



Doesn't Christmas come around quickly each year? The older you get, the faster it seems to arrive!!

For Barbara and me it has been a very enjoyable six months of Club Visits, Club Anniversaries, travel and other Rotary Events. People are such a special part of Rotary. Good people doing great things in our local and global communities. It is always such a pleasure to meet Rotarians.

The "Rotary Fun Day" held at Highlands Park in Cromwell, was a good example with approximately 160 Rotarians and friends gathering for a day of fellowship and fun. The next big Rotary District Event is, of course, the Rotary Conference in Oamaru. This will be a wonderful opportunity to network, catch up with friends, make some new friends and hear some great speakers. There is a limitation on the numbers attending so don't forget to register at

<https://www.9980conference.co.nz/>

It was with heavy hearts that we attended the Memorial Service of Past District Governor and Dunedin Central Rotary Club member, Andrew Meek. Andrew was a wonderful Rotarian and a special person. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rosemary and Andrew's family as they adjust to life without him. You can read more about Andrew's valuable contributions to Rotary in this newsletter.

On a brighter note we congratulate District Governor Elect Tania Lowery on her recent marriage to Phil Atkinson. We wish them a happy future together.

As we prepare for the Christmas festive season, please spare a thought for the lonely and isolated people in your community. As mentioned in the District Governor Club visits, the effects of loneliness and isolation on people's health is significant. You may recall me mentioning a UK Study which found the effects of loneliness has adverse health effects - the equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. That is shocking!

For people who do not have family and friends close by, Christmas can often be a very difficult time. As Rotarians I urge you to consider how you and your Rotary Clubs might be able to make a difference to people who find themselves in this situation.

The holiday period is often a good opportunity while we relax, to consider re-setting our goals. Goals for work, family, our personal lives and also for Rotary. As members of a worldwide organisation, there is available to us a vehicle, where if we have an idea, a goal and a plan, we can achieve the most amazing things for other people and communities, both locally and globally. With the use of Rotary Global and District Grants and the power of the Rotary network, we are able to achieve things we would be unable to achieve as individuals. So have a think of what difference you would like to make. Have fun planning!! Remember, you will get out of Rotary what you put into it.

For those of you fortunate enough to have a break over the holiday period, enjoy! If you are travelling, please do so safely. Thank you to everyone for all the good you have done over the past six months. Barbara and I wish you a peaceful Christmas, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the New Year.

Take care.
Kind Regards,
Andrew H