



## New Zealand -Australia Rotary Conference

# Regeneration: Newsletter March 2019

Registration details be available on the [conference website](#) shortly.

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### Christchurch Update

The tragic events of the 15th March to our community will undoubtedly be known to all. The earthquakes of Sept 2010 and Feb 2011 and aftershocks which continued for an extended period literally 'shook us to our foundations' and for many it was a bit like being in a pin ball machine, knowing at some point there would be a further impact, but of what particular consequence was unknown.

A significant number of people in our wider community including children, found this uncertainty and the ongoing effects difficult to cope with and much of this is still manifesting within our community and Mental Health and

Wellbeing services.

The unconscionable events of the 15th have again 'shaken us all to our core' in our beliefs and humanity values and presently there is almost a 'stillness' in the air as our community endeavours to come to terms with the enormity of what has occurred and to our Muslim community, of which many knew little about in our society, but have gained an immense amount of understanding of, over these last days as the outpouring of support has occurred, from our community and around the world.

With Rotary International's established values of inclusivity, diversity and its well-recognised humanitarian programmes, including **Peace Fellowships**, these attributes become even more increasingly pertinent in our society, but the question does remain '**what more needs to be now done with immediacy**' in being of direct relevance to our communities and where do Rotary Clubs' actions sit within this?

Our Conference programme already has a slot where we intend by a panel discussion to explore '**Mental Health and Wellbeing**' as an increasing societal factor within our New Zealand and Australian communities and gain understanding of the work that is being undertaken in both countries in that regard and the ongoing need.

This panel discussion will have even more increasing relevance given recent events.

Our **Saturday afternoon** programme will have a series of varying relevant breakouts sessions and aligned with this objective will be a whole of afternoon symposium or summit on '**Community Engagement- Emerging Leaders**'.

For further details, read our article on [Community Engagement - Emerging Leaders Symposium](#).

We encourage you to commit to come and support 'Regeneration Conference 2019'. Come join us!

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## Message from Noel Trevaskis

Noel Trevaskis is the Convenor of the New Zealand-Australia South Pacific Rotary Conference

G'day,

We have all been shocked by the latest tragic event in Christchurch. Our thoughts are with our friends in New Zealand who are experiencing their second terrifying event in ten years. A number of Districts and Clubs across Australia

and New Zealand have been expressing their support for the people of Christchurch and New Zealand at this time. Rotary builds communities, Rotary brings people together, Rotary cares for people, Rotary is a peace maker, Rotary reaches out to people in their time of need, Rotary cares! At this time we really need to show that we do care.

The New Zealand Australia Conference in September this year is well advanced in its planning and I am sure it will be a great experience for all of those attending. This really is an opportunity to show our support for our Kiwi friends as they prepare for a great experience for everyone attending.

The pre-GETS programme is also coming together really well and we will have both Tom Thorfinnson the RI General Manager of Strategy and David Alexander the General Manager of Communications with us for GETS and the Conference. They will be participating in the breakout sessions on the Saturday afternoon. You will enjoy and benefit from their insights of Rotary in the future.

I had hoped that the website for the conference and registrations for the conference could have been operational by now, I apologise for this not happening as quickly as we would have liked. I am hopeful that we should have both the website and registrations operational in the next two to three weeks.

You will be advised by email as soon as registration is available and that the website is functional.

I would like to see as many of you as possible in Christchurch to celebrate Rotary as well as supporting our Kiwi friends.

Regards,  
Noel



Co-Chairs of the 2019 New Zealand Australia Rotary Conference PDGs Ross Skinner and Liz Courtney



## Introducing our Conference Co-Chairs

Our conference co-chairs, both Past District Governors of D9970 tell us a little about themselves. In our last newsletter we profiled PDG Ross Skinner and in this edition we profile PDG Liz Courtney.

### **Liz (Elizabeth) Courtney – PDG 9970 Rotary Public Image Co-ordinator Zone 7B**

Liz is a Director of Courtney Architects – Designers Ltd with Rotarian husband Nick. She is an Interior Designer with the company and has developed her business management and public relation skills along with her Interior Design Consultancy within the Practice.

Her 3 year role as the Rotary Zone 7B Public Image Coordinator encompasses New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. One of her goals is to identify our Rotary stories in a way to inspire people and showcase what we do as an organisation. She helps run the Rotary Oceania social media and website content.

Liz is constantly encouraging clubs to count their volunteering hours on projects so that we can use these numbers to greater effect when attracting partnerships. She works closely with membership groups nationally to increase our member base which is a high priority.

When District Governor her focus was on Child and Maternal Health encouraging Rotary members to look for projects in their locality and to engage with people who work in this area. Working at “grass root” level in our community has always been of great importance to Liz. Along with a group of dedicated Rotarians and health professionals Liz helped to start the first Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank in NZ in partnership with the DHB and St. George’s Hospital.

She believes that by helping others to have access to education and health services it will lead them to become independent contributing members of society. Liz also helped set up the Rotary Neighbourhood Project post earthquake in Christchurch.

As District 9970 Public Image Chair for Rotary Liz is involved in presentation work at training events and Rotary clubs, managing social media, media liaison, writing articles for various publications, general promotional material for clubs and other groups and assisting with fundraising events and conferences to raise the awareness of Rotary in the community and is heavily involved across all our New Zealand communication areas.

Recently Liz has also been a Facilitator / Trainer at Rotary International facilitating the training of the incoming Rotary Leaders Institute Co-ordinators.

Liz has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 adult step grandchildren some of whom live overseas. As a result one of her passions is travelling and experiencing different cultures. As she said herself “ it gives you a far greater understanding of people if you know the environment and culture they live in ”



## Christchurch Walking Route

### Discover Discover... New Zealand’s Most Beautiful Street

Are you a connoisseur of character buildings? Perhaps you delight in al fresco café dining, signature of Italian and French cities? Do then take a stroll along the storybook-like “New Regent Street” with its cheerful rows of pastel sky blues, sunny yellow and minty green terraced shops.

The cheerful hues were a source of hope and inspiration for early Christchurch residents during the Great Depression.

This boutique shopping street was opened for business by the Mayor of Christchurch 1932, quickly establishing its reputation as “New Zealand’s Most Beautiful Street”.

The Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010-11 caused moderate structural damage to the iconic street shops, which left city authorities with no choice but to close off access to the public. However, with collaboration between the 22 owners, architects, engineers and builders, the street was impressively restored in April 2013 to an exceptional standard. Now, as during its origin, New Regent Street provides an uplifting experience to tourists and resident alike.

New Regent street is a stone-throw away from the Margaret Mahy Playground (bring the kids!). You can arrive to this destination on foot or by tram. Here, the sensory city experience is given priority over speeding through. Pause, soak up the Spanish Mission Revival style and enjoy a little indulgence in the local eateries.

The local star of the street is “Rollickin’ Gelato” a must-try for gelatos on hot days or warm brownie chocolate desserts for cool evenings. Other notable artisan shops offer home-baked cookies, cakes, whisky, diamond jewellery and gifts.

As you listen to the sights and sounds of Christchurch, the tram rumbles slowly by and whistles for the pedestrians to make room. It is a perfect moment that you hope will linger on and on. It is a warm welcome to Christchurch.

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## Keynote Speaker - Ludovic Grosjean

Rotary - United Nations Young Innovator Award Winner |  
Speaker Unmanned Systems | Environmental Monitoring

Chartered Engineer with 12 years of Ocean experience, Ludovic is Principal Consultant at OceanX Group, a Mechatronics Engineering Consultancy specializing in Environmental Pollution Monitoring. With a large portfolio of Ocean Projects (including ROVs, AUVs, USVs, Gliders, Drones,

underwater instrumentation & sensors), Ludovic has specialized in Integrating technologies and Unmanned Systems applied to environmental monitoring.

Ludovic holds a formal qualification in Electronics (Bachelors), in Mechatronics Engineering (Masters in Robotics) and Environmental Monitoring (Masters in Physics). In 2018, he became a Chartered Engineer and integrated the National Engineering Register for his expertise in Information, Telecommunications, and Electronics Engineering as well as Leadership and Management.

Ludovic was awarded the Bolloré Award in 2011, and IEEE Award in 2013 for his work in Ocean Engineering.

In 2018, Ludovic Grosjean was selected by Barry Rassin, President of Rotary International to be named "Rotary's People of Action: Young Innovator". Ludovic is "One of Six, Young Innovators" to showcase his work at the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya on November 10th 2018. Ludovic is also 2018 Finalist of the Young Entrepreneur Award in Melbourne.

Holding a leading role in the Community, Ludovic is involved as Board Member of the Australian Autonomous Unmanned System Association (AAUS) and Corresponding member on The National Committee for Mechatronics (NCMech) with Engineers Australia.

As a supporter of Rotary Values and, Ludovic has been providing an innovative approach to clean water. As a leader and community educator, he strives for projects to reduce water pollution on a global scale and make a long-term difference for humanity. His career focus is to build collaboration between organizations in order to advance Engineering and preserve the Environment with the ultimate goal of Saving our Oceans.

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## Keynote Speaker - Graham Dockrill

Rotarian | Internationally Recognised Thought Leader |  
Keynote Speaker

Graham Dockrill has made a name for himself as a successful entrepreneur, investor and company director, focusing on the technology sector for the past 25 years.

Having founded and exited several technology businesses including award winning design agency Hairy Lemon. Graham is also an Associate Professor at the University of Canterbury Centre for Entrepreneurship.

Graham is an internationally recognised commentator on the opportunities and challenges that 'Brexit' and 'America First' offer to antipodean exporters. He spends six months of the year in the United Kingdom and North American markets supporting New Zealand companies with their global aspirations.

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## Community Engagement - Emerging Leaders Symposium

This particular Saturday afternoon programme will focus on the principles of engaging with the community and developing emerging leaders.

This symposium is an opportunity for all Rotarians, and in particular those who have joined Rotary recently, along with younger people associated with Rotary programmes to

attend.

This opportunity is also for Rotary 'Alumni' and the Student Volunteer Army (SVA) to participate in establishing the relevance and value of community involvement and to identify important and relevant '**areas of action**' that they would like to be engaged in, which Rotary can possibly assist in facilitating.

The Saturday afternoon programme will have a powerful combination of short and sharp keynote addresses punctuated by small group breakouts for discussion and action planning. It is anticipated that all participants in this programme will leave with tangible things that they can implement in their own specific contexts.

The SVA initially 'sprung out' of the Canterbury earthquake response and is now involved in community activities which have spread further through the world. The SVA is now the largest club within the University of Canterbury, having more than 3,000 members.

This breakout session will be held from 1.00pm - 4.30pm at the [Salvation Army](#) premises on the corner of Colombo and Salisbury Streets (one block north of the Christchurch Town Hall).



## Mark Maloney and Popcorn Day

Our Rotary International President Elect, Mark Maloney has served as Master of Ceremonies for Popcorn Day for 38 years. Here he tells us about this iconic event.

I was raised on a farm five miles outside of the town of Ridgway, Illinois, a town in Southern Illinois with a population of less than 900. During the 1950s and 1960s, a lot of popcorn was raised in the area, and there was a popcorn processing plant in Ridgway. The town declared itself to be the Popcorn Capital of the World, and in 1958 began a community festival called Popcorn Day.

Popcorn Day has continued now for a total of 61 years. It is a typical American, small-town Fall festival. There is a parade, a queen contest, kiddie events, carnival rides, and all the free popcorn that you can eat. In 1981, when I had already moved to Gay's hometown in Alabama, I was asked to be the master of ceremonies for Popcorn Day. I continue in that role to this day—a total of 38 years. I have been master of ceremonies longer than all of the prior MCs combined.

I begin on Saturday morning by announcing the Kiddie Parade. There are four divisions—costume, pets, bicycles, and vehicles. After the Kiddie Parade, I announce the Kiddie Contests—bubble gum blowing contest, popcorn eating contest, and frog jumping contest. These are not formal events. Any child who wishes to participate simply shows up. There is no advance registration nor written rules.

The rules are what I announce them to be at the event. I believe that I have used the same rules over the last 38 years, but no one knows for sure. There is no recording of my announcements from 1981!

After a break for lunch, I announce the Popcorn Day Parade. I am joined for this by another Rotarian who also moved away from Ridgway and returns to announce the parade. I am the announcer on the stage with the information for each parade entry, and my colleague is on the street with a microphone to get the comments from the passing politicians and queens from neighboring towns' festivals. The parade includes flag marching units, lots and lots of fire trucks from the neighboring towns, politicians in election years, floats, farm equipment, and entries from local businesses.

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## Thank you to our supporters

We would like to thank the following for their support of our conference.

**[Christchurch Attractions:](#)** Christchurch Attractions has all the best activities to offer you. Enjoy tranquil gardens and breath-taking vistas or tour our re-building city. Pop into 109 Worcester Street (Shop 13), Cathedral Junction Christchurch to talk with us.

**[OGB \(Old Government Building\):](#)** A speakeasy style bar housed in a beautiful heritage building overlooking Cathedral Square with a charming outdoor courtyard. Come on in for ol' fashioned service, live music and carefully crafted food and drinks. Open every day, 7.30am - 1am.

**[Spectrum Print:](#)** Spectrum Print is an award winning Commercial Printers in Christchurch providing Offset, Wide Format and Digital Printing services to customers throughout Canterbury and the South Island.

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## Accommodation Options

There is a wide diversity of accommodation available within 15 minutes walking distance of the Christchurch Town Hall.

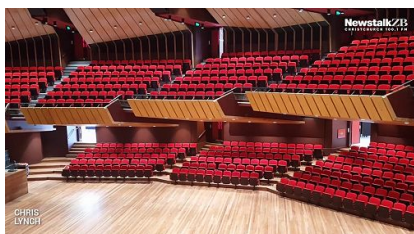
We suggest you peruse the **[Christchurch NZ website](#)** ([www.christchurchnz.com/accommodation](http://www.christchurchnz.com/accommodation)) in the first instance, to establish the requirements that would best suit you. Please do carry out your own due diligence by

visiting other travel websites to validate the establishments attributes.

All Conference attendees are responsible for making their own bookings direct at the establishment of their choice, to suit individual travel requirements. As it is the intent to support the Christchurch inner-city area, several hotels and accommodation providers have been contacted so they can provide a specific promo code or accommodation rate for attendees to the Conference. Please visit the conference website (**[Rotary Zone 8 Conference](#)**) for a list of providers.

We are sure that you will enjoy your stay in Christchurch in the spring' of 2019 to experience the emerging '**Regeneration**' of our city.

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## The Venue

The venue of the conference is the fully refurbished iconic Christchurch Town Hall on the banks of the Avon river, centrally located approximately 5- 10 minute walk from central city accommodation and Cathedral Square.

This building opened 30th September 1972, was designed by well recognised local architects Warren and Mahoney, and in

2000 received the NZ Institute of Architects 25year award. It will indeed be a delight and privilege to utilise this venue some 47 years later.

It is intended that the superb Rieger Pipe Organ in the main auditorium, will be played for your enjoyment over the lunch break at the Conference, by acclaimed organist [Martin Setchell](#).

Funding for this organ was initially raised from the visionary initiative of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Avonhead, Christchurch and others prior to 1997, so this will be an opportunity to both recognise and appreciate the music and sound of this superb instrument.



## A personal invitation from Greymouth Rotary

Greymouth Rotary, home of the 2019 - 2020 Governor of District 9970, extends a warm invitation to everyone attending the New Zealand Australia Conference in Christchurch to take the Trans Alpine train and explore the West Coast.

We will arrange to take you out to Punakaiki and the Pancake rocks, visit Lake Brunner and the Hokitika Gorge, maybe a birding trip down Mahanipua Creek.

Consider extending your trip to Queenstown for some white fluffy stuff, before winging back to Australia and abroad. A tour of the internationally acclaimed Montieths Brewery on Tuesday will be followed by a meet and greet with your hosts.

The Greymouth i-Site will assist you with travel and accommodation. So pop over the 'hill' and sample some famous West Coast hospitality and visit the District Governor's own club. A warm welcome awaits you! Consider extending your trip to Queenstown for some white fluffy stuff, before winging back to Australia .

For more information on the options available, contact DGE Gary Hopkinson [hopkinson1946@icloud.com](mailto:hopkinson1946@icloud.com) or the i-Site [info@westcoasttravel.co.nz](mailto:info@westcoasttravel.co.nz)



## Pre-Conference Tours of New Zealand

The Pakuranga Rotary Club (Inc), invites you to join one of 2 Pre-Conference Tours of New Zealand or a Post Conference Tour of the South Island, as detailed below

Pakuranga Rotary runs similar tours annually for 'off-shore' Rotarians and their partners. The Tour Key-points and Highlights are:

- The Tour size is limited in number to ensure all participants get personal attention and to minimise the amount of waiting in queues and to facilitate the opportunity to mix and mingle throughout. (Even on the coach.)
- Accommodation will be 4 to 5 star and includes all breakfasts.
- A professional 'Top Tour Guide' will travel with you throughout the Tour.

**Tour #1** is a **2 week Pre-Tour ( 15 day -14 night)** which includes both the North and South Islands. (Starting in Auckland Thurs 5th Sep and finishing in Christchurch Wed 18th Sep at your selected Conference hotel.

This 15 day Tour Price is: **NZ\$6,790 pp twin share. NZ\$7,990 pp single.**

**Tour #2** is a **1 week Pre-Tour (8 day-7 night)** is South Island only. (Starting from Christchurch on Wed 11th Sep and finishing in Christchurch Wed 18th Sep at your selected hotel.

This 8 day Tour Price is: **NZ\$3,345 pp twin share. NZ\$4,145 pp single.**

**Tour #3** is a **1 week Post-Tour (7 day-6 night)** is South Island only. (Starting from Christchurch on Mon 23rd Sep and finishing in Christchurch on Sunday 29th Sep at the airport or your selected hotel.)

This 7 day Tour Price is: **NZ\$3,195 pp twin share. NZ\$3,895 pp single.**

Please click on the attachment below for the detailed itinerary. Any inquiries, contact Peter Hawkins +64 21 758 478 or [peter.hawkins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peter.hawkins@xtra.co.nz)

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