



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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Welcome to our **ANNUALREPORT** 2022-2023



Rotary is an international organisation 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4.	Presidents' Message
7.	Membership
9.	Projects and Fundraising
14.	Public Image
15.	Youth
16.	Treasurer
17.	Distributions

Presidents' MESSAGE

PP Gus Dominguez

PDG Tim Moore

PP Jack Kraan

PP Geoff Double



PP Gus Dominguez

This was an unusual year for the Rotary Club of Berwick, with 4 Past Presidents stepping up to share the President's job.

PP Gus Dominguez was the first cab off the rank, assuming the presidency during the first quarter of the year, followed by PP Tim Moore during the October-December quarter. PP Geoff Double and PP Jack Kraan tag-teamed the President's role for the last 6 months of the Rotary year.

The year commenced with a BBQ held for our partners, St John of God Hospital in support of the re-opening of the Gibb Street site (old Berwick Bush Hospital precinct) which was re-developed to cater for specialist functions like mental health treatment, followed by another community support BBQ for the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre in Hallam. Further BBQ's were held for District 9820 events and for Nossal High School.

Speakers included local MP Brad Battin, Rotarian Gary Castricum (Chair, Windermere Child and Family Services), AG Colin Byron (discussing a pilot to change the regional Rotary governance), Annabelle Morton (Interact), Glenn Patterson (CEO City of Casey), Rotarian Peter Haine (Male Bag Ride), Jessica Chen (Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre), Dr Kylie King (Australia Rotary Health in action), Kerri Bolch (Principal, Berwick College), Susan Magee (outgoing EO of CNCISS), Naomi Paterson (CEO Cornerstone), Rotarian Rae Mackay (Coal mine rehabilitation), PP Gus Dominguez Bureau of Meteorology), Adam Ritzinger (Black Dog), Helen Comport (Quilts of Valour), Matthew Sonnemann (Investing), Rotarian Ron Brooks (Give Every Child a Future – UNICEF Foreign Coin Collection), Lynelle Mark (from City of Casey Environmental Team (Recycling in the correct way) and Tony Brosinski and our very own Laury Gordyn (Bee Keeping). We also had members Louise, Louise, Marta, Jeanette, Michele, and Mary share a bit about themselves in 'Behind the Badge' presentations.



PDG Tim Moore

The monthly Travel Guide nights continued their success with visits to Alaska and Canada (Ann and Jack Kraan), The Kimberley (Tim & Jane Moore), Amsterdam and Brugge (Andrew and Michele Somers), The Red Centre on the Ghan (Geoff and Di Double), Egypt and Jordan (Jen Marshall and Marta Faithful), Portugal (Isobel and Mark Caulfield) and we learnt about the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians ISFR when Eric and Wendy Boon took us to the slopes of Whistler, Slovakia and Austria. A big thank you to Di Double for coordinating all these evenings.

This Rotary year we had the pleasure of inducting Mary McIvor into the Club, followed by the inductions of Rotarians Louise Carter, Louise Jackel and Marta Faithful (who transferred from

RC Pakenham). Early this year, Michele Somers was also inducted into Rotary, adding to the steady increase of members to our club. It has been a pleasure to see all our new members embracing Club activities and integrating fully into the membership.

Other community support activities included a tree planting morning at Grasmere Creek, as well as our extremely entertaining 'seat planting' sessions, which saw a small crew install 4 seats at Grasmere Creek.



PP Geoff Double

We also continued support for the Casey North Community Information & Support Service (CNCISS) through our Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society and through the participation of PP Gus as a member of the Board.

There was a large number of members and friends at our annual Berwick Cemetery Clean Up, where after a few hours of work we were treated to a lovely BBQ spread. Under the direction of Jane Moore, we assembled 200 birthing kits which have been distributed to women in many overseas locations. We have assisted in harvesting playgrounds in the City of Casey and participated in Clean Up Australia Day. We continued our ongoing support of the Rotary Foundation and Donations in Kind.

The Club conducted mock interviews at Nossal High School and Cire Community School, supported the Interact Club at St Margaret's Berwick Grammar and have commenced forming a club at Nossal High School.

We assisted our neighbouring Clubs with two international projects – the provision of medical supplies to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe (RC Pakenham) and school supplies to Apifo'ou College, Tonga (RC Narre Warren) via a District Grant. Members again worked at the RC Narre Warren Anzac Breakfast.



PP Jack Kraan



Presidents'

MESSAGE continued

In September, the traditional Footy Night was hosted by Trevor Watson, including hands-on activities as part of the customary trivia competition. Nobody could guess Trevor is a Richmond supporter!

Other highlights of the year were our Christmas in July evening, the Club's Christmas break-up at Jason's Restaurant at Bradford Estates Winery, the annual Kraan BBQ, Berwick Cemetery Clean-up, the bowls night (maybe next year will be our year to take the trophy back from the Rotary Club of Monbulk!), the District Conference at Cape Schanck in February, the Club's 62nd birthday celebration (Pasta, Plonk and Poetry night), two successful Berwick College Debutant Ball evenings (coordinated by Dave Anderson) our ongoing Art Screen hire business (under the direction of Trevor Watson) and the International Rotary Convention in Melbourne in May.

Towards the end of the year, we were also able to secure an \$11,000 grant from the Beaconsfield branch of the Bendigo Bank to assist in purchasing a new BBQ trailer.

The Club was kept informed throughout the year by an excellent Spoken 'n' Words bulletin. Thank you to our editors, PP David Button and Rotarian Sam McCurdy. Our Facebook following has also continued to grow with regular informative posts by Jane Moore.

The 4 of us would like to thank all the members of the board for their support throughout the year, as well as all our members of our club for their ongoing support during the last 12 months.

We would also like to thank our two sponsors, St John of God Hospital Berwick, and Bendigo Bank Beaconsfield, for their continued support during the last twelve months and into the future. We wish David Anderson, our incoming President and his board all the best for the year ahead.



ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

David Anderson



Well it's certainly been an interesting year in the Rotary Club of Berwick and I'm sure everyone will have noticed and felt that members have been doing some extraordinary and diverse work over the last year, and probably more importantly over the past few months.

One of the things that stands out for me is how well many of our members are becoming more actively involved in the broad spread of activities

We have welcomed a number of new members over the last year, Mary McIvor, Marta Faithful, Louise Jackel, Louise Carter and Michele Somers and sadly we had a couple of resignations as well.

One of the outcomes from these ins and outs is that the Female component of our membership has moved from 26% up to 35.6% and that is a tremendous shift for the club and it aligns us a whole lot better to the community in which we serve.

Membership by gender



Membership by Years of Service



Membership Survey

Early this year with the Board's go ahead I asked members to participate in a survey to better understand what people value as a club member and what can be done to improve things for all.

Disappointingly I only received 12 responses but the responses that did come back gave us some rich information.

By way of summary members value the welcoming atmosphere, connection, fellowship, variety of projects, feeling of safety, meeting routine and venue and a reasonable social media representation.

Some of the things we should pay attention to include non - involvement of members or not listening to them, limited projects, smaller numbers of people being involved resulting in members seeing those who are involved seeming overlaid, limited diversity, few people stepping into leadership roles and newer members finding it difficult to assimilate.

Some suggestions on things that should be done include:

- **Re-introduction of committees under board chairs**
- **Better mentoring and succession planning through committee experience to overcome the fear that any particular role is hard**
- **Market ourselves with prominent projects**

That is a brief summary of the responses that we did receive and these key themes resonate with me as well as the members of the board. Next step is to bring the undiluted result summary to the broader membership.

In wrapping up I would summarise the membership portfolio as improving and through member's actions and behaviours we are a more involved and engaged club that say 12 months ago. We have been toiling hard at a variety of projects and tasks and I was thrilled to see the Clean Up Australia Day managed by Mary McIvor and the Nossal High Mock Interviews managed by Di Scheepers, proof that members can take on new tasks and be successful.

Roll on 2023/24



Projects & Fundraising

Jen Marshall



After a few quiet years the club was back in action, busier than ever with old projects and new.

The annual Berwick Cemetery clean up and Clean Up Australia Day at Buchanan Park saw Rotary out in the community. Rotarians worked hard making Berwick beautiful under the management of Funno and Mary.

During winter Sam was pleased to donate over thirty jackets to Casey North Community Information Support Services as part of the winter jacket drive appeal. At Christmas we were again blown away by the community's generosity to donate non-perishable food items for the club Christmas food drive appeal for Casey North Community Information Support Services. This year the club supported Windermere for their Christmas drive appeal. They requested gift cards for teenagers and food hampers for families. The club donate thirty \$50 gift cards and five large family food hampers packed by Jen and Wendy and Cait Langdon.



In April, a number of our Rotarians dusted off their business jackets and headed off to Nossal High for the annual Year 10 mock interviews. Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Berwick and Narre Warren answered the call from Di Scheepers. This project provides students with the opportunity to practice their job interviewing skills and receive valuable feedback on their presentation.

This year Russell has ensured we continued our partnership with the Rotary Overseas Relocated Playgrounds (RORP) team to assist with the harvesting of local playgrounds. The playgrounds are collected, repaired and sent overseas to developing nations to be repurposed in schools and communities.



The club ventured out on new projects this year. After a few delays the club was able to attend the peace pole ceremony at Haileybury College, Berwick Campus. With Jane as the hardworking project liaison the school was delighted by their new installation. A group of Rotarians attended the event which was a great success forging a new relationship.

Protecting the environment is Rotary's seventh area of focus. To honour this theme the club partnered with the City of Casey for a tree planting day. The club also received a district grant to install four seats along the Grasmere Creek Wetland along Cardinia Creek. The seats offer the public somewhere to sit, rest and enjoy the beautiful park. The club also planting 1,000 trees, shrubs and grasses along the creek to help vegetate the

area to promote biodiversity.

In May, Jane and Jen organised a birthing kit packing event. These life-saving kits help women in developing nations have a more hygienic birth. The club packed 200 kits that will be sent overseas and distributed in areas needing these resources.



Projects & Fundraising





Berwick & District Benevolent Society

2023 Annual Report by Sam McCurdy

The Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society is a project of the Rotary Club of Berwick. It is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission and a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation that can receive donations which are tax deductible.

During the 2022-2023 Rotary year, the Society received donations from the Magistrate's Court of Victoria, the Rotary Club of Berwick and a small contribution from the public through coin donations at the central Berwick Coles Supermarket.

The Society continued its long-standing relationship with the Casey North Community Information and Support Service (CNCISS) in Narre Warren. Past President Gus Dominguez continued to represent the Club as a member of the CNCISS Board.

As well as providing financial support to CNCISS, the Society conducted the annual Christmas Appeal. This entailed the collection of non-perishable foods items and toys that were donated at six local schools, as well as public donations at Berwick Square and Eden Rise Shopping Centres. Wooden toys were also collected from the Berwick Woodworkers Club and delivered to CNCISS.

All the collected items were then sorted by CNCISS staff and volunteers into Christmas hampers for distribution to families in the local community, who were in need.

In February, outgoing Executive Officer, Susan Magee, addressed our club meeting and acknowledged the ongoing support provided by the Society during her 25 years with CNCISS. She also introduced incoming Executive Officer, Helen Small, and reassured her that she was confident that Helen would receive the same ongoing support from the Rotary Club, through the Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society.

In June, the Society joined the annual CNCISS Winter Coat Drive again, with members contributing discarded warm winter coats for those in need.

Projects & Fundraising

Fundraising

With a new co-ordinator, the hire of art screens ran smoothly all year under the watchful eye of Trevor. Rotarians put their hands up to help out throughout the year to ensure we were always able to deliver and collect the screens. Well done to the team involved.

The BBQ trailer was out and about throughout the year at various events around the community. Members supported cooking and serving at various events including the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre, Berwick level crossing removal community day, various events for Nossal High and District Assembly, just to name a few.

Under the experienced eye of Dave Anderson and his new second in charge Michele Somers the deb balls again were another great success. Two beautiful nights were enjoyed by all, everything went off perfectly strengthening the partnership between the club and Berwick College.

Thank you to all Rotarians who put up their hand to help out at projects and fundraising events this year. The club cannot serve the community without you generously donating your time and efforts to the club. Thank you.



Public Image

by David Button

Over the last few years, the public image team have been building a solid platform to promote what our club does in our community and beyond. There are two main areas of focus:



1. How we present to the public with correctly branded uniforms, flags and equipment
2. Creating and maintaining a vibrant and informative online presence using a website, Facebook and bulletin.

Several of our new members found us through our online presence. We provided good background information and contact points, proving that our work has transferred into tangible results. I know from personal experience that many people than we realise know more about what we get up to than you think!.

How we present ourselves to others can significantly influence the quality of our relationships. We can cultivate stronger connections and build trust with others by evaluating our actions and considering how we are perceived in the outside world. We promote what we do towards making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the world in which we live,



Our Public Image Team:

Sam McCurdy (Bulletin), **Jane Moore** (Facebook, Events Flyers, Canva designer, uniform and banners), **Andrew Somers** (Events promotion and booking), **Sandi Tarant** (Club photographer), **David Button** (website), **Laury Gordyn and Trevor Watson** (Art Screen Hire Facebook) and the many club members who contribute stories and photos to support our Public Image Team.

Thank you to every member who has contributed to our public image! Everything from taking a photo, writing a story, creating an unforgettable impression, or dressing in our Club uniform. Only by our actions can we attract, educate and inspire others by the examples we create. Please do not underestimate the importance of a positive public image.

Youth

by PDG Tim Moore



Tim stepped into the Youth role as a helper after Youth Director Greg Lee went on LOA.

It was a pleasure to assist the Club in helping organise a number of Youth projects. The RC of Berwick is a strong supporter of RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award and MUNA Model United Nations Assembly.

Our RYLA awardee is Rotaractor Ally Yeh of the Casey-Cardinia Rotaract Club. The Rotary Club of Berwick has partnered with the Rotary Club of Narre Warren. The program is a weeklong and makes up part of a recognised TAFE leadership course. We look forward to meeting Ally soon to hear of her adventure and experience at a club meeting.

MUNA is a popular team project of our district. It involves teams of school students that are allocated a country to participate in a model of the United Nations. This year we sponsored one of the Nossal High School teams. Team members need to research their allocated country and over a weekend represent that country in a forum. They dress as per that country plus participate in motions of the forum. Teams are scored in an atmosphere of formality, debate and fun.



RYLA



Treasurer Report

Andrew Somers



As the 2022-2023 Rotary year, my first as Treasurer, comes to a close, it is a time to reflect on the financial achievements of the past twelve months.

As a non-accounting person, I had somewhat of a learning curve, but my 'logical engineering' brain quickly made up for that as I delved into the world of Quickbooks On-Line, Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, Journal Entries and Business Activity Statements just to name a few. Thanks to Wendy Langdon for running me through some impromptu on-line training sessions and handing the accounts over in good order. That has definitely made my job much easier.

Our main fundraising activities throughout the year were once again the Art-Screen Hire and Presentation Balls. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the teams who successfully managed these activities the club was left in a great position to donate a little over \$50,000 to many causes and projects, some regular beneficiaries of our club and some new. A full list of beneficiaries is included on the next page

The ongoing use of electronic booking and payment tools such as Clubrunner and eWay for booking and payment of meals for meeting attendance and Humanitix for Presentation Ball ticketing has also helped to streamline the accounting practices.

Thanks must also go to Andrew Harper at HBT Advisory for once again reviewing the accounts and ensuring we keep all the 'i's dotted and 't's crossed. Not to mention always being on hand to provide Quickbooks advice when I had the odd question or two.

We were fortunate to again receive support from our Sponsors, The Bendigo Bank and St John Of God Hospital Berwick. A very generous financial donation from the Bendigo Bank has well and truly kicked off our project to replace the ageing BBQ trailer.

My personal thanks must also go to the other board and club members who have supported me in both my Rotary and Treasurer learning journeys over the past year.





Beneficiary	Amount
Australian Rotary Health	\$5,000
Berwick College	\$10,000
Birthing Kit Foundation	\$1,000
Cornerstone Contact Centre	\$1,000
Disaster Aid Australia	\$5,368
End Polio	\$3,000
Grasmere Wetlands Project	\$693
Lift the Lid Mental Health Fundraiser	\$310
Mick Morland Project	\$108
Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)	\$130
Peace Bell Project	\$500
Quilts of Valour	\$500
RAWCS - New Zealand Flood Appeal	\$1,000
RAWCS - Turkiye - Syria Earthquake Appeal	\$1,000
Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society	\$5,100
Rotary Donations In Kind	\$3,500
Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)	\$2,000
Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)	\$625
School Awards	\$961
Tonga Container Project (RC Narre Warren project)	\$2,000
The Rotary Foundation	\$5,000
Victoria Falls Project (RC Pakenham project)	\$3,000
Total	\$51,794









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