



Neil Murray

Newsletter No. 2 - 2023-24

Governor Introduction

Kia ora koutou.

How are you? How are you really?

THE GOOD THAT YOU DO.....



As Shakespeare said ...” The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones”. Mark Antony’s was a harsh call, but he was probably right. The further we go the more I come to the point of view that Rotarians are not aware of the good we do both as a collective and as individuals. It is not that we seek kudos or credit, but it may be that we are around the good things that we do all the time and almost by default, we have allowed our communities’ acknowledgements to fade away. So, don’t let it die, let’s shout it from the roof tops. This newsletter is devoted to the good things that you do...

I have recently returned from a visit to the three Rotary Clubs of New Caledonia. There I was taken to visit some of the outstanding projects of those clubs. The Noumea Club is supporting a project to assist young people with disabilities. On behalf of the Rotary club of Ouen Toro I had the privilege of handing over a **BIG** cheque to a Women’s Refuge Centre. The money is to assist in building a playground for use by the children of the battered mothers while they are helped and made safe at the Refuge. The New Caledonian Minister for Domestic Violence was present, and I was able to put the Rotary club in touch with the 8 Australian Districts (so far) who have a Stop Domestic Violence campaign. More miracles. At the instigation of the Ducos Boulari Rotary club, all three clubs have combined in an application for District Dedicated Funds to supply specialist equipment into their hospital neonatal clinic, but more of that later.

There have been several stories of Rotary help and compassion in relation to disaster relief. The outstanding contributions of Rotarians from our District to the Hawkes Bay Recovery were featured in last month’s RDU and our newsletter. The good work continues. There are also some reports in this newsletter of Rotarians meeting the needs of people who have been displaced in Muriwai, in Sunnynook, and on Marae in D9910. Lest we forget, four people died in Muriwai and Sunnynook. There are some reports of the good work being done here.

On a brighter note, to obtain the 2-for1 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotarians worldwide were asked to find \$US50m this year. Guess what. We made it! Give yourselves a pat on the back-and remember End Polio Now day on 24 October. The good that you do stretches far and wide.

Lastly, you know my passion for education, one of The Rotary Foundation’s key areas of focus. September (yes last month) was Education and Literacy month and on a higher plane I would like to say: we are Rotarians, we are change makers. We can be, and many times are, the voice for those in our towns and around the world. Literacy is at the heart of basic education. If you are unable to read, how can you learn other forms of basic education like science, history and economics? It is true that education is for many, the way out of poverty. Did you know that 776 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate? That is 17% of the world’s population. Says it all really! There is a note from our Literacy Committee here too.

It is all part of the good that you do.....

Neil Murray

Neil Murray
Governor - District 9910
2023-2024



Say it with flowers 1:

It is said that there is nothing that you can’t say with flowers-when you send flowers it says everything. On arrival at the Auckland Korean Club, I was presented with a buttonhole to put alongside our theme badge, and when I left, I was given a bunch of flowers to take home. How thoughtful is that!

Thank you Ran.

Think and Be Me Update

Our primary outcomes are focused on empowering young minds, enhancing their social-emotional skills, and promoting mental well-being. The key outcomes we anticipate include:

- Improved Social-Emotional Skills: Through the video series, school presentations and teaching resources, we aim to equip tamariki with essential social-emotional skills, including empathy, emotional regulation, and communication.
- Increased Mental Health Awareness: We strive to raise awareness of mental health challenges among 5 to 10-year-olds, enabling children to recognize and seek help for their emotional well-being.
- Enhanced Teacher Support: By providing teachers with training, comprehensive lesson plans and activities we aim to facilitate seamless integration of our video series into classrooms supporting mental health education in schools.

PROJECT UPDATE

We are nearing the end of our first year of delivering the program in 20 schools, and have had great feedback from students and teachers.

Some of the highlights

- Manaia View team member stating it was the best professional development they have ever attended
- a Whangarei 7 year old whose anxiety was interfering with her sleeping, once she learned about her Worry Watchdog through our program, she is now able to go to sleep on her own with the light off (relayed via a school counsellor to the DP)
- A teacher relaying to a teacher in another school how the program content had helped her in a situation in her personal life
- A teacher aide sharing in the staff room how she was immediately able to use the strategies for helping a special needs child calm down their Angry dragon
- 11 year old Shaylee from Kerikeri Primary winning the McLeods Interschool Junior Speech Competition with her speech about Anxiety, where she talks about the Think and Be Me program and what she learned. (insert link here)
- The smooth running, joyfilled fun days organised by PC Smith, run by Murray and Maxine Neighbour, manpower supplied largely by People Potential volunteers and some local and Auckland Rotary Clubs

NEXT STEPS

Due to my health issues from recent back surgery, the GG has been extended, so we aim to cover 20 schools in the far North, up from Kerikeri in 2024, and 20 schools in 2025.

NEW CONTENT

Schools who have used the videos and teaching resources this year have asked for content to be produced, identifying the topics of friendship and anger as their main concerns. This will include social skills that have been stunted due to lockdowns, bullying and empathy. This will require me to find the funding for the video production. Producing resources is not something that is easy to get funding for even though it has a far reaching impact by using digital media.

FUN DAYS

Continuation of the Rotary run fun days will depend on having the volunteers to organise the bookings and have enough volunteers to man the tabloid activities. Due to personnel changes in Rotary difficulty getting club engagement this year, a decision has yet to be made about how this will progress. Communication will come via your AG later this year. Me and my team are not provide any administrative support for this as it is not covered by the Global Grant, and is to be run by Rotary Volunteers.

Any donations to this work can be made via your Rotary Club and to the Feeling for Life Charitable Trust, (trustees Barry Stafford and Tony Rayner from RC Maungakeikei)

Enquiries about involvement in the fun days is to be made via your AG.

Visit our youtube channel and share with your family and friends.



RYE Students

Germany: Mathis Pagels

Sponsor Club: Warkworth Rotary Club
School: Mahurangi College in Wellsford

Mathis has joined local Mahurangi College Volleyball team as this was a sport he had played for two years back in Germany and the local gym. Mathis' Mum is a nurse and his stepdad is a cardiologist. He has one brother and 3 step-siblings. Mathis is from a central town in Germany of 55,000 inhabitants and is enjoying his small community and new friends he has made.



Mathis at Rainbows end in the Miners roller coaster ride



trying on a pink rugby helmet for fun at school

Finland: Maisa Sandburg

SPONSOR CLUB: Devonport Rotary
School: Takapuna Grammar School

Maisa played floorball (like indoor hockey) in Finland for seven years and had coached for 18 months, her Mum is a chief financial officer and Dad works as a product manager. She has two older siblings.

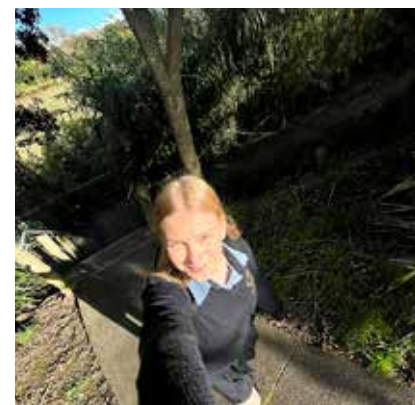
She has enjoyed skiing and watching the FIFA soccer games here in NZ and discovered she likes pavlova!

IMAGE 1 : Maisa eating pavlova for the first time

IMAGE 2: Maisa enjoying a sunny walk from school



Maisa eating pavlova for the first time



Maisa enjoying a sunny walk from school

Spain: Irene Escorihuela

SPONSOR CLUB: Sunrise Rotary in Whangarei
School: Whangarei Girls High School

Irene's parents own a cleaning services company in their small town located 30km from Madrid with a population of 27,000. She enjoys reading, listening to music and most sports including track & field (6 years) but has found rugby and surfing in NZ! Her Whangarei Girls 7's rugby team recently won an interschools comp held in Kaikohe and has been learning to surf in a school holiday programme. Irene would like to study mechanical engineering with a dream to work with a Formula One Motorsports team in the future.



Irene (in centre) with her winning 7's rugby team



Irene in the school library

District Diary

2 -8 October	Rotary Reconnect Week
5 October	DG Visit - Norfolk Island Rotary
	RYE - Marae Weekend
9 October	Norfolk Island Agricultural Show Day
11 October	DG Visit - Rotary Norfolk Island
12 October	Rotary Takapuna birthday (chartered 1953)
15 October	RDU copy deadline for next month's magazine
16 October	DG Visit - Devonport Rotary
17 October	DG Visit - Orewa Millwater Rotary
	Rotary Kumeu birthday (chartered 1994)
18 October	DG Visit - Waitakere Rotary

19 October	DG Visit - Whangarei South Rotary
20 October	DG Visit - Whangarei Sunrise Rotary
24 October	World Polio Day
27 October	Rotary Satellite North Shore NRG birthday (chartered 2017)
28 - 29 October	Kerikeri Rotary - Garden Safari
28 - 29 October	Zone 8 Conference - Virtual
28 October	Rotary Dargaville birthday (chartered 1938)
	Rotary Warkworth birthday (chartered 1962)
30 Oct - 4 Nov	World Interact Week
30 October	DG Visit - Kerikeri Rotary
31 October	DG Visit - Browns Bay Rotary
3 November	DG Visit - North Harbour 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

LOLOWAI HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC, AMBAE, VANUATU

A MULTI-DISTRICT, MULTI-CLUB, MULTI-YEAR ROTARY RESULT



Godden Memorial Hospital was built on Ambae Island Vanuatu in 1936 as a direct result of tragic circumstances in both Bundaberg and Lolowai during the “blackbirding” period of human trafficking into Qld from our Pacific island neighbours. Father Charles Godden was murdered in 1906 and Godden Memorial Hospital built was built on Ambae island as a memorial within a kilometre of his grave.

Rotarian Rod Kestle of the Rotary Club of Onehunga One Tree Hill, Auckland was instrumental in gaining 3 x RI Global Grants for a full major refurbishment of this the third largest hospital in Vanuatu. Commencing in 2013 roofing, trusses, septic, plumbing, electrical, painting, windows and doors—everything beautifully constructed to a high standard. Some local Torgil Rural College students were also engaged to assist the volunteer trades and Rotarians coming from New Zealand.

Bundaberg West Rotary Club in Qld was approached to assist with painting the maternity ward, inside and out. During this period in late 2016, Rotarian Phil Saxby noticed the dental clinic was also in need of refurbishment. Three shipping containers of linen, hospital, medical and dental equipment were subsequently shipped from Qld during 2017 and 2018, one direct from Bundaberg and others through “Donations in Kind” situated then at Darra.

Unfortunately, full installation and checking of the installed dental equipment was interrupted by lack of sufficient electrical supply to the hospital, followed by two severe volcanic eruptions with total evacuation of all Ambae island residents during 9/2017 and 4/2018. By the time the islanders drifted back to their homes, the onset of COVID travel restrictions further interrupted any continuation of the dental clinic installation. The dental clinic was finally fully installed in February 2023, some six years after it was commenced. All tools utilised for the equipment installation have been donated to the hospital workshop.

ROTARY BROWNS BAY
FUNDRAISING EVENT



**GIBBS SCULPTURE
FARM**

**FRIDAY 17 NOV.23
10AM TILL 2PM**

**TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THIS UNIQUE
SCULPTURE PARK**



The Farm is home to a series of major-specific artworks, and exotic animals, including giraffes

Wear comfortable shoes. The event will go ahead rain or shine. Bring some cash for drinks, snacks and Sausage Sizzle
Entrance limited to 150 people.

Join us with a donation of

\$65 per person

Children under 12 free

Order your ticket at:

**[https://www.brownsbayrotary.co.nz/
fundraising-activity/](https://www.brownsbayrotary.co.nz/fundraising-activity/)**

Ticket is Non Refundable

Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting Gum Boot Friday and other Rotary Browns Bay charities.



Gibbs Farm is a private property open by appointment only on scheduled monthly visitor days as per website:
<http://bookings.gibbsfarm.org.nz/reservations>
There is no entry fee applicable when visiting Gibbs Farm.
All ticket holders need to adhere to Gibbs Farms Terms and Condition as shown on our website www.brownsbayrotary.co.nz

Only 150 tickets, so register now !
events@brownsbayrotary.co.nz
<https://www.brownsbayrotary.co.nz/fundraising-activity/>

Robert Schroder
Past President Rotary Browns Bay

BRAND CENTRE: Rotary's Public Image

As a Rotary leader, you play an important role in shaping the public image of your club or of Rotary. Our public image is determined by our members' actions and impact. Rotary's Brand Center has resources to help you share your stories and promote your impact to your community:

- Watch the ["Getting Started With the Brand Center"](#) video for an overview of the tools you can use to tell your club's stories.
- Use the [People of Action messaging and materials](#) in the Brand Center to build awareness and understanding of Rotary and the difference your club makes.
- Take [public image courses in the Learning Center](#), such as The Rotary Brand, which conveys the benefits of a consistent, recognizable brand; and Our Logo: Representing Rotary, which demonstrates how to use Rotary's logos consistently and correctly.



Say it with flowers 2:

Jane Utting, Paul's better half, decorated the tables with flowers in Rotary colours in anticipation of the Governor's visit to the Whangaparaoa Club. Warm fuzzies to know you are welcome. Again, how thoughtful is that! Thank you, Jane.



Your Legacy, Rotary's Promise



Your annual gifts to The Rotary Foundation are helping people around the globe live better lives today.

Planning a gift to Rotary's Endowment supports these same life-changing programs forever.

Learn how the next century of service begins with your Rotary legacy at rotary.org/legacy.





Norfolk Island

Rotary

1973-2023



50 Years of Service above Self

From President Ian
Greetings fellow Rotarians,

The 50th Anniversary of the Charter of Norfolk Island Rotary Club, was commemorated with 7 days of celebrations.

Joining the occasion were several Past District 9910 Governors and Rotarians from our District.



From Rotary Club of East Coast Bays, Past D9910 Governor Peter Garnett.
From Rotary Club of Westhaven, Past D9910 Governor Elaine Mead.
From Rotary Club of Milford, Past D9910 Bruce Rasmussen, Christine Rasmussen, Kelvin & Reekie Davis. From Rotary Club of Whangarei Sunrise, Murray & Margaret Hall.
They also welcomed back our Australian based Norfolk Rotary member Past D9910 Governor Lindsay Ford & Alison Ford.

The week with a BBQ dinner on Thursday evening at Kiernan’s residence at Taries Lane to welcome all our visitors.

Saturday our visitors joined members at our catering project for the annual Church of England Spring Fair.



Sunday everybody joined in the Rotary Car Rally and fish fry at Emily Bay.



Monday evening, everyone visited “Neds Seat” at Headstone Reserve to remember the late Ned Lenthall, our first Club President and District Governor. After drinks to toast Ned, we enjoyed a BBQ fish dinner.



On Tuesday evening everyone enjoyed a meal at the Bowling Club and welcomed visiting Rotarians Rodger and Kate Howard from the Rotary Club of Mudgee NSW. Rodger is the incoming Club President and Kate is the Club Sgt at Arms. Lastly, a celebration gala dinner marked our 50th anniversary at the South Pacific Hotel on Wednesday 20th September.



At the celebration dinner, 7 Paul Harris Fellow Awards were presented.



Congratulations to all our Norfolk Rotary Paul Harris awardees and thank you for your "service above self". From L to R – James "Jimbo" Tavener, Andrew Maxwell, Maureen King, Chris Gatehouse, David Buffett, Jan Saal, Dr Martin Panter.

Say it with flowers 3:

I recently visited CHS les Manguiers (the Mangoes) a Women's Refuge Centre in the hills on the outskirts of Noumea, a project promoted by the Rotary Club of Ouen Toro. A well-known local artist had beautified the quarters with murals of flowers-like this orchid. This year's theme tie contains all the colours of the world. Yes, I found colours to match deep in the Windsor knot.



Laughter is the Best Medicine

I made an unannounced visit to the Warkworth Rotary Club to join President Kay in awarding a PHF to Joe Koppens on the occasion of his retirement from the Club. It was a just reward for Joe not only for his service to Rotary, but also to his local community and society in general. I have known Joe and his former law firm for many years and am aware of the high regard in which he and his firm are held. I likened him to a mafia consigliere at Rotary-always in the right ear of the Club's leaders, ensuring that everything is done correctly and in the Rotary way.

Joe's dry sense of humour is in keeping with his stern demeanor (if anyone can find a photo of Joe smiling-please send it in!). With poker face, he told the story of going for a motor bike ride to Mangawhai along with a couple of mates. Not intimidated, he motored up behind a huge, patched bikie on a Harley and noticed the sign on his leather jacket which did make him back off-- if you can read this it means that the bitch has fallen off.

Joe is not lost to Rotary. His Club made him an Honorary Member and he will continue the work for which he is renowned. Joe runs the Warkworth Rotary/Lions Food Rescue and is seen most days on the job driving his Barfoot & Thompson sponsored Food Rescue jeep. Check out the following link (FB) photo. Joe Koppens. A man of conviction.

Kay Flower
warkworthrotary@gmail.com

[Warkworth Rotary/Lions Food Rescue](#)



Joe Koppens & District Governor, Neil Murray

Literacy in our District

Our District has the only Literacy in the Rotary 99 area, which is surprising as Literacy is one of the cornerstones of the Rotary philosophy.

The D9910 committee was established in the 1990s by DG Bob Baird a school Principal. Since then the committee members have often been teachers, librarians and those whose careers have involved them in literacy.

My career has largely been spent managing libraries on the North Shore, so soon after I became a Rotarian I found myself a member of the Literacy Committee under the leadership of Murray Neighbour. Some years ago he passed the role to me. My wife Ali is Committee Secretary and her career has encompassed managing libraries in Melbourne and Whangarei and in consulting to library management in wider Auckland. We are not a fundraising committee although we have a small bank balance which is topped up by generous donations from time to time. One of main projects is to encourage clubs to raise funds and buy dictionaries for students in the 9 to 12 age group. These are often supplied to individual students or as class sets. These are much valued learning tools, but there is growing demand for affordable but attractive dictionaries in the region. This is a very expensive project that the committee would really appreciate help with.

Numerous 9910 clubs are involved in distributing dictionaries to schools and other literacy based projects. Members of the Dargaville Rotary spend time each week listening to students from Selwyn Primary read pieces from their favourite reading material. Browns Bay Club provide reading backpacks for students at less affluent primary schools and other clubs reach out to support literacy efforts in Vanuatu.

There are so many opportunities to help to make a difference. If you have a question – ask, if you have an idea for a project tell us about it

Geoff Chamberlain
Chair 9910 Literacy Committee
0221 240 455 or geoff@chamberlainz.com

Learning in Noumea

The Rotary Club of Noumea fosters a special school in Noumea known by the acronym EPAD. It is a school for the disabled where young people in time are taught minimal independence- how to read and write, how to catch a bus, how to work computer equipment. The families of the disabled volunteer their time to assist with the cleaning and running of the school while a small number of specially trained teachers blessed with infinite caring and patience put in the hard yards. God's work.

RCN provides funding and equipment. Bless you guys.



Many forms of Flood Relief

Hoogerland Family
183 Wright Road
Redvale
hoogerlandfamily@gmail.com
021 770170

13 September 2023

Rotary Club Albany
Auckland

Dear wonderful folks at the Rotary Club Albany,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for the amazing help you provided us with after the Auckland January Floods and the landslide that left our family of four without a home. Your member Nigel Smith found out that our family's home was Red Stickered by a major landslide and that we are in temporary accommodation. He kindly offered to see if Rotary could assist our family. This generosity meant the world to us during a time of great need.

Those floods and the landslide were a real shock to our family. It's hard to describe just how overwhelming it all was, but your support made it so much more manageable. Your \$5,000 grant helped us cover part of the costs towards getting digger access to our landslide. The site is very steep and we had to create a new access way to the slip. In addition to this we required a demolition team to remove our deck to secure our home against further damage from the landslide. The grant has greatly helped us with the above.

What's even more incredible to us is the kindness and selflessness you all show through the Rotary Club Albany. It's heart warming to know that there are people like you who step up to help those in dire straits. You truly embody the spirit of community and support.

As we start this journey toward rebuilding our lives, we'll forever hold onto the memory of your kindness. We can't wait for the day when we're back on our feet and can pay this kindness forward. Your support hasn't just eased our immediate burdens; it's also given us renewed hope for the future.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You've been a shining light in our darkest days, and we'll always be grateful for your compassion.

Warmest regards,

Maarten, Lisbeth, Isabelle, Sophie and our little dog Snoopy



Rotary Whangarei South - Cyclone Gabrielle Relief Funding

Whangarei South has three projects currently being implemented using the Cyclone Gabrielle Relief Funding. There are two Marae in Whangarei that the Club has been working with and supporting following Cyclone Gabrielle – Terenga Pararoa Marae which is in the city on Porowini Ave and Pehiaweri Marae which is at Glenbervie and is also the Marae where the RYE students have their Marae experience before departing and the overseas arrivals.

Project 1 – In consultation with both Marae there was found to be a need for emergency equipment so a decision was made to supply both with an Emergency Box containing tarpaulins, ropes, torches, spot lights and other items needed to make homes safe during adverse weather conditions to ensure families could remain safe in their homes. The equipment could be used by the Marae members to assist others in need. Around \$2600.00 was spent on this project.

Project 2 – As Terenga Pararoa is the largest and most central during Cyclone Gabrielle it became the home to many people who had to be evacuated from their homes. During their stay it was found that the movement from one part of Marae to other areas - from the eating to sleeping to ablutions to communal areas. It was decided that weather protecting awnings were needed between these areas so that in future cyclones evacuees are able to move from area to area safely. This project will cost around \$21,000.00.

Project 3 – families who are affiliated to the Pehiaweri Marae who live in a rural coastal settlement at Pataua have not been able to return to their homes as the access is no longer viable due to heavy rain and tidal conditions making them dangerous. This area was originally an island and over many years the sand has taken over the sea bed and this has provided vehicle access to the land the families now occupy. Some families are still able to remain and access their homes but an estimated 30 people are not due to the heavy rutting and potholing of the access routes to the homes. Approximately \$3,000.00 will be provided to supply a suitable metal base to be spread to make access possible.

Maungaturoto Kumara Growers

As a result of a District grant (post cyclone Gabrielle) of \$3,000, the Maungaturoto Rotary club invited some kumara growers from Ruawai to speak to us. Their spokesperson was Warwick Simpson who is also Secretary/ Treasurer of the Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Assn as well as being a member of the Vegetable NZ Board.

This money has enabled Dorothy (Warwick's mother) to buy food vouchers from the local Four Square and distribute them to those who badly need support. Dorothy is well-known in the area and was the ideal person to give these to people.

When Cyclone Gabrielle struck Northland on the 12th February this year, it was really "the straw that broke the camel's back" for the kumara growers, in and around Ruawai. From October 2022, because of the ground conditions, they had trouble planting. A job that was normally completed before Christmas was not finished until 20th January.

When the rains came, all 40 of the growers (working 1200ha who provide 98% of kumara in NZ) were impacted, some more severely than others because of power being off for five days. This season followed one which had produced bumper crops and subsequently lower returns. Warwick, who farms his family's land (40ha) , in speaking to us said that their normal crop was in excess of 1,000 bins but was reduced to 120 bins. Bear in mind that half of the crop has to be kept for seed for the next year. Warwick estimates he will lose \$250k this year.

Warwick, along with other growers, is feeling optimistic about the coming season, but as always, it is weather dependent. He said, at the moment, only 2 of the 40 growers have decided that kumara growing is not for them but a positive outcome for the 2023/24 season is essential. When Warwick was asked if the provision of generators might have helped their situation, he said that there was nowhere to pump the water to. MPI have now come to the party with the provision of some kumara seed as well as developing a seed contingency scheme. In thanking us, Warwick said that the community was very grateful for our support as it made them realize that they were not dealing with the situation alone.

Take care
Eileen.



Roger Price (Chair Ruawai Lions), Stella Clyde, Dorothy and Warwick Simpson and Eileen



No Access

The photo shows damage to the road leading to rural coastal communities in Pataua 30 km east of Whangarei. The road is impassable further on and people are unable to access their homes.



Four Square is the owner Vimal Theva and family

Hawkes Bay Recovery – An update from 9930 Stortford Lodge

Stuart Knauf - Projects Director, Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge

When Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawkes Bay on 14 February 2023, over 300 homes were flooded and many communities isolated due to over 40 bridges and roads either badly damaged, or destroyed.

The cyclone and associated flooding knocked out a major substation(s) taking out power for over 40,000 households as well as businesses. The outages lasted from days to over one month before power was restored.

Following the cyclone, District 9930 and Stortford Lodge has been providing ongoing support to families, businesses and communities. This update showcases three of the initiatives 9930 and Stortford Lodge have been behind, and also talks to the power of collaboration and the strength Rotary can provide by working across districts.

Operation “genLend”

Within two weeks of the cyclone hitting Hawkes Bay, the Hastings St Andrews Presbyterian Church, partnering with NZ Apples and Pears, Farmlands, Federated Farmers and Hastings District Council, reached out to people from around New Zealand asking if anyone had a spare generator, petrol-powered pumps, water blasters and other equipment they were prepared to lend to help start the flood recovery effort in Hawkes Bay. They were also able to obtain financial donations to help fund fuel, transport and insurance. Many Kiwis, including a number of Rotary Clubs and members responded with equipment, petrol and other goods, which saw the establishment of “genLend”.

The Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge was asked if they would manage the collection, distribution, operation, maintenance and return of this equipment. The Club quickly mobilised its’ members to set up a warehouse and establish processes to manage the pickup, tracking, maintenance and distribution, and subsequent return of lent equipment. The church identified where there was an urgent need, for example; a generator to provide power for someone on life support, or to isolated rural communities needing generators to keep emergency food supplies refrigerated, and Rotary Club members delivered the generators to these people. Once there was no longer a need for the equipment Club members contacted the recipients to arrange pick up of the equipment and returned it to the respective owners.

“genLend” was operational from 21 February until 17 April, 2023. There were 9 Club members actively involved in the 7-day a week logistical operation for the first 4 weeks, then dropped to 4 – 5 days a week. Members also lent trailers and fuel to assist with the delivery and pickup of equipment, as well as driving trucks to move earthmoving equipment as required. A total of over 400 volunteer hours of Club members time was spent running the “genLend” operation. The Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge is now in the process of rolling out this capability across other Rotary Clubs and Districts who may wish to establish a similar capability to enable them to respond quickly when another natural disaster impacts a community somewhere else in New Zealand.

A collaboration with Rotary 9920 - Maungakeikei

The remote farming community of Tutira in northern Hawkes Bay was badly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle as were many farming communities. Many farm tracks and fences were destroyed by large slips meaning stock were left to wander across and between farms, and the farmers could not get to the stock as their access tracks had been washed away.

Phil Aish from the 9920 Maungakeikei Rotary Club contacted the Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge offering to bring his 12-tonne excavator, 3.5-tonne excavator and an 8-tonne bulldozer to assist rural Hawkes Bay to rebuild farm tracks, clear slips and generally to help in rural clean-up operations.

Maungakeikei Rotary Club funded the transport of these machines from Waikato to Napier and covered Phil's travel costs. Fuel and maintenance costs were paid for from the Rotary Flood Relief Fund and Rotary International donations. The Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge was actively involved in organizing transport for the machines between Napier and Tutira; and were also involved in sourcing funding and getting diesel fuel supplies up to Tutira where damaged access roads severely impacted access for tankers. Stortford Lodge coordinated the deployment of the machines to farms in the Tutira area, working in conjunction with the Tutira Civil Defence Coordinator. Club members provided the drivers with home stay accommodation while they were in Hawkes Bay.

The machinery, and at least one operator worked in Tutira for 6 days a week between 21 March to early May 2023. For the first two weeks there were three operators and machines working, before reducing to two for the remainder of their deployment. The operators were all volunteers (1 Rotarian, 2 non-Rotary volunteers). In May, the 3.5-tonne digger was re-deployed to the Napier/Hastings area where it worked with the non-Rotary volunteer group “HB Cleanup Crew” helping to clear silt from in and around houses.



A collaboration with Rotary 9910

In July 2023, Stortford Lodge was contacted by Anna Wallace (Westhaven) and Nadia Lehmann (Bay of Islands) with an inter-district volunteer initiative and associated funding. Their initiative sought to coordinate cohorts of volunteers from across the 9910 district to provide hands on assistance to Hawkes Bay home and landowners in need.

This initiative saw four groups of volunteers, representing 11 Rotary District 9910 clubs, travel to the Hawkes Bay throughout August, September and October. 9910 volunteers worked alongside the HB Clean Up Crew and Stortford Lodge Rotary Club members delivering over 960 volunteer hours on behalf the 9910 district alone. Volunteering clean-up activities involved clearing silt and moving possessions out of flooded houses, light demolition works required to strip homes back to framing for demolition or re-building, removing dead garden vegetation, clearing out farm sheds and fence lines to name a few. Volunteer costs associated with accommodation and petrol were subsidised by District 9910. Stortford Lodge provided assistance by connecting the Hawkes Bay Recovery 9910 project team with the Clean Up Crew, providing logistical advice, volunteered along the 9910 teams and provided Rotarian home stay accommodation for two of the four groups.

It has been truly inspiring to see fellow Rotarians give up their time and travel to Hawkes Bay to help others in need, clearly demonstrating that Rotary members are indeed "People of Action". It has also strengthen the relationship between our two districts and to build life-long personal connections. If you are interested in coming down to the Hawkes Bay to lend a hand, make sure you contact Anna or Nadia to find out how.

Anna
wallace.anna@gmail.com



The good that you do

The Rotary Club of Ouen Toro raised funds for a Women's Refuge called Les Manguiers (The Mangoes-it is set among mango trees). The club is very happy to have Government support from Isabelle Champmoreau (in green) from the Ministry of Family-in charge of Domestic Violence. I am hoping to link AG Jean-Michel Blaise (on the right) and Minister Isabelle into a zoom meeting with the eight Australian Districts dedicated to a Stop Domestic Violence Campaign.

And oh, the BIG cheque. it might break but it won't bounce

Neil Murray

Rotary D9910 District Governor 2023 – 2024
Member of the Rotary Club of Takapuna
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RYLArians Update

Hayley Brown recently became the youngest member ever of the Takapuna Rotary Club. Hayley already has a Rotary pedigree to beat the band and is well known to us. Hayley was RYE to Ancenis, France, she joined us at RICON, went to RYLA at Muriwai. She is doing conjoint degrees in law and Global Studies at Auckland University and has become passionate about our Rotarians Against Slavery programme. No guess who Hayley is supporting at RWC.



Hayley Brown



Vivienne Haas

Vivienne Haas came to RYLA from Noumea. She met and is staying in touch with Hayley. The Ouen Toro Rotary Club is hoping Vivienne will become involved in Rotaract. She is very keen to get back to the friends she made at RYLA.

Talking of RYLA - doesn't it make an everlasting impression -

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend Rotary's 50th Anniversary of its Service to Norfolk Island. Unfortunately, I will be off island and cannot attend.

Congratulations, well done - and Thank You Rotary people.

One small thing in the many things Rotary has given in the past fifty years was for me to be lucky enough to participate in one of Rotary's long-standing initiatives. Many, many-many years ago, when I was just young enough to fit the criteria of "youth", I participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award in Auckland. I remember it so well. The speakers-the fun - the camaraderie - the calibre and dedication of the presenters and organisers.

I didn't become the "quote" DYNAMIC "unquote" leader RYLA can produce, but thank you Rotary for giving me, and many others since, this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you too, Rotary, on behalf of my late Mum - Bonnie Quintal.

Rotary Norfolk Island was a sponsor of a Round-Australia-Flightathon which she undertook in a single engine Cessna aircraft. Rotary organised accommodation and speaking arrangements for Mum and Dad at various cities and towns throughout Australia. At that time Dad was a Rotarian and accompanied Mum. Rotary Clubs around Australia gave donations of money, many Norfolk Islanders (such as the late Cecil Barkman) gave generous donations, and many families set up a one-cent per mile trail. The result being that Rotary Norfolk Island was able to present a sizable cheque to Norfolk's hospital - which was one of Mum's great loves.

I am very sorry I cannot personally be at the 50th Anniversary to say Thank You, but I will be thinking of you all.

Here's to many more years-thank you.

Best wishes - Karenne Gatehouse

Karenne was a RYLA attendee in the 1980/81 Rotary year

Talking of RWC--

Ivan is a member of the Rotary Club of Noumea, a rugby coach, and a rugby fanatic. His passion knows no bounds. He spends his time teaching local (indigenous) girls how to play rugby. He provides all the gear and even takes a couple each year to France for part of their schooling. I called in to check out their skills and was mobbed-because Ivan mentioned something about the ABs! The truth was that Ivan was wearing an AB cap and all they wanted to do was practise their English!

New Caledonians know all about the RWC. Did you know that three locals are in the French squad? Believe it! Nos. 2, 3, and 12 are from Noumea.



In deference to Ivan I'm leaving this in French so that you can enjoy translating it

Des échanges en anglais de la part des plus jeunes qui visiblement prennent à cœur leur cours à l'école ... mais aussi un flot de question de mes jeunes d'origine vanuataise ...un bon moment pour notre Gouverneur véritablement plébiscité qui a connu un grand succès.

Merci de nous avoir permis de vivre ce moment.

Bien à vous
Ivan

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Exchanges in English from the youngest who visibly take their lessons at school to heart... but also a flood of questions from my young people of Vanuatu origin... a good moment for our truly acclaimed Governor who has experienced a big success.

Thank you for allowing us to experience this moment.

Yours sincerely
Ivan



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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

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