

Rotary

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Your
guide to
doing
good.

JUN
2022
ISSUE 650

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+
**Rotary
District
9970**
BEAUTY
& BRAUN



**HARNESSING
THE NO. 8
WIRE MENTALITY**
Rotary District 9980

+ **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:
Rotary on the road towards reconciliation**



Every year, 1 in 5 Australians will experience



some form of **MENTAL ILLNESS**

One of the most significant barriers to improving Mental Illness prevention and treatment is the low priority given to Mental Health research.



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Diamond Companion - \$100,000



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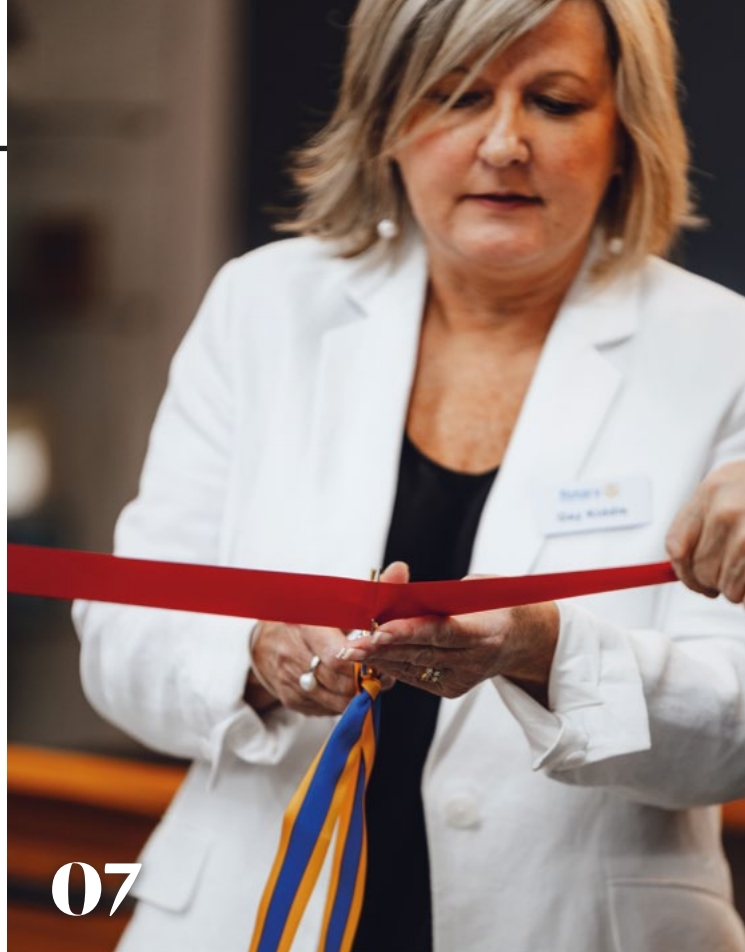
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Boasting a wealth of natural wonders and scenic vistas, Rotary in District 9970 is as diverse, distinguished and determined as the region itself

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Using every resource at their fingertips, District 9980 epitomises the Kiwi reputation for ingenuity and resourcefulness

COVER IMAGE: District 9980 Governor Nick Wood's Pumpkins for Polio fundraiser was a great success, raising \$15,905 for the *End Polio Now* campaign.



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The year that was

My dear changemakers,
What a year it has been for Rotary. You have lived up to every challenge, including to 'grow more, do more'.

This year Rotary has grown in a way that we haven't seen in many years. The year saw life-changing new projects across all areas of focus, as we took up important work at the highest level – with UNICEF, the Commonwealth, and global leaders. These efforts have opened new opportunities to empower girls, improve the environment, and advance literacy and health.

I want to thank each of you for your proactive service. I also want to thank the wonderful Rotary staff for ensuring that we can work with care for our fellow human beings, with peace in our hearts.

Personally, this has been an extremely enriching year for Rashi and me. We've met with thousands of Rotarians and been inspired by their great work around the world. We were also able to showcase Rotary's work at the highest level, during meetings with heads of state, leaders and bureaucrats, and offering to work with them to show that Rotary cares and brings peace in this world. With our swan song, Rashi and I wish you the very best as you *Serve to Change Lives*.

Shekhar Mehta
President, Rotary International



A lot to look forward to in Rotary

JUNE marks an important month in Rotary's calendar; a time to reflect on the previous 12 months and look ahead to a new Rotary year.

By any measure, the current year has been a challenging one. We've had to navigate through the pandemic, natural disasters and, further afield, war.

We've had to do things differently and draw on all our resourcefulness and resilience. Yet despite all this, we've continued to do what we do best in Rotary – unite and serve.

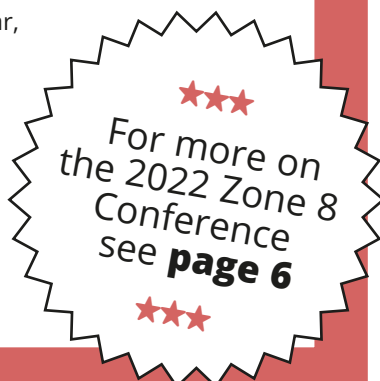
As we look ahead to the new Rotary year, we have a lot to look forward to. In this next chapter, we will see a focus on increasing our diversity, equity and inclusion, making our clubs more reflective of our communities and ensuring that everyone feels welcome and engaged. We will see a focus on starting new types of clubs and new ways of operating as we continue to adapt to changing lifestyles and expectations, and we will see stronger collaboration between Rotary and Rotaract.

Alongside these things we will also see a focus on developing new partnerships across all our areas of focus as a way of increasing our impact. We will see a concerted effort to raise Rotary's global profile and, with continued support of all our members, we will be even closer to a world without polio.

Just as importantly, as we emerge from the pandemic, we can look forward to joining together again in person, at the Zone 8 Conference in Canberra from October 28-30 this year, and with thousands of Rotarians from all around the world at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne in June 2023. RDU



By **Jessie Harman**
Rotary
International
Director 2021-23



The need for speed in Claremont



THE Rotary Club of Claremont, Tas, recently held its inaugural Billy Cart Derby. Inspired by the Red Bull Soapbox Race and the Dampier Billy Cart Derby in Western Australia, Lorraine Dyson led a team of enthusiastic club members to organise what is to become an annual event.

The club was inspired to create a community event that would attract families, encouraging them to work together to build a cart and compete in a safe, fun environment.

The local community got behind the event, with local Claremont Men's Shed providing four carts; Mt Faulkner Scout Group building and entering a number of carts; and the Claremont Fire Brigade presenting a miniature fire engine to win the best cart on the day.

Inclusive categories allowed all to enter in a fair and fun way, including parent and child-under-5, best homemade cart, right up to adults who wanted a thrill on the day.

Thanks to the support of local businesses and individual sponsors, volunteers, emergency services, politicians, and of course Rotarians, partners and families, this will be an annual event for the Rotary Club of Claremont.

The club encourages everyone to start thinking about what type of cart they want to build, and mark November 27, 2022, at the Claremont College Campus in their calendars.

Like all Rotary projects, funds raised were returned to the local community through a number of charitable projects. RDU



Zone 8 Better Together Conference on sale now!

Below: Former Army Major Alex Rubin, left, and founder of Diversity Role Models Suran Dickson are keynote speakers at the Better Together Conference in Canberra, ACT, from October 28-30

EARLY bird tickets are now available for all Rotaractors and Rotarians in Australia, New Zealand and across the Pacific to attend the Zone 8 Better Together Conference in Canberra, ACT, from October 28-30.

The conference is set to be the first in-person zone event since the COVID-19 pandemic and is shaping up to be a

celebration of all the best our Rotary family has to offer.

Conference co-chairs John McKenzie and Andrew Giumelli say as preparations continue there will be something for everyone to get excited about when visiting Australia's capital city.

"The conference team has been working behind the scenes for months and I

am so pleased to finally be able to share some of the great things people can look forward to," John said.

"We are really thrilled to have locked in a spectacular conference venue at the National Convention Centre Canberra as well as the Saturday night dinner at Old Parliament House. We also have some incredible speakers who are sure to appeal to the wide range of interests of both Rotaractors and Rotarians alike."

Former Army Major Alex Rubin was deployed as part of the Australian contingent to rescue the Wild Boar soccer team in Thailand and will headline the conference. Major Rubin was also involved in the Northern NSW flood recovery effort and will no doubt captivate the audience.

Another keynote speaker will be New Zealander Suran Dickson, founder of Diversity Role Models, a charity that tackles gender



To purchase tickets, register for a Showcase booth, complete a breakout session expression of interest form or find out more about Canberra, head to conference.rotaryzone8.org today!

A new era for Rotary in Australia...

ON Thursday, May 5, approximately 100 past and present staff of *Rotary Down Under*, RDU Supplies, Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office, Rotary Australia World Community Service, Australian Rotary Health, ShelterBox Australia, RDU Board members and invited Rotarians and guests gathered at 25/1 Maitland Place, Norwest, NSW, to celebrate the official opening of the new Rotary premises.

The occasion marked a new era for Rotary in Australia with, for the first time in 28 years, a number of Australian Rotary-based organisations united under one roof.

and sexuality related bullying by encouraging empathy and critical thinking in young people.

In addition to tickets going on sale, booth registrations have also opened for the Rotary Showcase and the conference team are also taking expressions of interest in hosting a breakout session over the weekend.

"It is all systems go for us at the moment," Andrew said. "Obviously COVID-19 is still in the community, but people can feel really confident the organising committee is doing everything we can to ensure everyone has a fantastic time in Canberra.

"Conference attendees will also have the chance to rub shoulders with Rotary International President Elect Gordon McNally, who will be flying in from Scotland to join us."

Governor Elect and Governor Nominee Training will take place immediately ahead of the conference from October 25-27, also at the National Convention Centre Canberra. **RDU**



Following a warm welcome from RDU Chair and Past Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis, former *Rotary Down Under* Managing Editor Bob Aitken, who steered the RDU ship for 30 years and



PAGE 7: RDU General Manager Gay Kiddle and past RDU board member PDG Tony Castley cut the ceremonial red ribbon to declare RDU's new premises officially open.

ABOVE: The 2021-22 District Governors Nominee enjoyed a two-day Rotary Programs Introduction, hosted by *Rotary Down Under*, before the new offices were officially opened.

ABOVE: PDG Tony Castley was instrumental in both the sale of RDU's previous Parramatta property and purchase of the new Norwest property.

was instrumental in driving the Rotary House appeal in the early 80s, gave a riveting insight into the history of *Rotary Down Under*; from a small cottage in Station Street, Harris Park, in 1980, to a three-storey building in Argyle Street, Parramatta, followed by the impressive four-storey building in Hunter Street, Parramatta.

The ceremonial red ribbon, strung across the grand sliding doors of the new Norwest RDU boardroom, was officially cut by RDU General Manager Gay Kiddle and past RDU board member PDG Tony Castley.

Tony was instrumental in both the sale of the Hunter Street property and purchase of the Norwest property, while Gay, compliments of

COVID restrictions at the time, and with the help of just two staff members, boxed up 28 years of RDU history and moved it to the new premises.

The opening followed a busy two days of Zone 8 District Governors Nominee training at the offices, where Rotary entities ARH, RAWCS, RISPPPO, RDU, and ROMAC presented their programs, goals and achievements to the

DGsN, many of whom also attended the opening.

... marks the end of an era for Rotary Down Under

While the grand opening of the new Rotary premises was a joyous occasion for the most part, the night ended on somewhat of a sombre note, when Past Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis stepped down as RDU chair and board member.



Noel had held the position for the past three years, steering the organisation through unprecedented rough waters. And while his Titans quips weren't always a winner with the Gold Coast-based production crew, he led the team with openness, sincerity, strength and good humour.

"I have had a lot to do with Noel for many years through governor training," said PDG Tim Moore, who will step into the role of RDU chair. "My respect for him as a leader in Rotary, as a sound decision manager, and as a regular guy who has Rotary at heart in all that he does, is second to none. He does not shy away from justifying decisions, some of which may necessarily be unpopular.

"Of course, his role as RI Director was a highlight in his Rotary career and we all benefited from his leadership. He was always happy to listen to everyone's ideas and opinions, even if he didn't agree.

"More recently, in his role as chair of the RDU board, he steered *Rotary Down Under* through some difficult times in his own special style. We all appreciated the enormous effort he put into bringing stability and confidence during this time."

Tim's sentiments are echoed throughout the RDU offices.

"From a personal perspective, I want to highlight the amazing support Noel has provided me during my journey to the role of General Manager," Gay said. "Taking on the diversity of tasks and responsibilities the role entails was an enormous growth curve, and the encouragement Noel provided was key.

"His leadership was also a unifying influence that impacted not just the board, but also the RDU staff. His shared vision to bring Australian Rotary entities together under one roof is a wonderful way to finish his role as chair."

And while their paths only crossed in person on the odd occasion, again due to COVID, Noel's guidance and support was just as warmly received by the Queensland-based production staff.

"Noel always had my back, supporting us in any direction we wished to take the magazine, and each month calling to say, 'this issue is even better than the last,'" said RDU editor Meagan Martin.

"He has been an avid supporter of exploring new options to bring RDU into the digital era and enhancing the delivery of our media platforms to evolve RDU into a more cohesive reader experience."

"On behalf of the RDU board and staff, I wish to thank Noel for his support over so many years across many roles in Rotary," Tim concluded. "We wish him good health and straight hitting now he has taken the leap to his own golf cart." **RDU**

LEFT: The striking Rotary mural in the offices' kitchen and dining area was created by RDU Creative Director Rhys Martin.

BELOW: Past Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis, right, pictured with former RDU Managing Editor Bob Aitken, stepped down as RDU Chair and board member following the opening of the new building.



Rotary on the road towards reconciliation

Based on Kaurna land on South Australia's Adelaide Plains, the Adelaide City Rotaract Club (ACRC) is the first within Rotary to have developed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), endorsed by not-for-profit organisation Reconciliation Australia.

*By Katey Halliday
ACRC RAP chairperson and member of Rotary
International's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce*



Since 2006, RAPs have provided an avenue for organisations to sustainably and strategically take meaningful action to advance reconciliation between

Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

As a leading community service organisation, Rotary absolutely has a role to play in this. We exist to serve the community, and to do this well, we must have an understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

At ACRC, we started delivering an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings a few years ago, but we wanted to do more, learn more, and we wanted to do things properly.



The RAP framework outlines tangible actions to help improve the knowledge and commitment of members. It is a strategic document that asks organisations to reflect on their internal knowledge and processes and ensure they are inclusive. These actions

help advance reconciliation by supporting organisations, and the people within them, to develop respectful relationships and create meaningful opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

At an event in July 2021, supported by the City of

RIGHT: At an event in July 2021, the ACRC RAP was launched with a Welcome to Country from Senior Kaurna Man, Mickey O'Brien, and a musical performance by emerging singer-songwriter, Nukunu woman, Tilly Tjala Thomas (pictured).



If you are interested in developing a RAP for your club, or finding out more, visit www.adelaidecityrotaractclub.org or contact our club via adelaidecityrotaract@gmail.com. A member of our RAP working group will be happy to chat.

“We exist to serve the community, and to do this well, we must have an understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

Adelaide Council, the ACRC RAP was launched with a Welcome to Country from Senior Kurna Man, Mickey O'Brien, and a musical performance by emerging singer-songwriter, Nukunu woman, Tilly Tjala Thomas. We were joined by Rotaractors and Rotarians from District 9510 who wanted to celebrate with us and learn more about ACRC's vision and plan to support reconciliation not only in our club, but within other clubs across Australia.

“As community service leaders, Rotarians and Rotaractors have a role to play in contributing to reconciliation and ensuring our service projects, initiatives, and membership opportunities are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” ACRC RAP working group member Bernadette Barrett says.

The RAP framework enables Rotaract and Rotary clubs to do this by:

- building and encouraging relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, organisations, and the broader Australian community
- fostering and embedding respect for the world's longest surviving cultures and communities
- developing opportunities through Rotary to improve socio-economic

outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

The vision and principles of Rotary encourage us to promote diversity, equity and inclusion, and RAPs are an incredible resource to support this. Engaging with such a well-known and respected framework used by organisations across Australia will reaffirm Rotarians and Rotaractors as people of integrity; bolstering our status as community leaders by enabling members to develop a greater cultural awareness that will strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. ^{RDU}

**BE
BRAVE.
MAKE
CHANGE.**
**NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2022**

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week – May 27 to June 3 – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

This year's theme, *Be Brave. Make Change*, is a challenge to all Australians – individuals, families, communities, organisations and government – to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

Reconciliation Week asks everyone to make change, beginning with brave actions in their daily lives – where they live, work, play and socialise.

Find out more about National Reconciliation Week at nrw.reconciliation.org.au

Bins4blokes

The first anniversary of the launch of the Bins4Blokes campaign is this month, coinciding with World Continence Week, June 21-26.



When a patient opened up about the challenges of living with incontinence, men's

health physiotherapist Dr Jo Milios knew something had to be done. Having had the opportunity to work with thousands of men undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, and dealing with incontinence issues following surgery or radiation therapies, Jo was very aware of the lack of hygiene facilities for men in public toilets. When Lina Scaffidi described her husband's difficulties in disposing of continence pads, Jo knew that Mr Scaffidi was not alone.

Approximately 1.34 million boys and men in Australia live with incontinence – that's 1 in 9 males. Like Mr Scaffidi, many experience incontinence following surgery for prostate cancer. In addition, continence pads for the loss of bladder or bowel function are a fact of life for many men at some point during their life, with patients with a

range of conditions such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease, learning disabilities, obesity and gastrointestinal issues confronting the same problem.

With nowhere to place pads, men have struggled to have their personal care needs addressed. Despite it being lawful that all female toilet facilities have every cubicle allotted a hygiene bin, no such regulation exists for male toilets, with most no longer even having a wastepaper bin.

Teaming up, Jo and Lina launched a campaign to raise awareness of the need for sanitary hygiene bins in men's toilets. Together they collected thousands of

signatories for a petition to the Federal Government and contacted providers of public toilets. An article about the campaign on ABC's online news soon followed in 2018, recording 250,000 views. By the end of the month, the Continence Foundation of Australia (CFA) had joined forces, bringing with them a number of leading men's health peak bodies. A working party was appointed and the 'Bins4Blokes' campaign was officially named and put to task.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Perth City East, WA, Jo then rallied the support of her local membership via a five-minute presentation at a fortnightly breakfast

RIGHT: Dr Jo Milios, left, Acting WACA CEO Justin Michael, Ian Mawson (prostate cancer survivor) and Ken 'Noddy' McAullay at the official launch of the Bins4Blokes campaign at the WACA ground in 2021.





1.34 MILLION

Australian boys and men experience incontinence.

WE WANT TO:



Get Bins4blokes bins in public toilets Australia wide



Get males who are incontinent to seek help and advice



Help Australia find out how common incontinence is

HOW WE'LL GET IT DONE:



537 local governments across Australia



19,000+ public toilets across Australia.

If you have it, there are limited or no places to throw out incontinence pads and pants.

LINKS TO INCONTINENCE



Prostate problems



Cancer



Higher Body Mass Index (BMI)



Diabetes and cardiovascular disease



Intellectual and physical disabilities



Older age

“Despite it being lawful that all female toilet facilities have every cubicle allotted a hygiene bin, no such regulation exists for male toilets, with most no longer even having a wastepaper bin.”

meeting. This resulted in pledges from a broad sector of the Rotary community, including shopping centres, hospitality groups, Men’s Sheds, healthcare facilities, and most significantly the WACA, home to cricket in Western Australia.

Over the next two years, despite COVID lockdowns, the Bins4Blokes campaign, led by CFA, continued to evolve markedly. This month marks one year since the Bins4Blokes campaign was officially launched on June 21, 2021, at the WACA ground – which became the first stadium in Australia to install men’s hygiene bins.

At the launch, Ken ‘Noddy’ McAullay (former AFL player, WA cricketer and prostate cancer survivor) reflected from the oval’s edge: “Fifty

years ago, I was padding up for Western Australia and today I am proudly padding up for men’s health.”

This month also sees World Continence Week, from June 21-26, which aims to highlight the impact of urinary incontinence and encourages those living with it to seek help.

“Raising awareness is key, as few men will ask for help directly,” Jo explains.

Businesses are often not aware of the problem and are only too happy to install a bin for men when this issue is brought to their attention. It is a very inexpensive service with bins costing as little as \$120 per year, with service providers available on the Bins4Blokes website (bins4blokes.org.au). However, simply asking your

own provider is a good place to start.

How can Rotary help?

You can support this campaign by contacting your local council and MPs, your local shopping centre management, cinemas, art centres, museums, community centres, local newspapers and community Facebook pages. You can also pledge your support, download resources, and nominate sites where you would like to see a bin installed, by visiting the Bins4Blokes website. And if you operate public or staff toilets and you’re wondering what you need to do to install some hygiene bins for men, please visit the ‘Bin Providers’ section of the website to get started. **RDW**

“Approximately 1.34 million boys and men in Australia live with incontinence – that’s 1 in 9 males.”

Rotary District 9970



Beauty and Brawn

Boasting a wealth of natural wonders and scenic vistas, Rotary in District 9970 is as diverse, distinguished and determined as the region itself.





covering the top half of the South Island of New Zealand, Rotary District 9970 stretches from Pūponga in the north, south to Timaru, Hokitika on the west coast and Le Bons Bay on the east.

Home to the famed Marlborough wine country, breathtaking Marlborough Sounds, the secluded golden sand beaches of Abel Tasman National Park, the abundant wildlife of Kaikoura, and the alpine grandeur of the Southern Alps, the district is bursting with natural wonders and stunning scenery.

But for all its beauty, it has suffered its fair share of sorrow.

The devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 caused extensive damage to the city of Christchurch. Buildings were reduced to rubble, and the city was impacted by burst water mains, flooding, liquefaction and power outages. One hundred and eighty-five people lost their lives, approximately 7,000 suffered major injuries, 10,000 homes needed to be rebuilt and 3,500 were demolished.

The city suffered further loss in 2019, when two consecutive mass shootings occurred in a terrorist attack on two mosques, killing 51 people and injuring 40.

The more recent flooding in the West Coast's Buller District, Tasman District, and Marlborough Region prompted the evacuation of residents, many of whom are still unable to return home, and the declaration of a state of emergency.

But through it all, Rotary has been there, resilient and reliable, helping rebuild lives and bring hope, healing and humanity to communities in need.

District Governor

Nick Courtney



NICK has been a member of the Rotary Club of Papanui since 1996 and celebrated his 25-year anniversary in February 2022.

He was club president in 2003-04, has served on most committees and has most recently been a director and chair of the club Development/Membership Committee. He has been closely involved in the development and chartering of the new-style Rolleston Rotary Club.

Nick is a Rotary Leadership Institute Facilitator and regularly facilitates the club development segment of

District RLI seminars.

Born in Christchurch, Nick grew up in various rural areas in Southland and Canterbury. On completing his schooling in Christchurch, he went on to complete an architectural degree in Auckland. Returning to Christchurch, Nick worked as an architect for the Ministry of Works, before establishing his own architectural practice in 1986.

During his career, Nick has been actively involved with the management of projects and leading teams, including co-managing a major facilities expansion at

a large tertiary institution in the late 1990s.

Nick is married to Liz, an interior designer and a fellow director of the architectural practice. They have five children and nine grandchildren living in New Zealand and Western Australia.

In his spare time (when available), Nick enjoys cycling, classic cars, gardening and overseas travel. **RDU**



Clever Little Bees

THE Rotary Club of Christchurch New Horizons has partnered with local company Like-Minded Learning to sponsor a beehive for a community garden at Kohinga Māra St Albans Community Centre. Not only will the hive help the garden flourish, and hopefully provide an abundance of free vegetables for locals, but local facilitator Clever Little Bees



has come on board to provide hands-on sessions to teach primary school children and adults the basics of beekeeping.

The hive was set up on Saturday, April 30, with a group of local children donning bee suits to learn all about these incredibly important pollinators.

The project covers several of Rotary's areas of focus including the environment, health and education, and also shows how clubs, business and the community can work together to create powerful projects. ^{RDU}

“Not only will the hive help the garden flourish, and hopefully provide an abundance of free vegetables for locals, but local facilitator Clever Little Bees has come on board to provide hands-on sessions to teach primary school children and adults the basics of beekeeping.”



Unity in Cultural Diversity

MANY nationalities call Nelson home, but some struggle to settle in and feel accepted. The Rotary Club of Whakatū decided several years ago to become part of the solution by promoting cultural understanding within the community.

In 2020, the club worked with Nelson's Colombian community to publicly celebrate their national day and also helped the Chinese community run a very successful Chinese New Year celebration. The club actively invites members of other cultures to attend club meetings and be guest speakers. These connections have opened up membership opportunities and, as a result, the club has become more culturally diverse.

Under the banner of 'Unity in Cultural Diversity', ties with Nelson's migrant communities have been further strengthened, opening up new opportunities to promote peace and positive race relations. RDV

ABOVE: Then Rotary Club of Whakatū member Jingjing Jackson, front, with fellow members at the Chinese New Year Festival in 2020, organised by Jingjing at Nelson's Queen's Gardens. (Photo: Martin de Ruyter)

Growing peace, remembrance and community out of disaster

THE Rotary Peace, Remembrance, Community and Forest Park was born out of a major disaster – the 2011 earthquakes, which devastated large tracts of land and displaced large parts of the Christchurch population.

This area is known as the Dallington Loop and has the Avon River running alongside it. The City Council designated this area to be known as the green spine site due to its ecological significance.

As part of the 2021 Rotary centenary celebrations in New Zealand, the Rotary Club of Wellington applied to Te Uru Rakau for funding to support the aims of this centenary project and was successful in gaining funding to plant 220,000 native plants over two seasons.

The Rotary Peace, Remembrance and Community Forest Trust was set up to administer the grant. The Trust funds up to 45 per cent of the cost, and Conservation Volunteers NZ, along with the Trust, act as project managers.

The Trust is currently funding 12 project sites from North Auckland to Otago, involving the 220,000 plants; the Dallington landing site



in the green spine being the flagship site for the Trust, with its significance to the social, cultural and ecological fabric of Christchurch. It epitomises what the Trust is all about – peace, remembrance and community. Something Christchurch certainly identifies with after experiencing the devastation of the 2011 earthquakes and 2019 mosque shootings.

The Trust is supporting the planting of 42,000 trees on this site.

On August 7, 2021, many Rotary clubs joined District Governor Nick Courtney, Conservation Volunteers NZ, and people from the local community to plant 2,500 trees in 90 minutes! This planting has now been tripled with subsequent community planting days.

PDG Liz Courtney said the benefits of this project are huge.

“Rotary has been given visibility in the local community and on social

media,” Liz said.

“By working alongside Conservation Volunteers NZ, it has also given Rotary other small projects, for example a recent beach clean-up, the Papanui Bush renewal, and highlighted other planting opportunities we can work on together in Christchurch.

“It has shown the public that Rotary is not just made up of men, but women and families all keen to work together. This project is leaving a Rotary legacy in Christchurch, one the whole community can enjoy, and our Rotary name is on all

the signage.

“It is also the basis for a cause based Rotary group to emerge, which especially interests younger and more energetic Rotarians as well as an emerging group of Rotaractors in the city. It also gives working members the opportunity to volunteer on a project over a weekend which at times is missing in our club calendars. It keeps them engaged.

“As RI President Shekar Mehta said, offering new club models is the way of the future.” RDU

Students raise

10000 native plants

MORE than 1000 native trees are thriving at a plant nursery within Greymouth High School grounds, ready to be distributed to schools throughout the Grey District – one for every student in both primary and high school – through the Rotary Club of Greymouth's Trees for Māwhera project.

The project is driven by students of the high school's new Conservation and Earthcare course, which provides hands-on learning on current and future sustainability issues and biodiversity protection. The course also involves the West Coast Trades Academy and Papa Taiao Earthcare.





Rotary Club of Greymouth and Tai Poutini Polytechnic. Every year, Polytechnic carpentry students build a three-bedroom relocatable house to gain real-world work experience. Once complete, locals can bid on the home at auction knowing the proceeds will be going to a good cause.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Chief Executive, Alex Cabrera, says working with Rotary to support the Trees for Māwhera project is a wonderful way to bring West Coast children closer to their environment and support lifelong learning about sustainability and biodiversity.

“Our carpentry program is extremely fortunate to have the support of some wonderful local tradespeople and businesses each year,” Alex said. “Their donations of material and services means we can make a strong contribution to local charities at the end of each year.”

Past President of the Rotary Club of Greymouth, Catherine Moffitt, says supporting youth, education, conservation and the environment are key Rotary goals.

“Greymouth High School’s new Conservation and Earthcare course incorporates all those factors, making it an easy choice for our membership to support as the club’s major fundraising initiative,” Catherine said. RDU

“The project is driven by students of the high school’s new Conservation and Earthcare course, which provides hands-on learning on current and future sustainability issues and biodiversity protection.”

Through sowing and nurturing native seedlings for the project, Years 11 and 12 students are gaining experience in a wide range of areas, including native plant species and seed selection, propagation, nursery layout and development, sustainability practices, pest monitoring and control, bushcraft, health and safety, project and resource management.

The gifting of trees will be achieved through the district’s primary and secondary schools.

Teachers and students will discuss what planting opportunities and locations would be favourable, which may range from students’ homes, local parks, school grounds, waste ground improvement sites or sports grounds. Consideration is given to the most suitable plants for the location, conditions and soil types.

Funding for the project is generated through a collaboration between the



PICTURED: Papa Taiao – Te Tai o Poutini Year 2 Conservation and Earthcare students eco-sourcing native saplings, including Tōtara, Mānuka, Rimu, Miro, Mataī and Horoeka, which will be taken back to the school’s native nursery for potting.

Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps

SADLY succumbing to lung cancer in December last year, Sean Thomas, of the Rotary Club of Whakatū, spent most of his life giving back to his community and working to make the world a better place. From helping establish Big Brothers Big Sisters New Zealand to running karate clubs and mentoring countless individuals who have gone on to do the same for others, his dedication to supporting youth was unwavering.

But it was his work in Uganda that fellow Whakatū member Matt Robinson found most inspiring.

In the early 2000s, Sean was introduced to a young Ugandan orphan named Franco. Sean agreed to ensure Franco got an education and stayed fed and in good health. Fast forward 20 years and Franco is now a leader in his village and, with Sean's help, has been ensuring the village's orphans get a fair chance at an education and stay fed and healthy.

Sean funded the education of a further nine orphans over the past 10 years, two of whom are now at university, so with his passing came the solemn question of what would become of his

Ugandan family.

With the compounding challenge of losing the land they lived on and the associated ability to make a living and grow food, Matt, a teacher at Nayland College in Nelson, offered to help

connect Franco with Sean's friends, as well as people who might be interested in carrying on in his footsteps.

"As the support for Franco and the children came together it became clear that some form of governance

"Sean funded the education of a further nine orphans over the past 10 years, two of whom are now at university, so with his passing came the solemn question of what would become of his Ugandan family."



For more information on Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps, visit suziseeds.wixsite.com/suziseeds



Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps founder Matt Robinson and wife Sue Stubbs are planning a visit to Nakikoota, Uganda, in July to meet Franco and the children, and cement the foundation and sponsorships several members are providing to help pay for the children's education. The visit will also allow Matt to further develop relationships between the children and his own Nayland College students.

A large part of the work Sean did with Franco and the orphans in Uganda was connecting them to Kiwi kids so that young people in New Zealand could benefit from this exchange, and Matt says Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps will be no different.

"Students at Nayland College will be planting native trees along our local water ways and sharing the stories of their progress with the children in Uganda. They will also be connecting via letter writing exchanges, fundraising, and through dance, sports, and music. So much of our schooling curriculum is based on theory over practice; the chance to engage directly with people who are not dissimilar from ourselves but who live such different lives is a valuable opportunity to contextualise one's privilege and gain a better understanding of our place in the global village." RDV

was needed," Matt says.

And thus, the charity 'Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps' was created to ensure funds are managed appropriately and donors have a verifiable financial record of their contributions.

Who is Suzi?

Suzi Keepa was a guidance councillor at Nayland College and another dear friend of Matt's, who lost her battle with stomach cancer six months before Sean passed away. Like Sean, she dedicated her life to supporting young people.

"I don't know how Suzi had the capacity to hold so many people so fully in her heart and never give up on them," Matt says.

"Perhaps it was her belief that with the right support we could all become our best selves, a sentiment expressed by a phrase she would always proffer when things got tough or doubt crept in: 'Just keep planting those seeds of hope, and

you never know when they will take root and grow'. It is an ethos Sean exemplified in every aspect of his life and one I hope Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps will do, too."

Matt says the show of support for the charity has been both heart-warming and humbling.

"When I first gained an understanding of just how much Sean was giving, my first thought was that Franco had inherited a far less wealthy benefactor and needed to rationalise who out of the orphans would get an education, a heart-breaking reality so soon after Sean's death.

"But this soon changed as more and more people came onboard. Some are sponsoring a child's education; others are contributing to their living costs. Some want to send and receive letters; others simply want to pay forward the good fortune they have been given."



OPPOSITE PAGE: Franco, front, with Nakikoota village children Joan, Ulita, Dorothy, Franco, Edith, Francis, Vincent, Teopista, Charles, Harriet and Margret.

ABOVE: Suzi Seeds in Sean's Footsteps family member Namala Dorrothy, front, with a friend.

BELOW: Rotary Club of Whakatū member, the late Sean Thomas.

Rotary volunteers support Westport flood recovery

*By Karen Stade
Assistant Governor D9970*

ROTARIANS from around the South Island, and in particular Canterbury, have joined forces to help turn houses into homes for six families and two individuals displaced by flooding events in Westport and the Buller District.

A Rotary Westport Flood Relief Fund established in the wake of last year's flood, and administered through the Rotary Club of Westport and its president Peter Campbell, raised more than \$82,500. This has so far supported six flood recovery-related projects in the town, in which Rotarians from clubs across the West Coast, Nelson-Tasman, Marlborough and Canterbury regions have provided hands-on help.

Recently, with the help of Rotary clubs from around the country, particularly clubs in the South Island, more than 20 people have been able to move out of motel or hostel accommodation into new homes, complete with furniture. Late last year, five relocatable houses were moved to Westport and established in Stafford Street, along with three new homes in Queen Street.

Rotarians gave 500 hours of voluntary time to repaint the interiors of four of the five Stafford Street houses. Rotary then agreed to supply those selected to move into the houses with good quality second-hand furniture to replace the furniture they had lost in the floods.

The first two house-lots of furniture, funded by flood relief funds raised by Lions clubs throughout New Zealand, were delivered to the Queen Street properties on March 15 by Malcolm

"This is a heart-warming project for Rotarians to be involved in and we have been pleased to work with other community organisations like Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and Lions to achieve this."

Pop-Up Op Shop Zero

POP-UP Op shop, Shop Zero, is a collaboration between the Rotary Club of Westport and local iwi social enterprise, NUKU, established soon after the devastating floods of 2021 to provide free clothing, linen, shoes, toys, and other necessities to locals affected by the floods.

In November 2021, Rotarians from Nelson, Blenheim, Motueka and Christchurch joined the Rotary Club of Westport to help unpack and sort several truckloads of donated goods for those in need.

Under the skilled eye of organisers Diana Wilkins, president of the Rotary Club of Richmond, Debra Gibbs, and Shop Zero manager Mikaere, the dedicated team of volunteers spent five days sorting through clothing, bedding and baby gear to be distributed by Zero to families who had lost their possessions and are living in temporary accommodation.

Over 300 huge boxes have been given to families and individuals affected by the floods.



Wet Your Whistle 4 Westport

TO help fill the gap in relief response from government, insurance and other support agencies, the Rotary Club of Blenheim South, in conjunction with local pubs, held a flood relief fundraiser on December 1, 2021. The community was encouraged to drop in to their local on the day to enjoy food, fun and company in support of flood relief efforts.

Breakfasts, quizzes, barbecues, whitebait sammies, schnitzels and special brews, dress up awards and bands were all on the cards, with the various venues donating in different ways.

Approximately \$6,700 was raised on the day, with all proceeds going to assist with furniture and fitting replacements, home repairs, and health and wellbeing, by contributing to breaks away from the stress and trauma of the situation.



Currie of the Rotary Club of Motueka. On Monday, March 28, removalist company Man and a Van delivered to Stafford Street four house-lots of furniture bought through the Rotary fund. The total value of this project to date is around \$10,000.

The three organisations collaborated to supply house-lots of furniture for people displaced by the Westport and Buller floods.

Past District 9970 Governor Gary Hopkinson, of the Rotary Club of Greymouth, who has been co-ordinating the projects, said everyone deserved to have somewhere they can call home; Rotary was pleased to be able to assist the Westport community by helping some flood victims who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks.

"It is wonderful to see them move out of temporary accommodation and back into their homes or into new houses. This is a heart-warming project for Rotarians to be involved in and we have been pleased to work with other community organisations like Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and Lions to achieve this." **rdv**

ABOVE: David White, of the Rotary Club of Christchurch, left, John Berwick, Neville White and Ian Bond from the Rotary Club of Blenheim south, were part of a working group organised by Gary Hopkinson, of the Rotary Club of Greymouth, to rebuild homes affected by the Westport floods.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Richard Fairbrass and Peter Campbell, of the Rotary Club of Westport, assist Rae Hopkinson, of the Rotary Club of Greymouth sort clothing for distribution. Thirty volunteers travelled to Westport over two weekends to assist flood victims and support Shop Zero.



A celebration to say thanks



FOLLOWING 10 days of work at Shop Zero and house working bees, District Governor Nick Courtney and PDG Liz hosted a dinner to say thank you to the Rotarians from the Nelson, Blenheim, Motueka, Greymouth, Lincoln, Ferrymead and Westport clubs, who had been hard at work with the district's flood relief efforts.

"It was a great collaboration between our clubs and made a world of difference," said Liz.

CHRISTCHURCH CLUBS TEAM UP FOR HOHEPA PATHWAY



RIGHT: Deputy Mayor of Ōtautahi Christchurch Andrew Turner was chief ribbon cutter at the official opening of the Waimokihī Walkway on March 31, 2021. Andrew is pictured with the O'Connell family including Tony, who Hōhepa Canterbury supports, and Tony's niece Clare, who fundraised for the walkway by traversing the southern part of the Te Araroa.

IN early March 2021, six Rotary clubs joined forces to help Hōhepa Canterbury turn wasteland into a beautiful space. Hōhepa Canterbury is a disability support and service provider offering diverse living options, learning and activity programs, community participation, and therapies.

The Rotary Club of Riccarton brought together clubs from Lincoln, Hornby, Papanui, Cashmere and Christchurch Sunrise to support Hōhepa in creating a pathway and reflection garden. The boundary stream had become overrun and unusable following the Christchurch earthquakes.

After much planning and fundraising within Rotary, more than 50 Rotarians

gathered over two weekends armed with gumboots, wheelbarrows and spades to plant a living greenspace. Together, they created a beautiful asset with long lasting benefits for the community.

The official opening of the pathway was celebrated at the end of March, with Rotarians, Hōhepa staff, residents, Board members, generous donors, community members, and Christchurch leaders all in attendance.

Deputy Mayor of Ōtautahi Christchurch Andrew Turner had the honour of cutting the red ribbon, closely supervised by Hōhepa resident Tony O'Connell and Tony's niece Clare, who fundraised for the walkway by traversing the southern

part of Te Araroa.

The pathway was renamed the Waimokihī Walkway (wai = water, mokihi = raft) to acknowledge that in Christchurch's past, rafts crossed the much wider stream and landed on the bank. Close by was the Omokihī Pa (the place of rafts).

The event demonstrated a truly successful collaborative project in which Rotary played a significant role, with a Rotary Foundation district grant and six clubs supporting Hōhepa financially and with person-power. **RDU**



New home for much-loved piano

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Cashmere recently delivered the beloved piano of a retired music teacher to the staff and students at Rowley Primary School. One member had become aware that the previous owner was seeking a new home for her pride and joy and Rowley Primary School was delighted to accept the piano on behalf of its music students. **RDU**

Healthy Heroes

THE nine-week Healthy Heroes program is a school-based, Rotary-developed initiative to help families build healthy habits in a fun way. The challenge is based on:

1. Eating well
2. Exercising and being active
3. Getting enough sleep
4. Stretching your mind
5. Helping others

The goal is to meet these five challenges, five days a week, with one point being awarded per day per challenge. The goal is to score 25 points per week to achieve the challenge and 225 points by the end of the nine weeks.

Healthy Heroes has been delivered in more than 30 schools in District 9970 and had a positive impact on over 2000 families. The program is administered by the Rotary Club of Christchurch South on behalf of the district.

The local Rotary club and Healthy Heroes District Committee help schools secure sponsorship and support in running the program. They help teachers with questions, advice on how to run the program, presentations, and resolving issues. Sponsorship also includes all the printed material and the rewards for children who meet their challenges.

Healthy Heroes will move to a digital platform later this year. RDU



BELOW: Healthy Heroes from Banks Avenue School enjoying a nourishing lunch.

BOTTOM: Healthy Heroes from Te Waka Unua School in Christchurch with their teacher and Ferrymead Rotarians.





Riccarton Inspires STEM Talks

Reinventing Rotary one mini donut at a time

IN 2019, the Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise made a significant decision to become directly involved in Social Enterprise. The club's vision was to reinvent Rotary for the 21st Century by investing a portion of Trust funds into a small business and then to run the business in partnership with others in the community who needed a helping hand to raise funds.

At the end of 2021, the club purchased a mini-donut trailer and set about learning the skills and safety procedures necessary to operate the mini donut equipment. An obvious advantage of this approach is that it quite directly utilises the business skills and experiences of club members, and over time will enable these to be shared through mini partnership opportunities with a wide cross section of community members.

"Our goal is to provide a mechanism to give people a hand up, rather than simply a handout," said past president Brad Meek.

"We see this as a way to ensure that our Rotary club remains active, relevant and innovative, especially in the eyes of younger people. Through our mini donut social enterprise, we intend to work cooperatively in partnership, involving others in the activity of the business rather than simply responding to requests for funds. In this way, we hope to establish lasting positive and practical relationships and also generate increased interest in Rotary."

To date, despite COVID, the mini donut trailer has been in action at several Christchurch events this year, with several more lined up across the coming months.

"And a special added feature of our mini donuts social enterprise is the fun we have had working together on a fresh and worthwhile common cause," Brad said. **RDU**

THE cancellation of this year's Rotary National Science and Technology Forum in Auckland, due to COVID-19, was disappointing for students from Christchurch, who had been looking forward to the much-anticipated extra-curricular activity.

But was there another way, a safer way, to help these science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students? How about a local talk from local professionals?

It was worth a shot, so members of the Rotary Club of Riccarton formed a project team, including two teachers from Villa Maria College and Riccarton High School.

It was decided the Talks should cover a broad STEM spectrum, but more importantly, speakers were asked to focus on their journey stories.

The result was an afternoon of well engaged students and teachers asking numerous questions to the erudite speakers assembled in the first ever Riccarton Rotary STEM Talks on May 7.



“A big benefit was listening to the stories of how these scientists got to where they are now. It just humanises STEM for the students.”

The atmosphere was friendly and encouraging, with participants listening to professionals talk about their journeys in the fields of climate change and sustainability, microbiology, civil engineering, marine biology, and video game development.

“For students, having the opportunity to hear from those who are actually out there doing it was invaluable – especially the common thread that none of the speakers started out thinking this was what they were going to do,” said Remco Baars, Acting Leader of Learning (Science) from Riccarton High School.

“A lot of senior students still have plans and seeing how few plans actually eventuate was a real eye-opener. The other big benefit was listening to the stories of how these scientists got to where they are now. It just humanises STEM for the students.”

Inspire STEM Talks Project Lead Prawindra Mukhia said that while COVID caused challenges around hosting the event, they had excellent support from several schools.

“I believe this is an excellent way to engage with the community, especially with the youth, helping them in a way Rotary can by attracting inspiring speakers and providing resources,” Prawindra said.

“The speakers were excellent and the students very engaged with the sessions,” said President-elect of the Rotary Club of Riccarton, Chris Williamson. “We have discovered that this type of event fills a gap

for senior school students exploring options for their future careers.”

Speakers included:

- Tony Moore, who works for the Christchurch City Council championing sustainability through numerous policies and programs covering a range of topics including climate change, circular economy, healthy homes and neighbourhoods, regenerative food systems and community resilience.
- Fritha McCrimmon-Robinson, who was listed as one of the Top 100

Most Influential Women in Engineering in 2019 and was presented the WISE Award Rising Star Award Winner in 2018 by HRH Princess Anne.

- Mads Thomsen, a marine ecologist who, over 20 years, has studied how human activities and natural disasters dramatically change our coastal ecosystems; and
- Dr Brent Gilpin, a Senior Science Leader in the Environmental Science team based at ESR's Christchurch Science Centre. RDU



ABOVE: Chairperson of the New Zealand Game Developers Association (NZGDA), Chelsea Rapp responding to animated STEM Talks participants.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Christchurch City Council employee Tony Moore, whose work has been recognised by the World Green Building Council.

Circus Quirkus

A circus acrobat with long hair, wearing a sparkly, form-fitting outfit, is performing a handstand on a suspended hoop. The acrobat is upside down, with their legs spread wide and arms extended. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the acrobat.

Support for families of mosque shootings

FOLLOWING the tragic mosque shootings in Christchurch on March 15, 2019, the Rotary Club of Riccarton spearheaded an appeal to raise funds for the local Muslim community.

An initial \$50,000 was handed over to the Canterbury Muslim Community Trust, which was coordinating direct support to victims and families via the support hub based at Hagley Park. \$25,000 was given in grocery, petrol and taxi vouchers and a further \$25,000 in cash went into a medium-term fund run by the Trust to provide counselling and psychological support in a culturally appropriate way.

In the longer term, the club partnered with an established Rotary Trust in Christchurch to support children and young people who lost their parents in the shootings, for education and vocational training needs, recreation, sport and other activity-based needs.

"The terror attacks had a devastating effect on our entire community and country, and the Muslim members of our community will require our *awhi* (support) for some time to come," said then District Governor John Driscoll.

"After the initial shock and trauma, our experience from the Christchurch earthquakes is that the real psychological impacts and long-term consequences will carry on well into the future." RDU

HOSTED by 10 New Zealand Rotary clubs, the Kids Foundation and one lucky Lions club, Circus Quirkus NZ is a non-animal circus spectacular – a blend of great world-class circus acts, including acrobats, clowns and contortionists, whimsical juggling and more.

Tickets are sponsored by local businesses, with the complimentary tickets then distributed to charities supporting less fortunate, disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, allowing them to have a great day out together. Approximately 1,000 tickets (depending on venue capacity) are distributed for each show, with 26 shows held across NZ in May 2022.

The project aims to provide circus-style entertainment that inspires fun and excitement; a show so full of energy and finesse that all who attend truly have their spirits lifted.

And judging by the laughter and delighted reaction of audiences, it is exactly the kind of entertainment that makes people happy indeed.

Circus Quirkus ticks all the right boxes for a club project: great fellowship, excellent fundraising for the clubs' charity work, outstanding community involvement and wonderful feedback from those who attend.

For more information, visit circusquirkus.com RDU

The Riccarton Market

THE successful Riccarton Market, run by the Rotary Club of Riccarton, has been operating for more than 30 years and is now a local icon.

From humble beginnings as a 'boot sale' in the carpark of Riccarton Mall, the market outgrew multiple venues before establishing itself at Riccarton Park, where it remains today.

At its peak the market can hold up to 320 stalls, attracting between 5,000 and 10,000 shoppers every Sunday. This makes The Riccarton Market the largest charity market in Australasia.

All surplus from the market is distributed back into the community. Over the 30 plus years it has been operating, more than \$3.5 million dollars has gone to local, national and international projects. The market has literally supported thousands of New Zealanders in one way or another. RDU

BELOW: Rotary Club of Riccarton members serving cake at the Riccarton Market to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2018.





PDG Liz Courtney A public image guru

AS the current Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator Zone 8 and past Rotary Public Image Coordinator Zone 7B (2017-20), it's safe to say that Liz Courtney has a passion for all things public image.

The main focus of her marketing and promotion is to encourage clubs to work together on projects for greater impact in the community.

"By advertising the benefits of what Rotary does for a person, organisation, school, etc. we are encouraging those who wish to volunteer in the community to join Rotary," Liz said. "Membership and our image to the public go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. We must constantly show why our organisation is different to others as we are up against a lot of competition with other organisations."

A large part of these roles has involved training and Liz has also served as Facilitator for Rotary Leadership Training Institute (Rotary International) for Regional Coordinators (2018-19), Lead Facilitator Rotary Leadership Training Institute (Rotary International) for Regional Coordinators (2019-20), International Assembly Trainer/Facilitator (2020-21) and Global Institute Facilitator (2021). She has given presentations virtually on public image to Rotarians around the world at training events, especially during the COVID crisis, and is part of the D9970 Training team.

As part of work within the public image sphere, Liz manages social media and media liaison, writing articles for various publications, general promotional material for clubs and other groups, and assisting with fundraising events. She has been a long-time contributor to *Rotary Down Under* magazine and was instrumental in bringing this month's District 9970 feature together.

During her term as district governor in 2014-15, Liz's focus was on child and maternal health. She and a dedicated group established the first New Zealand Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank based at St. George's Hospital in Christchurch, which Liz is particularly proud of. This group has won several awards for its community work.

Liz was awarded a Paul Harris Ruby pin in 2021. RDU

Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank

THE Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank is an initiative set up by the Rotary clubs of Christchurch, Garden City, Papanui, and recently Riccarton.

Situated in the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. George's Hospital in Christchurch, it is the only community-based Rotary breast milk bank in Australasia.

An initiative of PDG Liz Courtney, the milk bank has been operating for two and a half years and to date has helped more than 1300 mothers and their babies by provide easily accessible donor breast milk to babies needing a boost to thrive for whatever reason.

Studies have shown that women are more likely to continue breast feeding with donor milk. Breast milk protects babies from gut, chest, ear and bladder infections because of immune factors in the milk and ongoing support for immune system development.

The World Health Organisation says donor milk is the next best thing to a baby's own mother's milk, and suggests that human milk banks should be made available.

Seventy milk donors and more than 50 volunteers keep the Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank running, ensuring donor milk is available to those who need it.

This free service is completely run by volunteers and is open five days a week for three hours each day.

"It costs \$30,000 to run the milk bank each year and we are grateful for the support of St. George's Hospital and the five Rotary clubs in Christchurch who help raise funds to keep the doors open," Liz said.

Liz thanks Rotarians Yvonne Hiskemuller and Kathy Anderson, who have been instrumental in the founding and success of the Rotary Community Milk Bank. RDU

Rotary Ōtautahi Passport Club Lifts the Lid

NINE Rotary clubs and members of the public joined the Rotary Ōtautahi Passport Club on Sunday, October 17, 2021, to help Lift the Lid on mental illness.

With fun hats on heads and excited dogs in tow, the group strolled along New Brighton Beach in bright sunshine to raise awareness and funds for Mental Health Week. The money raised went towards the 298 Youth Hub car in Christchurch.

District Governor Nick Courtney and District Governor Elect Jan Boustead joined the walk, and everyone enjoyed the exercise. It was a great way to raise some funds and have fun while doing it.



A bounty of books

THE Rotary Club of Ashburton donates more than 600 books to 20 local schools throughout the year. On February 15, the club delivered another collection of amazing children's books to distribute to New Entrant students when they start at Methven Primary School.

Reading is obviously very important to the Ashburton club, which also runs the Books for Babes initiative.

Every baby born to residents of the Ashburton district is presented with a board book by the club.

The books are distributed by staff at the Ashburton Maternity Unit and by independent midwives. Each book is gift-wrapped and includes a welcome message and a brochure detailing children's services at the Ashburton Public Library.

The Rotary Club of Ashburton is very grateful to the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation and the Tindall Foundation for their financial support of this project. RDU

ABOVE: New Entrant Methven Primary School student Bella was super excited to receive the book *Abigail and the Birth of the Sun*; winner of the Best Picture Book at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2020.

LEFT: District Governor Nick Courtney and Assistant Governor Matt Sullivan participating in the Ōtautahi Passport Club's Lift the Lid on Mental Illness beach walk.





MOTUEKA ROTARY PROJECT ENDS AFTER THREE YEARS' PRODUCTION

ABOVE: Neil Sturgeon, left, and projects committee chair Paul Wielandt ceremonially screw in the last two screws to complete assembly of two three-metre tables for a local orchardist, thus bringing a three-year project to a close.

IT all began in Lodder Lane when Neil Sturgeon's young grandson, bored with being idle and perhaps disorderly, listened to a proposal to earn some pocket money from gradad Neil.

"If I cut some timber to length, how about you help me put it together as a barbecue/picnic table and I'll pay you for your effort?" suggested Neil.

The young man accepted the challenge and so began the production line, with Neil in charge and assisted by several fellow Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Motueka on weekends and at other times as demand for the product required.

In year one of the barbecue table project, 26 units were assembled and sold. In year two another 19 were made and in year three 11 have been made and sold or spoken for.

Neil acknowledges the essential periodic help, labour and encouragement from fellow Rotarians Dean Lusty, John Leppien, Martin Everton, Paul Wielandt, and Kim McGlashen – and also thanks Kim for providing storage as required from time to time.

Club treasurer Tim Morice reports that the entire three-year project has amassed some \$7,600 to-date for club coffers.

And so, in mid-February 2022, Neil, supported by Paul Wielandt, ceremonially screwed in the last two screws to complete assembly of two three-metre tables for a local orchardist, and thus a three-year project drew to a close.

Orchardists have been a significant purchaser of the tables, being ideal for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) staff to sit upon while they enjoy their morning tea or lunch.

Neil needed to purchase a couple of sticks of timber to complete the last table and was not amused at the inflated cost of timber today. **RDU**



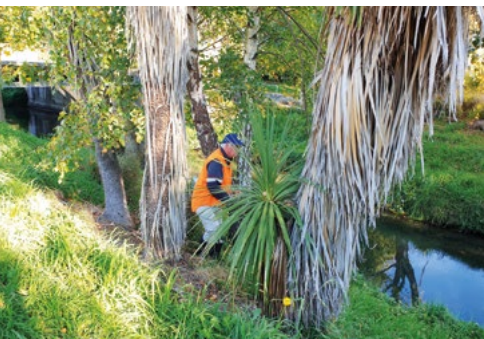
Southern Environmental Trust

COURTESY of COVID, like many other Rotary initiatives, The Southern Environmental Trust has been hindered in its operations over the past two years, but that is all about to change.

The Trust was originally set up primarily for the purpose of raising awareness of environmental matters

pertaining to land, air and water in their natural and adapted or artificial state. Over the years the Trust has held public forums on topical environmental issues, providing an opportunity for the public to listen to different perspectives, and has offered an annual scholarship for the purpose of facilitating study and research in this area.

A recent re-alignment with The Rotary Foundation's new area of focus, Protecting the Environment, has resulted in the Trust including and extending its modus operandi to include The Rotary Foundation's aim of 'activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment'.



Mother of all clean-ups

Southern Environmental Trust committee members were recently seen out and about participating in the city-wide river clean-up.

The Trust is currently in a planning phase to develop some key flagship activity-based projects within the community and hopes other Rotary clubs across the district will be keen to be involved and assist as volunteers – so watch this space! **RDU**

Papanui Halloween Hunt a success despite rain and restrictions

FOR the third year running, the Rotary Club of Papanui partnered with Ray White Real Estate Papanui to bring some free, safe family fun for local children at St. James Park on Friday, October 29, 2021.

Despite unexpectedly cold and rainy conditions and having to work within the COVID Level 2 guidelines at the time, some 150 braved the cold to enjoy the Halloween festivities.

The 2021 event was held via a virtual QR code, where participants downloaded a scavenger hunt sheet that took them around the park to locate Halloween icons.

The children once again came 'dressed to kill' in great Halloween outfits from sharks to spiderman, and witches to ghouls. When the sheets were completed, they handed them in and were able to pick up a bag of sweets from the sack as their reward.

"As we were putting up the Halloween icons, several parents came up to us to say how grateful they were that we were still holding this event as there was nothing for small children to do in the current COVID environment and they enjoyed dressing up for Halloween," PDG Liz Courtney said.

"Comments like this make holding events worthwhile and our partnerships with other organisations are valuable tools for ensuring Rotary remains visible in our communities even with restrictions. It made us think differently about how we can do things and work together."

Event organisers are hopeful this year's hunt will return to the larger format of previous years, when more than 400 children attended. **RDU**



"As we were putting up the Halloween icons, several parents came up to us to say how grateful they were that we were still holding this event as there was nothing for small children to do in the current COVID environment and they enjoyed dressing up for Halloween."

Rotary District 9980



Harnessing the number 8 wire mentality

Using every resource at their fingertips, District 9980 epitomises the Kiwi reputation for ingenuity and resourcefulness.

By Anne Matthews





Currently led by the world's youngest district governor, District 9980 has that Kiwi 'number 8 wire mentality' – creating, repairing and doing good in the World.

A number 8 wire was a gauge of wire on the British Standard Wire Gauge and many farmers had rolls of it, which they used to repair machinery. Accordingly, the term 'number 8 wire' came to represent the ingenuity and resourcefulness of New Zealanders, and the phrase 'a number 8 wire mentality' evolved to represent an ability to create or repair using whatever materials are available – exactly what Rotarians do best.

The district spans the lower half of the South Island of New Zealand, stretching from Invercargill and Aparima in the south to Timaru in the north. It includes Te Anau, Queenstown, Mavora, Arrowtown and Glendhu Bay, which were filming locations for *Lord of the Rings* and Middle Earth in *The Hobbit* movies.

With more than 1230 members, 32 clubs and six assistant governors, and currently the 'last number in the Rotary book', it is by no means the least.

District Governor

Nick Wood and Beth



NICK Wood is a Master Locksmith with the Begg Security Group. He, wife Beth, and their two sons Joseph and Charlie live in Cromwell after moving from Dunedin eight years ago.

Nick's Rotary journey started in 2003 when he spent 12 months in Sweden as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. On his return to New Zealand, he met a few former Youth Exchange students as well as some inspiring young Rotarians, and together they revived the Rotaract Club of Dunedin.

For the past eight years,

Nick has been an active member of the district's Youth Exchange Committee.

After making the decision to move to Cromwell, Nick joined the local Rotary club in 2012. He was club president in 2015-16 and assistant district governor for Central Otago from 2018 to 2020. At age 34, Nick is New Zealand's youngest ever district governor, and the youngest in the world for the Rotary 2021-22 year.

As well as his job and Rotary commitments, Nick is a leader of the Cromwell

Scouts and helps out with his sons' sporting activities. Nick says he relaxes in his garden, which he calls his happy place.

From July 1, 2022, Districts 9970 and 9980 merge to become District 9999. So, Nick will be District 9980's last district governor. Saving the best until last? Definitely. Rotary's future is assured with leaders such as Nick Wood. RDU



Pumpkins for Polio

DISTRICT 9980 enthusiastically took up the challenge to grow pumpkins for polio – a fun way to raise awareness and funds for Rotary's *End Polio Now* campaign.

Led by the world's youngest district governor, Nick Wood, pumpkin seedlings were distributed around the district and 55 growers signed up. The 'Atlantic Giant' variety was the pumpkin of choice, which can grow to more than 800kg!

Funds were raised through sponsorships, with a sponsor paying an amount for each kilo of the final weight. So, if you didn't grow a pumpkin you could sponsor a grower.

A celebration to mark the end of District 9980 and announce the winners of the competition was held on April 23, 2022.

Rotary hired trucks with cranes in order to move the massive entrants.

With weigh-ins and winners announced, this fun initiative was a great way to come

together for a great cause and raise money to continue the fight against polio.

The Rotary Club of Wanaka took out first prize with its 162kg monster, second place went to the Rotary Club of Alexandra for its 135.5kg entry, and third place went to Nick's home club of Cromwell, which grew a 109.5kg giant.

The competition raised \$15,905, with D9980 raising a further \$26,107.26 for polio eradication, taking the total contribution to \$42,012.26. With the Bill and Melinda Gates contribution, this makes \$126,012.78 for *End Polio Now*. The district also made a District Designated Funds contribution of US\$7,500 bringing the district year end contribution to \$175,536.78. ROU

ABOVE: District 9980 Governor Nick Wood's Pumpkins for Polio fundraiser was a great success, raising \$15,905 for the *End Polio Now* campaign.

"A celebration to mark the end of District 9980 and announce the winners of the competition was held on April 23, 2022."



Lot 47

“The completed 181sqm three-bedroom, two-bathroom and double garage home was sold at auction on November 26, 2021, for an incredible \$1,205,000.”

The home the community built

IN 2018, St John, which provides ambulance services throughout New Zealand, was planning to build a new state-of-the-art ambulance station in Cromwell to serve the Central Otago region. The service uses both paid and volunteer ambulance officers. St John had obtained most of the necessary funding, but there was a \$243,000 shortfall in costs.

When local lawyer Doreen Evans learnt of the need to raise additional funds, she approached the Rotary Club of Cromwell and the local Lions club and suggested a joint

fundraising project with the support of local tradesmen, businesses, and the community to build a home, with as little cost as possible, and sell it at auction. The aim – to help St John fund the shortfall on the new station build.

Doreen gathered a small group of Rotary and Lions superheroes – Craig Lunn, Paula and Richard Jackson, Grant Lunn, Paddy Breen, Syd Dyer and Glenn Vaughan.

They shared Doreen’s vision and worked tirelessly for over two years to bring the project together. The group purchased the land, engaged an architect, a bank and an underwriter to ensure there was no risk.

The build was split into four stages with a different builder taking charge of each stage. Many businesses, who would normally be competitors, joined together to provide products and services. Doreen worked hard to ensure that every business involved was recognised. A website (www.Lot47.co.nz) and a Facebook page (Lot 47 Cromwell Community Project) were set up. She also wrote weekly articles for the *Cromwell News*, keeping the community informed about what businesses were doing on Lot 47.

RIGHT: Local lawyer Doreen Evans, second from left, with Rotary and Lions members who assisted in bringing the Lot 47 Community Project to fruition at the sale of the property in November.

Building consent was granted on March 3, 2021, the ground broken on March 25, and the foundation poured on May 8, 2021. Breen Construction, who was building the Cromwell Ambulance Station, also helped with the house build, offering several of their skilled labourers to assist in areas that required special expertise.

The completed 181sqm three-bedroom, two-bathroom and double garage home was sold at auction on November 26, 2021, for an incredible \$1,205,000.

The \$243,000 shortfall for building the station was given to St John and further funds have been earmarked to assist St John purchase and upgrade equipment. Other funds will be used to support the community to undertake health-related courses and maintain health-related equipment. A 'Topping Scholarship Education Fund' has been established to assist individuals with their training costs to become health workers.

The remaining \$331,436.88 will be shared between the Rotary Club of Cromwell and Cromwell Lions Club with the view of funding a major project. **RDU**



Wood for the Elderly & Disadvantaged

WOOD for the Elderly/Disadvantaged is another project of the Rotary Club of Timaru. For the past six years, more than 4,000 bags of wood and kindling have been given to those in need in the Timaru district. **RDU**

ABOVE: Students from Waihi School helping Rotary Club of Timaru members chop and bag firewood for those in need.

Year 4 Dictionary Project



THE Year 4 Dictionary Project is a New Zealand-wide enterprise that puts reference books into the hands of Year 4 students. The Rotary Club of Timaru has been involved in this program since 2010.

For the past 12 years, members have distributed 8,000 dictionaries – 600 to 700 a year – to all primary schools in South Canterbury. The beautifully illustrated dictionaries come with an explanatory letter signed by the club president. The cost of the dictionaries is covered by a Rotary Foundation grant. **RDU**



Project Starfish

“The children here are stateless, so the Mission gives them food, clothing and an education – the greatest protection from being abducted and sold into sex slavery.”



PROJECT Starfish is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Dunedin Central. The project was established by member David Black 17 years ago to support those fighting child trafficking and sex slavery in Cambodia and Thailand.

“Slavery is bad enough. It gets worse when you add ‘child’, but put ‘sex’ in the middle of it, and sometimes people just don’t want to know,” David said.

When it comes to horrifying stories and examples, David has no shortage of material and is an excellent guest speaker.

The global slavery industry is estimated to generate around US\$150 billion each year; US\$100 billion of which is spent specifically on children. Over the past 30 years, Rotary has invested about US\$1 billion fighting polio. In that

same period, paedophiles have spent US\$3 trillion on child prostitutes, and the estimated tally of child rapes committed during that time stands at about 368 billion. In any given year, it is thought that 4.5 million worldwide are trapped in child sex slavery, with 2.2 million children estimated to

be abducted into the trade annually.

David is passionate about trying to stop this horrific trade. In December 2019, he took a group of young people to Cambodia and Thailand, including Rotary Club of Timaru member Jessica Hewitson and her colleague Keryn Ward. They

ABOVE: Rotary Club of Timaru member Jessica Hewitson and colleague Keryn Ward threw an early Christmas party for the children at the Rescue Mission For Children during their time in Thailand.

RIGHT: Local children in the Akha Villages, who are vulnerable to the child trafficking and sex slavery industry because they are stateless.





LEFT: Rotary Club of Timaru member Jessica Hewitson, right, and Keryn Ward.

protection from being abducted and sold into sex slavery. Project Starfish helps support the non-government agencies at the coalface. They have planted fruit trees and put a new roof on the laundry drying area. Further works include a bathroom refurbishment for the girl's dormitory.

travelled to Siem Reap in Cambodia and participated in the International Angkor Wat Half Marathon with the Hagar organisation. They then headed to the Rescue Mission For Children in Thailand to help with the planned upgrade of facilities.

The Rescue Mission for Children in Northern Thailand is overseen by an Australian-based board and runs on donations and fundraising. The children here are stateless, so the Mission gives them food, clothing and an education – the greatest

Project Starfish received support from Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee in 2012, when he promoted the project at the Rotary Convention in Bangkok. The project won the district trophy in 2017 for the collaboration of Rotary clubs, including Interact in the USA. RDU

THE Rotary Club of Wanaka raised \$10,000 from its annual quiz night in April 2021, which the club donated to the Rotary100downunder centenary project Give Every Child a Future. The project aims to vaccinate 100,000 children for rotavirus, pneumococcal disease and cervical cancer across nine South Pacific Island countries over three years.

Past president Mike Elliot said the event was sold out and is always a fun night that is well supported by the local community.

Co-organiser and club director Nicola Brown said a small amount of the funds raised will go towards the purchase of three Emergency Response Kits (ERKs).

“ERKs are distributed to affected families immediately following natural disasters to support them through the first days,” Nicola said. “With a kit a family can construct basic shelter, keep themselves protected from the elements, and utilise the immediate survival items that are included.” RDU

Quiz Night



“Each year up to 1000 people participate with the young, not so young, families, sporting and work groups joining in the fun.”

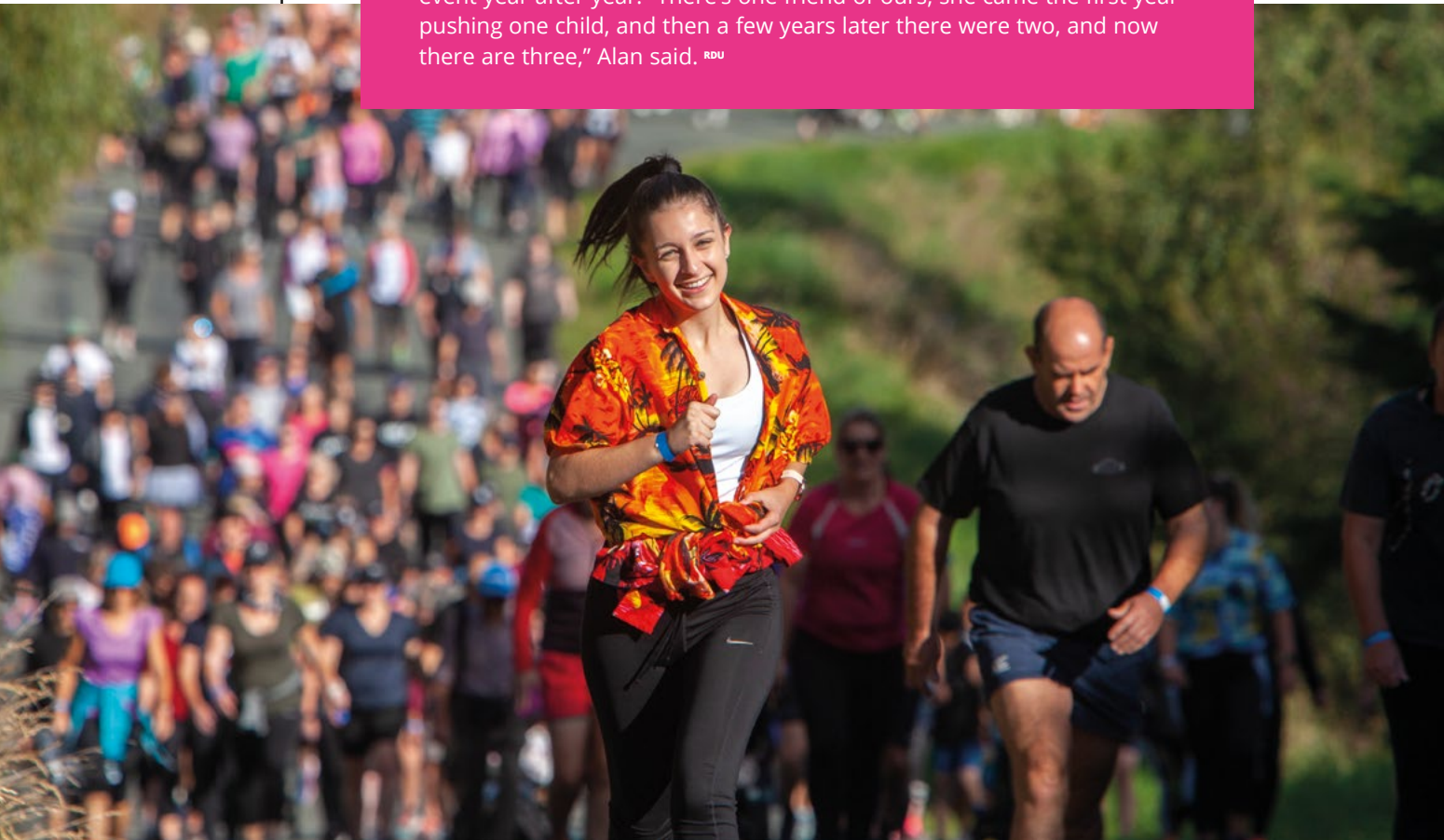
Hadlow to Harbour Fun Run/Walk (H2H)

HADLOW to Harbour Fun Run/Walk (H2H) is a project of the Rotary Club of Timaru North. The annual non-profit fun run, supporting charities in South Canterbury, has been held for the past 50 years. The 10 km course begins at Hadlow, just beyond the western edge of Timaru, and winds its way through the city streets to finish at Caroline Bay, near the port of Timaru. For those who can't manage the full 10km there is a shorter course of 3km from the Countdown Supermarket in Church Street. Participants can run, walk, wheel or jog, and many wear fancy dress costumes. Dogs are very welcome, and St Mary's Church, which is en route, always has a water station available for thirsty runners and their furry companions.

Alpine Energy is the main sponsor of the fun run and each year up to 1000 people participate with the young, not so young, families, sporting and work groups joining in the fun. The event has raised thousands of dollars in its 50 years of operation, with most of the money going to support local community projects.

Even during COVID-19 lockdowns the club managed to hold the event, taking a gamble that restrictions would be lifted in time. They were lifted at 6am on the morning of the event, just three and a half hours before starting time and they managed to attract 870 entrants.

Event organiser Alan Crawford said he had seen people come back to the event year after year. “There's one friend of ours, she came the first year pushing one child, and then a few years later there were two, and now there are three,” Alan said. RDU





Annual Book Sale and Duck Race

THE Rotary Club of Wanaka usually raises over \$30,000 from its two charity fundraising events – the annual book sale and the duck race.

In 2020, the book sale, held at the Lake Wanaka Centre, raised over \$15,000. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, this was the largest book sale for some time. More than two thirds of a shipping container of books were sold.

The club's most recent annual duck race took place on Saturday, October 24, 2020, with 1,500 tickets sold to the public and more than 120 corporate ducks sold to businesses.

"We had a great response, it is just one of those events that captures the imagination and is something all the family can do," past president Mike Elliott said.

The race raised more than \$15,000.

Unfortunately, the 2021 duck race was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and was scheduled for February 2022.

However, crowds were still not permitted, so club members drew out 13 ducks from those entered and raced them 50m down Bullock Creek to select the winners. RDU

BELOW:
Rotarian Tom Perkins (right) share a laugh with Anastasia Bell a visitor from Christchurch.

(Photos: The Wanaka App)



Otago Community Hospice Playground



“Everyone had a great sense of purpose and achievement that we were building something special that would provide happiness not only to the children who got to play on it, but also the family watching on from their rooms.”

THE Otago Community Hospice is recognised as a place where families go to be with loved ones who are terminally ill, and often children had nowhere to play while the family visits. The Rotary Club of St Kilda Sunrise Dunedin recognised a need and started the project Let the Children Play, with the goal of building a playground within the centre of the hospice buildings.

The first meeting with the hospice and an engineer was in June 2009 and the whole club became involved in all aspects of the project. Posters were designed to advertise the project and fundraising ventures. The technical class at John McGlashan School made collection boxes, which were placed on counters at local bars and restaurants, asking for donations of loose change.

Fundraising varied from selling donated goods on Trade Me, to a sausage sizzle and chocolate wheel during Dunedin’s festival week. Several people sponsored a post of the playground. Local firms came on board donating equipment and materials.

Once the funds were raised, the 24 club members and their families set to work shovelling, digging, breaking the hard ground and removing dirt by the barrow loads, digging holes, pouring concrete and scattering several metres of gravel.

“It was a great day of hard work, blisters, exhaustion and

fellowship,” club president Heather Ferguson said.

“Everyone had a great sense of purpose and achievement that we were building something special that would provide happiness not only to the children who got to play on it, but also the family watching on from their rooms.”

The estimated cost of the project was \$36,000; however, by providing much of the labour costs the playground cost the club \$25,745.62. It was a tremendous effort, and the playground has been a huge success. **RDU**



Native Tree Fund

TWELVE years ago, the six Rotary clubs in Invercargill planted more than 250,000 native shrubs over 22 hectares on what used to be the Invercargill tip.

This year, the clubs again combined as *People of Action* and did a big clean-up along the Estuary Walkway in support of Rotary’s seventh area of focus – Protecting the Environment. **RDU**



RIGHT: Invercargill Rotarians in action cleaning up the Estuary Walkway on March 27.

Otago Service Clubs Medical Trust and Rescue Helicopter

THE Rotary Club of St Kilda Sunrise, Dunedin commenced the Medical Trust project in 1987. In that year, the club partnered with the Lions Club of Mosgiel to raise funds to send two patients, one from each club, to Harefield Hospital in England for heart transplant operations.

The initial fundraising involved dividing the telephone book among club members who phoned all Dunedin and Mosgiel residents requesting donations. A large team of Rotarians, Lions and their families and friends made the calls and then collected the donations. The amount raised exceeded that needed for the two heart transplant recipients. So, the Otago Service Clubs Medical Trust (OSCMT) was established.

The Trust now provides financial help for local people with a variety of medical related needs. Over the years, the Trust has provided

financial assistance to many Otago residents. Payments have covered a large number of medical and dental operations as well as:

- \$5,000 to have all children waiting for cochlear implants treated
- \$70,000 to purchase a Panda Resuscitaire incubator for infants, and Cubro medical chairs for mothers and babies at the Dunedin Hospital Neonatal unit
- \$12,000 to purchase a Braille machine for a very active community leader, enabling her to continue managing her charity organisation when she lost her sight, and
- \$320,000 to the Otago Helicopter Trust to purchase flight paths for the rescue helicopters.

Thanks to \$320,000 funding in 2021, lifesaving new flight routes are in the works for the Otago Regional Rescue Helicopter Service.

Trust chairman Martin Dippie said the new routes will enable the rescue helicopters to respond to missions that would “otherwise be impossible due to low cloud or freezing levels”.

Graeme Gale, managing director of HeliOtago Ltd, the organisation that operates the service, said the new funding would enable routes to be developed to Stewart Island, Gore, Lumsden, Ranfurly, Tapanui, Balclutha, Kurow, Alexandra and Twizel.

“We couldn’t have found a better match in identifying the Otago Rescue Helicopter Trust to receive most of the remainder of the funds raised by our clubs for the early heart transplant recipients,” OSCMT trustee Jack Paine said.

As to the fate of those original heart transplant recipients – Rotarian Joe Wansick lived for many years after his operation, as did Dormer Wolfe, a club member who was New Zealand’s first heart transplant patient. Sadly, Lions club member Norman Rae died soon after his operation. **RDU**

“The new routes will enable the rescue helicopters to respond to missions that would otherwise be impossible due to low cloud or freezing levels.”



LEFT: Members of the Rotary Club of St Kilda Sunrise and the Otago Service Clubs Medical Trust with the Otago Regional Rescue Helicopter.

Community Barbecue at Russell Square

IN December 2018, to commemorate its 50th anniversary, the Rotary Club of Invercargill South donated an electric double burner barbecue to the city.

This great facility, which is located in Russell Square, is for the benefit of the community and can be used free-of-charge by all park visitors. The barbecue complements the playground and other attractions and recreational facilities in the park. The Invercargill City Council provided a shelter, which gives shade and protection from the wind and rain.

Club past president Ron Taylor said many local businesses and club volunteers worked together to bring the project to fruition. **RDU**



Julie Dockrill

A MIDWIFE from the Rotary Club of Timaru, Julie Dockrill was one of only six people in the world to receive Rotary International's prestigious 'People of Action: Champions of Health' awards. Julie and her team managed to reduce the infant mortality rate in Mongolia from 56 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2002 to 16 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019.

The award honours people for their commitment using their time and talents to assist mothers and their children, protect communities from diseases, and strengthen health systems.

A team of five New Zealand and Australian midwives and childbirth educators developed the program and visited Mongolia three times from 2013 to 2018 to train local midwives and childbirth educators. Through teaching, and helping to produce a Mongolian Maternal Child Health program manual, they were able to greatly improve mortality rates. **RDU**



RIGHT: The opening of the Rotary Club of Invercargill South's barbecue at Russell Square, South City, in 2018 marked the club's 50th anniversary.



ShelterBox New Zealand

*Transforming lives after
disaster strikes – No
family without shelter*

A CHANCE conversation while on holiday in Australia in 2006 led the Rotary Club of Mosgiel to become the home of ShelterBox New Zealand. ShelterBox was founded in the United Kingdom in 2000 by a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall. Over the past 22 years, ShelterBox has provided emergency shelter and disaster relief in 97 countries. In 2012, ShelterBox and Rotary International became official disaster relief partners.

The Mosgiel club formed a working group within the club to establish ShelterBox in New Zealand and the ShelterBox NZ Charitable Trust was registered in May 2010. Initially, the aim was to promote ShelterBox to all New Zealand Rotary clubs and then to the public

by holding and promoting fundraising events. Promotional materials from the UK helped club members network and establish ShelterBox champions within each club.

The response was amazing, with many clubs coming on board supporting the project with donations passed through Rotary New Zealand World Community Service to ShelterBox UK. When the Mosgiel club passed ShelterBox responsibility over to a new Board, total donations were \$3 million.

During 2009, the Mosgiel club ran an induction weekend to select suitable volunteers to attend a two-week course in the UK to become trained ShelterBox Response Teams (SRTs). These roles are physically and mentally challenging and a huge responsibility

for the team members. NZ SRTs have been involved in many deployments, including Haiti, Madagascar, Samoa, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

The club said a huge thank you to the original founders Graham Beach, Fraser Ellis, the late Lindsay Thorburn and the late JB Munro. They are indebted to the late Sir Eion Edgar and Monica Mulholland of the Rotary Club of Queenstown for their business guidance in driving the project to become a well-established charity in New Zealand.

The Mosgiel club is proud of the early contribution it made to this successful charity. At this time the position of the NZ Governor-General became the Vice Regal Patron for ShelterBox NZ, with HRH The Duchess of Cornwall being the Patron in the UK. RDU

"New Zealand ShelterBox Response Teams have been involved in many deployments, including Haiti, Madagascar, Samoa, Bangladesh, and Indonesia."

West Harbour Recreation Trail

“Supported by TaskForce Green, with volunteer labour provided by Rotarians, their families and friends, the beautification has included spreading tonnes of woodchips and planting approximately 2,000 native plants along a 2.5km stretch of the pathway between the Dunedin Boat Harbour and Maia.”



(Photo: John Caswell / from a Small City)

THE West Harbour Recreation Trail was a five-year community undertaking completed in 2018 by the Rotary Club of Dunedin, with assistance from the Rotary Club of Dunedin North. Supported by TaskForce Green, with volunteer labour provided by Rotarians, their families and friends, the beautification has included spreading tonnes of woodchips and planting approximately 2,000 native

plants along a 2.5km stretch of the pathway between the Dunedin Boat Harbour and Marina.

A picnic and barbecue area, a t'ai chi area and installation of 13 pieces of all-weather exercise equipment were included. The exercise equipment is suitable for use by the young, not so young and the disabled.

Project designer Mick Field, who is a landscape architect, worked as a volunteer and

was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Dunedin for his involvement in the project.

The \$200,000 West Harbour project was funded through grants from Rotary District 9980, Perpetual Guardian Trust, William Sherriff Trust, Archer family, Community Trust of Otago, Ravensdown, West Harbour Community Board, Dunedin City Council Community Grants Scheme. **RDU**



Orokonui Ecosanctuary Walking Path

A **WALKING** path through the Orokonui Ecosanctuary is another project of the Rotary Club of Dunedin. Since the construction of the path, the club has had ongoing involvement with the sanctuary.

Orokonui Ecosanctuary is an outstanding example of a partnership involving input from volunteers and experts, with financial resources coming from many sources. It is the flagship biodiversity project for New Zealand's South Island, where multiple species of plants and animals are protected from predators. A predator-proof fence surrounds 307 hectares of Coastal Otago forest, pests have been

removed, habitat has been enhanced with weed control and planting, and many rare and endangered species have been reintroduced.

Club members held working bees to prepare the 2.16km of track, which runs from the top to the bottom of the sanctuary. It is now known as Saddleback Valley Track, named after the saddleback forest bird, a threatened species from an island in Fiordland that found protection in the Ecosanctuary.

Since the track work, the club has donated \$5,000 to the Otago Natural History Trust, the charitable trust that administers the Ecosanctuary. The funds will

be used for maintenance or enhancement. Recently, they also helped with the installation of two drinking water fountains.

The water fountains were proposed by University of Otago food science PhD students, Victoria Purdy and Rebecca Roberts, who came up with the idea while attending a Rotary Youth Leadership Award program.

The Rotary Club of Dunedin supported the project, helping to facilitate the sourcing and site for the water fountains, and funding their installation. Club member Fiona Nyhof said the overall cost of the community project was \$8,000-\$10,000. RDU

"The water fountains were proposed by University of Otago food science PhD students, Victoria Purdy and Rebecca Roberts, who came up with the idea while attending a Rotary Youth Leadership Award program."



The Cromwell Big Fruit and Town Clock



“When Cromwell Rotary decided to donate a clock to the town to mark 40 years of Rotary in Cromwell, they chose the location across from the Big Fruit to complement the well-recognised town symbol.”

AS you enter the city of Cromwell, on State Highway 88, you can't help but notice the giant apple, pear, nectarine and apricot sculpture. In 1987, engineer Otto Muller, from Ripponvale, came up with the idea and designed the sculpture to acknowledge the contribution fruit made to the Central Otago economy.

Funds for the 1.7 tonne landmark sculpture, which cost \$64,000 to build and \$24,000 in volunteer labour costs, were raised by the Rotary Club of Cromwell. The sculpture was completed on November 3, 1989, and handed over to the Otago District Council.

In 2019, when Cromwell Rotary decided to donate a clock to the town to mark 40 years of Rotary in Cromwell, they chose the location across from the Big Fruit to complement the well-recognised town symbol.

The clock was imported from Austria and now sits proudly on a steel pole above a stone plinth in Murray Terrace, adjacent to the pedestrian crossing and car park. Project team leader Fin White praised the many people and businesses who donated their time and skills free, or at a significantly reduced rate.

“Without the many supporters who have helped us, this clock may never have got to be a striking new part of the Cromwell townscape,” Fin said. “From the initial concept design and engineering work to procuring the clock, the site, the pole and the plinth, through to the onsite transport, installation and stonework, and then the engraving and on-site electrical work, I've been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and generosity of all involved. Rotary and Cromwell owe all these people a huge vote of thanks.” **RDV**

Otago Peninsula War Memorial

THE Rotary Club of Dunedin South adopted the Otago Peninsula War Memorial in 2013, in the lead up to the ANZAC Day centenary on April 25, 2015.

Local historian and author Ron Palenski noticed errors, such as incorrect ranks and misspelt names, on the war memorial plaque attached to the Otago Peninsula Soldiers' Memorial. The memorial is located at 548 Highcliff Road, Ocean Grove, Dunedin. It is one of the most prominent memorials in New Zealand. The stone statue is of a WWI infantryman looking out towards the Otago Harbour entrance, as if standing guard over the city of Dunedin below. Situated high on a hilltop, the memorial can be seen from all over the city.

When club members read about these anomalies, they stepped in and obtained a \$5,700 grant from the Lotteries Commission to assist with the payment of the new plaque. The plaque was rededicated in April 2015 at a special ceremony for the descendants and families of Otago Peninsula soldiers who died in WWI. There are 52 names on the plaque.

The article by Ron Palenski that inspired this project is well worth a read (www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/names-fallen) **RDV**



Rotary Matters

Growing our organisation



ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

Rotary



The **Rotary Matters segment** is your go-to resource for ideas on how to bring more awareness to what your club is doing, why Rotary is relevant to your community and how you can engage your members even further. Ensuring a Rotary club's continued success is not just about a membership strategy, strong public image or exciting projects – it's about all these elements coming together to create an organisation people want to be a part of, where like-minded individuals can join together to find fulfilment by doing good in the world.

Call for vital polio funding before June 30

PDG Bob Aitken
RI End Polio Now
Coordinator, Zone 8, 2018-22
Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, NSW



Two new cases of the wild polio virus have been reported in recent weeks – taking the total number for the year to date to five – sparking a renewed focus on fundraising

before June 30.

It was reported in the official Polio Weekly global

update on May 13 that the number of WPV cases for the year so far was three – two in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan.

However, RI PolioPlus Chair and RI Past Vice President Mike McGovern received his official weekly report on Thursday, May 19. It confirmed there have been two new cases of WPV – one in Pakistan from the same area as the previous two cases in Pakistan this year; and the second in Mozambique – derived from the Malawi outbreak.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has

suggested that our network no longer sends out updates on every case and prefers to wait for the official weekly report.

“When we issue interim statements, there is confusion when the official weekly report comes out and a sense by some that there are still more cases,” Mike said.

“We are close to eradicating WPV, but as it is still circulating in two known areas we are likely to have more cases.”

Focus on fundraising

With the month of June approaching, I urge all



... and they're off!

district governors and club presidents to make one last push for vital dollars to fund our *End Polio Now* campaign.

Our challenge is to raise US\$50 million by June 30 to ensure we qualify for the 2:1 US\$100 million bonus from the Gates Foundation.

The goals are simple:

- US\$1,500 from every Rotary club
- 20% or part thereof of District Designated Funds
- Ongoing search for major donors at US\$10,000 each
- A focus on personal giving – including the Sir Clem Renouf/Bill Boyd *End Polio Now* Clubs at \$10 per member

Please take these challenges on board immediately with your club presidents and District TRF Committees.

Signing off on good news

A couple of weeks ago, District Governors Pat Schraven and Heather Chong advised that their respective TRF District Committees had signed off on donations of US\$10,000 from DDF to the *End Polio Now* campaign.

At April 21, the value of DDF donations from Zone 8, with the multiplier bonus, had reached almost US\$600,000. With these latest donations, our total is almost US\$700,000!

District governors, if you have not already found some surplus DDF, please look again. Six or seven additional US\$10,000 donations (or more) could see Zone 8 top the US\$1 million mark for the first time. RDU



TASMANIAN Rotarians Philip and Joyce Ogden from the Rotary Club of South Launceston are on their bike and on the road to *End Polio Now*!

The avid cyclists were keen for a challenge and Phil has wanted to ride across the Nullarbor for at least two years. However, it was not until the pair decided to use their journey across the Nullarbor as an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the *End Polio Now* campaign that Joyce agreed to participate.

A retired anaesthetist, Phil said while he rarely dealt with polio cases, his medical background had allowed him to gain a greater understanding of the effort required to eradicate the disease.

Joyce said with COVID-19 and other humanitarian crises occurring in recent years, they fear polio may get “pushed under the ground” before it can be eradicated.

The couple hope their journey will help publicise the urgent need to eradicate the virus.

The cyclists set off on their 2,750km fundraiser from Midland, Perth, on May 17, arriving in Kalgoorlie-Boulder six days later.

They then travelled south to Norseman before heading east along the Eyre Highway towards their final destination in Adelaide.

They plan to travel six days a week, averaging 100km a day, stopping wherever there are Rotary clubs, and hoping to cross the finish line at the Adelaide Oval on Wednesday, June 22.

The pair thanks everyone who has provided support and donated to the cause.

The Raise for Rotary website shows they are well on the way to their target of \$40,000, having raised more than \$13,000 at the time of print. RDU



Donations can be made via raise.rotary.org/phil-ogden/fundraiser

TRUSTEE'S MESSAGE

There's no time like the present

"**TIME** can be an ally or an enemy," author Zig Ziglar once wrote. "What it becomes depends entirely upon you, your goals, and your determination to use every available minute."

Every June, as we wind down another year in Rotary, I ask myself if we have used the past 365 days well. To answer, let's look at what we have accomplished.

Cases in the remaining wild-polio endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, are at their lowest level in history. Of course, challenges to global eradication remain and our work is not yet finished, but we are making encouraging progress, which wouldn't be possible without your support.

Rotary needs to raise \$50 million each year for polio eradication, and doing so during a pandemic is no easy task. But Rotary clubs are smart and adapt fast. When in-person events weren't possible, many clubs successfully transferred their fundraising efforts online.

We hit another memorable mark during Giving Tuesday in November, when The Rotary Foundation got a boost by raising \$1.2 million. We reached out to more current and prospective donors than ever before – almost 500,000 members across 40 countries. Some of our most engaged clubs were located in the Bahamas, India, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United States. We thank all of those who made Giving Tuesday a success.

Due to travel restrictions this year, Rotary representatives couldn't visit potential host universities as part of our ongoing effort to establish our next Rotary Peace Centre in the Middle East or North Africa. But nothing stands in the way of our pursuit of peace; plans are still on for the Rotary Presidential Conference in Houston, June 3-4, which will focus on peace, and I look forward to being there.

This year, Rotary made another contribution in our commitment to peace, in the form of more than 1,000 global, district, and disaster response grants approved to fulfill the needs of thousands around the world. For until hungry people are fed, families have access to clean water, and children everywhere are educated, we won't truly have peace in the world.

We have used our time well this year, but our work is never complete. We always need and welcome more Rotary and Rotaract members, who bring their hands, minds, and gifts, so that Rotary-led Foundation projects will create lasting change for those who need it most.

As we approach July 1, let us heed Ziglar's words, remembering that how we spend the next 365 days largely depends on us and our determination to reach our goals. So, let us do the best we can with the time we have been given, today. And let us begin again, every day.



John Germ
Foundation Trustee Chair



Get connected



WHETHER or not you plan to be in Houston this month, you will want to know what's happening at the 2022 Rotary International Convention. Fortunately, there are several ways to stay informed about the event from beginning to end.

For in-person attendees, the Rotary Events app is essential for navigating the convention. With it, you can plan your daily schedule, learn about featured speakers, and download session handouts. You can also connect with other Rotary members, share photos, rate sessions, and send feedback to convention organisers. Find it in your app store by searching for 'Rotary Events'.

If you can't make it to Houston, you can still experience the convention from home. Each day's general session and selected breakout sessions can be watched via livestream. For access, register through the convention site: convention.rotary.org.

Whether you're on site or watching from home, another way to follow along is through social media. Follow Rotary's accounts on Twitter (@rotary) and Instagram (@rotaryinternational) for frequent convention updates, and find more information on Rotary's Facebook page (@rotary). Use the hashtag #Rotary22 to share your own social media posts about the convention and to see what your fellow Rotary members are saying.

While you're in the convention spirit, it's not too early to start thinking about next year's event. Between June 4 and 8, visit the convention site to register for the 2023 convention in Melbourne, at a special rate of \$425 – the largest discount that will be offered. RDU

Making social media work for you

LAST month I promised that we'd look at social media. Here are some tips and tricks when using Facebook and Instagram, which are the tools most clubs and districts use to promote their activities:



Sarita McLean
Public Image
Coordinator,
Zone 8

- Your club's social media content should show your club in action – how you are getting out in the community making a difference and having fun. Meeting-focused content should be kept to a minimum. Where possible, follow local community groups on social media to hear about community needs or possible service partners.
- It's also about growing your base and recruiting potential members. Create content that people will want to share, and create channels and groups where people can engage, share resources, and stay informed about issues that matter to them.
- Be clear and concise: keep it short, avoid using the myriad acronyms we have collected over the years, and link your posts back to your club or district website where relevant.
- Show people what your club can accomplish. Build momentum by celebrating victories, big and small. Let your contributors know you value their contributions and see how their help has made a difference. Share achievements, gratitude and positivity, and you'll attract more support down the line. Tag the groups that you're posting about or use hashtags including #RotaryPeopleofAction.
- Don't forget about your branding!

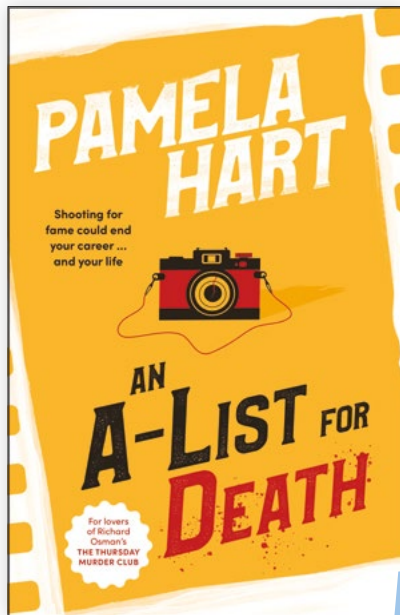
As always, if you need help with public image, please contact the Zone Public Image team of Darryl Iseppi, Andy Marselos, Pauline Stewart, Ros Teirney, Malini Raghwan, Liz Courtney, Wayne Milnes, Barry Antees and myself. Our contact details are on the Rotary Zone 8 website (www.rotaryzone8.org) under the Public Image tab. We'd love to hear from you. RDU

An A-List for Death
Pamela Hart
 HarperCollins
 RRP: \$29.99

TV researcher Poppy McGowan has never sought the spotlight and is none too happy to be photographed with rock god Nathan Castle. When the photo pops up on celebrity gossip sites, it sparks a media feeding frenzy, forcing Poppy to go to ground, don a wig, and pull some nifty moves to escape a tailing car. On top of that, she cops abuse from Nathan's outraged fans.

None of this would have happened if Poppy hadn't found Nathan's mother Daisy, one-time glamour girl and elderly best friend of her Aunty Mary, bleeding and unconscious in her bathroom. The police dismiss the case as an accident, but Poppy is sure there are questions to be answered. Who attacked Daisy, and why? Will she come out of her coma? What secrets are her gathering family hiding? What happens to Daisy's money if she dies?

When a murder occurs outside Daisy's flat, the police step in at last. Unfortunately, they finger Poppy's boyfriend, Tol, for the crime – after all, he had bad blood with the victim.



As Daisy's money-hungry family circle amid hints of poisoning, bribery and blackmail, Poppy must find a way to clear Tol's name and ensure Daisy's safety.



GIVEAWAY

For your chance to win one of three copies of *An A-List for Death*, email giveaways@rotarydownunder.com.au with 'An A-List for Death' in the subject line. Please include your contact details, including delivery address.

10th October

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Pride of Workmanship Awards

This program aims at identifying and recognising people who excel in their vocations. Through the program, clubs connect with businesses and the community and gain opportunities for Membership Development and Public Relations as well.

For more information check out our website at www.pride-of-workmanship.com or contact the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills - District 9685

Phone: 0444 565 780 or email us at: orders@pride-of-workmanship.com



Contact us for a **FREE** copy of our program guide

ROTARY AT A GLANCE



Rotarians: 1,204,997* in 36,945 clubs in 545 Districts in 220 countries/geographic areas.

Rotaractors: 234,520* in 11,150 clubs in 532 districts in 184 countries/geographic areas.

Interactors: 398,475* in 16,872 clubs in 498 districts in 161 countries/geographic areas.

Rotary Community Corps members: 200,615* in 12,082 clubs in 235 districts in 90 countries/geographic areas.

As at May 31, 2021, there are 25,880 members in 1056 clubs in 19 districts in Australia, and 7132 members in 251 clubs in six districts in New Zealand and the Pacific. Australian and New Zealand districts include Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, where there are 606 Rotarians in 41 clubs.

As at April 20, 2022 | * Estimated

OBJECT OF ROTARY



The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- 1 The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- 2 High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- 3 The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- 4 The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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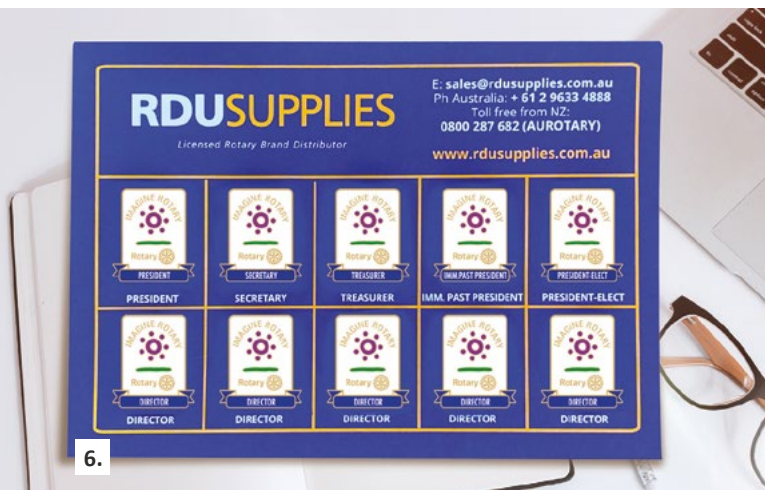
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