

An international movement

One of the aspects of Rotary I have always valued is its international dimension, of which Denys Pinfold regularly reminds us during our Thursday meetings. I attended Rotary meetings when I was posted in Korea but it was while I was in the United States that I fully appreciated the international role that Rotary plays. I was fortunate to be present at the Salt Lake City Convention in 2007 when Bill Boyd was President of Rotary International. Bill started his Rotary service in a neighbouring club, Wellington South and, in 1983/84, was Governor of District 9940.

Bill's theme for his year as RI President was "Lead the Way" or as he put it. "This will be my theme and an affirmation of my belief in the power of Rotarians to change the world, one positive act at a time. As Rotarians, we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been in our clubs or in our communities. We are not content with the status quo and we do not look at a problem only to say someone else will solve it. We are the ones who ask, "Why not us?" We are the ones with the skills and the desire to build a better future and we are the ones who must *Lead the Way*." The 2007 Convention had a real New Zealand flavour with a local kapa haka group welcoming Bill and Lorna and Dame Malvina Major entertaining the more than 15,000 delegates, of whom several attended from Wellington North.

When Bill and Lorna visited Washington later in the year we decided in the New Zealand Embassy that we should host



Roy and Dawn Ferguson with Bill and Lorna Boyd at the NZ Embassy, Washington, DC.

him in a way that would contribute to Rotary's international service. With the assistance of the Rotary Club of Washington DC and that of former Wellington North Rotarian Peter Kyle, we organized an auction night where we asked prominent New Zealand personalities to donate items that we auctioned to raise funds for polio eradication. We had a great response from the New Zealanders we approached to donate items and raised over \$US15,000 in the auction. A \$5 note signed by Sir Edmund Hillary was the most popular item; books signed by politicians the least! Sam Neill's bottle of Two Paddocks wine would have been a best seller if it hadn't succumbed to the rigours of the US postal system!

Bill gave one of his inspirational speeches to conclude what was an enjoyable evening of Rotary fellowship.

Roy Ferguson

children and parents many of whom, having been brought up in orphanages, had never gained the skills necessary to care for their own children. It also has a strong role in practical training for professionals.

On being advised that there was an urgent need for shade to allow the occupants to play outside, a project to provide a large umbrella was jointly instigated by the Rotary Clubs of Ramnica Val-Cozia and Wellington North. Following its installation Margie Vincent wrote the following letter.

To Members of the Rotary Club of Wellington North

It is with pleasure that I write to inform you that the large outdoor umbrella that was co-sponsored with the Cozia Club now grandly stands in the backyard of the Family Centre.

The umbrella seems to have been very well installed, appears to be of excellent quality and is far bigger than we had envisaged and so provides excellent protection. We appreciate this so very much as it is safe for the children and will also mean that we will have many years of use. It has meant that our children in the centre have been able to enjoy many outdoor activities this summer that haven't been possible before.

On behalf of the children at Centrul Pentru Familie, Thank you for your interest and commitment to us.

Sincerely, Margie Vincent, Director

The Polio story

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. The poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age but mainly affects children under five. Polio is incurable, but completely vaccine-preventable.

PolioPlus

In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus programme, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Wellington North has played its part. In the 1987/88 Rotary year each club was given a target to raise over three years. Our target was \$11,000 (about \$21,000 in today's terms). The club got behind the programme and met its target in one year. Several fund raising initiatives were introduced including an open day at the almost completed National Library. Alerted



by a half page newspaper advertisement, sponsored by the contractor Fletcher Construction Ltd., the public came in their droves and donated accordingly.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.3 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$9 billion to the effort.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness building.

Today, there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Less than 370 polio cases were confirmed worldwide in 2014, which is a reduction of more than 99 percent since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day. The polio

Past President Phil Henley

Phil embarked on his year with the intention of enlivening the meetings and having more fun. One day he conducted all his part of the meeting in rhyme and set a pattern for the following weeks. Other members started to perform their roles in a similar style until we had a few meetings where every member's parts were conducted in rhyme of varying and diminishing standards. It was good fun while it lasted.

cases represented by the remaining one percent are the most difficult to prevent, due to factors including geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict and cultural barriers. Until polio is eradicated, all countries remain at risk of outbreaks.

A Toast to Harrogate Brigantes

President Ken Boyden established a practice of toasting an overseas Rotary club weekly, and informing their President of that club. A friendship developed between President Ken and the President of the Harrogate Brigantes club in England.

Each year, Harrogate Brigantes Rotary Club arranges a Remembrance Service at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Harrogate. The service is always held on the same date as the official UK Remembrance Day. The focus is upon military personnel, the majority of whom died in action and were buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery section. Twenty-three New Zealand airmen are interred there.

On a subsequent visit to the UK in 1998, President Ken laid a wreath at the cemetery in remembrance of the fallen New Zealand airmen. For a number of years the club arranged with Harrogate Brigantes for a wreath to be laid on behalf of the Rotary Club of Wellington North.

In December 2007 the club acknowledged Ken's initiative and continuing involvement with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation.



Tony Fryer laying the wreath in 2004.

During his posting to the GCHQ in Cheltenham, UK, Past President Tony Fryer laid a wreath at the Harrogate Remembrance Day Service 2004. Other persons associated with Wellington North have also laid wreaths including Ken Boyden's daughter, Carole Joyce. ■

Conferences and Conventions

It is a requirement of Rotary International that each District holds an annual conference. The structure of these conferences is clearly set out in a handbook and considerable licence is taken with the interpretation. In District 9940, while attending to the basic format, there is a strong emphasis on the social aspect, especially the Saturday night party. The tradition is for the District Governor's home club to plan and host the conference. Wellington North has been called upon for this task on three occasions.

Wellington

In the early days members of Wellington North could not be considered as avid conference attendees. However, with the nomination of Ross George for District Governor, and the realisation that the club would be the host for the 1988 Conference, a new era dawned. Led by Ross and the Conference Chairman, Ken Boyden, members of the club progressively became involved. Thirty-six club members attended the Conference, mostly with allocated duties. The Conference, held in the Michael Fowler Centre from 15-17 April, began with a fanfare of trumpets from the RNZAF Band.

The Conference got under way to a slightly shaky start. One club from the north of the Dis-

1988



DG Ross George.

trict had boycotted it as a protest against the Government, the only apparent connection being that both the Government and the Conference were based in Wellington. The Mayor of Wellington, Jim Belich, was to have welcomed the delegates but a Council crisis intervened and Ken Boyden, who was also a City Councillor, had the task of reading the Mayor's address. Club President, Morris Robertson, who was due to thank the Mayor, had to hastily reconstruct his remarks into a message to be conveyed.

US Ambassador, and honorary club member, Paul Cleveland was invited to make a brief speech which turned into a 30-minute address criticising the anti nuclear policy of the incumbent Lange Government, hardly in the apolitical tradition of Rotary. Stage Manager, Peter Spearman, found his timings in tatters.



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After that the Conference proper got under way. Ross George recalls a number of highlights. "As part of the programme delegates were provided the opportunity to break out into discussion groups on a choice of four Rotary topics. Ross comments. "There was also a discussion group for the ladies. There was no reference to partners in those days."

The Conference was entertained and informed by a large and diverse group of student exchangees, graduate students, and inwards and outwards Group Study Exchange teams.

Ken Boyden, keen to see that the Saturday night function in the Town Hall reflected the status of the capital city, had suggested the theme "Putting on the Ritz" with the hint to attendees to dress up rather than dress down.

The between years

Over the next decade conference attendances varied. Wellington North was well represented at the Masterton Conference in 1990. Accommodation was very tight in the Wairarapa and Wellington North delegates were allocated a redundant veterinary research laboratory, somewhere east of Carterton. Beds were placed between various items of equipment. Ian and Janet Hercus drew the short straw for the Small Animals Laboratory!

At 1,100 delegates, the 1990 Conference was the peak in attendances and a unique highlight was the shearing of a sheep on stage by the District Governor, Alistair Orsborn.

Incoming Club President, Tony Fryer, succeed in promoting the 1997 Conference in Wanganui to the extent that there was a large contingent of Wellington North members determined to make their presence felt, especially on the Saturday night which, being St. Patrick's Day, had an Irish theme. Wishing to stand out from the expected sea of green the club decided to dress as Orangemen, much to the disappointment of Rory O'Connor. Led by the pipes of Jim Miller with Tony Fryer on a drum, the club marched in with great aplomb to be greeted with glasses of green coloured Baileys Irish Cream.

Another conference of note was 1993 in New Plymouth with a "Wild West" theme for the Saturday night party. Many exaggerated tales have been told from this event.



Napier

2001

Wellington North again became the host club for the 2001 Conference when Morris Robertson was District Governor. Having noted that Wellington based conferences were not well supported it was decided that the conference should be held outside the District. Napier was the selected venue and, as was then required, permissions were obtained from Rotary International and the incoming Governor of the host district.

Tony Fryer took on the initial role of Conference Chairman but, upon his transfer to Canberra, Ian Hercus took over the reins. Much effort was put into developing a conference theme, which showed the bees leaving Wellington, depicted by The Beehive, and flying north to Napier. The theme was carried through to all stationery and to a range of Gimblett Gravels wines especially labelled for the event. These were sold to raise funds for staging the conference. Sales went well and, afterwards, remaining stock was sold out the back of Ngaio Pharmacy.

The conference opened in the Napier Municipal Theatre on Friday 16 March. The opening session included the introduction of a large contingent of International Exchange Students and both inwards and outwards GSE teams, supported by a



DG Morris Robertson and Margaret



Wellington North team at 1997 Conference.



Friday night dinner - from left around table Susan and Augie Auer, Ken and Vera Boyden, Rory and Marie O'Connor.



Musical Tribute to Rotary.



The Baroness Cox meets Buzzy Bee.



The 2006 theme – speaks for itself.

video message from DG Alan Dodds from the exchange district 1190 in the Lake District of England.

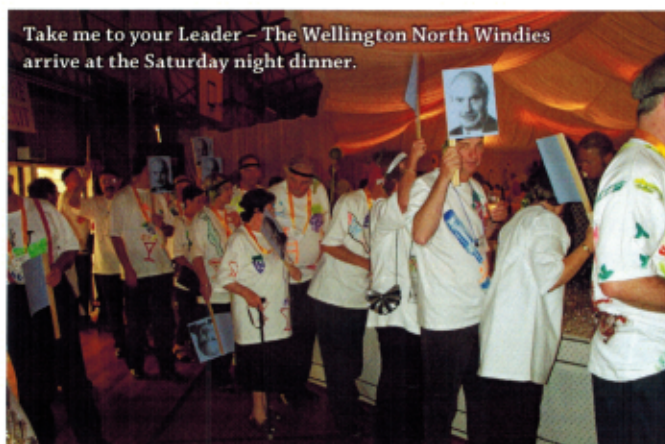
The opening was followed by a tribute to Rotary in Music, presented by local entertainers and directed by Gillian Davies with scripting assistance from Peter and Marjorie Lawson and Margaret Emerre.

Throughout the weekend the conference was enhanced by some great speakers, including The Baroness Cox of Queensbury, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and a childhood friend of club member John Withington. The Baroness spoke on Forgotten Peoples in Forgotten Lands.

Dr Dai Gilbertson gave a stirring motivational speech, John Coking, AKA Bertram St. John Fitz Montague, spoke on the Art Deco history of Napier and Past RI Director, later RI President, Bill Boyd spoke on "the World Around Us." This was followed by brief presentations from the seven inbound and two outbound Ambassadorial Scholars.

In keeping with the location the Saturday night dinner was dubbed "Art Decadent." The only hiccup was the self-generosity of the first tables to the buffet leaving the last few, including the hosts, somewhat short of food. Subsequently a discount was negotiated with the caterer and these clubs were offered refunds or donation of the equivalent sums to The Rotary Foundation. Fortunately for the ease of accounting, all chose the latter.

Having gained momentum Wellington North continued to support the annual conferences, especially the Saturday night themed parties. The selection of a costume began with deep discussion, over several drinks, in the offices of Hercus King and Co. Once lubricated and agreed a T-shirt painting bee was held followed by fish and chips, great social occasions. The objective was to win the prize for the best themed costume. This was achieved in 2006 when the theme was New Zealand Icons. The photo tells the story!



Take me to your Leader – The Wellington North Windies arrive at the Saturday night dinner.



Upper Hutt 2007 – Showcasing Rotary.

Napier revisited

2009

Wellington North was, once again, called upon to host the District in 2009 when Tony Fryer was District Governor. Ian Hercus was appointed Conference Chairman although, due to failing health, he had to pass over the role to Morris Robertson for the latter stages. The Conference was again held in Napier.

The opening night included various introductions including that of Past RI Director, Sushil Gupta from New Delhi. This was followed by "Off Broadway" entertainment.

A large part of the conference was devoted to Rotary activities including Foundation programmes. These covered scholars, GSE Teams and a presentation on National Immunisation Day in India by Kevin Stratton.



Marion Cowden briefs Phillipa McKenzie on London.



DG Tony Fryer.



Wellington North out in force.



Poole party.

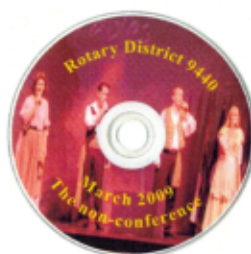
Rotary NZ World Community Service Director, Morris Robertson, presented a session on "Connecting with International Communities." Supporting speakers were Jenny Shaw on the Niusawa school reconstruction in Fiji, Colin Alford on Funding Rucchi projects in India and Peace Scholar Veronica Chalmers on Water, Conflict and Rotary.

A unique presentation, called "Capital Musings from Presidents," was a discussion by Marion Cowden, Rotary Club of London, Tony Pemmer, Rotary Club of Canberra and Anthony Scott, Rotary Club of Wellington.

Other speakers were Dr Ian Brooks on "Change is what Rotarians must do", Henare O'Keefe, Community Worker and The ROMAC story, presented by Greig Mercer and Linda Robson.

The Saturday night party was French themed Ooh la la, held in the Hastings Opera House. Entertainment included Can Can dancers.

After 2009 attendance at district conferences by Wellington North members moved into decline. This was possibly due to conference exhaustion and combined District Conferences culminating in 2014 when the 9940 Conference was subsumed in an Australia/New Zealand Zone Institute.



International Conventions

Brisbane, Salt Lake City, Sydney and São Paulo

In earlier years the thought of attending Rotary's international conventions was beyond the comprehension of most club members, despite the efforts of Ross George to promote support.

The opportunity came in 2004 when the convention was staged relatively nearby in Brisbane and Jeremy Spanjaard, who had strong Brisbane connections, promoted attendance and sourced accommodation. This resulted in a good attendance by



RI President Bill Boyd.

Wellington North members who were exposed to Rotary in its wider sense and enjoyed the best of Queensland hospitality.

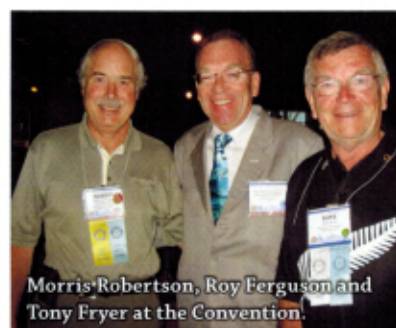
The next major opportunity came in 2007; the year Bill Boyd was RI President. A large contingent of New Zealand Rotarians, including several from Wellington North, dressed in black sweatshirts emblazoned with the silver fern, descended on Salt Lake City. Club members were joined, from Washington DC by Roy Ferguson and Peter Kyle. Again, a great international occasion and great hospitality.



Wellington North delegates dining out in Brisbane.



Salt Lake City Convention Centre.



Morris Robertson, Roy Ferguson and Tony Fryer at the Convention.

Memories include a rodeo (loud and generally incomprehensible) and delegates, being bussed to various hospitality evenings hosted by Utah clubs. One such was a Dutch oven barbeque hosted in a canyon at the base of Sundance Mountain. Food was abundant but, being Utah, totally non-alcoholic.

One of the most emotional moments was being amongst 12,000 Rotarians attending a performance of the Salt Lake City Tabernacle Choir with Dame Malvina Major as soloist.

In June 2014 the Convention came within reach again when the Australian Prime Minister welcomed over 18,000 delegates to Sydney. Amongst them was a group from Wellington North. Australian sporting and cultural activities laid on for attendees included Aussie Rules football, a fireworks display at Darling Harbour, and a performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in the Opera House.

In June 2015, Joanna Tuckwell proudly represented our Club at the Rotary International Convention held in São Paulo, Brazil, where she undertook her student exchange many years ago. With around 14,000 participants from all over the world, and



Joanna with club banner.

four days of plenary sessions and workshops, this was a real immersion in Rotary. Themes of the breakout sessions included youth and young leaders, strong clubs and districts, public image and awareness, humanitarian service and The Rotary Foundation.

As a relatively new Rotarian and first-time attendee at a Convention, Joanna observed that the US influence felt strong, particularly in the organisation's structure and leadership. On the other hand, presentations by both the outgoing Rotary International President, Gary C.K. Huang, from Taiwan, and President-Elect Ravi Ravindran, from Sri Lanka, gave something of a more global feel.

Joanna's personal highlight was the overview of Rotary's global grants work, bringing Rotary's local relevance to life through stories about earthquake relief in Nepal and the building of toilet blocks for schools in India, as well as the global campaign to End Polio. Joanna commented, "The ability to connect and deliver important work directly through Rotary's local membership around the world seems to be a unique strength, compared to most intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations." ■

Past President Nigel Stace

Nigel was taking a language course in Spanish, probably because of a pending overseas trip. To members combined puzzlement and amusement he started a meeting in Spanish and then continued to do so until its conclusion. What the guest speaker and visitors, of whom we had many in those days, made of it goodness knows.

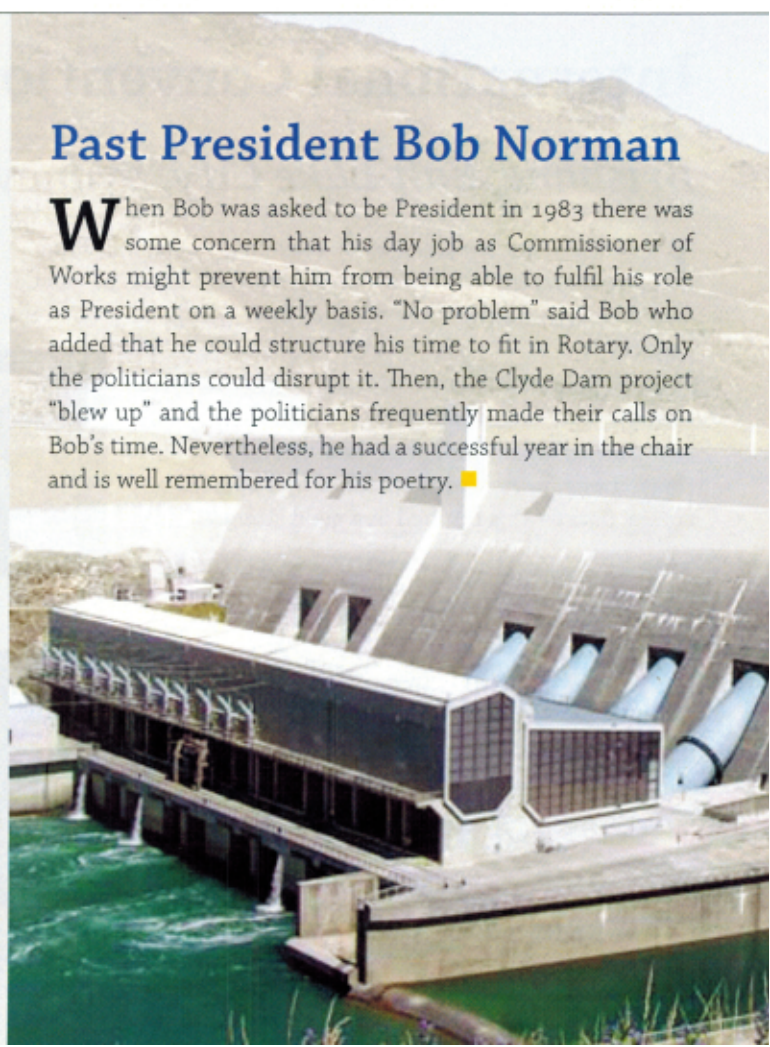
During his time as Attendance Officer, Nigel took his responsibility to administer the rules seriously. His view was



that, wherever a member was absent anywhere in the world, they should be doing make-ups. Morris Robertson recalls seeking leave for three meetings as he would be in Saudi Arabia negotiating a contract and, there being no Rotary in that country, he could not make up. Nigel's response was that Morris should find a nearby country to fulfil his obligation. The nearest known country with Rotary clubs was Turkey. Time and cost precluded this option from being taken up. ■

Past President Bob Norman

When Bob was asked to be President in 1983 there was some concern that his day job as Commissioner of Works might prevent him from being able to fulfil his role as President on a weekly basis. "No problem" said Bob who added that he could structure his time to fit in Rotary. Only the politicians could disrupt it. Then, the Clyde Dam project "blew up" and the politicians frequently made their calls on Bob's time. Nevertheless, he had a successful year in the chair and is well remembered for his poetry. ■



On the Side – Social Gatherings

Over the years social events have covered a wide range of activities with the most consistent being Changeovers and Christmas parties, which have been grand affairs held at various venues. Other gatherings, which have come and gone, included a harbour cruise in the eighties and summer barbeques at various members Kapiti Coast homes.

For a few years progressive dinners were the order of the day with several groups partaking of the first two courses in various members homes with all gathering at the hilltop home of Peter and Faith Gibbons for the final course. However, timing was an issue and there were, inevitably, groups whose progress was slower than others. These eventually led to the whole evening taking place in the Gibbons home and the club is grateful to Peter and Faith for their hospitality over many years.

Another practice, which lasted for a few years, was "Guess who is coming to dinner." The guests, individually, knew where

they were going but the hosts had no idea who was coming until the doorbell rang.

The 25th anniversary of the club in 1990 was a grand affair held in the Beehive banquet hall with Sir Robert Muldoon as Parliamentary Host and Guest Speaker. Members, past members and guests had an enjoyable time over a long evening.

Friday Fellowship

Drinks, sometimes followed by dinner, on the last Friday of the month began in the early 2000's at what was then The Posties Whistle pub in Khandallah, subsequently Monteiths and now the Khandallah Trading Co. Lobbying from some Karori members saw a rotation with Cafe 162 Karori and The Quiet Lady. Other locations chosen were The Backbencher, Maginnity's in the Wellesley Boutique Hotel and Bellamys. Most recently the 1815 Café and Bar and the Khandallah Bowling Club have been the preferred venues.

One special occasion, held on Friday 26 August 2008, was aboard the decommissioned HMNZS Wellington which was being prepared for sinking as a dive spot in Cook Strait. As part of the funding for the project a bar had been set up with a boutique brewery providing the beer.

The August 2005 Forum debated between Friday Fellowship in various locations and staying in one place. The outcome of the debate was not clear and, in the intervening years, Friday Fellowship has waxed and waned.



Christmas party.



Barbeque group at the Hercus beach house, Waikanae, February 2006.



Aboard HMNZS Wellington.



At the 1815 Bar and Cafe.



Past Presidents at the 25th Anniversary – Wallace Bell with John and Robin Atrell.



Wine Group members taking careful note during tasting.



The group rounded up in North Canterbury.

Wine Group Weekends

How did it all begin? A district changeover, a few glasses of wine, a suggestion rapidly seized on, and a bunch of five Rotarians and their partners decided to have a weekend away at a nearby wine producing area. As for any Rotary project we had to have a planning meeting, which was dinner with, you guessed it, wine. The group comprised Tony and Sheryl Fryer, Ian and Janet Hercus, David and Cathy King, Jim and Bev Miller and Rory and Marie O'Connor. Later, Morris and Margaret Robertson replaced the Fryers, and Brian and Janet Poole replaced the Millers. Also, the group was very saddened by the deaths of Cathy King and Ian Hercus. Margaret Emerre joined the group later.

At our initial meeting we developed some operational procedures: the size of the group would be 10 (to fit into a mini-van), on location we would have a driver and a van to avoid drink driving issues and we would enjoy a good level of accommodation. Rory was given the job of arranging all the details of the weekend for this first trip in 1997: travel, accommodation, itinerary, and van hire. We agreed that the trip would not just be visiting vineyards,

all in the interest of comparative research, but would include gardens of note and craft shops, added as a result of partner pressure. Our first trip, 1997, was to Marlborough.

We travelled by ferry to Picton, picked up by our hired van and driver and by 10am we were at our first visit, a distillery, a mistake but we soldiered on, managing five vineyards, a garden and a craft shop. Very tired, we revived in the hotel pool, had dinner, and went to bed early. Lesson learned about constructing an itinerary! Our post-trip evaluation, at a group dinner, was so positive that we decided to do another trip that same year, this time to the Wairarapa, and Rory, again, had the job of organising it.

The group did not want to stop and decided we would have an annual trip. Thus, we did a further twelve trips, visiting wine growing areas, namely Hawke's Bay three times, one of which included venues research for the 2001 District Conference, Canterbury, Nelson, Gisborne, Marlborough again, Wairarapa again, Waiheke Island, Matakana, North Canterbury and Central Otago. Our last trip was in 2011.

This activity epitomised the foundation of Rotary: fellowship as a basis for shared activity. We got to know one another very well, recognise our strengths and respect our differences. It grew our bonds in Rotary. We had great fun times; learnt more about New Zealand and wine; were saddened by the passing of Ian and Cathy. Other special interest groups could well be formed within our club, and some have, such as those who meet at the Wellington Jazz Club, and the bowlers at the Khandallah Bowling Club.

Rory O'Connor

Each year the group appointed a leader, it was always, initially reluctantly, Rory who became known by the title of *Our Dear Leader*.

Rotarians and Lawn Bowls

It started as an idea 3-4 years ago and now the trickle has turned into a steady stream. Early in the piece Rotarians such as Alan Fraser and Rory O'Connor got the taste of lawn bowling (actually it is an artificial surface). They thought it would be an



Khandallah Bowling Club.



Three PDG's take up bowls.

excellent opportunity for fellowship in addition to building the membership of the Khandallah Bowling Club (KBC). A classic win-win.

Over time the number of Tuesday and Friday morning Rotarian bowlers and friends, coupled with KBC people, has increased up to sometimes 30 participants. The focus of the morning is coffee at Café du Park where wisdom is shared freely and, sometimes, unevenly. But it is fun. Prior to that we play bowls for an hour and then another hour after coffee.

For some that is sufficient activity. For others there is the lure of Saturday play and competitive games. There is no need to own your bowls but the option is there. You learn the many technical terms and protocols of the games.

You will understand why Sir Francis Drake was so attracted to the game and why your own personal Armada can wait!

Brian Poole

The Wellington North Car Rally

This was organised by Derek Etherington with assistance from Paul Coutts. From memory there were about 7 or 8 vehicles entered. Derek gave all course instructions which told us which streets to transverse and things to look out for. He also operated a checkpoint.

Margaret and I entered, with Margaret driving and I did the navigation. I was able to use my previous experience of about

45 years ago when I belonged to the Wellington Car Club. Derek Etherington also belonged to the same car club. We were able to finish in first place.

The rally was followed by a very successful barbecue at President Ross Barrett's home.

Colin Lawton

Cooking Classes

A few brave members enrolled for cooking classes where various dishes were prepared to the accompaniment of a glass of wine or two. It is reported that the wine was the winner on the day. As far as can be determined no graduates from the courses have auditioned for Masterchef or possibly even for cooking at home.



Hopeful chefs.

Outer Wheelers

On the last Tuesday of each month a number of members wives go out for dinner at an Inner Wheel meeting. How could the deserted husbands cope? Jeremy Spanjaard came up with an idea which resulted in them gathering at the Village Café in Khandallah for a pizza and wine evening and the name "Outer Wheelers" was adopted. When the café closed down its evening service the group migrated to rotating around participants homes with pizzas fish and chips ordered in. Later, Jeremy added ice creams on a stick to the menu. If no home was volunteered for a month there was a fallback option of a taste of Thai in Johnsonville.

Rotary Quiz nights

Quiz nights have been held over the years, usually for the purpose of raising funds for a particular project.

Over two recent years highly popular quiz evenings at the Khandallah Bowling Club, organised by Jeremy and Vivienne Spanjaard, have attracted over 100 participants, raising close to \$3,000 in support of local organisations. In 2013 the quiz was jointly hosted with the Inner Wheel Club of Wellington. Beneficiaries from the money raised included the Mary Potter Hospice, Parkinson's Society Wellington, the Downtown Ministry and Challenge 2000.



Car Rally winners, Colin and Margaret.

Debating

In the late nineties Wellington North was able to mount teams to compete in the District 9940 inter club debating competitions. They were fun occasions with the outcomes lost in the mists of time.

Striking the Willow

Members of Wellington North have participated in the International Federation of Cricket Loving Rotarians

The Federation held its first festival in Fording-bridge UK in 1997 and has held one every three years since then. Wellington North has made a major contribution to teams with the following having participated at a number of festivals and games; Bruce Heather, gun bowler, Fraser Paterson opening bowler and good bat, Brian Poole left arm orthodox bowler and lower order bat and Alan Lawton as middle order batsman and leg spinner.



The team in England during the 2006 tour just before it went into bat.

The participating Rotarians have also played their part for charitable causes including touring Sri Lanka after the tsunami and raising tens of thousands of dollars for victims.

The ninth international festival is set down for Wellington in February/March 2017 and will be organised by Arthur Pitcher, former CEO of the Christchurch Casino and a member of the Garden City Rotary Club. ■

Past President Ken Boyden

Ken was a great after dinner speaker and may have been the most entertaining president. Certainly he was a very entertaining sergeant. For one session I remember he came with a large carton of produce and instead of levying fines he handed out vegetables. He had been the city's Chief Traffic Officer and later a City Councillor. As president he was jovial but he was not a consensus politician at Board meetings.

The habit at that time was for the Board to allocate the surplus at year-end to charity and there was often a fair amount of haggling before the distribution was agreed. Then the retiring Board joined the incoming Board for a dinner. At Ken's last meeting he wanted to include a donation to the Thorndon Male Voice Choir. No one else present had heard of it. Arguments went on for some time with members conscious that wives and the incoming Board would already be at the restaurant. Gradually, those present came to realise that Ken was enjoying himself and was prepared to wait them out. A motion that the motion be now put cut no ice with Ken and, eventually, he won. As secretary I asked him for the address for the Choir. He did not have one. However he was later able to find a contact.

David Pickering



Fast track

It was "reported" that Walter Stafford, driving to Marton accompanied by incoming Directors as passengers, all heading to the District Assembly, was travelling at an excessive speed on the Himatangi Straight. One passenger, Ken Boyden, was sitting in the back seat with his hands over his eyes and looking rather uncomfortable. At that time Ken was the Regional Traffic Superintendent.

Ron Potts

Rotari o Te Whanganui a Tara – Rotary Wellington North

John Heremia Mohi is a member of Te Whanau-a-Apanui from the Eastern Bay of Plenty in the North Island of New Zealand. He held several positions as a teacher, adviser and manager of children with special educational needs for over 25 years before joining the team of Directors at the National Library of New Zealand in 1996.

Over the past 25 years or more since he became involved in Rotary he has promoted the use of te reo Māori and tikanga Māori within the organisation. Within our club John has helped to progressively celebrate the various links at whanau, hapu and iwi level. He guides the club in celebrating new links with Māori through club and RYLA events and in the relationships with tangata whenua.

John writes of his contribution to the Māori dimension in Rotary,

Rotarians are active in building and strengthening relationships Māori. In our area this relationship building takes place in families, in business, in cultural and sporting endeavours and within our club.

Families link in many ways, not the least of which is through language. Concepts such as whanau, mana, rangatira, mokopuna, haka and kaimoana are well established in our group and used often by members. The use of te reo is a growing trend in New Zealand and within our club.

We are part of a changing world. In the business and sports worlds Rotarians are very often the clients of entrepreneurial Māori and embraced by Māori protocols. We share in the celebration of New Zealand/Aotearoa as a multi-cultural country with bicultural foundations. Within the club we have been supported by, and in turn honour local kaumatua. We have kept alive our links to Pipitea Marae and the tangata whenua. Māori youth are one of our target groups in our scholarships programmes and we sometimes have speakers from different hapu as guest presenters.



While membership is one way of building links with Māori there are many other ways too. These include support for youth development, contributing to educational scholarships, delivering leadership training and co-ordinating international exchanges. Through building connections with local iwi Rotarians gain as learners and leaders.

Rotary and tangata whenua continue to learn from each other. They celebrate and share achievements in the city and in the wider world. This was amply demonstrated when the combined Rotary clubs of Wellington city visited the Te Raukura, Te Wharewaka o Poneke on the waterfront.

Wellington North led the group into the Wharewaka to be greeted by Te Atiawa kaumatua. Two very beautiful waka resting at the wharewaka were our next focus. Firstly the role of the waka taua, Te Rerenga Kotare (Flight of the kingfisher) a war canoe, in all its contemporary beauty was outlined. Secondly, the smaller, general-purpose waka, Te Hononga (The binding or connecting), typical of waka once used for fishing or transport was detailed. This is the waka for all people and carries the load whatever that may involve. Our next adventure on our bicultural journey may well be in the waka on the water."

John has trained and supported Rotary teams going to international conferences. At the 2014 multi District International Training session in Auckland he led tikanga Māori gifting and in 2015 was a key member of the team linking Māori and Rotary in welcoming attendees at the Rotary International Zone Institute meeting in Wellington. District 9940, along with Te Atiawa, and Pomare and Rata Schools welcomed conference attendees with speeches, waiata and haka powhiri. John says "this was a privilege for us as hosts and a delight for all our visitors. We are looking for future opportunities to build on these experiences and successes.

Rotari, nga mihi, nga mihi, nga mihi nui. ■



Children from Rata Street and Pomare schools at the Zone Institute, December 2014.



The Ballad of Wellington North

It's Christmas time and we come together
To toast the festive season
And all we've done and are about to do
With joy, and peace and reason.

For Wellington North is a Rotary Club
On the march to honour and glory,
Its range of activities second to none,
And makes for a riveting story.

With a hey nonny nonny, come part with your money
To end polio now
We are moments away from ending the plague
When we all can take a deep bow.

The Scholarship Trust was formed in the wake
Of an Ian Crabtree bequest.
The funds are well managed, they'll never go bust,
Over time they have stood the test.

A million and a half is soundly invested,
The interest on which is then ready
To divide and award to deserving young students
Who are able, but financially needy.

Many children in schools have become healthy heroes
Through a project from Wellington North.
The challenges five aim to help them all thrive
From habits of genuine worth.

Then there's reading in schools, and dictionaries too,
And annual blood pressure testing.
Add Timor Leste and RYLA and RYPEN,
You can see there's not much resting.

With a hey nonny nonny, come part with your money,
Your subscription is due to be paid
To cover the cost of running our club
And help someone be less afraid.

The New Year brings Eureka Speech Contests,
More wine sales, a book fair and more.
When you start to make your New Year resolutions,
List these with others you explore.

A few in our club have real expertise,
Among them our Bulletin Editor.
David issues each one on the day of the meeting.
It's only for news he's a predator.

There's Rory O'Connor, upon my honour,
An educationist renowned.
He chaired the group that opened a school
Where a library in his name is found.

For years Ross and Morris were our past DGs.
Then another aspired to that station.
This was Tony who prospered, and ever since
Has championed the Rotary Foundation.

Our diplomats three reached the top of the tree
When posted to lands far away:
Graeme Waters in India, Ian Kennedy in Japan,
And Roy Ferguson in USA.

A supportive association for sufferers of Crohns
By Brian Poole was founded.
An award came his way, well deserved, we say,
For a man so compassionately grounded.

Now Francis Small is acclaimed by us all.
An achiever on the biggest scale,
He was prominent in the country's Scouting Movement
And was head of New Zealand Rail.

Our club's been well led by a succession of Presidents
Each one has given of their best
And Lionel's no exception with his able direction
And John will be up to the test.

The inimitable Rick wanted a permanent role
In the limelight without any strife
So he nominated himself and won our support.
He is now our President for Life.

We remember tonight, some who are absent.
They came, they served, they died.
The great things they did, and the laughter we shared
Fill us all with pleasure and pride.

From Wellington North we sally forth
To do good wherever we can.
We all are united in spirit and effort,
Each woman, and every man.

With a hey nonny nonny – but enough of this stuff,
Just give your partner a kiss.
May you and your loved ones have a wonderful time
Through years of unending bliss.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Laury Sinclair, 5 December 2013





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