



*John de Giorgio*  
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## **“When things are not working you need to try something new”**

March was another satisfying month to be Governor of our District 2110 as, in addition to witnessing various Club service projects, we tried two innovations during the month - the training morning held for new and prospective members and a new style of RYLA - both of which appear to have been successful.

One of the things we preach during our District leadership training is that you cannot do the same things and expect different results. Perhaps it is my entrepreneurial background but when things are not working you need to try something new. Sometimes you need to take a risk and change things.

As I had indicated last month, while I was undertaking the official Governor's visit to the clubs in our District I felt that there is a general lack of understanding of Rotary among the membership. Although we undertake a lot of training at a District level, much of that is provided every year to the same set of people. Often even using the same presentations.

As a result we decided to organise a training seminar on the 3 March in Caltanissetta aimed at “new” Rotarians and prospective Rotarians. I was expecting between 50 and 70 people and many thought that we were taking a risk organising the event but in fact 220 people attended the seminar of whom 94 had never attended a District event before. These were exactly the people we were targeting to enable the broader spread of training within the District.

The speakers at the event explained some of the basic principles and structures of Rotary, as well as providing examples of the service projects of which our District should be proud, the support available from the Rotary Foundation and how we have a responsibility to support OUR foundation, as well as discussing the challenges of communicating our message and the Internet presence of Rotary.

As promised and as you will be able to read within this issue of the Magazine, we also organised a different type of RYLA this year held in Malta and organised by Federico Milanetti, Secretary of RC La Valette. RYLA 2018 was focused entirely on leadership rather than on any subsidiary theme, and combined talks and discussions in the classroom with practical activities designed specifically to build the capabilities of leadership among the 64 participants. I was also particularly pleased to see that 24 of the 64 participants were not Rotaract members laying a good base for bringing these people into our Clubs.

Having learnt about the importance for leaders to push themselves out of their comfort zone, the participants were taken to Dingli Cliffs where they climbed, abseiling and zip-lined from one cliff to the next across the rough seas. Many of the participants talked about how they would not have imagined being able to achieve these tasks a week earlier. Yet everyone did and they all grew.



They were inspired by the speakers, particularly the extreme sportsman and leadership coach Nathan Farrugia, and Prof Domenico Bodega, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, who once again captivated his audience.

RYLA was a great satisfaction this year and many thanks go out to all involved.

The two main events planned at a District level for April are the celebration of our tree planting projects on the 22 April and the Presidential Peace Conference focused on Maternal and Child Health in Taranto between the 27 and 29 April.

As at the end of February our District had already planted over 3,400 trees and there is still time for more. The three Clubs that have planted the highest number of trees per members will be recognised at the District Congress. I would like that, on the 22 April which is the date set for the closure of this project, coinciding with World Earth Day, that each of the Clubs organises an activity for members, families and friends in the site where their trees have been planted to celebrate this day. Perhaps a picnic would be appropriate.

The Presidential Conference in Taranto is another important event. I believe it is the first time in many years that a Presidential Conference has been held in Italy and it is up to us to ensure the success of this activity by participating with a good delegation. We are aware of course that travel arrangements to Taranto can be difficult but few things in life worth doing are easy. I look forward to seeing Rotarians from our District in Taranto.

**John**