



The year that was...

"There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus, he does not believe in Santa Claus: he is Santa Claus!"
US Journalist Bob Phillips

As our Christmas party signaled the formal end of our Rotary Year it is timely to reflect on what has been a remarkable year for us. A quick survey of some of our members on their highlights included:

How well we embraced virtual meetings with attendances on Zoom getting up to about 60. This also meant we could spread our net to catch some amazing speakers: Professor Deborah Donnell on COVID in the USA and her own research in another infectious disease HIV, We also got glimpses of life in South Africa and Ireland. The end of King Coal and Rocket man showed that we could continue to use Zoom even when we are back in regular meetings and how great those talks were.

COVID buddies emerged as a way of keeping in touch. In times of great challenge how much that personal touch can mean.

President Tom nursed us through the COVID time and with COVID levels dropped we were pleased to welcome in new President Robyn with a very relaxed inauguration and to be advised that we are to face some pruning, fertilizing and mulching.

I am sure it was no coincidence that our biggest project this year has been PARKSYDE Gardens. Putting in bollards (well done Ian and Team), a half day of some serious weeding, pruning and removal with the help of the little yellow digger and then another half day of spreading the mulch. It was a real club effort and although Parksyde Manager Robyn Skelton had already set the pace it was great to stand back and see what a difference collectively we had made. This is probably the biggest project that we have been involved with in my time in Rotary.

Parksyde was not the only gardening project as we also gave a major overhaul to the Rehab Garden at the Hospital. Maybe smaller but equally impactful.

The Sir Anand visit was another highlight, securing a visit to our club from New Zealand's most famous Rotarian and an opportunity to talk about Rotary, and our commitment to the critical role it fills and our desire to see it be shaped for the future.

Our activities were somewhat curtailed by Lockdown but thanks to Russell D we did do some cycling / walking in National Park. A great weekend of fellowship. We have also taken on looking after one of the Trails In Whaka so in the new year a special visit to it is to be arranged.

And of course, Weetbix TRYATHLON, "I am Woman"" and so much more.

And as the Rotary year enters its last half I feel we can look back already and say in times of challenge we have done so much. I am sure someone still has some pruning, fertilizing and mulching planned for us - looking forward to it.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. Roll on 2021

Russell B



What is coming up...

A lot of down time, family time, recharge the batteries time...

Restart our regular programme with:

January 18th 2021

12:30 pm Rotorua Golf Club.

The awarding of the Harold Holmes Award.

Quote Margriet Theron

Introduction: Murray Patchell

Thanks Ann Nicholas

Remember that the first three meetings in the new year we will continue to raise funds for a shelter box.

Remember:

If you cannot undertake a duty it is your responsibility to find a substitute and then advise the meeting chair of that substitution.

If you cannot attend a regular Monday lunchtime meeting please advise Martin Kinder mkinder@deloitte.co.nz by midday of the Friday before that meeting.

Otherwise you will be charged for that meal.

Club meetings are 12:30pm Mondays excluding public holidays.

Rotorua Golf Club, 399 Fenton St, Rotorua

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