



Regional Bulletin December 2019



This year has been tough with all the challenges that have come to our region: the bush fires and drought in Australia; the terrorist shootings at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand and just most recently, the eruption of Whakaari/White Island; the outbreak of the vaccine derived polio virus in the Philippines and earthquakes in Mindanao. All these take a heavy toll especially to those on ground zero. Our thoughts and fervent prayers go out to everyone who is in the midst of this suffering and hardship.

Despite all this struggle, the beacon of hope is the solidarity which remains very strong. We have received numerous calls and email enquiries on how they can help and it is very heartwarming to know that out of their own volition, people are wanting to do this.

This office remains committed to assist Rotary clubs and districts in achieving their humanitarian objectives. Please feel free to contact us for assistance. Our [contact list](#) includes the appropriate staff for your particular enquiry.

As we wind down this year, we would like to thank you for all that you do to strengthen Rotary as an organization and in so doing, you are able to do good in the world. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and good tidings for the year ahead.

Best Regards,

Grace

Grace Ramirez
Manager, International Office
and Financial Services

CLUB AND DISTRICT SUPPORT

INTERACT CLUB SUSPENSIONS

District Governors should keep an eye on their **Interact Club Suspensions**. Action needs to be taken before **31 December 2019** to prevent the Interact Club from being terminated. Please refer recent reminder email [here](#). This activity is part of a worldwide audit of functioning Interact Clubs.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

District Governor-elects can commence **recording District Appointments in My Rotary** ready for 2020-21. Having your District appointments (particularly Finance Chair, Membership Chair and Foundation Chair) recorded by **31 December** and before you travel to IA would be of great assistance. A procedure guide is attached [here](#).

CHARTER RESIGNATIONS

District Governors may be receiving notifications of clubs wishing to **hand back their charters** prior to the next RI billing cycle in January 2020. However if the club is definitely looking like closing, please ensure the required form is provided to CDS for processing, preferably prior to December 20th which will provide time for processing prior to Christmas.




AUDITED DISTRICT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Immediate Past District Governor's please send your **Audited District Annual Financial Statements** for the year ended 30 June 2019 to Andrew, Trudy or Mary Jayne along with notification of when your meeting to adopt the Financials is scheduled. A copy of the formal minutes noting adoption of the Financials will be required once available, and prior to 30 June 2020.



UPCOMING KEY DATES

2019

25 & 26 December	Christmas and Boxing Day 2019. RI Parramatta office closed.	
31 December	DGE – record District Appointments for 2020-21 in My Rotary.	

2020

1 January	New Years Day – RI Parramatta office closed.	
19 - 24 January	DGE - International Assembly in San Diego, USA.	
February	DG Funding Budgets for 2020-21 to be advised to District Governor-elects and District Finance Chair.	
6 - 10 June	International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Registrations are now open.	
30 June	DG – Deadline for submission of District COL representative 2019-2022 via online form to Council Services.	
30 June	DG - Deadline for submission of DGN Data Form to CDS.	
30 June	IPDG – Deadline for submission to CDS of (Audited) District Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2019 along with copy of minutes from meeting where adopted.	

FINANCE MATTERS

DIRECT DEPOSITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN AUSTRALIA

If clubs and Rotarians would like to send their contributions via Electronic Funds Transfers, please use the following account details:

Contribution Type	Account Name	BSB	Account Number
Club Contributions	The Rotary Foundation	332084	100345225
Individual Contributions*	The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust	332084	551038195

*Contributions to The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust (TARFT) are tax deductible in Australia for individuals or organisations that require tax deductibility.

When doing so, please email Melissa Asanza at Melissa.Asanza@rotary.org or risppo@rotary.org the details of your contributions. This is to ensure that these are reported accurately and promptly. Over the counter bank deposits and deposits from Bendigo Bank are especially problematic because it does not show the account of the depositor, the BSB is always 633-000 so we can't even identify the state it came from. Please also drop the "Rotary Club of" prefix and just use the club name as payment reference.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at risppo@rotary.org.

UPDATING MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Before we produce the January 2019 invoice, please make sure the membership data in Rotary's database is current. Any updates must be made before 1 January. Invoices cannot be adjusted after that date.

To check your membership:

1. Sign in to your [My Rotary](#) account and choose Manage, then Club & District Administration, Club Administration, and Club & Member Data.
2. Review your membership data.
3. Make any necessary updates by 1 January.

Even if you report membership changes using an RI-approved data integration software provider, please verify the membership data in Rotary's database..

If you are unable to report membership online, print and complete the [Member Data Form](#) and scan and email to data@rotary.org.

You can find more information, including FAQs and handy "how to" guides on the [Club Administration](#) page. Please direct specific questions about membership to data@rotary.org.

Should you require further assistance, please contact the following Finance Coordinators for the respective countries:

Country/Zone	Finance Coordinator	Contact Details
Australia (Zone 8), New Zealand and the Pacific Islands (Zone 7B)	Sally Furto	Sally.Furto@rotary.org T: 61288949832
Philippines	Rosalyn Ong	Rosalyn.Ong@rotary.org T: 61288949831 M: 61478939555

REINSTATEMENT FEES FOR CLUBS TERMINATED FOR JULY 2019 CLUB INVOICE

Clubs that have been terminated for nonpayment or for having outstanding balances above USD250.00, can be reinstated up to 150 days from termination upon payment of all dues outstanding, a current membership list, and reinstatement fees of USD30.00 per member. Please coordinate with the respective Finance Coordinators should you need further assistance.



MEMBERSHIP

ROTARY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

A top priority for Rotary International is growing and diversifying our membership to make sure we reflect the communities we serve. To help us achieve our goal, the RI Board of Directors passed a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) statement:

As a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Rotary will cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture in which people from underrepresented groups have greater opportunities to participate as members and leaders.

Visit [Rotary's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion webpage](#) and take the [Building a Diverse Club](#) course in the Learning Center to learn more about what Rotary clubs can do and what the Rotary International secretariat are doing to build inclusive communities and create positive experiences.

Are clubs in your district actively working to create inclusive cultures that represent the diversity within their communities? Let me know! We are always looking to promote and share best practices and strategies about vibrant clubs: barbara.mifsud@rotary.org

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2019

Comparison to 1 July

[Worldwide](#)

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

[Philippines](#)

Demographics

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

[Philippines](#)

MEMBERSHIP LEADS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2019

Australia, New Zealand

& Pacific Islands:

- 142 leads received
- 59 assigned to a club (42%)
- 5 contacted by a club (4%)
- 6 admitted to Rotary (4%)

[District by district breakdown](#)

Philippines:

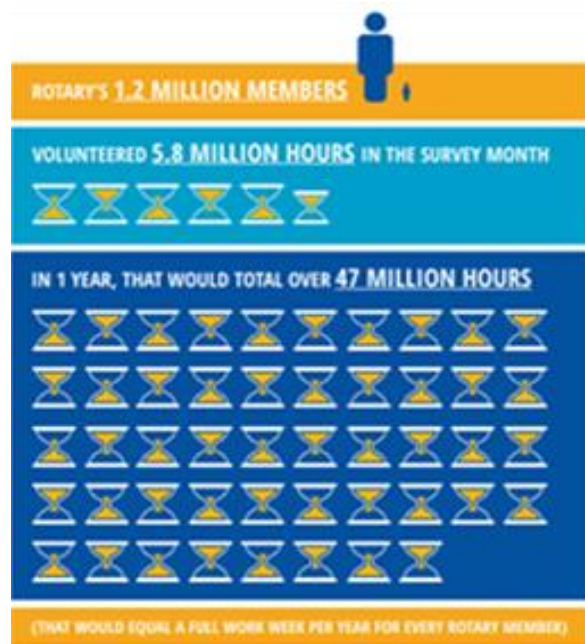
- 151 leads received
- 6 assigned to a club (4%)
- 0 contacted by a club (0%)
- 1 admitted to Rotary (0.7%)

[District by district breakdown](#)

THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF ROTARY VOLUNTEERING

According to a new study by the John Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, Rotary International annually mobilises volunteer effort equivalent to nearly **27,000 full-time paid workers**. What's more the study shows that Rotary volunteers **save communities an estimated US\$850 million in service costs per year**.

Our 1.2 million members are responsible for 47 million hours of volunteer effort a year, which means we are not merely 'talking the talk' of service, we are 'walking the walk'. Read the full report [here](#).



ROTARY AND TOASTMASTERS ALLIANCE

Rotary International and Toastmasters International are working together to provide our members with even more opportunities for personal and professional growth. Toastmasters International is nonprofit educational organisation that helps its members become more effective public speakers, communicator and leaders.



By working with Toastmasters, Rotary and Rotaract members will have more opportunities to improve their leadership and communication skills, broaden their networks and increase their impact.

Check out the [Partners page](#) on My Rotary for more information or contact toastmastersalliance@rotary.org. Read about why Toastmasters benefits Rotary clubs from one Rotary club's point of view in this [Rotary Voices story](#).

FOUNDATION

EXTRA FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR DISTRICT GRANTS

A reminder that the amount of DDF that's available for 2019-20 and 2020-21 district grants has been increased.

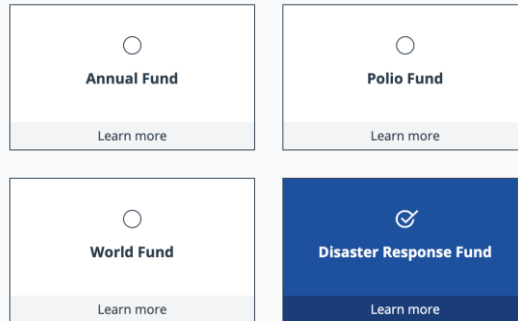
Districts may use **up to 20 percent** of their **uncommitted DDF** from past years (their "rollover DDF"), as calculated on 1 July 2018. These funds were split evenly between 2019-20 and 2020-21 district grants. The maximum grant amount that you'll see in the Grant Center for your 2020-21 district grant will *include* these extra funds.

The date on which you may apply for your 2020-21 district grant is **1 January**, just a few weeks

DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

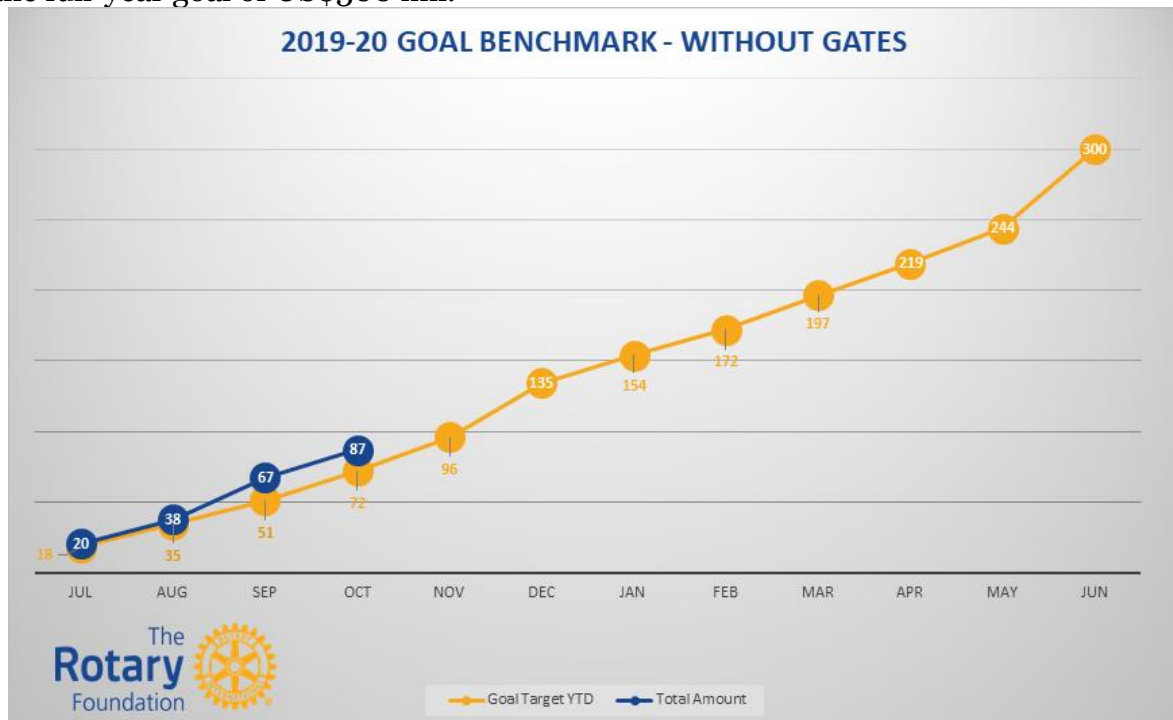
Earlier this year, the Foundation created the [Disaster Response Fund](#) to allow districts to gain rapid access to funds for natural disasters in their vicinity. One thing the world does not lack is disasters — the fund has been used to relieve communities that have suffered bushfires, cyclones and floods in many countries.

Clearly, this fund addresses a very pressing need. We would ask you to encourage clubs, members and others to consider making contributions to the Disaster Response Fund so that these high-impact Rotary activities can be continued. my.rotary.org/en/donate



FUNDRAISING RESULTS

The Rotary Foundation exceeded its worldwide US\$72 mil fundraising goal for the first four months of the financial year by **over 20%**, having raised US\$87.2 mil. This is 29.1% of the full-year goal of US\$300 mil.



Looking at results to the end of November in our area:

- **the Philippines** has had a very strong start to the year with total contributions of US\$3.3 mil — **up 52%** from the same time last year!
- in **Australia**, contributions rose by 38% to US\$1.7 mil. However, after excluding a large bequest in District 9675, it is concerning that results were down 14%.
- results in **New Zealand / Pacific Islands** were down 4%, at US\$134k.
- Districts **3800, 3820, 9630, 9675, 9700, 9810** and **9980** have each *more than doubled* their 2018/19 YTD results — congratulations to all!

GETTING TO KNOW US

This month we are introducing Melissa Asanza – Finance



Melissa (Mel) Asanza has been with Rotary since April 2011. She records and reconciles all donations to the Rotary Foundation in Australia. This includes Centurion, Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) and Paul Harris Society among others. These donations mostly go to either Annual Fund or PolioPlus.

Her busiest time of the year would be June wherein clubs usually send in their donations either by cheque, direct deposits, credit card or online donations. She also helps with other Finance matters such as disbursements and expense reports.

Before migrating to Australia in February 2011, Mel worked as an Accountant in an international bank and as a Senior Auditor in an auditing firm in The Philippines. She is a member of CPA Philippines since 2004 and CPA Australia in 2015.

Mel loves to help out in the community and is always volunteering, from planting trees to teaching disabled children how to swim. It gives her great joy and pride being part of an organization that helps and changes millions of lives.

Mel can be reached at Melissa.Asanza@rotary.org or +61 2 8894 9833



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
South Pacific and Philippines Office