



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20





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The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST.** *The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;*
- **SECOND.** *High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;*
- **THIRD.** *The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;*
- **FOURTH.** *The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.*



Welcome
To Our World

The purposes of this club are to pursue the Object of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support The Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is an honour and a privilege to be President of the Rotary Club of Berwick. We have a long and proud record and this year has been like no other in the history of the club. This has been a most challenging and rewarding year, a year of two parts. Our whole world was turned upside down in March due to the COVID19 pandemic. We had to change plans, cancel or postpone events and continue to running of the club. I am very happy to say we have embraced this opportunity to adapt and change. The willingness of the members to learn new technology is pleasing. Online Zoom meetings, although not ideal have enabled us to keep meeting weekly. I see this as opportunity for further evolution in the way we run the club.

The year began with members suggesting we change our meeting format. An online survey saw the majority vote to only sing the National Anthem on special occasions. The "head table" is now a thing of the past. I now have been able to enjoy a meal and speak with different people every week. I believe this less formal setting is more engaging with both members and guests.

The Beaconsfield Club at Holm Park Reserve continues to be our meeting venue. New caterers were hired in November but resigned in March when COVID hit. We look forward to working with the new caterers as we are lucky to have such a good meeting venue.

Weekly meetings have been varied, fun and informative. We have joined in with other clubs and hosted a cluster meeting. Zoom enabled us to meet with the RC Emerald. Something that would not have happened normally. Thanks to Geoff Double for co-ordinating the program.

Our big events of Carols by Candlelight and the Australia Day Celebrations were again run with the efficiency that the club is known for. The assistance of the Inner Wheel Club of Berwick and the Casey Cardinia Rotaract Club was invaluable. Carols especially drew a very large crowd. Rotaract member Rachel Caulfield (who happens to be my daughter) did a magnificent job as MC for the crowd of over 5000 people.

David Button and myself had the privilege of representing the club at the City of Casey Australia Day Awards for 2020. We were nominated for Casey Community Group of the Year 2020. Unfortunately we did not win but we were in very good company.

Sadly our fundraising has been hit hard this year with the lockdown. The major events of the Golf Day and the Berwick College Presentation Balls were postponed until 2021. The Art Screen Hire has also taken a hit. Regrettably, this means we do not have the funds as in previous years to distribute.

The club turned 59 years old in May. A different celebration was needed, no going out for a nice dinner. Members were delivered either personally (at a safe distance) or virtually a piece of cake, a candle and a whistle. It was great fun seeing happy faces on the screen trying to blow out their candle and sing Happy Birthday together. Somethings just do not work in a Zoom meeting. Testing out the technology for some trivia questions added to the enjoyment.



PRESIDENT - ISOBEL CAULFIELD



An important part of the club is being social. The fellowship of members and friends keeps us engaged. We have enjoyed BBQ's at the Kraan's, a movie night, the Christmas gathering at Jason's restaurant was well attended and enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, the bowls night with Monbulk had to be cancelled. The Cemetery clean up ended before it started due to a storm, so an impromptu BBQ was held at our home. We did actually do the work at a later date. Tree planting by some members got us out and about.

A personal highlight was being able to utilize the Global Grant's program. Together with David Button's contacts with District 7475 in New Jersey USA, we have been able to accomplish amazing things. First was their district providing funding for 2 Blaze Aid trailers so badly needed after the devastating fires. We were pleased to reciprocate with administration assistance for COVID related projects of ventilators and a critical care bed. As international partners are needed for Global Grants, it shows how truly connected we can be in the Rotary world.

We have been able to support the bushfire survivors in different ways. We helped to cut firewood in the rain at Bunyip. The Blaze Aid trailers will be used for many years. Recently we coordinated and delivered winter clothing for the Rotary East Gippsland Fire Relief group.

Members supported our own District Governor Adrian Froggatt in the huge task of organising the District Conference. Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. It was very disappointing to have had so much work done by the dedicated committee come to nothing.

I am very pleased that our major sponsors have continued to support us. Lisa Norman from the St John of God Hospital Berwick and Andrew Gardner from the Beaconsfield District Community Bank Branch – Bendigo Bank are enthusiastic in their partnership with the club. The corporate sponsorship helps us run the club and give extra funds back into the community.

I had the pleasure of inducting Russell Fellows



PRESIDENT - ISOBEL CAULFIELD

into the club earlier this year. We have enjoyed you being with us. Sadly we have also had resignations. Russell Dunn and Andy Merrill have left but will still support us as volunteers. Roger Thornton has returned to the Rotary Club of Pakenham. Thank you all for your service to the club.

The President alone does not run a club. I could not have done this without the support of the board and I feel we have worked well together. We have discussed issues and got things done, especially transferring to an online world overnight. Thanks to David Button (Administration), Geoff Double (Vice President), Gus Dominguez (Secretary), Gary Castricum (Treasurer), Jack Kraan (International and Foundation), Rob Wingrave (Public Image), Di Scheepers (Membership), Peter Batterham (Fundraising), Gaetano Fina (Youth and New Ideas) and Bob Lay (Service Projects). Bob resigned from the board part way through the year due to ill health. Again a huge thank you all.

Every member contributes in some way to our club. Although things changed when we went online, jobs still needed to be done. A big thank you to the energetic Sergeant Adrian Funston, Photographer Di Double, Attendance guru Sandi Tarrant and Jokers Wild card sharp Geoff Double for being and integral part of the meetings. Thanks also to Fred Edwards who collated the weekly attendance and apologies. Di Double as Bulletin Editor kept us informed on what was happening in the club and beyond.

I wish David and the incoming board all the best for the coming year. They will no doubt lead us well coming out of this trying time. My family has always supported me in everything I do. Mark, Rachel and Anna, thank you for always being there and being part of this amazing Rotary world.



MENU

OUR SPONSORS

OUR SPONSOR / PARTNERS

Around 15 years ago the Rotary Club of Berwick (RCB) recognised the need to attract and build long term commercial sponsorship partnerships to help foster the Object of Rotary.

RCB are proud to report our two Corporate Partners in the **Bendigo Beaconsfield District Community Bank (BBDCB)** and **St John of God Berwick Hospital (SJGBH)** have extended their Partnership for another two years providing mutual benefits to our respective organisations and financial support.

It is important to note that Rotarians are volunteers and do not receive personal benefits from donations or sponsorship funds. All sponsorship funding is utilised for the following purposes:



Rotary Club of Berwick Partner



Community Events:

- Event organisation expense
- Event advertising
- Graphics design
- Printing

Corporate Social Responsibilities:

- Donations to The Rotary Foundation,
- Donations to Polio Plus
- Donations to various local Charities (with previous agreement with sponsor)

Club Administration:

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

Asset maintenance and replacement:

- Maintenance of community BBQ
- Maintenance of art screens trailer and advertisement placement
- Fabrication and maintenance of art screens
- Maintenance and replacement of banners, tents and tables
- Acquisition and maintenance of communications equipment

Membership Drive:

- Display equipment
- Club banners
- Graphics design
- Printing



MENU

In addition to our two Corporate Partners **the City of Casey** continues to be supporters of our club through event grants towards the annual Christmas Carols, Australia Day and charity golf day.

Benefits

Benefits In addition to supporting world endeavours like polio eradication, RCB carries out several projects for the local community like the organisation of Berwick's Australia Day celebrations, the family Christmas carols, a golf day, presentation balls, and several other activities that generate exposure of Rotary and its sponsors in the community.

There are limited sponsorship / partnership opportunities offered. In return for their sponsorship, organisations receive:

Exclusivity. Only one business of the same industry is accepted into the program to ensure maximum results

Exposure. Sponsors receive ample exposure at designated events including branding (logos, banners) display, product showcasing, acknowledgement at events, hospitality and opportunities for direct contact with the public.

Corporate Social Responsibility. Sponsors contribute to The Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary which addresses challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Sponsors can also choose to direct a component of the sponsorship to local causes... This allows sponsors to publicly express their support for The Rotary Foundation or local programs as a way to fulfilling corporate social responsibilities

Other Opportunities. Sponsors are provided the following but not limited to;

- the opportunity to address club members and guests at meetings throughout the year
- guest invitations to all club events and to present awards
- Rotarian support at company events such as staff functions
- such as poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace.

Sponsors can also choose to direct a component of the sponsorship to local causes... This allows sponsors to publicly express their support for The Rotary Foundation or local programs as a way to fulfilling corporate social responsibilities

Other Opportunities. Sponsors are provided the opportunity to address club members and guests at meetings throughout the year

Rotary Club of Berwick Partner



Phone:
9769 5122



TREASURER-GARY CASTRICUM

It was my second year as Treasurer. The club supported a change to our meetings' format so members paid for meals at meetings on the night by Credit Card. This change has significantly reduced the workload of the Treasurer. Together with a more efficient online QuickBooks program for the Clubs accounts, the role of Treasurer is now far more manageable requiring significantly less time.

Our club was very fortunate to maintain generous financial sponsorship support from the St John of God Berwick Hospital and the Beaconsfield Bendigo Community Bank in 2019-20. We were successful in renewing our Sponsorship partnership with the St John of God Berwick Hospital for a further 3 year term. This Sponsorship Agreement benefits both parties. The club's role is to promote the benefits of the St John of God Hospital Berwick in all it's communications, events and meetings, and engage with the hospital for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Despite the challenges of the last 4 months, with the willing support of a group of committed Club members, we raised nearly \$15,000 from the Art Screen business. The club successfully staged Christmas Carols and Australia Day for the community of Berwick and surrounds. These Events also raised funds to support worthy causes in our community.

Club members support for BBQs, movie night, and meeting fundraisers like Jokers Wild, Heads and Tails and Sergeant at Arms - contributed over \$4,000 to the Clubs account.

During the year, the club supported Rotary initiatives DIK, NYSF and RYLA with over \$7,000. There is a further \$13,000 surplus available for distribution.

The club's general account ended the year with a small surplus.

I would like to thank Sandi Tarrant for frequently managing meeting payments for members during the year.

With the continued support of Club members and officials, I have agreed to undertake the role of Treasurer for a further year.



SECRETARY-PP GUS DOMINGUEZ

It was a pleasure to support President Isobel in this very atypical year marked by the coronavirus pandemic. I thoroughly enjoyed our weekly meetings over a cuppa discussing the week's events, correspondence and secretarial requirements to keep the club on the move. Thank you, Isobel, for trusting me with this important job.

The year started in a conventional way, with plenty of activity at the Board level to organize the traditional fundraising and community activities.

Right off the bat and through a quick negotiation, we managed to sell several old (and heavy) art screens to a primary school away from our usual delivery area. With the revenue, we manufactured lightweight ones that can be easily handled. Thanks to the great work by Eric Boon (donating the steel welding just before closing his factory upon retirement) and Laury Gordyn (assembling the wire mesh onto the frames). A great team effort also supported by John Rosenthal.



Also at the beginning of the year, there was a big cleanup at the shed and all historical records are now filed per year in the club's filing drawers. I believe it is important to have all historic Club records in one place for future reference and I urge members that keep records to step forward and contribute to the club's archive.

A fair portion of my Rotary life during the first half of the year was consumed leading the organization of the Christmas carols, having to chip in further as several of the organizing committee members had personal problems that kept them away from Rotary work. I would like to thank Tim Moore and Sam McCurdy for stepping up with logistics and social media promotion, respectively. Without their help, we could not have delivered another successful community event.

With the news dominated during December by the largest bushfires on record, all eyes were on fundraising for the recovery activities led by District 9820. Right after the carols were over, we started hearing news of a viral illness originated in China that by January started spreading around the world. The COVID19 epidemic was born.

The Board, as usual, did not meet in January. Australia Day was another successful event held by the club and in February the Board met to recognize the great fundraising effort led by PE David Button for the BlazeAid organization, focused on helping farmers rebuild fences to re-start their operations.

March was marked by the epidemic's exponential growth and its first fatality in Australia. At the 16 March meeting and with the pandemic dominating the agenda and the Victorian Premier's declaration of the state of emergency requesting people remain at their homes in isolation that same day, the Board decided to suspend all Club meetings from 18 March and until further notice.

SECRETARY-PP GUS DOMINGUEZ



On 19 March the Australian Government closed our borders and suspended all international travel, right after Gary Evans returned from his trip to Antarctica via Argentina.

The Board also approved at that meeting the creation of a social media channel using the application WhatsApp, allowing instant messaging between members, as a first measure to maintain social interaction between members. President Isobel proposed to test teleconferencing technology to re-establish Club meetings, with the first virtual meeting held on 25 March.

The effects of mandatory isolation were immediately felt in the fundraising activities. Within a week, we received requests to cancel all art screens hire bookings. Other events like BBQs, debutant balls and golf day were also affected.

The Board then met again on 20 April, this time using teleconferencing technology and decided to maintain the suspension of Club meetings until a review in May. The reduced activity was also reflected in the diminishing amount of Club correspondence, both digital and hard copy. Meeting suspension was reviewed in May and continued until July.

The virtual meetings were (and still are at the time of writing this report) a great initiative from President Isobel to maintain the fellowship among members and even to enable prospective members to have a glimpse of what our club is about. I am very pleased to have witnessed how the

Board dealt with a challenging and quickly changing situation, protecting the members while maintaining the club's spirit.

ADMINISTRATION-DAVID BUTTON

President

President Isobel Caulfield has taken quite a load off my portfolio this year looking after the club program with PP Geoff Double and also Attendance with Fred Edwards. I certainly appreciated the extra help, so a very big THANK YOU Isobel for all the extra work you have done for me and the club.

Secretary

The club has been very fortunate to have PP Gus Dominguez keep our focus on the job at hand at each months Board meetings. His delivery of relevant information to the club has been on point. His handling of our COVID 19 transition has been very professional. The introduction of WhatsApp for member communications and his skill with Zoom have been positives to help the members adapt to a strange situation.

Treasurer

Gary Casticum has done a sterling job simplifying the Treasurer's job even further this year to fit in with his busy schedule. While this is an extremely important function in the club, it should not be onerous on the individual. This is Gary's second term as treasurer and he will continue for one more year in the role.

Sergeant at Arms

PP Adrian "Funno" Funston did a terrific job as our Sergeant at Arms. Funno's main duty was to help the President maintain an orderly and effective meeting. His other, more entertaining duty was to issue Sergeants fines. This is a light hearted Rotary ritual that Funno excelled at. Nice work Funno!



ADMINISTRATION-DAVID BUTTON

On to Conference

This was a big year for the Rotary Club of Berwick as we were the host Club for the District Conference with the District Governor being one of our own at we never had! While we were disappointed not have witnessed what our efforts had created, all was not lost with many speakers giving up time to put together presentations for the District via Zoom. Many thanks to the committee members: DG Adrian Froggatt, PDG Tim Moore, PP Jim Wilson, PP Geoff Double, Di Double, Bob Lay AM, Sam McCurdy, President Isobel Caulfield and David Button

Spoke 'n' Words

This years Club bulletin returned to a pdf format and was well structured and full of information. There is an enormous effort required to put together the bulletin and Di Double excelled at presenting a polished edition each week. Di also was the main club photographer, so the images were always perfect!

Members Handbook

Each year PP Gus Dominguez spends countless hours creating the annual Members Handbook. Everything is compiled and edited to create a handy A5 document for all members to reference anytime.

Club Protection Officer Report.

Graham Johnstone (Club Protection Officer)

Club protect covers two main areas, event insurance and youth protection.

Phil Thurgood, the District Insurance Officer (DIO) presented to a meeting last September to outline insurance policies and codes of conduct. The District website is a valuable source of information, forms and policies. It is recommended that all members be familiar with the website contents. Our insurer has expectations that high standards are maintained.



Events that have been run for several years have precise risk management profiles established. All events run by our club need to have a Project Activity Advice (PAA) form submitted to the DIO by the club protection officer and event leader. Our Australia Day event had a random check by Worksafe officers with satisfactory results.

There is a separate District Youth Protection Officer who held a webinar in late May to update club protection officers. Once again, the district website is a valuable source of information for members.

There are two compliance forms for youth protection. The Working With Children Check (WWCC) is a state government registration. All volunteers, not just Rotarians ideally, should be covered. Teachers, Police Officers and Doctors have a higher level of state government registration. The WWCC for any Rotarian or other volunteer must be renewed every 5 years. This can be done online, and assistance is available.

The Rotary Form 3 is a separate registration that includes reference checks. It is essential for Rotarians in 1:1 contact with youth when conducting Rotary volunteering.

I can report a high level of club member compliance with the two types of compliance registrations.

Finally, the district website has an incident report form. If there is an incident, the three-page

ADMINISTRATION-DAVID BUTTON

form must be completed and forwarded to the DG, DIO and DYO within 36 hours. It is recommended that event organisers, as well as the club protection office, have these on hand at an event to record information accurately for the insurer.

Paul Harris Fellow Committee

Chair: PP John Rosenthal, PP Gerald Treasurer, Di Double

A Paul Harris Fellow is presented to members of Rotary and other people in recognition for their work in the community. These people are presented with a Paul Harris Fellow certificate, medallion and pin.

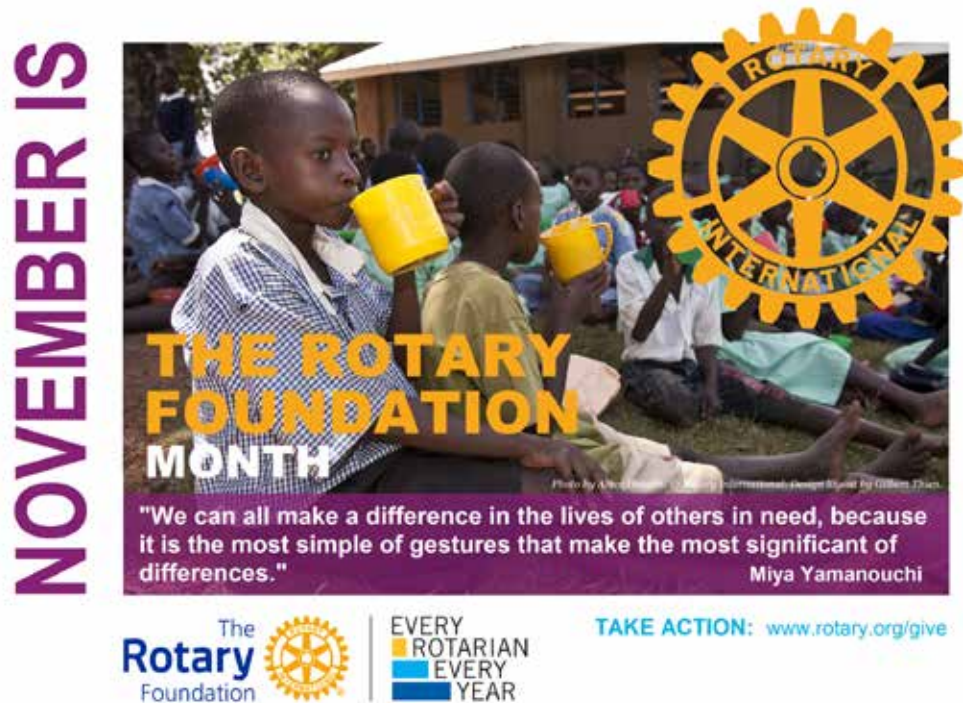
The following people were awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for their work within Rotary or contributed to the community in various ways.

- Geoff Double** - Stepping in and leading the Club as President, as well as all he does for Rotary.
- Sue and Peter Batterham** - For contribution to the club with their Deb Balls coordination over several years.
- Sandi Tarrant** - For contribution to the Rotary Club of Berwick including Bulletin Editor, Deb Balls, Photographer, Joker's Wild and Mock Interviews.
- Sam McCurdy** - His commitment to the Rotary Club of Berwick - Bulletin Editor, Secretary, Benevolent Society, Board member.
- Shane Gray** - Shane is a dance instructor and runs the Pakenham Dance Studio. Shane quietly works in the background, investing considerable time and effort for the community. For years Shane has given young adults with special needs an opportunity to mix and have fun in a safe environment by holding a monthly "Special Needs Disco" at his dance studio in Pakenham.
- Gerald Treasure** - Took up the Club President position when the existing President resigned from the club until Geoff Double was made the President for the remainder of the year.
- Laury Gordyn** - In charge of building art screens and delivering to customers. Contributed to Australia Day, Christmas Carols and other Rotary projects.
- Ricardo Balancy** - Ricardo did a brilliant job as President and deserves a Paul Harris Fellow for all the work he put in.
- Graham Johnstone** - For many years Graham has looked after the OH&S management for the Berwick Club included liaising with District.



Due to the Coronavirus lockdown in Australia, we could not present all nominees with a Paul Harris Fellow. These people will be presented with the Paul Harris Fellow by the new President David Button.

FOUNDATION-PP JACK KRAAN



Centurion Club

The year started with David Grant managing the Centurion Club, however, David had to relinquish this position partway through the year. It has now been taken over by PP Bruce Shaw.

Honiara (Solomon Islands) Dental Project

Our involvement in the Honiara Dental Project was finalised early in the Rotary year. Our final financial commitment to this project (\$13,000) was provided to Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). Dental chairs, equipment and supplies for the clinic were delivered to DIK and subsequently transported to the Solomons in September.

In October, there will be a team of volunteers going to Honiara to help build/set up the clinic – members were welcome to register their interest via Secretary Gus.

Water Filtration (Sky Hydrants) for Six Villages in the Philippines

This project is designed to provide safe drinking water to about 7000 people living in six communities in central Mindanao, Philippines. It is one of a number of similar projects making use of Sky Hydrant ultrafiltration membrane filters which have proven to be highly effective.

The intent is to prevent the transmission of waterborne pathogens. Clean water also reduces the exposure of individuals to chemical and physical hazards that could be ingested through contaminated drinking water. Diarrhea and other waterborne diseases still rank among the leading causes of illnesses in the country.

A Global Grant was approved by Rotary International for this project (GG# 175314. The budget was

\$50,000 AUD. This project was coordinated by PDG Tim Moore. Our project partners were Disaster Aid Australia, Balay Mindanao Foundation and Rotary Club of Cagayan de Oro West, Philippines.

After community needs assessments (CNAs) were undertaken, project approval was given for 6 specific villages. However, the project could not proceed in these locations due to increased ISIS activity. CNAs were then undertaken in 6 other villages in "safe" areas with approval being subsequently achieved.

By late February, the project had been completed in 3 villages - Barangay San Isidro, Midsayap, North Cotabato; Barangay Indahag, Cagayan de Oro City, and (3) Barangay FS Catanico, Cagayan de Oro City.

These were completed ahead of schedule, with the three remaining villages to have the Sky Hydrants completed by June 2020.

Foundation Month

November was Rotary Foundation Month. PDG Charlie Speirs addressed the Club about Global Grants and District Grants.

Timor Leste Global Grant Application

Work commenced applying for a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation to obtain funding to undertake the refurbishment of a primary school in Timor Leste. This is being headed up by PP Roger Thornton and PE David Button.

The project is for the refurbishment of an existing Government School involving the replacement of the roof and roof frame, installation of windows and ceilings and tiling the floor. A toilet will also be built.

Partners in the project are intended to be the Rotary Clubs of Berwick, Port Melbourne, Emerald & Bentleigh/Moorabbin, along with Spend It Well and the Balibo House Trust. We would also seek the involvement of one of the Rotary Clubs in Dili, District 9550.

The project was costed at \$78,500 AUD. However, just as the application was to be lodged with Rotary International, a severe storm damaged the school building, and the project was put on hold to enable the project to be re-evaluated and costed. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19, this is yet to be completed.



FOUNDATION-PP JACK KRAAN

BlazeAid Combat Ready Trailers - District Grants

Following the devastating wildfires in East Gippsland early in 2020, at the instigation of PE David Button & Pres Isobel Caulfield, the club commenced a fundraising project for funds to purchase a combat-ready trailer and equipment for the BlazeAid organisation. This was run via a Facebook campaign.

As part of this project, the club applied for 2 District Grants from District Designated Foundation funds. One grant was to assist in purchasing the custom-built trailer, and the other was for purchasing the fencing equipment to be housed in the trailer. Both applications were successful, each worth \$3,500. The funds provided by the club, the District Grant monies and donations via Facebook enabled two BlazeAid trailers to be purchased at the cost of \$24,000 each. The Foundation committee of District 7475, New Jersey, USA contributed \$15,000 to the fundraising. The total amount raised was \$49,801 which included donations from the Rotary Club of Bunyip Garfield and the Rotary Club of Gates End (UK).

Global Grants – District 7475, New Jersey USA

Following their assistance with the BlazeAid funding, the Foundation committee of District 7475 approached PE David Button seeking an international partner for their Global Grant application to obtain funds to provide their local hospital Trinitas Health Foundation in New Jersey with funds to purchase three refurbished ventilators at the cost of \$12,500 USD each. The club did not need to provide any funds, just an agreement to be the international partner as required for all Global Grants. This was an easy decision for the Board.

The club was again approached shortly after by District 7475 to support Global Grant for more refurbished ventilators. This time, seven ventilators were being purchased for the Robert Wood Johnson- Barnabas Hospital system at the cost of \$9,500 USD each. The club did not need to provide any funds.

A third approach was made by District 7475 for support for another Global Grant. This was to supply the Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, with a critical care bed at a cost of \$34,000 USD. Again, no funds were required from the club.



SERVICE PROJECTS - BOB LAY AM

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Service Projects Director on the Club Board. Unfortunately due to personal health issues I resigned in April. During my term the club managed to bring together the wider community at our annual Carols by Candlelight and Australia Day events, to continue the great work of the Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society and conduct a children's book drive.

I thank Gus Dominguez, Isobel Caulfield, David Collyer and Rosemarie Hughes and members for the success of these community projects. I also, acknowledge the City of Casey for showing confidence in the Rotary Club of Berwick with their financial and equipment support for both the Carols and Australia Day events.



Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society

PP David Collyer (President)

Following on from the previous year, 2018 – 2019, the proposal that the "Society's" name be changed to become 'The Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society' was finally accepted and agreed to by the Rotary Club Board at its first meeting of the new Rotary Year. Three Committee Meetings were held before the Annual General Meeting in November.

At the AGM the existing members of the Society

were elected unopposed, but a question was raised as to whether the Society's Constitution had been updated. In fact, the Committee had agreed to adopt the "Model Rules for Incorporated Associations" produced by Consumer Affairs Victoria, at their February meeting. However, it was argued that these "Model Rules" would need to be put as a Special Resolution" to the members for approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting. This was held three weeks later, and the Model Rules were formally approved.

From late August, preparation started for the Annual Christmas food & toy collections from local schools and supermarkets for Casey North Community Information & Support Service (CNCISS).

We were very fortunate that more Schools and Colleges as well as the Eden Rise Shopping Centre patrons joined our cause this year to help local people in need over the Christmas period.

The Schools and Colleges included Berwick College, Berwick Grammar School, Kambrya College, St Margaret's School, Haileybury College and Timbarra Pg College. In addition, CNCISS had also added Beaconsfield College and Berwick Woodworkers to the list of collection points.

Although CNCISS moved location our team of Laury Gordyn, Mark Caulfield, Sam McCurdy and Russell Fellows managed the collection of large quantities of food and toys in time for CNCISS to sort into food bags and toy boxes for collection by needy families in time for Christmas.

As in previous years, the primary sources of funds collected by the 'Society' were donations by the Magistrate's Court and Cardinia Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, the Cardinia Presbyterian Church held its last service on Sunday 22 September, due to a diminishing congregation. However, in December, we were invited to a special Church Service held at Officer Presbyterian Church, which ran a collection especially for the 'Society', to be given to CNCISS.

SERVICE PROJECTS - BOB LAY AM

In January, following discussion with the Rotary Club Board and Club Members the Committee found it necessary to amend the 'purpose' of the 'Society'. Committee, and arranged to put the below Special Resolutions to the members at a Special General Meeting. Due to the Pandemic, this meeting was postponed until 10 June.

1. The purpose of the Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society Inc is to assist disadvantaged members of the community, by supporting local welfare organisations and individuals, including people suffering domestic violence, social disadvantage and homelessness.
2. The Office Bearers on the Rotary Club Board should be the same office Bearers for the Benevolent Society, starting from the Changeover in 2020. All members of the Rotary Club of Berwick are also members of the Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society Inc.

Both these Special Resolutions were passed at a Special General Meeting in June 2020

Late last year, the St John of God Hospital offered the Society some 30 small Children's Bears that they had not given out. As they were dressed in several different styles that had a Cancer message printed on the bears, they were considered unsuitable to be given out. Rosemary, my wife, offered to re – dress the Bears and remove the logo, such that they could be donated to CNCISS, to be given out to the children at Xmas.

As has been the case in past years, the President of the Society sits on the Board of CNCISS, and I attended most of their Board Meetings to monitor and aid in the running of their organization, except during the 'Shutdown' period, March to early May, due to COVID-19. At the May Board Meeting, which was held in the new building at Verdon Crescent, part 'Zoom' and part around the Board Room table, which required 1.5m spacing, thus only permitting ten present. There, it was expressed during the Executive Officers Report that Hand Sanitizer dispensers were impossible

to obtain for the 'Service' to operate safely. Casey Council had been approached but were unable to assist. By chance, a son of a friend of my wife's, Rosemary, managed a large winery in NSW, which had turned some of its production over to making Hand Sanitizer. A quick call and I was able to deliver 2 cases to CNCISS the next day, which was greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all of the RB&DBS Committee, Vice President, Mark Caulfield, Treasurer, Peter Batterham, Betty Tudge, Ann Kraan and particularly my Secretary, Sam McCurdy who has helped me and the Committee put the Society on a firm footing for a successful future.

Donations in Kind Pickups

PP Roger Thornton



DIK was contacted by Hallam TAFE for equipment to set up Hospital Training Wards. The equipment was transported by Rotary Club of Berwick.

August 2019

DIK provided 6 boxes of warm clothing to be handed out to the Narre Warren North Shelter Centre.

April 2020

Coordinate collection of clothing for Bush-Fire people in East Gippsland from DIK.

2019/2020

Coordinate collection of Materials & furniture from 5/ 6 places in District 9820 with assistance of David Button & others club members.

Thank you for your ongoing support to me as DIK District Chair over the last 5 years+

SERVICE PROJECTS - BOB LAY AM

Book Drive – Rosemarie Hughes

The children's book drive, launched in September in support of Rotary's basic education and literacy month showed once again our members commitment to make a difference to children from disadvantaged families. This year books were provided to; Mothers Supporting Families in Need (msfin.org.au), a voluntary group supporting families in need in the Southern and South East suburbs, and to Narre Kids a small childcare centre in Narre Warren which has a large number of vulnerable and at-risk children some of who are subject to DHHS orders. These books will help Narre Kids establish a library at the centre.

I am astounded by the number of vulnerable families in our community and this project is one we can help to make a difference.

Carols by Candlelight:

PP Gus Domiguez (Chairman)



The Berwick Christmas Carols went ahead this year with the support of many local organisations like City of Casey, South East Water, Abrehart Transport, Kennards Hire, Coates Hire, St John of God Hospital, the Beaconsfield Community Bank, Berwick CFA, Inner Wheel Club of Berwick and Casey Cardinia Rotaract.

A crowd estimated over 4000 people enjoyed

a program led by the Berwick College and also starring Dhee, Bethany Fisher, Lucinda Da Silva and the Casey Choir. The public was very complimentary of the event and congratulated the Rotary Club on this now traditional community project.



Of course, the event went smoothly thanks to the effort of the many volunteers that, behind the scenes, made it all possible. Another great effort by PP Geoff Double and the team managing the site parking, the stage decoration team, the candle sales and lost kids minders, the logistics team led by PDG Tim Moore, Sam McCurdy managing social media promotion, the many Rotarians on the day towing and installing equipment, Di Scheepers and the gate collection team, an excellent MC job by Rachel Caulfield, Gaetano Fina managing the food vendors and of course, our very own Santa (Rob Wingrave) helped this year by Mrs Santa (Pat Wingrave) and assisted by Jen Marshall and the troupe of elves.

The fireworks were, again, spectacular and greatly appreciated by all attending. All in all, another outstanding year of this community service project that brings together people from all around town to have a great family time. As the event organiser, I offer my sincere thanks to all involved for your support.

SERVICE PROJECTS - BOB LAY AM

Australia Day Celebrations

Isobel Caulfield (President)

The 26th January is a special day in the year of the club. We had wonderful weather that saw most club members with friends and family assisting on the day.

Unfortunately attendance has been falling slightly every year. Those that attended said they enjoyed all that was on offer. The vendors and displays are all returning for next year which is a good sign. A big thank you to the Inner Wheel Club of Berwick and the Casey Cardinia Rotaract Club for their contribution to the day.



MEMBERSHIP - DI SCHEEPERS

Membership is always uppermost in most Rotarian's mind. The attraction of new members and the retention of our current ones is an ongoing issue.

This year we welcomed Russell Fellows to our club. He has embraced Rotary, joining in most meetings and being a willing and happy worker on our projects. We are looking forward to Greg Lee joining us early in the new year. We have also had some resignations this year. Thanks to Russell Dunn and Andy Merrill for their service over the years. Thank you also to Roger Thornton, who has transferred back to the Rotary Club of Pakenham.



Some members are those that come to meetings week in and week out. Others come when able. Others assist with projects when needed. All are necessary for the functioning of the club.

The last part of the year has been challenging due to the COVID restrictions. We transitioned quickly to meeting online via Zoom. Although not the best way to communicate, it has kept us all in touch. It is very pleasing that most members have attended at least one online meeting. The willingness of members to learn and embrace new technology is fantastic. This is the way forward with membership, allowing different ways of keeping in touch and contributing.



The Rotary Club of Berwick is strong and ready to get going once restrictions ease. If you want to find out more about us, please visit our website: www.rotaryberwick.org



PUBLIC IMAGE - ROB WINGRAVE

It has been my pleasure to carry on the fine work of my predecessors Jane Moore, Riccardo Balancy and Adrian Froggatt. Big Shoes to Fill.

Public Image is all about getting the Rotary Club of Berwick's name out in the community. Our members, all in uniform convey the professional caring work that we do. We are ambassadors for Rotary. The major events of Australia Day Celebrations and Carols by Candlelight certainly promote that. Smaller events such as BBQ's, mock interviews and art screen hire all add to the positive public image we need.

Unfortunately due to lockdown, it was harder to promote our message for the last part of the year.

We were fortunate to obtain a City of Casey Grant for promotional banners. Pull up banners highlighting both the club and Rotary programs will be put to good use. A large outdoor banner will advertise us far and wide.



The club website and Facebook are important tools in getting the message out there. In a first for the club we used Facebook for fundraising. PE David Button and Maureen Scott set up a fundraising page for 2 Blaze Aid trailers. This engaged the wider community both locally and internationally with donations totalling \$37,500. An amazing effort. The weekly bulletin has a wide readership. Thanks to Di Double for her wonderful work in producing an informative read.

The Star News group has featured the club on several occasions highlighting members and projects.

I have enjoyed my time on the board this year and I wish the incoming board all the best for 2020-21.

YOUTH AND NEW IDEAS - GAETANO FINA

As director of Project Development and Youth, I acknowledge and thank the hard-working Rotarians that supported this portfolio. The most amazing aspect was how they all performed seamlessly to impact many young peoples' lives. Truly selfless acts of devotion by all involved reflecting Rotary's core values. Thankyou Isobel Caulfield, Sam McCurdy David Collyer, Di Double, Jennifer Marshal, Wendy Langdon. A more detailed account from those directly involved follows.

Gaetano Fina (Project and Youth Director)

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Isobel Caulfield (President)

This year RYLA moved to a new format. In an exciting move, Rotary partnered with Swinburne University to run the 6-day program to allow participants to be eligible to earn a Certificate IV in business. Topics such as volunteering, planning skills, leadership and communication were covered.

Previous RYLA participants acted as leaders and also gained their qualification. This year our club sponsored Caitlyn Langdon as a leader. We also co-sponsored Rotaract member Lachlan Hall as a leader with the RC Narre Warren. This is just another Rotary Youth program helping to shape the leaders of the future.

Interact

Isobel Caulfield (President)



Planning is well underway to form the Interact Club of St Margaret's and Berwick Grammar. It will be sponsored by the RC Berwick in partnership with the RC Emerald. We had hoped to be co-sponsors.

Unfortunately with Emerald being in District 9810, Rotary International rules do not allow cross District sponsorship. The students have shown to be very engaged at this early stage.

Rotaract

Isobel Caulfield (President)

The Casey Cardinia Rotaract Club continues to be a fantastic opportunity for young leaders in



our community. We are co-sponsors with the Rotary club of Narre Warren. The Rotaractors are very enthusiastic. They have been welcomed in assisting with the running of both Carols by Candlelight and the Australia Day Celebrations.

Youth Exchange

Isobel Caulfield (President)

This Rotary year we welcomed Andrea Rangel from Rock Island, Illinois, USA. She was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Rock Island. Unfortunately, she only spent seven months with us. Andrea arrived later than usual due to visa delays. Because of COVID 19, Andrea and her mother decided she should return home early. She left in March, getting one of the last flights out. A big thank you to the Doubles, the Langdon's and the Caulfield's for hosting. Jen Marshall did a great job as a councillor.

Andrea enjoyed her time with us and gained life long memories.

YOUTH AND NEW IDEAS - GAETANO FINA

We welcomed back Tara Wilkinson from the USA in January. She returned a very confident young lady who was a great ambassador for our club.

Mock Interviews

David Collyer (Chairman, Mock Interviews)



During the last year, Nossal High School contacted us in late August requesting once again our club provide Members to participate in doing Mock Interviews at their School in October for about 55, in years, 10 & 11, students. Some 7 Members volunteered, and on 15 October the interviews took place starting at 9.30 am, finishing just before midday. The whole exercise was a success, and Tracey Mackin, the Assistant Principal was incredibly pleased with the professionalism shown by the Club members and the experience her students had gone through.

In late January Tracey again contacted us to participate in interviewing a further 100 students, which was planned for 15 April. Unfortunately, the CONOVIRUS – 19 put an end to that plan, and it is hoped to resurrect the Mock interviews, later September.

National Youth Science Forum

Sam McCurdy (Chairman, NYSF)

Despite publicising the 2020 NYSF program among several local public and private High Schools, we only received one genuine application for Rotary endorsement and sponsorship. This was Amy Chu from Nossal High School.

David Collyer and I met with Amy to ascertain whether she was suitable for sponsorship in the program by the Rotary Club of Berwick. Amy proved to be a very worthy applicant with demonstrable academic prowess and interest in STEM subjects, so we had no hesitation in endorsing her application.

Amy was successful at the District 9820 interviews and was selected as one of the 18 participants in the NYSF program from our District.

The total of 600 participants from across Australia were divided into three groups of 200, two of which would undertake separate 10-day residential programs at the National University in Canberra. Amy was selected for the group who would have their 10-day program at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. This proved to be very lucky for Amy as the Canberra programs were cancelled due to the bush fires in that region.

Amy's reported that the NYSF program was amazing and life-changing experience. In her own words:

"I'm invigorated from NYSF. I miss it so much at the moment even though I'm loving year 12 and settling back in the school mode. Fortunately, I've kept in close contact with the friends I've made at the forum, and we met up just before the end of the holidays (2 weeks ago). Never thought that I

would be homesick for a place I've only stayed at for two weeks and 200 students who were strangers to me a month ago. The amazing experiences (didn't think a science camp could be so crazy!!) and

incredible memories are still so fresh in my mind that I just KNOW it's something that will shape me for the rest of my life!"

MENU

Project	Paid From Future Projects Provision & 2018-19 Projects Suplus	Already Paid from 2019-20 Projects Surplus	Future Projects Provision from 2019-20 Projects Surplus	Total Distributions Proposed from 2019-20 Projects Surplus	Balance Sheet Provisions at June 30, 2020
Total Available		\$16,776	\$11,100	\$27,876	
Australian Rotary Health	\$2,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Australian Rotary Health - Mental Health			\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Balibo Project	\$3,000			\$0	\$3,000
Berwick & District Benevolent Society	\$1,500			\$0	\$1,400
Berwick Primary School			\$450	\$450	\$450
Berwick College	\$10,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
BlazeAid	\$2,500	\$1,331		\$1,331	
Country Fire Authority			\$500	\$500	\$500
DG Partner Projects	\$5,260			\$0	
District Grant				\$0	
Donations in Kind	\$1,415	\$3,500		\$3,500	
Event Insurance - Provision	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	\$8,000
Inner Wheel Club of Berwick		\$1,000		\$1,000	
Kids Under Cover	\$3,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Major Projects Initiative Provision	\$4,000			\$0	\$4,000
Member Sponsored Projects	\$3,500			\$0	\$3,500
Mick Morland Memorial Award	\$2,000			\$0	\$2,000
MUNA				\$0	
NYSF Sponsorship Costs		\$2,383		\$2,383	
Rotaract (from Carols)		\$1,000		\$1,000	
Rotary Club of Berwick		\$1,436		\$1,436	
Rotary Foundation	\$5,853		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Rotary Polio Project	\$4,000			\$0	\$4,000
Rotary Skyjuice Project				\$0	
RYLA		\$1,226		\$1,226	
School Awards		\$900		\$900	
Special Needs Disco	\$1,000			\$0	
Solomon Island Dental Project	\$13,000			\$0	
St John of God Hospital	\$9,000			\$0	
Vocational Awards	\$2,000			\$0	\$2,000
Windermere Kids on track	\$5,000			\$0	
Women's Property Initiative	\$3,000			\$0	
Transfer to Future Projects Provision			\$4,150	\$4,150	\$4,150
Total Committed	\$85,028	\$16,776	\$11,100	\$27,876	\$39,000
Project Provisions Carried Forward	\$24,000				

MENU



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