



Changeover 23 June 2024

Thys van Lingen

President

2023/4

This is a time when we can reflect on the year and take measure of what we have achieved.

First of all, I would like to thank my Board and their committee members for what they have done:

In no particular order:

Jack Poutsma as treasurer – our best wishes to Jack as he is recovering from an accident.

Chrissie Moses – as immediate past President, currently sick with Covid so can't be here.

Nadia Lehmann for International but she was also very active in the District with literacy and the conference.

Sue Hamnett as Secretary – a portfolio she has had for many years, so good to see she will have a break next year. Sue is currently in the UK.

Harvey Bourne – Club Services. I will shortly touch on some great activities we've had over the year

Donna Smith – Community Projects. This was her second-year handling this very busy portfolio. Also, to her and Terry for allowing us to meet at the Sandpit Bar and having the dinners at The Hideout.

Richard Green – Youth portfolio. He had great engagement with especially BOIC.

Roger for looking after Foundation and getting members to contribute.

Donna/Colin for doing a great job with our social media, website and getting articles in the Northern Advocate and RDU.

A special thanks to **the students from QRC who** helped out at numerous events throughout the year – we will not be able to provide the services to the community, that we do, without them – **Harvey** – please convey our thanks.

Membership: We gained Peter, Alan and Patricia during the year and they have fitted in extremely well. Unfortunately, we lost David Scoffham who sadly passed away in January, Chris Ellington resigned due to health reasons and Richard Robbins who is moving away from Russell. Tom Dawson moved to Auckland

So, what did we do this year:

We had more than **10 social events**, from High School Musicals, Coastguard visit, Wine tasting, X-mas function at Opuia Marina café, Interclub Car Rally and a great outing to see Grant Harnish's Grumman Airplane.

A **fantastic range of speakers** were organised, probably around 30, which kept us entertained during our meetings. It ranged from local businesspeople, authors, some Rotarians, MP's, an ex-pilot, Students from BOIC and people working with youth in the Far North.

Our Activities ranged from:

Supporting **Sport Northland** by supplying marshals for The Beast, Half Marathon in Kerikeri and the Hotprintz Fun/Run/Walk.

Nadia, Richard and other volunteers went to **Hawkes Bay** to help with the Cyclone Recovery.

Sandcastle and Beach Dig in Summer.

Daffodil day breakfast, coming up again in August.

Pink Ribbon appeal.

Colour Run which was a great day and a good income earner for the Club.

Action Day's planting trees on the walkway in Russell and helping with the Cycle track to which we provided \$6000, \$3000 from our Club and \$3000 from the Chenery Trust.

Te Tai Tokarau Health Well Being program – a District wide project.

Waitangi Day parking – from before dawn and always very busy.

Ocean Swim in Russell – provided marshals and sausage sizzle.

This is the second year where we sent clothing to the **Pacific** – thanks to St John Opshop in Russell and Fixation. We recently sent 50 bags to Tonga, where Rotarians from Nukualofa collected it from the boaties and distribute it to the local community, including two 2 Far off Islands, 600km North of Nukualofa.

We put up maps and notice boards in Russell and Paihia – great job by Roger, fellow Rotarians and Team Wunderbar from Barfoot and everyone who sold advertising for the boards.

Casino nights with the Fire Brigade in Paihia to earn money for Leukaemia.

Paihia Rugby – junior teams with tackling gear, made possible by a generous donation from Advance Build.

In the process of building a **Giant Adirondack** chair to be located at a lookout in Russell. Robin and Maggie Cooter, longtime sunshine members, who provided the funds. The MenzShed in Russell is building it for us at no cost. We also updated signs on the walk and cycle ways in Russell with the funds received from the Cooters.

We also Supported Moerewa Youth Support Trust, BOI District Foodbank in Moerewa, Caring Families for children with Autism, Bald Angels with their annual toy drive for X-mas and made a donation to the Tongan Surgical Wing.

We support **Rotary Foundation** and have recently sent \$2300 on behalf of the Club.

Members attended the District **Conference** and 3 went to the Rotary International Conference in Singapore.

We are working closely with **Focus Paihia** and support them with projects such as beautifying Stockyard point and benches in front of the Maritime Building where the buses stop. Nadia was awarded Volunteer of the Year – well done.

We sent 2 students to the **Rotary Science Forum and Muna**, and 1 person to **RYLA**.

The **Dictionary program** in schools, where we supply more than a 150 Rotary Unsworth Illustrated English Dictionaries to 12 schools for the year 4's, continues to be a huge success and it is so rewarding to see how grateful and happy the kids are to receive their first dictionary. This is made possible by a grant from The June Gray Charitable Trust.

New project to reduce your **electricity bill** – partnership with **Meridian, Rugby for Life and Rotary**. If they are cheaper and you switch, You get \$100, RFL gets \$100 and Rotary gets \$100 – your rate is also locked in for 2 years – **brochures on the table**. Send electricity bills to Chrissie (can't be here due to Covid) by next weekend and Meridian will be at our social on the 4th of July to process etc.

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