

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Rotary International Zones 7B & 8

Volume 2 Issue 5: December 2017



G'day,

Have you noticed, the nearer we get to Christmas, the more hectic our daily lives and Rotary service becomes?

However, that is to be expected as we work hard to finalise the rewarding projects of 2017 and look forward with excitement to plans for 2018 ...

Most senior leaders will be aware that we have recently had a couple more polio cases in Afghanistan which is unfortunate. This takes the total for the year to 16 - still less than half the number for last year.

We are slowly getting there - our goal of total eradication of polio from the world is within reach! We still need funds for the final push to be successful. Many districts have large amounts of unused funds available through their DDF - a painless way for

ALL Districts to make a significant contribution to Polio-Plus. District 9685 did a brilliant job last year and raised almost a million dollars for the eradication program. I urge all District Governors to contact Zone Polio Coordinators Bob Aitken and Ken Collins who can help finalise such donations early in the New Year.

Our District Governors Elect are about to embark on their next phase of training in preparation for their role as District Governors for 2018-2019 at the International Assembly in San Diego. I am sure they will all enjoy themselves as they mix and work with 550 Governors Elect from around the world. The International Assembly is a tremendous experience and, like Sue and I, all who have been part of this unique experience regard the week as a memorable highlight of their Rotary lives.

Districts involved in the creating of new districts from July 1, 2020, have set up transition committees to oversee the necessary changes. These districts, 9500 and 9520, will become ONE new District - as will Districts 9700 and 9710 in NSW and ACT. Other Districts are aiming to merge from July 1, 2021, which coincides with the centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand.

Creation of these new districts has resulted from a disturbing drop in membership numbers - and we must be mind-



DGE's Anthony Ohlsen (D9780), Janne Speirs (D9820) and Russell Gurney (D9810)

ful that the creation of new, larger Districts will NOT solve the problem of our declining numbers. Only we, as active Rotarians, can rectify the situation.

What has been pleasing is districts working together to identify areas within a state or a major city where there isn't a Rotary presence. We DO have a problem with membership and Districts are working actively to overcome the problem. It is hard work but we must persevere.

We can be successful, but remember, the only time success comes before work is in the dictionary!

If you haven't registered for the Presidential Peace Conference planned for Sydney on March 17, 2018, please do so as soon as possible. It is not often that countries are appointed to hold a Presidential Conference and Sydney's successful application is a real boost for the entire Pacific/Asia Region. World class speakers have already accepted the invitation to present at the Conference and President Ian Riseley and

Juliet will certainly be in attendance.

Strong registrations have been received for the Toronto International Convention in June. We have almost 500 going from Australia and New Zealand at the time of writing. Toronto will be a special place to go for an International Convention, so let's all support President Ian and Juliet and make an impression on Rotarians from all around the world by our strength in numbers ...

This time of the year is, for most people, a time for families to get together and celebrate the festive season. Sadly, some families won't do so because of the passing of a loved one – or perhaps because of family stress and conflict.

Whilst normally a happy time, the festive season can also be a time when more people suffer from depression when they realise what is missing from their family situation. We need to be aware of such people and situations. If you are aware of such people, take time to drop in to see them, or make a

phone call to tell them you care and they are not forgotten. Invite them to your homes.

We need to show we care. Such action can make a difference in people's lives at any time, but especially at this time of the year!

In a much lighter vein, spare a thought for District 9980 Governor Nominee Tania Lowery who has just announced her engagement to Phil Atkinson and is now faced with the daunting task of finding a date for the wedding within her very crowded Rotary calendar!!! Congratulations and well done Tania and Phil all the best for the future.

So, as 2017 draws to a close, Sue and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Best wishes,

Noel

Noel Trevaskis
RI Director, 2016/18



Premier of NSW

On behalf of the NSW Government, I am pleased to welcome participants to Sydney for the Rotary International Presidential Peacebuilding Conference 2018. I would especially like to welcome Rotary International President Ian Riseley.

This Conference is a valuable opportunity for all of you to share your experiences and come together to discuss solutions to issues that contribute to conflict across the globe – such as poverty, disease and poor access to education.

As a Rotarian of many years, I personally know the great work Rotary does for the community, whether it be on a local or international level. I commend the Rotary Club of Sydney for its efforts in bringing this event to NSW. I hope everyone attending the Rotary International Presidential Peacebuilding Conference 2018 finds it productive and inspiring.

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

[Register here](#)



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Contact Us

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Director 2016-2018, Noel Trevaskis

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Editor: PDG Gina Growden

M: 0412 128 106

E: gina.growden@bigpond.com

[www.facebook.com/
RotarianNoelTrevaskis](https://www.facebook.com/RotarianNoelTrevaskis)

To unsubscribe email:
gina.growden@bigpond.com

"It's the best way there is to celebrate a year of successful service, and renew our energies for the year to come."

Ian Riseley, RI President



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MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**