

District Newsletter July – August 2021

District Governor Nick Wood Introduction

THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve in the role of District Governor.

I look forward to the year ahead as DG for D9980 “The last one in the book”, I will also be the last one in our book, both chronologically and alphabetically, I’m not brave enough to say “saving the best for last” however I promise to do my best in the year ahead.

I have the title of the youngest DG for New Zealand ever and I’m also the youngest in the world for this Rotary year 2021-22 at 34 years old, this is a title I’m excited to have but more excited to see it passed on so quickly as more young Rotarians are getting the opportunity to serve in this role.

My Rotary journey began in 2002 when I applied to be a Rotary Youth Exchange student, spending 2003 in Sweden (D2400), as a member of Rotaract Dunedin in 2004-5 and then joining the Cromwell club in 2012. Rotary has had a huge impact on shaping me into who I am today.

Thank you to all Rotarians that have been part of my story thus far.

At home, I’m supported by my wife Beth and our boys Joseph (13) and Charlie (10), we have two farm dogs that are scared of farm animals Loki and Jas and the house is controlled by our cat Magnus.

Our family has been very involved with Rotary as the boys have grown up, serving on the Rotary Youth Exchange team and hosting 3 students so far, Joseph asked recently “ I’ll be 15 in 2 years, do you think RYE will be running by then as I’ll be old enough to apply” as a dad I’m hoping this enthusiasm is still there in a few years’ time.

The boys and I are also involved with Scouts in Cromwell, I was the leader of the cub section up to August 2020 and Joseph is a Scout and Charlie a Cub, this has been a big part of our lives for the past 5 years, growing the Cub section from 10 to 24 and seeing the kids move from Cubs to Scouts has been very rewarding.

My garden is my happy place where I can unwind and hide from the world, plants don’t talk back...it seems I have converted half of the back yard into vege garden and it seems to grow a little more each year as I run out of room when planting,



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Welcome to the new Rotary year.

The year of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta, 2021-22.

Our theme “Serve to Change Lives”

Our service will change lives, not only the lives of those we serve but our own lives too.

Let’s embrace the theme and continue to change lives.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUK1i3FytJw>

however, this summer may be a fallow year to focus on Rotary.

I’m looking forward to getting around the district to meet as many Rotarians as possible, I don’t plan to come and speak to every club individually, my plan is to come and serve alongside you, I want to be involved hands on in projects and meet Rotarians doing what we do best, changing lives and serving our communities, so please send the invites as I’ve got a calendar to fill and energy to burn.

July is Transition Month

Welcoming in new leadership and announcing our goals for the year ahead.

I was privileged to attend 6 changeovers around the district, Fiordland, Dunedin, Invercargill Sunrise, Cromwell, Mosgiel and Timaru, I have also snuck into the Timaru North club and spoken to the Dunedin Central club via Zoom.

One of my highlights of the changeover trip was catching up with my former next door neighbour from when I was a young fella, Kevin Dale of the Mosgiel club, Kevin had the best garage/workshop in the world (my world at least), it had been roughly 20 years since we had last seen each other, my take away here is that people remember the kindness shown to them and it changes their lives, so see what good deed you can do and maybe one day they will be the one giving back alongside you...

We have set the D9980 2021-22 goals

1. **Rotarians to have FUN!!!**
2. **Improved Membership Retention.**
3. **Growing Rotary**
4. **Expand our Reach.**
5. **The Rotary Foundation**



Has your club set their goals for the year ahead?

I encourage you to set those goals and make them known by all the members of the club so that together you can work towards knocking them off.

Your assistant governor and district chairs and governor train are all here to help where we can, but we can't help if you don't ask...

August is Membership & Extension Month

Membership month is not just about growing Rotary, its time to take stock and focus on the first three goals above.

President Shekhar has laid down the challenge of "Each One, Bring One"

When was the last time you invited someone to come along and get involved in a project, listen to a speaker or just chat about the good times at Rotary?

We have clubs in the district that have had successful membership growth in past few years, if you would like to know what they did and how it worked. Your club membership director should get in touch with these clubs for Tips, Tricks, and the processes that worked.

Queenstown	Waimate
Invercargill NRG	Mt Aspiring

These clubs have had different approaches with good results.

If you feel you have some good ideas around membership growth and would like to be more involved at district level, please contact

Derek King our Membership chair to get involved with the district membership team.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8_Q9CrlocY

[What's Your Plan? - Rotary on the move article](#)



Polio fundraising remains the vital challenge for the new Rotary year – and I want to adopt a completely new approach that will surprise you all ...

Rotary requires US\$50 million a year to gain full benefit from the Gates Foundation matching grant of US\$100 million – and we need every cent of the \$150 million total to fund the END POLIO NOW campaign in 2021/22.

So, let's be blunt ...

Rotarians in Zone 8 (New Zealand, our island neighbours and Australia) have never been strong personal givers to Rotary's priority project – PolioPlus. Similarly, many clubs no longer contribute each year. Like so many of the public, they have the misguided belief that Polio is no longer a threat to the children of our world.

Crunch time has come for Polio funding in Zone 8. We need every member of this new leadership team on board to convince all clubs and our membership that Rotary is still in the Polio 'game'. We are NOT spectators!

As RI END POLIO NOW Coordinator in Zone 8, my challenge to you as District Governors and senior leaders is to convince EVERY Rotarian to personally donate to Polio and EVERY Club to commit to the RI President's request for US\$1,500 this Rotary year.

A tough challenge is often hard to accept but, if we always do what we have always done, these TWO major goals will never be achieved.

Let's make a commitment now and get plans underway – especially for World Polio Day on October 24.

THE PLAN

We're always conscious of Rotarians being asked to 'dig deep' into their seemingly bottomless pockets for so many great causes every year so, this year, let's head in the opposite direction ...

The CLEM RENOUF and BILL BOYD END POLIO NOW CLUBS were launched last year to mark our Centenary Year and the death of our great leader Sir Clem Renouf – 'Father' of PolioPlus.

Just a couple of clubs took up the unique offer to form such a club and they will be presented with special achievement certificates by their respective District Governors in the near future.

All it required was JUST \$10 from each member in the Rotary Club and these Clubs are now confirmed as CLEM RENOUF or BILL BOYD END POLIO NOW CLUBS for the current year.

That's just \$10 a year! Not \$10 a week, month as is so often the case with Rotary fundraisers.

'Just a drop in the ocean. How will that significantly fund END POLIO NOW', you might well ask?

Do the maths ... at the end of June there were almost 35,000 Rotarians 'down under'.

At \$10 each, that provides the tidy sum of \$350,000.

Then, throw in the \$1,500 from more than 1,300 Rotary Clubs, and we have a further \$1,950,000 for a grand total of \$2.3 million!!!

Yes, yes, yes ... all wishful thinking, pie in the sky. I can hear the comments now and I probably agree but, you know what? Dreams are free.

Just half that amount would be a dream result for New Zealand, Australia and the island nations.

So, let me know what you all think. I will be very grateful if we combine to give this unique concept a 'real shot' in 2021/22?

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

- Work with ALL your club presidents to ensure they realise and accept the importance of the one-off donation of \$1,500 to END POLIO NOW on World Polio Day – October 24.
- Continue the search for major donors to support TRF at a minimum of \$10k each.
- Plan a major event within your District to mark World Polio Day on October 24

Thank you for your patience and I look forward to your commitment as we work together and 'serve to change lives' ...

Warm best wishes for a wonderful Rotary year,
PDG Bob Aitken AM JP
RI END POLIO NOW Coordinator, Zone 8, 2018/23
Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, NSW.



Pumpkins for Polio

This is my idea on how we support the personal and club giving mentioned above, some of us are gamblers and will donate based on weight but for others you may wish to support a pumpkin to a fixed sum, both options are fantastic as every dollar we raise will turn into \$3 thanks to The Gates Foundation.

I've arranged the seeds and now need your clubs to register to get your seedling on or around world polio day on October 24.

Please register with your assistant governor. We are hoping that each club will have 3 keen pumpkin growers tucked away if not more...

Your grower does not have to be a Rotarian (yet) just so long as they grow the pumpkin and get it to conference in April 2022.

The current NZ record is 844.5 Kg
I hope that with enough pumpkins in the ground we might stand a chance to come close.

Tips and Tricks to growing a Giant Pumpkin

<https://giantpumpkins.co.nz/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/surprising-science-giant-pumpkins-180957099/>



Pumpkins for Polio

Grow the **biggest pumpkin possible** and raise money for the global fight to eradicate Polio.

How do we raise money from growing pumpkins you ask?

Sponsorship!

Have your friends, family, workmates, employers, suppliers, in fact anyone sponsor your pumpkin on the final weight.

From \$0.10 to \$100.00 or anywhere in between per kilogram of the final weight - just make sure you can get a tractor or crane in to get your prize-winning, plump pumpkin onto a trailer to bring them to Cromwell in April 2022 for the final weigh in of our heavyweight contenders!

There will be a special prize for the biggest pumpkin and the biggest polio pumpkin bank balance.

Prepare your pumpkin patch this summer because next summer... **IT'S ON!!!!**

Seedlings will be provided to all participants so the 4-Way Test is adhered to from the start...

Challenge each other to grow the biggest monster possible and have as much FUN as possible during summer 2021-22.

This challenge was set by your 2021-22 District 9980 Governor, Nick Wood.





InterplastTM

Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives
in the Asia Pacific region

So.....What is Interplast?

I must be honest.....when I became District Governor a few years ago, I had no idea what the difference was between Interplast and ROMAC!! I had at least heard of both organisations, but really had little idea what they did. I am now the D9980 Interplast representative, and now I know a bit more...

In New Zealand we have the benefit of a good health system, but other countries are not nearly as fortunate.

Interplast was first established by an Australian Rotary Club in 1983, and has been providing valuable medical aid to developing nations (particularly our South Pacific neighbours) ever since. The aid that Interplast provides is primarily training and teaching – for most of its history it has sent teams of volunteer medical professionals from Australia and New Zealand (under the auspices of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) to other countries to teach the nurses, anaesthetists and surgeons in hospitals and clinics how to provide better surgical treatment for their patients, particularly in difficult situations. Until last year, the volunteers were going on two-week programmes to 17 different countries performing surgeries and demonstrations that impacted positively on the lives of thousands of people living in those countries, and also provided a lasting legacy by training and upskilling the local medical staff.

Since COVID, the work of Interplast has changed dramatically - rather than having to stop because the medical teams could not travel, Interplast has gone online and expanded its service. The number of countries gaining assistance has grown from 17 to 30, and the number of medical professionals receiving assistance in the past year grew from 1300 to 2300.

Medical teams may have been unable to travel, but they still donated their time and expertise in offering training videos, courses, webinars, virtual lectures and workshops, and also offered advice in individual cases after seeing the case notes, and even used micro web-cams to supervise surgeries remotely.

Whilst the medical professionals give their time voluntarily, there is still a considerable cost involved in resourcing Interplast – and that is where Rotary throughout Australia and New Zealand has an important and ongoing role! More than \$226,000 was donated by Rotary Clubs and Districts in the last Rotary year, and the need for more funding is always there.

If you or your Club are able to contribute towards this tremendous Rotary initiative, your assistance would be much appreciated – details about how to do this are on the Interplast website. If your Club would like me to come to a meeting a give an illustrated presentation about Interplast, please do not hesitate to contact me – I am happy to travel!

Bruce Cowan

District 9980 Interplast representative

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<https://interplast.org.au/>

Have a great month ahead, remember to reach out for help if you need it.

The only stupid question is the one you didn't ask.

Yours in Rotary – District Governor Nick Wood D9980 2021-22