



## Presidents Post

Greetings fellow Rotarians,

“Change is in the air, both on the government political scene and Hutt Valley River Rotary Club. After a very enjoyable three week break down the South Island ( plus Stewart Island) I am back to take up the Club Presidents position from Peter Chaney for the next quarter. Many thanks are due to Peter for his efforts since July and we wish him well on his frequent travels over the next few months.

I understand the visit from the DG went well last week and was sorry I missed it. This week we have indoor bowling on and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible then. Don' t forget to please register your interest with Casey for that. The evening we had there in the winter was great fun and this will be again.

Finally please ensure you have Saturday 2 December firmly allocated in your diaries for the Xmas parade. As usual we will need as many hands as possible on deck for the day - and also prior preparations.

See you all soon

Graham Smeaton

President

Rotary Club of Hutt River Valley

## Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - District Governor's Visit

Unfortunately just a small gathering of members and partners were able to attend and listen to D.G Mitchell Brown.

Mitchell's basic message was that as a club we need to be thinking about investing in ourselves and the community. As part of this he spoke about Club development, membership development and the importance of training incoming officers. As part of the changes RLI has now become the acronym for "Rotary Learning and Development"



Mitchell also spoke about some of RI President Ian Risley's goals for the year. The polio campaign is one of the top goals with the WHO requiring three years free of cases before they can declare earth polio free. So far there have been 11 this year with the problem areas being the Afghanistan and Pakistan border area.

Other goals are:

1. Plant a tree for every Rotarian – so far our district has exceeded this goal.
2. Peace and conflict resolution and are in the process of setting up the eighth "Peace University".

Mitchell reiterated his main thrust of Rotarians investing in them and investing in their Club.





One challenge is to talk to our community about what Rotary does.

Mitchell also noted that District Conference is changing to “RotaFest” as a festival and celebration of Rotary and this is to be held in Palmerston North



### *Parting thought*

A flying saucer was low on fuel, so landed by a gas station on a lonely country road. On its side were the letters “UFO”. The gas station attendant was stunned, but his curiosity got the better of him. “Does that stand for Unidentified Flying Object” he asked? “No” one of the other-worldly travelers responds, “it stands for “Unleaded Fuel Only”.

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport. “These hill are getting steeper as the years go by”, one complained. “These fairways seem to be getting longer too”, wheezed a second. “And somehow, the sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember ‘em too”, said the third. Hearing just about enough from his buddies, the oldest, and the wisest of the foursome at 87 years old,

piped up and said, “Oh my friends just be thankful we’re still on THIS side of the grass”!

### Upcoming programme

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Ten Pin Bowling

October 24<sup>th</sup> – No Meeting

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Quiz night

November 7<sup>th</sup> – Hub Visit

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Joint Meeting with the Rotary Club of Upper Hutt will be held at Taita College where a formal presentation of a cheque for the music computers will occur.

November 21<sup>st</sup> – BBQ Belmont Domain

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Parade preparation night

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Parade

December 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party

### Duties

|                       | 17-Oct          | 24-Oct     | 31-Oct     | 7-Nov                      |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Guest Speaker & Topic | Ten Pin Bowling | No Meeting | Quiz Night | Visit to Stokes Valley Hub |
| Host                  |                 |            |            |                            |
| Set Up                |                 |            |            |                            |
| Grace                 |                 |            |            |                            |
| Thanks                |                 |            |            |                            |
| Parting Thought       |                 |            |            |                            |
| Stewards & Tidy Up    |                 |            |            |                            |

## *A word from our DG*



The first quarter of the year is complete and what a whirlwind of ride it has been.

I have recently seen the Stroke Awareness Foundation blood pressure checks held,

Rotary Australia New Zealand Student Exchange outbound interviews and briefing held, the District Board has met and the first quarter information has been discussed. The District Governor visits are cranking along and some have included significant events. September saw the annual Rotary Governors Elect Training, Symposium and Institute which was held at Waipuna Hotel in Auckland. It was a great event, enjoyed by all who attended.

The District Events Committee is well underway with the planning for next year's District Conference, rebranded **"RotaFEST - A Festival of Rotary"**. Scheduled for the 11-13 May, 2018 the weekend will incorporate the opening of the Rotary supported *Wildbase Recovery Centre* and the *District Training Assembly*. Of note is the Saturday festival in the PN Square with marquees, music, food and Rotary celebrations with our role in the community and the programs we offer on display. My thanks to PDG Glen Caves and the committee for their work and efforts to prepare this MUST ATTEND Rotary Festival !!

IPDG Martin Garcia heads up our International Convention Committee to coordinate with national coordinator PDG Leanne Jaggs for our District 9940 team attending next year's International Convention in Toronto, Canada. We are well past our budget of 12 attendees and are heading toward 30 from the current count of 21. See you in Toronto in June next year, get booking now for some great deals to attend this amazing Rotary International event. It may even rival our very own **"RotaFEST – A Festival of Rotary!!"**

My thanks to Richard Stephen with his tireless efforts with the Webmaster role, Clubrunner guru and helpdesk and now the National Rotary ICT Chair, congratulations Richard – you are Making A Difference

The round of Club Visits by the DG are well underway and I have a focus to see the reporting in Rotary Club Central raised so we capture the key project initiatives with trees planted and volunteer hours completed leading us to better understand our District and Clubs support for Service Above Self and Doing Good in the Community.

We have two significant events happening this month that will define our future as a Service Organisation in our Communities and drive our Club Development and

Finally, my challenge for this month is to ensure that we look at the future and charter a strategic direction for our Clubs, Clusters, District, Zone and Rotary International. This was powerfully put by Rotarian and former Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand at Rotary Institute in Auckland. His vision that he put to us is to Re District our Rotary organisational structure across New Zealand and the Pacific Islands as Australia are having to do soon due to their falling membership numbers. This will shape Rotary for the future. We need to consider this strategically now for the success of Rotary in our District, our country and internationally. If not, then we will fade as an organisation that will be acknowledged as one that HAD members that USED to Do Good in their Community and in the world.

Get off your ASK!! Yes, get talking to friends, family, work colleagues and your community to find the best fit for the style of Rotary that will ensure succession. Our second significant event is at the end of the month when we will have the National Membership Workshop in Christchurch. You are still able to register to attend on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of October at the Commodore Hotel near the Christchurch Airport.

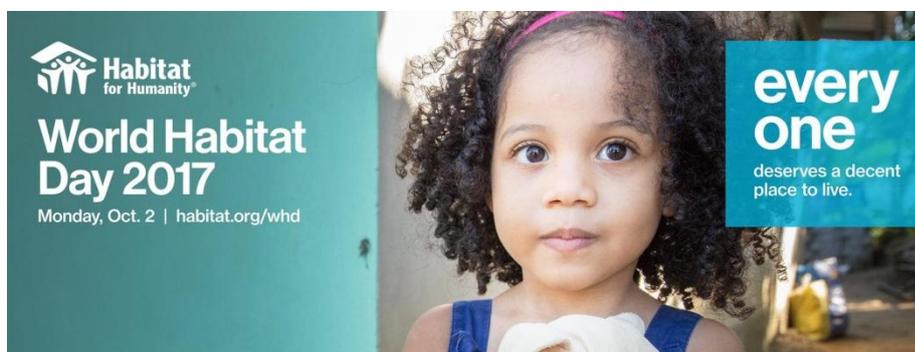
That day I am sure key strategies and opportunities to enhance our Clubs and District will be found and shared with a key focus on the future of our Districts and Rotary in New Zealand. If you would like to attend contact PDG Deb Gimblett or District Club Development and Membership Chair Tony Heyward, and I will see you there!!

Yours in Rotary,

**Mitchell Brown**  
**District Governor 2017/18**  
**Rotary District 9940**

### *Partnering with Habitat for Humanity to empower communities*

*To help clubs and districts empower their communities through access to affordable shelter, Rotary is pleased to announce a service partnership with Habitat for Humanity.*



This new partnership aims to help enhance club and district-led service activities by providing access to resources and programming. Clubs can work with Habitat affiliates and local communities to design and provide long-term, affordable housing to families most in need of shelter.

“The values of our organizations are so closely aligned, and the desire to help others runs deep for both groups. That makes us such a perfect match,” said Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan T.M. Reckford and member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta.