

Rotary

Club of Remuera
Incorporated



History

1980 – 2020

Background Information



Background Information

The background information in the following pages was primarily compiled by late Club member Adrian Vennell over a number of months.

We are grateful to Adrian for his efforts.



ROTARY CLUB OF REMUERA COMMITTEES

- **INTERACT**

Interact is a junior branch of Rotary aimed at the 14 to 17 year old group. but who are not yet old enough to join Rotary as full members It operates in schools and encourages young people to associate as a club in the Rotary style and to get involved in worthwhile community projects. One such club in our District was at Pukekohe High School and was thriving. Another was planned for Pakuranga College and our own directors had voted in favour of sponsoring a third club to start up at Dilworth School.

Blood Donors. Arranged through Remuera Primary School 85 members donated "last time". The following session was arranged for 20th June 1986. Once upon a time this author was a donor but at age 71 was sacked for incompetence. The usual limit was 70 years of age.

- **ROTARACT**

Rotaract celebrated its 15th anniversary on 9th September 1983. This programme began in 1968 with five clubs in India, Italy, Mexico and the USA. By 1983 there were more than 4000 clubs in 90 countries, with an estimated membership of 82,000. It was reported that the programme had been so successful that a new Rotaract club was being organised every other day.

The first Rotaract Club in New Zealand was arranged by the Rotary Club of Mt. Albert in 1968.

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- **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)**

This scheme was introduced in 1971 and organised under each Rotary District. It is a Rotary Service to Youth Project comprising a week long live-in seminar for young men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 years who display strong leadership skills. People still at school or attending formal tertiary education were not eligible. The purpose of RYLA is to:

1. bring together who have evidenced leadership qualities
2. provide information and instruction on subjects of interest and benefit
3. provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas, opinions and experiences
4. better equip, instruct and encourage promising young people from different cultures and backgrounds to better serve their community and their country.

Each Rotary Club is required to appoint a RYLA selection committee, such committee to interview all applicants.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Selection Committee.

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Each Rotary Club was expected to contribute \$350 for each candidate.

By way of example, between 1971 and 1993 twenty successful RYLA sessions were held with each Rotary Club contributing \$350 per annum for each candidate. We had four candidates accepted by District 9920 in 2016 and five in 2017.

- **ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAM OF ENRICHMENT.**

RYPEN is a residential weekend self-development seminar, helping young people to form their own values, broaden their cultural and special horizons and to help them become better citizens. In 2015/2016 Remuera Rotary donated \$900 to fully fund three students.

- **ROTAPACIFIC**

Rota Pacific is an annual three week educational programme held between May and June and sponsored by Rotarians in District 9920. It is designed to encourage Pacific Island people aged 21 to 28 years to develop leadership skills and accept the responsibility of good citizenship.

Leigh Marshall was District Chair of Rotapacific in 1990, early 2000's.
In 2015/2016 Remuera Rotary donated \$400 towards funding an attendee.

• **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Sponsored the Trees for Survival Programme in 2008. They arranged plant growing units in Dilworth and Diocesan Schools and were instrumental in the arrangements for tree planting on Motuihe Island from 2008 onwards,

Commencing 24th September 2015 an M/S Appeal outside Remuera New World Supermarket. Approximately \$1800 was raised through donations in 2015.

Traditionally the Club has held annual sausage sizzles in the Remuera shops Market Days for community projects such as Plunket.

City Mission Appeal. Again this has become an annual event outside Remuera New World Supermarket. In 2017 and led by Niel Ewart the event collected 90 banana boxes of food items donated by customers. About 20 members were rostered throughout the day collecting, sorting and packaging, making this another very successful project.

With support from Adrian Barka, General Manager of New World Remuera, a 75 inch T/V screen was installed in July/August 2018 in front of the checkout area with a series of notices and paid advertisements shown in rotation, including publicity about the Remuera Rotary Club. The screen operates all the time of New World Opening for business

• **VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE.**

In 2009 this committee was involved in the following projects under the leadership of Iain Valentine:

- Business is Awesome
- Vocational Talks (Bob Hay)
- Pride of workmanship Award
- Vocation visits
- Leadership Institute
- Set Up (Brett Murray)
- Ethics in Business
- NZ Business Week
- Rotary Volunteers (Co-ordinated by John Simpson)

In 2015/2016 the committee members were Leigh Marshall (Director), Kim Ashok Kumar, Val Farmer, John Burrowes and Brian Burke. The main event for the committee in 2015/2016 was the Business is Awesome programme held on 25th February 2016. 109 students from 13 schools attended the event. The seminar was led by Brett Murray,

a former club member and professional facilitator who provided his services for free.

The day began with talks from two entrepreneurs, Mokai Paraha from MP Rigging, a steel fabrication and rigging business, and the second from Tasha Lee from Tasha Lee clothing, both of whom spoke about the businesses they had started.

The students then worked in teams to develop a business of their own, and then pitched their ideas to a group of outside business owners specialising in marketing, finance and management who then selected a winning team. The judges included Norman Johnston chartered accountant and our President Elect for the year 2017/2018.

For this event Business is Awesome received a grant of \$4,000 from the June Gray Charitable Trust. The whole event cost about \$8,500 with each student paying \$15. The balance of about \$2,100 was paid by Remuera Rotary,

- **ROTARY OCEANIC MEDICAL AID FOR CHILDREN (ROMAC)**

Wayne Brewer whose wife Sharon is ROMAC secretary has been the main co-ordinator for this project in regards to the club hosting children. This charity brings children from the islands for life-saving and dignity enhancing surgery.

The Committee with support from Auckland East Inner Wheel took on the hosting and support of Viniana, an 11 year old girl patient from Vanuatu. She was accompanied by her mother Annette and in between medical treatments they enjoyed many outings with club members to various leading Auckland sights. In between these pleasures Viniana had to undergo various and traumatic visits to medical facilities involving brain, eye and cosmetic surgery, plus the fitting of a prosthetic eye, in all involving three visits.

As a goodwill gesture and to thank the Rotary Club of Motueka for their ongoing support of ROMAC Viniana and Annette flew to the Nelson region where they were hosted by Rotarians over a long weekend, the culmination of a very successful project which will hopefully have a positive effect on Viniana for the rest of her life.

History of Rotary from its Origins to the Remuera Rotary Club

Origins of Rotary

Rotary International is an international service organisation whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services and to advance goodwill and peace around the World. To date there are 34,282 member clubs worldwide, comprising 1.2 Million members.

The first Rotary Club was formed in 1905 in Chicago when four men, attorney Paul P.

Harris, mining engineer Gustave Loehr, coal merchant Silvester Schiele and tailor Hiram E. Shorey met in the offices of Gustave Loehr. The members chose the name of "Rotary" because initially they rotated subsequent weekly meetings to each other's offices. Within a year the Chicago Club became so large it became necessary to adopt a regular meeting place.

A huge proportion of America's population near the end of the nineteenth- and the beginning of the twentieth centuries were destitute and unlettered, entirely without means of support. From their ranks sprang Jack London unloved as a child and destined to live in poverty were it not for his absolute determination as an adult to teach himself to write, attend school and university and eventually become a famous novelist. This author has no evidence of any influence upon Rotary members in the early 20th Century but it seems likely that Jack London's influence may have had some bearing on Rotary's progress.¹ Jack's pursuit of welfare for the working man achieved huge publicity mainly through his novels comprising characters in the complete despair of stricken poverty and hardship, maintained by cruel employers whose concerns for the working person were completely non-existent. and this must have had some effect upon the philosophies of the early Rotarians. One of his books was called "Making America a Better Place", another factor which may well have influenced early Rotarians.

In 1908 Jack London, now having acquired some wealth sailed his yacht to the western Pacific Isles and saw first hand the black birding experience in Papua/New Guinea. and other places. He visited Samoa now part of District 9920 in which Remuera Rotary was eventually to become a member. During his visit he gave a lecture on socialism.

Jack London achieved early fame as an adventure writer of such books as "Call o' the Wild" describing his experiences as a gold seeker in the Yukon under conditions of extreme hardship.

In January 1906 Jack London gave a lecture at Yale University in which he posed his challenges to the industrial capitalist order: "Why are there 10,000,000 people in the United States today who are not properly sheltered and properly fed and "Why today in the United States, are 80,000 children working out their lives in the textile factories alone ?The capitalist class does not answer it."

In athletic terms London's fiction was a "prizefight" of many rounds in the cause of social, political and economic justice and more than emphasising the unjustness of the social system and incorporated in his bestselling works of fiction.

In a career spanning the tumultuous years of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Jack London was long hailed as a prolific producer of bestselling fiction; a daring sailor, a resourceful war correspondent on the front lines, a travel writer, a sports reporter, socialist essayist and lecturer.

The First National Convention of Rotary was held in Chicago in 1910 and the sixteen clubs in existence in the western United States were united as The National Association

of Rotary Clubs. Paul Harris was elected as President of the association and Chesley R. Perry was elected as Secretary. He served in that capacity until 1942.

The service ideal began taking shape during this early period when Arthur Frederick Sheldon joined the Chicago Club. As a teacher of the new "science" of salesmanship, he believed that business should be regarded as a means to serve society and at Rotary's first convention in 1910 he proposed a new clause "He Profits Most Who Serves His Fellows Best." The phrase "Service Above Self" soon followed and was embraced by all Rotarians at the time. It was however 40 years before these phrases were officially designated as Rotary mottoes, this being at the 1950 convention in Detroit.

Business Life in Western USA in the Early 20th Century

In 1916 the publication of Jack London's political novel "The Iron Heel" dramatised the catastrophic destruction of modern civilisation by corporate oligarchs who wielded despotic power in a future American police state where the public cowers and dissidents are silenced or killed off. London knew ever so well that unchecked oligarchy could become civilisation's headstones. As for barbarism it was fully displayed in the cruel handling of the men, women and children who "toiled for pennies while their bodies sent themselves into the bankruptcy of muscle, bone and brain".

Jack London died in 1916 at the early age of 40 years. Worn out by the demands of his youthful years among other things. This author has not found any direct connection between Rotary International and Jack London, except in this one instance. A Google search reveals that the Rotary Club of Oakland, San Francisco is situated in the vicinity of Jack London Square where a music competition in 2015 offered as a prize a leisurely kayak cruise under the moonlight on the Oakland Estuary of Jack London Square.

During the first half of the 20th Century Chicago was not known for its probity. Illegal gangs were prominent and their nefarious activities included gang warfare and bootlegging liquor during the Great Depression during the late 1920s and early 1930s. This author is reminded of Stephen Leacock a famous American humorist and who in this book "Nonsense Novels" (2) first published in 1911, described the work of a local philanthropist in the following terms:

"By way of example, I send American Missionaries to China, Chinese Missionaries to India and Indian Missionaries to Chicago."²

Writing about the time of the original foundation of Rotary Paul Harris said: The lawlessness of frontier life in America has been pictured as a remarkable phenomenon. In reality it was the natural consequence of indiscriminate mixing of volatile substances..... Chicago retained many of the characteristics of a pioneer town until after the beginning the Twentieth Century.....Generally speaking, business was in a bad way. Ill-will and distrust of competitors were intense to the point of being destructive. To cripple a competitor was legitimate, if not commendable.³

² Reference to book details and page number here

³ Do you have a source reference for this quote?

During this reversion to the primordial, businesses who hitherto had maintained what, at that period, were considered reasonably high standards, abandoned them and joined in the general scramble.

Arthur Frederick Sheldon appears on the scene at about this time. He was from Michigan and had come to Chicago after graduation to take a position with a company selling subscription books. The chaotic condition in business affairs impressed him deeply. It seemed that one's chances of business success depended upon one's willingness to be ruthlessly aggressive and even dishonest. The doctrine of caveat emptor was at the time applied to the consumer. Ill will and disgust characterised the attitude of business towards competitors and the welfare of employees was given scant consideration.

Sheldon noted that some of the most fair minded and liberal businesses were the most successful and his studies eventually led him to the conclusion that there was but one doable route to success, and that was the route of service. Sheldon came to the conclusion that the greater the service the greater the profit

The ideal of service had been taking shape when Arthur Frederick Sheldon joined the Chicago club. At Rotary's first convention in 1910 he proposed that "He profits most who serves his fellows best".

Rotary Foundation

With the foundation of the first Rotary Club in the world came enlightened self-interest and inward looking became the norm but not for very long. Towards the latter part of 1906 a renaissance began to be noticed. The idea of tangible mutual benefits began to be replaced by a broader concept of service in general, thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others outside of the membership. It was the adoption of that ideal which ensured Rotary's survival in the first place and its astonishing growth and expansion in later years. Again, did Jack London have any influence in this change of attitude ?

The Rotary Foundation was founded in 1917 by Arch Klumph, then the sixth president of Rotary International. He convinced a Rotary convention of the need for an endowment for "doing good in the World" in charitable, educational or other avenues of service and celebrated its 75th birthday in 1992. Its objectives were to be carried out through four programs, as follows:

- Scholarships (Graduate and Undergraduate)
- Special grants
- Group Study Exchange
- Grants for Health, Hunger and Humanity

Again in 1917 Rotary Foundation set up an educational and charitable endowment for "doing good in the World". Five trustees were appointed in 1928, The foundation was incorporated in Illinois as a non profit trust. The first educational awards were granted in 1947 as a memorial to Paul P Harris, one of Rotary's founders in 1905. By 1981 1224 educational awards were granted and the number of trustees increased to 13,

representing all the geographical regions of the world of Rotary

It is this last mentioned objective namely Polio Plus which seems to have been the most successful. Up to this year the Foundation had founded 125 major Health, Hunger and Humanity projects and awarded more than US\$16.4 million in 2000 matching grants in 135 countries.

In 1917 Arch C Klumph Rotary's sixth President launched the Rotary Foundation when he indicated at the annual International Association of Rotary Clubs that "Rotary should accept endowments for the purposes of doing good in the World in charitable, educational and other avenues of community progress." Shades of Jack London ?

Immediately after the death of Paul Harris in 1947 the first place for the Foundation's educational awards was formulated as a memorial to Rotary's founder. An immediate start was made in the granting of 18 scholarships for the year 1947/1948. By the 1980s general contributions to the foundation were exceeding US\$20 Million; annually

Other important Foundation programmes consisted of Special Grants to support worthwhile educational and charitable projects of Rotary Clubs and Districts. Rotary's 75th anniversary in 1979 was commemorated by their Health, Hunger and Humanity Program to improve health, alleviate hunger and enhance human and social development, a means of advancing international social development as a means of advancing international understanding, goodwill and peace. Again, shades of Jack London.

As at 30th June 1986 the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International had allocated \$US 23,450,400 among 23 nations to protect 151,169,000 children. The first major project was mounted in the Philippines in 1979 to protect 6,000,000 children.

The Rotary Foundation. Twelve years after its beginning Rotary international set up an educational and charitable endowment for "doing good in the World". Five trustees were appointed in 1928. The foundation was incorporated in Illinois as a non-profit trust. The first educational awards were granted in 1947 as a memorial to Paul P Harris, one of Rotary's founders in 1905. By 1981 1224 educational awards were granted and the number of Trustees increased to thirteen, representing all the geographical regions of the world of Rotary.

Educational Awards. there are five types comprising;

- Graduate scholarships
- Undergraduate scholarships
- Vocational scholarships
- Scholarships for Teachers of the Handicapped
- Journalism scholarships

In addition the Trustees have since 1965 made hundreds of Special Grants to support the international charitable and educational projects of Rotary Clubs and Districts....

The Rotary Foundation is supported through the voluntary contributions of Rotary Clubs, Rotarians and others.

The most visible effect in 1988 was the highly successful Polio Plus Campaign. Again in 1988 contributions to the relief of hardship included the hurricane that devastated Jamaica and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, the torrential floods that drowned thousands in Bangladesh and the shattering earthquake in India and Nepal.

By 1991 the Rotary Foundation was funding in each year approximately 1000 scholarships for graduate, undergraduate, vocational and journalism scholars, and teachers of the handicapped, also more than 320 group study exchanges, more than 150 international humanitarian projects, immunisation activities to protect millions of children against Polio

By 1992, the Rotary Foundation was the largest charitable organisation in the World with an income of \$US 30 million dollars and funds around \$US200 million. Income was being derived from the annual giving (part of the subscription), individual giving (overseas a number of individuals purchased Paul Harris fellowships), planned giving - payment over a period of time and endowments. The funds were used in a number of areas, the main ones being group study exchange, ambassadorial scholarships, special grants for international service, Three Age programmes, Rotary volunteers and Polio Plus.

The Rotary Pin

The evolution of Rotary's emblem from wagon wheel to the present gear wheel with 24 cogs, six spokes and a keyway took place in 1923.

Rotary History was cited in 1909 for the Rotary Club of New York. It was not then given to every member and at the time only the club's president, Bradford Bullock, wore the first pin. Eventually all members were permitted to wear it.

Currently all Rotarians are encouraged to wear the their pin, thus showing each member's pride in its benefits, obligations and opportunities. A good starting point are the two Rotary websites: www.rotary.org.nz and www.rotary.com and the various Rotary publications

In 2008 Remuera Rotary's PR Director George Valentine assisted in resuming the Public relations Corner in the club's Remoires (record of weekly meetings) and he thought it would be useful for members to wear the Rotary Pin, as that year's emphasis was on publicity and membership, also its value in spreading the word about Rotary.

Rotary International

The formation of Rotary Clubs proceeded apace with the National Association of Rotary Clubs being four clubs organised in the western United States by 1910. A Rotary Club was formed in Winnipeg Manitoba in 1910 and another in Dublin, Ireland. The name was changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs in 1912. In 1912 the Rotary Club of London was chartered. During the First World War Rotary in Britain increased

from 9 to 22 clubs, Cuba in 1916, Philippines in 1919 and India in 1920.n.

In 1920-21 the 1000th Rotary Club was formed in York, in England. In about the same year the Rotary International Convention in Edinburgh was the first held outside the United States. At the convention "international peace and goodwill" was adopted as an object of Rotary. At about the same time New Zealand was among six new countries added to the World map of Rotary.

In 1922 the name was changed from the International Association of Rotary Clubs to Rotary International. By 1925 Rotary International had grown to 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members.

Paul Harris continued to be prominent in Rotary International until his death. In 1935 he and his wife toured Australia and New Zealand. On return to Chicago he was able to report that he had not seen any gangsters during his presidency. It transpired however that shortly afterwards he and his wife were confronted by fellow members of Rotary International and "held up at gunpoint". They were released after paying a nominal sum as ransom.

At some stage Chicago was beginning to acquire the respectability it enjoys today. Chicago University had acquired substantial respectability by the Second World War. In 1942 history was made when the first controlled atomic reaction was set off in a primitive nuclear chain reactor secretly built under Stagg Field at the Chicago University then established as a great learning centre. This ushered in the Atomic Age. On this historic site is a sculpture by Sir Henry Moore labelled "Birth, Life and Death Shaped in Bronze." Today Chicago is a major research centre for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Rotary International formed its own headquarters in 1951 by constructing a special building by purchasing an unimproved corner location in Evanston a northern suburb in Chicago. Construction was carried out in 1953.

In 1955 the United States issued a postage stamp commemorating Rotary International's 50th Anniversary.

In 1980 the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Rotary was celebrated in Chicago with its annual convention of Rotary International

Polio Plus. The object of polio Plus was to eliminate polio from the World and to provide protection against the other childhood scourge, namely whooping cough, tuberculosis, tetanus, measles and diphtheria. In 1985 Rotary International launched the most ambitious programme in its history, with the specific goal of eradicating polio by the year 2005, its one hundredth anniversary. By 1988 a record amount of US\$118,184,413 was raised of which 85% was to be devoted to Polio Plus.

In 1994 there were 22,000 Rotary clubs worldwide in 160 countries worldwide with over 1 Million members.

As at 2006, Rotary had more than 1.2 million members in over 32,000 clubs among 200

countries making it the largest service club by membership, behind Lion Clubs International.

Paul Harris Fellowships

Originally the Paul Harris Fellowship Badge was conceived as an incentive to Rotarians to contribute to the Rotary Foundation. The edge symbolises support to the Foundation given either by an individual or a club, primarily in recognition of the worthiness of support for the Foundation's programmes and objectives. As at May 1984 there were more than 90,000 Paul Harris Fellows worldwide.

On 5th August 1997 there was a visit to New Zealand by the World President Glen Kinross. Local Rotary members were invited to greet and dine the World President and his wife Heather. About 1100 Rotarians and partners from Districts 9910, 9920 and 9930 were present, including 38 from Remuera Rotary.

On the same afternoon The President and his wife visited Tamaki Primary School to see for themselves the success of the Books in Homes Project sponsored by Remuera Rotary. Other invited guests include Simon Dallow and Alison Mau. Simon was a former pupil of Tamaki Primary; he and Alison spoke to the pupils about the importance of reading. Remuera Rotary was represented by President Iain Valentine, Roy Austin and David Wilmott. The children put on an impressive display with a welcoming haka and an interactive show which involved looking for bookworms. After an address by World President Glen, there was a distribution of books, followed by his departure by helicopter for the North Shore.

Rotary in New Zealand

Founded in 1921 mainly as the result of a romance between a woman in Auckland and the Hon. George Fowlds, a successful businessman and a former Minister of Education in the New Zealand Government. After their wedding they went to the United States and made a tour of North America. He attended a Rotary Club meeting in Victoria, British Columbia where he was given a great deal of assistance from them and also The Chicago headquarters of Rotary gave him much guidance on starting a club in Auckland.

On his return to Auckland he found it in the midst of a post war depression. Nevertheless, following the arrival in Auckland of a Mr Charles B Jones from the Rotary Club of Victoria BC in Canada George Fowlds arranged a lunch meeting to hear Mr. Jones on the Rotary Clubs in Canada.

In their early days Rotary Clubs of New Zealand led to the setting up of Outward Bound, Meals on Wheels, Plunket (Karitane), Mobile Blood Transfusion and Defensive Driving Courses.

Visit of the President of Rotary International to Auckland in March 2018

A special dinner was arranged for the evening of Friday 2nd March 2018 to which all Rotarians had been invited to greet the current President of International Rotary, Ian

Riseley Members from District 9920, particularly Fiji had come by a special flight to be present. They included Malini Raghwan then current District Governor Malini Raghwan.

Ian Riseley is a member of the Australian Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria. His main topics for discussion were:

Larger Rotary Districts - An Exciting Platform For Change - Moving Forward Together To Re-Invigorate Clubs And Make Rotary Flourish For Another 100 Years

The following extract from his address appeared in Remoires Vol.38 No. 24 of 1st March 2018:

“Dear Fellow Rotarians

After almost 100 years of successful operation in Australian and New Zealand, Rotary finds itself at a very significant crossroad. With a declining membership over the past 10 years, Australia has lost 4,314 members (13%) and new Zealand has lost 1,947 (19%) plus an ageing membership demographic. The continued existence of Rotary as we know it is now under considerable threat.

Do we remain what we are currently doing and find we no longer exist in 20 years OR do we acknowledge we have a problem and accept the challenge to work together to address the issues and make the changes necessary to the Rotary for another 100 years ? It is both a challenging and exciting time for Rotary in this part of the World.

There is an urgent need for change both at the Club and District levels. Clubs need to find new ways of attracting and retaining new members, and Districts need to focus their efforts providing the best post support mechanisms to clubs in their crucial endeavour to grow and strengthen Rotary. Larger and best resourced Districts are seen as a significant way of providing support to Clubs.”

Rotary Club of Auckland

(Great Grandparent of Remuera Rotary)

The inaugural meeting of the Rotary Club of Auckland took place on 13th June 1921. This was followed by the formation of the rotary Club of Melbourne on 21 April, 1921 as the result of the activities of Mr Jones and prominent members of Canadian Clubs.

The charters for the Auckland and the Wellington clubs were signed on 21st April, 1921. The Hon. George Fowlds was given due credit for his work in founding clubs in New Zealand.

The Rotary Club of Christchurch was founded in 1922, In September of that year the Hon. George Fowlds received a letter from the International Secretary of Rotary International appointing him a Special Commissioner for New Zealand to representing the International Board of Rotary International with the idea of forming a Rotary District in New Zealand once five clubs had been formed.

Rotary clubs soon followed in Wellington and Dunedin. These were followed by clubs in other larger towns of New Zealand.

Sir George Fowlds was born in Ayrshire and emigrated to South Africa and moved to Auckland in 1885. There he established a successful clothing and mercenary business. Seven years later he became Minister of Education and Public Health. In 1911 he resigned from Parliament and thereafter devoted his life to numerous public causes., He was virtually responsible for the creation of Massey University near Palmerston North, and remained Chairman of the College until his death in 1934.

In 1925 Rotary District No. 53 was formed encompassing clubs throughout New Zealand. This was the first Rotary district in the Southern Hemisphere. Various changes ensued over the years and in 1978 Rotary Districts in New Zealand became Nos. 992,993,994 and 998.

In 1959-1960 Harold T. Thomas of the Auckland Rotary Club became the World President of Rotary International, the first New Zealander to hold this office. Harold was reported in Remoires for 7th September 1987 as having reached the ripe old age of 96. At the time he was recovering from an eye operation. Despite his age Harold was reported as still interested in the progress of of District 992 and had been a member of Rotary since 1923. he had served as President of the Auckland Club, District Governor, first Vice President and president of Rotary International. In the same Remoires Harold referred to a talk he gave to the Auckland Club during his year of office as President and to be found in his book "Rotary Mosaic".

Rotary Club Of Newmarket – sponsor club of Remuera

Formed in 1945 this was the first suburban club formed in the Auckland District. Its boundaries may be roughly described as Shore Road in the North, One Tree Hill to the South, Nugent Street to the West and and Ngapuhi Road to the East. Similar boundaries may be claimed for the later formed Remuera Rotary Club.

Among its achievements one may list the following :

Raising funds for the aged in Selwyn Village

A special unit for the deaf

A visual aid machine

Sponsorship of a Headquarters for the Plunket Society

Substantial contributions for pensioner flats, VSA teams in Thailand, a medical team in Samoa, books and clothing to Fiji.

WJ M Bridgman was recorded as a member of the Rotary Information Committee on the same year. Similarly RJF (Jack) Porter was a member of this committee. Also, Jack was a member of the Resolutions and Legislative Committee. R F (Ross) Craig was a member of the Rotary Foundation Committee J W (John) Ashby was a member of the Rotoract and Interact Committee. Tony Williams was chairman of the RYLA (Rotary Youth leadership Award) Scheme. B J (Brian) Meadowcroft was chairman of International Projects and Liaison. The president at this time was Robert(Bob) McMillan..

In its weekly meeting for 27th November 1979 The Rotary Club of Newmarket reported the achievement of Rotary International achieving 75 years of existence, had held 71 international conventions and had passed the 19,000 mark for the number of Rotary Clubs in existence.

Rotary Club of Remuera/Newmarket

At its meeting on 10th December 1979 the Rotary Club of Newmarket approved the organisation of an additional Club of Newmarket (without giving it a name). It was subsequently to become the Rotary Club of Newmarket/Remuera.

The main instigator of the new club appears to have been Jack Porter, a previous District Governor of No. 992.

In the same year Mother Teresa of Calcutta became a Paul Harris Fellow and at the time she was a Nobel Peace Prize Winner. She is quoted as saying: "Now I am a Rotarian. If you join Rotary to say you are a Rotarian and come for fellowship and a meal, don't join. Become a Rotarian only if you are willing to serve until it hurts."

Remuera Rotary is presently part of Rotary International District 9920. Originally known as District 992 it was formed by Rotary International forming the world into Districts and we are now part of an area bordering to the north as encompassing the islands of the South Pacific. We are consequently involved in assisting the islands of Fiji, The Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa and French Polynesia with charitable donations and active assistance to improved their standards of living and general health.

Tonga was originally known as the Friendly Isles. It was near their coastline that the Mutiny on the Bounty took place in 1789. Captain Bligh and those of his loyal crew consisting of 18 men were put into the ship's launch with less than adequate provisions. and minimal aids to navigation. When putting ashore in Tonga, in search of food and water their boat was attacked by the local inhabitants. The quartermaster John Norton was attacked and killed. The remainder of the party managed to escape and made their way to the Dutch East Indies (present day Indonesia) via the Queensland coast of Australia in what has been regarded as one of the greatest feats of seamanship in maritime history, on the part of Captain Bligh. From there they eventually made their way back to England in comparative comfort.

Samoaan inhabitants lived peaceably enough until the baleful influences of the United States, Germany, and Great Britain with the aim of annexation, colonial expansion and religious conversion made themselves felt in the latter part of the 19th Century Among these influences arrived Robert Louis Stevenson with his family to settle in Western Samoa to assist his recovery of health after a lifetime of chest infections. His Scottish background and the devastating history of the Highland Clearances were foremost in his mind In this he was partially successful and campaigned against his conceived influences of Germany, the United States and Great Britain seeking to expand and take over the government of Samoa.

In a famous incident 16th March, 1889 there was a severe hurricane in the harbour of Apia in which warships of all these nations were anchored when the harbour was struck by a severe gale. Only one ship succeeded in raising anchor and sailing to safety in the open sea. She was a British warship then on the Australia Station, HMS CALLIOPE, a screw corvette equipped with sail and steam propulsion and loaded with Westport coal in her bunkers. When the weather moderated CALLIOPE returned to Apia and brought relief to the stricken town. In the following month CALLIOPE returned to Sydney to a tumultuous welcome. The dry dock at the Naval Base in Auckland, having been opened in February 1888 was then renamed as the Calliope Dock.

Eventually the north eastern island became American Samoa and the other islands came under German domination until 1914 when on the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 an invasion force from New Zealand conquered the islands without a shot being fired. Western Samoa thereafter became a New Zealand colony until independence was achieved in 1962.

New Zealand's administration was found to be inept. In November 1918 the administration failure to quarantine a ship carrying passengers infected with influenza resulted in the deaths of about one fifth of Samoa's population.

In 1936 the New Zealand Government recognised the Mau as a legitimate political organisation. Samoa finally gained its independence on 1st January 1962.

The unhappy story of New Zealand administration does not end there. In the village of Vaimoso there was the Mau - the independence movement opposed to New Zealand rule. Michael Field's book "Mau - Samoa's Struggle for Freedom" recounts the events of Black Saturday (28th December 1929) when a peaceful march on Apia's waterfront ended in bloodshed upon New Zealand Police firing into the crowd. At least eight Samoans and one policeman were killed that day. The march had been organised to welcome home two members of the Mau who had been exiled to New Zealand.

Robert Louis Stevenson was publicly and bitterly critical of these foreign influences, including the work of missionaries and on occasions he perceived his life to be threatened. On the whole however his life in Samoa was fairly happy and peaceful and he made further contributions to his output of classical novels and articles, including a book "Catriona" (after whom this author's elder daughter is named). His home outside Apia is on a mountain named Valima and is open to the Public. Upon his death his body was transported to the very top of the mountain overlooking Apia harbour where his grave survives to this day with its special memorial.

Fiji, now an independent country currently with Commodore Bannirama Head of State.

To cut a long story short the Cook Islands and Niue were originally colonies of New Zealand until the Cook Islands achieved independence in the early 1960s, except for their foreign policies which are governed from New Zealand. Niue has now achieved self-government but otherwise remains a colony of New Zealand.

Development Of Rotary Districts in the Pacific Region

In 1925 Rotary District No.25 was formed, encompassing Rotary clubs in both islands of New Zealand. This was the first Rotary District in the Southern Hemisphere, before Australia, Africa and South America.

District 992 was formed in 1978 became composed of clubs in the following areas:

The Auckland Province
 Samoa (both American and former Western Samoa)
 Tonga
 Fiji
 Cook Islands

This District eventually became 9920 by which it is still known today. District Governors are nominated from their respective Districts and elected from Rotary International. Remuera Rotary is privileged to receive occasional visits from District. Governors.

In March 2019 District 9920 Governor, Ingrid Waugh wrote to the New Zealand Clubs along the following lines:

As of 1 July 2019, New Zealand will be part of Rotary Zone 8, with Australia. We were previously within Zone 7b which included the Philippines. That country will move to Zone 10.

I am calling for nominations for our District 9920 representative and their alternate for our Zone 8 nominating Committee who will select our RI Director for 2021-2023. There is a clear set of criteria for this Representative, including being a past District Governor. The criteria for the Representative and alternate were then listed in the letter. Names were to be submitted to Rotary International by 1 June 2019

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