

So another Rotary year is over. It has been a year with some new challenges. We have changed our venue from a more formal meeting place. Everything there was a lot more structured. Here at the Golf Club we tend to be a bit more relaxed.

I believe we made a good move and I do sense a certain change in the atmosphere of the meetings, a bit more lay-back than before.

Also, in the background, has been a working towards a new Club structure.

So it has been a year of change – a situation that for some has not been easy to adapt to, but for most the change has been a positive move.

We have had a busy year, when one lists all the programmes we have been part of. The list seems impressive for the Club, yet I have to ask each individual member to assess for themselves the measure of his or her involvement. Each of us alone can gauge the level of enjoyment we have had, depending on how active we have been.

As I look back over the year's activities, I can see the commitment members have made to accomplish those projects. Some are the regular Rotary programmes, other community programmes that we have been inspired to support. Yet others we have generated ourselves because of our commitment to our community.

Here's the list I have made. I hope my memory can recall all of them.

- Our involvement with the RYPEN Camp.
- A young worker had the opportunity to attend RYLA.
- The Rotary Foundation and Polio eradication.
- Then there is our ongoing support for the Koroipita project in Fiji.
- The Driver Directions, Driving On and the Driver Expo programmes are regular.
- We were involved with the Rotary Charity Luncheon which raised \$90,000 for local charities.
- We were part of the Rotary stand at the Home and Leisure Show.
- Swim the Lakes has been a successful fundraiser.
- Through that supporting the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme.
- We support the Graeme Dingle Foundation programme Kiwi Can, which will get under way in 2018.
- Circus Quirkus has again been a successful fundraiser for the Club.
- We have been involved in garden projects and a firewood project.
- We have been to Waikite Valley for an evening meeting, to support their school.
- There have been a few events which have fostered Club fellowship including some pedal-pushing outings.
- Some of these programmes are shared with the other four Clubs.
- Also we have enjoyed a great number of excellent guest and Club speakers who have enlightened us, encouraged and challenged us.
- I am sure there must be a few more that I have missed.

It seems a good list. I hope every member has been able to be involved in some way.

But these programmes as they have been initiated and continued over time, have not been possible without Club member involvement. Some have especially excelled in keeping alive the true spirit of Rotary, both within the Club programmes and in their community and work involvement. Take for instance this notable list.

- Programme organiser – 2004 to 2006
- Club Secretary 2007 – 2009
- International Director 2011 – 2012
- Community Director 2012 -2013
- Club service Director 2013 -2014
- Club President 2014 – 2015
- Programme organiser 2016 – 2017
- The organiser of cycle rides – Ohakune and local Sunday outings.
- Organised that great speaker, Graeme Cleary, the person who almost made it across the Tasman in his kayak.
- Organised a major fundraiser in 2015 - \$6000 for the Asthma Foundation
- Was instrumental in organising our first group to go to Fiji, which resulted in our involvement with the Koroipita project.
- Has been very involved also in the Swim the Lakes fundraiser....
- And I am sure I could go on and on to describe the involvement of Rotarian Russell Dale in the programme and projects of our Club.
- Russell is also credited, along with his many-faceted involvement in the forest and timber industry, with a special interest in leading the Steep Country Harvesting Programme, which is facilitating the invention of machines capable of harvesting on steep slopes, and through this helping to reduce the toll of deaths in this industry. You may have noticed mention of this on TV news the other night.

Call Russell Up

Russell, this Club has much pleasure in awarding you a Paul Harris Fellowship. What you have demonstrated to us is a commitment to your fellow human beings that epitomises the true spirit of Rotary.

Please accept our appreciation for your service and inspiration, to serve our community with the same commitment.

AWARD

Russell replies.

Now let me bring another list to you. This Rotarian has....

- Raised over \$4000 for Polio Plus single-handedly by swimming 25 kilometres in 5 swim marathons. That equates to \$12,000 for Polio Plus, once matching funds are added.
- Has conceived and driven the Swim the Lakes initiative over 4 events, in liaison with the Lakes Council, EBOP, Swim Rotorua and an international swim

organiser. This promises to be a significant fundraiser for the Club once it is well established.

- Drives the club's support of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a valuable community service that trains mentors for children and youth who may not have a father or mother figure in their life. This ensures that these vulnerable youth have caring role models to guide them in their development.
- Participated in the inaugural Koroipita home building exercise in Fiji even before becoming a member.
- Organised last year a wonderful Christmas function for the club.
- Has participated in many service and social events even before joining the Club.
- Involved currently in relief efforts within the Edgecumbe township, following the recent floods.
- Is appreciated for the beautiful quilts made for auction and gifts to special people.
- The cooking extras that have appeared on the table at our lunchtime meetings.
- Professional Service to the community over thirty years as a psychologist helping troubled youth, as well as those suffering from severe pain, brain injuries, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, sexual abuse and relationship issues.
- And I am sure that is not all.

A person, who by her actions has also demonstrated what the spirit of Rotary is all about.

Katrina Allison, please come forward.

This Club wishes to honour your commitment to the spirit of Rotary by awarding you a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Thank you for the demonstration of your commitment to the needs of our community. You are an inspiration to us all.

AWARD

Katrina replies.

So, on that note I conclude my last speech as President. I wish to thank you all for your support and encouragement. I have enjoyed the experience, even at my age, and after 39 years of Rotary.

And my final word comes from Benjamin Disraeli... "I feel a very unusual sensation – if it is not indigestion, it must be gratitude."