

CONTACT MADE WITH INNER WHEEL LADIES AT THE 2019 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN HAMBURG, GERMANY by DVC Gillian Lee

The 2019 Rotary International (RI) Convention was held in Hamburg, Germany from 1st to 5th June 2019. As with the previous RI Conventions that I've attended, one of the first things on my "TO DO LIST" was to visit the House of Friendship (HOF) to look for the Inner Wheel booth. Although the HOF was located in two different buildings this year, it wasn't too long before I found the IW Deutschland (Germany) booth.



There, I met with National Representative Elke Kessel (in red) together with her team from Inner Wheel Deutschland. In exchange for our District 331 bannerette, NR Elke gave me a cute little IW Deutschland kangaroo as a memento of our meeting.

Bannerettes were also exchanged with the Inner Wheel Club of Saar, Germany, whose motto for 2019/20 is "On the way of friendship you should not let any grass grow".

This club was founded on 29 June 1983 and has 38 members.

I also met CP Ginette Lan Yee Chiu from IWC Mauritius, whom I first got to know at the RI Convention in Toronto, Canada. Although we are separated by half a world and more miles than you can imagine, we were on the lookout for each other that day, and the minute our eyes met, we picked up from where we left off... in June 2018.



An Inner Wheel friend in our District recently expressed her surprise to hear that Inner Wheel was represented at such a



prestigious Rotary event. Yes, it may have been a Rotary event, but there were many Inner Wheel ladies present. Some, very easy to spot as they were manning the Inner Wheel booth, while others, like myself, may be a little more difficult to identify as we were there as spouses of Rotarians and were going around incognito.

There is, however, another group who may be missed altogether, no matter how sharp your eyes are, and these are the ladies in the "guise" of Rotarians like PP Bobby (in the blue Rotary t-shirt) and PDC Lynda from IWC Kingston

Upon Thames, UK. However, the minute we found out that we were all ladies of Inner Wheel, the natter started and it didn't end until we were called to board our flight to London!!

Being part of the Inner Wheel family is truly amazing. We are not only given the opportunity to serve the less fortunate in our communities and comfort them with the knowledge that they are not alone, but are also assured that as an Inner Wheel member, we too will never have to walk alone no matter where we are in this world. All it takes is a little smile and a warm "Hello"! 😊