

Thank you David

Good morning or as Noel Trevaskis would say “G'DAY”

Some people seem to think I have a bit of an accent....but you know when you are on the inside you don't. My friends tell me that when I am nervous or with my family I speak quicker and it is even harder to understand me.

Here I am looking out at all you very prominent and important Rotarians ... What an honour this is, but I am really nervous.

This morning I have been asked to give you an overview of our new Districts Strategic plan.. I know you will find this very strange but I get quite excited about strategic planning, contrary to what others might think – I believe that if you have a plan, you know where you are going.

We have all seen the wonderful videos DGE David has sent out and they all talk about the RI strategic vision. Those of you who have seen the short video by Jennifer Jones will know that the RI Directors have taken many months, used many experts and wordsmiths to come up with the RI vision of ***‘Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.’*** Jennifer also promises that next year this time we will have the new RI Strategic Plan.

In the second half of last year when we realised that the District Strategic plan was out of date, District Governor Peter started the conversation and from that the DG, the DGE, DGN, the IPDG, the ten Assistant Governors, the outgoing secretary and the incoming secretary went on a journey.

With the guidance of an independent facilitator and armed with the existing RI Strategic Plan and the old District 9500 Plan we set to work. I am sure you have all seen of the RI Plan and the old District Plan. We set to work over two week-ends, a multitude of emails a couple of other meetings and a zoom meeting we were ready to take it to the DMFC. OUR process was just a little different and definitely a lot quicker than RI's .

If you look at the Brand New Strategic plan for 2017 - 2020 on the table in front of you will see our vision. ***‘We unite and act for lasting change across the globe, in our communities and individually’***

Now this fits very nicely under the new RI Vision and, believe me, we had a number of wordsmiths involved in ours too.

We have a mission 'to guide, support, inspire, motivate, inform and encourage Clubs to achieve Rotary's vision, priorities and goals in our district.

Our Core Values haven't really changed very much we have moved them around and prioritised them a little differently and we have added a new one of Personal Development. Underneath that you will see the three Strategic Priorities and Goals. The Priorities haven't changed but the goals underneath have changed to reflect the now for our district. That's our new the Strategic plan then behind that is a comprehensive Action Plan addressing the Priorities and goals.

Finally to sum up – this is the last Strategic plan for District 9500, it has been brought to by the Assistant Governors who have the best knowledge about the clubs in our district, the secretaries and the G Train who among them have extensive knowledge of Rotary International. This is a working document and hopefully it will also help the steering committee to guide us into the new District 9510 In the Year 2020. It is your guide for the next few years – we will all know where we are going and that we are all going in the same direction.

I hope you have been able to understand my accent. You know when I first met DG Peter he had a bother understanding me. I told him at the time "don't worry your ear will atune" The other day there he reminded me of the conversation and he said that he had been watching Magda Zubanzki in an interview about her latest film. As some of you will know Magda's mother came from Fife in Scotland and when Magda put on a Scottish accent Peter could understand her. I'm taking all the credit for that.!!!

Jane Owens DGN
24 February 2018