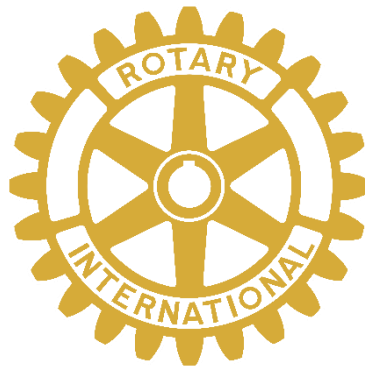


The Rotary Club of Casterton Inc

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District 9780
Club 18220
ABN 75295289482

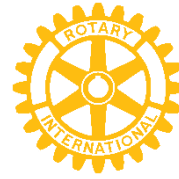
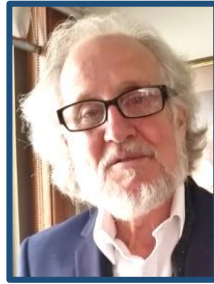
75th Anniversary

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Presented at Change-over held at a Casterton Golf Club
on Thursday 21st July, 2022



President Wally Walsh



of

The Rotary Club
of
Casterton

Welcomes Members & Guests
to the



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

75th Changeover Dinner

Celebrating & commemorating his year as President 2021/22



Induction of
Rotarian Chris Munro



as President for 2022/23

PAST PRESIDENTS 1947/48 – 2021/22












1947/48	Charles Anderson	1985/86	Ted Walsgott
1948/49	Stan Stooke	1986/87	Bryan Denton
1949/50	Alan Millikan	1987/88	Doug Coulter
1950/51	Hugh Cushing	1988/89	Robbie Greene
1951/52	Bill Peden	1989/90	Cliff Tischler
1952/53	Murray McAllister	1990/91	Ron Dear
1953/54	John Hughes	1991/92	Adrian Bunnik
1954/55	Bill Mierisch	1992/93	Jack Dowling
1955/56	Charles Anderson	1993/94	Brian McCabe
1956/57	Arthur Goode	1994/95	John Blackmore
1957/58	Bob Doyle	1995/96	Graham Coventry
1958/59	Fin Miller	1996/97	Robin McKernan
1959/60	Clarrie Kempton	1997/98	Robert Bunge
1960/61	Oliver Cameron	1998/99	Denis McNamara
1961/62	Tom Howlett	1999/00	Des Murphy
1962/63	Lou Hayward	2000/01	Robert Slorach
1963/64	Aub Baxter	2001/02	Basil Stafford
1964/65	Val Sloss	2002/03	Michael McNamara
1965/66	Bob Fell	2003/04	Kevin Kelso
1966/67	Alan Ehms	2004/05	Graham Coventry
1967/68	Arch Green	2005/06	Doug Coulter
1968/69	Lou Barberis	2006/07	Sophia Holm
1969/70	Ivan Fell	2007/08	Andrew Dowling
1970/71	Phil Prentice	2008/09	Greg Coulter
1972/72	Mark Kerr	2009/10	Kaye Annett
1972/73	Peter Betros	2010/11	Steve Faroe
1973/74	Bill Franks	2011/12	Don Kilsby
1974/75	Tony Floyd	2012/13	Wally Walsh
1975/76	Jack Dowling	2013/14	Sue Kilsby
1976/77	Tom Chambers	2014/15	Lynne Nadebaum
1977/78	Robbie Greene	2015/16	Darren Brown
1978/79	Ray Carn	2016/17	Roger Dalby
1979/80	George Vickery	2017/18	Shane Gill
1980/81	Bill Mitchell	2018/19	Darren Brown
1981/82	David Ferrier	2019/20	Sheryl-Lee Connolly
1982/83	Jack Dowling	2020/21	Peter Broomhead
1983/84	Drew Buckle	2021/22	Wally Walsh
1984/85	Allen Dowling		












CHARTER MEMBERSHIP July, 1947




C.A.ANDERSON	Charlie	President	Agricultural Implement Retailer
R.J.BAXTER	Ralph		Confectionery Retailing
J.R.BRYAN	Jim		Women's Clothing Retailer
H.CUSHING	Hugh		Grocery Retailing
J.E.GWYNNE	Eric	Treasurer	Banking Commercial
C.R.McE.HILL	Cyril		Civil Engineering
C.H.JEFFREYS	Claude	Secretary	Cordial Manufacturing
C.R.KNIGHT	Ray		Jewellery Retailing
J.B.MABBITT	Jim		Public Accounting Service
W.R.MIERISCH	Bill		Men's Clothing Retailing
A.H.MILLIKAN	Alan		Physician and Surgeon
A.L.MURRELL	Bro		Meat retailing
M.McALLISTER	Murray	Sgt/Arms	Automobile Retailing
J.M.NEWTON	John		Dentistry
W.S.PEDEN	Bill		Building Supplies Retail
P.Q.PINNELL	Percy		Stock and Station Agency
F.J.H.ROWAN	Hammy		General Law Practice
S.STOOKE	Stan	Vice President	General Merchandise Retail

SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HAMILTON

Members of Casterton Rotary Club 2021-2022

Name of Member			Classification	Joined
ANNETT PP, PHF	Kaye		Education - Administration	2005
BROOMHEAD President, PHF PP (Craigeburn)	Peter		Computer Technician	2018
BROWN PP, PHF PP (Ararat)	Darren		Police Services	2013
BROWN PP	Sheryl-Lee		Paramedic Services	2013
DALBY PP, PHF	Roger		Building Services	2013
• ESMORE PHF PP (Daylesford)	Ian		Building Designer Passed away 11/7/2022 Refer President's Report	2018 To 2022
GILL PP	Shane		Nursing	2009
• GOGOLL	Della		Restaurateur • No longer member	2021 To 2022
GORMAN PHF (Sapphire)	Peter		Real Estate	1986
GREENE PHF	Jean		Honorary	2016
KILSBY PP, PHF	Donald		Farming – Beef & Fat Lambs	2006

Name of Member			Classification	Joined
KILSBY PP , PHF	Sue		Education - Primary	2011
McCORMICK PHF x2 PP Ararat, PP Hastings	Ron		Label Printer	2020
• MEIER	Milton		Auto Parts Manufacturing • No longer member	2022 To 2022
MUNRO Treasurer	Chris		Rural Supplies - Retail	2013
RICHARDSON Secretary	Leanne		Banking	2017
SCHILL	John		Building Services	2020
SEABROOK	Andrew		Business Consultancy Services	2021
• TALAY	Paul		Agronomist • No longer member	2018 To 2022
THIEL	Tonie		Corporate Training	2018
TOMA	Barb		Finance & HR Admin	2019
WALSH	Charlie		Youth Travel	2012

Name of Member			Classification	Joined
WALSH PE PP, PHF	Wally		Banking – Corporate	2009
WARE	Vergil		Aircraft Despatcher	2019
• ZHANG	Lifang		Accounting Services • No longer member	2019 to 2022

Our Members.....

at Work



Installing seats and general upgrade of Rotary Rest Point, on the banks of the Glenelg River



The final stage before Raffle ticket sales; hard at work splitting redgum firewood

& at Play



Dinner Time at the "STATION BAR AND GRILL" 2022.

Enjoying a Social outing at Coleraine Railway Museum with Hamilton Rotary Club

The Paul Harris Fellows Honour Board



1980	Sam Fitzpatrick <i>(shared with Hamilton & Hamilton North clubs)</i>
1987	John Hughes (Sapphire added in 2008)
1988	Robbie Greene (Sapphires added in 2011 & 2013)
1989	Fin Miller Jack Dowling
1991	Doug Coulter (Sapphire added in 2014)
1993	Ron Dear Alan Dowling
1997	Adrian Bunnik (Sapphire added in 2009)
1999	John Blackmore
2005	Ted Walsgott Des Murphy Graeme Coventry
2006	Michael McNamara
2007	Dick Escott
2008	John Hughes (Sapphire)
2009	Adrian Bunnik (Sapphire)
2010	Jean Greene
2011	Kaye Annett Robbie Greene (Sapphire)
2014	Doug Coulter (Sapphire) Peter Gorman (Sapphire added in 2021)
2017	Don Kilsby Sue Kilsby
2018	Wally Walsh (Sapphire added in 2022)
2019	Roger Dalby Darren Brown
2021	Peter Gorman (Sapphire)
2022	Tonie Thiel Sheryl-Lee Brown Wally Walsh (Sapphire)

2021-2022

World President - Shekhar Mehta

Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India

District Governor (District 9780) – John Clue

Rotary Club of Port Fairy

Casterton Rotary Club

Board 2021/22

President	:	Wally Walsh
Vice President	:	Kaye Annett
Immediate Past President	:	Peter Broomhead
President Elect 2022/23	:	Chris Munro
President Nominee 2023/24	:	Charlie Walsh
Secretary	:	Charlie Walsh
Treasurer	:	Chris Munro
Club Administration Director	:	Darren Brown
Membership Director	:	Peter Gorman
Public Image Director	:	Darren Brown
Rotary Foundation Director	:	Ron McCormick
Service Projects Director	:	Roger Dalby

Program Directors & Club Officers

International	:	Sue Kilsby
	:	Barb Toma (Assistant)
Community	:	Roger Dalby
	:	Kaye Annett/Jean Greene (Assistants)
Youth	:	Sheryl-Lee Connolly
	:	Barb Toma (Assistant)
Environment	:	Paul Talay
Vocational	:	Vergil Ware
Sergeant At Arms	:	Shane Gill / Don Kilsby (Corporal)
Club Training Officer	:	Tonie Thiel
Property Officer	:	John Schill
Bulletin Editor	:	TBA
Information Technology	:	Andrew Seabrook
Master of Zoom	:	Ian Esmore

Committee Membership

ALL Members will support each Director and Officer.

Focus Groups/Working Teams may be formed with a Convenor as required
(eg. Art Show and M.A.G.I.C-*Music Art Gardens in Casterton* events)

2022-2023

World President – Jennifer E. Jones

Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada

District Governor (District 9780) – Kathy Rivett

Rotary Club of Alfredton

Casterton Rotary Club

Board 2022/23

President	:	Chris Munro
Vice President	:	Kaye Annett
Immediate Past President	:	Wally Walsh
President Elect 2023/24	:	Sherly-Lee Brown
President Nominee 2024/25	:	TBA
Secretary	:	Leanne Richardson
Treasurer	:	Barb Toma
Community Services Director	:	Roger Dalby
Environment Director	:	Jon Schill
Foundation Director	:	Ron McCormick
International Director	:	Sue Kilsby
Membership/Vocational Director	:	Peter Gorman
Youth Director	:	Sheryl-Lee Brown

Club Officers

Sergeant At Arms	:	Shane Gill
Property & Maintenance	:	Jon Schill
Bulletin Editor	:	Andrew Seabrook
Information Technology	:	Andrew Seabrook
Public Image	:	Kaye Annett

Committee Membership

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President's Report

As we commenced our 74th year since we were chartered in 1947, we remained under Pandemic conditions for a 3rd year. Almost all members were fully vaxed and optimistic to return to “normal” or should that read “*the new normal*”? The reality that unfolded was more uncertainty and a further Victorian lockdown, number 5 since 23rd March 2020.

2021/22 opened even more virtual (‘zoom ’) meetings’, and like most of Victoria we were confined to the now very common syndrome, “working from home”. Disappointment and gloom were still hovering over our heads following a massive 6 month of planning and work effort to produce an art show by the long weekend in June. The Art Show is our project in parallel to support Casterton’s major tourism event, the Casterton Kelpie Association’s Kelpie Muster, held during the long weekend in June. Should you be reading these notes in the future, both the 2020 and 2021 Kelpie Muster events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. The Kelpie working Dog auction became an on line event in 2021.

The Rotary year 2021/22 effectively commenced in September cautiously outdoors. Our first face to face event involved maintenance by adding some previously planned improvements to Rotary Rest Point on the Banks of the Glenelg River, the only bank remaining in town.

The Year concluded with 25% of our club members (6 Rotarians) isolating with coronavirus in June during the lead up to and the conduction of our 2022 art show. Those of us who were still on our feet pretended that life was back to normal. The pandemic with all its variants still simmers IN the background. Finally, on a health note. And as I write this report, news has just been received from Queensland that we have lost a lost a member through ill health, I believe not COVID related.

I’m deeply saddened to have had to report that on the 11th July, Ian Esmore, whilst on a caravanning holiday with his wife Isobel has passed away at Murgon, north of Kingaroy Qld. We contacted the Rotary Club of Kingaroy as soon as we heard the news to arrange assistance for Isobel. Kingaroy Rotary Club members were most helpful in offering care for Isobel with any assistance needed at such a tragic time. During times of personal loss far from home, Rotarians always step up without a second thought and this was no exception. We believe that Ian was unwell prior to his departure but in his own dogged way pushed on regardless.

Ian was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Daylesford who transferred to the Rotary club of Casterton in 2018. He also actively represented Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) as Communications officer. Ian was a creative, technically minded Rotarian, and full of fresh ideas to assist others, to get things done and to promote Rotary. We will continue with his latest project aimed to create awareness on the endangered Red Tailed Black Cockatoo. He recently drafted and sent us a detailed plan of the site where he proposed that we establish an information “centre” to highlight this environmental issue following his success in obtaining a significant grant of funds for the project. A suggestion has been made that we dedicate this project to the memory of Ian.

Vale Ian, we will miss you greatly and offer our sincere condolences and assistance to Isobel.

As we move into 2022/23 year, I’m pleased to report for the first time in 75 years that we will have multiple members from the Rotary Club of Casterton involved at “Rotary District level”. The late PP Robbie Greene (during the 1980s), along with another Casterton Rotarian (Wally, between 2010 – 2015), were previously active at District level with Rotary’s “Youth Exchange Committee” (RYE) but that’s about it; for 75 years this pair were the only Rotarians that I’m aware of, albeit 30 years apart, who have been active in formal District positions beyond the fantastic work done from our local base here in Casterton. The coming year will see the following Rotarians join people like DG Kathy and DGE Ian, who have both travelled here tonight from Ballarat and Mt Gambier. Our

district leadership team consists of Rotary Club members who have offered their skills, time and energy beyond club level. *“Imagine” that!*

Beyond club level we will have:-

- PP Daren Brown: who will be District Governor (DG) Kathy Rivett’s “Assistant Governor” (AG) D9780 (Group 1 - Representing clubs from Hamilton, Mt Gambier, Mt. Gambier West, Mt Gambier Lakes, Millicent and of course Casterton). Darren will bring his leadership skills to the role from past experience and training as a senior Victorian police officer also from his extended service as a member of Australia’s air-force. Thank you Darren.
- Rtn. Tonie Thiel, a career ‘adult educator and trainer’ will continue to utilise her vocational skills obtained during her career working in State and National positions with the Commonwealth Bank, Honda Australia and RACV. Tonie will continue as the Rotary 2022/23 District Leadership Trainer with DG Kathy to coach and work with Rotarians involved in club leadership roles. Thanks Tonie.
- Rtn. Andrew Seabrook: Andrew is a reasonably new Rotarian who is currently in line to be the “understudy” for A.G. Howard Randell, our district I.T. “guru”. Andrew has applied to take over part of Howard’s role in 2023/24 as a member of DG Ian McKay’s team ‘next’ year. Currently in demand and operating his own business based in Casterton, Andrew provides training, both on line and in person throughout the whole of Australia as an I.T and Training expert. Best wishes Andrew.

Congratulations Darren, Tonie and Andrew on your appointments. On behalf of your club members we wish you well and thank you all for your contribution to the bigger Rotary picture.

Looking back on 2021/22, which was “not quite” the “post pandemic” year we expected. Your achievements were many, skilfully planned and successfully achieved as one would expect of all assisting Rotary’s work locally, nationally and internationally. Your work was conducted on many fronts despite the pandemic conditions. You have accepted all the challenges that were thrown your way all year with good grace, energy and generosity. I thank all Casterton Rotarians for your friendship, dedication and efforts throughout the year. I am proud of your achievements and I hope that you too feel equally proud of your work.

Our Directors have enlisted the entire club with all projects this year, from planning to implementation to completion. Our regular meetings were in point of fact all “Directors Meetings”. As you have all contributed to our projects one way or another this year, we have broadly categorised and summarised our year’s work in the following pages rather than individual Director’s reports. I believe that the following ‘list’ represents most of the year that was headed for “the new normal”.

In closing, I would also like to congratulate and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Rotarians Sheryl-Lee Brown and Tony Thiel, both of whom have been recognised as Paul Harris Fellows this evening. Each have glowing testaments to their commitment as Rotarians, and we congratulate and thank them.

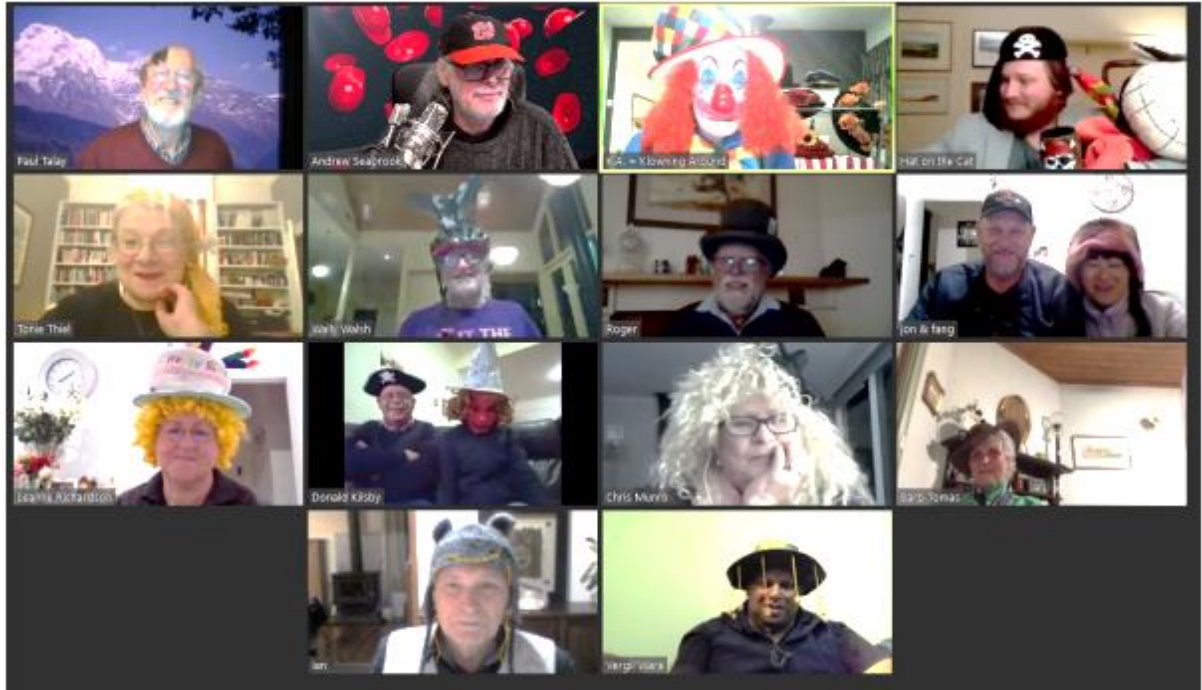
Wally Walsh
President 2021/22

Postscript: Congratulations to President Wally Walsh who was also recognised again as a Paul Harris Fellow, with presentation of a Sapphire pin in acknowledgement of his outstanding work for our Club and the District, and his dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

Our Rotary Year in Summary

MEDICAL MATTERS & ROTARY HEALTH:

- **Mental Health Awareness and research:** We held a 'Zoom' social event with members lifting their spirits and their peculiar hats to pledge money for the "Lifting the Lid on Mental Health" annual fund-raising campaign. This turned out to be even more successful than the usual face to face versions, raising a record amount for mental health research and awareness.



- **Balmoral Paramedics** – A Joint project initiated by the Rotary Club of Doncaster/Warrandyte to fund Training material in the small town of Balmoral. The equipment was eventually sourced independently.
- **Defibrillator** is kept serviced and maintained in order to be available for community use from outside the local Foodworks supermarket.
- **Cancer Research:** Hosted 40 cyclists on their Casterton Lunch at Island Park Community Kitchen stopover in town on their epic ride of more than 1000kms from Melbourne to the Barossa to raise funds for the "Live for Lily" foundation. An event which resulted overall in raising more than \$300,000.



ABOVE: Live for Lily Bike Riders, together with members of Casterton Rotary Club who provided lunches.

- **Emergency Medical Record Booklets (EMRB):** A Joint Project with Ambulance Vic and the Casterton Lions Club. Booklets provided to local residents.

YOUTH:

- **Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF):** Previously, we donated to the ILF a program that supports and encourages indigenous children to write in native languages, illustrate children's books and publishing the end result.



Following our cash donation to the project, and to continue our part this year, we purchased a supply of the ILF children's books, conducted a practice session during Rotary Meeting, (during DG John Clue's official club visit - pictured left), and conducted book readings at local Primary Schools.

The supply of books were then donated to Casterton schools.

- **Santa on the Town Hall Steps:** A Christmas program that has been run by Rotary since 1958. This year we distributed ice creams and treats at an outdoor venue on the steps of the Town Hall due to COVID restrictions.
- **Sport:** Donated Cricket Uniforms to the local youth Cricket teams following a request to update following the merger of Casterton & Sandford Clubs.
- **Art:** We encouraged our local students to enter our Kelpie Muster Art Show by providing a junior section again this year.
- **Combined Rotary/Lions event:** We again assisted at the Casterton Lions with their National "Lions Youth of the Year" local awards night. This annual call for Rotarians to assist the Casterton Lions club with judging was expanded this year to involve their Lions' District event. Both were both hosted in Casterton. We supplied 3 judges for their local event and a further 6 judges for the District event.
- **Defying the Drift:** Sponsored a local student to attend this program, a 3 day event which is designed to illustrate that young Australians can remain employed in the rural communities and not migrate to the cities. Ms Amber Spratling, after apparently needing a lot of initial parental encouragement, returned to provide our members with a most enthusiastic report at a club meeting (pictured right). During her address to our club, two members of the District's Defying the Drift Team took time out to travel to Casterton to support Amber.
- **Community Garden:** joint project with Casterton Primary School to erect an arbour. A work in progress that will continue in the Spring of 2022.



COMMUNITY:

- **Sandford Bush Music Festival:** Club members assisted again this year by donating towards cost of a marquee for the bush music 3-day annual event. Rotarians assisted by working to prepare the festival site, provide equipment and become the gate attendees during a long weekend of bush, folk and blues music at 'the Village'.

- **The J.T. O'Brien Award:** A Community Award presented on a semi regular basis to perpetuate the member of our former Rotarian John O'Brien. This year the award was presented to Mr Frank McInerney, a local quiet achiever for his unsung work in our community. Correctly suspecting that Frank may be too modest to attend our meeting to accept the J.T. O'Brien award, we offered a donation to his favourite charity as a 'bribe' suggesting that his presence was required to collect the donation. He appreciated the 'deceit' and graciously accepted his well-earned award.



- **Rotary Shed:** Our equipment has been progressively moved to our "Rotary Shed" in Island Park and remains under the 'control' of our "quartermaster" Jon Schill. Signage on the shed acknowledging our sponsors, the Glenelg Shire and Bendigo Bank has been installed. The shed received an upgrade thanks to Maintenance Officer Jon and PP Roger Dalby, with works including installation of electricity, running water and a small sink to enable greater usage. This facility was utilized in 2022 by the Kelpie Association to assist in providing a secure storage and a rest haven for volunteers during the town's major event – the Kelpie Muster.
- **Gala Opening of the Casterton Kelpie Association's (CKA) Kelpie Muster Weekend and the Casterton Rotary's Kelpie Art Acquisitive Art Show:** Following the forced closure of the 2020 and 2021 events, we managed to conduct the opening ceremony and four day art show, the first since 2019. The art show this year attracted in excess of 1,000 patrons, 145 entries, the work of three professional feature artists, Jason Roberts, Meagan Lonsdale and Brett Jarrett, with a record number of art sales. The benefits of the art show are many and probably obvious. They include support for Casterton's major tourism event, support for the CKA during the Kelpie Muster weekend, promote the town and district, and provides a platform for artists to exhibit their work with an opportunity to sell artworks. Of course, profits made from Commissions, door sales, raffles etc. are put to use by Rotary to "*Do good in the world*".

RotarArt: Rotarian "Artists" were again invited to participate in an exhibition conducted concurrently with the main Art Show event. Thanks to Leanne for this innovative idea to showcase our district Rotarians' artistic prowess.



L-R: People's Choice Winner – "A Time to Reflect" by Gayle Newcombe; Rtn Sheryl-Lee & Patron Hon.Dan Tehan MP; U12 Junior Winner Elsie Constantine receives her prize from Rotarians Darren & Sheryl-Lee.

ENVIRONMENT:

- **Endangered Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo (ERTBC):** With Jon Schill taking over the Directorship upon the retirement of Paul Talay, we embarked on a program to assist save the endangered local species of the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo.

A multi stage plan, currently being implemented has thus far involved advice from experts such as Bird Life Australia (BLA), DELWP, and others. Following an address by Former BLA member Tim Burnard (pictured right), Local DELWP Rotarians attended the Annual ERTBC count in May 2022 which took our members to Merino Forest and the Lower Glenelg National Park.



Currently we are working on a plan to establish an ERTBC information centre/kiosk to add to current publicity surrounding the need to save existing and create habitat, save nesting hollows, save and create more of the very selective ERTBC food source etc.

With the aid of a recent successful cash grant we may be able to covert a disused visitor information kiosk at the western end of town on the Glenelg Highway including landscaping. A case of watch this space.



- **Rotary Rest Point:** We continue to maintain Rotary Rest Point on the Banks of the Glenelg River in Tyers Street. adjacent to the Glenelg Highway Bridge. Apart from our usual regular ‘gardening and mowing’ this year we have repainted the Gazebo and added a number of new timber tables manufactured with the aid of the “Men’s Shed” organisation.



PICTURED ABOVE: Rotarians “sprucing up” Rotary Rest Point – a beautiful place for locals and visiting travellers alike.

RIGHT: Our Club enjoyed Christmas celebrations on the Bank of the Glenelg River, all appreciating the ambience of our upgraded venue.



PEACE:

- **Peace Pole:** We dedicated a peace pole in our "Rotary Rest Point" as part of an international Rotary program to create a focus on peace. A ceremony involving local students, local citizens, DG John Clue & AG Ian McKay was held at a launch ironically around the time that war broke out in Ukraine. Castertonians from a variety of languages all read the inscription recorded on the Peace Pole in their respective languages.
- **Vigil for Ukraine:** Former Mayor, and Glenelg Shire councillor Stephens came up with an idea to hold a vigil for war torn Ukraine with local students attending. Our only former Ukrainian resident currently providing refuge for her Ukrainian niece and her young child were present at an emotional ceremony.



The Process



MEMBERSHIP:

- New Members inducted this year were Della Gogoll and Milton Meiers; both unfortunately decided for totally separate personal reasons that Rotary was not for them. We wish them well and hope that they will remain friends of Rotary.
- Sadly, a long time Rotarian (prior to joining Casterton), our former International Director Paul Talay had to retire due to ill health. We wish you well Paul and thank you for your fine work at our club.
- Lifang Zhang has decided to remain a friend of Rotary and leave the up front Rotary work to her husband Jon Schill. We remain with 21 members including an honorary member.

JOINT OPERATIONS:

- Strathdownie Combined Group 1 Dinner: We resumed our combined annual dinner (pretend post COVID) with Hamilton, Millicent and the 3 Mt Gambier Clubs this year with fine catering by the Strathdownie Hall Committee.
- Combined Meeting with Hamilton Rotary Club: Held on the platform of the former Railway station at Coleraine, we enjoyed a great social occasion with members from both clubs, Casterton/Hamilton sharing a BBQ.
- Lions Club of Casterton: See above regarding the Medical Record booklets which have become a joint sponsorship Rotary/Lions project

FUNDRAISING: Refer Financial Report for details, but our fund raising this year included

- Raffles: Firewood – 2 raffles, Casterton Produce Raffle
- Chooklotto: Continues to produce eggs but with COVID and a shortage of coinage in use will need a change of thinking.

- “Free Bar”: at the Strathdownie event for NSW/Qld Flood appeal.
- Games night: an on line event with hats, supporting mental health.
- Art Show: a Major fundraiser.
- Casterton Club members continue to support the **Rotary Foundation** with contributions as Centurians and/or other contributions – supporting the *End Polio* eradication program.



DONATIONS: Refer Financial Report for details

- Donations (other than already detailed in this report) included Strathdownie Hall Committee, Casterton Playgroup and St.Vincent de Paul.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION & TRAINING

- Such was the impact of Covid on our operations, we even “commissioned” personalized Rotary masks; supporting a local business whilst ensuring that the Rotary flag still flew even though our ability to undertake much work in the community was curtailed.



- “Rotary Bites” – this was an excellent initiative by Rotarian Tonie Thiel who took the opportunity to inform and update our members knowledge of “all things Rotary”. Tonie employed her professional skills as a corporate trainer to provide a series of short but succinct presentations at the end of our meetings. Starting with the history of Rotary and its ethos, she took us through such topics as “The 7 Areas of Service”, “Creating Opportunities for Youth”, “The 4 Way Test”, “Rotary’s status with UNESCO”, and much more.



Tonie also helped lessen the stress of many a Zoom meeting, coming up with fun competitions online and actual inhouse games (always with great prizes generously donated by her and Wally). We thank you most sincerely Tonie for all the hard work of preparing and presenting this great program.

- We trialled our first “Hybrid Meeting” (the technology “almost” worked seamlessly).
- Our inimitable “Sgt at Arms” Shane again helped get us through a tough year by bringing colour, fun and innovation to “The Fines Session” – all the time ensuring extra funds in the fines box to fill our coffers. Appreciation also to those who provided many items of produce and preserves (especially Jean) which facilitated many an enthusiastic “auction”. Thank you Sergeant Shane; we salute you.



MARRIAGE (a Rotary wedding):

- A RotaryDue Wedding: due to COVID restrictions, Darren Brown and Sheryl-Lee Connolly were to be our “1st Rotary Club of Casterton Wedding” involving both Rotarians from within the club. Following 2 cancellations they finally **did** get married but as a group we were unable to celebrate with them in a fit and proper manner. *Previously we set them up with a practice wedding pre-COVID with Darren as the Bride and Sheryl-Lee as the groom but that doesn’t count in the overall scheme. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Brown. We will catch up on those celebrations.*



Financial Report 2021/22

The members of the Casterton Rotary Club remain committed to the Rotary vision as we continue to strive to make the world a better place for all.

Whilst our fundraising activities have been curtailed in the past couple of years, we have managed to raise funds with chooklotto \$1889.00, Hat Day for mental health \$500.00 and the bar at the combined Rotary dinner at Strathdownie \$1326.70.

Our collection jars around town continue to collect small change from the public to go to Rotary causes, this year amounting to \$166.00.

Members continue to support the Rotary Foundation and this year we were able to contribute \$1958.00 to the eradication of polio.

Our major fundraiser this year being the Rotary Kelpie Art Show back after a covid pause for a couple of years. Members have put an amazing amount of hours to bring the art show to fruition. This year giving us a profit of \$5358.19.

Donations have again been given to a number of causes namely the Strathdownie Hall Committee \$200.00, Sandford Bush Music Festival \$500.00, Casterton Playgroup \$200.00, St Vincent De Paul \$200.00, RAWCS Australia Flood relief \$1826.70 and Mental Health \$500.00, Indigenous Literacy \$349.83.

Defying the Drift is a youth program for young rural people encouraging them to stay local in the agricultural industry. Rotary Casterton was pleased that Amber Spratling took up our offer of \$250.00 for her to be able to attend this program. Well done Amber.

At the time of writing 17/06/22 the Rotary Club of Casterton's funds are made up of Cheque Account \$8776.09 and Term Deposit \$12466.01.

Chris Munro
Treasurer.

The Gong

Presented on occasion of Charter



with the hand engraved inscription

*Presented By
Hamilton Rotary Club
To
Easterton Rotary Club
-1947-*

Still in use today!

ROTARY'S 75 YEARS IN CASTERTON

July 1947 – July 2022

As our Rotary Club celebrates 75 Years of Service to the local community, we reflect of some of the many projects that have impacted Casterton during those years. In addition, the more than 260 members of our club have also supported many Rotary International projects.

ROTARIANS, Roger Dalby and Barb Toma, proudly present updated signage welcoming travellers to the 'Birthplace of the Kelpie', to reflect the Rotary Club's 75 years in Casterton. The club originally commissioned the signage – which stands at either end of the town's CBD – in 1997 to commemorate its 50th anniversary. Photo: JAMES THOMPSON,



Casterton News

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"The Casterton News" 6/7/2022.

Casterton Rotary Club was formed in 1947, under the guidance of the Hamilton Club. It started with 18 well known professionals and businessmen (there were not women allowed in those days!) and the names Anderson, Baxter, Bryan, Cushing, Gwynne, Hill, Jeffreys, Knight, Mabbitt, Mierisch, Millikan, Murrell, McAllister, Newton, Peden, Pinnell, Rowan and Stooke will still be familiar to many. They represented retailers of agricultural implements, confectionery, clothing, grocery, jewellery, butchers, automobiles and building supplies; manufacturers and the professions of banking, civil engineering, accounting, physician/surgeon, dentistry, law and stock & station agency. An impressive range of knowledge and ability which was put to good use by these volunteers.

The first induction of a new member took place in February 1948 – being one John Hughes who was a local chemist and much respected member of the Casterton community. He served as a dedicated and fully involved Rotarian for 63 years until his passing in 2011, and is our longest ever serving member to date.

As with many clubs in those days it was "men only", but having said that, "the ladies" (as they were referred to) were very instrumental in ensuring the success of many projects. Thankfully, society has moved on, and women and men now work as one in their service to communities; and members from all walks of life participate in service clubs throughout the world.

During the first few years, emphasis was on developing the club and records indicate projects such as providing transport and outings for elderly people, and supporting the Vice Regal Band, Hospital, Red Cross, School Libraries and Youth activities. In 1954, with Mr. Hughes at the helm, the first major fundraising project – a Car Raffle, was organised to raise funds to assist in developing an "Old Folks Home" in Casterton (now Edgarley). There were 200 tickets sold @ £10 (\$20).

Sponsoring trips to the Lord Mayor's Portsea Camp was another major initiative during the 1950's and 60's; giving country children the opportunity to attend the camp for 10-12 days.

It is generally acknowledged that one of the Casterton Rotary Club's major logistical achievements occurred in 1956, when a specially commissioned train was organised to transport 454 local students to the Olympic Games in Melbourne. At a cost of £1700 (\$3400), the children, accompanied by 107 adults, enjoyed a day at the Swimming and then Athletics at MCG (meals provided) and the added bonus of a visit to HMAS Melbourne. Great effort for a small club under the presidency of Arthur Goode – who didn't even get to go! His daughter Janet Kerr remembers the effort (and that she didn't even get to go either), and the relief her father felt when that train arrived back in Casterton – all on board – at 2.35am.

In this same Rotary year, a major Road Safety Program was organised with 800 children bussed into Casterton for the very successful event.

Lots happening in the local community in the 1950's – including the construction of a new Swimming Pool near Ess Lagoon. The Rotary Club donated a ton of cement to support the project. The pool is long gone; but the old change-rooms still stand and are still utilised by Casterton Smallbore Club.



Photo: Courtesy of Pat Talbot (nee Maher)- 1950's: George Maher, builder of the swimming pool, with his children enjoying a swim (Pat is looking at camera).

Always ready to support the Casterton Vice Regal Band, Rotary sponsored transport for the Band to perform at South Street Ballarat competitions, as well as enabling the Band's Marching Girls to participate in statewide competition.



The first distribution of sweets & ice creams to children on Christmas Eve took place in 1958 as part of a Gala night in Henty Street and was such a success it was decided to make it an annual event; one that is still appreciated today. The venue was Island Park for many years but returned to

the Town Hall in Henty Street in the late 1980's. Records of how many children have attended these evenings each year has not been kept but it was noted that in 1965 some 500 children were present, and in 1988, 330 lolly bags were distributed.

In 1959 the Youth Club hall (which was then on corner of Murray & McPherson Streets) burned down. Rotary assisted with the rebuild on the new site provided by the Shire in Jackson Street.

At end of 1950's discussion was underway regarding need for an Historical Society; Trustees were appointed for a Basketball Association; a Disaster Plan for the district was well underway; suggestions were considered for a Tourist Guide at top of Muntham Hill; and Youth Club activities were supported – including boxing and wrestling!

A caravan was raffled in 1960 to raise funds for the hospital. A new swimming pool was being constructed at Island Park by the mid 60's, with Rotary providing the fencing. A new wing was put on the Scout Hall, and Rotary provided the lining.

Mid 1960's saw the introduction of the Youth Exchange Program in Casterton with the first student from Casterton High School, Eril Reid travelling to the Phillipines in 1965 and the first arrival being Rita Miller from USA in 1967. In total 17 outbound and 16 inbound students have been part of this wonderful program.

The Rotary Club has been instrumental in the charter of other service clubs in the town over the years, including Apex and Rotaract, both of which are no longer active – but each served the community well. Not least being Apex's introduction of the concept of a Working Dog Auction which, as we all know has become the famous Kelpie Muster!

Rotary was also instrumental in the formation of an Historical Society for the town, and Probus Clubs were formed in both Coleraine and Casterton, providing an avenue of friendship, fellowship and fun for retired persons in both communities.

The 1970's saw investigation by Rotary into the possibility of a Meals on Wheels service for Casterton; a facilitation that saw its successful implementation and ongoing success. The Casterton Memorial Hospital still provides the service more than 50 years on.

This was a decade that saw the Rotary Club providing support for Shire and other organisations with new initiatives such as the Senior Citizens Rooms, Ambulance Station, electric lighting of the Scout Emblem, new Swimming Pool, Casterton Family Leisure & Sporting Centre, development of the Hospital Common and one very close to Rotarians own hearts – the development of Rotary Rest Point on the banks of the Glenelg River “as a tourist rendezvous”.

A plethora of other projects continued to be supported and maintained, including provision of playground equipment to the Kindergarten, a lifting machine to the Hospital, painting the rubbish tins in Henty Street, cemetery clean ups, Exchange Students sent and welcomed, Group Study Exchange visits, Vocational and Community awards to deserving recipients, organisation of day trips for the elderly,

There were Golf Days, Balls and Woolshed Dances, Raffles, Social days (and nights), manning of gates, catering. But in the mid 70's the most lucrative fundraiser was the gathering and bagging of sheep manure!

Donations continued locally for Ambulance, Senior Citizens, Edgarley, Casterton Hospital, Vice Regal Band, Scholarships, Chamber of Commerce, charity appeals, students to attend the Lord Mayor's Portsea camp, Swimming Pool, St Johns Ambulance, Mulleraterong Sheltered Workshop, Scouts & Guides, local Schools, Bushfire relief, Visitor's Information Centre; and many more.

Having already sent Eril Reid and Bryony Edwards overseas through the Rotary Youth Exchange program in the late 1960s – the club gained momentum in the 1970's with Neville Cowland, Ian Bond, Meredith Gill, Ken Allan, and Greg Earl travelling from our town.



ABOVE: Casterton Rotary president Mr. Robbie Greene hands over the keys of the ST. John Ambulance unit to Superintendent Cyrus Williams. BELOW: The unit with the Rotary Insignia being admired by Mr. Allan Peskett.

In 1977 the Rotary Club purchased and donated an “Ambulance” for use by St. John’s Volunteer First Aid Unit. St. John’s operated in Casterton from 1969 until late 1990’s and enabled local events to meet obligations regarding first aid facilities at no charge (or donation); whilst use of actual Ambulance Victoria required payment of a service fee. Such activities as local races, polocrosse, school sports, cycling, football, festivals and the like benefitted.

The new Mobile Unit, or “Pie Cart”, as it was affectionately known by the St. John volunteers due to its origins as a bakers van, meant that those on duty no longer had to use their own vehicles to transport the injured.

Rotary’s donation of the van was very much appreciated, but its horsepower was a little underwhelming, with recollections by past first aider Ann Munro recalling the time they were accompanying the Casterton 50 Cycle Race and a cyclist overtook them (waving as he went by) whilst climbing Muntham Hill; and when volunteer Jean Black and others in their lovely white uniforms had to push it out of a bog at Runnymede during a Hunt meet.

In 1979, Rotarian Adrian Bunnik travelled to New Guinea under the Rotary Australia World Community Service program to assist in the building of a hospital.

Being able to assist those in need by working and living with people in neighbouring country for 10 days was the experience of a lifetime.

The 1980’s saw more Youth Exchanges, with local students Marion Baulch, Belinda Brown, Dean Murphy, Sophie Tischler and Jenelle Currie amongst those who travelled to live in another country with host parents for a year.

The disastrous events of 1982/83 with a serious drought, followed by the Ash Wednesday fires in February 1983 saw the whole community working on Disaster Aid, and Rotary rose to the occasion with as much support as possible.

Individual students have regularly benefitted from various leadership programs, science schools, sporting subsidies, exchanges, whilst Rotary has also always been supportive of all Youth oriented programs in the community such as Scouts & Guides, Little Athletics, Skate Park and the many sporting clubs of our district.

Many locals remember going to the Drive-in in the late-80’s to see the Cassius Clay film “The Greatest”. This was one of Rotary’s organised “youth” projects, utilizing Jack McCallum’s bus.

In 1985 it was decided to form a Rotaract Club (Rotary’s youth service partner for young people aged between 18 and 30) and in May of that year the new group of young people formed the Rotaract Club of Casterton with Philip Cleary as their president. The Rotoractors undertook many projects of note and had great fun during their years of operation.

In the mid 80's Rotary organised a major Trade Fair in the Casterton Town Hall, as well as a 2-day Hobby, Art & Craft Fair. There was nomination of two representatives to the Shire of Glenelg's Community Bicentennial committee; and Rotarian Robbie Greene was the Chairman of the 150th Celebrations.

By the 1990's the development of a Walking Track from Rotary Rest Point was on the agenda; and trees under the Preserve Planet Earth project sent to five local schools. There were clean-ups at the cemetery and the river front; and another Art Show held.

Still organising Youth Exchange, the Rotary Club undertook to organise the District's Youth Exchange Camp and activities at Hall's Gap. This decade saw a further three locals, Anna Flanders, Jessica Hill and Josh Richardson go on the exchange program.

Charles Walsh (2010) and Andrew Walsh (2012) finalise our list to date of outbound Youth Exchange students. In addition to the list already mentioned in this article there have been 17 inbound students who have enjoyed joining the many local families who so generously hosted them; bringing their culture to our community and broadening our knowledge of each of the countries they represented – Rita Miller (USA), Junko Tamada (Japan), Rick Robinson (USA), Michiko Yanagisawa (Japan), Valerie Roth (Canada), Tony van Haldren (South Africa), Eric van Duin (Holland), Anne Maree Keikkinen (Finland), Michelle Booth (South Africa), Masato Kobayashi (Japan), Ulla Ilvejsel (Denmark), Daniel Aguilar (Mexico), Karin Lonstrup (Denmark), Venla Haapala (Finland), Max Wildon (Germany) and Nathali Hakansson (Sweden).

To commemorate its 50th Anniversary in 1997, the Rotary Club commissioned the signage that acknowledges our town as "The Birthplace of the Kelpie" and is situated at either end of Casterton's CBD. A time capsule was also laid at this time; to be "rediscovered" in 2047.

In addition to our commitment to the local community, Rotary International is our overseeing body, and we support amazing programs through their worldwide network - humanitarian, educational, health, environment are some of our focus, providing funding to make the world a better place. Look up www.Rotary.org and you too will be amazed.

As we moved into a new Century, the Rotary Club continued with its support of all local amenities and organisations; with regular activities such as the "Bowelscan" program and annual Car Raffle fundraiser just some of the annual efforts familiar to all.

The new decade saw us construct a shelter for a restored WW2 Howitzer Gun at the Museum; provide an old train carriage for the Railway Precinct, construct a new Rotunda and install playground equipment at Rotary Rest Point

Also occurring in this time was the beginning of a new era of administration, with many of the old formal meeting traditions making way for modernization, the introduction of new technologies and acceptance of a more relaxed Rotary.

The last decade saw us commence a regular Community Market (now discontinued); co-create the now very successful Bi-annual M.A.G.I.C (Music Art Gardens In Casterton) event; and take over full organisation of the Kelpie Festival's Annual Art Show.

As well as ongoing traditional fundraising and support of a plethora of charities both locally and



Youth Exchange Student 1971 Rick Robinson from USA returned to visit the Rotary Club of Casterton after 40 years; saying that he loved his time in Casterton and that it changed his life forever. Rick is pictured above right during 2011 visit chatting with Rotarian Doug and Betty Coulter.

overseas, our Rotarians continue to be very active at District level, ensuring that the bigger Rotary organization functions well.

More recent projects and innovation for our Club include installation of seats at the Casterton Cenotaph, small fundraising innovations such as 5c Coin and International Coin collections jars, “Chooklotto”, support for fire and flood devastation throughout Australia, installation of a Peace Pole at Rotary Rest Point and some new projects currently to watch for being a combined Casterton Primary School project at the Community Garden, and a revamped Interpretive Information Kiosk at the western end of town.

This is but a “potted” version of the many, many undertakings of Rotarians through our local Club; and apologies to those who have been part of many other projects that have been omitted in this summary.

The Club maintains a History which was last published in 2017 as part of our 70 year Anniversary celebration, thanks to the dedication of our Historian Robbie Greene. Sadly PP Robbie, a most valued and respected member who had joined Rotary in 1970 and who would have normally been excitedly producing a history of our 75 years, passed away in his 50th year as a member. He was honoured for his exemplary and outstanding work as a Rotarian with a Memorial dedication held on what would have been his Rotary anniversary in November 2020.

A compendium has now been compiled of that entire publication, revised and updated with recent information and provision made to enable annual updates, ensuring this valuable history of our community is retained for posterity.

Our Rotary Club has celebrated the 75th Anniversary in conjunction with this year’s presentation of the 75th Annual Report and Changeover Dinner. When deciding a format for celebrating this outstanding achievement of three-quarters of a Century, the Covid-19 pandemic was still a consideration, and in a decision not taken lightly, it was decided to restrict celebrations accordingly.

Signage at the entrances to the CBD in Henty Street (originally installed as part of our 50th year celebrations in 1997) has been updated to reflect our 75years of Service to the Community; and a shop front display in Casterton’s CBD has displayed information and memorabilia during our Anniversary month of July.

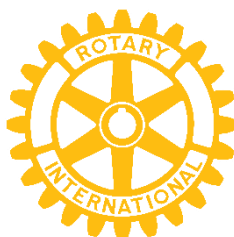
Our sincere thanks must go to the community - individuals, businesses, clubs and groups for their ongoing support of our local and Rotary International projects, and we look forward to Serving the Casterton and District for many more years.

We acknowledge all Rotarians who have come before us in making the Rotary Club of Casterton an organisation to be proud of, and look forward to welcoming those who will in the future continue the ethos of “Service Above Self”.



Our Casterton Exchange Student Honour Board

1965	Errol Reid	to	Philippines
1967	Rita Miller	from	U.S.A
1968	Bryony Edwards	to	Canada
1969	Junko Tamada	from	Japan
1970	Neville Cowland	to	Canada
1971	Rick Robinson	from	U.S.A
1972	Ian Bond	to	Canada
1973	Meredith Gill	to	Japan
1974	Ken Allan	to	Japan
1975	Michiko Yanagisawa	from	Japan
1976	Greg Earl	to	Philippines
1978	Valerie Roth	from	Canada
1980	Marion Baulch	to	U.S.A
1982	Tony van Haldren	from	South Africa
1983	Belinda Brown	to	Japan
1983	Eric van Duin	from	Holland
1985	Dean Murphy	to	South Africa
1986	Anne Maree Keikkinen	from	Finland
1987	Sophie Tischler	to	Finland
1988	Michelle Booth	from	South Africa
1988	Jenelle Currie	to	Brazil
1989	Masato Kobayashi	from	Japan
1991	Anna Flanders	to	Denmark
1992	Ulla Ilvejsel	from	Denmark
1995	Jessica Hill	to	Mexico
1997	Daniel Aguilar	from	Mexico
1998	Josh Richardson	to	U.S.A
1999	Karin Lonstrup	from	Denmark
2009	Venla Haapala	from	Finland
2010	Charles Walsh	to	Germany
2011	Max Wildon	from	Germany
2012	Andrew Walsh	to	Sweden
2013	Nathali Hakansson	from	Sweden



☞ Vale ☛

Ian Esmore

Passed away July 11th 2022



GONE TO HIGHER SERVICE

Ian & Isobel arrived in Casterton on the day of our Rotary Club's 70th Anniversary Changeover Dinner 5 years ago (16/7/2017); and being a Rotarian (Daylesford), Ian decided they would attend to see what our club "was about".

He was obviously impressed, transferring his Rotary membership and being duly inducted into The Rotary Club of Casterton on 23rd June 2018. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise as a Rotarian, being Past President and a Paul Harris Fellow, as well currently being actively involved in Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) as Communications officer.

Not only an informed and wise Rotarian, Ian has been innovative within our club during the 4 years of his membership, being mentioned in our Annual Reports by successive Presidents.

- President Shane in 2018 noted Ian as a new member, stating *"that when able, always volunteers and I have noticed he is not afraid to think outside the square which could see some innovative projects for our club"*.
- The next year President Darren mentioned Ian as one of a team *"who took the initiative and did some training and researchthat we are now the proud owners of new IT equipment and recipients of a substantial amount of money which will go towards our storage shed project in Island Park."*
- President Sheryl-Lee included this sentence in her 2020 Annual Report – *"Whilst all our Rotarians contribute to International projects, I would like to take this opportunity to mention the contribution of our member Ian Esmore as Southern Region Communications Co-ordinator of RAWCS"*; and last year, 2021,
- President Peter's report mentioned Ian (and Isobel) as being *site organisers* (for the M.A.G.I.C that didn't eventuate), that he was *"chief negotiator"* for the final phase of "The Shed", and was thanked in reference to Covid meeting management *for expertly running Zoom meetings during this time!*

Sadly, this year 2022 President Wally has had write the final chapter of Ian's contribution as a wonderful Rotarian [Refer Page 9 of this Report].

We remember and pay tribute to Ian – Rest In Peace our friend.