

Fiona's speech as incoming President of the Rotary Club of Dunedin, 30 June 2022

Good evening, I'm proud to have this honour to wear this President's chain!

I'd like to thank all my fellow members who have encouraged and supported me through my 12 year Rotary journey. This isn't the first time I've been edged out of my comfort zone by one fellow member here tonight, Mr Graeme Leith (looking extraordinarily colourful not to mention 'braw' in his Leith tartan formal attire). I met Graeme as a young food technologist working in Dunedin many years ago and he challenged me then to become an editor for NZIFST, an organisation we both belonged to as food technologists. But it was just 12 years ago that Graeme invited me to join Rotary, and I've very glad that he did!

Each President has their year and puts their 'flavour' on it through their inputs and the changes that they make. I've been inspired many a time by all the previous presidents of this club that I've known, and our club history. Under the Rotary International theme of 'Imagine Rotary', my theme or flavour will be to take a Kaizen approach. This is a Japanese term used in quality assurance circles meaning incremental or continuous improvement. It's achieved through a plan- do- check- act approach.

We'll be focusing on three key areas for practising Kaizen, 1. Stabilising, enhancing and diversifying membership. 2. Collaboration on projects both within the groups in our club and between the various Dunedin clubs. Our goal is to enhance club experience through fellowship and service projects. 3. The third key focus will be to encourage everyone to work on our Centenary projects. The Revamp of Rotary Park, the Re-introduction of Taonga to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary and project that help us to fund raise for these projects. The centenary and the centenary related projects give the club a great opportunities for promotion to a wider Dunedin community.

I'm looking forward to working with you and to dream, plan, do, check and act on the projects we do as a club this year. Let's align with the Rotary International theme and make our Rotary dreams a reality.

Fiona Nyhof

President , Rotary Club of Dunedin 2022-23