



Elaine Mead and Peter Garnett

NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

Greetings everyone; Kia ora koutou; Bonjour à tous; Halo evriwan; Watewieh yorlye



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The opening sentence of Charles Dickens', "Tale of Two Cities" has been running in my head over the last few months and it seems particularly apt for what we have been through and some are still experiencing.

The pandemic, terrible losses, separation from loved ones at crucial times and economic stress have occurred alongside acts of kindness, innovation, re-discovery and support of local business.

Peter and I were fortunate to get the Governor-Training done at San Diego, USA in January, where we were all planning for a normal Rotary year. No-one could have envisaged where we find ourselves today. Rotary International President Holger Knaack's statement at the time that "Rotary **has** to change and it **will** change", has come to pass thanks to circumstances beyond our control.

Those circumstances cut short Past Governor Ian's and Jasmine's full enjoyment of their year and it was heart-breaking for all to have to, once again, cancel a Vanuatu-based district conference. Full credit to Ian and Jasmine for their commitment to being in New Zealand and connecting with clubs whilst they were here. Congratulations to Jasmine for her Paul Harris Fellow recognition and successful fundraising project for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) which achieved NZD\$10,000.

Despite the circumstances Rotary and Rotarians have risen to the challenge, learned new skills and shown flexibility to maintain their connections and continue to serve their community. Clubs adapted to meetings via Zoom and some are continuing with a hybrid format. Even in the midst of Level 4 lockdown, we responded to Vanuatu's need for support after Tropical Cyclone Harold. The real challenge now is **NOT** falling back into old practises but seizing the 2020-2021 theme of 'Rotary Opens Opportunities' and making the most of it with what we have experienced and learned.

In 2020 the Maori New Year of Matariki falls within the same month as the start of the Rotary New Year. It is auspicious this should occur in our centennial year, when Rotary in Australia and New Zealand celebrates 100 years since the clubs of Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington and Auckland were founded in 1921. I have issued a 'centennial challenge' to all clubs in my [Governor Video message](#), sent to Presidents earlier this month to share with their club members.

Matariki is a time to gather with family and friends to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future. This connects well with RI President Holger's messages of building Rotary, holding at least one club planning meeting, finding the 'fit' of members to clubs and working towards the end of polio. Watch a short video at this [link](#). Matariki also indicates when to plant, which aligns with the recent decision by the RI Board and Rotary Foundation to introduce a seventh area of focus: 'Supporting the Environment'. I am delighted at this news as environment is important to the younger generation and this gives Rotary an opportunity to connect with and provide options to a group of future leaders and members.

Peter and I started our club visit Q&A sessions last week and we look forward to spending time with you all on creating the 'best of times' out of the 'worst of times' to build a dynamic and vibrant District 9910 that people just can't wait to join.

Elaine Mead
Governor - District 9910
2020-2021

District Directory

District Directory can be found on the district website at the following link
[District 9910 Directory](#)





Buzzin' Around with Governor Elaine



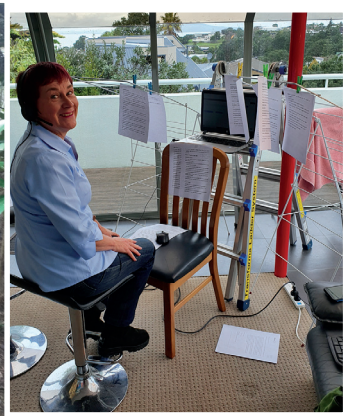
30 June 2020 - Rotary Maungaturoto changeover - deep in discussion with incoming President Rodney Tysoe.



4 July 2020 - Rotary Takapuna's E-Waste collection at Abilities Group - with President Neil Murray and one-quarter of what was collected.



5 July 2020 - helping Rotary East Coast Bays clear gorse out of William Gamble Reserve.



6 July 2020 - recording the Governor Video Message for clubs.



9 July 2020 - Rotary Westhaven changeover with PP Regina Smuga and President Charlie Inggs.



10 July 2020 - Rotary Hillsborough, Lynfield, Mt Roskill changeover with PG Peter Garnett, PG Ken Winter and President Murray Stirling.



11 July 2020 - Rotary Westhaven 'Cash or a Can' collection for Auckland City Mission.



14 July 2020 - Rotary Takapuna social outing at 'The Project' screening.



22 July 2020 - Buzzy Bee at his first Governor visit with Rotary Kaikohe and Rotary Waipapa.



23 July 2020 - Rotary Waipapa - with Barbara Ashworth (sec) and President Fred Terry at dinghy lockers built at Kerikeri Marina.



23 July 2020 - Visiting Te Rau Aroha museum at Waitang, our District Conference location.



24 July 2020 - Peter checking out the old Rotary wheel in Kaitia. Watch this space.



23 July 2020 - Rotary Bay of Islands and Rotary Kerikeri - Governor Q&A. Rotary BOI member Donna taking notes for the bulletin.



26 July 2020 - First District Management Meeting with District Administrator, Margaret Cebalo and others joining by Zoom.

District Diary

31 July	Cure Kids Red Nose Day
1 August	District Public Image Chairs meeting
1 -2 August	District Membership Chair training
3 August	Governor Q&A - Devonport & Takapuna
4 August	Governor Q&A - Browns Bay & North Harbour
4 August	Governor Q&A - Epsom & Westhaven
7 August	Rotary Waipapa - Adventure Film Festival
8 August	Rotary ECB - Pinehurst BBQ fundraiser
10 August	Governor Q&A - Northcote & Glenfield & Rotaract North Auckland
11 August	Governor Q&A - Milford & North Shore NRG
12 August	International Youth Day
12 August	Governor Q&A - Albany & Birkenhead (Zoom)
13 August	Governor Q&A - Warkworth & Whangaparaoa
17 August	Governor Q&A - East Coast Bays & Takapuna
18 August	Governor Q&A - Kumeu & Waitakere
19 August	Governor Q&A - Dargaville
19 August	Governor Q&A - Whangarei & Whangarei City
20 August	Governor Q&A - Whangarei South & Whangarei Sunrise
22 August	D9910 Membership Webinar
23 August	Deadline for content to Governor Newsletter Editor
24 August	Governor Q&A - OOTH & HLMR
26 August	Governor Q&A - Rotalite & South Kaipara (Zoom)
27 August	Governor Q&A - Henderson & New Lynn
29-30 August	RLI - Rotary Learning & Information
30 August	Rotary Whangarei City - Mexican Magic Moments Banquet
31 August	Rotary National Science & Technology Forum applications close
2 September	Area 4 & 5 Presidents' meeting

Events

Events in the district can be found on the district website at the following link [District 9910 Diary](#) - clubs who want their events here should sent information/flyers to District Administrator, district9910@gmail.com

Public Image Tip

With August being Membership and New Club Development Month, have members, friends or family 'recommend' your club, leaving a review on your Facebook page to let the public know how great it is to belong to Rotary.

Projects as a method for attracting members

With this year's round of District Grants closing on the 30th of September it is a great opportunity for Clubs in our District to carry out a hands-on project in their local community. One idea that several clubs are now using is to invite members of the public along to participate in their projects as an easy way to introduce them to the work their club does.

Often participating in a project is a more effective method to connect than inviting them along to a meeting - they get to see the results and fun of carrying out the work first, rather than the meeting and discussion part of Rotary.

In order to tap into this method as a possible driver for more people joining Rotary the district has a new website called Volunteer With Rotary (www.volunteerwithrotary.org.nz) which will aim to introduce people to Rotary via projects.

The site contains some general information on Rotary as well as a list of upcoming projects that Rotary Clubs in our District are looking for help.

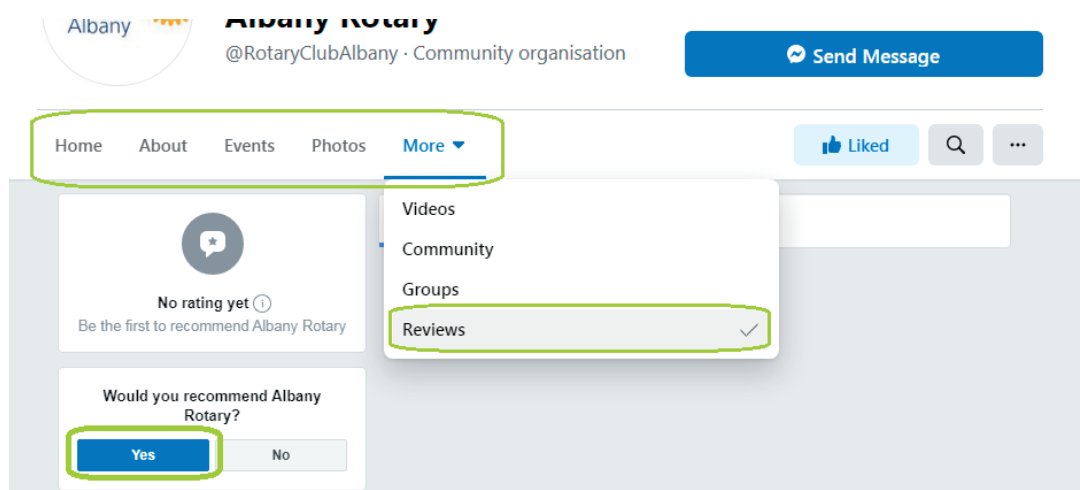
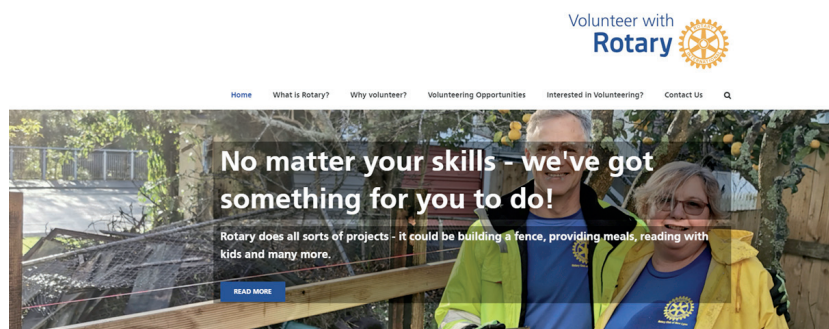
We would love to see as many clubs as possible supply details of their upcoming projects in which they can be loaded onto the site.

We will be able to promote this site with free Google Adwords advertising. Google Adwords are the ads that come up at the top and side of your search results when searching on Google. Analyses on how many people search for volunteering opportunities rather than Rotary, specifically shows us there is scope to get Rotary's projects (and your clubs) in front of a lot of people this way.

Please check out the site and send us your projects - we need to know the following:

- Name of the club
- Name of the project
- Description of what the project is about - why are you doing it, what are the specific tasks you need help with
- Date/s of the events/working bees
- Email address of the person within your club who will receive the enquiries from the public
- Photos (up to 10)

Send to District Membership Chair Matthew McLeod at: membership@rotarydistrict9910.org.nz



New home for old Windsor Reserve Playground.

The old Devonport playground now has a new sea view from its new home on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu.

Originally the playground was planned to be reinstated in April/May but due to the lockdown the arrangements for a number of Devonport Rotarians and a few local helpers to head up were scuppered.

This left the rebuilding of the playground to Rotary Santo. They started the task at the end of June and over a week and a half they rebuilt the playground and completed the landscaping.

Rotary Santo members handed the playground over to the Luganville municipality on Friday 17 July, in time to provide fun and enjoyment to the local 'ol pikinini' on World Children's Day (24 July)

This has been a marvellous project highlighting how through Rotary, local initiatives can impact positively on the lives on those overseas. This playground may well have ended up in the rubbish dump yet will now be enjoyed for many years ahead by the children on Santo.

While Rotary was the conduit for the project it could not have been accomplished without the support of Auckland Council, Rymans, Oceanbridge Shipping, MSC Consulting, Rotary District Grants and the Rotary Devonport.

As part of the project St Leos Catholic Primary School donated several boxes of books to be delivered to the Santo Children and these were sent with the container.

Gavin Busch
Past President, Rotary Devonport



A Memorable Gift

Governor Elaine had the honour of participating in a 24-year tradition at Rotary Maungaturoto's recent changeover, when pinning this brooch to Linda Tysoe.

At the end of Norman Dalebrook's year as President (1995/1996), his wife, Beth presented this brooch to the wife of the incoming President and it has been passed on since then. Beth was a detail person and liked little additions that had commemorative value. The brooch has become a treasured tradition and possession of Rotary Maungaturoto.

Beth passed away in March last year, six years after Norman, but their Rotary connection continues in daughter Karen Bonnici, who is President of Rotary Orewa.



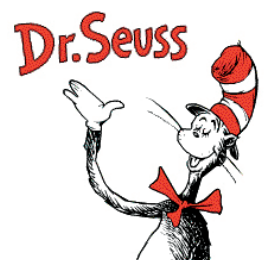
Why Reading matters...

As Dr Seuss says, the more you read, the more things you'll know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go!

The ability to read and the acquisition of language is the key to opening opportunities. Without the ability to read one is restricted in all aspects of life. A child with reading difficulties cannot achieve at school and they may be subjected to bullying and will lose self-confidence. Without reading one cannot actively participate in job seeking, getting a drivers' licence, read labels on medicine, help with a child's homework, or even really participate on social media. Poor reading skills can result in poverty, unemployment and even incarceration. Supporting students and young parents with reading and literacy changes lives for the better.

District 9910 has the only District Committee which is focused on Literacy nationally and district wide. Incorporate Literacy into all your hands-on projects, your work with schools, your support of district and global grants especially in Vanuatu. Remember, Basic Education Literacy is one of the areas of focus for Rotary world-wide. Talk to the committee about how your club can help children and adults find the joy of reading and the pride of ownership of their own books.

Ali Chamberlain ali@chamberlainz.com 021 599 395



Red Nose Day 2020 for CureKids

Cure Kids was established by Rotary in 1971 as the Child Health Research Foundation.

It raises funds for the best possible child health research that will make a measurable difference to the health and well-being of children in New Zealand. Cure Kids have been fundraising throughout the month of July, leading up to their iconic fundraiser, Red Nose Day, which is Friday 31 July.

This year, Cure Kids are saying goodbye to the foam and plastic noses for a more sustainable approach which includes adding a 'Red Nose filter' to your Facebook mobile app camera. With this fun addition to your Facebook mobile app camera, you can take a photo of yourself and post it to your personal social media page. Following this, donate on their website (or by texting 'nose' to 2446 for an automatic \$3 donation) and encourage others to do so too!

It's as simple as 1,2,3,4...

1. [Click here to access the filter](#) (don't forget to use your mobile device)
2. Take your snap and upload it as your Facebook profile pic
3. [Donate here](#) or text 'nose' to 2446 to make an automatic \$3 donation
4. Tell your friends and family so they can support Red Nose Day too!

Here's a quick and simple message you can copy and paste:

"I've donated to Red Nose Day to help fund child health research in NZ. Get involved by uploading a pic with the Red Nose Day filter and donating online at www.rednoseday.co.nz. You can also text 'nose' to 2446 to make an automatic \$3 donation."

You may remember Cure Kids ambassador Eva Mitchell who PG Ian Kiernan had the opportunity to meet after jumping off Auckland's SKYTOWER. Cure Kids is determined to support research to find better treatments and cures for many Kiwi kids, like Eva. [Read Eva's story here.](#)



Rotary International Conference 2021 - Taipei

I am pleased to introduce myself as the co-ordinator for District 9910 for the Rotary International conference in TAIPEI on June 12-16 June 2021

In these very uncertain times it may be difficult for us to look forward to next year's conference, but I am sure as Rotarians we will retain a positive outlook.

International travel is one of the main uncertainties in respect of our overseas conference, although one point in favour of the chosen location of Taiwan is their excellent record in dealing with Covid-19. Their record to date is easily as good as our wonderful New Zealand.

I do hope you will consider registering for the conference on line as soon as possible as this will give support to the organisers and enable you to get an early bird discount rate. Once you have registered I will be notified and then I can add you to my list and keep you updated as to the progress and planning. If you are not able to fully commit at this time I would be pleased to hear from you with "an expression of interest" and I will also be able to keep in touch with you.

Once the possibilities have become a little clearer I intend to put some ideas together for travel packages, together with our Browns Bay Rotarian, Kelda Cawood of House of Travel, Browns Bay. I will also be enlisting help from several Rotarians who are originally from Taiwan, to help me make sure we get the best opportunities for a memorable trip.

Paul Mees

District 9910 Co-ordinator for Taipei 2021 Email: mees49@gmail.com mobile 021 025 70993

Rotary  Rotary Opens Opportunities

12 - 16 June 2021

Rotary  TAIPEI 2021

<https://convention.rotary.org/en/taipei>

D9910 Convention Co-ordinator

Paul Mees

mees49@gmail.com

Paul Mees



Matariki and Education

Betsy Young was recognised with a Paul Harris Fellow for her outstanding conservation work along Northland beaches and educating scientists about the preservation of pingao. There is a Maori proverb that says Ko tahi te tapuwae, he mano, he mano. "The first sacred foot step is followed by thousands upon thousands". She continues to work with the local schools and community on environmental initiatives.

Matariki 2020 celebrations at local schools. The school staff and Betsy working with schools on kite making and women on weaving techniques and the importance of restoring and healing the mana of the taiao (environment).

Matariki means the "eyes of god" or "little eyes" in Maori

It refers to a cluster of stars called the Pleiades which rises in mid-winter and signals the beginning of a new year.

A number of Rotary Clubs are involved in programmes around NZ to support Maori conservation and environmental projects working with Maori volunteer groups.



Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools and Environmental Education



Ngataki and Te Hapua School students spend many of their learning hours in their environment. They are always supported by Betsy who continues to work with a number of local schools in the far north, guiding students on the importance of caring and protecting Pingao and the sand dune ecosystem for now and their future.

Whanau (Family) and their children always combine play and work when healing the environment.



Left. Maori (Indigenous) science and Western science in action. Ngāti Kuri kuia and weaver Betsy Young teaching scientists about traditional pīngao harvesting techniques at a wānanga workshop, Te Kōkōta, in Te Hapua, Far North. Local students participate in these wananga.

In the middle of winter, just before the beads of Matariki make their first appearance in the pre-dawn sky, a group of women can be seen hard at work on the sand dunes of Rarawa beach, near Ngataki and north of Houhoura. They are pricking out pingao seedlings to be propagated in their nursery. It's one of four main natives used for weaving and is considered a taonga, a treasure and is the only natural fibre whose colour cannot be improved upon. A brilliant orange-gold that needs no further processing, unlike black-edged flax which turns white when it's boiled. When the leaves are dried they will become tukutuku panels in the whareniui, or kete (bags), potae (hats) or whariki (mats) because the fibres are so strong. Betty is affectionately referred to by many as **Our Pingao Queen**.

Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School (VLSSS)

Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School's (VLSSS) vision is for "the promising students of today to become the dynamic leaders of the country tomorrow, evoking social change for the benefit of all".

Founded in 2012, VLSSS holds a summer school each January on remote Pentecost Island in Vanuatu, with students coming together from schools across the island for a month of learning and fun. This year's program was attended by a record 143 Ni-Vanuatu students across a junior (year 6) and senior (year 10) stream, with a majority female cohort. Students and teachers stay on site for the duration of the program, with leadership development integrated throughout all aspects of the day. Over 20 Ni-Vanuatu teachers deliver the course, all young leaders themselves receiving an opportunity to hone their leadership skills (including an induction workshop), perfect role models for the young students.

A range of activities are enjoyed with a focus on confidence building, good character, leadership and problem solving. Activities include daily drama classes and twice weekly drama performance nights, custom performances, computing classes, hands-on science investigations, beach clean-ups and lots of spoken English and French.

VLSSS is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and/or clubs to contribute to a significant development opportunity for those who attend the school at a cost of NZ\$135 (2020 figure) per student. This covers the full cost of a student to attend the program (including their accommodation, food, school resources etc). On a practical note donations can be paid into a NZ bank account and communication with VLSSS is excellent.

Both the Literacy Committee and North Harbour Rotary are sponsors of VLSSS.

For more information contact, Geoff Chamberlain
geoff@chamberlainz.com

Or for any further information on the program, feel free to contact VLSSS Management Advisor James Ibell-Roberts
reachvlss@gmail.com

(The website is Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School, and their annual report can be downloaded from it. You can also follow VLSSS on social media such as Facebook or Instagram, just search for @FollowVLSSS)



Your Legacy, Rotary's Promise



Your annual gifts to The Rotary Foundation are helping people around the globe live better lives today.

Planning a gift to Rotary's Endowment supports these same life-changing programs forever.

Learn how the next century of service begins with your Rotary legacy at rotary.org/legacy.



Blast from the Past

In Past Governor David Oliver's year (1996-97) the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team came from District 1210, Midlands, UK.

Past Governor D1210, Fraser Dukes visited David and Beverley in NZ several times. On this occasion, photographed in Beverley's 1914 Ford model T Roadster along with PDG David Oliver D.9910, PDG Fraser Dukes D.1210 (England), Dennis Scanlan D.9910, P.P. Warwick Jessop D.9930.

The 1987 GSE was notable for a marriage between Beth Postow (D9910 team) and Marcus Nalter (D1210 team), who now live in Auckland.

"Photo contributions to 'Blast from the Past' can be sent to rotarynewsletter9910@gmail.com with short descriptive caption"

Focus on Environment

A number of clubs have started the new Rotary year with clearing or planting programmes in the local community or connecting with their local school on a Trees For Survival programme.

Rotary East Coast Bays combined with Greenhithe Community Trust and Scouts to clean up and plant in William Gamble Reserve. Rotary Club of Orewa worked alongside the Forest and Bird Society Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from Orewa College to plant over 600 trees in Red Beach.



Plastic Free July

This has been Plastic Free July month and both the [website](#) and [Plastic Free July Aotearoa](#) Facebook page have great tips and ideas on how to reduce plastic impact in our environment.

Did you know more and more councils are no longer collecting plastic packaging made from plastics #3, #4, #6 and #7?

#4 plastic are often squeeze bottles like these but check the number.

If you can't give up the squeeze bottle, buy the same product in a can, fill an old squeeze bottle, then rinse out the can for recycling.



Rotary Satellite Part Of Community Patrol Vehicle

The Rotary Satellite Club of Orewa-Millwater was delighted to be invited to Tristram MG at Wairau Park on Thursday 9th July, to witness the launch of the new patrol vehicle for the Hibiscus Coast Community Patrol, for which they fund-raised \$4000 in just 6 days. Sandra Sweetman, Chair of the HBC Community Patrol made special mention of our Satellite Club during her welcome and again expressed sincere thanks for our fast and proactive response to their appeal for help. The old patrol car has been 'paid forward' to the Community Patrol unit in Porirua.

Satellite Rotarian Andy Dunn and Orewa Rotarian Gavin Whyte are both Community Patrollers, so this made the cause extra special as a Rotary endeavour. Now, when you see the new patrol vehicle around the Hibiscus Coast, you will see the logo of the Rotary Satellite Club of Orewa-Millwater and know that we are very much an integrated part of this great community.



Photos by Rotarian Paul Conroy, Portraits by Design



Orewa Millwater members with Sandra Sweetman (Right)

Vanuatu Projects – TC Harold Update

On the 7th April, Cyclone Harold vented its force on the islands of Vanuatu. There was widespread destruction, to property, and the damage inflicted has made it exceedingly difficult and, in most areas, impossible for these communities to manage, especially with Coronavirus awareness and restrictions in place.

We were aware, especially after our experiences with the aftermath of Cyclone Pam, there would be urgent need for emergency assistance, mostly as recommendations from our Rotary Clubs in Vanuatu. We asked for D9910 clubs to support these communities in Vanuatu through a dedicated account for the Cyclone Harold Disaster.

Just over NZ\$40,000 was donated by D9910 Clubs, and the funds were used by Rotary Santo for the below projects damaged by the cyclone'

- SARA KATA dispensary: 525,805 Vt = 7,200 NZ
- SOLWAY dispensary: 445,939 Vt = 6,100 NZ
- CAPRICORN dispensary: 961 521 Vt = 13,100 NZ
- CHAPUI dispensary: 652,167 Vt = 8,900 NZ

We also provided Rotary Port Vila with support for the Rotary Care Packs to the value of NZ\$10,000. NZ\$7,000 was from funds raised, and NZ\$3,000 from a District Grant. These packs were shared by both Santo and Port Vila Rotary clubs to support people admitted to hospital as a result of Cyclone Harold.

We also applied for a Disaster Fund Grant of US\$25,000, which was approved, and we gained permission to keep US\$9500 left over from a previous Global Grant (GG), to be used in recovery projects.

After many Zoom Meetings presenting our appeal to many Club meetings, DG's forum from Australia and NZ, DGE's from both countries, as well as opportunities, we managed to get commitment

of DDF US\$17,500 from Australia and D9910 committed DDF funds. We launched a Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) project on the Australian website through the Bundaberg Rotary Club, and have raised AUD\$11,000.

We have submitted three Cyclone Harold Global Grants in the month of June (NZ\$230) focussed on Water & Sanitation. Locations are on Maewo, Pentecost and in Luganville. These GG's, were agreed to by the Rotary Santo. Information for them has been supplied by the Santo Club.

Some Rotary members of Onehunga One Tree Hill, have committed NZ\$25,000 for one of these GG's on Asanvari Village, and a further NZ\$15,000 through Rod Kestle's contacts for Enkul Village GG on Pentecost.

We have delivered over NZ\$100,000 in cash, to Rotary Santo to do recovery projects in their area following Cyclone Harold.

We have a stock of Aqua boxes from Rotary Eltham, shipped to Luganville. The shipment comprises 84 Aquabox 'Family' and 16 Aquabox '30' boxes and various humanitarian aid items, including 370 family size mosquito nets. It is expected the shipment will arrive in Santo around 3rd September. Included is a quantity of Aqua box components, including filters, tools and a significant quantity of family size mosquito nets, which will also be dispatched to Vanuatu.

We have had a great outcome regarding projects for Cyclone Harold Recovery, I estimate well over NZ\$350,000 during a time when funds have been difficult to raise, and may I note, with no other NZ funds from outside our D9910.

Lindsay Ford
Vanuatu Projects
ford.rotary@outlook.com

Photos of Luganville, Santo

BEFORE CYCLONE HAROLD



AFTER CYCLONE HAROLD



Damaged Kindergarten



Rotary Port Villa members sorting boxes



Our Rotary Youth Exchange students wave the Kiwi Flag!

We are very proud of our five Kiwi girls who are still overseas and have just completed six months away. When these young ladies signed up for an incredible, life-changing year abroad we told them they would face challenges and learn resilience. No one could have imagined the challenges they would meet and their strength and resilience is a testament to the incredible ladies they are.

Natasha in Taiwan has had the most freedom and faced COVID-19 challenges since early arrival in January. True to Natasha's style she faced each challenge head on and in her quiet and determined way has met each one with diplomacy and independence. Natasha has attended school most of the way through and whilst her Mandarin dictionary and facemask have been mandatory, her language has thrived and she has enjoyed understanding the Taiwanese culture in great detail.

Ella in Denmark struggled at the start of her exchange with some homesickness but once lockdown hit in Denmark, she found great comfort in the place she was staying. Ella was determined to use the break from school to re-assess her opportunities and really put her head down to interact with her host family, her school friends and learn Danish. Her commitment has made us all very proud.



Hayley (right) on holiday with her host family

Hayley in France has handled her COVID-19 lockdown with elegance and grace (she is a dancer after all!) Her independence hasn't held her back and whilst she has been out of school since March, with a small return in June, she won't return until late September and has spent her time studying French and French culture. Check out more of her thoughts here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/kiwi-traveller/122136817/life-as-a-kiwi-exchange-student-in-france-during-the-covid19-pandemic>

Saana in Finland has enjoyed her time in lockdown with a focus on improving her Finnish and she is now verbally fluent. As the summer months have crept forward Saana has enjoyed celebrating summer festivals including Summer Solstice, camping with her family and swimming in the lakes. COVID-19 hasn't phased Saana and her easy-going attitude has shone through during this challenging time.

Lucy, our youngest student, in Germany struggled with COVID-19 lockdown and closure of the NZ borders, finding the whole experience very unsettling. However she soon found her own inner strength and embraced the opportunity to be in Central Europe and learn first-hand a different approach to the global situation. Lucy returned to school although is now on vacation, and loves being in Germany. She has lots of summer plans, her winter plans are set in place and she is excited to be there!

Overall, our students have experienced the hardest circumstances International Youth Exchange (IYE) students have faced in recent times and have acted as true ambassadors for Rotary and New Zealand. These ladies have held their heads high and taken every opportunity to learn first-hand from a global perspective, making them global citizens.

If nothing else these students and this global pandemic reinforce the unique role IYE plays in the world. Rotary's IYE programme creates world-class global citizens who have a true appreciation and understanding of a new culture (and language) and who represent NZ on the global stage. These students will become our global leaders and all have bright futures ahead of them – no matter their field!

Due to COVID-19 the Youth Exchange District Committee made the difficult decision to postpone our 2020/2021 intake due to the global challenges and evolving situation. However, our commitment and passion hasn't wavered and we will spend the next six – seven months reviewing the programme. This is a major undertaking and commitment from our dedicated committee members and we look forward to an updated programme. If you want to be involved or give your support to changing the world, we want to hear from you! We are always looking for volunteers, supporters, host families and clubs to be involved – if this is YOU simply get in touch.

Jenn McKenzie, Outbound IYE Co-ordinator
021 562 536
Jennifer.sophia.mckenzie@gmail.com



Saana (2nd from right) with host family