



The Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020



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.

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President's Report



Changeover...seems so long ago!

Changeover of the Board that was so well led by Lita took place on June 29th, 2019. It was an occasion to reflect on the past year and recognise some important achievements and present awards to some very high achievers :

Paul Harris Fellows

Phil McBean

Ian Cabrie

Sue Hansen

John Lucas – 2 X Sapphire

Russell Gilbert – 3 X Sapphire

Glenys Kay – 2 X Sapphire

Royce Abbey Award

Donna Martin

Paul Harris 711 Club

Simon Davies Helen Davies

The challenge that I accepted for a third time was to make the great Club of Bacchus Marsh Rotary even greater. I was proud to be given the honour of leading the club under the RI Banner “Rotary Connects the World”.

I shortened the motto to “Connecting People”.

Every member was assigned to one of the committees namely: Community, Youth, International, Fundraising; Vocational and Membership/Marketing Media.

Members were then invited to volunteer for either the Art Show or Vintage Trucks and Trades working groups.

Our weekly Club meetings have always been a highlight and this year was no exception, until all “face to face” meetings were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To the absolute credit of the Club we have been able to continue our meetings on a fortnightly basis via Zoom. Although certainly not the same, it was a way our Club could remain connected through these uncertain times. Modern technology allowed us to continue to still have interesting guest speakers.

We had some great guest speakers during the year.

Silvia Lucas gave us some of her family history when she told about her mother making her way from Latvia to Australia after World War II.

Dr Stephen Carbone gave a presentation on mental illness while Geoff and I were sunning ourselves on a river cruise in Europe – courtesy of Scott and Lita.

Liz O'Dwyer, an enthusiastic sustainability convert, spoke to the club about the recent closure of SKM, our nominated recycler for the Shire. Liz spoke about her book and enlightened us on ways we can reduce waste in our homes.

Claire Pridham gave the Club an update on "Let's Read", a program we have had a proud record of sponsoring since 2006.

Mai Pin and her choral group serenaded Geoff for his 75th Birthday.

Paul Park explained his connection with the Turner Street Medical Centre and his medical studies.

We had three attempts to have an industry visit to the Crawford Funeral Home.

Maeva was able to substitute for one of these visits and did an excellent job in telling us about her homeland. Our eventual visit to Crawford's was both interesting and informative.



Sharon Vis, who works for Moorabool Shire Council, spoke about waste and recycling. The differences in what can and what cannot be recycled. She also spoke about other ways to create a greener and less wasteful society.



We had our District Governor, Grant Hocking, visit us on the 20th November. Grant made special mention of our Rotarians who have worked at District level: Peter Shilton, Lita Foot, Simon Davies, Keith Currie and Donna Martin. Grant agreed to "greeting" the bike riders at this year's Conference (unfortunately one of the first events to be cancelled). We also held our AGM during the meeting.

We were fortunate to have Fred and Janine Reinking on the same night to present us with cheque for \$8000 for the club's contribution at the Moto GP at Phillip Island. A good reason to present Donna the Alf Wignell award for the excellent way she organized this fundraising event.

The Westside cluster organised a business breakfast with Simon Madden as the guest speaker. It was part of our promotion to "Connect Rotary & Business".



We had our last meeting of the year by the Werribee River at the Lions' Club Park on December 4th. It was our chance to socialise in a relaxed environment along with members from other local service organisations.



I wish to thank Donna & Joanne for acting as President for the first of our meetings in the new calendar year.

Geoff and I headed off to the USA before Rotary reconvened. Rotary started the year with a Bowl's night. Thanks to another sterling effort from Peter and Glenys Kay.



The first meeting back at Stoney's saw Bill Robson, representing the SES, presented with a cheque for \$5,000 bringing our contribution over five years from the sale of Christmas trees to \$20,000.



We were also pleased to present a Christmas tree to the residents of Grant Lodge. This was received by resident and Friend of Rotary, Joan Sheehan.

James Martin, following in Bill Robson's footsteps, spoke about attending the RYLA Camp. Just as well that I was away - the Club would have been embarrassed by a display of emotion from a proud President.



Antonio Ianella was our guest on February the 4th. He is a stroke survivor and works for the Stroke Foundation.

Tina Sierlis was our next guest speaker and she spoke about "The Economic Development Team" at the Moorabool Shire Council.



We then combined with Melton and Ballan Rotary Clubs at the Ballan and District Vintage Machinery and Vehicle Club. Thanks to Peter Lawford for organising a great night.



John McCaskill and Fay Kirkwood were our guest speakers on February 26th and had a lot to say about Rotarians for Bees – if you missed this, just ask Donna how important bees are.

Scott acted as President while I was on a business trip in Queensland. He introduced our fellow ROCAN rider, Simon Madison, who spoke about his endurance riding in France. At this stage, the bike ride to Conference was still on.



Our next Rotary function was planned to be a Garden Soiree at Jock Taylor's but due to the threatening weather report the venue was switched to the Lawfords' great undercover facility. Thank you to Peter and Maxine for hosting a very enjoyable evening.

Then the Covid 19 pandemic hit Australia. Due to Government legislation and the health of fellow Rotarians we were forced to cancel the following:

- The Bike ride to Bendigo
- The Rotary District Conference
- Vintage Trucks and Trades Show
- The Art Show
- The next Westside Cluster Business Breakfast



Even the ANZAC Day Dawn Services were cancelled across the nation. Geoff and I went down to the local R.S.L. and laid a wreath on behalf of the Club.

I recognize that an enormous amount of planning and pre-event work had been put in to each of these big events and it was heartbreaking to suspend and then finally cancel them along with our weekly meetings.

Thanks to Helen Davies and Emma Young we then became "Zoomers". Our Club members have mixed experience and familiarity with technology, but Helen and Emma were very patient and helpful to all in introducing them to 2020 communication. Emma did a great job with the program and well deserved the "Alf Wignell" that was presented to her.



Our other Zoom Meetings with guest speakers included:

- Nikki Street – Risk Management for Amazon
- Keith Moor – Crime Writer especially Mugshots 3
- Helen Tatchell – Moorabool News



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Levy who produces an informative and inspirational bulletin, week in and week out. His wit and attention to detail has provided a great resource for this report.

In recognition and appreciation of 30 Years of outstanding service an award is presented to Peter Lawford and Neil McDonald.

And finally, I express our club's Appreciation to Bacchus Marsh Community Enterprise Bank for their generous support during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my partner Geoff for his support throughout the year and for his sausage rolls at our Board meetings.



I would also like to thank all the members of the Board for their determination to maintain a Rotary Club in a very challenging year. We have got through unprecedented difficulties and frustrations this year and I am confident that our Club will emerge the stronger for that. I encourage all members to stick together and support President Donna throughout her 2020-2021 year.

I offer the incoming Board my support and look forward to returning to the role of Treasurer in the 2020-2021 year.

Kindest regards,
Russell Gilbert

Membership

A Horse walks into a Bar and the Bartender asks: Why the long face?

The horse does not respond because it is a horse. It can neither speak nor understand English. It had become anxious and confused by the noise in the room, and starts to gallop around the bar, knocking over tables, until it finally finds its way back out.

Feels like 2020 to me!

Bob and Emma have ridden the wave of Membership together this past year and it has been a bumpy ride along the way. We have been to seminars about building membership, what type of person to target, and a deep dive into trying to understand why Rotary as a whole gains and loses members over time, especially in the first 3 years of their individual membership and yet interestingly the number of Rotary Clubs around the world have increased at the same time; talk about scratching our heads.



All members have been receiving emails/newsletters/magazines about the concern over the loss of members not just at Club and District Level but at an International Level; even Bob has included this recently in his weekly Bulletin that he sends out.

In the past 4 years we have gained and lost 11 members, members who became Friends of Rotary or who have decided due to their age have decided to involve themselves more into their Retirement Village community, also due to illnesses, their own small business growing significantly and quite quickly or they just needed time away to sort themselves out in this world.

Our Club currently sits at 32 members ranging from 39 to 76 – with our youngest, Emma, turning 40 in September. We have heard whispers that one of our family members in the Club might join and they are in their 20's which would significantly bring down the average age of the group.

Earlier this year after much discussion and through a push from Emma – poor Bob finally gave in. Emma thought it would be a good idea for the Club to celebrate our Diversity in the Club, by arranging a get a Diversity photo done with some of the members in the Club; after much persuasion and arranging sizes of T-shirts and Colours and trying to get a time where our beloved President Russell was available and in town we headed to the Avenue of Honour on an early Sunday morning to capture the group together on a beautiful sunny morningyes the weather actually behaved for us believe it not!



Those photos that were taken by our wonderful Club photographer Peter Shilton; Emma and Peter are working through, delayed by COVID-19 social distancing rules, to find the perfect photo taken and will eventually get the photo popped onto a banner for the Club to use at future BBQ's; and a way to get the public engaged and starting that conversation with us.

Bob has decided to pass the reins of Membership Leader to Emma, mind you when he decided this, he was meant to be sunning himself in America for 3 months in 2020 with Chris and going to a 50 year School reunion. Emma has accepted the role and accepted the invitation to be on Donna Martin's board for her Presidential year 2020-2021.

Clean up Australia

Clean up Australia Day occurred on Sunday 1 March 2020. Once again our Club gave this a strong support and active participation. A very impressive band of seventeen committed members including our Rotary Exchange student, Maeva, arrived at Federation Park at 10 am to commence work.



We split up into pairs and small groups and set off armed with gloves and rubbish bags to cover the area around the Park as well as Gisborne Road along Federation Avenue and the Lerderderg River upstream and downstream from Darley bridge.

There was the usual range of rubbish but the strangest thing we collected was a stop sign.

We did notice that the south-east areas were relatively cleaner than they were in previous years,

However, we still managed to fill up a good quantity of bags with both recyclable and non-recyclable rubbish. When the work was finished we enjoyed fellowship with a delicious spread of morning tea.

Melanie Wyatt and Geoff Camm

Exchange 2019-2020 (France to Australia)



I decided to come live in Australia as an exchange student because it was one of my biggest dreams since I started learning English. I knew it was going to be an experience that would permit me to be fluent in a language other than French and introduce me to a new culture. But my exchange experience brought me so much more!

As a 16-year-old, before I went on Exchange, I had never been away from my parents for more than a few weeks. I used to rely on them a lot when I needed

advice for example. Of course, being away from them and the time difference between Australia and France forced me to make decisions by myself.



I think I gained a lot of independence thanks to that. In general, this year made me gain so much self-confidence. Indeed, I realize I was able to achieve so much more than what I thought I was capable of. Speaking in front of a large group of people scares me less than it used to as I didn't have a choice but to do it. Being part of my school production helped a lot as well.

Also, I didn't remember how to make new friends. In France, I was lucky to have amazing friends who had always been in the same schools as me since I was young. So, making friends in a school where I didn't know anyone was a challenge.

During the first few months I stayed in my comfort zone and was hanging out with the people who were talking to me instead of making the decision to make the first step and engage a conversation with people I don't know. But I realised I didn't have anything to lose and had to try if I wanted to feel good in Australia. It was not easy. But I did it once, twice, and more until it became natural and I was able to find some amazing friends who became people I could never forget and who made my exchange so much easier.



This year also introduced me to a new way of thinking and a new culture which, I think, opened my mind even more than it was. Finally, I am proud that I can say I am bilingual.

I can remember my first week in Australia. I was always asking people to speak slower and using Google translate so I could understand. Now, I don't even have to think about speaking or understanding English. It comes to me more naturally.

I had the most amazing experience of my life living in Australia for a year. It would not have been possible without the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and my host families who were nicer and more generous than what I could ever have hoped for.

THANK YOU!

-Maéva

Foundation

School Scholarships

In 2018 the Club was fortunate to obtain a Rotary District Scholarship Grant of \$1,000, which our Club matched. The scholarships were for one or two year 11 students Bacchus Marsh College who were in need of assistance with years 11 and 12 expenses.

We had two students who benefited from this program and the feedback we received from the college was that the funds enhanced the students' educational experience.

The scholarship objective is to assist worthy students achieve a better VCE outcome by opening up development opportunities which may otherwise been unavailable to them.

This year the school had identified a potential candidate just prior to the Christmas break, but with the introduction into the community of the COVID virus and the closure of the schools, etc, this program has not progressed so far this year. This program is worthy of Rotary's participation and adds value to our local community.

Rotary International Foundation Donations

This year our Club contributed \$3,000 to the Foundation Fund. These contributions are transformed into grants that fund local and international humanitarian projects, scholarships, and activities, such as vocational training teams. This includes Polio Plus, which remains Rotary International's primary humanitarian goal, and the Rotary Endowment Fund that goes to support the Foundation's grants program.

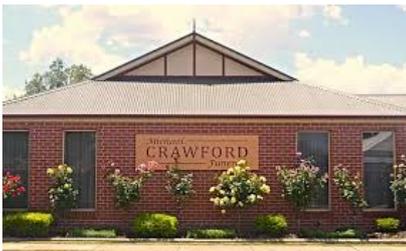
This contribution is down for this year, a decision made to ensure that our club has more financial flexibility to assist our local community over the current COVID and recessionary environment.

Vocation

Outstanding Employee Award

In 2018/19, our club introduced an 'outstanding Employee' award to recognise the achievements of working individuals as recognised and nominated by their employers. The first year was successful in identifying a worthy candidate. However, it has become apparent that the program requires review. The restrictions in gatherings as a result of COVID have resulted in the review being deferred for the time being.

Visit to Michael Crawford Funerals Bacchus Marsh



Our member Geoff Camm organised a vocational visit to the above organisation during the course of the year. This event was well attended by Rotarians. Michael Crawford gave a long and well-presented history of his business and some valuable insight into the nature of its operations. It was clear that Michael

was not only well experienced in his profession but was also passionate about the special needs of his clients.

Phil McBean

Fundraising Report 2019-20

Our fundraising activities this year were severely curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Art Show and the Vintage Truck and Trade show were both cancelled, leaving a large hole in income for the club. There was a feeling in the club that the Golf Day had run its race, so that event also didn't take place.

That left sausage sizzles, Christmas trees sales, the spinner and the soiree as our fundraisers for the year.

Christmas Trees.

The Christmas Tree project, run jointly by Rotary and the SES was very successful again this year. The project was driven by Scott Pepin and assisted by many club members, both on sales days and the pick-up day. 290 trees were sold and a total of \$5,100 was raised for our club and \$5,100 for the SES. Less stands were sold, presumably because people who bought one last year didn't need one this year. A feature noted was that the majority of sales were in the newer areas of the town.



Bunnings Sausage Sizzles.



Peter Shilton manages the Bunnings days. We were given two dates by Bunnings for 2019-20. These raised \$2,620 for the club. These days are always a lot of fun, only require a few hours from each member once a year, and allow members to show off their spruiking skills, and master chef qualifications.

Strawberry and Cherry Festival.



Kathy Cairns headed the organisation of the day which raised close to \$2,000. Sausage sizzles require a lot of organisation prior to the event, but once everything is in place, there is good fellowship to be enjoyed with friendly banter between cooks, servers and the public.



The Spinner.

This wonderful initiative of Barry McKercher's continues to raise useful funds for the club. At the time of writing in late June, the spinner collections amounted to just over \$2,800.

Thanks to all the money collectors, and in particular Scott Pepin who did all the collections during the worst days (so far) of the Corona virus pandemic, to protect the older members of the club who face a greater risk of serious illness from the virus.

The Soiree.

The weather and the virus combined to put a dampener (pardon the pun) on this year's Soiree. Jock Taylor drove the project and offered her home for the event.

But the heavens opened up and fortunately we had a contingency plan. Peter and Maxine Lawford offered their magnificent party room for the event. The night was set a'swinging with music from the *Resurrection Jazz Band*, the food was magnificent and everyone who attended had great time. Thank you to Jock and Kathy and all the chefs for such a special night. Although attendance was down due to the virus and the rain, over \$1,000 was raised on the night.



LET'S READ



Our commitment to the Let's Read program was demonstrated again this year when we signed the funding MOU with the Shire of Moorabool for a further two years. The equal partnership with the Shire provides Maternal and Child Health with \$11,000 per year to deliver books and associated materials to all Moorabool children at the four key assessment ages of 4 months to 3 ½ years.

This early intervention literacy program was designed to help parents develop the basic skills necessary prior to formal learning.

A love of books and how to enjoy them should begin at a very early age as indicated by research initiated by the Centre for Community Child Health, a key research part of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

This research and its outcomes are available to our members through documents provided in two folders which were re-presented at the talk given by Clare Pridham, coordinator of Children's Services, and Jo Speed, Maternal and Child Health and coordinator of the Enhanced Program for Vulnerable Families. Visits to our meetings of the deliverers of the program always confirm the benefits to our parents and children.

I commend the club for their fundraising efforts, which enable us to continue our support, which began in 2006.

Jock Taylor

Media and Marketing

This year has been quiet in the Media and Marketing space, mostly due to Covid19. Although we did run successful campaigns for the Christmas Tree Fundraiser and Battery Exchange Program, which featured in the Moorabool newspaper and Facebook page. Many ideas are left on the back burner as we cope with this challenging year with the cancellation of all our other

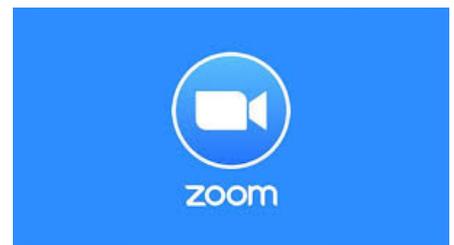
The Moorabool News
Your Local News



events. We saw a 32% rise in interaction with Our Bacchus Marsh Club Facebook page and 78% with our Vintage trucks and Trades Page.

With the world seeing drastic changes from social distancing, it bought new ways to communicate face to face or in isolation. I am extremely impressed with Our Club and how it has adapted to new platforms.

We have introduced Zoom for our meetings, although meetings have been reduced to fortnightly, they have been remarkably successful with an average of 20 members in attendance most times. A big Thank you to Bob Levy and Emma Young for their help and support. It has been said “it takes many to build a village” but in this case it only takes our members to like and share posts and ideas from the comfort of their homes over the internet. Seems achievable.



Helen Davies

International Report

As our club grappled with the concept of “Rotary Connects the World”, Covid-19 and our club’s willingness to participate in the international community, I would like to highlight the 2021 Rotary theme, “Rotary Opens Opportunities”!

I recently received correspondence from our OKF (Overseas Kids Foundation) project partner in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The correspondence stated that one of our senior sponsored students, Nguyen Quang Chien (our club has sponsored for the last five years) had ceased his schooling due to the Covid-19 crisis, and has elected to leave secondary school in lieu of employment opportunities to support himself and his family.

How might you say does this give opportunity?

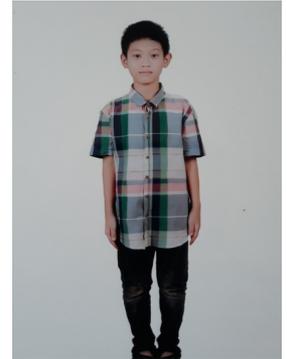
Our club supported this young man for his entire secondary education. We gave him (and his family) the opportunity to break the poverty cycle.

Although Nguyen Quang Chien has left school early (in his final year of secondary school), he is in a far better situation than living and enduring one of the poorest parts of Vietnam. He now has opportunity!

.....As one door closes, another opens!



To maintain our club's commitment to the poor students within our village in Vietnam, Yen Luat, we have given a new opportunity to a new student, only just this month.

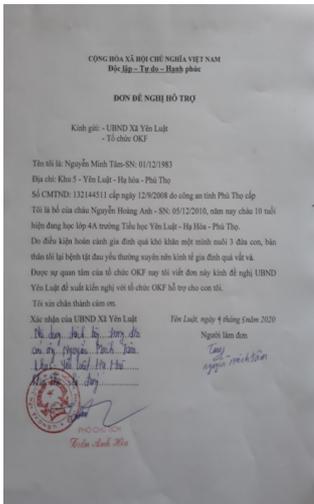


I received the following impassioned request from OKF Hanoi (June 2020, translated):

My name is Nguyen Minh Tam. I am the father of Nguyen Hoang Anh (5/12/10). This year, he is 10 years old, and is attending Grade 4A of the Yen Luat Primary School, Ho Hoa District, Phu Tho Province.

Due to difficult and poor living situation, with me raising three children alone, and myself with constant sickness, therefore our family's income has been affected. I hope for my son.

With OKF's interest, I am writing this letter in the hope that UBND Yen Luat can propose to OKF for support my son.....Nguyen Hoang Anh's future tuition is assured. Rotary Opens Opportunities!



Yen Luat, Vietnam

In 2018-19 our club agreed to ongoing support to our village in Vietnam by providing a toilet amenity as part of a water and sanitation project to the Secondary School.



For several years the project has been stalled due to the complexity of ensuring a sufficient water supply of potable quality and standard. To circumvent local obstacles, contact was made with the Prof. Anh, Head of Department, Faculty of Water Sciences and Hydrology, National University of Vietnam. He and his department have agreed to provide pro-bono technical and professional guidance for our project.

In January 2020, OKF Trustee and Balwyn North Rotarian, Rowan McClean travelled to Hanoi, to meet up with leading Melbourne dentists, to implement a D9800 Foundation grant project for the provision of dental fluoride treatments for our four partner village's kinders and pre-schools within Phu Tho Province. Each club contributed \$2,500, combined with D9800 contributing \$5,000.

However, upon arrival in Hanoi and the deteriorating situation with the Covid19 crisis, the Vietnamese Government denied access for the travel party to our village. The project was postponed.

As the project success was contingent on the D9800 Foundation grant, and for that grant to be expended in the 2019-20 Rotary year, special dispensation was given to the project so that it can be carried into the 2020-21 year.

As a footnote to this dental project. Our club as part of a successful application by the Rotary Club of Balwyn North was successful in being awarded the D9800 International recognition for 2019-20.

Fortunately, whilst on that Hanoi visit, untied funds secured the purchase of seventy desk sets for the Yen Luat Secondary school. They were delivered prior to the schools being closed due to Covid-19 around the Tet Holiday (late January 20). The schools reopened in May 2020, post Covid-19.



Finally, our club has successfully negotiated with local Melbourne-based eyewear wholesalers, JM Eyewear, to obtain "last seasons or end of style" reading glasses for the purpose of supplying them to Yen Luat's aging population.

Over 80 pairs were supplied for distribution from the YL medical centre in January 2020, whilst another 120 pairs await for post-Covid visits. The glasses range from +1.00 to +4.00, and are valued between RRP \$20-\$25 each.

The "Natalia" Project-West Papua

Although our club only played a small part in her miraculous surgery, 25 year old Natalia Asparay has concluded her stay in Australia, and the multiple life changing surgeries to be able to return home in late 2019. She has suffered with the extremely disfiguring condition of Neurofibromatosis since the age three. RC of Bendigo Strathdale, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Liverpool West have worked together with ROMAC to bring Natalia to Sydney. She returns home full of hope and confidence! Rotary Opens Opportunities.

Gloria Edwara-School of St.Judes, Tanzania



In recent correspondence from the School of St.Judes, they like almost all other schools around the world have had to close due to the Covid19 crisis. This has meant that our club's sponsored student, 16 year old Gloria Edwara has had to remain in her village to be "distant tutored" via tutor packs from her school. Gloria is now in Form 5D, and is hoping one day to be an engineer or a pilot.

.....Education gives opportunity! Rotary Opens Opportunities!

Interplast Australia and New Zealand sends teams of volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied therapists to developing countries in the Asia Pacific Region to provide free surgical treatment and medical training.'

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (R.O.M.A.C.) provides surgical treatment for children in Australia and New Zealand from developing countries from our Pacific Region in the form of Life Giving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country..... The



"Natalia" Project is a prime example of their work!

Donations in Kind (D.I.K.) takes surplus Australian medical, educational and humanitarian equipment and ships it via containers to those in need to Africa, Asia and the Pacific region.



Scott Pepin

Community - Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement Project

Following the success in the previous two years, we again conducted our battery replacement project for the smoke alarms in the homes of our elderly citizens (75 years and older). On daylight saving day, Sunday 6th October, 16 teams of Rotarians together with CFA members replaced approximately 280 batteries.



Although higher cost, long life batteries were used this year, with the aim of not having to replace them, but rather to check the alarms are operating in the coming year (October 2020)

The Bacchus Marsh Community Bank sponsored the purchase of the batteries, which were supplied by Wilson's Hardware at cost.

Moorabool Shire sent out leaflets to all our elderly citizens and Moorabool News supported us with articles promoting the project.

Thanks also goes to the CFA members who were able to climb the ladders (being younger and fitter than us Rotarians) and all the Rotarians and family members who assisted on the day.

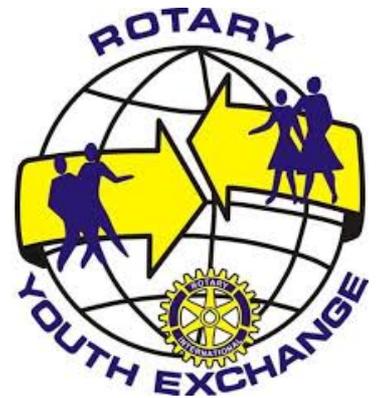
Youth Committee

Youth Exchange: To be an exchange student this year you could consider yourself either the luckiest or unluckiest “kid” in the world. After saying goodbye to Rasmus from Finland in June 2019, our club eagerly awaited our new French arrival, Maeva from Lille.

Spending the last half of 2019 with the Allen and Martin families, little did she (nor the rest of the world) know what would eventuate in the coming months about a mysterious virus that would soon rampage

through Europe, especially France. What ensued was an emotional roller coaster for her, her parents, her host parents and all involved.

A short stint with the Levy’s (thanks Bob and Chris) and with so many “unknowns” about this virus and its impact on daily life, Maeva returned to the Martin family (thanks Martins, one and all!) when things were becoming seriously “pear-shaped” in our world!



Isolation, home based learning, home sickness, not knowing what was going to happen next all contributed to a potential fragile situation for her, but as a true mark of this young person’s resolve and resilience, she excelled.

Youth Exchange brings out the best in these young people, this year’s circumstances would be like no other! Bravo Maeva!

Thank-you counsellor Helen.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards):

The Cambridge English Dictionary’s definition of “transformation” is “a complete change in appearance or character of something or someone”.

This would be the best way to describe James Martin after attending a 7 day Rotary Youth Leadership Camp at Mt.Martha in December 2019.

His self-confidence, public speaking and self-worth all skyrocketed after this brief, life changing encounter. His eyes are open, the world awaits him!

Good luck James!

Women's Breakfast (March 2020):



With the overwhelming success of previous years, our club threw open the invitation again to Year 12 students from Bacchus Marsh Grammar and Bacchus Marsh College to attend a breakfast at Crown Palladium as part of International Women's Day. Twenty-four students were chaperoned by Rotarians Joanne, Donna, Emma, Mel and teachers, being inspired by speakers from business and life experience.

School Awards- Outstanding Community Recognition

(December 2019): This is a unique award presented to fourteen students across our local primary and secondary schools to recognise outstanding community citizenship and a regard for others. The recipient receives a certificate and a cheque.



Covid-19 Casualties (March 2020- ?): The premise of youth programs is youth participation, team-work and collaboration. Unfortunately, the advent of Covid-19 bought an abrupt halt to all Rotary Youth programs and activities which involved the bringing together of young people to enrich and expand their minds...but this is what they would have been doing:

RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment): A weekend camp (14-16year olds) with complete strangers, hands on activities, workshops, foreign experiences which promotes self-confidence, communication skills, friendships and the development of life skills.

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly): Ultimately probably one of the most gratifying and enjoyable "Youth" experiences is to witness that of MUNA. This program restores faith in the ability of our younger generations as their brilliant minds simulate the workings and debating processes of the United Nations Assembly. Assuming the role of their country's representative, they debate and answer issues of world political and social concern. The objective is to encourage young people to learn respect and tolerance for people of all races, religions and nationalities.

Sadly missed this year!

Thanks to the "Youth Team": Joanne Allen, John Lucas, Simon Davies, Helen Davies.

Lita Foot

Community

Breast Pumps

A short story of Toby.....

Last December, a local Bacchus Marsh "new" family approached our Rotary club for assistance for an urgent Community need. I say "new" because when this Bacchus Marsh couple went to Sydney for a "naughty" weekend getaway.....incidentally, mum was 30 weeks pregnant!

Little did they know that within 24 hours of arriving in Sydney, their "new" son "Toby" would be born, premature, weighing just over one kilogram! After a 5 week stay in a Sydney "special care" nursery, this "new" family was allowed to travel home back to Bacchus Marsh, and subsequently attended Bacchus Marsh Maternity Unit at our hospital.

Bacchus Marsh Maternity Unit: 600 births per year, and increasing per year, was almost at capacity. They have 4 birthing suites, 10 inpatient beds divided into 8 post natal and 2 maternal care, and a 3 bed nursery.....how is this relevant to Toby? Toby's mum needed to use the only operational Maternity Unit breastpump and was deferred to wait until it was freed up out of theatre.

So how could Rotary Bacchus Marsh help?

With Board and membership approval, Rotary Bacchus Marsh decided that with our town growing so fast, and the urgent need to assist "nursing "mums", our club would respond to this need. Intensive negotiations followed with DJHS (Djerriwarrah Health Services) Maternity Unit, whereby we were able to obtain three state-of-the-art Ardo Carum Breastpump and stand sets by Christmas, aptly names "Toby-Pumper One", "Toby-Pumper Two" and "Toby Pumper-Three"! Ho, Ho, Ho! The official presentation in March 2020 was deferred due to the Covid crisis.



PS Toby's dad is an active member of the Bacchus Marsh Fire Brigade and Bacchus Marsh SES.....

From little things, big things grow! Rotary Opens Doors!

Membership

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

Honorary members

Frank Ruffo

David Stewart (PP)

Denis Murphy (PP)

Vale Members

Jocelyn Williams (PP)

Friends of Rotary

Chris Levy

Jennifer Hine

Joan Sheehan

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 McMahan	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				

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)		

Royce Abbey Award

2004 John Lucas	2005 Byron Guthrie
2006 Simon Hookey	2008 Wendy stubbs
2009 Pieter Honig	2010 James Devenny
2011 Patriece 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 Merylyn Annells
2019 Helen Davies	2019 Simon Davies

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?



Edited by John Lucas & Geoff Camm