

**ROTARY CLUB
of
GEELONG EAST**

District 9780
Chartered 2nd December 1969



Celebrating
35th
Charter Anniversary



Brief History

The formation of The Rotary Club of Geelong East began with a meeting of proposed members on 14th November, 1969 at the canteen at Brinton's Carpet factory. The Sponsor Club, The Rotary Club of Geelong through its President Bruce Wemyss and the District Governor's special representative PDG Bill Sones outlined the responsibilities of membership and the history of Rotary. This was all done under very difficult circumstances as that night the area was blacked out and the prospective members met by candlelight. This group of "strangers" were to be the nucleus of the twenty seven members inducted as members of Rotary in January 1970 after the Club was admitted to Rotary International on 2nd December 1969.

The club's Charter Night was on 21st February, 1970. The presentation of Charter was made by the Governor of District 278 Walter J. White at Geelong City Hall.

Meetings of significance include:

1. Inaugural meeting at Dinosaur Motel 21st November 1969
2. First meeting at Eliza's Restaurant 28th November 1969 Dinner Fee then \$3.50 per head (2004 - \$20.00)
3. First Ladies Night -Christmas message by Rotarian Rev. Han Weeks 19th December 1969

The club has had several homes since it's charter. The Geelong High School served as the meeting venue with catering done by a group of women fondly known as the "Rotary Catering Ladies." The club then met at Rosnashane Reception Centre for five years and in 2002 moved to Kirrewur Court.

Membership in the club has been around the 35 to 40 mark since 1975 when it chartered the Rotary Club of Drysdale, transferring 17 members to the new club. In 2004 membership (at the time of celebrating 35 years since Charter) membership was at 48 including two Honorary Members.

Presidents & Secretaries

YEAR	PRESIDENT		SECRETARY	
1969-71	Rae Bennett		Stan Cripps / Barry Lange	
1971-72	Colin Hunt		Barry Lange	
1972-73	Clarrie Love		Allen Duncan	
1973-74	Barry Lange		Allen Duncan	
1974-75	George Cross		Charles Almond	
1975-76	Claude Stanley		Bob Vague	
1976-77	Charles Almond		Bob Vague	
1977-78	Syd Farrow		Clarrie Love	
1978-79	Bob Vague		Joe Reilly	
1979-80	Terry Smith		Claude Stanley	
1980-81	David Beretta		Noel Gay	
1981-82	John Burleigh		Adrian Innes	
1982-83	John Wellham		Tom Dunstone	
1983-84	Rod Campbell		Tom Dunstone	
1984-85	Bob Kelly		John Haywood	
1985-86	Robert Wheeler		John Haywood	
1986-87	Arthur Jenkins		Gordon Thompson	
1987-88	Bill Pratt		Gordon Thompson	
1988-89	Frank Pinder		Brian Dowsett	
1989-90	Gordon Thompson		Brian Dowsett	
1990-91	Kees Smit		George James	
1991-92	Don Macvean		George James	
1992-93	Cliff Barrand		Terry Smith	
1993-94	Tony Della-Porta		John Haywood	
1994-95	Eddie Loughnan		Robert Wheeler	
1995-96	Ernie Robins		Rod Campbell	
1996-97	Graham Fleet		Rod Campbell	
1997-98	Albie James		Ernie Robins	
1998-99	Adrian Innes		Graeme Fleet	
1999-2000	Mark Watson		Graeme Fleet	
2000-01	Bob Pullin		Jenny Acopian	
2001-02	Anna Fletcher		Jenny Acopian	
2002-03	Peter Gillham		Jenny Acopian	
2003-04	Alan Backwell		Ross Taylor	
2004-05	Warren Norton		Ross Taylor	

Paul Harris Fellows



At the time of celebrating the club's 35th Charter Anniversary, there were 26 Paul Harris Fellows.

- Rae Bennett
- Clarrie Love
- David Beretta
- Terry Smith
- John Burleigh
- Claude Stanley
- Syd Farrow
- Joyce Stevenson
- John Haywood
- Bob Vague
- George James
- Robert Wheeler
- Barry Lange
- Adrian Innes
- Gordon Thompson
- Rod Campbell
- Tony Della-Porta
- Eddie Loughnan
- Val Loughnan
- Bob Pullin
- Frank Pinder
- Leon Mott
- Pam Mott
- Graeme Fleet
- Peter Gillham
- Albie James
- Olwyn Vague

District Governors

There have been two District Governors from The Rotary Club of Geelong East.

Barry Lange 1989 - 1990

Eddie Loughnan 1999 - 2000

Conferences

The Rotary Club of Geelong East has hosted three District Conferences. In addition to hosting the conferences for the two District Governors for the club, a conference was hosted on behalf of District Governor Ray Graetz from Warracknabeal in 1975.

DG Ray Graetz Geelong High School & James Harrison College Auditorium

DG Barry Lange The Arena

DG Eddie Loughnan Costa Hall & Deakin University



HAMBURGER STAND

1971

The Hamburger Stand at the Geelong Showgrounds was erected in 1971. This has proved to be the club's largest on-going fundraising activity. Net profit from the first use of the stand was \$386.00. The Show profit for 2004 was \$9,880.00.

It has been extended to improve conditions for volunteers and to meet standards set by Council. Extensions were carried out in 1983, 1987 and again in 2004.

The work done at the Hamburger Stand brings together members, their families and friends. For the most part, it is seen as a great fellowship and fun activity. The members of Inner Wheel have been involved since the start.



GEELONG HIGH SCHOOL

1970

The Geelong High School was the original "home" of the club. The weekly meetings were held in the school's canteen for 27 years. Hire of the canteen was \$6.00 a week and meals cost \$1.80 a head in 1971.

The canteen in which the weekly club meetings were held was permanently decorated with club banners and was considered a feature of the school.

In addition to meeting at the Geelong High School, the club has always maintained an active relationship with the school. Hundreds of seats in the school were painted, bursaries given for music and academic performance. The first scholarships awarded in 1977 were \$100. In 2004 they were \$600.



TREE PLANTING

Geelong East was active in improving the ecology of the area before the Planet Earth program was adopted by RI. Activities undertaken either as a club or jointly with other Rotary club have included:

- Alcoa Point Henry tree planting
- Fyansford (Deviation Road) & river tree planting
- Grinter Reserve
- Newcomb Secondary College tree planting
- You Yangs bird corridor tree planting
- Limeburners Point planting of shrubs



GEELONG HOSPITAL

1977

The club has had a long association with the Geelong Hospital (later Barwon Health).

The funding and work to get the Dialysis Clinic in Ryrie Street off the ground was a joint club activity in which Geelong East was active both financially and in labour. This activity took place in 1988

Other projects Geelong East has been involved in include:

- Cardiac Pacemakers
- Infant Incubators
- Pathology equipment
- Nocturnal Dialysis equipment
- Ba-Lee Accommodation Units



GEELONG HELIPAD

1985

A Helipad was built by members at Western Beach to provide a way of quick evacuation for seriously ill people who needed medical attention provided in Melbourne hospitals.



KARINGAL

1976

The club has long worked with Karingal. Assistance has been given in many forms including covering expenses, carrying out maintenance at the Headquarters and accommodation complexes.

Members built a home in Leopold and sold it realising a profit of \$9,000. \$8,000 of this was donated to Karingal to buy land in Herbert Court on which they built their fifth accommodation complex.

The club built pergolas for each of the six units, painted spouting and other areas and supplied an audio visual slide projector.



NEWCOMB SECONDARY COLLEGE

1977

There has been a long association between the club and the Newcomb Secondary College. The club has provided a range of financial and in-kind services to Newcomb. These include:

- Conduct of mock job interviews and career advice
- Funding attendance at Siemens Science Experience
- Funding attendance at Great Industrial Adventure
- Finance to set up and train students in gardening maintenance
- Scholarships and bursaries



EASTERN PARK

1976

The installation of BBQ's, fuel storage bins a drinking fountain and playground was carried out over a number of years by members of the club.

DRIVING SCHOOL

1985

The Driving School opposite the entrance to the Show Grounds was established by the Rotary Club of Geelong East. The purpose was to provide driver training to train young planning to sit their driving licence and to train disabled people how to manage driving a car.



SCOUT ROTUNDA

2003

As a gift to the Scouting Association who is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2006, the Rotary Club of Geelong East built a Rotunda at Eumerala Scout Camp Anglesea. Commenced in Rotary year 2003-04 the rotunda was completed in 2004-05 and handed over in October 2004.



TATE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

1993

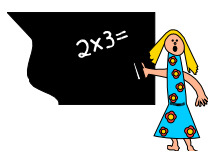
The club built a Shade House for the propagation of plants at the School. It has also funded school camp trips for disadvantaged students. Individual members also acted as guarantors for the building of the new sport complex.

Tate Street was also active in the "Aussie of the Month" awards.

MENTAL HEALTH SITE

1996

Members cleared a site in preparation for the building of a new Mental Health clinic on Queenscliff Road. The work included demolishing an in-ground swimming pool. On completion of the work, the club was advised that a different location had been chosen.



WHITTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

2003

The club paid for an entire class of primary students to attend the play “Possum Magic”. Without this support many of the children in the class would have been unable to attend.



PLAYGROUNDS

Over the years, Geelong East has been involved in a number of playground development activities. In addition to creating the playground at Eastern Park, members also built the Stan Orchard Playground in Newcomb and a playground in Whittington.

JAMES HARRISON COLLEGE

1977

The James Harrison College was merged with Newcomb Secondary College. Prior to that, Geelong East provided similar assistance to James Harrison to that provided to the other Secondary schools.

- Conduct of mock job interviews and career nights
- Scholarships and bursaries



SHOPPING CENTRE FLAG POLE

1992

A flag pole was erected in the East Geelong Shopping Centre. The responsibility was handed over to the city council and a flag has not flown for years. The pole is in need of repair.



AUSSIE OF THE MONTH

1996

The club funded a monthly award to encourage good citizenship within the primary schools in the area. The “Aussie of the Month” Award was conducted within the following schools:

- Geelong South Primary
- Tate Street Primary School
- East Geelong State School



OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

There have been many projects that the club has funded or supported in other ways (including in-kind) that are not recorded here. Most are not places to visit, rather they are concepts supported. These include:

- Donations-in-Kind
- Bike Trailer
- Life Education Caravan
- Adopt a Family
- Disabled Trainee Award
- Flipper Mental Health Cards
- Social Organisation for Handicapped
- Alzheimers Appeal
- Darwin (Cyclone Tracy) Appeal
- Asthma Suffers Appeal
- RJ Vague Award
- RYPEN
- Youth Exchange
- Ash Wednesday Bushfire clean-up at Anglesea
- Car for Disabled Driver training
- Porta Printer for Illawarra Centre for the Blind
- Bus Tours for elderly citizens

There have been many other projects undertaken by The Rotary Club of Geelong East, both within the local community, nationally and through International Service.