

# IYFR Area 3 Annual Report 2019-2020

As for other parts of the world the second half of last year has been almost totally disrupted by COVID19. For those countries where COVID has been sufficiently under control some activities have occurred recently, others were able to have functions into the New Year. Fleets in Australia and New Zealand were able to have their usual Christmas functions and the Auckland Fleet had a weekend away just prior the country being locked down – fortuitous timing! Most Fleets do not appear to have yet got back into their normal round of activities.

Many will know Pat Galligan from Australia – he was to become the Queensland Fleet Commodore but unfortunately has had to withdraw.

Membership changes over the last year are a mixed bag. Gold Coast is the bright spot in Australia and is just quietly growing under the guidance of RC Grahame Werrell. Other Fleets are losing a few members, primarily due to aging Fleet members. New Zealand is maintaining its membership numbers. Hongkong has recovered and the website shows membership of fifty. There is nothing to indicate any significant shift in numbers in Japan. In the Philippines a significant decrease in numbers is anticipated as the unsustainable way many Fleets were established shakes out and a new equilibrium is reached [see comments below]

The bright spots on the horizon are the establishment of new Fleets in Tokyo and Taipei. COVID has disrupted the Chartering of these Fleets and international travel restrictions have prevented an International Commodore from attending - perhaps virtual attendance will have to suffice in order to let the Fleet become part of IYFR and function like others.

Dues collection has also been a challenge and many Fleets in the Philippines have not paid. Clearly this calls for action, as their continued membership does not meet the Four Way test compared to others who do pay. However, there are a number of situations that can arise which interfere with payment being made. As stated above, a shakeout is expected. The new credit card payment system that the International Treasurer has introduced will be a great help and make payment much easier.

Many thanks to the Regional Commodores who are a vital link in our Area communication chain.

Looking forward there are lessons to be learned from COVID that IYFR can easily use – for example Zoom makes it easy to organise international meetings. So Monthly meetings with Regional Commodores becomes a real possibility – and they of course can do same with Fleet Commodores [just need to teach these older Rotarians how to use Zoom or its equivalent!]

Finally, the Area 3 AGM will be held in Auckland in March next year during the Americas Cup. The gathering will be over the 3 days of 13, 14 & 15. The venue for the Gala Dinner and AGM meeting has been booked [in the home of the Americas Cup] and a vintage boat has been booked for time on the water and if we are lucky, to watch a Cup race [cannot guarantee this because no one can control the weather and whether one party may want a day off to fix/retune their boat] The competitors are coming and so there is an expectation that the racing will proceed. While our borders currently remain shut to overseas visitors, the Auckland Fleet [Hosts] are hopeful that current efforts may solve this impediment and of course there is over 7 months before racing starts. For more info see the Rotafloat or the website. This will be a great 3 days!!!

David Hansen  
Area 3 Commodore