

MAIL BOX

LET'S NOT LOSE OUR VOICE

In last month's Mailbox item "RDU R.I.P.?" we wrote about the potential closure of *Rotary Down Under* as you know it; a topic set to be debated at next year's Council on Legislation. This provoked impassioned responses from many Rotarians, who have come to value the magazine in its present form.

PLEASE DON'T STOP THE PRESS

Reading this month's *RDU*, I am astounded, confused and distressed – severely. NO! NO! NO! Do not stop the press.

There are people like me, assuredly, who are technologically ignorant; who cannot read online, who, like me, suffer from a lack of comprehension of the electronic word.

I have been a club bulletin editor for 20 years and have to print what I have written in order to edit it each week.

When I become accustomed to reading a program, they – the hidden giants of tech world – change the format, by what is called an "update".

I am bamboozled by it and just about feel the end is here. I smash the keyboard and feel like throwing the whole computer into the rubbish tip.

Consider what it is doing to the health of those unfortunate people, especially those who suffer a hidden mental illness, or simply who do not have a computer, let alone be tech savvy.

Rotary cannot assume that the members are all on the same level with technology and electronic devices.

It is said that 30 per cent of the population does not own a computer.

So please, please Rotary, do not stop the press.

Brian Webb

Rotary Club of Northam, WA





NOT ALL MEMBERS COMPUTER SAVVY

It is November, so it cannot be an April Fool's Day joke.

As a Rotarian since 1985, I am aghast at this proposition. *RDU* magazine is the lifeblood of most Rotarians, particularly of my age, who look forward to the monthly read and update.

I also put past copies in my waiting room, so that non-Rotarians can see the enormous amount of good work Rotary does for the world.

Comments are many, and always supportive.

Many fellows, myself included, are not 100 per cent computer literate. I can see that by the number of my fellow club members who battle with *Club Runner* to register for weekly meetings and use the address sheet at the front of the magazine to remember their Rotary number to order from *RDU* and donate to The Rotary Foundation. My number is one million, one hundred-thousand and something.

Without this prompt, I cannot guarantee that I will remember to keep making my annual PHS donation.

I can assure you that when this matter arises at my club, I shall actively condemn any action to cease publication.

Paul O'Connor
Rotary Club of Canberra,
ACT

MAGAZINE ADDS TO OUR BOTTOM LINE

I must congratulate the editorial team at *RDU* for providing another bumper good read, which led to discussions within our club on *RDU's* survival.

It was a consensus that the value of the magazine is far more than its \$40 per-year cost; if we were subscribing to any other professional or industry magazine its cost would be far higher. *RDU*, like any other professional or industry magazine, adds to the bottom line of business. It's just that our Rotary business is not counted in dollars and cents, but in the life of this planet and its inhabitants.

We and our future Rotarians need the magazine to continue, and we for one hope the motions at the Council on Legislation are defeated and commonsense prevails.

Keep up the good work and thought-provoking commentary.

PDG Barry Antees
Rotary Club of Parramatta City, NSW

LODGING STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

Club presidents or governors can oppose or otherwise comment on proposed changes regarding the legislation using the online form at https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3z8408VkJGe5J1oV

There are many changes across various topics considered at the same time. The magazine changes are covered in item numbers 19-67 and 19-68, so be sure to select either from the drop down menu in your submission. If you would like to respond to both items, you will need to do two forms: one for each.

The deadline for submitting statements is February 14, 2019.