



Neil Murray

Newsletter No. 1 - 2023-24

Governor Introduction

Kia ora koutou,

How are you? How are you really?

I have learned to start my Rotary correspondence with these questions. Why? Because in his theme address RI World President Gordon McInally urged all of us to recognize mental health issues in ourselves, in our families, and in our clubs. We all face daily challenges and need to end the stigma associated with asking for help. In so doing we promote change; we create hope in each other, and we **Create Hope in the World**.

I find RIP Gordon's theme to be both aspirational and inspirational, indicative of the type of person he is. He is a genuine and sincere Scotsman, who really knows what he is talking about. My hope (there is that 'h' word again) is that we can get him to N.Z. so Rotarians here can experience a true leader-close up and personal! He said he would come if there was a decent game of rugby to watch. Maybe we could all meet in Paris for that in a few weeks!

For me this year, the New Year started on 1 July when Governor Matt McLeod handed over the chains of office. Let me say they are heavy! I must thank Matt for his encouragement and support of me along the way. For the most part his team is my team. Thanks Matt-and his team-for a job well done. One of the team, AG Vicky Douglas, became D9910 Rotarian of the Year in recognition of her contribution to Rotary and her Kerikeri community. Congratulations Vicky, you are Rotary taonga.

Following our District changeover, I hit the road, participating in several club changeovers which went on well into July. I enjoyed joining in those changeovers of the North Harbour, East Coast Bays, Bay of Islands, Takapuna, Westhaven, Whangarei South and Kerikeri clubs. At changeovers we hear all about club accomplishments during the year, the big ones and the little ones, the notable ones and the unheralded ones. I met so many dedicated Rotarians and admit to being overwhelmed by the numerous achievements and projects of clubs carried out in support of their communities. Of course, there is much fun and fellowship at these changeovers.

Shortly after, I started my club visits. I will report on these at a later time. Already I have experienced a couple of real highlights. I had the pleasure of inducting two new members into the Dargaville Club. Equally it was an emotional moment for all of us to award Steve Wilce a PHF for his years of service to his Kaikohe community. So, the starters gun has been fired and we're off! To quote RIP Gordon-

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "sense and worth, over all the earth". This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you. Let us build peace now within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and **Create Hope in the World**.

Nga mihi nui.

Neil Murray

Neil Murray
Governor - District 9910
2023-2024



*Looks like a duck,
quacks like a duck.....*

Maungaturoto Rotary Club member Tim is a bit of a character. He found a piece of wood that was unusually shaped.

He brought along to the DG's club visit and for a minute I thought he was going to raffle it off.

Instead, he put it on my table and named it Neil for the night. Hopefully, it has now disappeared up the chimney. The raffle turned out to be a slick card game. Too slick. No one won it!

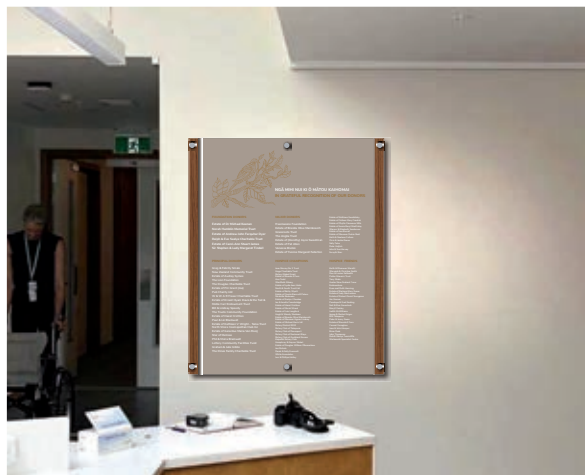
Harbour Hospice

“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.” - Dame Cicely Saunders.

On Saturday 24 June I attended the official opening of the refurbished Harbour Hospice in Shea Terrace Takapuna (by North Shore Hospital), along with 200 people including many Rotarians. The \$20m project has been two years in the making and has resulted in 15 patient rooms, family, and whanau areas with two bedrooms, along with specialist counselling, therapy and training rooms.

Hospice on the North Shore was founded 40 years ago. I was brought up in a medical family and have always been aware of the pioneer volunteers among the profession most of whom associated with Rotary. Indeed, the service to Hospice of individual Rotarians such as Wilf Marley, Harry Cranefield (Milford), and Ann Tod (Auckland) over the years has been outstanding. Hospice has acknowledged the contributions of all Rotarian volunteers with a large sign in the waiting room.

At the same time, the individual clubs who donated to the Hospice cause over the last two years, some purchasing medical equipment with the assistance off their District Dedicated Funds, are noted on the Harbour Hospice Honours Board. For many people at the opening this was an emotional occasion.



Ann Tod (Chair Hospice Foundation-Auckland Rotary, Geoff Pownall (Takapuna) DGE Jenn Wong , DG Neil Murray , Barbara Morgan (President Takapuna Rotary)



Barbara Morgan (President Takapuna), DG Neil, Ann Tod (Chair Hospice, Auckland Rotary), DGE Jenn Wong. Jan Nichols (CEO Harbour Hospice)

Muna 2023

The Annual MUNA - Model United Nations Assembly 2023 was held at Auckland Girl's Grammar School. Each school can send up to a maximum of four teams to the Assembly, they are encouraged to dress in an appropriate national costume reflecting the country they represent and present in the role of the allocated country. Each team must prepare two 2 minute speeches and also research their country to be prepared for impromptu debates and discussions.

Students do not get the opportunity to choose their 'country' it is allocated to them.

MUNA was again organised by Jan Malcolm and her team from Rotary Downtown 9920 45 Schools participated of which sixteen schools were from District 9910 - Birkenhead College, Glenfield College, Hobsonville Point SS, Kamo High, Keri Keri High, Kristin School, Mahurangi College, Onehunga High, Orewa College, Rosmini College, Springbank School, Takapuna Grammar, Wentworth College, Westlake Boy's High, Westlake Girl's High and Whangarei Boyd High

The prize winners were

Best overall country representation - Poland, Selwyn College
Best Team Costume Kuwait, De La Salle College
Team with the most depth of content - New Zealand, MacLeans College
Team who stood up the most pressure - Belarus, Michael Park School
Team with best UN knowledge - Russia, Westlake Boy's High
Best contributor to the Security Council - Annabelle (Ghana), MacLeans College
Runner up to the most engaging speaker - Alex (USA) Hobsonville Point
Most engaging speaker - Thailand Marque De La Salle College
Runner up best team overall - Russia, Westlake Boy's High
Best team overall - Burundi , Westlake Girl's High

As one of the four judges, I gave Jan Malcolm a commitment to promote next years MUNA to District 9910

Robert Schroder PHF Past President Rotary Browns Bay



Welcome / Maere Mai / Bienvenue / Welkam



Names as at 28 June 2023 recorded in the RI database for those who joined Rotary District 9910 in the period 01 January-30 June 2023

Nigel Bioletti	Devonport	Nilda Brown	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Ali Paiman	Henderson-West Auckland (Satellite)	Deanna Cao	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Elaha Yousufi	Henderson-West Auckland (Satellite)	Xin Chu	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Alicia Alegado	Hillsborough, Lynfield, Mt Roskill <i>(now at Waitakere-Multicultural)</i>	Lita Lee Gallago	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Michelle Henley	Kaikohe	Emma Gribble	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Susan Hodgkinson	Mangawhai	Yun Lang	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Isobel Hollis	Mangawhai	Frieda Lee	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Ethel Whittaker	Mangawhai	Jasmine Li	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Shameen Hayat	Maungakiekie	Edgardo Canada Lozano	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Mereani (Annie) Triffitt	Norfolk Island	Mila Manuel	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Julie Valencia	North Harbour	Xue Mo	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Frederic De Maneville	Nouméa	Kamla Prakash	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Gaetan Varillon	Nouméa	Talia Rhind	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Damien Rey	Nouméa	Amrita Sharma	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Louison Rovani	Nouméa Ducos Boulari	Candi Soo	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Arina Moore	Orewa-Millwater	Jacqueline Williams	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Howard Moore	Orewa-Millwater	Aileen Yan	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Jules Nye	Waipapa	Judy Yao	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Ruth Scandrett	Warkworth	Usha Yaoub	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Steve Matson	Whangaparaoa	Melody Yue	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
Eva Allsop	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)	Junyl Zhang	Waitakere-Multicultural (Satellite)
		Anne Sweeney	Whangarei

These people have transferred between clubs or are returnees to Rotary or District 9910

NAME	CURRENT CLUB	PREVIOUS CLUB
Robyn Langdon	Bay of Islands	Rangiora (9999)
Colin Robinson	Bay of Islands	St Johns (9920)
Fred Nye	Henderson	Henderson
Nitin Gupta	Norfolk Island	Canberra North (9705)
Roza Bayno	Takapuna	Makati San Miguel (3830)
Nick Robertson	Takapuna	Palmerston North (9940)
Monique Swanepoel	Whangarei City	Whangarei City
Colin Paterson	Whangarei	Kaikohe

Rotary Day of Action

Rotary Day of Action is set down for Saturday 23 September. It is at the end of Clean Up NZ week (see online). If you have a large project your club can register and obtain disposable rubbish bags which are available to Rotary as an NPO. Last year 655 tonnes of waste were collected over an area equivalent to 5.751 rugby fields).

Every club in the District is asked to be seen in their communities organising or carrying out clean-up projects. These might be picking up litter in your own village communities or cleaning the beach. After the cyclone and the storms, do not forget the junk in estuaries, the streams, and the ponds. Encourage our schools and our kids to join us-and make sure you are seen in your Rotary vis jackets.

Variety is the spice of life

Where would you rather be?

Well, you can take your pick at the Bay of Islands Rotary Club. The Club meets at the Sandspit Pool Bar in Paihia in a very relaxed way amid the clink of glasses and the occasional call of "make it a double".

After the meeting Rotarians move next door to dinner at the Hideout. The very friendly spot is owned by Club secretary Donna and her husband Terry.

Cheers, where everyone knows your name.

Hawkes Bay Recovery Project

With feelings of apprehension, a little excitement, a big dose of empathy, loads of enthusiasm and courage we met up on our first day of the Hawkes Bay Recovery Project.

The drive down the day before had led us through the Esk Valley, and we got our first glimpse at the path the deluge had taken, bowling over everything in its path and leaving behind devastation and despair and the picture of nature at its most destructive. We had seen it on the news but being in the middle of it was a surreal feeling.

What once was a lush green landscape, with vines and trees weighted with fruit, now a barren silt covered land, with the tops of the fruit trees peeping out from under meters of silt as if gasping for their last breath of fresh air.

The Hawkes Bay Recovery Project was born out of a group idea at the 9910 District Conference in April. The brief being come up with Project idea to help victims of the recent Cyclone Gabrielle in the Hawkes Bay. These were pitched to a panel of judges based on the Dragons Den idea, with questions being asked and ideas scrutinized.

There was a lot of good ideas, and the team made up of Anna Wallace/ Westhaven, Michael Hill/ Henderson, Ian Clouston / Browns Bay and Nadia Lehmann / Bay of Islands took out the top spot and the very real prize money of \$10,000.00.

Fast forward a few months of planning and discussions, and the first group of people heading to Hawkes Bay 18-21 August 2023.

Friday morning, our first day. My thoughts are a bit in turmoil as we are not 100% sure what the days of helping here will entail. All will be revealed once we meet up on site at 09:30 and have our briefing for the day. We have been in touch with Martha, who leads the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team, over the last few weeks. It all sounds very organized and efficient, and everything is done with the deepest respect to the homeowners. It will be great to meet her and her team.

What a day. I think we were eased into it gently. Some of the jobs were light duties that most people could easily do. Shoveling silt from a work Bay and collecting pipe brackets as you find them. Another job was clearing the fence wires of dried grass and silt, and then collecting the wire before the digger removed the fence posts. There was much conversing, as people got to know each other and how they had gotten to the area to help. The site we were at today had the owner's business on the property so they were keen to get the work bay tidied up and running again.

Rotarian Michael Hope from Henderson, "Once you personally see the devastation wrought by the floods in Esk Valley, Napier - you are reminded of news photos of a war zone. You are called to action to help the families whose homes and lives have been trashed. Please get a group together and come to Hawkes Bay to help. Much of the work requires willing workers not afraid of some labour to help the most deserving in our country. With the planting season around the corner, it's vital we get this community on its feet and back in their homes. These families need a spring of re-settlement and new growth and healing".

Saturday saw a big group of fifty volunteers made up of about twenty Rotarians from six different clubs, including Laurence the Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Germany based at one of the local clubs, about a dozen guys from the Centurian Motorbike Club down for their third visit and two of the local bible study groups.

At lunch time that day I looked around the crowd of helping hands- different ages, abilities, backgrounds, and I was overcome with the sheer size of this undertaking, the sheer despair and hardship these homeowners are living through and the sheer goodwill and willingness that people have shown and have come forward to help. This was huge in all aspects.

As my eyes welled up with tears, I took myself to the far side of the house and looked out through the broken window, the bits of gib hanging on in threads, clinging on to the edges to what were once rooms filled with colour, love and laughter, and now just seeing silt mountains around the house. My sympathies, my admiration, my encouragement to all those effected.

We got a lot done that day, including starting on a new property where the silt was still high up in the rooms. The clearing of cupboards revealed personal items which would have to be discarded and taken to the landfill as they were beyond recovery. That day we also met with the homeowners that had lived there for 30 years, we hear some of their stories and can match the little plastic toys found on top of a meter of silt to the grandson's bath time favorites. Their dog accompanies them and we match her up with the ball thrower we found earlier. It takes a lot of courage and strength for the homeowners to return and see what is left of their once-four walls filled with memories and family life created and cherished over the past years.

That Saturday evening, we went for a meal with the local Rotarians and had a few hours of Rotary comradery. Early planning had put us in touch with Stuart Knauf, from the Stortford Lodge Rotary Club



in District 9930 and he was our contact on the ground in the setting up of where we would go to help. Stuart has been instrumental in pointing us in the direction of Martha Taonui and her team. Thanks Stuart, you are a legend and we look forward to developing those future projects and plans we talked about.

Sunday saw a few sore shoulders, but you put this to one side and think this is a chance to help for a few hours/days, and what you are doing does make a difference. The hours flew by, busy hands know no time and by four o'clock, the usual finish time, we were pretty proud of what the last two days had accomplished in the one house. That evening we went for a HBRP dinner and drank the bottle of bubbles we had received at the Conference. It seemed fitting to drink it whilst there with our group that had travelled from 9910.

Our last day saw us 'finish off a house' - this is the final clearing to be done. The basement was our target and although we were a small team of us out of town Rotarians, we were also joined by a couple, Natasha and Reubin on their fifth visit from Putāruru. They come down to help when they can and Tash had made a delicious cake and spring rolls for lunch.

Note-morning tea and lunches were awesome, most of the goodies had been donated by helpers or dropped off by local businesses. The goodwill showed no end and if you go to Hawkes Bay to help, which I'm sure some of you will, no need to take any food for during the day unless you want to do some home-baking or donate to share.

Monday Mid-afternoon, day four - it was time to head back to our homes, our intact homes, with everything inside as we left it. You feel like you don't want to leave as there is so much more to do. The road takes us back to our reality, with our thoughts on those carrying on, to help the ones that need it.

"It was surreal coming back home, knowing what we had left behind. My life has changed, I see things differently now. Not only do my thoughts go to the homeowners but also to Martha and her team. She is a gem. She came south from Kaitia a few weeks after the Cyclone and has stayed, set up the Team and I feel like all of us working together we have created a new family. Everyone got on, we chatted a bit whilst we worked, we supported each other, we looked out for one another. We kept each other safe and we helped where we could. Everyone to their best ability and as volunteers. I am proud of what we have done in the name of Rotary, very proud. - "Nadia Lehmann, Project group.

"I must say I was wishing I was putting on my steel caps instead of my stilettos, my high vis rather than my suit jacket and picking up my shovel rather than my laptop. Fair to say a bit of cultural readjustment is required even after four days" - Anna Wallace, Project Lead

"Unless you have seen this up close and personal you won't believe it. Every Rotarian should come to the Hawkes Bay and help" - PDG Matt McLeod. Instigator of the Dragons Den Challenge / District 9910 Conference.

Please get in touch with either Anna or Nadia if you have a group that wants to go and help or even if it's just yourself. Every pair of hands is an extra pair of hands helping. Some time out of your life makes a difference in their lives. Thank you

District 9910 first team

Anna Wallace/Westhaven
Ian Wallace/Anna's Dad
Nadia Lehmann /Bay of Islands
Matt McLeod/Henderson
Michael Hope/ Henderson
Marty Smith/Birkenhead
nadialehmann.rotary@hotmail.com





Rotary
Districts
of Oceania



ROMAC
Rotary Oceania
Medical Aid
for Children

Committee Roles available

Join the ROMAC team to make a difference for children of the Pacific

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) provides surgical treatment for children in Australia and New Zealand from developing countries from our Pacific region in the form of life giving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country.

After Covid delays, ROMAC have now restarted bringing children to New Zealand for treatment. So we are starting to get busy again and would value the support of some new people to join our wonderful committee of volunteers.

Our first child Taufa, a young boy from Tonga, and his mother Kalesita arrived on 19 March.



NZ Ops Manager Sue Smith, mother Kalesita, father Taufa Snr holding Taufa & NZ Chair Peter Garnett

Taufa's cardiac operation was successful, his recovery quicker than expected and they were able to fly home to Tonga on 13 April. Our second patient Apakuki from Fiji, accompanied by his mother Litea, arrived on 23 April. He is scheduled to have his cardiac procedure early in June. We are currently working through arrangements for six children from Vanuatu to come to Starship for cardiac surgery. With the first, Junior Tari, due to arrive on 9 June.

Our ROMAC New Zealand Committee is seeking expressions of interest from Rotarians (or partners) who are domiciled in metropolitan Auckland to join our committee in one of the following roles:

- ROMAC D9910 Liaison Person
- Committee Secretary
- ROMAC photographer

If you would be interested in undertaking one of these roles please contact:

PDG Peter Garnett, Chair NZ Region ROMAC

Email: newzealand@romac.org.au

Mobile 027 220 5137

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Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Orientation weekend

Our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Orientation weekend was held at Marsden Bay Youth Camp on August 5th & 6th at One Tree Point in Ruakaka . After three years in remission our programme is back on track!

This large group event on the RYE calendar is organised each year by our D9910 RYE committee, including Jan Hewitt (Sunrise) Sean Harris (East Coast Bays) Jenn Wong and Neil Murray (Takapuna) and myself Sandra Woods (Whangarei City).

We welcomed additional support this year from our police vetting specialist Rachel Hill and our Youth Protection Officer Robert Barnes. We also appreciated the leadership and “mahi” of our Rotex (ex-exchange) students Louis Hewitt-Collins who went to Chile & Gabe Schoonderwoerd (Whangarei City) who went to Switzerland. Both willingly giving back to a programme because it is “the best year of your life”.

Orientation weekends are a mandatory RI initiative held worldwide to focus on preparing outbound students (along with their parents) for their year long exchange and “Orientating” newly arrived overseas students to their new country.

We had 8 excited NZ outbound students aged 15-17 (& parents) attend our two day camp along with our 6 newly arrived (inbound) students beginning their year long exchange in New Zealand .

Our newly arrived inbounds enjoying their host families & sharing their stories with Clubs around our District are;

- Sidone from France (Kerikeri Rotary)
- Mathis from Germany (Warkworth Rotary)
- Irene from Spain (Sunrise Rotary)
- Lars from Switzerland (Mangawhai Rotary)
- Clara from Sweden (East Coast Bays)
- Maisa from Finland (Devonport Rotary).

All our students entertained the masses with a talent quest concert on Saturday evening (we have a few musicians) following a traditional kiwi roast dinner and a new pavlova experience for some! On Sunday we welcomed a record number of Councillors & Presidents this year to our information session who stayed and enjoyed Sunday lunch with us all.

Sincere thank you to all those Clubs & members, Committees, Rotex & extended families who are lending a hand to support these amazing young people on their year long journey!

Sandra Woods

Rotary Youth Exchange Chairperson
D9910 New Zealand
sandra.rotary9910@gmail.com



Irene (Spain) and Maisa (Finland)
discovering Hokey Pokey ice cream and Pavlova !



Lars perform at our concert his French horn talent he brought with him from Switzerland!



DG Neil offers his RYE year advice (as a Rotex) in his address to the students.



DG Neil with our 2023 inbounds and our 2024 outbound RYE students

Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot

Update for clubs and members,
August 2023



From (now):



To (opportunity):

Small local projects connecting
through personal contacts for local impact.

Collaboration

Multi district collaboration. Large scale projects.
Large scale noticeable and measurable impact.
National and regional partnerships.

Local and/or internal audience with limited reach.
So, people don't know who we are, what we do.

One voice

External audience. Large scale campaigns.
National media. Wide reach.
Partnerships.

Local support that's geographically based.
Specialist expertise is difficult
to access and not readily visible.

Club support

Clubs at the heart. Elected, motivating leadership.
Connect clubs through affinity and commonality.
Support for new membership models.
Access to specialist support and partners.

Duplication of processes.
Multiple and independent communications
making information difficult to find.

Efficiency and technology

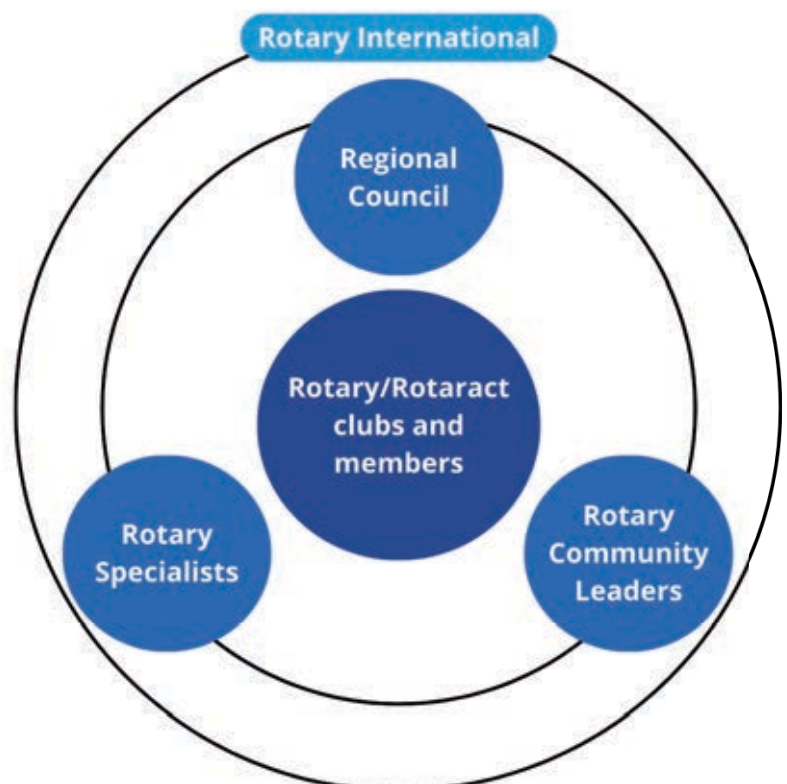
Automation of common processes.
Common technology and better use.
Ready access to information.
Support for small clubs. Reduced costs.

Traditional ways of operating.
Too dependent on individuals.
Annual turnover of leaders.

Innovation and adaptation

More support for new ideas.
More leadership than management/administration.
Adapt to new trends of volunteering.
Longer term planning and roles.

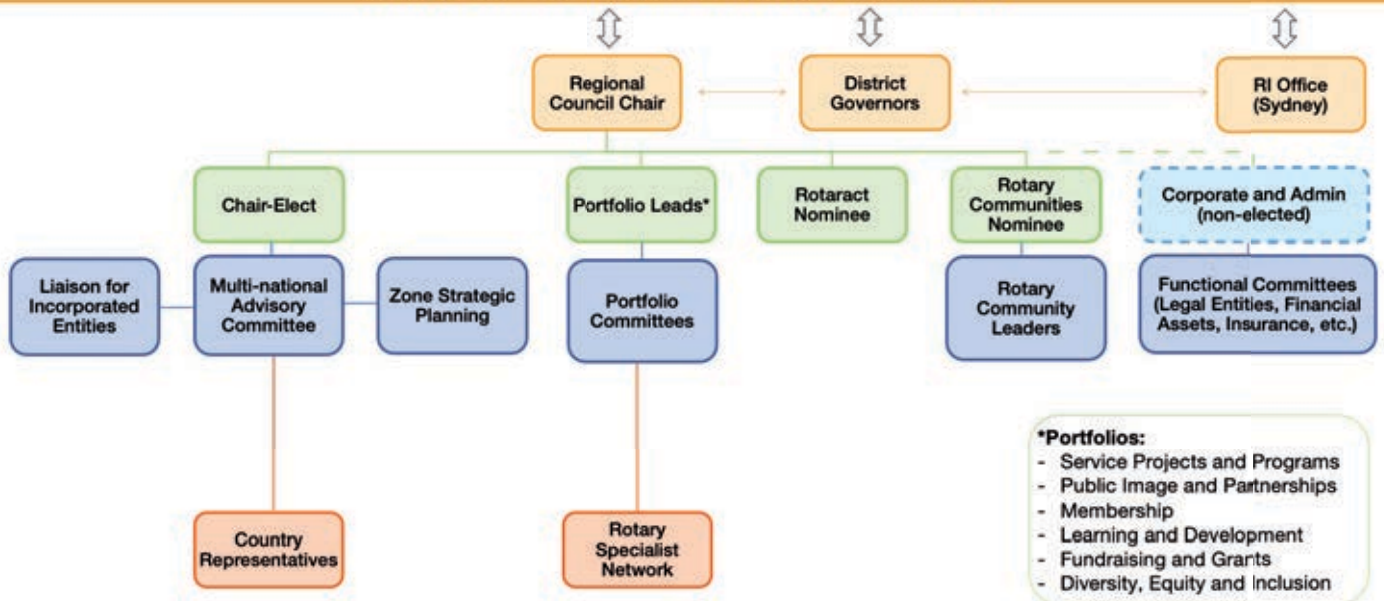
Proposed Regional Model



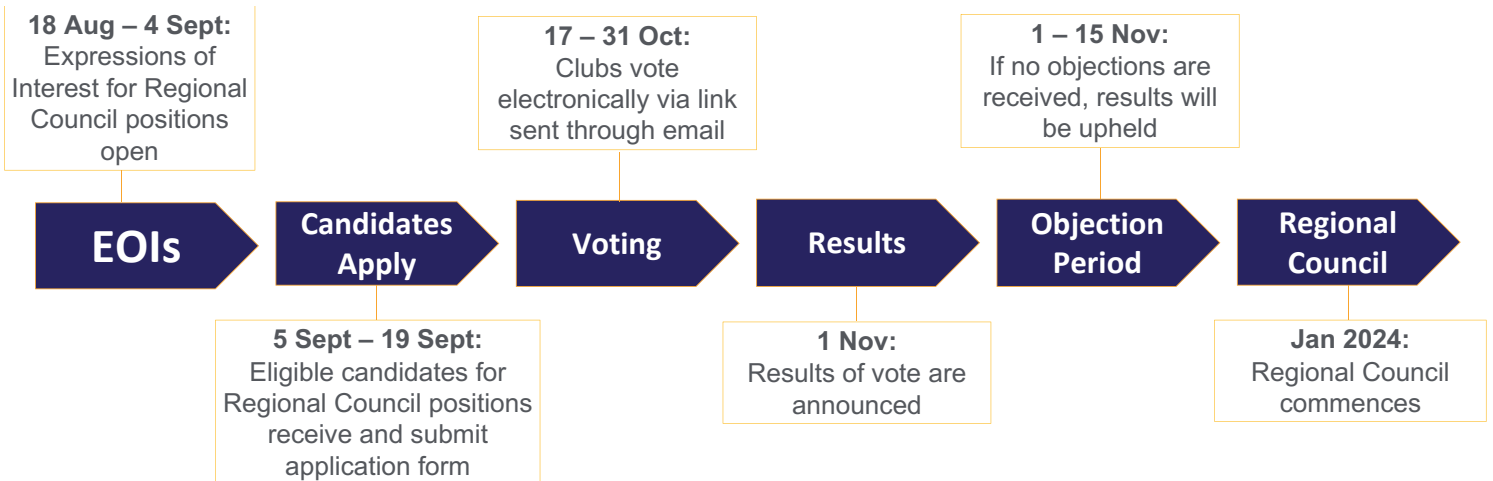
Pilot operating model

Regional Council structure

Rotary International (and The Rotary Foundation)



Regional Council election timeline



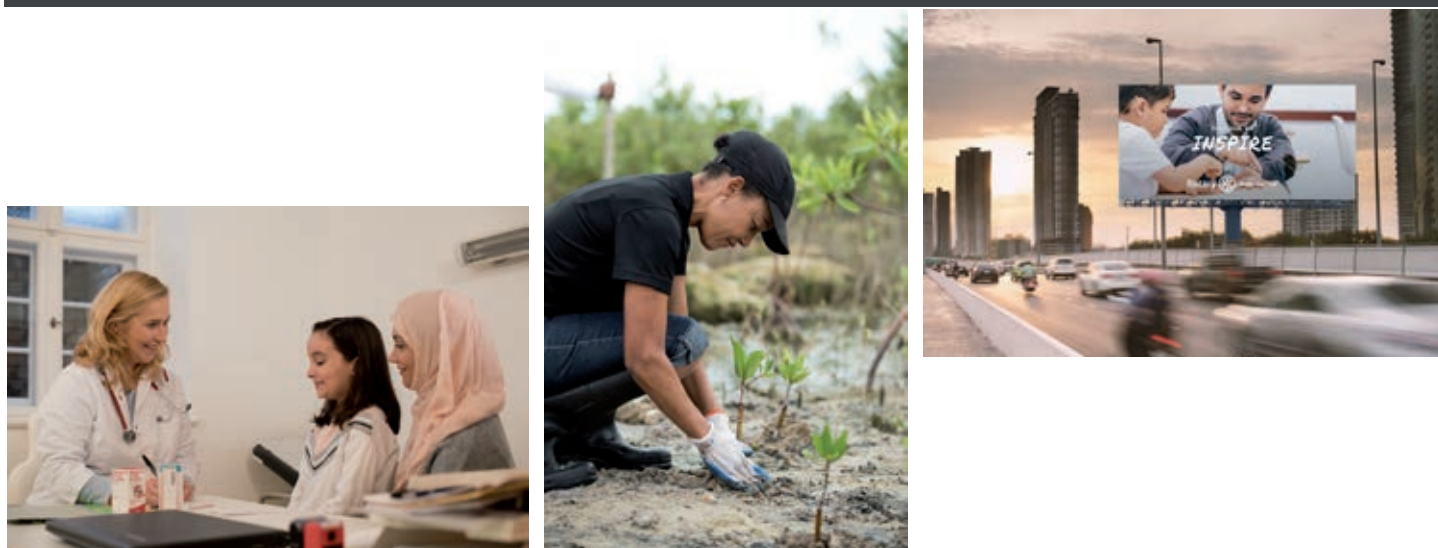
Rotary Community Groups (RCGs) and Leaders (RCLs)

- A new way of grouping clubs based on commonalities such as:
 - Geography e.g. a large area of spread-out clubs, a smaller area of close clubs
 - Type of club e.g. e-Clubs
 - Shared language e.g. French-speaking clubs
- RCGs can meet in person, online or a combination of both, and choose how often they meet
- Clubs can also nominate a secondary grouping that will operate through online networks across the Zone
 - Potential groupings include environment, youth, DEI, etc

Rotary Community Groups (RCGs) and Leaders (RCLs)

- Each RCG will elect their own RCL to facilitate their group and provide/access support for clubs
- Rotary Community Leaders will support clubs to:
 - Establish larger scale partnerships
 - Increase community impact
 - Build a higher public profile
 - Attract new club members
 - Increase club member engagement and satisfaction

Rotary Community Group Collaboration



Rotary Community Groups (RCGs) and Leaders (RCLs) timeline



For more information

The Creating Tomorrow website is being updated regularly. For more information on the latest progress of the Regionalisation Pilot, visit CreatingTomorrowRotary.org

International Conference Melbourne 2023

Day 1 from Melbourne:

13,000 Rotarians with 50 members of District 9910 have arrived in Melbourne for Rotary International Convention.

Each and everyone of us have been inspired to imagine how we make the world a better place!

Key highlights include; District dinner on Saturday, opening ceremony where RI President Jennifer Jones motivated and empowered us to imagine the future of Rotary and the legacy we leave.

We've been treated to fabulous and incredible guest speakers including Hugh Evans from Global Citizen, 10 yr poet Nakeeyat Dramani Sam from Ghana and John Hewko (General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International).

One of the best speakers to date has been Leymah Gbowee 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate and Founder of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, who captured our hearts and minds of her stories to create peace. "Peace is not the absence of war it is the presence of conditions that dignify all of us" and we've learnt about positive peace.

Positive Peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies and Rotary is leading this in communities and countries across the world.

With more exciting sessions, breakout sessions and the incredible house of friendship it's all go in Melbourne!!



Literacy in Rotary

Literacy plays a central role in this year's Rotary international theme "Create hope in the World".

Without reading one cannot actively participate in job seeking, getting a drivers' license, read labels on medicine bottles, help with a child's homework, or even readily participate on social media. Poor reading skills can result in lack of self-esteem, poverty, unemployment and even incarceration.

D9910 is one of the few Districts in New Zealand, in fact one of the few in the world to run a Literacy Committee. In response to one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, the promotion of literacy and numeracy among all people in the world, District Governor Bob Baird established the committee in the 1990s. Bob was a school principal so had a good idea of the importance of literacy.

Under his initial guidance a committee of about 15 Rotarians from a variety of backgrounds was established and is still working strongly today. The group meets every 3 months either in person or by Zoom and the committee chair provides a formal report to each of the District Management Committee meetings.

The aim of the committee is to improve literacy in our District and nationally.

Over the years the committee has undertaken a wide variety of programmes. Our current ones include support for the provision of illustrated dictionaries to schools and individual students, support for the Duffy books in Homes programme, support for an environmental programme of Maori and Western Science especially in the flora of the Far North of New Zealand, and support for the Vanuatu Little Stars Summer School. We have also established an International link with BELRAG, the Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group.

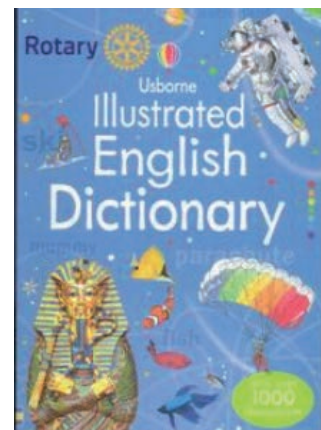
The Committee is preparing to expand its areas of interest to include promoting a wider understanding of dyslexia, and supporting the promotion of mental well-being among children to help their understanding of literacy and thereby enjoying their learning.

We have also recently set up at [Facebook Page: Rotary District 9910 Literacy and Basic Education](#). Please feel free to join and share any ideas you have to promote literacy and similar.

The Literacy Committee is keen to answer any questions you may have about our work and any enquiries about membership of the committee.

Written by Geof Chamberlain, Chair for the District Literacy Committee

Nadia -District Literacy Committee Member
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It's all relative

At the Governor's visit to the Kaikohe Rotary Club the vote of thanks was given by its most senior member, Bruce Killen (93). Bruce does not miss a beat. Before coming to Rotary, he had checked the farm and done a bit of work. At his side was his beloved wife, Elizabeth-and you never ask a woman her age, right? (OK, I did). Guess what! They met and married while at the Kaikohe Rotary Club. Just to balance the books, the newest member of the Club is Michelle Henley (32), President Liz' daughter. Michelle's children Heaven, Lilly and Jacko (5) waited on tables and brought much joy to the room.

Rotary Down Under (RDU)

Rotary Down Under (RDU) recently called for nominations for its Council following the stepping down of PDG Jennie Herring (D9920) after two full three-year terms of service on the Council. Jennie has represented RDU Group 1 which comprises RI Districts 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940 and 9999. We are indebted to Jennie representing our interests.

In Jennie's place Liz Courtney (D9930) was elected as Councillor for Group 1 and will take up office following the RDU AGM in November. Most Rotarians will have met Liz at PETS and SPPEDS. She is well known to us through her roles in Learning and Development. We wish Liz every success in her new leadership role which, no doubt, will continue to enhance the public image of all Rotarians and clubs in our District.

Need the Month Theme for your Club Facebook Page?

Did you know each month in the Rotary year has a theme?

Check out the table below or in My Rotary at <https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/calendar>

Are you envious of clubs that have a cool photo on the club's Facebook page of that month's theme?








If you're not a graphic design genius, don't know how to use Canva and want to make life easier for yourself go to this page on the district website.

<https://rotarydistrict9910.org/page/rotary-month-themes>

Here you will find downloadable versions of a photo for each Rotary Month Theme that can be used as the cover photo on the club Facebook page.

Remember to change it each month!!!!

Rotary Foundation
Area of Focus

Month	Theme	Month	Theme
July	Maternal and Child Health 	January	Vocational Service
August	Membership and New Club Development	February	Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention 
September	Basic Education and Literacy 	March	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 
October	Community Economic Development 	April	Environment 
November	Rotary Foundation	May	Youth Service
December	Disease Prevention and Treatment 	June	Rotary Fellowships

MAY 26, 2023

THE RANGITOTO OBSERVER PAGE 11

Rotarians provide sensory kits for Wilson School

Takapuna Rotarians have led the way in a project helping students of the Wilson School in Hauraki.

Through its own efforts and by encouraging other Rotary branches to help out it, the Takapuna group has been able to support the North Shore students with special education needs by providing 17 sensory kits.

These included noise-cancelling headphones, fidget toys and weighted blankets that can be used for their calming effect on students with conditions such as autism.

Wilson School principal Neil Kefford welcomed the support at a presentation event last week.

Rotary club president Barbara Morgan and member Marilyn Glover – herself a former Takapuna president who served for many years as chair of the school's board of trustees – were among those who attended.

Glover said it was satisfying to be able to help. Since moving from Takapuna to Northbridge Retirement Village in Northcote, she has activated a team of knitters there to help make woollen items that have been supplied to the school. These included balls, glove puppets and teddy bears in different coloured jumpers.

"When you've got a child on the autism spectrum who finds it difficult to communicate, they can hold up a teddy," she explained. The colour chosen could be used by the children to convey different emotions.

Glover said she had always been interested in special needs, having had family members living with disabilities.

For Morgan, a retired teacher, working with schools is something she wants Takapuna Rotary to do more of, partly as a way of bridging the generations and encouraging new members.

At Takapuna Primary, Rotary helped with



Dynamic duo... Rotarian Marilyn Glover (left) and Takapuna Rotary president Barbara Morgan spearheaded helping Wilson School

reading prizes and maintenance on the school's memorial gates, she said.

It had also begun working with the independent Age School in Takapuna, and had other schools nominated for its assistance from time to time.

Glover's knitters are being kept busy on another project she spearheads – providing baby items to hospitals.

The women told the Observer they were keen to do more with the Wilson School,

having reactivated an association built by Glover in its early years when Takapuna Rotary helped fundraise to build a playground.

Members had also helped with gardens on the site, which is shared with the Wilson Trust and the rehabilitation-focused Wilson Centre.

For the sensory kits, financial support also came from Rotary branches in Milford, Devonport, East Coast Bays and Birkenhead, along with the Rotary Trust.

In total, \$8700 was raised.

Great clubs don't happen by accident!

This is an ad for the recently updated Membership Assessment Tools. It's aimed at club leaders and highlights how we need to be intentional about providing members with a great club experience.

It can be used within your club or at an event such as Club Leaders Assembly or PETS, as a giveaway.

Go to the links below to download the full A4 version and use the QR code to take you straight to the tools. The tools now include an entry interview.

[ENGLISH VERSION](#)

[FRENCH VERSION](#)

GREAT CLUBS DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT

Be intentional about providing your members with a great club experience.

Our **MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOLS** can help you get started.



Get to know new and prospective members with the member interest survey.



Identify groups in your community that are underrepresented in your club using the diversity assessment.



Create a plan to invite more people to visit or join your club with the prospective member exercise.



Meet members where they're at in their membership journey using the retention assessment and analysis.



Learn what your members want and keep your club relevant with the member satisfaction survey.



Understand why members are leaving your club with the exit survey.



rotary.org/membership



Location No Barrier to Creation

The origins of District 9910's new satellite club came from a theme picked up at the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto. "Whatever works for your club, just do it."

Rotarians Desmond and Rose Foulger were inspired by learning at the convention, that many of the strictures of Rotary were removed. "That message," said Desmond, "together with our commitment to multiculturalism, helped in the formation of the new club."

For Rose, it started from a 'spur of the moment decision,' when she invited 15 of her friends to attend the Rotary Women in Leadership Breakfast, hosted by District 9910 and organised by Governor-Nominee Jenn Wong to celebrate International Women's Day.

Rotary featured in the speeches, from Governor Matt McLeod's introduction to the main speaker, Nicola Willis, Deputy Leader of the National Party. Nicola spoke about Leadership in her personal and career journey and her experiences with Rotary. This was accompanied by video clips and images showing what Rotary does, how it helps the community, including what has been achieved by Rotary Clubs and Rotarians around the world since its inception.

All this piqued the interest of Rose's friends and they asked her how to become a member of Rotary. "Initially I suggested they find the Rotary club in their area and attend one of their meetings, as they were from all over Auckland. I could see they were really

interested to do something for the community and passionate to help others, and knowing them, they wanted to work together and will only join if they are all in the same club. I thought, I cannot let this opportunity pass and I should get them into Rotary by any means.

Desmond and Rose got more information from the district on how to form a Satellite Club and Rose asked each of her friends if they would be willing to form a Rotary Satellite Club hosted by her and Desmond's club of Rotary Waitakere. In less than 24 hours they had 10 enthusiastic replies of 'Yes'!

The Foulgers are no strangers to organisation and logistics, with more than 30 years' experience in pageant management and project direction and they are the current franchise holders for Miss New Zealand Ltd. Whilst Rose was pulling together like-minded people to embrace a common cause, Desmond was handling the documentation and liaising with the parent club to update the club constitution to include a satellite.

Working alongside District Membership Chair, Elaine Mead and the Club and District Support (CDS) office, the strictures of geography were overcome and they were able to provide the opportunity for these members to enjoy the benefits of a Rotary club, despite living in various locations throughout Auckland.

The complete processes took less than two months, and two days after submitting the documentation, CDS advised the satellite club was established. In time for Governor Matt to present the Rotary Satellite Club of Waitakere Multicultural at the District Conference and induct nine of its fourteen charter members.



Governor Matt with some members of the new Rotary Satellite Club of Waitakere-Multicultural
Photo credit - [Lissa Photography](#)

LISSA
PHOTOGRAPHY

District Diary

6 September	DG Visit - Hillsborough, Lynfield, Mt Roskill Rotary
7 September	DG Visit - Whangaparaoa Rotary
11 September	DG Visit - Kaipatiki Rotary
13 September	DG Visit - Whangarei Rotary
15 September	RDU copy deadline for next month's magazine
17 September	Rotary Santo birthday (chartered 1974)
19 September	DG Visit - Milford Rotary Rotary Noumea Ducos Boulari birthay (chartered 1975) World Clean Up Day
23 September	D9910 Day of Action

24 September	Rotary Browns Bay birthday (chartered 1984)
25 September	DG Visit - Noumea Rotary National Science & Technology Forum applications due to District Co-ordinator Rotary Henderson - Douglas Pharmaceuticals Business Luncheon
26 September	DG Visit - Noumea Ouen Toro Rotary
27 September	DG VIsit - Noumea Ducos Boulari Rotary
28 September	Rotary Whangarei birthday (chartered 1925)
29 Sept - 1 Oct	Rotary Kaipatiki Book Fair
2 -8 October	Rotary Reconnect Week
5 October	DG Visit - Norfolk Island Rotary

Events

Events in the district can be found on the district website at the following link [District 9910 Diary](#)
- clubs who want their events here should send information/flyers to District Administrator,
district9910@gmail.com

District 9910 Launches PolioPlus Society

Rotary's number one priority remains the worldwide eradication of polio. The amazing progress made by Rotary and its partners towards eradicating polio is inspirational, but the job is not yet done. Raising the US\$50 million each year to obtain the maximum Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2-to-1 match is a challenge.

The PolioPlus Society is a new fundraising and recognition program that specifically supports PolioPlus and will be launched in our District in July 2023. The program began in Oregon, USA in 2012 and is now being used successfully by districts throughout North America, Brazil and The Philippines. Now, Rotary members and others in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands will have the opportunity to participate.

What is the PolioPlus Society?



To increase sustainable giving, the PolioPlus Society (PPS) encourages Rotary members and others to pledge at least NZ\$100 per year to the PolioPlus Fund until polio is eradicated from the face of the earth. Worldwide, there are now more than 5,000 PPS members contributing at least US\$2 a week, generating over half a million dollars annually.

The Society has been praised by Senior Rotary Leaders as a model for others to follow. Now, District leaders in Australia and New Zealand are looking at establishing

societies in each of our 21 districts.

Who administers the PolioPlus Society in our District?

Our PolioPlus Society will be managed by David Oliphant, in much the same way as the Centurion program (which focuses on giving to the Annual Fund). David will receive the application forms from members, organise members with PPS certificates and lapel pins, maintain a list of Society members and send out reminders as required.

How do I join the PolioPlus Society?

Joining our District's PPS is a simple two-step process.

- Firstly, you will need to complete the PolioPlus Society Commitment Form and send it to David Oliphant. The forms will be available soon.
- The second step is to make your contribution to the "PolioPlus Society" into District Rotary Foundation account 01-0125-0146572-00. Make sure you use your name, club and PolioPlus Society in the deposit notes.

Rotary members and their friends who join the Society will be honoured with a special lapel pin and a certificate, which will generally be presented at a club or district meeting. Your contributions will count toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition and Major Donor status and will be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation.

District Governors, Foundation Chairs and PolioPlus Chairs across our Zone are backing this initiative. Please consider joining your district's PolioPlus Society and encouraging your friends and colleagues to do the same until the world is declared polio-free by the World Health Organization.

RYLA 2023



This year we had 25 young people, who were sponsored by Rotary Clubs and Businesses, join us at the Muriwai Surf Club from April 30 to May 6. They were provided with an environment in which they could develop their leadership, team work and communication skills.

On arrival the delegates were all strangers and their anxiousness was evident. Quiet chatter and introductions followed then the formalities commenced with a mihi and karakia given by PG Jerry Norman and a welcome from RYLA Chair Peter Garnett and Camp Mother Fay Norman. The delegates found their rooms, a collection of bunk rooms with questionable mattresses, and friendships began to be forged.



Megan Diment opened the week with introducing the delegates to the DOPE – 4 Bird Personality Test which was created as a way for people to easily relate to the four personality categories. This was followed by an Action Education Group Spoken Word workshop. Our participants were challenged to complete their own piece of poetry.

Monday saw two delegate favourites Dr Malvinder Singh-Bains speak on her research into Huntington's Disease and her leadership role in this area and Robyn Fond who presented on Resilience and Dealing with Stress.

Other presenters were Dave Wild who presented on Futurism and Design Thinking, Gavin O'Connor on Conflict Management and Renee Solomon-Tauhinu on Cultural Leadership.

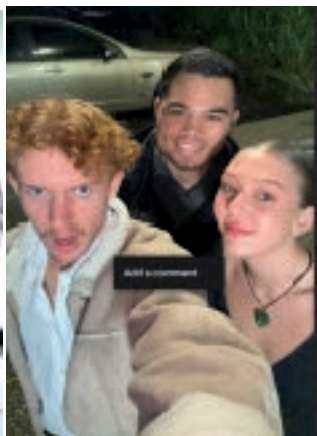
Cultural Perspective and writing their pepeha was led by Fay Norman and Personal Leadership and Public Speaking were presented by PG Peter Garnett. The history and workings of Rotary was presented by PG Elaine Mead.



Other activities across the week involved delegates challenging themselves to achieve "great heights" at Woodhill Tree Adventures. Tree Adventures is a tree-top challenge course offering an impressive range of suspended obstacles and ziplines.

Team building was introduced by way of teams being challenged to construct the tallest tower using only pasta, cello tape and marshmallows. This certainly led to some interesting discourse between members.

Dave Beachen led The Business Day which offered teams the opportunity to come up with a real scenario business case that would be presented at the end of the day to their mentors and fellow RYLA delegates. Five amazing cases were presented with 'Camp Whakapapa' being judged the winner. This cause focused on troubled youth and, along with their whanau, providing them with a camp where the focus would be on whakapapa and whanaungatanga (forming and maintaining relationships and strengthening ties between kin and communities). In order to change behaviours. Each year delegates are expected to participate in a social or environmental event. This year, under the guidance of local park rangers, our delegates planted 2,800 pingo and spinifex plants on the Muriwai sand dunes over a 2.5 hour period. The rangers were super impressed with their work ethic. A super evening of a dinner and concert attended by a number of Rotarians completed the week's event. Through raffle sales and a 'sergeant's session' the delegates raised \$460.00 plus with a RYLA top up to make it \$1000, the proceeds will go to their Charity of Choice – "Sweet Louise". Sweet Louise



provides practical, emotional and social support and services for New Zealanders living with incurable breast cancer. They provide the compassion and care people need to live as well as possible, for as long as possible.

Lunches and dinners were catered for by Paul Duncan and his catering company Anise. It was highly nutritious and delicious and rated as 'exceptional' by the delegates.

The week culminated on the final day, with an impressive and heartfelt presentation from Cam Calleon. The day ended with a presentation of certificates to the new Rylarian Alumni and a final karakia from Lucinda-Jay Te Whero.

Thanks must go to the presenters and the team who put RYLA 2023 together:- Peter Garnett – RYLA Chair, Michael Xiong and Fay Norman – RYLA Coordinator, Treasurer and 'Camp Mum', who all helped to make it the success it was. It has been a truly rewarding experience for all involved.



Chair and Administrator Roles

We are seeking volunteers to lead this important Rotary Leadership programme into the future .

Rotary Youth leadership Awards (RYLA) is a Rotary organised programme promoting youth leadership for young aspiring leaders aged 20 to 28. Since its inception in 1960, thousands of young people around the world have benefited from RYLA. Many have gone on to be outstanding leaders of their families, their businesses and the communities in which they live.

RYLA is one of D9910's leading youth programmes, which in recent years has been based at the Muriwai Surf Club.



RYLA 2023 participants

The programme receives excellent feedback from participants. Feedback from two 2023 participants:

"I don't know what I really expected other than developing leadership skills and, WOW, I was pretty blown away by the quality and how much we fit into the week"

"This was one of the best weeks of my life. I have made friends, memories and breakthroughs the entire week that will stay with me and influence me for the rest of my life."

Since 2020, the D9910 RYLA Chair has been PDG Peter Garnett, with wonderful administrative support by Fay Norman, both members of Rotary East Coast Bays. They have thoroughly enjoyed their experience with this important programme, however they are now seeking successors for their roles. Facilitating RYLA has evolved in recent years. Now one to two RYLarians from each cohort are invited to join the organising committee for a period of 3 years. They bring the perspective from their experience, provide feedback on the visiting speakers, provide ideas for new speaker and take turns in facilitating a day or a RYLA session.

The Chair leads the Committee, provides oversight for the programme, coordinates presenters and is on-site as the lead facilitator for the programme. The Administrator's role includes liaison with Rotary clubs providing participants, ensuring applications are provided in a timely manner, liaison with the Surf club and caterers and oversight of the financials.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from Rotarians who would be interested in supporting this outstanding youth programme. Peter and Fay will provide a handover and are prepared to be available in a support role for RYLA 2024.

If you would be interested in undertaking one of these roles please contact:

PDG Peter Garnett, Chair D9910 RYLA

Email: pgarnett.rotary@gmail.com

Mobile 027 220 5137

INTERPLAST & ROTARY A GOOD NEWS STORY FOR 40 YEARS

When Spencer was just 2 years old, his family experienced a terrible house fire in the middle of the night.

Spencer was rescued from his home by bystanders but, tragically, his grandmother and baby sister passed away. Spencer's left arm and both feet were badly burnt in the fire and, over the years, the burns formed thick, contracted scars on Spencer's body.

Children with severe burns require complex care to prevent their scars from tightening and forming contractures as they grow. Without medical attention, these scar contractures can be very debilitating, and will restrict the movement of the affected body part by thickening, and tightening and pulling the surrounding skin together. Across the Asia Pacific region, children with burns scar contractures cannot play properly, and struggle to participate fully in the daily life of their family and community. Simple movements such as walking, running or carrying things can be painful, and for some, impossible.

With both visual disfigurement and physical disabilities caused by the contractures, burns survivors can face bullying and ostracization from other children and members of their community. And the duty of care which falls on one or more parents or relatives can have a profound impact on the rest of the patient's family.

On their recent trip to Vaiola Hospital, in Tonga's capital city of Nuku'alofa, Interplast volunteer surgeons Dr Graham Sellars and Dr David Morgan, alongside local general surgeon Dr Alamea Aholelei, were able to operate on Spencer. They released the contractures to his left arm and right foot using a skin graft from his inner thigh.

The successful surgery will have a major impact on Spencer's immediate future and that of his family. Interplast's Dr David Morgan explained to Spencer's uncle (who has taken over the role of Spencer's parent), that because of the surgery, Spencer will now be able *"to play, and catch, and go to school and do all those sorts of normal things"*.

Importantly, the Interplast team will continue to support Dr Aholelei to continue to develop her clinical skills in plastic and reconstructive surgery, so that she can undertake some of the local burns cases herself. *"I'm always excited to assist in these kinds of cases to learn new techniques and help make a difference in people's lives."*



Spencer with his uncle after surgery

Interplast being able to help Spencer have more function to his hand and leg is a light at the end of the tunnel for this child" Dr Aholelei said.

Since 1983, when Rotarians co-founded Interplast, Rotarians and Rotary Clubs have raised significant funds to support Interplast in repairing bodies and rebuilding lives. Forty years of critical support for life-changing surgeries in Asia Pacific countries have seen incredible results for children like Spencer, and their families.

Rotary Clubs of District 9920 were instrumental in the funding of this visit to Tonga. A sincere thank you to all the Rotarians and Clubs who made this program possible.

For more information about Interplast contact your Interplast District Chair





TOGETHER, WE

CONNECT

Rotary unites problem solvers around the globe behind one goal: to do more good. Our members are driven to bring communities together to create lasting change. Connecting to make things better — that's what people of action do. **Learn more at Rotary.org.**

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION

SHARING HOPE WITH THE WORLD

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

Register today at convention.rotary.org



Greetings Friends:

The Rotary International Convention is our foremost opportunity for thousands of members from more than 130 countries to connect with each other and be inspired; it is where we share experiences and expertise, learn from the brightest minds, and celebrate our works of service.

The Rotary convention in Singapore 25-29 May 2024 will be no exception. And, as always, the convention offers the chance to explore a world-class host city with stellar dining and cultural attractions. Singapore is also a great stepping off point to explore Southeast Asia should you wish to extend your stay in that part of the world.

With that in mind, I invite you to register for the 2024 Rotary International Convention. Then, encourage your district's members to do the same by using these promotional materials and sharing the link to the convention website, convention.rotary.org, where they can register.

As a Rotary leader, you're in a unique position to enlighten your members about the inspiration and excitement that our convention delivers. Let's join together in Sharing Hope With the World in Singapore at this year's convention. I look forward to welcoming you and your members to celebrate our year together.

With every best wish,
Gordon

Gordon McNally
President, Rotary International, 2023-24

SHARING HOPE WITH THE WORLD

convention.rotary.org

