

COVID-19 ~ May Edition

'ONE MONTH ON, HOW ARE WE ALL GOING?'

Article by RC PDG Tim Moore

For most of us it has now been over five weeks of isolation and in most cases isolation from your normal Rotary activities. How have we coped without regular face to face meetings, unable to do traditional community service or fund-raising activities? Are we looking after our members in these difficult and in some case tragic times?



In short have we been able to provide Rotary value to our members? If we haven't, how are we to survive? All clubs have been forced to adapt to these changed conditions and would expect it may well be to the end of this year and beyond in some cases.

So many questions ... and so many answers!

To quote Winston Churchill: 'No crisis should go to waste' ... Last month's edition had a rush of ideas on how clubs and districts could support its members. Now we have an edition full of more. Well done.

Few clubs are letting this crisis go to waste, most are now meeting online and they are learning that we don't necessarily have to meet face to face to engage with members, to discuss and plan strategies for the future, support the efforts of continuing and new projects and to donate time and effort. This is what we are great at. We haven't given up but we have adapted to the situation – it is this crisis that may well be the boost that clubs have needed! Your right too, Rotary just continued to grow and attract a whole lot of new interest as their club became more innovative and flexible.

There are so many examples of just this: Clubs being flexible and innovative.

Fund raising is hard but I have been buoyed by the imagination and efforts of so many clubs:

The RC of Frankston North – after a number of strategic meetings they are once a month running an open Zoom meeting with a small fee for a great guest speaker that is donated to a local hospital effort.

The RC of Southbank is having online lessons on how to sew a [basic cotton face mask](#) without a sewing machine for Rotary Club of Southbank to donate to the homeless and those living in crisis accommodation/shelters. (see photo)

Wynyard Rotary members in Tasmania assisting with a drive through [flu shot clinic](#) (see photo).

The [Rotaract Club of Adelaide University](#) with international student and local club members running cooking classes online via Zoom.

Rotary District 9820 (Victoria – Peninsula and Gippsland) [hosted a webinar](#) and Q&A with the federal Minister for Health and sharing this for all clubs and members.

The enormous developments of Districts hosting Zoom meetings and resource pages for their clubs, Rotary Down Under (our regional magazine) now hosting district and club resources for Zone 8 and publicising and sharing in social media.

[The Rotary Club of Mt Lawley](#), Western Australia hosting a Facebook site where all Clubs can register and invite others to join their online meetings.

All of this has come about from this COVID-19 crisis – an opportunity to adapt, change and increase the impact and reach of Rotary. Please send us what your Clubs are doing so we can inspire all to engage and grow.



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'REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE'

Article by Barbara Mifsud, Regional Membership Officer, Membership Development, South Pacific and Philippines Office, barbara.mifsud@rotary.org, <https://www.facebook.com/barbara.mifsud.1>



Rotary in the time of COVID-19

While we continue to practice social distancing to ensure the health and well-being of our families and communities, it's important to ensure our members stay engaged in Rotary during this extraordinary time. Here are some highlights of how clubs and districts are keeping members engaged and providing service:

- Members from [Rotary Club of Central Melbourne](#) decided to go camping for Easter, as 'normal', with one variation – they put the tents up in their backyards! Social drinks were held (online) in backyards and out by the BBQ. Everyone had a wine and a few nibbles and partners joined in as well.
- [Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri](#) from D9670, in conjunction with the Kurri Kurri Community Centre, have been cooking up a storm and providing meals, free of charge to the elderly and vulnerable within their community. So far they have cooked and delivered over 1200 meals!
- Instead of cancelling the Knox Art Show, a collaboration between the Rotary Clubs of [Rowville-Lysterfield](#) and [Bayswater](#), the combined boards agreed to hold a virtual art show instead. Sponsors supported this new format and artists were very pleased with the outcome. More than 5000 people have visited the virtual art show website so far - that's five times as many visitors compared to last few years at the art gallery. Check out the show [here](#).
- [Rotary Satellite Club of Orewa-Millwater](#) in D9910, New Zealand set up the Gulf Harbour Army Bay support group, made up of approximately fifty local community members, volunteering to pick up shopping for the aged and vulnerable in the area. One recipient thanked the group saying 'that because of Rotary we are safe'. They also received a \$2,000 donation from another recipient.
- Watch this excellent [presentation](#) by Rtn Rebecca Fry about service while social distancing. It's filled with a whole load of simple, effective ideas for building connections at this time. The presentation was an initiative of [D9570](#) in Central Queensland, Australia, who have an excellent section on their website about [uniting against COVID-19](#).
- In this [Q&A](#), Membership Committee Chair and RI Director 2021-23 Jessie Harman discusses how she sees COVID-19 effecting the Rotary landscape and urges us to lead with compassion, care and urgency.

NEW! Connect with the (Online) Rotary World Webinar Recording

Rotarians and Rotaractors everywhere are proving that social distancing doesn't mean being disconnected. People are embracing new ways to connect using technology — smartphones, webcams, and the internet. Rotary International's Membership Development department recently hosted the [Connect with the \(Online\) Rotary World](#) webinar on 29 April. It featured members who are leading their clubs and districts in the move to virtual connection. Our Assistant Rotary Coordinator PDG Ingrid Waugh from Auckland, NZ was one of the special guest panelists. If you weren't able to attend you can watch a recording of it [here](#).

Membership Leads report

Despite the global impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), or perhaps as a result, prospective members are still expressing interest in joining Rotary clubs in many areas around the world. As more and more clubs begin to convene online and find new and innovative ways to support their communities, you can help by putting them in touch with potential members who are looking for meaningful connections and want to be a part of something positive and greater than themselves.

If you are a district leader, make sure to have established a process for quickly and effectively managing leads and connecting these prospective members to the right club. If you are a club leader make sure to follow up on any leads that have been assigned to your club and report the progress in My Rotary.

[Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands](#)

Membership statistics as at 31 March 2020

Comparison to 1 July

[Worldwide](#)

[Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands](#)

Demographics

[Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands](#)

'STAY SAFE AND CONNECTED'

Article by this Newsletter's editor Issa Shalhoub, Rotary Club of Milton-Ulladulla, D9710



The Rotary World and the traditional Rotary Clubs that we know will be different after the COVID-19 crisis is over, the longer the crisis lasts the more likely some members might lose interest in this amazing organisation because of lack of involvement and Service, so Clubs need to keep in touch with their members, keep them in the loop and informed.

No one knows if and when the physical distancing will be lifted and if it will be reinstated. Let us be prepared for future lockdowns and stay vigilant.

'Rotary Connects The World' and charity should start at home, first keep connected with your family, close and distant family members, friends, neighbours and of course your Club's members, contacting them hasn't been any easier, quicker or safer.

Clubs need to look after the members during this crisis as they may be doing it tough financially as well as socially. I think we should organise a roster for each member to ring five others, twice a week and change your five, not just your close friends or members of your clique.

Using Zoom or similar video chatting software, I feel, clubs should meet twice a week to carry out a regular meeting and a social one, toast Rotary, the Club and the friendship we developed, we should also try to connect with past and present Youth Exchange students, and past members of the Club. As Rotarians we get a 20% discount on Zoom membership through Rotary Global Rewards.

Maybe we need to try to connect with other community groups and organisations such as the Lions Club, Probus, Apex and SES, to share ideas and socialise over the internet.

Clubs can organise a local post COVID-19 Relief Fund. I am sure we are all saving money by not attending dinner meetings, no fines, maybe we can each donate as much or as little as we want for such a fund.

As Club members will find it hard to help the community we can perhaps through such a fund help financially the Salvation Army, Anglicare, Beyond Blue or Life Line as they will be flooded with help requests from those who have lost their jobs, drinking more alcohol which is reflected in the rise of family-domestic violence, and children who are exposed to frequent media updates and anxious conversations. Finally, don't forget to donate to the Australian Rotary Health and End Polio Now.

Check if any member does require to have his-her shopping done and delivered to their front door while respecting social distancing and their privacy.

We can as a group donate blood, plasma, platelets as a community service, check [here](#) for where you can donate close to you.

Lastly support as much as possible local shops such as struggling restaurants and order home delivery or pick up, and any local businesses - retailers in your area.

Stay safe, Stay home, Stay informed, Follow hand hygiene, Follow physical distancing, Stay socially online connected, Stay respectful, Stay calm, Practice daily physical and mental exercise and Download the COVIDSafe app.

'PIVOTING FROM DISAPPOINTMENT TO DETERMINATION'

Excerpts from an article by Jeffry Cadorette RI Director 2018-20 Rotary Club of Media, PA



Oh, how things have shifted in the past few weeks. I had a short list of items that I wished to cover in this month's column. Each of them now irrelevant as the world as we knew it, our activities as we knew them, and our communities that we live in have all changed in ways that were unimaginable just a short time ago.

Most of the phone calls, emails, and texts I have fielded have been around a single word. Cancellation. Should we cancel? Do we have to cancel? What do we do if we cancel? How do we cancel? Is the convention in Hawaii going to be cancelled? Most of those questions have now received answers.

Disappointment is, understandably, widespread.

That disappointment needs to be acknowledged. It's real. And now we must quickly pivot to determination. Determination to stay connected in an environment that none of us has ever experienced before. That is happening, and that is palpable also. We can't just let Rotary clubs go dark until the time this pandemic has waned. We can't let Rotary go dark. And maybe there is a silver lining in this. As an organization and as clubs, we have been slow to embrace technology as a way and a means to stay connected and be connected. Zoom club meetings, online training, virtual district conferences. Disappointment being replaced by determination ...

Take care of yourself. Stay safe. Stay connected. Take care of your members and find ways to serve your communities in ways that you never anticipated or planned for.

'CHARTERING A CLUB DURING THE PANDEMIC'

Article by ARC PDG Ida Portella, Rotary Club of Mareeba

Chartering a club in the middle of a world pandemic is certainly challenging and yet it came at a time that the spirit of community was so needed and Rotary delivered.

Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches has finally chartered and it took almost 4 years in the making. The Mareeba Rotary club in District 9550, has been supporting a satellite group meeting for members who had transferred to Cairns for work and wanted to stay in Rotary. Over the years, members moved on and yet we continued to persist as we knew that if we could get our local businesses to see the benefits of Rotary, we would soon have our own club in this area.

The club's main focus is youth and it was through working with the Principal of the local high school and Division Councillor, that we were able to secure two events, i.e. Trinity Beach Vibe and Anzac Day Dawn Service, they even managed to secure funding from the Cairns regional council to run these events, through Mareeba Rotary.

The club chartered this month with 21 members, three members will transfer from the Mareeba Rotary club and two are returning Rotarians and 16 new members.



Club's Adviser PDG Ida, incoming president Luke Bancroft and Treasurer Jodie Allen finalising details to run its first official Zoom club meeting, 27 April 2020.

'HOW WE REACTED WILL BE REMEMBERED'

**Article by RC Zone 34, PDG George Robertson-Burnett, Rotary District 6890
From the Newsletter of Zone 34 Rotary Coordinator and Membership Teams, April 2020.**



I think it is fair to say that the Coronavirus Pandemic will be remembered for a very long time indeed. Inquiries will be held, books will be written and recommendations on how to avoid a repetition will be made.

But what of our own actions and reactions, how will we judge ourselves and how will we be judged. Our first and most important duty is to ourselves and to our family. Providing for our family, following guidelines and keeping our nearest and dearest safe and protected, is paramount.

And then there is our other family - our Rotary family. We are a fellowship which directs a large proportion of our efforts for the improvement of the lives of others, but during this pandemic perhaps we need to first look closer to home. While there has been a great move towards online meetings by our Clubs, it is as important to note who is not attending as it is to welcome those who are. Reaching out to our members with an email, or dare I say an actual phone call, reinforces our basic principle that every member has value, every member is valued.

There may be many reasons why they have not connected, technical issues, family or financial concerns, or feelings that it just doesn't matter, the main thing is that we need to show it does matter, we do care and we do have solutions. Sometimes the carers need to be cared for.

... and thirdly we have our Community family, those who for so many years have been the focus of so much of our Club's efforts. We must stay connected to our community and let them know that Rotary is open for business. Increasing our virtual social footprint, reaching out by online media, telephone and with cards and letters, offering comfort, help and reassurance. This will reinforce the fact that your club is an integral part of the community, and that Rotary cares.

All of these actions, and our other creative practices, will be remembered and appreciated long after the present emergency is over, this is after all what we do as Rotarians, and even pandemics will not stop or stifle our efforts to maintain and build our fellowship, and to positively impact our communities and the lives of others.



'FINDING OPPORTUNITY IN ADVERSITY'

Article by President Rajeev Wadhwa, *Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield, Melbourne*



As soon as face to face club meetings were unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Board held an online emergency meeting to review impacts and implications to our upcoming public events and weekly club meetings.

Although several planned events could not proceed due to social distancing rules, focus was to keep our club members engaged, happy and positive during these unknown and challenging times.

Effective immediately, we agreed to move the weekly meeting online – using Zoom as the meeting platform. A friendly *light* agenda helped get everyone comfortable with the platform; and by the end of the first meeting, members were enjoying their friendly banter as they would in face-to-face meetings! During this first online meeting, we also inducted a new club member!

Since then, we have conducted our regular meetings online - including speakers, interactive segments via Q&A sessions and inclusion of humorous visuals.

Knox art Show – a collaboration between Rowville-Lysterfield and Bayswater Rotary clubs - was to kick off the week after these restrictions were imposed. The combined Boards met and agreed to hold a *Virtual Art show* instead. Sponsors supported this new format, and artists were very pleased with this outcome. More than 5000 people have visited the virtual Knox art show website so far- that's five times as many visitors compared to last few years at the Art Gallery!!!

Our members have taken to this new platform like fish to water. Attendance is all time high. Many of them are now organising zoom meetings with their other friends and community groups.

Our satellite club, Knox Business Network, has also moved to online meetings.

We will conduct ANZAC service to honour our war heroes, virtually. We are hoping to get 100+ viewers.

Whilst new situation poses new challenges, it also offers new opportunities.

- The online format has made it easier to invite Rotarians from other clubs regardless of physical distance, state or country.
- This also gives us opportunities to invite speakers from anywhere around the world.
- The biggest opportunity, however, is to be able to engage with vulnerable communities and sections of our society who may be feeling lonely and unable to connect in-person with their regular support networks.

During these challenging times, I would encourage all Rotary clubs to move to online meetings and continue to support their members by facilitating much needed fellowship.

Get inspired and inspire others



'NEW TYPES OF ROTARY CLUBS - PART 2'

By Lawrence Furbish, ARC, Zone 32
From Rotary Zones 24 & 32 *Beyond Borders' Newsletter*,
April 2020

Here is the latest video about **starting a new club**.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bYfGa63xds&feature=youtu.be>

To find all the Membership videos, go to
<http://tinyurl.com/MembershipVideos>.



'GROWTH THROUGH CRISIS'

Article by PP Ross Wade, RC of Milton-Ulladulla, District 9710



The community of Milton Ulladulla in New South Wales, Australia has been hit recently with several environmental and social crises. Yet through this the local Rotary Club of Milton-Ulladulla, District 9710, has risen to the challenge, explored positive changes and indeed has now grown in numbers.

The recent droughts, fires and floods devastated the surrounding district and decimated business income and projected annual income.

Then the unbelievable occurred. In mid-March the announcement came that the country was facing the medical crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and the social lockdown. The Rotary club had to rethink all its plans for the year and modify methods by which the club members may stay connected and focused.

Fortunately, the modern computer technology offers many innovative methods to reach out to each other. The current tough times of social isolation that may extend beyond six months forces clubs to fall back on their own initiatives. As a club it is important to maintain connections and vitality despite the social physical disconnection.

Ideas are currently coming to the fore as to how this new skill of electronic communication may be utilised for the better in the future. Perhaps that means more committee meetings by internet. It could also ease discussion about possibly alternating dinner meetings with electronic communication meetings. This could be an important element when in the aftermath of the current crisis we may find members whose businesses and potential commitments have been seriously affected financially.



Christine attaching the Rotary Pin



Jonathan attaching the Rotary Pin

Rotarians welcoming Christine and Jonathan (top LH corner) by applauding

Luckily, as with other clubs, we had a member who encouraged us all to link up electronically using the software Zoom and soon we were communicating regularly. At the first meeting we were all excited to catch up and see each other on the screen. Due to our forced isolation it was a relief to actually socialise together.

The next meeting saw significant issues being discussed and even the board meeting was held over the internet which proved interesting, efficient and pertinent. Indeed, all the issues seemed to take place far more pragmatically than usually.

The following meeting was very special as under normal circumstances we were to hold a special function to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the club. Now the grand event was another electronic contact meeting which included a full visual rundown on the history of our club.

Then on Tuesday evening 14 April, 2020 our traditional club made history by actually welcoming and inducting two new members into the group via Zoom. As is the custom the new members were congratulated and welcomed by others through the electronic connection. Fortunately, the new members had already made themselves known to club members before the lockdown.

Two Rotary pins and a welcome to Rotary folder containing reading material and certificates were delivered to their door steps and the new members Christine Bell and Jonathan Benyei were asked to attach their Rotary pins on each other, which was followed by all participants clapping to replace the customary hand shake, all of which was witnessed by RI DE Jessie Harman, two Zone 8 Rotary Coordinators, Adrian Roach and Tim Moore, a past member of our Club PDG Rob Wylie and the AG of our District Phil Presgrave..

The Rotary club of Milton-Ulladulla is proud of its long sixty-year history and rather than feel daunted by the current social and economic turmoil, the club has risen to the fore to maintain its vigour and social vision. Growth gives us hope for the future and offers fresh insight as to how we may use stress to generate an exciting relevant future embracing new technologies.

To view the Induction video, please click [here](#)

'IDEAS FOR STAYING CONNECTED DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING'

Rotary Voices, Posted on April 8, 2020. Article by ARC PDG Ingrid Waugh



During this time of physical separation and social distancing, it is more important than ever to keep our social connections. Rotarians join Rotary to do good in their community. They stay because of the connections they make. Our relationships are important, and we need to strengthen the ones we have and to build new ones. What might this look like in our changed world?

For starters, we can help Rotary stay strong, and even prosper, by working together and taking care of each other – just what Rotary members always do. All of us have had our normal routines disrupted. And when people take a break from these routines for an extended period, they sometimes find other things to fill the gap. That is why it's vitally important that we keep our members connected and engaged in new ways.

With our creativity and innovation, we can even reach out to new people who are looking for something to get them through these strange times. People in our communities are seeking purpose, and an opportunity to contribute. We have resources to help them do that.

Here are some ideas:

- § Communicate with members through email, social media, virtual meeting tools
- § Make it a two-way conversation by encouraging “user generated content” to your web and social media platforms
- § Convert your meetings to virtual ones. Check out [this article from District 9500](#) for advice on keeping these meeting captivating.
- § Keep a schedule of dynamic speakers, by adding them to your virtual meetings
- § Hold district-wide meetings virtually
- § Create a challenge that members can take part in, either a project, competition, or activity, which can be done from their homes
- § Share ideas for projects that you can collaborate on together remotely
- § Set up a phone tree of members to keep in contact
- § Create a club buddy system to pair up members and make sure that vulnerable members are supported
- § Inject some fun items into your newsletters and bulletins to lighten the mood and keep people's minds off the gravity of these times
- § Update your club website with a new tab for information on how people can get involved with your club online or virtually. You could also create a tab for listing volunteer opportunities like this district did: <https://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/volunteer>
- § Keep members engaged through Rotary online learning tools such as the [Learning Center](#). You can take part in [learning modules and webinars](#) as a group through platforms like Zoom.
- § Review and revise your club's strategic plan
- § Work together with community partners to identify the most pressing needs. Engage with other community organizations like Meals on Wheels.
- § Rotary's disaster response grants provide a fast and effective way to respond to local events. The Rotary Foundation recently added COVID-19 projects to its list of eligible activities for these grants. [Learn more](#)
- § Volunteer to run errands for those in need, in keeping with whatever restriction your local and regional authorities have in place for staying safe.

'THE BOYS OF 1905'

From Zones 28 & 32 website - Posted on Sep 29, 2018, Rotary One

Thanks to Harald Kuckertz, RC Edmonton Strathcona, D-5370 for capturing this video during a make-up meeting to the Rotary eClub of the South West USA.



Please click [here](#) to watch.

SHARE YOUR CLUB OR DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECT AND MEMBERSHIP BEST PRACTICES.

We would like to hear from Clubs or Districts telling us what they have done. Please include a summary, contact details, a couple of captioned photos, and email to [Issa Shalhoub](#), this Newsletter's editor.

We also would like readers to share their experiences and stories on Best Practices in their Clubs and what has worked for their Clubs in gaining new members and also what has helped in keeping members.

'ROTARY ONLINE: HOW THE CHANGE IS NOW UPON US'

Article by **Evan Burrell**, assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Zone 8 from evanburrell.com/blog



The ongoing issues around the COVID-19 Coronavirus have many Rotary Clubs trying to sort out ways for their members to engage with the club remotely, aka "Doing Rotary from home". For many, a stay at home, social distancing regime will be an entirely new experience.

Thankfully technology has improved massively, so it's possible to stay engaged and do Rotary from the comfort of your own home. Here's some tips to help you with a new online way forward.

1. **Have a dedicated space at home:** It is possible to have a video meeting from your lounge with your feet up, but that's generally a bad idea. If you can, set yourself up with an actual "home office" space to work from, because that way you can block yourself off when you're in that space to do work and Rotary-related tasks. Even a little corner of the kitchen table can make a huge difference in letting you get your head into that "Rotary" space.
2. **Hardware needs:** You can already use your own a laptop or desktop computer or even a smart phone. Upgrade these items if you think it is overdue and also you may need to buy a web camera if using a desktop computer.
3. **Your meeting needs:** Sorting out how your Rotary meetings are meant to work when you're not face to face can be a bit of a headache. Make sure there is an agenda for the meeting and think about utilising other forms of club communication like a private club Facebook group or club Whatsapp group chat.
4. **Software:** There are many online meeting products like skype, google hangouts or the popular Zoom video meeting software. Work out which low cost product best suits your clubs needs and encourage your members to sign up and download the software. In many cases it is free to use and as a side note Rotary International has a 20% discount on Zoom through the global rewards program.
5. **Data Usage:** Be sure to check your current home internet connection and mobile phone data plans. Consider price and data speed of your current plan as you may find you will be using a bit more of your internet data than what you're previously used to. But if you binge watch Netflix all night and use your phone for Facebook all day then you are probably on the right data plan.
6. **Engagement:** This is the most important tip. The world is changing so rapidly and we don't know when this crisis will pass, so as far as your club is concerned stay engaged with it.

This may be all new to you meeting online, but we need to embrace this change, stay engaged and keep the wheels of Rotary turning.

As Paul Harris said "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

ROTARY COORDINATORS' TEAM

2019-20 ZONE 8

Zone 8; Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands

9455, 9465, 9500, 9520, 9550, 9570, 9600, 9630, 9640, 9650, 9670, 9675, 9685, 9700, 9710, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9970, 9980

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All past editions of the "Rotary on the Move" Newsletter can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)

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