

Rotary Club of Maryborough

Annual Report

2018 – 2019

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President's Report

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the President of Maryborough Rotary over the last 12 months and I thank all members for the support and encouragement I have received. I would especially like to thank my hard-working Board members whom I could always depend on for their help, guidance and advice. With a fantastic, conscientious Secretary, diligent Treasurer and great Directors of Committees, my job was made easy.

Also, having the District Governor, a past District Governor and Assistant Governor in our Club, meant that information on all things Rotary was never far away.

I was pleased to induct 2 new members during the year; PP Heather Blackman from the RC St Arnaud and PP Brian Reid from RC Bundoora. Both Heather and Brian and Brian's wife Robyn have already proved to be valuable assets to our club and we welcome them into our Rotary family.

On a sad note, our club said farewell to PP PHF Bob Osborne OAM in January, whose amazing contribution, both to Rotary and the community at large, will be sadly missed. But Bob was also my mentor and friend and is particularly missed by me personally. He was always there with his experience and wise words of counsel. Vale Bob.

And just last week we were saddened by the death of PP PHF John Selmon, an Honorary Life Member, who served in many roles during his active years with the Club. John was also a great worker for the Bowelscan program and both he and his wife Alma hosted many Rotary Exchange students over the years. Vale John

Well what a year we have had, challenged by RI President Barry Rassin's theme to "Be the Inspiration" and also challenged to promote our Public Image. Hence our monthly full pages in the Advertiser, and can I sincerely thank Chris Frahn and Sue Bates for their excellent work in setting up those pages and the management and staff of the Maryborough Advertiser for the support and space they give to us and to all organisations in our community.

It has certainly been inspiring to be the Home of the DG Anthony Ohlsen, and to support Anthony to again have the opportunity to showcase Maryborough by organising and running a Rotary District 9780 Conference here in March. The outstanding success of this event was due to the club working together with Partners and Friends of Rotary and with the amazing support of so many sponsors. We thank them all.

We were also happy to donate to Kerrie's DG Partner's project, which was to support Neil Daniher's Motor Neurone Disease fund. We congratulate Kerrie on her efforts.

We have also continued to donate to the Rotary Foundation, our own inspiring Rotary International Charity, which again, this year, was voted one of the top Charities in the world.

It was great to see seven of our members and one Friend of Rotary given PHF recognitions at the Club Changeover. Rob Bursill, David Hare and Robyn Jennings were recognised with their first pin, Derrick Marsden, Garry Higgins and Graeme Rogan with Sapphire pins and Thea Allan and Anthony Ohlsen with a Double Sapphire.

We congratulate these very worthy recipients who have all had \$US1,000 donated to the Rotary Foundation on their behalf.

And, of course, we donate to the Polio Plus campaign, Rotary International's signature project. There have only been 32 cases reported this year in the difficult countries of Pakistan

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and Afghanistan. From 1,000 new cases a day reported in the 1980s, after millions of children vaccinated around the world, Rotary is committed to seeing an end to this devastating and debilitating disease.

Our own Club has worked hard to “Be the Inspiration” in so many ways this year. However, I do want to make particular mention of how inspiring it was, at the start of the year, to work with so many other volunteer groups and businesses in the Maryborough Community and District, to raise funds for Drought Relief for Australian farmers. Working together, we achieved amazing outcomes for those in need. We can be proud of this community we live in!

And I do thank the Maryborough Lions Club for inviting me to be a judge in the Lions Youth of the Year District Final. Again, it was a privilege to work with others in the community, and I congratulate them on giving young people that amazing opportunity.

Under Community Service, Maryborough Rotary has supported the Energy Breakthrough, Maryborough Spring Fling, Maryborough Garden Club, Maryborough Probus, Girl Guides, Ballarat Swap Meet and the South Pacific Veteran’s Bike Ride, run BBQs and cooked pancakes at Australia day celebrations, managed Brian Dowie Park, delivered kits around the District for the Bowelscan program, provided baby books for the Hospital, funds for “Buddy Seats” at MEC and Raised Garden beds at Havilah on Palmerston, organised and run a very successful Pyrenees Bike Ride, Oaks Day event, Rock and Roll Dance, and New Year’s Eve dance at the Town Hall. We also have funds ready to donate to the Maryborough Ambulance Transfer Station appeal at their upcoming Launch in July.

But, of course, our signature community project is our #Say No 2 Family Violence Project, championed by Garry Higgins and his committee, who have worked tirelessly in conjunction with Go Goldfields, CGSC, MDHS and others towards making an impact in our community against this terrible problem. Our project is spreading to other Rotary Clubs in our District and was deservedly recognised with an Australian Government Volunteer Award this year.

Under the Vocational Service banner this year, we visited Parkview Bakery, where we were lucky enough to eat the pies that we saw baked, and the CFA Command Centre to whom we donated funds towards a new computer.

Our Pride of Workmanship Awards also recognised members of the CFA this year for their great service to local communities.

And our own Bob Osborne was posthumously awarded a Shine On award for service to society despite personal difficulties.

Internationally, we have donated funds to the flood appeals in Indonesia and Mozambique through Disaster Aide Australia, to Aquabox, to provide uncontaminated water, to Donations in Kind to send a container of goods overseas, to a Surabaya Orphanage and to the Peace Scholars program. We again ran a workshop to make menstruation packs for the Days for Girls program and we thank MEC for the use of their facilities and Zonta and Red Cross ladies for their support. Sadly, our instructor and friend, Margaret Cunningham, recently passed away. Her dedication to this program was inspiring. We are currently planning a project in Sri Lanka for the future.

We have continued to support local Youth with our Leadership Instruction for Teens Programs, Indigenous Youth Camp at Maldon in conjunction with the Police, RYPEN camp at Creswick for 14 to 17 year olds, MEC Literacy Program, Highview Music program, Art and Community Service Scholarships to both Secondary Schools and the Goldfields Employment and Learning Centre. We have also sent students to take part in the Defying the Drift Program, a wonderful program to encourage careers in the Agricultural area, and a student to the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra.

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A long list to be inspired by, and I'm sure our members, like myself, will be amazed to see listed just what we have achieved in a year: and we are one small club out of 33,000 worldwide doing good in the world!

Throughout it all we were challenged and entertained by great guest speakers and there was fun and fellowship whilst we served, plus social activities such as Theatre nights, dinners, Christmas in July, a Trivia night, dances, a fun hat night, games night, social Barbeque and drinks, Croquet night and Christmas celebrations.

That leaves me with only my final thanks:

I have mentioned my gratitude to Board members, but I would like to acknowledge others who have fulfilled important roles this year.

- We must sincerely thank the Havilah volunteers, who catered so willingly and well for our meals each week. Now there is a group of workers who know the meaning of "Service above Self".
- Brian Thomas, for his great work keeping us informed and up to date with the Club Bulletin.
- The monthly Meeting Chairs, who kept us on track and provided fun at meetings, each in their own style.
- Peter Haywood and Shane Dellavedova, for their help with program organisation.
- Rob Bursill, for keeping the bar stocked.
- Esther Waters, our official greeter, always early to help set up and part-time waitress.
- Trace Smith, our Fun organiser.
- Thea Allan, for managing our Facebook page so well.
- Geoff James, for leadership in Club Planning and the amazing work he has done documenting our new Strategic Plan, updating and creating booklets of Club Guidelines and Role descriptions and his creation of our fantastic club website which he keeps updated weekly. He also has my personal thanks, of course, for all his love and support and encouragement throughout the year. He has always been there for me if the going got tough.

Thank you all for Being the Inspiration in so many ways this year and for being My Inspiration in particular.

I wish President Elect Leigh and his Board all the best for the 2019-2020 year and can assure him that he has the support of all members of this great club behind him, as we work together under the new theme to Connect the World.

Meryl James

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Vice-President's Report

Meeting refreshments were well catered for by Committee members Rob Bursill and Murray Henderson, and a good selection of beers, wines and soft drinks was available.

The Rotary Airport shed was cleaned up and made more presentable by members Murray Henderson, Peter Haywood, Martin McKay, Rob Bursill and Bob Butterfield. The afternoon task was completed in a couple of hours and trash was removed by Greg Duffin from Bristol Hill Motor Inn.

Brian Thomas reported for the bulletin throughout the year. Brian's many articles were of great interest and topics of speakers at our Thursday evening meetings were well covered in his writings.

The Honour Board is nearing the final stages of completion. Special thanks go to Tom Davies for his assistance in designing the boards and to Chris Frahn for printing the names and positions held by Rotarians.

The erection of the boards at Havilah will be carried out by Havilah employee Steve. A special thanks to Steve and Havilah for making it possible.

A big thank you to Geoff and Meryl for their organisational attributes in recording attendance, scheduling of meetings and events and also the preparation for each meeting's requirements.

A special thanks to all on the Administrative Committee for a job well done in 2019. Without dedicated voices and opinions our committee would not have functioned as it has this year. Again thank you to all: Thea Allen, Rob Bursill, Murray Henderson, David Hare, Ted Edwards, Brian Thomas, Leigh Williamson

Bob Butterfield

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Secretary's Report

The past twelve months have been very busy for your Secretary.

Not only did I have my Club responsibilities, but in addition I was Treasurer for our District RYLA Committee and Treasurer for the IFCR 2019 Melbourne World Cricket Festival.

During the year, duties for the Club included the following:

- Attending to inward and outward correspondence.
- Recording Attendance and Make-Ups.
- Advising Havilah dinner meeting numbers.
- Preparation of Board Meeting Agenda's and Minutes
- Attending to Semi-Annual returns for Rotary International and Rotary Down Under.
- Notification of new and retiring members to Rotary International, District 9780 and Rotary Down Under.

Once again PDG PHF Geoff James has been a major contributor in many areas of administration within the Club.

Congratulations to President, Meryl James, for her very busy year with interesting programs and guest speakers.

A very special thank you to all the Board Members for their time and expertise in the running of our Club.

We look forward to the New Rotary Year under President Leigh Williams.

Thank you to all members for your fellowship during 2018-2019.

Derrick Marsden

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Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

<i>Bendigo Bank Account</i>	
<i>Bendigo Bank Debit Card</i>	1,711.17
<i>Bendigo Bank Account - Other</i>	(6,543.64)
<i>Bendigo Bank Fundraising Account</i>	29,703.45
<i>Bendigo Bank General Account</i>	21,348.06
<i>Bendigo Bank Savings Account</i>	30,304.05
<i>Coin Tin</i>	(263.95)
<i>Total Bendigo Bank Account</i>	76,259.14

TOTAL ASSETS 76,259.14

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable (13,246.71)

Total Current Liabilities (13,246.71)

TOTAL LIABILITIES (13,246.71)

NETT ASSETS 89,505.85

EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity 69,716.08

Retained Earnings 12,240.07

Nett Income 7,549.70

TOTAL EQUITY 89,505.85

Profit & Loss

Ordinary Income/Expense

INCOME

Donation from Members 275.00

Donations 1,455.00

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<i>Egg auction</i>	30.00
<i>Emergency books</i>	65.00
 <i>Income From Community Events</i>	
<i>Ballarat Swap Meet Hired Hands</i>	2519.40
<i>BBQ Sales</i>	216.70
<i>BowelScan</i>	4,705.00
<i>Days for Girls</i>	266.00
<i>Family Violence Bands & Badges</i>	330.00
<i>Family Violence Donations</i>	14,063.85
<i>Hire of Town Hall refund</i>	250.00
<i>Melbourne Cup Oaks day</i>	2,242.70
<i>Pyrenees Bike Ride fees</i>	7,182.46
<i>RACV Energy Breakthrough</i>	5,611.00
<i>RC Ballarat South Raffle</i>	931.80
<i>Rock & Roll Dance Tickets</i>	2,799.00
<i>Farmers Drought Relief Fund</i>	10,685.15
<i>Trivia Night</i>	1,601.00
<i>Veterans Cycling Event</i>	436.00
<i>Other Income Community Events</i>	2,396.30
<i>Total Income Community Events</i>	53,480.06
 <i>Income From Members</i>	
<i>Bar</i>	2,772.50
<i>Changeover Dinner Fees</i>	5,565.00
<i>Dinner Fees</i>	24,371.10
<i>Fines & Spare Change</i>	720.80
<i>Membership Dues</i>	6,220.00
<i>Other Income (Raffle, Footy Tips, etc.)</i>	2,967.30
<i>Total income from Members</i>	42,616.70
 <i>Income To Rotary Programmes</i>	
<i>Film Night</i>	1,400.00
<i>Polio Plus</i>	1,200.00
<i>Youth Exchange Weekend</i>	500.00
<i>Total Income Rotary Programmes</i>	3,100.00
<i>Other Income (Interest, Reimbursements)</i>	3,368.62
TOTAL INCOME	107,270.88

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EXPENSE

<i>Programme expenses</i>		<i>31,615.39</i>
<i>Members expenses</i>	<i>37,439.13</i>	
<i>Rotary programmes</i>	<i>11,064.00</i>	
<i>Support to other programmes</i>	<i>7,774.36</i>	
<i>Overhead costs</i>	<i>9,864.82</i>	
<i>Merchant Fees, Other Expenses</i>	<i>803.48</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		98,561.82

Graeme Rogan

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Strategic Planning Report

Maryborough Rotary completed its 2015-2019 Strategic Plan at the end of June 2019, and committees can be satisfied that they have completed over 80 per cent of the goals and objectives set during those previous five years and, in particular, the specific objectives for 2018-19 - as will be evidenced in the other reports in this Annual Planning document.

It is pleasing to see an increasing number of committees using the Meeting Agenda/Minutes templates based on the annual objectives for each committee. We will continue to refine these so they become a tool that makes it easier to have good governance in our club.

During 2018-19, we made a number of changes to our planning procedures and the format of our planning documents. These changes will be expressed in the new set of plans for the 2019-23 Rotary years, and especially for our new Action Plan for 2019-20.

- We aligned our vision and mission statements with those of Rotary International and of our District (9780).
- We introduced an additional one-page strategic plan statement which contains just four major goals (based on the four main goals of Rotary International) and a number of general strategies under each goal. These are aligned closely with the new set of strategies produced by the District. These measures will help us to better model and highlight the latest developments in Rotary at the International and District levels. In practice, it will mean there are two parts to our club planning documents - a general strategic plan (with goals and general strategies) and a specific "Action Plan" with objectives listed under each of the 11 standing committees of the club.
- We introduced a planning committee of five members to oversee and monitor the planning process in our club. Previously we only had a single planning coordinator. Through this committee we will now have a number of members who have a handle on the planning processes in our club.

We held our Club Visioning event early in June and were delighted that PDG Jessie Harman was able to come and facilitate this activity. Thank you, Jessie.

As happened last year, our planning system has been used as a model for District Clubs and a workshop explaining our process in detail was held at the District Training Assembly in Ararat.

Once again, thank you to all those members of our club who have got on board with the club Strategic planning process over the past decade.

Geoff James

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Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Club of Maryborough has always been a good supporter of the Rotary Foundation and 2018-2019 was no exception.

Many members made contributions on their birthdays and anniversaries and a total of \$722.00 has been forwarded to The Rotary Foundation on their behalf.

PP PHF Thea Allan held a luncheon fundraiser on her birthday as part of “The World’s Greatest Meal to End Polio” and raised \$400.00. Congratulations Thea for your innovative way to raise funds for the Foundation.

The Foundation Film Night “Bohemian Rhapsody” held on the first Thursday in November was well attended by Rotarians and Community Members and enjoyed a wonderful film and raised \$900.00 for the Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Maryborough contributed \$2,000.00 on behalf of members as a part of the Club Annual Giving commitment.

It was decided by the Foundation Committee, and approved by the Board, that the weekly Centurion contributions would not be forwarded until after the end of each Rotary Year to facilitate easier calculations of the contributions over a full Rotary year. Letters will go out to members early in the new Rotary year giving them the opportunity to voluntarily make up their contributions to Centurion Status.

The Rotary Club of Maryborough are honoured to welcome their three new Paul Harris Fellows:

Rtn PHF David Hare

Rtn PHF Robert Bursill

and long-time supporter PHF Robyn Jennings.

We also honour members with additional Sapphire recognition:

PP PHF + 2 Thea Allan

DG PHF + 2 Anthony Olsen

PP PHF + 1 Garry Higgins OAM

PP PHF + 1 Graeme Rogan

PP PHF + 1 Derrick Marsden

The presentation of all recognitions took place at the 2019-2020 Changeover.

I would like to thank the Members of The Foundation Committee for their support throughout the year.

Derrick Marsden

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Public Image

SOCIAL MEDIA: Conduct a hands-on club seminar using tablets & laptops training members in how to use social media

Planned for late Nov or sometime in Feb depending on program

Failed to complete

LOCAL PROMOTION: Investigate a permanent display cabinet of family violence items in the local Information centre

Chris to look at cabinets at Primes Discount

Chris and Harold now looking at making a cabinet, still haven't ruled it out

LOCAL PROMOTION: Work to produce a half to full page advertisement each month that informs the public about Rotary International and Maryborough Rotary

Full page information advertisement

Still doing the ads. These have been quite successful, however a number of members failed to get their profiles published. This was not because we weren't trying, it seems that some members didn't have five minutes to spare to put something down on paper

SOCIAL MEDIA: Pay for selected Facebook boosts

Why where and how; for what outcome, to be researched

LOCAL PROMOTION: Use Rotary's brand guidelines, templates, People of Action campaign materials, and related resources

*Chris monitored this and the greater majority complied in the usage of branding
Rotary Fonts: Georgia, Frutiger*

SOCIAL MEDIA: At least once a month provide a reminder to members to view our club Facebook page

Being done

LOCAL PROMOTION: Include at least one article about Family Violence issues in the local press every month

An article is published at every opportunity and the Say NO banner in every week

LOCAL PROMOTION – Include at least one positive mention about Rotary on the local radio station every two weeks

This was being achieved by Bob Osborne but ceased with his passing. However, watch this space, negotiations have begun for Rotary to have its own hour at the radio station

SOCIAL MEDIA: Ensure that at least two positive posts are made on the club Facebook page each week

Thea, Geoff and others maintained placing Facebook posts all year. Thank you to all those who did post

WEBSITE: Update the club website with a new look (theme) each Rotary year

A big thank you to Geoff James who completed a revamp of our web page early in the year and continued to maintain it

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WEBSITE: Ensure the website has at least two new stories each week

Geoff James once again, thank you, you were right on this

LOCAL PROMOTION: Conduct a Manse Open Day to remind public of Rotary's work

??? to approach Terry Welch. Didn't eventuate

Would still like to see this happen. Will see where the 2019/2020 team takes it

LOCAL PROMOTION: Consider a Collection Corner Drive for a suitable cause such as

Discussion on this at the meeting 30/8/18 that the safety issues are a grave concern and an alternative be discussed at a later date

Chris Frahn

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Community Service

Community Committee members were kept busy with barbeques, Buddy Benches and Brian Dowie Park this past 12 months.

Four Buddy Benches were made for Maryborough Education Centre to try. These benches are where kids feeling left out sit and others can see them and help make them feel part of a group. They seem to be working well.



Thank you for donating the wonderful, spectacular and amazing Buddy Chairs to our school. They have been helpful to our students, parents and visitors. They have given people a comfortable place to sit and have also been a place where students can go to cool down if they are feeling escalated. Students can sit on the chair if they are feeling lonely and other students know to include them. Some students enjoy eating their lunch while sitting on the chairs.

Raised garden planters, which has taken too many years to arrange, have finally been delivered to Havilah. They will be filled early in our new Rotary year. We thank the Avoca Community Bank, Maryborough branch, for granting us the funds to purchase and have them filled. It is a very generous donation.



Energy Breakthrough, MEC Fair, Ballarat Swap Meet and other events were manned by our members, Reports tell us that our BBQ at the Ballarat Swap Meet was the most lucrative food site at this year's meet. We also manned a corner at the Energy Breakthrough on Friday evening and during the 24-hour event.

Hard at work at the Swap Meet

We raised some funds by selling raffle tickets.

Brian Dowie Conservation Park in Carisbrooke is maintained by a contract mower. The members try to have a meeting there once or twice a year. Plans include replacing the faded information boards.

Our Family Violence Awareness program continues with help from Raelene Williams and Arc Ventures. We held a very successful Gender Equality forum. Lucy Roffey, CEO of Central Goldfields Shire, spoke about how she found working with companies who had family-friendly policies made her life easier and Terry Welch, MDHS CEO, spoke about transparency and integrity in the local hospital.

How one must walk the talk of the mission statement of a workplace.

Thea Allan

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Vocational Committee

The members of the Vocational Committee feel very satisfied with the service provided by this standing committee during the 2018-19 year.

Members of our committee during the year included Heather Blackman, Rod Brown, John Caulfield, Shane Dellavedova, Ted Edwards, Geoff James (Director), Karen McCarthy, Bob Osborne and Esther Waters. Unfortunately, Bob passed away and both Karen and Rod resigned from Rotary during the year.

Due to the hard work of these members we achieved all but one of our 2018-19 objectives.

We conducted a lively forum at our Easter breakfast meeting about the implications of the 4 Way Test on everyday life. We weren't backward in reminding members that this event coincided with Herbert J Taylor's birthday.

We promoted Rotary's Global networking programs through a club forum where three members spoke of their interest and involvement in 4 different Rotary Fellowships.

Members continued to provide talks about their vocations at club meetings, although we didn't get to start a second round of talks about "the most inspiring moments in my career". This will be a topic for 2019-2020.

We were pleased to nominate our own Bob Osborne for a Shine On Award since Bob had been a champion for this program for many years. Unfortunately, the award had to be presented posthumously to Bob's sister.

We didn't get to present a Vocational Scholarship this year, but we have proposed that the funds available (from advertising during the Family Violence forum) be used for a public forum for young entrepreneurs in our next Rotary year.

We did present Pride of Workmanship awards to six deserving members of our chosen vocation (firefighting) at our Pride of Workmanship night in May.

We made two interesting Vocational visits to Parkview Bakery in September, and the CFA Headquarters on a stinking hot day in January. Thanks to both venues for their hospitality. As a follow up to our CFA visit, we presented the CFA with a used laptop (thanks to PP Karen and PP Derrick) and \$200 for software.

We were also able to raise a modest amount of funds from the sale of items provided by Edlyn Foods at a previous Vocational visit.

I would like to thank the Vocational team for all their hard work and friendship over the year. It has been very enjoyable working with them as we have endeavored to "be the inspiration" and "do good in the world" through the Vocational Avenue of service.

In summary, we see that the role and purpose of this committee is embodied in the second object of Rotary, which is to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society. We believe we've done that.

Geoff James

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Youth Committee

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards RYLA

This six-day Leadership and Personal development program for 18 – 24 year olds was again a great success for those who participated. They generally describe the program as “life changing” and far beyond expectations. Unfortunately, Zara Block, our participant this year, had to cancel at the very last moment and a replacement for the vacant position could not be found in time.

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment RYPEN

PP Thea Allan was the District 9780 RYPEN Chair and we all thank Thea for her dedication to the role and organising this year’s RYPEN event .

This amazing opportunity for 14-17 year olds saw a number of local students participate in the weekend residential camp at Adekate Camp which is designed to develop their potential, confidence, leadership skills, self-respect and other life skills. Our participants this year were Natalie Murray and Kiera Smith. Both students had an amazing experience at the program and Natalie displayed her public speaking skills at her presentation to the club. Natalie reported that she also learnt a number of new skills and abilities from the activities undertaken at the camp. Keira was unavailable to present to the club on the designated evening but will be contacted to present her talk in the new Presidential year.

Leadership Instructions for Teens Program LIFT

This is the fifth year that the LIFT program, Leadership Instruction For Teens, has been conducted. The leadership program is endorsed by MEC and Highview College. This course is designed to develop confidence, leadership, communication and teamwork skills in young students. Facilitated by Shane Green, Innovative Learning Solutions, the students have the opportunity to participate in public speaking opportunities at the end of the day facilitated by a gradual development of confidence, body language and image projection as the day progresses.

On Thursday 18 March, 21 Year 7-11 students from MEC and Highview College participated in a LIFT Program organised by Maryborough Rotary Club. We give thanks to the Central Goldfields Shire Council for providing “The Hub” as the training venue. The program assists students to develop their leadership potential and set goals for their future. Shane stated that “It is quite amazing to see the growth in self-confidence and public speaking ability from the morning sessions until the final session later that afternoon”.

In conjunction with Police Victoria, a Camp for Indigenous Youth was held at Maldon Blue Light Camp and occurred on the 19 - 21 October 2018.

Defying the Drift

This three-day residential program was developed by Rotary District 9780 in cooperation with the Marcus Oldham College. The aim of the program is to assist and encourage rural teenagers to investigate the benefits of a career in rural Victoria and South Australia

Targeted at 15-17 year olds, the program aims to develop skills in the students to meet the challenges this environment can throw up to them if they choose this career path while

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developing self-confidence and building a network of supporters and mentors in this ever changing vocation.

Three candidates were nominated from Maryborough, Keltyn Rinaldi and Sam Mitchell, and Nick Meyers from St Arnaud were joined by twenty seven other students from across the district. It was noted and duly reported that the conduct of all Defying the Drift students participating at the college and throughout the tours and various sessions was exemplary.

National Youth Science Forum NYSF

The NYSF Year 12 Program is a 12-day residential program designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage continued studies in these fields. At the NYSF Year 12 Program run in January each year, participants visit science and technology related laboratories and facilities, go on site tours, listen to lectures, take part in workshops, go to social events, and participate in group activities that improve communication and presentation skills.

Katie Winkleman, a year 12 student from Highview College, attended the Canberra NYSF session in early January. Participants visit scientific and technological research laboratories and facilities, workshops, tours and participate in group activities that improve communication and presentation skills. Katie was selected as one of only six students from the 2019 NYSF to participate in a 12 day residential International Michigan Science and Scholars Program at Michigan University in the USA. At the time of writing this report, Katie will be in Michigan at the university being exposed to the full breadth of scientific research at this amazing university. We look forward to her return and presentation to the club

Other Bits and Bobs

The Maryborough Rotary Club sponsor five Youth Scholarships each year at Highview (2), Maryborough Education Centre (2) and Goldfields Employment and Learning (1).

Two scholarships are given to MEC students. The recipient of the Charles Mowbray Art Scholarship was Jack Cocking and the Doug Hutchinson Community Builder Scholarship recipient was Coby Polinelli.

The Club purchased two Contemporary Music Packs and 2 Woodwind Music Packs to help aid the Highview Music Development Program.

The members were amazed and thrilled with the debating abilities of students when the now annual Secondary Schools vs Rotary debating event which was held in September 2018. The quality of the arguments, the forethought and precision that the students displayed before their coup de grâce thrust was something to behold. Harmony Martin Binks and Lillian Normington showed great initiative to volunteer at the annual Rotary Great Debate on Thursday 6th September. One Rotarian, one Highview student and one MEC student made up each team and debated the topics “Maryborough offers the youth of today enough” and “Climate change is affecting Central Victoria.” Harmony and Lillian spoke well and represented MEC with confidence and flair. It is a fabulous opportunity for both secondary schools and Rotary to work together. Please congratulate all students if you see them around and book your tickets early for this year’s event.

The Maryborough Rotary Club members also participated in the mock interviews at MEC for 17 Year 10 and 11 VCAL students. Members continue to be impressed with the calibre of students participating in this program.

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Supported by MEC, the Literacy Program received a boost to their funding with another very successful Oakes Day event. Thanks again to Rtn Ester Waters and Rtn Alison Teese for their amazing efforts in organising the Oakes day event each year.

Rotarians enjoyed another fun filled fundraising night with the Youth Trivia Night. Thanks must be extended to Rtn Tracey Smith who almost single-handedly organised the whole shooting match from venue to quiz master, snacks, theme, raffles and laughs and raised some much needed booty to be able to afford to run the above programs.

My personal thanks are extended to Rtn PP Graeme Rogan who covered my back on more than one occasion at committee meetings, board meetings, reports and articles and at various other Rotary ventures.

To DG Anthony Ohlsen, Rtn Harold Breitingger and PP Terry Allan: the year would not have not gone as well as it did without the guidance, assistance and fellowship afforded by these wonderful Youth Committee members and friends .

Mallee Rowe

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Family Violence Working Group

Our family violence working group continues to confront the challenges faced by our community from issues around family violence.

Our approach shifted from a singular focus on awareness to that which also includes working on issues around prevention.

We now have “regular” events which have now been conducted for the previous four years.

Our Football/ netball Awareness day was again conducted and the host clubs were Talbot and Carisbrook. We handed out our Wallet Cards to all spectators and Club officials and had the opportunity to address all football, netball players and officials before the game. We also have a minutes silence to acknowledge those women who have been killed by their current or previous partners. The respect that this “minutes silence” receives still touches us all and it is a tribute to the next generation that they “get this”.

In addition to this we again conducted our #SayNO2familyviolence race day in conjunction with Harness Racing Victoria and the Maryborough Harness Racing club.

This event presents an opportunity for our message to be televised into over 3500 clubs and TABs throughout Australia in addition to receiving over 32 million views online.

Our #SayNO2familyviolence signage which has been our main brand recognition, were stolen from seven of the ten locations around town with the two which had CCTV coverage being spared. Not sure if this is a good thing or not but it has certainly hit a nerve with somebody within our community who was obviously challenged by the message.

Maryborough Rotary has a seat at the Table for the Maryborough District Health Service Governance Board on Family Violence. Our Health Service response to family violence is leading the way in institutional change within our community. One of its key projects is the introduction of a men’s behavioural change program in our community and I am pleased to say that good progress is being made in this area.

We also “welcome on board” the Clubs from Portland and Horsham. Their achievements have been amazing in the way in which they have confronted their challenges and we continue a great collaboration in further developing the project.

Our website is nearly ready to be launched with our “Frequently Asked Questions” completed. We thank our district Health Service and the GoGoldfields team for their support.

In addition to this we have commissioned a “How To” project brief that will be available to all Rotary Clubs in the world which may be interested in establishing a #SayNO2familyviolence project in their community.

Our “Champions of Change” project was launched February and we had over 40 local business and agencies attend. The purpose of this project is to introduce the issues of gender equity within our businesses and agencies so that we have long term cultural change. We hope to have this project operational by November this year.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Club for the support that they give this project.

As well I would like to thank Caroline Millard and Tony South from the Portland Rotary Club and Steve Holmes from the Horsham Rotary Club who have driven the introduction of the project within their communities.

In addition I would like to thank the GoGoldfields Family violence Action group and Raelene Williams from ARC Ventures for their support.

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And lastly and most importantly a big thanks to our Club's working group in Rotarians Chris Frahn, Graeme Rogan, Thea Allan, Meryl James, Bob Butterfield, Martin Mackay and Anthony Ohlsen for their untiring commitment to this cause. Your efforts truly inspire us all.

PP PHF Garry Higgins OAM.