

A message from District Governor, Andrew Hamilton

The last two months have flown by quickly with Club Visits being one of the main areas of focus for Barbara and me. To date we have visited 24 Clubs. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Club Visits are without a doubt a highlight of the District Governor role. Getting to know fellow Rotarians and hearing and seeing the amazing jobs the Clubs undertake in their local and global communities is a privilege.

Earlier this month, it was with deep sadness we acknowledged the sudden passing of Jill Shayler, much loved partner and soulmate of Immediate Past District Governor, Bruce Cowan. The District continues to hold Bruce, and Jill's family in its thoughts.

In mid-September Barbara and I had the privilege of travelling to Hobart for Rotary training. The first part of the week included Governor Training for myself, District Governor Elect Tania Lowery and District Governor Nominee Dylan Murray. For each of us, this is a great opportunity to make and renew relationships with fellow Rotarians who are, and will be, undertaking the District Governor role at the same time we are. For Barbara and myself, this is the third year we have had the opportunity to catch up with the other Rotarians and their partners who are currently the District Governors of their respective Rotary Districts. There are 21 from Australia and five others from New Zealand. The friendships and bonds among this group of people are amazing and will last into the future. Even more amazing when you think three years ago most of us had never met. An example of the power of Rotary!

The last three days in Hobart involved the Australia New Zealand Rotary Conference. This replaces the old Institute and is open to all Rotarians. I understand there was just under 600 attendees at the conference. It was a very enjoyable three days of great speakers and fellowship. Next year this Australian New Zealand Conference is being held in Christchurch from the 20th to the 22nd of September 2019. This will be a great opportunity for all Rotarians in the South Island to attend, so I urge you to make the most of this and book the weekend into your 2019 diaries.

During August and September I attended club anniversaries of the Alexandra Club celebrating their 75th year, and the Temuka-Geraldine Club celebrating their 70th year. Both were great fun. These are wonderful occasions for Clubs to celebrate both Rotary and the Club's past achievements. It is also a golden opportunity to invite Club Alumni and renew past relationships. So, make the most of these anniversary dates when they occur.



On the 11th of November 2018 we observe Armistice Day, one hundred years since the end of World War One. Both my Grandfathers fought in World War One and I shudder to think of the horrors they endured. There will be many Rotarians everywhere whose relations were involved on both sides of this awful conflict. In a time when some countries are trending towards more extreme views, it is even more important that Rotary and Rotarians promote peace and understanding among all people. Rotary Programmes such as International Youth Exchanges,

Vocational Exchanges and Peace and Conflict Scholars are a wonderful avenue for people from different countries and cultures to gain understanding and respect for each other. I urge you to promote every opportunity for people to spend time with others from different countries, so we may get to know each other and develop networks and friendships.



Many of us will be gathering in Cromwell on Saturday 10th November 2018 for a social day out. Rotarians will be driving from all corners of the Rotary District, to meet in Cromwell at 12.30 for a BBQ organised by the Cromwell Club. This will be followed by some time at Highland Park. The car museum will be open to everyone, and of course the opportunity to take your car around the race track. It should suit my seven-seater Holden Captiva well!! The Assistant Governors have organised a wonderful day, which includes a couple of auctions for some very fast rides in special cars!! Please feel free to bring family and friends and have them enjoy a day out with your fellow Rotarians. Please don't forget to let your Club President know the numbers attending for the catering at lunchtime.

It won't be long before we will be calling for nominations for the role of District Governor for the 2021/22 year. This is one of the most amazing and exciting Rotary experiences you will ever have. If you think this is something you might be interested in, talk to your Club President and Board and please let me know of your interest.

Barbara and I look forward to catching up with many of you in Cromwell and the various other Rotary events over the next month and a half before Christmas. I will leave you with my Rotary thought, which is the same as last time – "Like all things in life, you will get out of Rotary what you put into it".

Have fun!!

Kind Regards

Andrew