

# Rotary District 9675 Conference 2019

The conference was opened by the Kari Singers with a rousing rendition of "Treaty"



## ***PDG John Prendergast, RI President's Personal Representative***



27 Districts – 9675 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing district + 24 members

McDonalds have 36,000 outlets worldwide ... there are 36,000 Rotary Clubs!

Improve diversity of membership  
Membership should reflect the community we are in

Rotary's Challenge – Change! this is a changing world  
"Resisting change is like holding your breath ... it might be successful, but the outcome is not necessarily what we want!" Lao Tzu

We are only able to sit in the shade of a tree today, because someone thought to plant a tree! Rotary is like a tree:

- Root bound
- Needs to be pruned to get new shoots
- Needs to have dead wood cut off
- Needs new seeds to be planted to thrive

We tell people about what we do, but are we telling them what's in it for them!

- Self-development (maybe learning to speak to a group)
- Networking
- Helping others

John also told us of his personal story of being terrified of speaking in public and whenever he was rostered on to speak, he apologised and didn't turn up for Rotary. He was on the verge of leaving Rotary but told a fellow Rotarian of his fear. He then decided to use Rotary to help him overcome his fear. With support from his members he did! Not look at him on the world stage!

Rotary is full of good people, doing good things in the community AND HAVING FUN along the way!

## **Louisa Hope – Lindt Café survivor**



Louisa sees Rotarians as people who are looking to do what is good in the world, with joy in your heart.

Her main point was that this was, in her view, NOT an act of terror! This was an ordinary man who had something inside him make him do bad things.

Louisa told us the harrowing story of her experiences during the siege, and mostly of her decision, when the opportunity arose, not to flee but to stay with her mother. This ultimately led to her being next to Tory when he was executed by the gunman and Louisa was then shot in the foot and had shrapnel in her abdomen in the subsequent ending of the hostage.

Louisa was able to add humour to this tragic story by telling us all that the shrapnel is still in her stomach, and in fact her fat saved her, so don't be worried about being fat!

She was very happy to see that Sydney brought flowers, not protests and revenge. She hopes this is what happens in Christchurch too!

We are surrounded by terror. What are we going to do? Build resilience. This comes from the gut.

Rotary are thought leaders in the community. What can we do for Christchurch? We have a gap of water but no ocean separates us as humans.

How do we stop the aggressive side of men? How do we deal with duplicate personalities? Aggression has become too everyday. How do we deal with aggression?

We can start by working with our young men.

(My note .... Top Blokes Foundation, Red Frogs, Schoolies with a difference, tough camps, etc)

## **Anthony Sork – Building Attachment**



Anthony began by showing a funny video about sausage sandwiches at Bunnings.

The final joke was that the benefit for the customer is that they get to give away the coins in their pockets and they get a free sausage sandwich!

When I pay with coins I don't feel like I am giving away money ... I'm just getting rid of coins!

Take a look ..... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZRGrOKRpQ&t=0s&list=FLMHYvQOQ-TaMyZ9-a9CnR3Q&index=3>

Anthony spoke about connecting with new members and ensuring their involvement.  
Create a strength of bond to make them want to stay.

Member bond – our brand

Member's want to know what can they contribute and what do they gain?

- Alignment is where the desired experience matches what they desire
- Detachment is where the experience doesn't match our desire. If the things we don't like fester, we leave, drop away from participation.
- Post Membership – those who have been members and left have a big impact on others
- Attachment – First 2-3 meetings are important. Other things around the meetings are important too, such as follow up.

People are looking for:

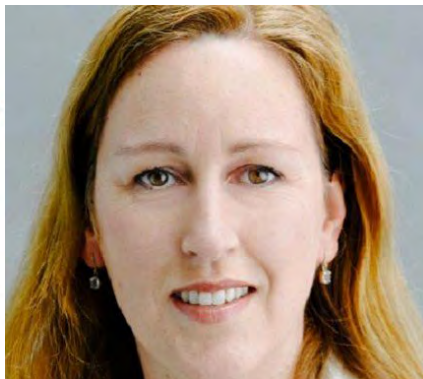
- Security
- Trust & value
- Acceptance
- Belonging

What can I do that makes me feel a useful member?

The cost of finding members is greater than working on keeping members.

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## **Dr Louise Mewton – Australian Rotary Health**





Louise Mewton is a Rotary Health and Scientia Fellow at the University of New South Wales. Her research focuses on the application of innovative methods and techniques to further our understanding of the epidemiology, classification and prevention of substance use and mental health problems. This research makes links across epidemiology, information technology, neuropsychology and prevention, reflecting global research priorities.

Research is carried out into brain training as an intervention. Looking at a prevention strategy for adolescents at risk.

The study looks at the long term effectiveness of a combined prevention model for anxiety, depression and substance use in adolescents'

The research is called "The Brain Games Study" and is in partnership with Lumosity.

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### ***Rotary Snapshots:***

1. Rosie Lotawa – Max Walker was a patron of ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children). On his first visit to Fiji he met a small girl who was bought to Australia to have major facial surgery. 3 years later DG Sue Hayward was attending her first conference and Max Walker was talking about this experience. He did not know that behind him the curtain opened and out walked Rosie! Rosie then made her home in South Australia and is a wonderful Ambassador for ROMAC. We were honoured to see her presented with a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellow at the Gala Dinner that night
2. David, VTT (Vocational Training Teams) – spoke about Vanuatu being the most disaster prone country in the world. As a fire fighter and he has brought his skills with him to rotary to share with others. He spends a lot of time in Vanuatu training the locals to prepare and recover from disasters.
3. Donations in Kind Eastern Chair Adrian Roach spoke about the change of name to HEERA (Health & Education Repurposing Activity). The same philosophy applies of reusing. There are a number of older hospitals being rebuilt and Rotary takes the old equipment and reuses it in other countries.



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***Congratulations to our own Peter Lewis for being the longest serving member of our club. Yes, that's 57 years!***

***He lost out to the longest serving member by a mere 4 years!***



## ***Dr Siva Ananthan – Hero***



Dr Siva pointed out that we really do like to help other people and Rotarians are heroes.

He played a tribute to the problems in our world to the music of “What a Wonderful World”, but captioned it with “NOT A Wonderful World”.

Some facts:

- We give children hope that the world will be a better place
- Every 4 seconds a child dies of hunger
- We need to fear apathy
- Global Warming is real!
- 150 million youth globally are illiterate
- War and Terrorism are our greatest enemies
- He pointed out that even the worst Rotarian is a good person.
- Rotarians are the Super Heroes!

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## ***Annabelle Chauncy – School For Life***



Give a child an education and you give them a life!

“Our vision is to break the cycle of poverty by building sustainable, productive and profitable communities beginning with quality education.”

What do they do?

- Food, water
- Shelter
- Health
- Education

Annabelle Chauncy, OAM and David Everett, OAM founded School For Life in Uganda whilst working as volunteers in Kenya

The ONLY people who would support her were Rotary! By raising \$500,000 they began to build their school! In 2010, 10 acres of land were purchased and building began. Two classrooms were opened in 2011, two more in 2012, and four more in 2013. In 2014 there were 21 teacher houses were built and on 2015 an early learning centre and school hall were built.

The schools are based on 50% achievement and 50% community. Some facts:

- 100% of primary students have graduated and gone onto High School
- They serve 500,000 nutritious meals per year to staff and students
- The boy girl ratio is 50:50 across classes. The national average for female enrolments is 37%
- 57 of School For Life's 114 staff are from the local community
- They provide more than 4,000 treatments to staff, students and communities through their health clinics annually
- The staff retention rate is 95%

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***Michael McQueen – Reinventing the Wheel: A game-plan for keeping Rotary relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.***



Refine, adjust, advance

When you are driven with purpose, you attract people with a purpose! Surround yourself with people who lift you higher!

Michael spoke about Entropy ... matter that is left to itself will always tend toward decay and disintegration!

Why do the might fall (such as Kodak) and why do the enduring stay? They embrace change!

You cannot outrun the future if you do not see it coming!

Young people are purpose driven – project driven. Aim to attract people to a project!

Some points:

1. Be clear on the business that you are in – WHY you do things, not WHAT you do.  
Don't focus on the past!  
What is our business?  
What do we value as a culture?  
Come as you are and give us what you can!  
What do we put our energy into?  
Are we a fundraising outfit or a service club?  
Why do we exist????  
(Pancake breakfast presented by Lions) Take a look ...  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6jJiaeuE-Q&t=14s&list=FLMHYvQOQ-TaMyZ9-a9CnR3Q&index=2>
2. Thing Revolution not Evolution!  
“the electric light didn't come from the continuous improvement of candles”  
If Rotary hopes to advance it's aims, we need revolution (Paul Harris)
3. Focus on Friction  
Transferwise was born to provide an easier way to transfer funds for customers, not for banks  
Look for a problem or friction and find a way to solve it
4. Fresh Eyes  
Ask your newest members to critically analyse your club and how it acts  
We need to prepare now, for what's next

Look at your community and make sure your Rotary Club is representative of it. Get different cultural groups involved (perhaps on projects). Your Club must reflect the community it is in!

Attached is Michael's report “Towards 2030 – Exposing the 8 Megatrends That Will Dominate The Coming Decade

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### ***Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace – My Life of Crime***



Deborah told an interesting and amusing story of her life from the early days of female policing to her current role being involved in up gang crime for the NSW Police Force.

She always followed an important piece of advice “Don't change who you are. Never lose your femininity”.

Louise quietly (well, not always) fought to change the role of women in policing by setting her own lead and example.

Known as the “smiling assassin” within crime circles, Deborah Wallace is a force to be reckoned with despite her warm, bubbly personality.

In the Australia Day 2011 Honours List she was awarded the Australian Police Medal and in 2010 received the prestigious Bev Lawson Memorial Award recognising outstanding women in law enforcement.



Deborah finished by telling us about how she became part of the investigation into the Anita Cobby story (she was used to play Anita in the re-enactment for the public). During this time she met Anita's mother Grace Lynch and they formed a special bond. Grace started a refuge for victims of homicide called "Grace's Place". Deborah fought with Grace to change the law to have criminals marked "never to be released" (up till then they banked on people forgetting what they did and when they applied for bail they were often released). Past criminals were then retried to have this order placed against them. This was the legacy that Grace left for her daughter.

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### ***Louise Sauvage, OAM – Inspiring the next sporting generation***



Louise Sauvage, OAM is an Australian Paralympic wheelchair racer and leading coach. Sauvage is often regarded as the most renowned disabled sportswoman in Australia. She won two gold medals and a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Paralympic games in front of a home crowd.

Australian Paralympian of the Year in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1998, Louise has also had considerable success competing in road events having recorded outstanding wins in the prestigious Boston, Los Angeles, Berlin and Honolulu Marathons.

Having won an extraordinary number of awards including the 1998 Young Australian of the Year in a sports category, the 1999 Australian Female Athlete of the Year, and being bestowed with an Order of Australia Medal (92), Louise Sauvage has certainly graced the realms of sporting folklore as one of our nation's finest.

Louise entertained us with her story of development and triumph in the Boston Marathon. It was a story of grit, determination and persistence!

Her message was ... "never give up!"

Louise also showed us a history of the development of wheelchairs in her sport.



## ***India/Nepal Projects presentation***



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## ***Nick Farr-Jones – Long after the price is forgotten the quality remains***



Nick spoke about “getting the process right and the scoreboard will look after itself”.

In an organisation people are finders, minders, grinders and binders.

Creative, innovative, organisers get behind and do things.

Work out what you are good at and surround yourself with people who are good at the other things. Don't try and do everything. Find out your club what each member is good at.

We need to stand tall. Young kids 14/15 are not having hope. Nick and his wife are part of a program held at the Convention Centre where 6,500 high school students where they are given a day of hope and inspiration. It is called the Stand Tall Event. Stand Tall is building hope in the lives of young Australians.