



**Rotary Club of Berwick Inc**



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-22

### JOIN A MEETING

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6.30PM FOR 7.00PM

THE BEACONSFIELD CLUB

100 BEACONSFIELD EMERALD ROAD

BEACONSFIELD, VIC, 3807, AUSTRALIA

### CONTACT US

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Friendship in Service  
Friendship in Life  
Friendship in Purpose

# ABOUT OUR CLUB

## Welcome To the Rotary Club of Berwick

Rotary is an international organization that brings together business, professional and community leaders in order to provide volunteer humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards, and help promote goodwill and peace in the world. There are 34,000 Rotary clubs and more than 1.4 million members worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Berwick through its connection to Rotary International allows its members the opportunity to unite with people from different backgrounds, cultures, religious and political beliefs to make a difference and be an inspiration to others.

Our Club has a strong core group that guides growing Club members to become leaders in the community and Rotary.

It is important to note that the Rotary Club of Berwick has an active, community-driven side and a social side. We enjoy the connections we have through our established community network but we also have strong relationships through our social network.

If you are reading this and have not experienced a Rotary meeting, please look us up! Our details are on the cover. We are always looking for quality people to join our network and make a difference.





# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Since a young age, I have known the importance of being an active part of the community. Most of my family have volunteered across the generations in many different fields from public office, church, community organisations, sports and the arts. We volunteer to make a positive difference and use whatever skills we have to contribute to the best outcomes we can deliver.

I believe that every person can help others around them to develop into better people if the environment is right. So here I am in year two of being a Rotary President. What do I have to report on my contribution to the Rotary Club of Berwick? Well, I can say that I let go of the reins a bit this year to allow some space for members to step in and be the best people they can be.

**In the business world and the volunteer world, each job has certain requirements that must be met in order for that job to be done properly and for that organization to survive and prosper.**

**Ron D. Burton  
President, Rotary  
International, 2013-14**

In Rotary, there seems to be an urge to give members jobs to get them engaged and active quickly in their Rotary journey.

After eighteen years as a Rotarian, I was well past hearing about how most members got jobs they didn't like, and consequently, the path out the door was pretty swift! I have always been on the slow and steady side where members can find their way by confiding in others to what they want to do and contribute. I want to develop long-term solid members, not bright burning stars.

Sure, most of us have no idea what Rotary is or can do in the early years, but if you are not willing to take it upon yourself to learn, Rotary is just a bus stop to another destination.

So what happened? Well, I cannot contain my excitement as I look around and see how people have developed. Just a few years ago, my Club was a train wreck, but now it has evolved into a club full of promise and potential.

I don't think this happened by accident. I love to see people step up into areas they are comfortable with first and then start to push their comfort zones and start conquering new frontiers. Personal development is a beautiful thing to witness and inspires others to emulate and surpass. I have worked with some inspiring people this year, and I would like to see many more join us in years to come.

Rotary is a powerful organisation. If you understand it in its global context, you can make it effective in its local context. It is not about ego or power. It is about serving our community in a way that gives Rotary respect and all of us satisfaction that we have done the community well.

David Button  
President 2020-2022



## Secretary's Report Sam McCurdy



This year, I had the privilege to serve a second term as Secretary of the Rotary Club of Berwick and the Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society, under President David Button's leadership.

The COV-19 Pandemic continued to create problems during the year with intermittent lockdowns and health precautions leading to periods of online rather than the normal face-to-face Club meetings. Of course, the online arrangement did not suit everyone resulting in a drop-off in attendance. However, ours was not the only Club in the District experiencing this problem.

We were successful in gaining an Equipment Grant from the City of Casey that enabled us to purchase a better microphone and a camera for use in ZOOM meetings, thereby improving the online communication experience.

As Incorporated Associations, the Club and the Benevolent Society continued to meet the requirements of the Australian Charity and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) and Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) by conducting Annual General Meetings and lodging our Annual Statements. After some initial bureaucratic difficulties, we also succeeded in registering the Rotary Club as a 'Fundraiser' with CAV. Therefore, the Club and the Benevolent Society are now registered 'Fundraisers'.

Working together with Graham Johnstone, our Club Protection Officer, two new policies/procedures were endorsed covering COVID Management and BBQ Management.

We updated our Club badges this year to reflect the current Rotary branding, and these have been distributed to those members who have attended face-to-face meetings. Efforts are now being made to update our Club polo shirts with the correct branding through a shirt amnesty.



## Secretary's Report continued Sam McCurdy



As well as the normal secretarial work, I have been able to contribute to a variety of local projects, including Mock Interviews of Year-11 students at Nossal High School (NHS), operating the BBQ to provide sausages to over 1,000 people at the NHS Sports Day, Art Screen hire, Clean-up Australia Day, Berwick College's Presentation Balls, and the Christmas Appeal.

In addition, I participated in the 'Walk to End Polio' and the Mother's Day Classic, raising much needed funds for research.

After a 3-year term, I ended my role as the Club's community representative on the Nossal High School Council and arranged for Andrew Somers to take over as my successor. I wish Andrew well in this role and hope that he finds it as stimulating and informative as I did.

I added relevant documents to the ClubRunner archive to facilitate ready access by members, when required. These documents include the Club's Rules and By Laws, monthly reports, and minutes of Board meetings, as well as policies and procedures.

I have continued to contribute regular articles to the Club's bulletin, 'Spoke N Word' and hopefully they have provided topical news on the Club and Rotary's wider activities.

### Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society:

The Benevolent Society is a project of the Rotary Club. It is a registered charity with the ACNC and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Early in the year, the ACNC requested that we amend the Rules for the Society to include a DGR revocation clause 76(5). This was approved via a Special General Meeting and is now incorporated within the Rules.

The Benevolent Society works closely with Casey North Community Information Support Service (CNCISS) in Narre Warren and PP Gus Dominguez has continued as our Club representative on their Board of Management this year.



## Secretary's Report continued Sam McCurdy

Historically, the Benevolent Society has gained its funds from donations, notably from the Dandenong Magistrate's Court and until recently from donations from the congregation of Cardinia Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, the Church closed, and the main source of funds is now the Magistrate' Court, with a small amount donated via a coin collection box at Coles Supermarket in central Berwick.

Each year the Benevolent Society runs a Christmas Appeal. This involves working with eight local schools and two Supermarket sites to collect non-perishable foods, toys, and books donated by the public. In addition, we collected two car loads of toys produced and donated by the Berwick Wood Workers Club. All these donations were delivered to CNCISS who sorted them into Christmas hampers for distribution to those in need within the local community.



## Secretary's Report continued Sam McCurdy

The 2021 Christmas Appeal was very successful, thanks to the generous donations by the public through the eight schools, two Supermarkets and the Berwick Wood Workers Club. It was all possible due to the efforts of the small collection team of Rotarians made up of Laury Gordyn, Russell Fellows, Andrew Somers, Andy Merrill, David Anderson, Gus Dominguez, Eric Boon and me. Thanks also go to the staff of CNCISS who work tirelessly with the local community.

Finally I would like to thank President David for giving me the opportunity to be Club Secretary for a second year in succession (3rd time overall) and the 2021-2022 Board members for their support and good humour throughout the year





## International and Foundation Report PDG Tim Moore



As mentioned by many others, the work we could do in 2021-21 has still been affected by Covid and its limits on fund raising activities and projects.

After many years of reporting our Global Grant in the Philippines – Clean Water for 6 villages, has been completed and is in the final stages of presenting its final report to the Rotary Foundation. It is a testament to our partner club that they were able to continue through ISIS training and fighting in the first area chosen (which meant another 6 villages had to be assessed and approved) and, of course, Covid 19.

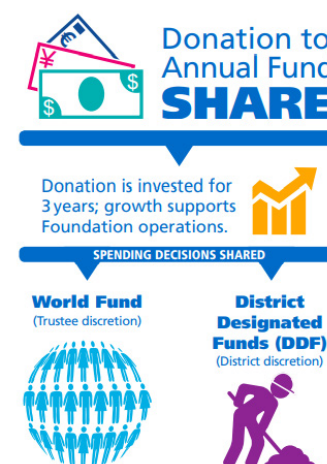
The result is amazing and now 6000 villages have access to clean water and improved hygiene and sanitation practices provided by the RC of Berwick's funding some time ago.

The RC of Cayanag De Oro have sent us a video of the local's appreciation for our joint work. This has been shown to the club members and illustrates how our donation of \$14000 was supported by our District's Designated Foundation fund which was then overall matched by the Rotary Foundation to a value of \$40000 Australian dollars.

We also thank the partnership of Disaster Aid Australia, Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills, the Sky Juice Foundation and the Balay Mindanao Foundation. We look forward to being involved, where possible, in supporting these worthy causes again.



## International and Foundation Report continued PDG Tim Moore



The Rotary Club of Berwick has always been a strong Foundation giver, and this continues to be the case. Many of our members also support Rotary's own charity, the Rotary Foundation, personally. Some do by regular giving monthly, others via the Centurion Club, where a tax deductible \$100 Australian per year is given.

Over time these donations, besides doing great work in Australia and the world, earn points that go towards a Paul Harris recognition for the donor.

The Rotary Club of Berwick, via its regular donations to the Rotary Foundation, accrue points and members are encouraged to recommend to the Paul Harris Fellow committee, members of the club or the community that can be presented with the recognition for their service or community work. Such a public presentation can help raise our profile and the work of the club in the community.

This year our club will make a number of these worthy recognitions.

May I also thank Jane Moore for organising and promoting the End Polio Fund Raising movie night on the 19th March. Several clubs joined us and raised a considerable sum for the Rotary Foundation's main program to End Polio in the world. A project that has been going for over 25 years. I know this will be reported under the public image section.

We look forward to the Covid fog clearing that will allow our club to reconnect with many of the International and Foundation programs of Rotary into the future.

PDG Tim Moore

International and Foundation Director 2021-22





## Membership Report David Anderson



I want to start this report by telling a story of how I was feeling and what I was thinking when I offered to join the board in the Membership chair just a few short months after joining Rotary. Becoming a Rotarian in my retirement meant that I could fulfil a couple of goals that I set myself, namely be involved in the community through volunteer work and building an ever expanding social network.

When I was accepted as Membership Chair I started working up a strategy to both increase the membership base of the club as well as increase the engagement of existing members. I also did a deep dive into the club demographics and frankly what I saw really started to worry me. It was clear that the club had an aging demographic, that 65% of the club's membership had a tenure of 10 years plus and was somewhat under represented by females. In summary, we needed some new members and we also needed to mirror as a club what our local community looked like, so that we were very relevant and accessible.

The other condition that existed is that we were still experiencing Covid 19 restrictions and were basically involved in nothing, simply existing over zoom.

When I look back I remember at times feeling a little overwhelmed, very worried about what I needed to do, scared about the outcome for the club if I failed in my resolve, but also energised by the fact that together as a club we could also get this very right.



## Membership Report continued David Anderson

So back to the strategy. It was quite simple in my mind and somewhat foundational and in simple terms it was:

- Start doing things again
- Become visible whilst doing things
- Ensure meetings are fun, interactive and educational
- Begin to share the club's value proposition as often as possible
- Invite people to join us



Activity wise we are gaining real momentum and our club members have been very busy with the following projects:

- Art Screen Hire
- Charity Movie Night
- Playground re-purposing
- Mother's Day Walk
- Mock Interviews at Nossal High
- Christmas goods collection and delivery
- Berwick Secondary College Debutante Balls
- Berwick Cemetery Clean-up project
- Clean up Australia Day



As I write this it is also great to mention that we also broke out the club BBQ last Wednesday and cooked for around 1000 folk at Nossal High School sports day at Casey Fields. We have been sharing what we have been doing via social media which is helping let the community know we are up and about.

So what does this mean for membership you ask? Our club is more attractive to like-minded prospective members when they can experience and see the things we do that they might also be involved in.

Add to this increased activity the broad range of interesting guest speakers who have presented to us at our weekly meetings, the Travel Guide nights set up by Di Double designed to grab our attention and invite family and friends along to and the strategy is starting to look like it is being executed.



## Membership Report continued David Anderson

We are now well positioned to start inviting people to become part of the Rotary Club of Berwick family, and in fact we started to do that at the Debutante Balls held a couple of weeks ago where we had flyers on all tables telling our story including the basic fact that our involvement with the Debutante Balls is 37 years. Our partnership with the College is now starting to pay extra dividends with our President David Button having fruitful discussions with the School Council President about how he might become involved with Rotary. The future is poised to become a lot brighter.

This Rotary year we also welcomed Trevor Watson to the club and a long-time friend of the club, Jeanette Blackwood has completed her membership proposal as well.

What's next?

We need to stay close to the strategy, stay busy with meaningful projects, have fun, tell as many people as we can about what impact we are having and the contribution the club makes and always look for ways to bring more people into this club. I think we are now very well placed to start inviting and encouraging people to join Rotary Club of Berwick.

We're well on the way and I know that because I received a text message last Friday from a club member inviting me, as well as others to a lunch. That message meant a lot to me as it tells me that our activity is up and our fellowship is strengthening.

It is now our collective responsibility to leverage what we have achieved and got going for us to actively and with intent grow the club membership.



## Public Image Report Jane Moore



Rotary's public image is how Rotary is perceived in the world and our local community, expanding public understanding of what Rotary does, serving to motivate, engage and inspire current and prospective members, donors and partners.

Public image exists within the club to support each chair and project team leader and promote the visual identity of the club in the broader community, whilst protecting the integrity and value of the Rotary brand.

The aim is to make Rotary recognized by showcasing Rotary and club projects to create community awareness, to be known, trusted, understood and .... attractive, not only to likeminded people who may want to join us in making a positive difference to the lives of others and the world in which we live, but to our valued current members who are the grass roots and most important people in Rotary

Rotary International provides annual goals and online resources to help us achieve positive, cohesive public image messaging, with the aim of showcasing the great work we do locally, nationally and internationally. Annual goals are suggested. If adopted, the strength is that all clubs work to common goals leading to consistent messaging about our amazing organisation and good work we do. The spin off is membership! The more attractive we are, the more others will want to be a part of our action!

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic have hindered the activities of the club across the board. However, the Rotary Club of Berwick has remained positive, strong and steadfast, collectively working innovatively to accommodate imposed change, modifying activities to meet our capacity achieving Rotary International's public image goals in spades!





## Public Image Report continued Jane Moore

### The goals are:

**Online presence:** We have an attractive, vibrant, up to date online presence thanks to our webmaster and his support members, bulletin editor, contributors to the Facebook page and all of you who like and share the posts to multiply our reach. Tick!

### Social activities:



Throughout 2021 -2022 we have been social, despite covid! We revisited the virtual Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Our Christmas party was well supported, complete with children and a visit from Santa. The End Polio Now fundraising movie was a fabulous social activity, culminating in a sellout dinner at a local restaurant, as well as contributing to our annual End Polio Now club donation. Rotary Club of Berwick members attending the annual District Conference enjoyed a thoroughly social time over club dinners on both nights.

Projects also provide an opportunity for social activity with post project b.b.qs and coffee catchups facilitating fun social interaction. President David's covid innovation, the Saturday morning zoom coffee catchup, lives on, and the social buzz before our meetings is more evidence of sociability! The recent friendship shared over dinner at the Presentation Balls more than met the "social activity" criteria! Our Travel Guide nights have attracted partners and friends, facilitating yet more social activity! Tick!

### Print Media Stories about Club Projects:

**Printed media:** Building on Sam's relationship with the Star News Group, journalist Jamie Salter has published many editorials, highlighting our projects and sharing Rotary information. Sam and I have submitted photographs and words whilst Jamie has contacted us for information on many occasions wanting to expand on our social media posts. Rotary youth programs, the Benevolent Society Christmas food collection, the Rotary Australia Day national broadcast from Nossal High and distribution of food hampers, Clean Up Australia Day and the mock interviews at Nossal were some of the media stories printed.

## Public Image Report continued Jane Moore

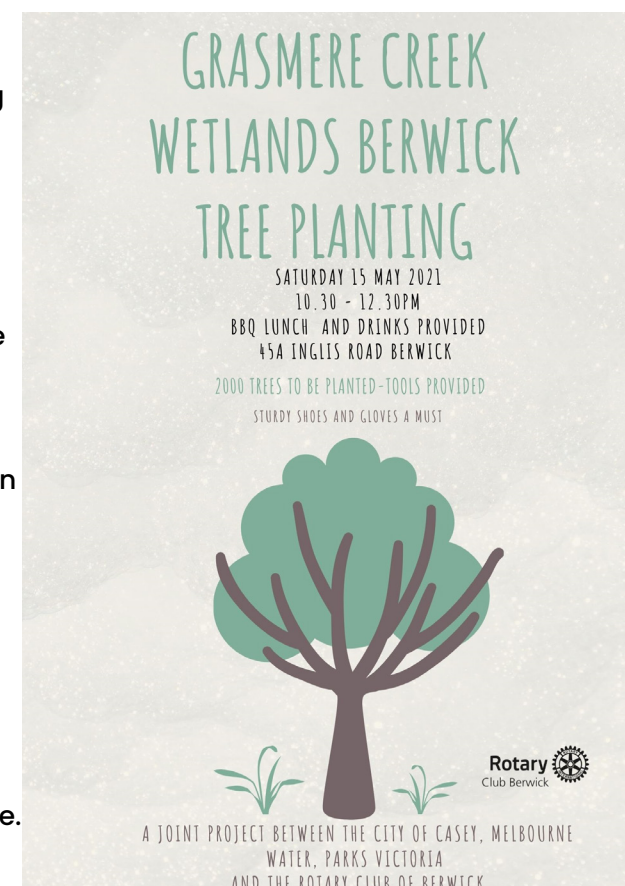
### Social media:

We have promoted all our projects through Facebook. Art Screen Hire, The Grasmere Wetlands tree planting, Mick Morland Memorial seat and plaque, the Peace Pole project progressing at Haileybury College Edrington Campus, Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds, the End Polio Now movie fundraiser, Australia Day event, Clean Up Australia at Buchanan Park, National Youth Science forum, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, St Margaret's Berwick Grammar Interact Club, shared Rotary information, advertised learning opportunities, acknowledged our partners and sponsors, highlighted our speaker program and posted about everything we can! Our posts are diverse, attracting a following of more than 1140 people across 40 countries. We have nearly 800 likes and many of our posts reach up as many as 900 people at a time. A huge tick for the media stories about club Projects goal!

### Use Current Rotary Logo in a Consistent, Professional Way and Source Rotary branded products:

I am pleased to report public image has been used as a reference point this year for branding advice and provision of narrative to support projects. The Grasmere tree planting project team asked for a flyer promoting the project date and details of the project, advertised on socials, website and the bulletin. Art Screen Hire was offered space, gratis, to advertise Rotary and our club in an art show catalogue. I was pleased to curate the flyer in Canva for inclusion and in return, created a promotional post for the art show on social media. Win win! A great initiative out of the Art Screen Hire relationship.

The project team organising the plaque for the Mick Morland memorial seat sought advice on correct compliant branding for the brass plaque.





## Public Image Report continued Jane Moore

A new and welcome initiative at the Presentation Balls this year was to place a flyer highlighting the longstanding relationship between the club and Berwick College, the benefit of funds raised going back to the school and telling the audience a little about Rotary and how to connect with our club. Another example of relationship building and a great public image opportunity.

Our old Club uniform polos are being updated! An initiative of President David to have all members wearing uniform bearing current branding sees a “shirt swap” in action. Many members have traded in their outdated shirts for the Rotary compliant branding introduced 9 years ago. If you haven’t checked in with David to organise your swap, now is the time.

We have a suite of Rotary branded products to aid our public image. Rotary Club of Berwick branded marquees, portable tear drop banners, tablecloths, and multiple items of branded uniform cumulatively make an impact and show the community we are out on the ground in the community. We should all wear our correctly branded uniform EVERY time we work in the community, be it our cemetery clean up, clean up Australia Day, delivery and pick up of Art Screens, attendance at presentation ball training, delivering, emptying and collecting the Christmas food drive bins, picking up or delivering Donations in Kind goods, running a b.b.q for anyone – whenever we are doing good so we are recognised and attract attention to and interest into the great work we do!

Compliant Rotary logos and visual identity guidelines have been furnished to the board for their use and the Rotary theme logo for 2022–2023 has also been shared. It would be great if we could curate a uniform signature block for all to use in our Rotary correspondence. Watch this space!



## Public Image Report continued Jane Moore

A new Rotary Club of Berwick pull up banner displaying the seven areas of focus on which Rotary bases its activities, is about to be delivered. Supporting the environment was confirmed as the seventh area of focus last year, rendering our current banner obsolete! A St Margaret’s and Berwick Grammar Interact Club pull up banner is also in production.

Tick!



### Provide Learning opportunities:

Throughout the year multiple online opportunities for learning have been promoted through the bulletin and on facebook. The Zone 8 public image team have conducted training in Canva, Writing Articles that Appeal, how to use The People of Action campaign effectively, how to be mobile ambassadors, how to tell Rotary’s story to broader communities, with the next in the series being how to take engaging photographs. Promotion has been given to webinars on social media and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion series of interactive sessions being conducted by District 9800 by zoom.

A number of newer members have participated in some of these learning opportunities. I have learnt much! The final public image goal ticked off.

Thank you to everyone for being a personal ambassador for the club, the best public image we can ask for! Special thanks to president David for his mastery and dedication to the website and helping support the facebook campaign, and to Sam for his tireless efforts in the public image space, especially helping with the Star News editorials.

Jane



## Projects Report Jen Marshall

The end of 2021 saw the Rotarians emerge from the lockdown lifestyle and back to where we all want to be – back serving our community! While we had to modify the projects we were involved in, we showed our community we are resilient and adaptable as we continued our important work changing lives for the better.

We were out there again getting our hands dirty at the annual Berwick Cemetery clean up and Clean Up Australia Day at Buchanan Park, Berwick. Both events were fun, productive and saw Rotary working with friends, family and members of the community. Unfortunately, covid restrictions stopped us getting involved in a working bee with the Women's Property Initiative Project in Beaconsfield, but we did establish a relationship for future projects.



At Christmas we saw the overwhelming generosity of our community when the club collected non-perishable food items through our Christmas drive at several shopping centres and schools. The club was able to donate many boxes of food items to the Casey North Community Information Support Services.

## Projects Report continued Jen Marshall

In March 2022 we were busy making a difference by providing Year 10 students at Nossal College the valuable opportunity to practice their job interviewing skills by providing volunteers to be part of the school's mock interviews. This activity was a great example of our club working with Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Narre Warren, future Rotarians and friends of Rotary. While other clubs came to our aid to help with mock interviews, we were able to repay the favour and assist on other club's projects too. This year several of our members attended the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong-Endeavour Hills All Holden Car Show in April and the Rotary Club of Narre Warren's ANZAC Day dawn service breakfast and the District 9820 mangrove planting working bee at Lang Lang.





## Projects Report continued Jen Marshall

In early 2022 we partnered with the Rotary Overseas Relocated Playgrounds (RORP) team to assist with the harvesting of local playgrounds. The playgrounds are repaired and sent overseas to developing nations to be repurposed in schools and communities to provide joy to the local children. This new project will hopefully become a new project the club will continue to be part of into the future.



Other little projects to keep us busy included raising over \$500 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation while enjoying a lovely morning walk around Wilson Botanic Park on Mother's Day and while we had to cancel the club's 60th birthday celebration, we made up for it with a fabulous family friendly Christmas Party enjoyed by everyone big and small. We were also involved in a few BBQs along the way too.

## Projects Report continued Jen Marshall

Four years after the passing of our friend and fellow Rotarian Mick Morland, we were able to honour his memory with the installation of a seat, oak tree and rock with a memorial plaque at the Mick Morland Reserve, Clyde North. The plaque highlights Mick's contribution to Rotary as a Rotarian and past president of the club.



While we achieved a lot this year, there were unfortunately a few projects which had to be postponed until next year. So, get ready for a big year with old projects and new including the installation of the peace pole at Haileybury College, Berwick, the installation of four new seats at Grasmere Creek Wetlands and a tree planting day, working in partnership with St John of God to help with maintaining a small garden and hopefully running our first vocational awards night later in 2022.



## Youth Report

### Greg Lee



Berwick Rotary Club's engagement with Youth can empower young people to take action and can form a habit within them of community engagement, building stronger and more resilient communities. This can not only have a profound and lasting impact on young people, but also on Rotarians who become involved.

This year was my first as Director of Youth, and it was very rewarding being involved in projects which supported young people within Berwick and surrounds, having a positive influence in their development and in our local community. I would like to acknowledge the hard working Rotarians who assisted – President David Button, Jane and Tim Moore.

It has been another challenging year with COVID impacting on Youth programs which meant that some were delayed, re-scheduled or cancelled.

### Youth Exchange

This is an international youth exchange program which did not proceed again this year. Depending on international COVID restrictions this may not go ahead until at least 2023.

### Support for Local School Student Awards

Pre-Paid Gift Card Cash Vouchers were donated by Berwick Rotary Club and were delivered in December 2021 to Harkaway Primary School, Berwick Secondary College and Brentwood Primary School for their end of year student award nights for achievement and leadership.

### Model of United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

MUNA Awards were conducted via ZOOM on Sunday 17/10/21. 8 Awards were presented. All video submissions were extended until 17/9/21 due to technical issues. Each team were required to produce a 5-minute video in response to an adapted United Nations resolution – Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind. Countries represented were Turkey, Canada, USA and Saudi Arabia. Berwick Rotary Club supported two of the St Margaret's Berwick Grammar delegations. The MUNA overall winner this year was Mary McKillop representing Colombia.

2022 MUNA will be held on 23/8 at Nossal High School. Berwick Rotary Club is working with

## Youth Report continued

### Greg Lee

SMBG, Nossal High School and Berwick College with the aim of supporting and sponsoring delegations from each school to attend.

### Interact



The St Margaret's Berwick Grammar Interact Club were also impacted by COVID this year but were able to deliver on various initiatives. On IDAHOBIT Day (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia), the club visited both senior campuses and painted the faces of students and teachers with the pride flag, educating and spreading awareness in regards to the discrimination that many young people face. In addition to this, they put up many posters and created a large book display in the library in ally ship of the LGBTQIA+ community. This tied in nicely with The Crane Project, which started in 2020. Due to the many lockdowns, all activities planned to do with the origami paper planes were postponed. The project was created to follow the Japanese belief that the folder of 1000 origami paper cranes would be granted one wish, in which our wish was for equality and equity for all. The cranes were displayed in the school auditorium, and accompanied an activity conducted by the St Margaret's Senior Campus. The Interact Club created a 'Wishing Well' for wishes for the future to be cast into. During Empower time, year levels were asked to write down one wish they had on a piece of paper and throw it into the well. Additionally, we asked for a small donation to be made to Minus 18, an organisation who educate about and create safe spaces for young people in the LGBTQIA+ community.



## Youth Report continued Greg Lee

Off the back of such a success last year, the Interact Club has also decided to host The Push-Up Challenge at the school, with the President signing on as a 'student ambassador'. The challenge itself is to conduct 3,139 push-ups from June 1st-24th, reflecting the number of suicides in Australia in 2020. Currently, they have 63 people signed up to complete the challenge, and 10 different teams competing against each other to keep morale and for a bit of competition. Proceeds for sponsoring the challenge go towards Lifeline.

### Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)



This year RYLA was postponed but is now being held at Rawson on 26 June for 7 days. Berwick Rotary Club is sponsoring Jessica Elfick. Jessica was our very first Interact President of the Interact Club of St Margarets School and Berwick Grammar School. As the very first President, leadership was the key that made this Interact Club a success.

Jessica is in her first year at the University of Melbourne studying a Bachelor of Design, attempting to major in Mechanical Systems Engineering and minor in Performance design (so a really broad mix!). Jessica is originally from the USA and has been on exchange programs to both England and China. Jessica plays the flute and has sung in orchestras, choirs and on local streets. Jessica has a passion for working

in the community and developing projects. Jessica is a volunteer with the Uni Melb chapter of Engineers without Borders, and regularly volunteer to tutor students from refugee backgrounds through the university program.

### Mock Interviews

This year Berwick Rotary Club members participated in a full day of Mock Interviews at Nossal High School with approximately 200 Year-11 students. As a result students sent "Thank you" gifts and cards to participants in the interviews.

## Youth Report continued Greg Lee

### National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)



This year NYSF was delivered online due to COVID. Berwick Rotary Club was pleased to sponsor Ryan Speller. Ryan Stewart-Speller is a 17-year-old Berwick Secondary College student (and student mentor). With an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) he is currently completing year-12 VCE Physics, Specialist Mathematics, Chemistry,

Biology, Mathematical Methods and English. His goal is to become a theoretical physicist. Ryan grew up on the family farm on the outskirts of Harkaway surrounded by animals and plants. Ryan is a passionate musician and loves to play the alto saxophone. He plays in the Berwick College Symphonic Band, Stage Band (classical and jazz music) and the school's Saxophone Ensemble. He enjoys outdoor running, mountain biking, swimming, hiking and gym work & boxing for fitness. When he finds spare time, he also likes to compose and arrange music, play video & board games with friends and continue to research physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology. In 2019, he designed a board game depicting the outcomes of various effects on the Earth, that won a minor bursary in the National Science Talent Search.

During NYSF Ryan completed 8hrs a day online at one time involved in a live cross to CERN Switzerland (particle accelerator) which he very much enjoyed. Ryan was inspired, enthused, and made great connections with like-minded people. Ryan organised an online music jam session in his free time with 8 other participants.

Greg Lee  
Berwick Rotary Club  
Youth (Projects)



## Treasurer Report Wendy Langdon



The financial year is coming to an end, and we were again affected by covid.

We had a fantastic group of volunteers who ran the Debutante balls over two nights. Our Art Screen Hire team worked hard to keep some income coming in too. With some work and old-fashioned customer service, our fundraising effort ended up pretty good for the year.

The Presentation Balls used the Humanitix platform this year to automate bookings and transactions. The Club has moved towards online booking systems to reduce manual handling

and to account for transactions.

Eway, another online payment system, has allowed members to pay for the weekly meetings, once again reducing the handling of money.

The club's Accounting system remains in the cloud where the General, Projects and Sandhurst account is directly transferred in. Once again, Andrew Harper at HBT Advisory has been a great support to the Club to maintain the transparency of the Rotary Club of Berwicks Books.

The Bendigo Bank and St John of God Hospital were again sponsors of the Rotary Club of Berwick.

I would like to thank David Button and Cait Langdon for all your support throughout the last year and I wish Andrew Somers the very best in his role as treasurer for the year 2022-23.

## Treasurer Report continued Wendy Langdon

Beneficiary	Amount
Australia Rotary Health	\$5000
Berwick College	\$10000
Disaster Aid Australia	\$5000
Grasmere Wetlands Project	\$4000
Interact Club	\$500
Lift the Lid fundraiser	\$105
Mick Morland project	\$530
National Youth Science Forum	\$950
Polio Plus	\$3032
ROMAC	\$2000
Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society	\$5000
Rotary Donations in Kind	\$3500
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards	\$1274
School Awards	\$850
The Rotary Foundation	\$5000
Low level Scholarship Grant	\$1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,741</b>



## Our Sponsors

The Rotary Club of Berwick is very fortunate to have the continued support of St John of God Hospital and the Beaconsfield Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Our sponsors contribute to the running of our Club so that we can continue to serve the community. Sponsor Funds are utilised for the following purposes:

### Community Events:

- Event organisation expenses
- Event advertising
- Graphic design
- Printing

### Corporate Social Responsibility:

- Donations to the Rotary Foundation
- Donations to Polio Plus
- Donations to various local charities (with previous agreement with the sponsor)

### Club Administration

- Acquisition and replacement of computer equipment
- Licensing of computer software
- Graphic design
- Printing



## Our Sponsors

Beaconsfield District  
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### Asset maintenance and replacement

- Maintenance of community BBQ
- Maintenance of art screen trailers and advertisement placement
- Fabrication and maintenance of art screens
- Maintenance and replacement of banners, tents and tables
- Acquisition and maintenance of communication equipment

### Membership Drive and development

- Display equipment
- Club banners
- Graphic design
- Printing

The Club is also a beneficiary of the City of Casey through their community grant program. This program extends to community events such as Australia Day and Carols by Candlelight and equipment grants.

The Club is also a beneficiary of the Rotary Foundation through District 9820 District Grants.

Rotarians are volunteers and do not benefit personally from donations, grants or sponsorship funds.





# Rotary Club of Berwick



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