



ROTARY CLUB of CLAYTON Inc.

District 9810 Victoria, Australia

Weekly Bulletin 2017-2018

Meets every Monday from 6:30pm at The Clayton Hotel
319 Clayton Road, Clayton (Melways 79C2)
(No meeting on public holidays)



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

26th February 2018

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Upcoming Club Program

Date	Speaker	Chairperson
26 th February	Board Meeting	Warren Fricke
5 th March	Scouting Update - PP Bob Millen	Warren Fricke
12 th March	Labour Day – No Meeting	
19 th March	District Governor Journey - DGE Russell Gurney	Warren Fricke
26 th March	Board Meeting	Warren Fricke
2 nd April	Easter Monday – No Meeting	
9 th April	Club Planning	Committee Chairs
16 th April	Potential Club 53 rd Birthday Celebration.	John Barnes
23 rd April	Board Meeting	Warren Fricke
30 th April	RSL Anzac of the Year 2017 - Steve Kyritsis OAM	Warren Fricke
7 th May	Rotary Information – District Community Service Chair	Val Manuelpillai
14 th May	Club Planning	Committee Chairs
21 st May	Rotary Info Night	Warren Fricke

Presidents Report

Hello members,

Tonight, is our Club Board meeting. Members who wish to attend are welcome. It was interesting to hear from last week's guest speaker about the planning for the Victorian Heart Hospital, due to be completed within 4 years. Fundraising has commenced, and although the initial emphasis is on "bricks and mortar" there is also the need to commence fundraising for equipment.

One area of focus for the hospital will be Prevention of heart disease. It was interesting to hear of the establishment of a Cardiac Health and Wellness Centre, as well as the needs of recovery and rehabilitation.

Rotary Four Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

During the week I met with Amir who, as a volunteer with Kingston Council, will help us devise a promotion and marketing plan.

The Rotary Club of Huntingdale will again this year conduct a "Garden Party" fund raiser, with the funds going to Parkinson's Disease awareness. It will be held on Thursday 3rd May. Thanks to Lesley and Ralph who have commenced assisting RC Huntingdale with the planning.

We have seven members and partners going to the District Conference at the beginning of March. If you request a late inclusion please let me know.

In this Rotary week, keep smiling.

Cheers,
Warren

Last Meeting & Notes

Last Meeting (19th February):

Apologies = John Goldspink, Ralph Zuccaro, Dianne Sides, Bill Sides, Glenys Patterson, Geoff Logie-Smith (RC Mt Waverley), Olga Ghiri (Cleanaway), Vaughan Smith (Dixon House), Matthew Hannan (Monash Foundation) and Naureen Moin.

Make Ups = None.

Leave of Absence = None.

Visitors = Anne Mennen (Guest Speaker), Bob Millen (Honorary Member), Joseph O'Loughlin (AG), Peter & Karen Rees (RC Mt Waverley), Sharyn Gordon (Wirringga Scouts), Joe & Carrol (friends of Jim & Jean).

This week our guest speaker was Anne Mennen who is the Director of Development for the to be Victorian Heart Hospital. Anne gave us an interesting presentation on how this new hospital is going to impact the lives of our local community and Victorians overall.

MonashHeart, Monash Health in partnership with Monash University and the Victorian Government have set their sights on building Australia's first heart hospital – the Victorian Heart Hospital, a landmark facility and the first of its kind in Australia, to be built at Monash University, Clayton, Melbourne.

Like dedicated cancer hospitals Australia-wide, the heart hospital will be dedicated to the care of one highly specialised area – cardiac care. Worldwide there are many specialised heart hospitals in major cities, but none in Australia. The case for a dedicated heart hospital as a basis for providing cardiac care is strong and will significantly enhance Victoria's position in cardiac care, research and education.

The Victorian Heart Hospital will build on MonashHeart, Monash Health and Monash University's existing four strong platforms including:

- Excellence in cardiac patient care,
- Innovative, ground-breaking translational research,
- World-class education and training, and
- Robust cardiovascular health care policy development.



The Object of Rotary

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

\$150 Million has been pledged by the Labor Government, with other supporting options including donations being explored.

A stand-alone Victorian Heart Hospital is undoubtedly the best option for the following reasons:

- Stand-alone heart hospitals have become the preferred model for delivery of cardiac care around the world.
- This option best 'future proofs' for capacity growth and flexibility for new paradigms of care well into the future.
- A Victorian Heart Hospital provides the best opportunity for development of related surplus generating activity, including:
 - growth in private patient procedures, both intervention and cardiac surgery;
 - development of cardiac 'travel medicine' within Victoria;
 - opportunities for involvement of major stakeholders.

The Victorian Heart Hospital is planned to comprise strategically located and purpose-built facilities to significantly expand both the existing capacity and models of care and to enable a flexible and proactive approach to new treatment paradigms and rapidly evolving technology. The design will be both patient centered and service orientated to enhance both patient experience and seamless patient flow.



The Victorian Heart Hospital will include a full range of ambulatory and inpatient cardiac care, including cardiac theatres, cardiac catheterisation laboratories and ambulatory services such as cardiac CT, echocardiography and specialist consultation. It will aim to treat public patients with a private patient capacity and will provide care to individuals from overseas (medical tourism).

It will also be a centre for education, a Monash Health and Monash University partnership to provide training options for undergraduate and postgraduate medical, nursing and science students, one to two-year subspecialty training fellowships for cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, an export business for the education of international health professionals and provision of PhD and Masters placement for doctors, nurses, cardiac technologists and allied health professionals.

Research will be a key component of the Victorian Heart Hospital, housing Monash Health's Monash Cardiovascular Research Centre, a centre of Monash University, with ability to expand current activities involving publications, presentations, PhD projects and internationally competitive research activities such as including clinical trials, contract research, registries, research partnerships and translational research. Embedded Monash University spaces will create new and expanded opportunities for medical research, accelerating the transition of discoveries into timely and meaningful outcomes.

Meeting Notes:

- Sam Oddo gave an update on the MET Rail BBQ which was held at the Dandenong Railway Station on Wednesday 14th February. Supporting on the day was be John, Sam, Jon, Val, Bill, Dianne & Ralph. Sam said that it was a quite a busy afternoon with all the sausages been given away in about two hours.
- Val Manuepillai gave an update on the club's attendance at the Clayton Festival on Sunday 18th February. Our stand was in great company being positioned between a calisthenics group and a Medieval demonstration. People stopped and talked when

Club Vision

Clayton Rotary is an energetic, fun-loving, forward-thinking Rotary Club that wishes to continue to grow strategically and provide all its members with opportunities to serve while undertaking worthwhile and sustainable projects locally, nationally and globally.

they saw the Rotary sign. There was some potential interest shown towards Rotary. All up it was a good day.

- Warren Fricke informed the members that we received a card from the Allchin Family for the support we provided for both Ed and Margot.
- Warren Fricke handed out to the members the aprons, hats and visibility jackets which had been ordered.
- Warren Fricke spoke about the upcoming Garden Auction for Parkinson's which will be held on Thursday 3rd May jointly with the Rotary Club of Huntingdale at the Oakleigh RSL club. There will be a committee meeting between the two clubs which will be attended by Ralph & Lesley. More details to follow.

Foundation Facts

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION WEEKLY MESSAGES (By Rotarians for Rotarians)

WHAT IS SHARE?

Through **SHARE**, Rotary districts share in the decision-making process by choosing which Rotary Foundation programs they wish to support and participate in. The Annual Fund SHARE system is the mechanism by which Rotary Foundation program awards are distributed worldwide. Through the SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into District Designated Funds (DDF)—the funds your district can allocate and to the World Funds-The funds the Trustees allocate. By giving to Annual Fund-SHARE we support both local and international efforts!

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 27/02/18 – Interact Meeting.

Tuesday 27/02/18 – Youth Seminar – Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater North.

Friday 02/03/18 to Sunday 04/03/18 – District 9810 Conference in Bendigo.

Sunday 11/03/18 – Oakleigh Market (Rostered on are Sam Oddo at 6:00 am and Val Manuelpillai at 9:30 am).

Sunday 24/03/18 – Bunnings BBQ (South Oakleigh)

Thursday 05/05/18 – Garden Auction for Parkinson's at the Oakleigh RSL.

Club Positions for 2017/18

President	Warren Fricke	Board
Immediate Past President	Ralph Zuccaro	Board and Foundation Chair
Secretary	Michael Ellinger	Board and Club Bulletin
Treasurer	John Barnes	Board and Program
President Elect	Jon Breisch	Board and Vocational Chair
Membership and Public Relations	Glenys Pattison	Board
Community Chair	Val Manuelpillai	Board
International Chair	Sha Rijal	
Youth Services Chair	Lesley Zuccaro	
Vocational Chair	Jon Breisch	
Foundation	Ralph Zuccaro	
Club Protection Officer	Tom Portelli	
Sergeant	Sam Oddo	
Bulletin	Michael Ellinger	
Program	John Barnes	
Fund Raising	Jim and Jean Cochrane	

Visit to the Monash Medical Centre



During the week I had the pleasure of accompanying Frank Golotta (The Clayton Hotel) and Doug Bowden (RC Huntingdale) to Monash Medical Centre.

Frank presented the Monash Foundation with a cheque for \$1000. Frank donated the money in recognition of the Hat Day Party organized by the two Rotary Clubs in October. The funds will be used to further mental health services at the Hospital.

Warren Fricke

District 9810 News

Rotary Club of Monash Young Professionals' Seminar Series

Tuesday 27th February 2018

Seminar: Buying your First Home



Presenters: Craig Kendall (Mortgage Broker and Owner of Mortgage Choice, Wheeler's Hill) & Ros Clowes (Senior Property Consultant at Harcourts Judd White, Glen Waverley)

Craig Kendall is a Mortgage Broker and Owner of Mortgage Choice, Wheeler's Hill. Craig is a certified Practising Accountant with a Master's Degree from Monash University. He has over 20 years of experience as a senior finance and insurance professional working in one of Australia's leading top 20 ASX Listed Organisations.

Ros Clowes is a Senior Property Consultant at Harcourts Judd White, Glen Waverley. Ros is a qualified Accountant and a highly regarded Consultant with more than 90% of her business generated through referrals.

Date: Tuesday 27th February 2018, 7pm - 8pm

Location: Monash Enterprise Centre and Business Incubator, 5A Hartnett CI, Mulgrave, Vic 3170

Cost: \$30 (Adult) or \$25 (Rotaractor). Includes light refreshments and beverages.

BOOK VIA: <https://www.trybooking.com/TOEP>

Rotaract Club of Monash



Club Meeting Details:

The Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start (Optional social dinner at 6:30, please order your meal by 7pm to ensure you can be there for the start of the meeting) at Waverley RSL (Upstairs in the Sunset Room) 161 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley.

Upcoming Rotaract Events:

Rotaract Roster:

Date	Rotarian to Visit
7 th March	Michael Ellinger
21 st March	Glenys Pattison

If you cannot attend on the night you are rostered, please organise a replacement to take your place.



Where other Clubs Meet

A Rotarian can attend the weekly meeting of any Rotary club around the world. This is a “make-up” and counts as attendance credit when you are not able to attend a meeting of your own club.

Details for all District 9810 clubs can be obtained in the district directory or website www.9810rotary.org.au Details for clubs around the world are available in the RI Directory (held by the club secretary) and on the RI website (www.rotary.org)

Reminders

Please ensure that the club is aware if you will be missing a meeting. Contact **Michael Ellinger** on **0447 911 728** or at info@claytonrotaryclub.org.au by **4 pm** on the **day of the meeting**, if you are not going to be present.

Contributions for inclusion into the Bulletin should be passed to michaele@netspace.net.au by Thursday evening of each week.

Please remember if you cannot perform your rostered job, it is your duty to find a replacement to take your place.

Visit our new Facebook page at [@ClaytonRotaryClub9810](https://www.facebook.com/ClaytonRotaryClub9810) or click 

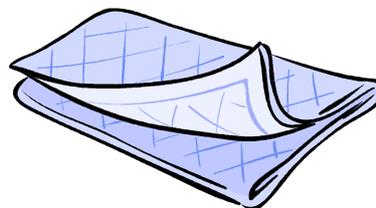
This is a reminder for those members who have paid their fees for 2017/18 in half yearly installments that their second installment of \$175.00 is now payable either to Treasurer John Barnes or directly into our Bank account as follows:

**Rotary Club of Clayton – Administration Account
Westpac Clayton
BSB: 033090
Account Number: 384247**

Joke of the Week

Two strangers, a man and a woman, were travelling on a train when they found they had been allocated the same sleeping compartment. After the initial embarrassment, they decided that he would sleep in the top bunk and the woman would occupy the lower bunk. The lights were out a few minutes when he said: “Excuse me, would you mind hopping out and getting me that spare blanket. I’m feeling a bit cold.” The woman replied: “I have got a better idea. Let’s pretend we are married.”

“That sounds a great idea,” answered the man. “All right then,” was the reply. “Hop out and get the blanket yourself.”



Rotary International News

Rotaract: 50 years of changing lives

By Arnold R. Grah!

50 years ago, the first Rotaract club was formed to give young adults a place to connect and take action for good. Rotaract members from each decade share what the program was like and how it shaped their lives.

The year is 1968.

A wall divides East and West Berlin, as the Cold War rages on. The U.S. and the Soviet Union are locked in a space race, and Apollo 8 becomes the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon, sending back pictures of Earth from deep space.

And Rotary members in North Carolina, USA, charter the first Rotaract club, to provide young people opportunities for service.

A half-century has passed since those first Rotaract clubs began inspiring young leaders to take action to improve their communities. The world has changed, as has the way Rotaract members connect with one another. But the underlying values of the program, and what attracts people to it, remain remarkably the same.

To celebrate Rotaract's 50th anniversary, we asked former Rotaractors from six decades to share their experiences of the program and explain how it shaped their lives.

Here are their stories.

1960's

Geetha Jayaram, a pre-med student in Bangalore, India, became charter secretary of an early Rotaract club in 1968. Her father was an influential businessman in the city, and he and his friends believed the program was the perfect place for their college-age children.

"They encouraged us to join as a group," recalls Jayaram, who met her husband, Jay Kumar, the charter president, through the club. "We were all very happy to do it, because we were medical students, engineering students, and students of other vocations who got together and planned what projects we wanted to do. What enabled us to stick together was that on weekends we went around collecting funds for our projects and worked together."

Within a year, Rotaract was already so established in India that a district conference in 1969 drew thousands. Jayaram believes the program took off so fast there because the need for helping others was so evident.

"It was visible, tangible," she says. "It was not something you thought about doing for somebody in some faraway country. It was right there in front of you."

Rotary's Four-Way Test, with its reference to "the truth," also appealed to young people.

"We were post-independence children and Gandhi followers, and speaking the truth was a big thing in those days," she says.

Jayaram says Rotaract benefited from Rotary's reputation as a well-respected organization in India. People felt proud to belong to it. Participating in Rotary was a family activity, so many young people grew up experiencing Rotary events.

"Every time we'd go to some picnic or concert or competition, there were always adults with children involved with all of the games and activities and food preparing," Jayaram says.

After finishing her bachelor's degree, Jayaram came to the United States to pursue advanced degrees in medicine. She joined a Rotary club in Maryland in 1997 and founded the Maanasi Clinic in Mugalur, Karnataka, India, to provide mental health services to indigent women there. A former recipient of a Rotary Grant for University Teachers, she was awarded the Rotary Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award in 2014-15. She is an associate professor in the departments of psychiatry, public health, nursing, and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

"I'm really proud I'm a Rotarian," she says. "At Johns Hopkins, I always talk about my humanitarian work and how Rotary has enabled me to do so much with very little overhead. It's hard to find that anywhere else."

1970's

Lunar rovers explore the surface of the moon. Skylab begins orbiting the Earth. The Vietnam War comes to an end. In Sudan and Zaire, the first outbreak of the Ebola virus occurs. On the entertainment front, the movie Star Wars premieres. The first videocassette recorders enter the market, and Sony introduces the Walkman. Disco becomes popular.

John Skerritt helped charter the Rotaract Club of Carlingford, New South Wales, Australia, in 1978, after reading a newspaper advertisement placed by local Rotarians wanting to start a Rotaract club.

"That was the way you did it before the internet or cable TV," Skerritt says.

The new club drew young people from many backgrounds. In Australia in the 1970s, Skerritt says, a significant number of teenagers left high school early to pursue a job in the trades, and fewer than today went on to college. And for economic reasons, many tended to live with their parents until they married or had established themselves in a career.

"The area where we chartered was on the border of an affluent area, where most of the kids went on to college, but also an area that was more working class," he recalls. "One of the exciting things about it was you actually got to meet people outside the social circles of your own suburb or high school."

Another interesting aspect, he says, is that the club functioned as matchmaker. "We had probably seven or eight couples get married," says Skerritt. "We had a pretty even number of boys and girls. I wasn't one of the seven, but I went to many of their weddings and served as best man in some."

In some ways, he contends, young people had more freedom then. He recalls two club fundraisers, one where Interact members sat on a platform on top of a pole for 100 hours, and another where the Rotaract members drove cars in a demolition derby.

"Can you imagine a club doing that now?" he asks.

But it wasn't all social. Members were also keenly interested in helping their community. "Bringing in speakers was a great way of exposing people to things, especially our members who'd had a more sheltered upbringing," he says. "We had a speaker from a charity that looked after homeless people, and that was actually a great eye-opener. Many times, we'd follow up with a fundraiser, like tossing burgers at the mall to raise money for the homeless."

One charity his club supported ended up having a big influence on his career. The organization helped people with hard-to-treat epilepsy who lived in a specialized care community. Skerritt went on to research seizure medications as part of his doctoral studies, and today he is therapeutic goods administrator in Australia's Department of Health.

1980's

Ted Turner announces the creation of CNN. IBM begins releasing personal computers. India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is killed by two of her bodyguards. Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union, and the policies of glasnost and perestroika transform world politics. A nuclear accident occurs at Chernobyl. The Berlin Wall falls in 1989. Arcades are jammed with people playing Pac-Man, while elsewhere folks fiddle with the Rubik's Cube.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the early 1980s, most things shut down by 7 p.m. TV was still relatively new, and people did not own their own computers. As a result, young people turned to Rotaract for their nighttime entertainment.

Nafeesa Amiruddeen and her husband were invited to join Rotaract by another young couple they knew. "I lived with my in-laws, and they would look forward to having this group of young people over," says Amiruddeen. "Almost every evening, we would sit for two or three hours, having little bits of snacks and tea, sometimes a meal. You formed bonds that never go away. It's been almost 40 years now, and we still pick up where we left off."

At the time, since they were in the same district, Rotaract members from Sri Lanka and southern India traveled back and forth between the countries for regional assemblies and training events. This promoted cross-cultural understanding. Rotaract also served as a unifying force during Sri Lanka's civil war.

"As Rotaract members, we were able to rally around and help quite a bit," Amiruddeen recalls. "A lot of our members were affected by the conflict. But we were so close that although we all belonged to different minority groups, you could never tell it. We helped each other, we helped other clubs, we helped the community at large by organizing groups to go out and take food to families that could not go out of their homes."

"When you think about it today, we, as a nation, are all about reconciliation, forgiveness, putting it in the past," she says. "I think in Rotaract, we were doing it almost as soon as the conflict happened."

In the early 1980s, Richard Blackman witnessed some of those unifying forces as a member of the Rotaract Club of Dover, England. His favorite memory involves helping a group of Rotaractors from the Netherlands cross the English Channel in their unique amphibious vehicle. The event was a fundraiser for Rotary's relatively new campaign to eradicate polio, and it involved a large vehicle that seated more than two dozen Rotaractors who provided pedal power for propulsion.

Blackman helped make arrangements for the Dutch Rotaractors in London and put them in touch with a Rotarian who could get them access to the Hover port in Dover so they could get their vehicle into the water.

"There was a piece in one of the magazines with a picture of them cycling across the English Channel, and talking about this group of Rotaractors who didn't understand that it couldn't be done," Blackman recalls. "And that pretty much summed up Rotaract. We rarely took no for an answer. In my experience, both then and now, Rotaractors are very forward thinking and very much have a can-do mentality."

"Most young people, in my experience, want to help others," he adds. "It's a case in a lot of instances of not knowing how to do it. Rotaract is an ideal opportunity to enable them to do something that they want to do but don't know how."

1990's

German reunification in 1990 ends 45 years of separation. Lech Wałęsa becomes the first president of Poland since the end of World War II. The Soviet Union collapses on Christmas Day 1991. Nelson Mandela is released from prison and becomes president of South Africa four years later. The Hubble Space Telescope is launched. Pathfinder

sends back images of Mars. The internet grows exponentially. Every kid wants a Furby, and Pokémon and Power Rangers rule.

Two monumental world events shaped Cyril Noirtin's experience with the Rotaract clubs of Nancy and Paris Royale in France: the opening of Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the advent of the internet.

The Rotary district in western Europe was in charge of extending Rotary into Ukraine, and Noirtin was asked to establish Rotaract there.

"We started from nothing," he recalls. "We met first in Ukraine, which was just discovering the free world. It was interesting to build something together from scratch and see it evolve. They were eager to get in, and motivated like no one else I'd seen."

The internet also began to connect the world. "When I joined, to communicate with other countries, you sent letters. If you were lucky, you had a fax," Noirtin said. "By the end of the decade, most clubs had websites and email, and people were starting to speak of social media.

"It's helped us reach out to others," he adds. "Rotaract was almost a secret from Rotary. Most Rotarians didn't know we existed, and I would meet some Rotarians who didn't think Rotaract was a good idea. Ten years later, nobody questioned the value of the program."

CEO of a private university in France and a Rotary representative to UNESCO, Noirtin says his experience in Rotaract benefited his career.

"I am convinced I would not be where I am today without my Rotaract experience," he says. "It has also helped me as a manager and leader. And it has been a great opportunity to meet people from different cultures and make friends I would never have met otherwise."

2000's

The Y2K bug is less devastating than predicted. Russians and Americans work on the International Space Station. A working draft of the human genome is published. Terrorists attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The U.S. invades Afghanistan. The euro is introduced in 12 countries. Facebook is founded by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg, YouTube and Twitter launch, and Apple releases the iPhone.

Andrea Tirone recalls cozy meetings in the Hart House student center during her early years as a Rotaractor at the University of Toronto.

"You stay together after the meeting and just talk about things that interest you, whether it's Rotary-related or about your classes or work," she says. "And you form friendships easily with these people you probably wouldn't have met otherwise."

Selected for an Ambassadorial Scholarship to South Africa in 2009-10, Tirone helped charter the Rotaract Club of Berea while there. But before she left, she attended the 2008 Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles, which changed her perspective of the organization.

"It was almost like a different chapter of Rotary started for me after Los Angeles," she recalls. "I think being in LA and seeing the truly global reach of Rotary made me realize that it doesn't matter where I am in the world, I can still be a part of Rotary."

Social media and smartphones began to transform Rotaract in Tirone's later years with the program. "When I started, Facebook had only just come into existence and was still very exclusive," she says. "There were no pages or groups. No Twitter or Instagram. Certainly, social media and the ability to be connected so quickly and easily with others has opened up new opportunities for projects and project ideas. Whether you are working as partners or forwarding ideas, it is completely different. With the connections I have now, I am never not next to my good friends in Rotaract."

2010's

As it begins its second half-century, Rotaract remains as appealing as ever to young people, says Laura Verdegaal, who, as a member of the Rotaract Club of Gooi- en Vechtstreek in the Netherlands, participated in a panel in December via Facebook on the state of Rotaract.

"I think in ways it's even more relevant, as there is a movement back from globalization to knowing where your food and goods come from and knowing people in your local community who share your values," she says.

Verdegaal sees Rotary and Rotaract clubs enjoying a more equal and fruitful partnership, one in which members of Rotaract collaborate in decision making and planning, rather than serving in a subservient role. She cites a large project in her district where Rotaractors with web skills provided the main direction for the design and content of the project's website.

"If you want to serve your community on a local level, Rotaract is for you," says Verdegaal. "When you want to develop your leadership, presentation, or organization skills, or if you are into traveling and meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds, it's a great opportunity."