

November 2019

To:

Club Presidents, Presidents-elect

Past District Governors

District Board members

District Chairs

Assistant Governors

### **Formation of new South Island Rotary District**

You may be aware that work has been quietly progressing on the formation of a new South Island Rotary District, amalgamating Districts 9970 and District 9980.

The formation of the new district has resulted from the two districts discussing together the challenges of dropping membership and the future of Rotary in the South Island.

Discussions to date have been positive and open with a strong understanding of, and commitment to, the new district being an essential factor in supporting Rotary in the South Island for many years to come.

The work is being led by Immediate Past District Governors Andrew Hamilton (9980) and John Driscoll (9970) with facilitation being provided by past RI zone co-ordinator John Prendergast. The balance of the working group comprises the District Governors, District Governors-elect and District Governors-nominee of each district. Input has also been received from Andrew Best, RI supervisor of club and district support based in Sydney.

Currently district chairs and co-ordinators from both districts are sharing their processes and discussing how programmes can be managed on a South Island-wide basis.

Over the next few months every opportunity will be taken to discuss the formation of the new district with Presidents, Presidents-elect, Past District Governors and clubs.

Early next year clubs will have the opportunity to support or object to the formation of the new district through a voting process. If the formation is supported a formal transition team will be appointed and a District Governor-nominee sought for the new district for the Rotary year starting 1 July 2022.

Any comments or queries about the new district can be made to members of the working group.