

A message from District Governor, Andrew Hamilton

The Rotary year is well under way with lots of exciting Club and District activities happening.

District Change Over was held at St Clair Golf Course in Dunedin on Sunday 1st July. It was a very enjoyable day with entertainment from the District's very clever magician PDG Jonathan Usher, and our MC was AG Derek King. I would like to take this opportunity to once again pass on our thanks to IPDG Bruce Cowan and his partner Jill for the great job they did in the 2017/18 Rotary year. It is very much appreciated by everyone.

A District Board and Leadership meeting was held in Cromwell on Saturday 28th July. We had a great turn out with almost all the District Leadership attending. We were hosted by District Treasurer Murray Kennedy at Vin Pro, and enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Vin Pro operations during the lunch break.

On Sunday 26 August the District Club Development Day was held in Dunedin. A great programme was put together by District Chair PDG Karen Purdue. Approximately 90 people attended and were challenged by a great range of speakers on ways to build and strengthen Rotary Clubs in the South. Almost all the Clubs in the District had a representation which is fantastic. It is important that we all keep refuelling ourselves with new ideas.

On Saturday 4 August I visited Berwick Lodge to meet the newly arrived International Youth Exchange Students, and also the local outgoing students and some of their family members. It is wonderful to welcome these new students into District 9980. I am sure they will be well looked after by Rotarians in the District and we wish them all the best for a fantastic and enjoyable year in New Zealand. For the outbound students selected for the Exchange, most of whom leave in January 2019, this is the start of a journey of a lifetime.



Here the newly arrived overseas students are tasting Vegemite for the first time – there were some interesting facial expressions!!

District Governor Club Visits are well under way with ten Clubs visited by the end of August 2018. Barbara has accompanied me on these whenever possible, and as I am sure every Past District Governor would agree, the Club Visits are a highlight of the role. To meet Rotarians from each Club, experience their hospitality and hear about the inspirational

projects and community work each Club is doing is a privilege and makes you very proud to be a Rotarian.

As we visit each Club, when possible, I am taking photos and posting these on the District Facebook Page, plus posting photos of all other District and Club Events that we are attending, along with the photos you are kindly sending in. For those of you using Facebook, if you are not already linked to the District Page, search District 9980 and follow it. It is a great way of keeping in touch with what is happening on a day to day basis in the District.

We would also like as many photos and stories as possible of Club Events in the District. The aim is to post details of these, including photos, not just on the District Facebook Page, but also the District Website, which is available to everyone. So please send these stories and photos into myself, District PR & Communications Chair Ah-Lek Tay, or one of the Assistant Governors. (Also remember the full District Directory information is on this website).

To find the District Web site, google District 9980 or type go to the web address:
<https://rotarydistrict9980.org>

We are organising a District wide "Fun Day" on Saturday 10th November 2018. This will be a day when all Rotarians, and their families, in the District can get together, socialise and have a fun day out. There will be a Car rally involved, (an opportunity to raise funds for your club). We will all meet for lunch in Cromwell and enjoy some time at Highlands Park Raceway! This is being organised by the District Assistant Governors and should be a great day out. Further details will follow later, but in the meantime mark the date in your diaries!

Planning for the District Conference is well under way and we have had a steady stream of registrations. Just to remind you, the Conference is in Oamaru on April 26 – 28, 2019. There is a limit on the number of registrations we can take, so do not delay! If you have not already done so, appoint a Club member to be the conference co-ordinator and organise a group from your Club to attend what will be a fantastic weekend of catching up with old friends, making new friends, hearing some special speakers, along with the opportunity to be involved in a project.

The link to the Conference Website is: www.9980conference.co.nz

Enjoy Rotary, have fun, network, make new friends and be inspired by the wonderful projects we are all involved in, both locally and internationally. Remember like all things in life, you will get out of Rotary what you put into it!

If I, or any of the members of the District Leadership Team, can be of any help at any time please just ask.

Kind Regards

Andrew