NEWS
BULLETIN

ABOVE: Martin was all smiles during his 13,000ft drop, while Karen (below) proudly displayed *Rotary Connects* on her hands from ground to sky and all the way back down.

ABOVE: Husband and wife team Karen Stade and Martin de Ruyter took Rotary promotion to new heights on Karen's 50th birthday, when they both jumped out of a perfectly good plane.

Taking it to the sky

The sky's the limit as far as promoting the new Rotary International theme, *Rotary Connects the World*, as Karen Stade, of the Rotary Club of Whakatu, NZ, demonstrated in July, when she and hubby Martin de Ruyter, also a club member, took tandem sky dives.

The pair dived with Skydive Abel Tasman, high above Motueka at the top of New Zealand's South Island. Their jump was part of the Jump for Cancer fundraiser for the Cancer Society Nelson Tasman, an organisation the Rotary Club of Whakatu supports and whose local manager, Michelle Hunt, is also a club member.

Karen and Martin have both lost family members to cancer in the past couple of years, and as sky diving was on her 50th birthday "feel the fear and face it list", she signed them both up for the fundraising jump. >>

Dinner with RI president Mark Daniel Maloney

SYDNEY: Rotarians and friends in Districts 9670, 9675 and 9685 are invited to join RI president Mark Daniel Maloney for a special dinner at The Deckhouse on beautiful Sydney Harbour, September 23, 2019. This is a rare opportunity to meet and be inspired by our international leader, while enjoying the location, hospitality and catering of one of Sydney's premier venues. Tickets are $70pp and include a two-course meal and welcome drink. Book now via www.trybooking.com/523543 – registrations close September 15. For more information, contact PDG Gina Growden via 0412 128 106 or gina.growden@bigpond.com.

BALLARAT: District 9780 welcomes Mark to Ballarat, Vic, on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy dinner with our current RI president at The Mercure Ballarat. Tickets are $60pp and include a two-course meal and pre-dinner drink. Book now via www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=524192.

ROMAC chair to hand over the reins

At the ROMAC annual general meeting in Christchurch on September 20, ROMAC chair Rob Wilkinson will complete his three years of office and hand over to incoming chair PDG Harold Sharp, who currently serves on the ROMAC Board as fundraising director. Since joining the ROMAC Board, Harold has made a splendid contribution as a planner and advisor.

As one of the most experienced Rotarians in Rotary Zone 8, Harold will use his extensive Rotary knowledge and his large network of Rotary contacts to garner wide support.

Rob will continue to work with ROMAC by serving as an honorary consultant.

PICTURED: ROMAC chair Rob Wilkinson (top) will hand over the reins to incoming chair PDG Harold Sharp on September 20.

<< Between them, they raised NZ$2500 for the Cancer Society.

When the day finally arrived, and with the 2019-20 Rotary year just underway, it was too good an opportunity to miss promoting Rotary during the jump. Karen proudly displayed *Rotary Connects* on her hands from the time she got in the plane, and almost all the way down until she landed safely back on terra firma. That's dedication to the cause!

Martin's descent, on the other hand, was all about smiling – not a bad thing when you've been thrown out of a perfectly good plane 13,000 feet above the ground!

Lift the Lid – and celebrate Hat Day

Australian Rotary Health held its inaugural Hat Day in 2011, and although it has evolved over the past nine years, we again encourage you to help us *Lift the Lid on Mental Health* by participating.

Hat Day is an Australian Rotary Health initiative to raise funds for mental health research in Australia.

This year, Hat Day will be celebrated on Thursday, October 10 during World Mental Health Week.

On Hat Day, Rotarians and members of the public will be invited to wear a hat – to work, to shop, to play – and give a donation to Australian Rotary Health for mental health research.

Australian Rotary Health can provide clubs with ideas on what they can do either on Hat Day or during the week leading up to Hat Day, by having a special regular meeting or special event.

Rotary clubs and Rotarians can get behind Hat Day and help promote our own special day to raise funds for mental health research. Traditionally, Rotary has been known for supporting other charitable days like Daffodil Day, Red Nose Day, Jeans for Genes Day, Red Shield Appeal, etc. This is a golden opportunity for Rotary in Australia to support their own charity on our special day!

Please, wear your best hat on Hat Day and join us in the celebration.

Joy Gillett
CEO, Australian Rotary Health