

Dear Club President

As you know, voting has been carried out over the past month on a proposal to form a new South Island Rotary District, bringing together what are presently Districts 9970 and 9980 into one combined District. Rotary International's Rules stipulate that such a joining together of Districts can only proceed provided a majority of Clubs don't object to the proposal.

We are pleased to advise you that at the conclusion of voting at midnight Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 55 of the 62 Clubs, or 89%, did not object to the proposal. So there is a clear wish amongst our Clubs that the proposed new District proceed.

Given this mandate from Clubs, the leadership team that has been guiding this proposal – comprising from each District we as District Governors, along with the immediate Past District Governors, the District Governors Elect, and the District Governors Nominee – will now progress the proposal as follows:

1. Seek from the Rotary International Districting Committee, and the Board of Rotary International, their formal approval for the new District – by 30 June 2020;
2. Seek from the Board of Rotary International their formal approval for the new District to be named District 9999 – by 30 June 2020;
3. Establish a Transition Team, comprising Rotarians from both existing Districts, to undertake the detailed planning and work needed to successfully establish the new District over the next 2 years. In undertaking this work the Transition Team will be liaising closely with, and learning from the experiences of, similar Transition Teams which have guided the establishment of new Districts recently in Australia;
4. The DG Nominating Committee of each of Districts 9970 and 9980 will shortly call for nominations for the position of District Governor of the new District, to take office on 1 July 2022. Once nominations are received, the two Nominating Committees will work together to select this new District Governor. The new Governor will be selected by 30 June 2020;
5. The new District will come into effect from 1 July 2022;
6. Communications with Clubs, and with you as Club Presidents, will continue throughout the transition to a new District over the next two years to ensure Rotarians are kept aware of decisions made and changes required as we move to the new District structure.

Thank you for your support for the proposal, the next two years will be a challenging, but at the same time, an exciting period in the development of Rotary in the South Island.

Kind regards

Tania Lowery and Gary Hopkinson.