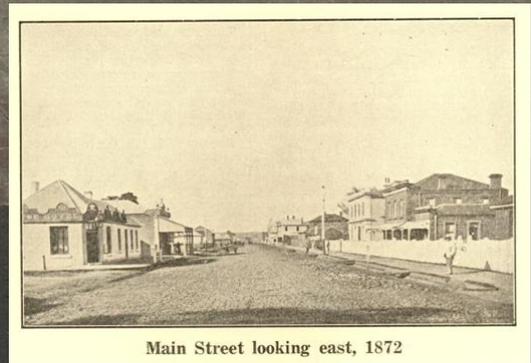


The Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

Rotary



Main Street looking east, 1872



Rotary

About Rotary

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development.



PRESIDENT Donna Martin

Well, what a year it has been.

As I take time to reflect on the past twelve months, I am filled with pride on the achievements of the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh members during the 2020/21 year. I know just how hard all Rotarians have worked during an incredibly challenging year and you all should be commended.

A Zoom changeover in mid July 2020 indicated we were in for a year like no other. It certainly proved to be the case.

With the opportunity to sit on a Local Support Network Committee (set up to ensure our most vulnerable residents were looked after during the Covid pandemic) Bacchus Marsh Rotary members took it in their stride to help wherever possible. Several members sat for an intense Mental First Aid course to broaden their knowledge and obtain accreditation. A backup for call helplines, if required. We ensured that the Council had plenty of volunteers to distribute firstly disposable masks then reusable ones to residents' homes.

Thousands of Covid-19 information and survey responses were collated, emergency food hampers delivered, basic hygiene packs were purchased, packed and distributed. We the packed and delivered Christmas hampers, continued our support of our Food Bank and the Soul Food organisations. Seeing the pressure placed on the Food Bank, the club played an integral part in establishing and constructing the new Community Pantry. This provided anonymity for residents to select items to prepare a basic meal. This Pantry will continue to serve the community post Covid-19. Wonderful donations of Share-a-meal packs, hand sanitizer and face shields have also been distributed to local organisations throughout the Shire. Peter Shilton is congratulated on his effort on taking on many of these requests alone.

The Community Morning Tea held in the public hall was a huge success thanks to our Rotary volunteers. For many of our residents this was a big event, finally having the courage to venture to a public event. The fear of Covid and the continuing isolation had taken its toll on many residents. This event did exactly what it was designed to do - reconnect people.

With the cancellation of the 50th Art Show, the Moto GP, BBQs, and other events I wondered if we would have the opportunity to hold any fundraising events at all during the year. However, with Kathy as the Chair of Fundraising I knew if there was a window of opportunity she would grab it with both hands.

True to her word, she did just that. When the opportunity arrived, the club held :

- BBQ's at Bunnings, Naturipe Strawberry Farm and Arbee Real Estate.
- Held an Australia Day Event
- Gin Appreciation Night
- Gala Dinner to celebrate 100 Years of Rotary at The Plough in Myrniong
- A Christmas Party at St Annes
- Afternoon Teas at the Cabrie Lavender Farm (short lived but a great idea)
- and more recently, the Car rally.

With Zoom meetings now a normality it was important to keep members engaged. Congratulations to all Rotarians for embracing modern technology. Although speakers were minimal, it was refreshing that we found out so much more about our Rotarians through our "Rotarian behind the badge".

We introduced our "Colour your World" competition for members to participate in. This was in conjunction with Rotary International announcing its Seventh area of focus - "The Environment."

As always Rotarians took up the challenge and provided some wonderful photos. A tough job for our judges Chris Levy and Mel Currie.

The clubs project to celebrate 100 years of Rotary and the 65th Anniversary of the BMRC was the decanting of our Liqueur Tawny kept in an oak barrel at St Anne's Winery. This project led by Scott and Keith has been a wonderful success with all decanters sold.

Our Christmas Tree Sales project in conjunction with the SES looked unlikely, however with a covid safe plan for sales, delivery and pick up it was another success. Thank you, Scott, SES and all the volunteers involved.

A Camp Getaway weekend was initially delayed but we were finally able to reschedule. It was amazing what a few people could achieve in such a short period of time. I know our help was so appreciated by the staff at the camp. A job well done.

Recently we were able to enjoy two industry visits - to WERN & DIK where both organisations illustrated the commitment made to make the lives of others better. It is important that we continue our support of both organisations.

Alan, Lindsay, and the Time Capsule committee have done an outstanding job lifting and reburying our time capsule. The logistics of this project have been quite a task without the added stress of covid-19 added to test them.

On the 30th June, we buried a capsule which will be due to be opened in 2055. We hope those that are there for the opening enjoy the letters, photographs, reading of the pandemic in 2020/21 and enjoy a nip of Liqueur Tawny left for them to taste. A wonderful project. Well done.

To celebrate the Centenary Year of Rotary the Westside Cluster decided to do a joint project following the horrific bushfires in 2020 in East Gippsland. The clubs planned to join with the East Gippsland Rotary clubs and Landcare to plant 7000 trees. After 12 months of planning, the event has been another casualty of Covid-19 and has now been rescheduled for 31st July/1st August. We all look forward to finally getting to Bairnsdale to not only plant trees but provide income to the towns and of course enjoy good fellowship.

We celebrated International Women's Day at The Jolly Miller where students came together for breakfast, listened to guest speakers and left feeling inspired and motivated. Thank you to John and Lita for organising this great event.

We were fortunate to be able to hold our ANZAC Eve sing along with RSL members. The honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Club was also a highlight.

Internationally, we have recently been able to send an ultrasound machine overseas. Scott is working diligently on the Vietnam project and the recycled reading glasses project.

An entertaining night organised by Peter Shilton not only gave us a few laughs watching Rotarians enjoy a trip to Birdsville held many years ago. A few special guests ended up making it a true celebration of women in Rotary as well. I thank the past Rotarian ladies attending for their encouragement and praise on the night. You are always welcome to our meetings.

We continued our support of student awards to local schools and were able to send students off to the RYPEN camp.

November 2020 and June 2021 gave us the opportunity to welcome two new members - Reg Holloway and Nicki Paull. Welcome to you both and we already notice you both have so much to offer the club.

Compliance, Policy and Procedure were high on our list this year. Thank you to Noelene and her dedicated Compliance Committee for the countless hours they put in to get all our compliance documentation into order. This will be so beneficial for the club moving forward.

Quite often we tend to take it for granted that our Friends of Rotary volunteers will always be there to lend a hand. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Thank you to everyone who contributes to catering for our functions, spinner roster, Christmas tree sales or volunteering for rosters for BBQ's and attending our events.

Thank you to the Community Bank Bacchus Marsh and the Moorabool News for their ongoing support.

A special note of thanks should also be extended to Bob Levy, ever the comedian who kept us entertained with his weekly bulletins and John Lucas, jack of all trades, setting of meetings, administrative duties and filling as Editor for the Bulletin while Bob was away. Thank you both.

Bacchus Marsh Rotary Club have a busy few months ahead and gives a spark of hope that things may one day return to a covid normal. The postponed Art Show in early September, the Phillip Island MotoGP and the Rotary Flower and Garden Show in late October. Let us hope they are all able to proceed.

To the outgoing Board of 2020/21 I sincerely thank you for your commitment over the past twelve months. Your professionalism and tireless effort has made my job easier - I could not have got through the year without you.

On behalf of all Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh members we all wish Helen and her Board every success in their upcoming year.

To Heinz, James and Sarah, I thank you so very much for your support, encouragement, and patience over the past 12 months.

Finally, take a bow Rotarians. You have all done an amazing job this year. As a club we should be proud of our achievements in a year of uncertainty. Although often we were disappointed with events that could not go ahead it is important to remember just how many people we have helped during these past twelve months.

It has been an absolute privilege and honour to lead the club during the 2020/2021 Centenary Year. I thank you for the opportunity and for the doors it has opened for me.

Donna Martin
Bacchus Marsh Rotary Club
Centenary President 2020/21

MEMBERSHIP Emma Young

Looking back at our past 18 months is like looking back at a time capsule.

The past year has transformed nearly every aspect of our world. Seemingly overnight, we were thrust into Zoom calls and Zoom meetings which for a lot of us became mundane or just too overwhelming.

Meanwhile, our friends, family, colleagues, and communities have had their lives changed in critical ways that promise to have much longer-lasting effects. Living through a global pandemic has driven dramatic shifts in our jobs, eating habits, childcare, and even our collective sense of time.

Amazingly during this time our Club has still been quite active in the community, whether it was helping with Food Hampers for Christmas time for the vulnerable members of the community or working closely with the Moorabool Shire Council to deliver facemasks to various residents around the whole shire. Peter Shilton was very busy during this time, but also found areas he did not realise were part of the Moorabool Shire itself.

Kathy Cairns was photographed in our local paper helping with other local community groups handing out hampers.



On a very wet Australia Day our Club got together and held an event to get the community engaged into Rotary and show what we are all about. We had four interested members of the public, after I reached out post-event, only one got back to me, who I think would be more suitable for the Mum and Bubs group that Bob and I have been trying to get up and running.



Bob and I have spoken with a community group and looked at a venue for the Mum and Bubs group, but COVID has stopped us temporarily in our tracks to get this up and running. Some good news: on 4th November 2020 we inducted Reg Holloway into our Club – this was done over Zoom at Donna and Russell's office. He has hit the ground running and has become a valuable member of our Club. He is now the youngest member of our

Club at 34 – so we have made some progress, but have a long way to go to get more younger members involved in the Club, to increase the overall longevity of the Club's overall future.

Interestingly, he is a 5th generation Bacchus Marshian and the house that fellow member Joce Taylor lives in, was his grandparent's house. Small world hey!

The Club met Reg years ago, when Reg was involved in RYLA along with future SES member Bill Robson who we also have a close association with when we partake in the joint project of Scott Pepin's Christmas Tree Drive every year.



This past Christmas the community bought more trees even before the event started and a few of the afternoon shifts were not required, as the trees were sold out. Both SES and Rotary worked together in January to pick up many trees as part of the service and enjoyed fellowship and morning tea afterwards.

On 16th June 2021 we inducted another new member Nicki Paull – which was exciting for the Club during a pandemic year to increase membership by two. This time her induction was done face to face.

Nicki is also a member resident to Bacchus Marsh, and was a member of the Rowsley CFA group, before she moved to our town.

Nicki is also keen to hit the ground running and help with Membership, Media and Marketing and Fundraising.

Bob Levy, my fellow Membership co-hort due to COVID-19, was not able to travel to the USA. But did manage to spend time in Tasmania and the NT – and become a grandfather for the very first time, so a very exciting time for him and Chris and their whole family.

Here is to a newer, brighter future – let's see what second half of 2021-2022 will install for all of us.



FUNDRAISING REPORT Kathy Cairns

Thought we would have a quiet year due to the global pandemic but with a very enthusiastic President we were off and running with many projects, many new to the Club.

JULY: Ian & Davina Cabrie kindly opened their Lavender Farm for morning/afternoon tea as a fundraiser but had no sooner got off the ground than we were in lockdown again.

AUGUST: Very exciting time for the club with the lifting of the Time Capsule. Inside, apart from the many envelopes, were 3 bottles of wine which were auctioned off to raise some money.

OCTOBER: Ian and Davina harvested their lavender, bundled it up to donate free to customers at Jeff Jones Fruit & Vegetable shop in the Avenue. People were so grateful they left donations to Ian and Davina who then donated to Rotary.

DECEMBER: A very busy month. A joint venture with the local SES where we sold Christmas trees during the first and second weekend. At our Christmas break-up at St Anne's Winery was the bottles of 35 year old Tawny Port were launched. We were also able to have a Saturday & Sunday sausage sizzle at Naturipe Strawberry Farm.

JANUARY: An allocated sausage sizzle day at Bunnings in Melton; always a successful event. Our President applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the Australia Day Committee to hold a free event in Bacchus Marsh to celebrate 100 years of Rotary International in Australia. Although the weather was not kind to us it was still a successful day.

APRIL: Another busy month with an approach from a local real estate agent to hold a sausage sizzle outside their office. April was also the month of the 100th birthday where we celebrated with a dinner at The Plough in Myrning. With the help of a grant from the local Community Bank a good night was had by all.

Geoff Camm along with his brother Norman on piano put on a successful sing-a-long at the local RSL for Anzac Day. An Anzac biscuit completion judged by the local CWA women was also part of the night.

The following week was the gin tasting night at the home of Heinz and Donna Martin. Keith Currie did a sterling job of explaining the different gins. The members would be very happy with more nights like that.

MAY: Friends of Rotary members, Campbell and Sally organised a car rally which took us along roads new to many ending at The Plough in Trentham for a very enjoyable lunch and fellowship.

SPINNER:

Another successful year with the spinner that just keeps chugging along and putting money into our bank account. This has proved to be a very successful project for the Club.



TIME CAPSULE Alan Morton



The Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh obtained naming rights, now known as Rotary Park, after cleaning the original cattle yard and planting 40 trees. They also erected a cricket practice net and a water fountain. Both no longer exist.

On the 3rd October 1976 members of the Rotary Club assembled to intern a Time Capsule that they asked be opened on the 12th August 2020.



Inside the capsule were placed envelopes of three sizes and sold for \$2, \$5 and \$10. Also placed inside were three bottles of Rotary bottled wine.

The capsule, a steel Carlton and United beer barrel, was then wrapped in plastic and lowered into a weather-proof concrete container 1.5 metres under the ground in Rotary Park.



This was then covered in and a concrete slab was poured over it and a plaque mounted.

It lay buried for 44 years and was recovered on 12th August 2020 by Alan Morton and Lindsay Arnold accompanied by other members of the Rotary club and Representatives of the Moorabool Shire.

This date coincided with the 65th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh.



Time Capsule 2055 Project.

Alan and Lindsay then suggested that another Time Capsule be interned in 2021 to be recovered in 2055. Invitations to purchase either a \$5, \$20 or \$30 envelope were sent to local organisations and schools. Large signs were also erected within the township. There has been a good response and the “beer barrel” will once again hold memories for the members of the Rotary Club and the citizens of Bacchus Marsh.



Rotarians Peter Lawford, John Lucas, Bob Levy and Alan Morton carefully document then place each of the 80 envelopes in the Time Capsule on 29th June in preparation for the interment the following day. Approximately 80 envelopes were deposited. Lindsay sealed the Time Capsule prior to interment.



Alan, Peter, John and Lindsay replicate the photograph (top right). Also interned were two bottles of Centennial Tawny.

A small crowd were present to observe the interment including the Mayor, Tom Sullivan. It was buried at a special ceremony on the 30th June 2021. It is to be recovered on the 12th August 2055 which will be the 100th anniversary of first meeting of the Rotary club of Bacchus Marsh. Documents should reveal life in the township of Bacchus Marsh during the world-wide coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic of 2020 and 2021.



COMMUNITY Peter Shilton

The Community Committee comprised Peter Shilton, Alan Morton, Peter Kay, Glenys Kay and Joanne Allen.

The Time Capsule was unearthed on August 12th 2020 and Lindsay Arnold and Alan Morton have organised everything for the new capsule to be buried on June 30th 2021.

Over two meetings on site at Rotary Park we discussed plans for building a seven metre diameter circular seating area surrounding a mosaic tile Rotary logo in the centre. This should be approximately in the middle of the park. Discussions were held with Sally Jones from Moorabool Shire Council who advised that council is developing a master plan for Rotary Park and she promises that Rotary's ideas will be considered. The time scale for development is unclear. It would be wise for the incoming committee to remind council of their promise from time to time. The committee undertook facemask delivery on behalf of Moorabool Shire Council to 70 addresses throughout the shire which extends to within 7km of the Ballarat Town Hall, and 3km of Meredith, Mt Clear, Trentham and Leonards Hill. Mask delivery was our major activity in August and September.

In November we constructed a community pantry which was installed at Darley Neighbourhood house.

The pantry is constructed of durable materials and made as vandal proof as possible. The mantra for the pantry is 'Give what you can, take what you need'. If you have in-date unused cans of food at home, or suitably packaged food 'on special' at the supermarket, consider buying a couple of extras and leave them at the pantry.

All members of the committee participated at the Bunnings BBQ on January 10th. Other members of the club also assisted. Bunnings were forced to cancel may sausage sizzle dates due to Covid-19. We were lucky that we were able to rebook from our original date of 25th September – the day before the AFL grand final.

The committee met in October and November 2020 at Telford Park to discuss development plans for this under-utilised 60 hectares of land, NW, north and NE of the scout hall. After several inquiries to council, Justin Horne met with our committee on-site in March 2021 to listen to our ideas.

Once again, the council has a masterplan for development of this area. It will be tied in with the 'Thousand Steps' project which is due to commence before the end of 2021. Council plans and our committee's detailed written report to council are remarkably similar, and, as with Rotary Park, Justin promised that Rotary will have a say in development of this site.

At present it is a dumping area for rubbish, poorly fenced, no paved tracks, no bike paths and unsafe steep mountains of soil. Many native trees have been planted but in between the trees are weeds, long grass, and a moonscape of steep piles of dumped soil. We envisage gravel paved tracks, interpretive signs, open areas for outdoor concerts, bike trails, reshaping of soil piles, improved fencing, exclusion of vehicles, planting of smaller pollinator attracting shrubs, weed control and regular slashing to encourage use of the area by residents of all ages. In my opinion, this is the most exciting project of our committee.



ROTARY-SES CHRISTMAS TREES SALES Scott Pepin

With the advent of Covid earlier last year and its effect of shutting down society, this effect carried through to service and voluntary groups around the country, including the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh. Meaning overnight our capacity to fund-raise stopped!



Back in July last year things were still pretty dire, but at that time I approached Bacchus Marsh SES Controller, Bill Robson to garnish his Unit's support to run the 2020 Rotary-SES Christmas Tree fundraiser. With restrictions easing and uncertainty still high on our agenda, we pushed forward with planning, ensuring we met the requirements of SES and State Government Covid requirements (thanks to Jane and Marisha Patton, BM SES). This meant that we had to be creative with

implementing new sales strategies. Many of these we will carry into future years including the greater uptake of our tree home delivery service and the January tree curb-side pick up service.

We crossed our fingers that "lock-downs" wouldn't close us down, we anticipated that after such a bleak year, people would be looking for a joyous Christmas, and as such create a festive spirit with a freshly cut tree. Our community came out in droves to support their local SES unit and Rotary Club. Although not a record year of tree sales, a very satisfying result in light of the occurrences of the preceding months. It should be noted that there was some concern within the Board about potential club cash flow issues due to lack of fundraising during Covid. As a sales strategy to counteract this, I actively pursued prepayment of pre-sales...resulting in over half the trees being paid for before the first sale's day in December.



When Rotary set this fundraiser up five years ago, it was agreed that every dollar raised jointly would be split evenly between the two organisations. From humble beginnings, each year we raise between ten to eleven thousand dollars profit, of which the BM SES receives half, this year they received just over \$5,500. This year I believe BM SES are using the funds to purchase battery operated chainsaws for each of their emergency response vehicles as well as a second roller-ball rescue gurney. The RCBM will continue sponsoring Youth programs such as youth leadership camps (RYPEN and RYLA), the virtual World Women's Day Breakfast for female year 12 students and the Let's Read program in association with Moorabool Shire. We will also continue with our international programs, in partnership with four Melbourne based Rotary clubs, to provide fresh water and sanitation to approximately 18,000 people spread over five extremely poor villages in North Vietnam.

Traditionally at our first meeting back from the Christmas recess we welcome the BM SES Controller every year to attend and accept our donation cheque. This year Bill Robson attended to receive on behalf of BM SES, a cheque for just over \$5,500.

With the presentation of the cheque our 20/21 club President, Donna Martin as a surprise presented me with a club award, The Alf Wignall Award, for an outstanding contribution to club service. Briefly Alf Wignall was a charter member of the club in 1955, and was a very committed Rotarian who has a reputation to get things done! So the award has been presented for many years to those displaying similar attributes.



ERNIE'S BARREL - A RCBM CENTENARY PROJECT. Scott Pepin

It was apparent that as we went into our first Covid -19 winter of 2020 that traditional Rotary fundraising methods as we knew it or knew how to do it, would be changed, possibly forever! The RCBM Board pondered this question and looked for innovation, or at least fundraising that would not contravene Victorian Government "Covid lockdown" protocols, and maintain a fundraising income for our club.

So, Ernie's Barrel story started back in the Autumn of 2019, when PP Lita and PP Scott visited St. Anne's Winery, Myrniong and soon befriended vigneron and founder, Alan.

"Did you know Rotary owns a port barrel?" he said.

Not wanting to offend, both PPs followed Alan to the barrel room to discover a small Spanish oak barrel of about 180 litres. As Alan proudly removed the bung for the first time in about 35 years, he drew up a sample of liquid nectar.

"Oh yeah, I remember Ernie and the Rotary boys", he said. "Did you know Bacchus Marsh Rotary had a barrel?" Not being impolite to refuse an invitation, two PPs thought it would only be their club duty to sneak a cheeky sip.

"Please Sir, can I have some more? Maybe top it up, again?"

The following is the unofficial story of "Ernie's Lost Barrel"

Like all good tales this one is mostly true!

There are two things in Rotary life that are for certain:

Past Presidents who think their year was flawless, and Presidents and Past President who are rather partial to a drop of port!

The latter was especially true for one such President, who just happened to charter our club. Now Ernie was a good, knockabout bloke. He and about 20 other local "larrikins" thought it was a good idea to charter the "new" Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh way back in 1955. The club soon prospered, attracting members from all walks of life, delving into all aspects of the community, revered in town as "Men of Action"!

The sixties rolled on, through the seventies and into the early eighties. Club fundraising was becoming increasingly difficult, but Ernie, always finger on the pulse and an eye on the look out for an opportunity, turned to our local talented Moorabool vintners. From 1981 to 1985, a small band of Rotarians, PP Ernie at the helm, would religiously spend a Sunday morning each month wine bottling, with most of the "demon" making it into some bottles. Not content with just bottling and selling "plonk", they decided to broaden their horizons and look to the future.

Ernie could hardly believe his luck! Securing a 50 year old Spanish oak barrel, they procured the services of a "youngish" vintner (he was a lot younger in 1985) who was beginning to specialise in fortified wines. His reputation as a vintner would grow in the ensuing years but our "young" vintner then filled Ernie's 50 year old barrel with about 180 litres of premium northern Victorian Tawny port, most likely coming off the vine somewhere in the early 70s. Ernie's Rotary Port Barrel was then laid down for perpetuity.



Little is known about the journey of Ernie's "lost barrel". Bacchus Marsh Rotarians came and went, a handful passed, some were even around back in '85, but they scratched their heads about Ernie's barrel. Unfortunately for them or more likely fortunate for us, the barrel had been lost to time and completely forgotten about by the generations of Rotarians that followed, only to be discovered recently by a chance meeting and chat with our much older "young vintner"!

.....fast forward to the Covid-19 winter of 2020.

August 12th 2020 marked amongst other things, our club's 65th birthday and the exhuming of the Rotary Time capsule. Our club also had to consider how to celebrate the 100 year celebration milestone of Rotary in Australia in 2021.....how do we make money and celebrate all the things at the same time.....Rotary Port of course!

Rotary is no stranger to marketing port. Our forebears were very good at it, at least in 1985. So, this turned into a marketing exercise. We had a great product, a befitting decanter, all we needed now was a knockout label. After a laborious Google search it was discovered that a Rotary Club in Wenatchee, Washington, USA ,were also turning 100, and they had designed a Centenary logo - perfect for a port decanter!

After a flurry of emails to the RC Wenatchee President, all agreed that that for a small price of a decanter of port to head across the Pacific, they would exclusively allow our club to use their logo and so, just before Christmas 2020, our club presented the following.



We enjoyed it! If you are around in 2055, dig up the time capsule in Rotary Park and you will find two decanters of our club's charter President, Ernie Oliver's liqueur port that he and fellow Rotarians laid down in 1985, It's worth living that long!.....oh, we did make some money too, Covid-19 or not!

YOUTH Lita Foot



Normally, our Bacchus Marsh youth are reaping the benefits of the funds we raise over the year. However, it was a little different this year. Most district youth events were cancelled or done via zoom meetings. The youth committee believed that the students were spending enough time doing remote learning for school this year so we only participated in the physical contact programs.

The October RYPEN camp, MUNA and RYLA were all cancelled or conducted via zoom.

We were fortunate to be able to send three students from Bacchus Marsh Grammar and three students from Bacchus Marsh Secondary College to RYPEN in early April for a weekend of self discovery, enrichment and leadership coaching. The feedback afterwards from these young people was that they had a wonderful time.

The yearly Rotary Women's breakfast was also cancelled but we managed to host a breakfast for 20 year 12 female students at one of our local coffee shops; the Jolly Miller.

District 9800 provided clubs with a video of interviews of Australian business people with an emphasis on diversity.

The Breakfast was a great success and a special thank you to our guest, Claire Sutherland, a local successful business woman, representing women in Business and our community bank. Claire's message to the students was to believe in yourself and follow your dreams.

17 students from local schools received our yearly award for services to community, normally presented by Rotarians, at the end of year school assembly but this year presented by their teachers.

I would like to thank the youth committee members,

Simon Davies, Davina Cabrie and a very special thank you to the man who makes it all happen, John Lucas.



INTERNATIONAL [Scott Pepin](#)

Vietnam



Our world suddenly became a lot bigger in February 2020.

Little did we know what was coming for the remaining Rotary year of 2019/2020, but I was given a small insight to what was coming when I had a "Whatsapp" chat with our Phu Tho project Manager, Rowan McClean from Hanoi Airport. Of the few passengers in the airport, all were wearing masks, sanitiser stands everywhere- Hanoi was just about to go into Covid "lockdown" for the first time. International travel and Rotary International projects were about to stop.

It was a successful trip. The five D9800 Phu Tho Province Clubs had successfully received an International District grant to implement a Dental Hygiene and Education program for each village kinder and primary school. The basis of the program was for training to be provided by the Head of Melbourne University Dental School to train local Vietnamese dentists in the application of a fluoride gel coating to prevent decay. With this knowledge, all students could have this application twice a year along with vital dental hygiene education. Unfortunately, Covid has deferred both the grant disbursement and the in-country training by our Melbourne specialist. We are waiting for international travel to return.

PP Rowan also met with the Head of Department, Centre for Environmental Fluid Dynamics, an associate of the Vietnam National University of Science, Professor Ngoc Anh. After successful negotiation, Prof. Anh offered his services and that of his VNU department to assist us with our Water and Sanitation project for the five communities. The first step is for his team to travel to the communities, document existing water infrastructure, collect and analyse water samples and provide detailed designs for school toilet blocks, village water supplies and recycling of effluent for agricultural purposes.....the planned field trip was scheduled for the second half of 2020 - Covid pending, to be funded by another District grant.....I'll come back to that.

So began the new Rotary year of 20/21 in July. Global “lockdowns” presented little hope of any international projects getting off the ground. Our Yen Luat (Vietnam) sponsor kids were just returning to school after the forced closure of schools in Ha Hoa - they had been absent from school since the Tet holiday in January, whilst our team forged ahead in the development of an optometry project supported again by the expertise of Vietnam National University. This project allowed for the training of local Vietnamese optometrists to visit communities to assess and screen the local population. Having already dabbled in the optometry area previously by supplying reading glasses to the elderly via village medical centres, our new VNU relationship was beginning to bear fruit.....once again, Covid got in the way.



(RCBM), as principal for the imminent DGI (District Grant International) for the funding of our Water and Sanitation analysis fieldtrip to Phu Tho Province, we soon learnt upon advice from the D9800 District Foundation Committee that the structure of District and RI World Fund grants altered considerably with the new Rotary year.

So followed six months of correspondence between RCBM and our District, Evanston (USA) and potential international host clubs throughout Asia to resolve and anchor a Global funding grant. These grants rely on having a host Rotary club geographically close to the project, best practice being in-country. As Vietnam did not have any chartered Rotary clubs, and at that stage not foreseeable, our attempts to find an international host club were "dashed". The goal posts have moved significantly since 1st July 2020 that the future viability of small to medium international Rotary projects is now questionable - other funding streams would now need to be explored. Likewise, even if we were successful for any international grant, disbursement of funds were postponed until the 21/22 Rotary year due to Covid.....almost back to square one.

On the brighter side, Rotary Districts from D9800 to Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Korea and the Evanston HQ certainly knew about our little old Rotary Club in Bacchus Marsh..... I'll come back to that.

Hope for a better 2021 soon was quashed by more Covid outbreaks in Asia. No sooner was the Professor's analysis field trip scheduled to occur that it was again postponed. However, bright news eventuated from our Yen Luat village co-ordinator that two of our sponsor students had successfully completed secondary school and were now attending university in Hanoi. One student studying Midwifery and the other languages. The other reality of Covid for some of our older students was that some had to “drop out” or were forced out of school to seek employment to support their families - for those sponsors who have supported them, the students are in a far better situation than no support at all-thank you.

Rotary creates networks. One such network connection lead our D9800 consortium to a prominent Melbourne obstetrician, who had previously travelled to our villages. He has been able to negotiate with General Electric Diagnostics for the acquisition of the latest hand held ultrasound units driven by a mobile phone application. This latest and exciting technology will allow our village medical centres to assess pregnancies of excess bleeding, breech pre-birth positions or irregular heart beats and other emergency procedures. This may prevent deaths of both babies and their mothers by being able to transport them early to the District Hospital our communities all share.

On a final note about our club's commitment to Vietnam. Whether or not our club's contribution has assisted with this decision can be questioned but after 46 years, Rotary International has been invited back into Vietnam by the Vietnamese Government. RI has officially chartered on 18th June 2021 the Rotary Clubs of Sai-gon and Sai-gon International. Time will tell if new clubs are established in the north in Hanoi

Tanzania

Our student, Gloria from the School of St. Judes, Tanzania spent most of her Form 5 in isolation in her village away from school with the ongoing Covid crisis. Although the school provided home schooling packs to students, her academic achievement during the year suffered from being away from campus. Although being away from school, she has regularly written to our club telling us about her day-to-day life, her results and sporting and cultural activities.

Nepal

In May 2020, President Donna invited our Westside Cluster buddies and other local Rotary friends to participate to "value add" to their new or existing International projects. Some time ago I had established with my reading glass/sunglass supplier (JM Eyewear) to donate their "end-of-season" or "discontinued" or "slightly bent" reading glasses to RCBM for the purpose of giving them to our communities in Phu Tho Province. These reading glasses retail on the Australian market between \$19.99 and \$24.99. Their usual practice for this old stock was to dump them in landfill.....yes, Rotary Bacchus Marsh can use them.

In 2015 and 2018, the Vietnam touring parties carried about 72 pairs each on these visits to our village medical clinic, giving the more "senior" community members the ability to read books, newspapers or to participate in crafts, study or trades. In early 2020, project manager Rowan McClean took a similar quantity on his visit to Vietnam prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Australian international travel has effectively been postponed from early 2020 until mid-2022, I have (will) continued to receive several hundred pairs of reading glasses which our club can not distribute to the village(s) in Vietnam (postage is unreliable and expensive, customs may confiscate), and will unlikely be distributed. So an invitation was extended to local Rotary clubs to freight 72-144 pairs of (free) reading glasses to their individual projects.

As fate would follow, RC Macedon Ranges had written to RCBM requesting assistance with building a medical/midwifery centre in Nepal under the guidance of RC Kathmandu. The RC Kathmandu took an immediate interest in our reading glasses to supplement their eye programs which work in conjunction with the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Our club will be sending several hundred pairs of reading glasses to the needy people on Nepal.....Once again, Covid-19 got in the way. All mail freight into Nepal has been postponed by their government until further notice.

Donations in Kind

D.I.K. takes surplus Australian medical, educational and humanitarian equipment and freights it via shipping containers to those in need in Asia, Africa and the Pacific regions. Once again our club contributed to D.I.K's financial needs.

Our club may only help some, but all global Rotary clubs combine to help many.

FOUNDATION Noelene Watson

Committee: Lindsay Arnold, Phil McBean, John Righetti, Paul Wittick
 Foundation activities in the 2020/2021 year were impacted by Covid 19 and most activities were held via Zoom meetings such as the Paul Harris Breakfast meeting on 24th November 2020. Our Club was able to complete the process from 2019 in distributing \$1,000 to two students at Bacchus Marsh Secondary College to assist with their year 11 and 12 educational expenses. A Notice of Intention to apply for a District 9800 Foundation Grant was lodged in July 2020 to provide the five villages in the Phu Tho Province in Vietnam with access to potable water, improved sanitation and hygiene through the provision of toilet amenities in secondary schools. Total Project Budget \$135,000.

The Foundation Committee joined with other Rotarians to focus on smaller club projects in the Bacchus Marsh Community.

Due to the Rotary Clubs' limited ability to raise funds during Covid-19 the Board chose to contribute \$2,000 this year to Foundation. For a small club with limited ability to raise funds in the 2020/21 year this is very generous.

VOCATION Noelene Watson

Committee: Lindsay Arnold, Phil McBean, John Righetti, Paul Wittick
 Celebrating the Vocational basis of Rotary during our Covid -19 has been challenging with a limited ability for Industry visits. This year we have taken the opportunity to have club members give vocational presentations about different aspects of their vocations in lieu of industry visits. These presentations were able to outline our vocational principles and expectations.

District 9800 President Philip Archer was very active in arranging the Industry Leaders Breakfasts Series via zoom.

To Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Art Show the Vocational Committee is conducting a writing competition for students in years five to eight attending schools in the Bacchus Marsh area, Students are invited to select a painting by an artist and write a personal response in less than 250 words.



SPECIAL PROJECT Noelene Watson

Committee:, Russell Dodemaide, Keith Currie, Phil McBean, Scott Pepin
REVIEW OF BACCHUS MARSH ROTARY CLUB DOCUMENTS

President Donna Martin formed a new committee tasked to review the organizational structure of the Bacchus Marsh Rotary Club which included reviewing all Bacchus Marsh Rotary Club Documents and creating a Register of Club Assets.

Review of Documents for the Bacchus Marsh Rotary Club has now been completed and updated for the Board during the 2020/2021 year.

MARKETING AND MEDIA Helen Davies

Bit of a quiet year for Marketing and Media. Most of the things we would assist with, or post had been cancelled. However, BMRC currently have a Facebook group with 259 Members, a Facebook page with 175 likes/follows plus an Instagram page.

M&M have assisted the other committees with their projects and even managed a few call outs from other facets of Rotary, for example WERN. On our Facebook page we have made it a point to highlight other service and fundraising groups within our community. Afterall, sharing is caring.



Instagram



We managed quite well considering being on the rollercoaster ride of COVID-19.

Our Club was signed up to Zoom- Pro edition - so that we could continue our Meetings online. The first half of the year with lockdowns saw us cope rather well on this format. This platform allows us to

make the best out of a bad situation. One of the cons is that it makes it hard to be interactive and much less social than face to face. One of the pros is you can attend from anywhere and you do not even have to brave the elements!

Interesting enough lots of clubs have decided to adopt a hybrid format of face-to-face meetings with a zoom option still available to those unwell or traveling.



Environmental Sustainability Donna Martin

It is an exciting time in Rotary history with Rotary welcoming a seventh area of focus. The Environment Area of Focus was unanimously supported by Rotary International.

Our clean up Australia day has already been on our agenda for a few years, and this year was no exception. Reg led a team of keen Rotarians to clean up rubbish and then followed it by a morning tea.

They did a wonderful job as always, thank you Reg and his team.

“Colour your world” competition was a huge success with the club members. The photos supplied of members gardens were stunning. Thank you to Mel Currie and Chris Levy for taking on the role of judges, not an easy task.

Our Cluster project to celebrate 100 years of Rotary was to be held in East Gippsland. Working together with the East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid Committee and Landcare. Volunteers made up of Rotarians, Friends and family were all keen to head down to Bairnsdale to plant over 7000 seedlings on private properties devastated by the bushfires. However due to a Metro Melbourne lockdown we have had to postpone it until July 31st/1st August. The logistics of organising 100 people has been challenging. Thank you to Russell Dodemaide for all his help.

We look forward to our working bee with Recycled Sound (Toorak RC). This has also been postponed several times due to Covid-19, we will eventually make it happen.

We encourage Rotarians to join as members to organisations such as ESRAG, ANZPI and Rotarians for Bees. Many Rotary Clubs are doing amazing projects for the environment take the time to have a look at some of them and become inspired.

The environmental committee had quite a few items on there “wish to investigate” list however due to Covid-19 and the restrictions enforced we were unable to pursue many of them. Let us hope for a better year next year. “

MEMBERSHIP

Joanne	Allen	Peter	Lawford
Lindsay	Arnold PP	Bob	Levy PP
Ian	Cabrie	John	Lucas PP
Davina	Cabrie	Donna	Martin PP
Kathy	Cairns	Phil	McBean PP
Geoff	Camm PP	Neil	McDonald
Keith	Currie PP	Alan	Morton PP
Helen	Davies	Nicki	Paull
Simon	Davies	Scott	Pepin PP
Russell	Dodemaide	John	Righetti
Lita	Foot PP	Peter	Shilton PP
Russell	Gilbert PP	Jocelyn	Taylor
Reg	Holloway	Noelene	Watson
Simon	Hookey PP	Paul	Wittick
Glenys	Kay PP	Emma	Young
Peter	Kay PP		

HONORARY MEMBERS

Frank Ruffo
Ken Claringbold (PP)

David Stewart (PP)
Denis Murphy (PP)

VALE – MEMBERS

Brian Gaffney PP. Honorary Member

VALE - FRIEND OF ROTARY

Joan Sheehan

FRIENDS OF ROTARY

Chris Levy
Jennifer Hine
Mel Wyatt
Sally Blackwell
Jenni Coombs

Melanie Currie
Barry McKercher
Peter Ellerton
Campbell Fethers
Liane Brkic

Club Presidents

1955-56	Tom Staughton	1956-57	Ern Oliver	1957-58	Alf Wignell
1958-59	Phil McBride	1959-60	Ted Shelley	1960-61	Viv Taylor
1961-62	Bob Butler	1962-63	Bert Rowe	1983-64	Mick Nolan
1964-65	John Bird	1965-66	Ted Ludowici	1966-67	Gordon Lyle
1967-68	Jack Arnott	1968-69	Tom McMahon	1960-70	Stuart Bond
1970 -71	Jack Watts	1971-72	Stuart Bond	1972-73	Frank Benallack
1972-73	Doug Wilson	1973-74	Nick Atanasoff	1974-75	Ray Allen
1975-76	Ken Stork	1976-77	Len Peters	1977-78	Andy Arnold
1978-79	Stuart Bond	1979-80	Brian Gaffney	1980-81	Keith Bullen
1981 -82	Ian Closter	1982-83	Ian Wardell	1983-84	Lindsay Arnold
1984-85	Eddie Beer	1985-86	Ken Claringbold	1986-87	Ken Thibou
1987-88	Paul Jones	1988-89	Ian McDonald	1989-90	Ken Sheehan
1990-91	Dennis Murphy	1991-92	Errol Healy	1992-93	Peter Shllton
1993-94	John Reid	1994-95	Alan Morton	1995-96	Russell Gilbert
1996-97	Carolyn Seager	1997-98	Richard Thompson	1998-99	John Lucas
1999-00	Sandy McClintock	2000-01	Ian Morris	2001-02	Daryl Cox
2002-03	Digby Thackeray	2003-04	Peter Kay	2004-05	Simon Hookey
2005-06	Russell Gilbert	2006-07	Bob Levy	2007-08	Jocelyn Williams
2008-09	Beverley Barnes	2009-10	David Stewart	2010-11	Geoff Camm
2011-12	Brian Gaffney	2012-13	Keith Currie	2013-14	Glenys Kay
2014-15	Glenys Kay Keith Currie	2015-16	Geoff Camm Bob Levy	2016-17	Scott Pepin
2017-18	Phil McBean	2018-19	Lita Foot	2019-20	Russell Gilbert
2020-21	Donna Martin	2021-22	Helen Davies		

Paul Harris Fellows

1974	Ernest Oliver	1982	Tom McMahon
1985	Bob Butler	1987	Andy Arnold
1990	Stuart Bond	1991	Nick Atanasoff
1992	Doug Wilson	1993	Ian Wardell
1994	Don Watson	1995	Nat White
1995	Ken Sheehan	1996	Ian Closter
1996	Keith Bullen	1996	Margaret Closter
1996	Margaret Wardell	1997	Noel Bond
1998	Sylvia Kirwan	2000	Brian Gaffney
2000	Lindsay Arnold	2000	Domenic Ambrogio
2001	Dennis Murphy	2002	Errol Healy
2003	Peter Shilton	2003	Russell Gilbert
2003	Alan Morton	2004	Ian Morris
2004	Ian Wardell (Sapphire)	2005	John Lucas
2005	Joce Williams	2005	Jean Bullen
2006	Helen Shilton	2006	Claire Arnold
2006	Ken Sheehan (Sapphire)	2006	Joan Sheehan
2008	Diana Gibson	2008	Hardy Pradhan
2009	Simon Hookey	2009	Peter Lawford
2009	Joce Williams (Sapphire)	2010	John Lucas (Sapphire)
2010	Miranda Brockman	2010	Neil McDonald
2010	Russell Dodemaide	2010	Russell Gilbert (Sapphire)
2011	Bob Levy	2011	Peter Shilton (Sapphire)
2011	Ian Morris (Sapphire)	2011	Alan Morton (Sapphire)
2011	Peter Kay	2012	Beverley Barnes (Sapphire)
2012	Geoff Camm	2012	Noelene Watson
2012	Ian Morris (Sapphire x 2)	2013	Alan Morton (Sapphire)
2013	Brian Gaffney (Sapphire)	2013	Bob Levy (Sapphire)
2014	Russell Dodemaide(Sapphire)	2014	Keith Currie
2015	Bob Levy (Sapphire x 2)	2015	Jocelyn Taylor (Sapphire)
2015	Kathy Cairns	2015	Russell Gilbert (Sapphire X2)
2016	Glenys Kay	2016	Noelene Watson (Sapphire)
2016	Keith Currie (Sapphire)	2017	Melanie Currie
2017	Jim Ross	2017	Davina Cabrie
2017	Lita Foot	2017	Keith Currie (Sapphire x 2)
2017	Geoff Camm (Sapphire)	2018	Joanne Allen
2018	Roberta Morton	2018	Scott Pepin
2018	Merilyn Annells	2019	Sue Hansen
2019	Glenys Kay (Sapphire x 2)	2019	John Lucas (Sapphire x 2)
2019	Ian Cabrie	2019	Russell Gilbert (Sapphire x 3)
2019	Phil McBean	2020	Emma Young
2020	Lita Foot (Sapphire)	2020	Scott Pepin (Sapphire)
2020	Bob Levy (Sapphire x 3)	2020	Peter Shilton (Sapphire x 2)
2020	Alan Morton (Sapphire x 2)	2021	TBA
2021	TBA		

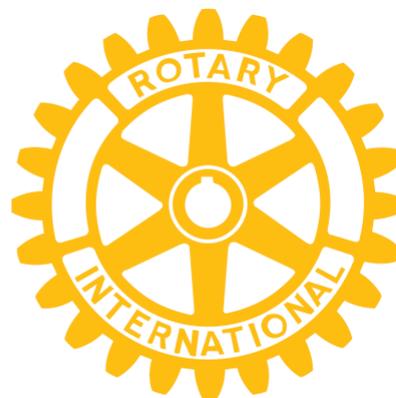
Royce Abbey Award

2004	John Lucas	2005	Byron Guthrie
2006	Simon Hookey	2008	Wendy stubbs
2009	Pieter Honig	2010	James Devenny
2011	Patricee Shelly	2012	Glenys Kay
2013	Dudley Raine	2014	Narelle Laing
2015	Lita Foot	2015	Scott Pepin
2016	Ian Cabrie	2016	Joanne Allen
2017	Peter Ellerton	2017	Phil McBean
2019	Donna Martin	2020	Helen Davies

Paul Harris 711 Club

2007 Gab Csillag	2007 Russell Gilbert
2007 Jocelyn Williams	2007 Alan Morton
2010 Geoff Camm	2010 Jock Taylor
2010 Jenny Hine	2016 Davina Cabrie
2016 Peter Shilton	2016 Peter Kay
2016 Russell Dodemaide	2016 Marilyn Annells
2019 Helen Davies	2019 Simon Davies

Rotary



The Rotary four-way test

Of the things we think, say or do ...

- Is it the *Truth*?
- Is it *Fair* to all concerned?
- Will it build *Goodwill* and *Better Friendships*?
- Will it be *Beneficial* to all concerned?



Rotary



Front: Main Street, Bacchus Marsh, looking East. 2021
Back : Main Street, Bacchus Marsh, looking West.2021
Edited by John Lucas