

District Governor's Newsletter

January 2012

Issue 7

Brian's Say

Glenna & I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We hope that 2012 brings success in all aspects of your life.

We are now over half way through our terms of office and I assure you that time will begin to fly past even quicker. This year, 2012, is the year of the Olympics in London. As I lived in London for a number of years and graduated from London University perhaps I can be forgiven for using a sporting analogy for our year so far. At the starting pistol on July 1st we should have sprinted away down the course having trained and planned hard during the preceding months. The first half of the year saw us using our preparations to make sure that we were well placed for the rest of the race and that we would be in a good position at the finish. We are now going down the back straight and looking towards the final bend and finishing post where we hope to achieve what we set out to do for this year. Sometimes there is a tendency to slacken off a bit on the back straight and perhaps we did have a bit of a breather over Christmas, but make sure that now you keep driving on towards the finishing line. High up in your thinking should be the Changemaker Award and Presidential Citation. Now is the time to finish off those items that you have been working on and time to plan getting the information in to me by mid March

We are now in the second half of the year and your successor and his team should be well into their preparation. One of the strengths of Rotary is the emphasis and efforts put into training its leaders. Encourage your President Elect to use every opportunity to receive training for himself and his team. I know that DGE Lindsay and his team have been working hard on South Pacific PETS and other training events and good planning and Rotary knowledge will ensure success for your club.

That's the homily for this month. Now for some good news. There is so much good news in Rotary that it is only possible to feature one or two representative examples. Chief of these is the fantastic news about PolioPlus on two fronts; giving and achieving. The Gates challenge has been met and to mark it the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has made a further donation to PolioPlus; secondly India has been polio free for one year.

Our Fifth Avenue of Service also has high profile and priority because the New Generation is our future and we try to work at opposite ends of the academic spectrum for our Youth. The Science and Technology Forum for the brightest young students has again been a resounding success, as has the Summer Reading programme. The Literacy Committee and some individual clubs have worked hard to put dictionaries into the hands of children in the North. Coming up soon is RYLA and Challenge Camp, both needing input from clubs.

Very heartening is the news from RC Browns Bay. By the determination of members the club has come back from the brink of closure with a membership low of 8 to a membership of 13 at the moment and more prospective members in the wings. There is no secret recipe; just the will to get out and meet potential new members, welcome them to the club and show them what Rotary stands for. Well done Murray and Alex. I hope that there are other clubs out there with the same drive and that I will be hearing about them soon.

DG Brian

District Governor

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District Conference 2012 Orewa

20th -22nd April 2012



The Conference Committee have been working hard to put together a quality conference for your enjoyment. Having listened to the comments from previous years the cost has been kept down to under \$200 and partners are welcome at a much reduced rate.

Friday night kicks off with registration and social evening with light refreshment and music. Wine tasting has been arranged with a wine auction of donated local wines in aid of Hospice.

Proceedings start in earnest on Saturday morning with the official opening followed by a programme packed with inspirational stories of achievement both from Rotarians and notable public figures: stories from people and groups that were **Going for Gold** and achieved it. The day finishes with a dinner & entertainment with a theme of **Black and Gold**.

On Sunday the District AGM is quickly followed by more stories of achievement before closing at midday.

This is your conference, your chance to make new friends or renew old friendships. This is your chance to hear some of the success stories of Rotary. Get a group together from your club and register now. Click on the Conference logo on the District website home page for more details.

Polio Challenge Achieved!



We have succeeded in achieving the \$200 million Challenge set by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This is a very special day for us all and to further acknowledge the great work being done by Rotarians, the Gates Foundation has contributed a further \$50 million to our Polio Eradication fund. This brings the Gates Foundation's contribution to Rotary \$405 million and that's a spectacular effort in anyone's language.

A second milestone: India, until recently an epicentre of the wild poliovirus, has gone one year without recording a new case of the crippling, sometimes fatal, disease.

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. The country recorded 42 cases in 2010, and 741 in 2009

However, in spite of reaching these milestones, the job is nowhere near done. There is still a \$400-plus shortfall in total funding to complete the job and our efforts must continue as strongly as possible. We might have reached \$200 million but we can't rest until the job's done.

Congratulations to one and all and thanks for having the heart and the courage to do it.

Presidential Citation and Changemaker Award

Keep up those efforts to achieve these recognitions. Make sure that the claims are submitted to the DG in good time. Achievement of either or both of these is recognition of the good work of your whole club. I know that a lot of clubs have qualified or will have qualified. Get the paperwork done! Any queries, drop me a line

DG Brian

Changemaker Award

Recognises achievements related to each of the five avenues of service

Qualifying clubs must submit a completed Changemaker Award brochure to the District Governor by **15 March 2012**. Governors must report the names of all qualifying clubs no later than **22 March 2012**

Presidential Citation

Recognises achievements in Foundation giving and membership at both the club and district levels

Qualifying clubs must submit a completed certification form to the District Governor by **6 April 2012**. Governors will review all club certification forms and submit the district certification form to RI by 10 April 2012

www.rotarysouthpacific.org

What do you think of your District Website?

There are two problems! Time and Money. We either spend money, your money, to get a first rate site or we use busy Rotarians to do the best that they can do with their available time. And the problem is compounded by the fact that the software used for the District website is old and creaky.

However something is being done. It is realised that our website www.rotarysouthpacific.org needs a 'look and feel' upgrade and a committee is looking for your input. Thoughts on layout of pages, colours, themes, menus and how they look, and anything that affects how you feel about it.

Your ideas are needed! Please include references to those web sites that show what you are thinking. ALL suggestions are important whether big or small and you do not need to be a "techo" to contribute.

Consider: What are your needs of the website? What features and functionality do you see as important? How do you want the website to look? And so on.

If you have particular skills in website development that you would like to make available to the website team please email Richard Veber at richard@veber.co.nz

You can also participate by making your comments on the **Look and Feel Blog** at

http://www.rotarysouthpacific.org/blog.cfm?ID=115#blog_bottom (a blog is simply a forum where you can enter your feedback or thoughts)



New Year Honours Congratulations to:

John Evans

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit

For services to the community and particular for his work with the Rodney North Harbour Health Trust having been a member for 24 years and Chairman for the past six years.

John joined the Rotary Club of Warkworth in 1976, was Club President in 1981/82 and is currently an Honorary Member of the Club.

Wendy Faye Hawkings

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit

For services to health. Wendy founded the Rodney North Harbour Health Trust in 1977 and has served on it for 33 years and is currently CEO.

Wendy is the wife of Donald Hawkings, Past President of Rotary Club of Warkworth and currently Honorary Member of the Club

Seung-Jae YU

The Queen's Service Medal

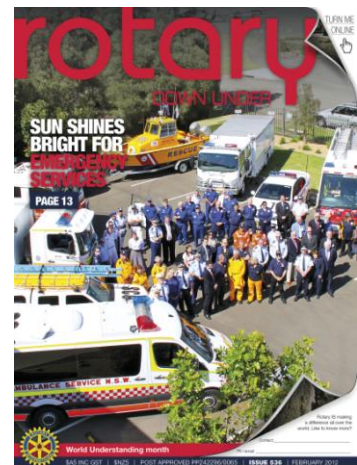
For services to the Korean community.

Seung-Jae was a charter member of Rotary Club of North Shore (Korean) and Assistant Governor

Rotary Down Under

The February issue of **Rotary Down Under** magazine kicks off 2012 with an eye-catching cover and a number of very interesting NZ and Pacific articles. For example: are "Sergeants" unique to NZ & Oz? – find out in the *Salute to Sergeants*; discover how Rotary leaders are committed to change; read about RYDA's rebranding; plus much more of interest in this issue.

In our Rotary clubs and districts, we achieve so much and deserve to have our success stories told, so please make a special effort this year to email berylrobinson@rotarydownunder.co.nz your stories (of about 300 words), emphasising the new, unique and human interest aspects of your projects and events, along with a high quality (at least 300 KB/dpi) close up action photo or two attached (if available) with photo captions. For more information about how to write an article for *RDU* - the official magazine of Rotary International in NZ, Australia and our near island neighbours - please go to www.rdu.rotarysouthpacific.org.



GSE Group Study Exchange: the Team Leader's View

A great idea in just 4 sentences

Get a mixed bunch of professionals, 25- 40 year olds; sort out a team of 5. Pick a leader. Put together a presentation. Then send them to the other side of the world to meet similar professionals and be hosted by Rotary Clubs and their families for a month.

If we could only do that in 4 sentences not only would it be a great idea but I suspect it would happen a great deal more often. But as you can imagine there is a heap of detail in behind it.

Hi, I'm Warren Patterson and the Team Leader. This is part one of the story.

Back, some two years ago, our District 9910 agreed to an exchange with District 6000 in Iowa. Last year we hosted the Iowa team here and March 16 this year, it will be our turn to make the reciprocal visit.

It started, for me, with some serious form filling and some searching questions about why I would want to lead a team to Iowa and then, importantly, what I had to offer as a team leader. The application was followed by an even more serious interview with the selection team from the District GSE Committee.

My interview is a bit hazy; I was blind in one eye, sleep deprived and full of pain killer. All down to some misadventure with an angle grinder – but that is another story.

This was followed by the selection weekend in early November for team members at Vaughan Park, Long Bay. Eleven strong candidates made for a tough selection process.

The weekend was strenuous on both sides. It included individual presentations, impromptu speeches, briefings from past team members, group problem solving challenges and even an early morning run, that some braved in bare feet. The concluding challenge was a series of group presentations around the various viewpoints likely to be held on the Rena Disaster.

In the end 5 names emerged to become the people I am starting to really get to know. Pip Bolton – architect and engineer from Kerikeri (sponsored by Bay of Islands Rotary Club), Duane Wells - Horticultural Manager from Whangarei (sponsored by Whangarei Rotary Club), Damian Dixon – Dairy Farmer from One Tree Point (sponsored by Whangarei South Rotary Club), Laura McKenzie – Year 12 Dean and Teacher from Auckland (sponsored by North Harbour Rotary Club) and Nirav Shah – Cash Funds Investor from Auckland (sponsored by East Coast Bays Rotary).

The plan called for 4 weekends of preparation. We have completed two and have the next on Auckland Anniversary weekend out on a lifestyle block at Tomarata near Warkworth. This time we hope to nail down the presentation and check off the list of requirements such as insurance, visas, medical checks, wills and gifts.

Warren Patterson



Rotary National Science & Technology Forum 2012

As I write this the annual Science and Technology Forum is drawing to a close. I was privileged to go the Opening Ceremony and to the BBQ on Sunday and again will go to the Science dinner on Friday night. What a pleasure it was for me to meet so many bright and enthusiastic young people from all parts of New Zealand. The Forum aims to give young students with an inclination towards the sciences an overview of different areas of science and technology. This will assist them in their career choices by giving an insight into different disciplines, perhaps some that they had no knowledge of before. The Forum is a 14 day residential event so as well as the intensive scientific content there is the opportunity for the students to experience life away from home in a university environment. It's a Rotary programme in its 23rd year with the goal of encouraging more graduates in the Sciences for New Zealand.



Vital to the success of the event is the participation of AUT University of Technology, University of Auckland, Massey University and RMIT University Melbourne. Thanks are due these Universities providing the facilities and to the members of staff who so willingly give of their time and expertise to make the academic part of the Forum a success. We also must recognise and thank the members of the Trust, the Director Peter Best and the Milford club who contribute so much to making the Forum such a success.



Stop Press:

The Grand Gala Dinner held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Auckland to mark the end of the Forum was a resounding success. The students impressed everyone with their continued enthusiasm and intelligent conversation. Musical entertainment by the students was impressive.

At the dinner it was announced that **Prasad Ravi** (Westlake Boys and sponsored by RC Milford) had been selected to be one of the two students representing New Zealand at the London International Youth Science Forum . **Peter Best** was presented with a Paul Harris Sapphire Pin in recognition of his long service to the Forum organisation and to mark ten years as the Director.

Challenge Camp

Don't forget your club Challenge Camp contribution and / or sponsorship. Challenge Camp gives a wonderful experience to some children with disabilities and gives our IYE students an opportunity to get involved.

If you have forgotten the details contact Warren Sly.



It is only 3 months until RYLA. We still have places available

A pack with all the information you require to select your candidates is available plus a Power Point presentation to present to your club.

There is also a video with interviews from people who attended last year's RYLA for you to show to prospective candidates. If you want copies contact leigh@clinicalupdate.co.nz or phone 098344825

A reminder that the age group for attendance at D9910 RYLA is 18-24 years. Takapuna Rotaract have assumed responsibility for marketing and are available to come and talk to your club. Please contact Jenn McKenzie jennifer.sophia.mckenzie@gmail.com to arrange a club visit.

We urge to you not only look in your club for prospective candidates but also to look to local businesses who may be interested in sponsoring an employee or joint sponsorship with your club.

If you have more suitable candidates than your club can sponsor, or you do not have any suitable candidates, pass this information on to the committee. We may be able to do a match or find funding. It would be a shame for a suitable candidate to miss out.

News from around the clubs

Rotarians Demonstrate How One Thing Can Lead To Another

The Rotary Club of Northcote had a successful fundraiser back in October 2011, to support victims of Alzheimer's disease. "Join us for a cuppa of tea", was the catchphrase and many people did – particularly the residents of Northcote Point as the venue was in an old Victorian Villa owned by the local Senior Citizens Club. Rotarians and partners dressed for the occasion in keeping with the Auckland Council celebration of heritage week and to be attuned to the historical property. There were historical photos and old china on display to add to the interest. \$1,800 was raised for *Alzheimer's Auckland*.



Like many community organisations the Senior Citizens Assoc. requires support to maintain its property. In lieu of renting the villa, the Rotary Club of Northcote was asked if it could help to upgrade the picket fence around to two street frontages of the property. So - one thing did lead to another – and the Club, after many weekends of work, has completely replaced the fence, except for the pickets that were stripped and repainted to be attached to the new posts and rails. It was a rewarding project –with members finding time to chat to the many passing residents that were interested in what Rotary was about and why were we working on the fence.

But again – one thing can lead to another. The Club has now been approached to upgrade the fence for the local crèche further down the road!

New Members:

We welcome the following Rotarians who have recently joined or rejoined Rotary.

Alison Howell	Whangarei Sunrise
George P Swanepoel	Whangarei City
Peter Aicken	Waipapa
Carol Fougere	Henderson
Ross Baker	Henderson
Michael Hope	Henderson
Bernie Woods	East Coast Bays
Lindsay Donaldson	Browns Bay
Barbara Cavanagh	Albany

WARKWORTH ROTARY WALKS

March 17th & 18th 2012

Warkworth Rotary's 2012 Walk will take place on the 17th and 18th March 2012. Combining Mount Tamahunga, Pakiri Beach and walks on private land on Kawau Island, this walk will provide challenge, variety and a wonderful unspoiled location.

You will enjoy mountains, a coastal tramp, sea and bush views, and wander in native bush. This walk will be held over two days, and offers the opportunity to travel on our local icon, the sailing scow "Jane Gifford", for the return journey from Kawau Island.

Details from RC Warkworth Tel 09 422 2290

Bangkok



103rd Rotary International Convention 6th – 9th May 2012

Come and join DG Brian & Glenna and other D9910 Rotarians in Bangkok.

Further details on the RI website or contact Peter Johns; email: mahupj@xtra.co.nz

There are a number of initiatives within the District to help Rotarians book their trip to Bangkok. If you need help with flights or accommodation or want to arrange trips before or after the Convention,

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