

Phone: 0409 635 024
Work: 0411 221 024
Email: harry.bolton@bigpond.com
Address: PO Box 279, Tenterfield NSW 2372



15 March 2020

Fellow Rotarians

Yesterday Saturday 14 March, the District 9640 Governor (G Train) decided to cancel the 2020 District Conference in Tenterfield scheduled for 27 -29 March.

The decision to cancel conference has not been made lightly and has been part of my deliberations now for several weeks as information regarding CODIV 19 has come to hand.

Our decision has been based on several considerations and possible implications for both conference attendees and the community of Tenterfield. These include the following:

- Tenterfield is a reasonably small town with a population of less than 4000 people
- It has a high % of people in the High-risk category (70 years plus)
- We have two aged care facilities with 80 plus, low to high dependence patients
- Tenterfield is only equipped with an 18-bed hospital with minimal services and facilities
- The Tenterfield Rotary Club have 3 members who are integral staff members (nursing staff) of these facilities
- Travel advice to most organisations is to not undertake un-necessary travel both domestic and international
- Gatherings of people of 500 plus should be avoided (I'm not sure what the difference is between 300 and 500?)
- Organisations that we have engaged to support our conference include our Tenterfield High School students and Staff and primary school Parents and Citizens organisation
- So far, I have lost one of my Keynote speakers and could possibly lose more
- Rotary is an advocate for disease control and eradication and must take the high moral ground on this issue
- Rotary, with the good work done recently with the drought and bushfires in this district, doesn't need to undo this work by potentially getting the blame for bringing the virus into town.
- Most importantly – Tenterfield may be able to contain or deal with this virus if it doesn't hit us hard, in other words - moves through the community slowly. By introducing the possibility of accelerating the spread of this virus throughout our community would have a disastrous effect on the community.
- Finally, and most importantly, I have a duty of care to my fellow Rotarians (many who are in the high-risk category) attending this conference and to the community of Tenterfield.

Phone: 0409 635 024
Work: 0411 221 024
Email: harry.bolton@bigpond.com
Address: PO Box 279, Tenterfield NSW 2372



Shauna and I are naturally disappointed this decision had to be taken as so much work has gone into developing a conference that we believe was going to be extremely engaging, thought provoking, lots of fun with surprises and new connections.

Conference is a big part of the year and is our opportunity to celebrate the many good things that we do as clubs and individuals, so I encourage you all to do this at your club level as we move toward the end of this year.

Our decision to hold conference in Tenterfield was made because we knew that Tenterfield, like so many country communities, would be in need of income due to the severe drought. Naturally recent events with bushfires and now the Corona Virus have made this situation worse. As many of you have accommodation bookings in Tenterfield and there is no restriction on personal travel (yet), I would like you all to consider coming to Tenterfield for the weekend as tourists, enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our community and visit the many fine attractions, coffee shops, shops, national parks and museums that we have on offer. Delaying your visit until later in the year when things have calmed down may be a better option for some Rotarians.

Those Rotarians who have booked for events will be refunded in due course.

Finally, to the Tenterfield Rotary Club and my conference committee, Shauna and I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for all their support, patience and commitment toward this event.

Sincerely yours

Harry J Bolton

Harry J Bolton
District Governor
Rotary District 9640