Governor Lindsay Ford and his Vanuatu Project Team spearheaded fundraising efforts in both NZ and Australia. My thanks to the clubs that supported the various appeals that are even now continuing to provide assistance in the recovery effort.



For Jasmine and Myself the Governor journey is now at an end. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your Governor and I thank you sincerely for affording me this opportunity. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time and interaction with the clubs in our wider Rotary District. We hope that we can maintain the connection with you all even though we live in isolated Norfolk Island.

To the District Management Team & Committee Chairs, thank you for your dedicated work. To our long serving District Administrator Margaret, thanks for your tireless and efficient service to our District.

To our District Conference Committee's, Robert Bohn, Red Benjamin and the team in Vanuatu, Bruce & Christine Rasmussen and Kelvin Davis in NZ, thank you for all the hard work you put into the organisation of our District Conference. It was disappointing to have to cancel the conference, but your efforts are nonetheless appreciated.

To all our Past Governors, thank you for your support and advice. In particular, thank you to my Vice Governor Peter Garnett who has been a wonderfully supportive mentor and handled things for me in NZ during my enforced extended stay here on Norfolk Island.

To Elaine, Grant and Matthew, I wish you all the very best in your personal Governor Journeys. It gives me great confidence that our District will be in such capable hands going forward.

Lastly, but by no means least, I must thank my wonderful wife Jasmine. She has been an integral part of the Governorship this year, and I am extremely grateful for her wonderful support and immensely proud of her achievements.

haere rā, Au revoir, Baibai Lukim yu

Thaenks fe úcklun and see yorlye morla

Governor Ian



Rotary District 9910

From Jasmine Kiernan (2019/20 Governor Partner)

My thanks to all clubs for the warm welcome given to Ian and I on our official Club visits. I would especially like to thank East Coast Bays Club who agreed to be our “adoptive” club during Ian’s Governor year and provided friendship and support.

I enjoyed being involved in “hands on” club projects – cooking sausages outside Bunnings and 2 course meals at Ronald McDonald House, weeding at the Matuku Link Reserve, registering runners for the Kaikohe-Okaihau traverse, waterblasting runners in the Paihia Colour run, selling books at the Northcote/Glenfield Bookfair and directing vehicles at the Dargaville Field Days, to name just a few of the club projects we were privileged to be able to be part of.



I especially enjoyed a visit to the Starship Hospital and Ronald McDonald House with Barbara Watt and Bill Horne and meeting 19month old Ben from Epi and 16 month old Jasminah from Port Vila and their mums. Both Ben and Jasminah had received major heart surgery through the ROMAC program and just short days after this lifesaving surgery, were happy vivacious children, their mums looking forward to returning home with their happy healthy children.



As you all know, I took on a Partner project during Ian’s year as District Governor, with the aim to raise funds for **ROMAC** through making and raffling mosaics based on Rotary International Themes through the years. I would like to thank all those who supported this project and am happy to advise that, once borders open and we are able to return to NZ, I will be presenting **ROMAC** with the amount of \$10,000.00. This includes the amount of \$1,100 presented to me by the Whangarei South Club who held a fundraiser specifically to raise funds to support my project and I sincerely thank them for their support.

My thanks once again to everyone for their friendship and support.

Thaenks fe úcklun and see yorlye morla

Jasmine



Mark Daniel Maloney

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

Rotary



When we gathered at the 2019 International Assembly to plan for 2019-2020, we celebrated that *Rotary Connects the World!* And, for the first three quarters of our year of shared leadership, we were People of Action focused on growing Rotary, on organizing new clubs, on encouraging young leaders, and on emphasizing family within Rotary. We were making great progress in these areas, and, with your leadership, we remain People of Action continuing to make great progress.

But, it is in the last quarter of our year that you along with the other Aloha Governors really excelled at leadership. Most of our class of Aloha Governors had to cancel district conferences and meetings which had been planned and organized for years. Faced with a global health challenge, we have found that remaining connected within our clubs and throughout our world has become a special challenge to us all – how do we maintain and build on our global friendships to stay connected and continue our good works during a global pandemic that requires us to keep a safe distance? We all had to resort to virtual meetings, managing district affairs and humanitarian efforts from the island of our home.

The Aloha Governors have shown me that true leadership exists not only when times are good, but, more importantly, when times are challenging. One of the Aloha Governors recently commented that we have “served at a time when we can see the best in people. We saw our Rotary family step up to donate to those in need of food, shelter, and clothing. . . .We were able to accept the generosity of our fellow humanitarians to help with our communities in times of disaster. . . .Most of all, we were able to serve those we know and love and those we will never meet.”

Now, we are experiencing in real time how important it is to create new club experiences. I never expected ALL of us to have to experience this at once, but so much the better! It is my hope that all we accomplished this year will continue in the years ahead. Even more importantly, I hope that the flexibility and adaptability we have shown in these difficult times will make it possible to keep changing in the years ahead.

What we have experienced together this year is remarkable. Your actions this year have shown that the world can be made better through Rotary; that some of the good things missing from the world—service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership—are still right here in Rotary waiting for people to embrace them. Throughout this year, you have represented what Rotary is and can be to our world.

Gay and I thank you for all your efforts. Your hard work as a District Governor has helped us adapt and thrive as you have led Rotary into its next decade of service. Gay and I are connected with you and the other Aloha Governors in a unique way. We hope to continue this special connection in the years to come. Now more than ever, *Rotary Connects the World!*

Kindest regards,

Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International 2019-2020



Each year our District recognises Clubs, Rotarians and other individuals by presenting various awards at the annual District Conference. With District Conference cancelled this year we utilised the occasion of our District Changeover to present these various awards. Following are the awards presented by Vice Governor Peter Garnett in the absence of Governor Ian.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION DISTRICT SERVICE AWARDS

The Rotary Foundation District Service Award honours Rotarians who are making a difference through the Foundation's programs. This year we recognise the members of the District Grants Committee who have all given their time and commitment over a number of years to ensure clubs are supported in their community projects.



- **Roy Dykes (Chair)**
- **Murray Orr**
- **Bronwyn Ellison (District Foundation Treasurer)**
- **Keith Day (District Stewardship Chair)**

DISTRICT CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

A District Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to **Brian Mullan** for the huge personal time and commitment he has given to the establishment and support of the Satellite Club of Orewa-Millwater over the past four years.



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was established in 1957 to recognize contributions to The Rotary Foundation by individual Rotarians. Clubs and Districts contributions to the Foundation enable them to give Paul Harris Fellow recognition to community members and Rotarians for their service to the community or to Rotary. This year we recognise six such people for significant, selfless service to our community and Rotary - people who neither seek nor expect public recognition, people who go quietly about doing good in our community, exemplifying Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

Bruce Rasmussen for his contributions to the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum, for his support of the NRG Satellite club, for the huge effort he put into Tangata Moana – the new district project, now deferred - and for his tireless support for Governor Ian for the planned District Conference in Vanuatu and the subsequent work following the cancellation.



Monica Webb for her contribution as Chair of our District IYE programme, her untiring and caring support for both our Outbound and Inbound Students and the for huge amount of work she has been doing behind the scenes to ensure the safety of all of our students during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Assistant Governor Gary Richards and District Trainer Georgina Richards

in recognition of their community leadership in the Whangaparaoa and Gulf Harbour areas during Covid-19, developing a network of community support for those in this community who were at risk and needed support



District Administrator Margaret Cebalo

in recognition of her quiet, ongoing and huge support for Governor Ian and the District during the past year. Especially during the Covid-19 lockdown and the isolation of Ian and Jasmine in Norfolk Island since mid-March. Together with her ongoing support of her own club's community activities.



Jasmine Kiernan

for her huge support for Governor Ian, for her willing and active participation in many Rotary club community projects and for her wonderful fundraising project for ROMAC. As advised she has raised NZ\$10,000 for ROMAC to date.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARD

Past Governor Neil Reid

The strength of Rotary is founded on the service carried out by club members worldwide. The Rotary International Avenues of Service Award is presented to an individual who has achieved distinction in all five Rotary Avenues of Service.

Past Governor Neil has served on almost all club committees during his over 29 years in Rotary. He communicates with members and frequently mentors both new and existing members. He enjoys using his experiences to provide them with a background on Rotary International and the opportunities Rotary provides for individual members. He has participated in many Club community projects as well as various projects in Vanuatu, including building schools and water and sanitation blocks. Through his experience was able to show and encourage others to upskill.

Following a successful year as District Governor, he has provided strong support and leadership in many district activities, including membership development, foundation, finance, training and club visioning. It was through his energy and drive, that satellite clubs were successfully introduced to our district.

He has been an active community member, having been involved in a number of significant community trusts and activities. However, undoubtedly his passion has been with Surf Lifesaving. A major community project was the planning and funding of the new Surf lifesaving club building at Muriwai. He is a Life Member of the Muriwai Surf Lifesaving Club as well as the national body.

Past Governor Neil has done a lot more for Rotary than can meet the eye and has always stood up and accepted any challenges. Everything he does is to enhance the image of Rotary. He is a true, trusted member of the Rotary family, locally and Internationally. He is a deserved recipient of the Rotary International Avenues of Service Award.



DISTRICT AWARDS 2019-2020

Membership Award - Les Colgan Trophy



Presented by the Rotary Club of New Lynn for the club recording the greatest percentage increase of membership over the Rotary year to date.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF PORT VILA

Millennium Cup



Presented by PDG Michael Hill for the club project which best provides service to the community, innovation, membership involvement, public recognition and presentation.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF OREWA-MILLWATER

The Foundation Shield White Dixon Trophy



Presented by the 1991 GSE Team from District 1200 SW England, for the club making the greatest per capita contribution to the Rotary Foundation in the preceding Rotary year.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF WHANGAREI

Rotary Australia & New Zealand Student Exchange (RANZSE) Award - Kevin and Lyn Hartley Trophy



Presented to the club considered to have made the greatest contribution to the RANZSE programme (previously known as South Pacific Matched Student Exchange) during the current Rotary year.

NOT Awarded
NO RANZSE EXCHANGE THIS ROTARY YEAR

New Generations Trophy



Donated by Christine and Ron Bray to encourage and challenge clubs to induct and retain younger members in Rotary.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HENDERSON

Effective Social Media/Best Website Award



This award recognises a club which best demonstrates the most effective use of electronic media and the attraction of membership through this source.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF OREWA - MILLWATER

DISTRICT AWARDS 2019-2020

Fortune Group Cup



Donated by PDG David Oliver this award recognises the club with the highest total donations to the Rotary Foundation this year to date.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF OREWA

International Youth Exchange Award – Mark Taylor Trophy



Presented by Past IYE Chairman Mark Taylor for the club making the greatest contribution to the IYE programme during the current year.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALBANY

Diversity in Rotary Award



This award recognises the commitment a club has made to represent the widely diverse NZ community in their membership.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HILLSBOROUGH, LYNFIELD & MT ROSKILL

Bulletin Editor's Award – the Jack Keys Trophy



Presented by the Rotary Club of Warkworth to the Bulletin Editor and Club for the best Bulletin throughout the year, based on presentation, information, Rotary coverage, interest and style.

Awarded to:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF ONEHUNGA, ONE TREE HILL

Assistant Governor of the Year



Recognises outstanding contribution by an Assistant Governor in fulfilling their tasks, who is well respected by Area Presidents and has acted as strong support to the District Governor

Awarded to: LIZ HENLEY

Rotarian of the Year – David Oliver & Geoff Dainty Trophy



Presented to the Rotarian who best epitomises the Rotary motto "Service above Self" in the Rotary year.

Awarded to: MATTHEW McLEOD



Regional Bulletin June 2020

Here we are at the halfway mark of the calendar year, at the cusp of ending as well as beginning a new Rotary year. The last six months have been a flurry of virtual activity from mostly the comfort of our homes.

Events have been unfolding at lightning speed. For me, the chaos that has ensued has really highlighted the attributes that are required of leadership in these times. Reading materials, courses, conversations on the topic would talk of the skills necessary but in light of the times, one attribute has proven to be a core essential: Emotional intelligence. This has determined the success (or failure) of world leaders in handling the current crises we are in.

On an article posted on Harvard Business School Online, “emotional intelligence is defined as the ability to understand and manage your own emotions, as well as recognize and influence the emotions of those around you.” Its core competencies include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management. These allow one to stay calm, hold one’s emotions in check and effectively resolve conflict by responding with empathy versus merely reacting on impulse.

We see many examples of leadership (or lack of) on show in these times. Let’s pick up on what we can emulate and learn from. To the outgoing district and club leadership, congratulations on your achievements for the past year. It was definitely a challenging year of ensuring that Rotary continued to “Connect the World”. You had an early start to opening opportunities as well, which the incoming officers will take on as their theme next year.

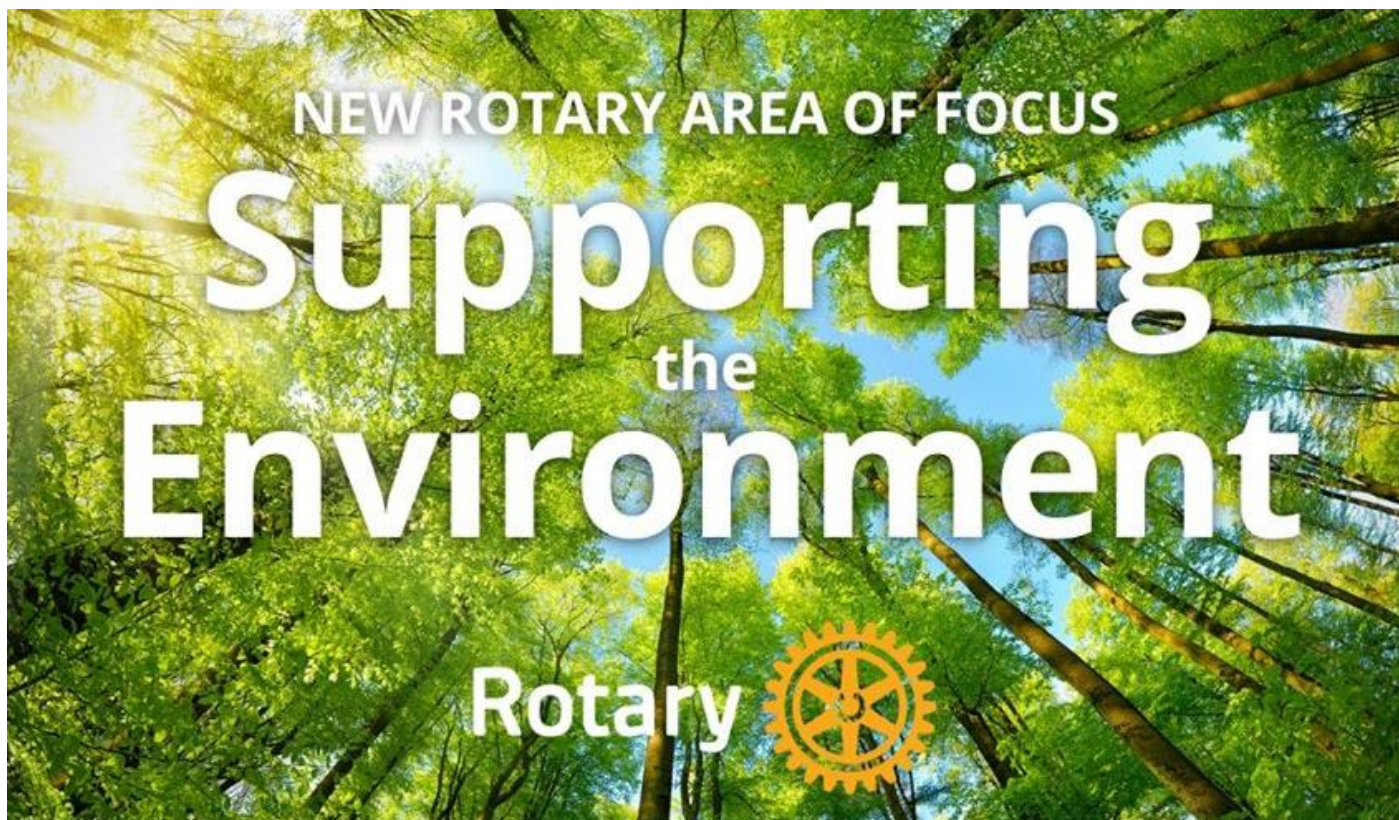
To the incoming officers, you are standing on the shoulders of giants. Not just of your immediate predecessors but of *all* of them who have forged the history of each of your districts and clubs. From this vantage, you have a keener vision on the way forward. We wish you well and extend our support as your Regional Office.

It is with great sadness to hear that one such giant has passed on last week. Sir Clement Renouf was instrumental in putting polio eradication as Rotary’s top agenda. He was the Charter secretary of the Rotary Club of Nambour, Australia and was one of the three Founding Trustees of the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust, TRF’s Associate Foundation in Australia. He was the RI President in 1978-79 preceding James L. Bomar Jr., who ceremonially launched the Philippine Polio immunization effort in September 1979. He has left a great legacy for all Rotarians around the world. Someone has said this is the end of an era for Rotary in Australia. It may very well be - but the opportunity is always there to start a new one. In his acceptance speech in the 1977 Rotary Convention, Sir Clem said, *“Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible.”* His leadership may be a tough act to follow, but as with all things, it all starts with a single step. He has definitely been an inspiration to us all.

Best Regards,

Grace

Grace Ramirez
Manager, International Office and Financial Services



The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.



The Trustees and Directors have unanimously accepted our recommendation to create a 7th Area of Focus of our Rotary Foundation, being the Environment. As Chair of the Task Force that put together and argued for this decision, I'm enormously proud today. This photo is of the 4 Trustees, 1 Director and 1 Rotaractor who comprised the Task Force plus the outstanding and dedicated staff who assisted us in arriving at our recommendation. We still have lots of work to do, including finalizing the Area of Focus statement and getting the fundraising going to support the grant applications that are sure to come flooding in after 1st July 2021. Congratulations team, we just made Rotary history!

Past RI President Ian Risely – 27th June 2020



Chairman's Message

My ROMAC Friends

I sincerely hope that you are coping well with the restrictions forced upon us by Covid-19 and are now beginning to enjoy the opportunities to socialise with friends and family as the lockdowns are gradually eased.

Like most of you, I am sure, I have been thrilled to see the way Rotarians have adapted to meeting virtually through social media channels and web-based programs such as Zoom and Google Hangouts, often with a greater attendance than would be at a regular club meeting. It has proved to be a great opportunity for the ROMAC team to promote our organisation, as Clubs have often been struggling to find guest speakers prepared to address their members via a virtual meeting. I sincerely thank those of you who have invited me, and the ROMAC Regional Chairs, as your guest speakers during the past weeks. For many Clubs, this is their first presentation on ROMAC for many years and the 10 minute video presentation we have shown during the address has been well accepted and has been an ideal way to succinctly tell the ROMAC story. If your Club has not had a speaker on ROMAC for some time and would like to have a presentation, please contact me on chair@romac.org.au to organise this.

As is the case with most not-for-profit organisations, Covid-19 has had a huge impact on our operation and has meant we have been unable to bring patients into Australia and New Zealand for treatment. We currently have number of patients who have been accepted by the Board, but have been forced to wait because of the lockdown. The challenge, of course, will be finding hospital beds for them once the restrictions are lifted as there will be a backlog of surgery on local patients that will have precedence.

It has also meant that patients who have been treated are unable to return home. Although he's still not well enough to return home to the Solomon Islands, it is hoped that Vincent, who is being treated at the Centennial Hospital for Women and Children in Canberra, will be able to travel in July. Our other patient, Germaine, was successfully operated on at Sydney's Westmead Hospital in early March, but by the time she was discharged the travel embargo was in place, so she is currently living in Wollongong with her mother who is studying nursing at Wollongong University. Once the restrictions are lifted, Germaine will return to the Solomons with her father.

Of course, the other big impact that Covid-19 has had on ROMAC is financial. Because Clubs are not able to conduct their traditional regular fundraising events they are limited in how much money they are able to donate to organisations like ROMAC. As expected, our income is down as a result. I ask that you continue to support us if you can, even if it's not to the extent that you would normally donate. I also ask that you promote ROMAC to your Club members and friends and encourage them to support us with a personal donation. Individuals (even those not in Rotary) can become a ROMAC Friend with a donation of just \$100 annually. ROMAC receives no Government funding and relies entirely on the generosity of Rotarians and Clubs to continue to operate, so all contributions are gratefully received. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

I recommend you visit our website www.romac.org for more information about our important work. Thank you for your continued commitment to ROMAC.



Keep well and stay safe.

PDG Harold Sharp
Chairman





Interplast®

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Meet Anulagi, a three-year-old boy who lives in Apia, in Samoa. Anulagi is a bright young boy who is full of energy. He was born with a unilateral cleft lip and met the Interplast surgical team when the team was at Tupua Tamasese Meole Hospital on a recent program.

A cleft lip is a gap in the upper lip. A unilateral cleft lip is a gap on one side, and a bilateral cleft lip is a gap on both sides. For a surgeon to correct a cleft, they must make an incision on both sides of the cleft towards the nostril. These two sides are then stitched together by rearranging the surrounding tissue. Whilst closing the lip, the repair also includes realigning the muscle of the upper lip to improve lip function and facilitate sucking.

Before the surgery both Anulagi and his mother were understandably nervous. Associate Professor Dr Marucci was able to comfort them using the words of Samoan that he has learnt over his years of Interplast programs. Dr Marucci, alongside local surgical registrar Dr Junior Posini, repaired Anulagi's cleft.

Interplast volunteers work with, and mentor, local medical professionals to achieve successful patient outcomes and build capacity for future patients.

Anulagi's surgery was a resounding success. His mother is incredibly happy with the result. Her little boy will now have a similar future to his friends and siblings, and can grow and thrive.

This surgical program to Samoa was supported by the Rotary Club of Mornington and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons through the Pacific Island Program (PIP).

Whilst COVID-19 is sweeping the world, Interplast hopes that you, your families and your club all stay safe. Children like Anulagi will need Interplast's & Rotary's help more than ever once COVID-19 has disappeared. Through Rotary you can have a long-lasting impact on their lives.



Pictured is Anulagi and his mother with Associate Professor Dr Damian Marucci (left)



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www.interplast.org.au

www.interplast.org.nz



Norfolk Island is home to Myself and Jasmine and we frequently get asked questions about the Island. We thought that we would share some of the more unique aspects of our Island home with you in the Governors Newsletter during the year along with some information on the Islands unique language.

Unique Fact number 12

Norfolk Island Funerals are FREE

When a community member dies on Norfolk Island a unique series of events is put into motion. A death notice will be broadcast on the local community radio station with funeral arrangements to be advised later. All flags on the Island are flown at half-mast on the day of the announcement and the day of the funeral. Bereaved families will have a steady stream of community members offering home cooked meals and other offers of assistance. Once the family has made the arrangements and travel plans are made by those offshore wishing to attend, the date of the funeral will be announced.



A basic casket is provided by the Norfolk Is Regional Council, graves are dug by volunteers, flowers donated by community members and wreaths are made by volunteers. Usually a large proportion of the community attend the graveside if not the Church service.

Norfolk words and meanings

- webaut yu gwen? - where are you going?
- yorlye hau waawaha - you are stuck-up
- yu hau ama ula - you are clumsy
- yu gut a hili - you are lazy



The Norfolk phrase this week can be said a couple of ways with slightly different implications. Someone might (correctly) indicate there's beer on the ship and the likely reply would be "gude fe see et!" or good to see it! Even better if you're describing someone that's particularly good looking or basically hot you would describe them as "dem hau gude fa see et " or in essence they're so good looking it's good to see them....a bit of an understatement really.

Daaset yorlye, tek keya tal neks taim; en ef ai s' pat eni yorlye t'slip, rimemba daa thing f' Elvas 'wieki-wieki'!!!

That's all everybody, until next time take care, and if I have put any of you to sleep, remember Elvas saying "wakey-wakey".



Traditions Norfolk Island

Have you ever attended a Norfolk funeral, listened to a eulogy and thought to yourself, “why didn’t I know that the bloke who used to wave to me every morning down Kingston was educated at King’s College in London, had a degree in Neuropsychology, was mates with the drummer from Pink Floyd, built huts in Africa during the 90’s...and was a dab hand at making chili infused dark chocolate fudge on the weekends!??” “S*&t!” (I usually say to myself). “Bring him back so I can get to know him again and ask all the questions I should have asked before”.

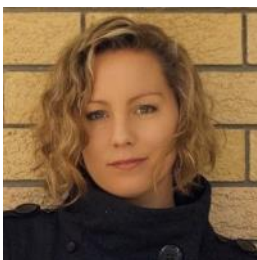
Norfolk Island is like a sublime melting pot of intellectuals, philosophers, scientists, craftspeople, writers. Tradespeople who hand cut entire boats for fun in their spare time. Unfortunately, everyone wanders about in shorts drinking coffee, sharing bags of bananas, going fishing and generally being friendly and polite, so you wouldn’t even start to guess at the rich tapestry of life that weaves behind each of its inhabitants. Colourful backgrounds abound and there’s something about Norfolk that draws a particular style of human to her shores.

A human who, for whatever reason/s, has had enough of the surface area politeness of the disengaged, and is seeking a genuineness, a truthful, clear way of being, in which to live life.

Are you one of those? Or are you one who was born into this melting pot of serenity, growing up amidst the Summer-time corn stalks and taking your first steps in her rich red soil? For the lucky amongst us, it’s the latter. If you’re the former, well, perhaps you’ve also found home after years of looking.

For while Norfolk blood flows in many a vein, with a richness of being and descended from history, for some, myself included, I recognised Norfolk as my home when my little 6 year old feet hit those damn bindies on the second tee running hell for leather across the golf course, straight for the salty peacefulness of Emily Bay. What is it about? Why here? Why does my spirit hum to a different rhythm, like a string has been strung and the note settles? Like my brain relaxes into a different wave. And who else feels this way? For while the world seems to be spinning faster somehow, with less manners and a more ridiculous consumeristic rush, there is an undercurrent of tradition and humour, of knowledge and history, just waiting to be tapped into and gently shared. And this is where this story begins...

(Excerpt from Traditions Magazine article - 2016)



Gabrielle Camille Beaumont
12 December 1979 - 20 November 2019



Last November Jasmine and I made a very short visit home for the funeral of my Step-Sister Gabrielle Beaumont. At only 39 years of age and the youngest of the Beaumont & Kiernan siblings, her passing had a profound effect on our “blended” family.

Following is a brief bio of Gab’s in her own words:

Gabrielle Beaumont

BHSc (ECNH), peer reviewed author, bungee jumper. Mad Terry Pratchett fan. Base camp is Norfolk Island, however is partial to skulking away on overseas explorations. Occasionally accused of being a writer, lets it slide. Life advice: “No running with scythes!” (Pratchett). Gabrielle started formal studies in 2012, undertaking a Bachelor’s degree in Health Science (Naturopathic Medicine) in Australia with the Endeavour College of Natural Health. Clinical interests include immune system dysfunction, including cancer and autoimmune conditions, circadian rhythm and sleep-wake cycles, the endocannabinoid and nervous systems, and uses of immune-modulating herbs and medicinal fungi, particularly those from Traditional Chinese Medicine. She is a member of the Naturopaths & Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA), writes the wellbeing column in the monthly digital magazine ‘Traditions’.

Whilst Gab’s was talented in her chosen career, it was her writing and passion for Norfolk Island that we all came to love. She had a way of describing things that encapsulated not just the nuts & bolts of day to day life, but of those special moments and feelings that we often struggle to communicate. The above excerpt from the Norfolk Island Traditions magazine was read at Gabrielle’s funeral. For us it was a perfect example of her witty and descriptive writing that explained feelings we could not always convey.

People often ask Jasmine and I why we like living on Norfolk Island, and I think Gab’s explains it perfectly – it is the people. I think this answer is also true for why we join, participate and stay in Rotary.

To borrow one of past Governor Jerry’s favourite Maori proverbs:

He aha te mea nui o te ao. ‘

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata

It is people, it is people, it is people.

Ian & Jasmine



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