

ROTARY CLUB OF PORT FAIRY INC

Registration No: A002126/C

District 9780



Annual Report 2020-21



Rotary Opens Opportunities

To be presented at Changeover Dinner on 21 June 2021



Membership of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy Inc.

Club Executive (Board Members) 2020-2021

President:Tony Bawden
Past President:Sue Robertson
President Elect:Jill Gleeson
Secretary: Adrian Crosier
Treasurer:Jeff McLean
Director of Membership:..... Rob Grendon (Resigned November 2020)
Bill Moore (Commenced November 2020)
Director of Service Projects: Robert Whitehead
Director of Public Relations/Youth:.....Sue Robertson

Membership listing at 21 June 2021

Tony Bawden	Barbara Eldridge	Members who left the Club
Maureen Beattie	John Ellard	Jude Dawson
Reg Beattie	Jill Gleeson	Rob Grendon
Harry Bracegirdle	Joanne Levey	Robert Whitehead
Margaret Broers	Andrew Long	
John Clue	Jeffrey McLean	
Graeme Cox	William Moore	
Milee Cox	Brett Murray	
Geoff Coxall	Sue Robertson	
Adrian Crosier	Kristie Simpson	
Michael Crowe		

Incoming Club Executive for 2021-22

President:Jill Gleeson
Past President/Rotary Foundation:.....Tony Bawden
President Elect:Graeme Cox
Secretary:Harry Bracegirdle
Treasurer:Jeff McLean
Director of Youth/International Service:.....Geoff Coxall
Director of Membership:..... Bill Moore
Director of Community Service/Environment:.....Michael Crowe

President's Report

Firstly, I'd like to convey my appreciation to all our Club's members for their support, their resilience and all the wonderful work they have done through Rotary.

Also, a big thank you to my hard-working Board and their positive contributions in leading our Club through the challenges and opportunities that arose throughout the year. A particular thank you to our outgoing Secretary Adrian Crosier for his very capable, knowledgeable and reliable support and advice and I'm sure he deserves a well-earned break from his past 7 years on the Board as Treasurer, President and Secretary.

Pre-Christmas

12 months ago, we were fortunate to have a face-to-face changeover dinner with limited numbers due to COVID restrictions. We were very fortunate to have our DG Phil Beasley and his wife Judy attend. We also provided a zoom coverage to invited guests.

Unfortunately, midway through my first speech as your new President, we were raided by unwelcome zoom crashes which somewhat diminished the impact of my address.

The first 5 months of our Rotary year was heavily impacted by our State's COVID restrictions: Zoom meetings only, no fundraisers and no community services aside from Meals on Wheels by those of us under 65 years.

Fortunately, during a brief relaxation of restrictions, we were able to conduct a comprehensive, medium term Strategic Planning workshop. I thank Rtn. Bill Moore for assisting me in this process. Our members reviewed our Club's operations and set out plans for our Club over the medium term 1-5 years, including the Centenary of Rotary in Australia & New Zealand in 2020/21 & 21/22 and recognising the ongoing impact that the COVID pandemic may have. Club membership retention & recruitment was a key issue, noting that unreasonable expectations of commitment and cost for members was an issue.

Some of the key outcomes were:

- 1) Endorsing a Rotary Centenary Town Clock for Port Fairy as the Club's key centenary project for 2020/21 & 2021/22 and hosting of Rotary Centenary & Clubs 60th anniversary Gala dinner as a major event.
- 2) To revert to fortnightly meetings to ease administration and the financial costs & commitments of members.
- 3) Introducing 5-minute member talks at our meetings to assist our members getting to know each other a bit better.
- 4) Amending our Club subscription arrangements by ceasing our small meeting levy on those attending our meetings, replaced by a small increase in the annual subscriptions. This is considered fairer for all members.

Our Club also found itself with some financial difficulties early in the year due to COVID restrictions preventing our fundraising activities, not retaining contingency funds from the previous year and the arrival of unexpected expenses for defibrillator batteries and IT support. We managed our way through this, largely with the support of members paying their annual subscriptions up front.

November saw our long-awaited return to face-to-face meetings and the delight and relief of our members was palpable. Everyone was enthusiastic to get out on working bees and fundraisers. Zoom had served its purpose in maintaining contact but restricted social engagements.

Unfortunately, despite significant planning we were unable to hold our Open Gardens due to being on private properties. A big thank you to Friends, Hester Woodrup and Margaret Whitehead with Jill's assistance for this and I know things are well in place for this November's Open Gardens.

Pre-Christmas we held some sausage sizzles at the Farmers Markets and, also, the very popular and successful painting raffle, thanks to very talented Wilma Preston's donation of another beautiful watercolour. We are very fortunate to have Wilma as a long-term supporter of the Club.

Rtn. Robert organised a working bee for removal of a bamboo infestation in the Botanic Gardens which our group enjoyed, capped off with takeaway coffees at Charlies.

Our members celebrated this return to new COVID normal with an enjoyable Christmas breakup at Yani's Kitchen.

Our Friends of Rotary were able to reconvene from November under the stewardship of Rtn. Michael Crowe.

Membership:

Unfortunately, early in the year, new Board member Rob Grendon resigned due to health issues. We thank Rob for his enthusiasm and were sorry to lose him.

The end of 2020 and start of 2021 however saw our Club welcome a surge of new members: Kristie Simpson, Andrew Long, Graeme Cox & Millee Cox. Our Club has since and will continue to benefit from their contributions and new ideas.

I must however censor our jubilant Membership Director Bill Moore for sharing his calculations at that time based upon the previous 2 months, that our Club will have a projected membership of 35 members by 30th June – perhaps a bit optimistic.

We have also been fortunate to secure the return of two very active and experienced members back to the Club, both Paul Harris Fellows – Harry Bracegirdle and more recently Geoff Coxall. It's pleasing that three of these new members will join our 2021/22 board.

Unfortunately, we have just received the resignation of Robert Whitehead from our Club. We will certainly miss Rob's dry sense of humour and contributions over several years.

Post-Christmas:

Our Club were delighted to welcome back our Rotary Exchange Student Destiny Kelly from Switzerland. She had some wonderful experiences and has gained friendships which will likely endure into the future. Destiny's visit was somewhat restricted due to the COVID pandemic, however she remained safe and is to be commended for how well she coped and made the most of her exchange.

Rtn Robert with the Port of Port Fairy's David Mattner oversaw a busy working bee at Charles Mills Reserve (or Rotary Park). We painted the bollards, the shelter timberwork and the iconic flagstaff which has spruced up this prominent park. Further protection of the wagon may be on our books for the year ahead.

With the support of the Port Fairy Golf Club, the Club were able to hold our annual Golf Day in April. A large field of 160 players enjoyed our day in breezy conditions. The day proved very successful for our Club with the raffle, BBQ, 8th hole betting and portion of fees raising significant money for our Town Clock Centennial project. Thanks to Adrian and his team Harry, Peter Smith and I and Rotarians who assisted on the day.

On the 21st April our Club met to coincide with the 100th centenary of the chartering of the Rotary Club of Melbourne. We zoomed with other Clubs in our District in the cutting of cakes on this historic day.

In late May we hosted a Gala Dinner to mark the Rotary Centenary and our Club's 60th anniversary. 66 people including the Mayor Daniel Meade, past members, visiting Rotarians and guests enjoyed this event. I made a presentation of our Town Clock project, District Governor Elect John Clue on the Centenary and Rtn. Harry Bracegirdle on the history of our club. The Drill Hall, where our club held its first meeting, proved an excellent venue.

Our final fundraiser will be a High Tea Quiz afternoon in late June as part of the Winter Weekends program. Thank you to the Friends for their support under PE Jill's guidance.

Other Club Activities during the course of the year –

- Continued sponsorship of 7-year-old Evaline John at Bandari School
- Meals on Wheels.
- Bowel Scan distribution.
- Hosting mini 'Biggest Morning teas' for cancer research.
- Assisting RC Warrnambool East in Hole in One fundraiser.
- Formalising the defibrillator arrangements with the BP Roadhouse and the Star of the West Hotel.
- Dispersed \$2940 to local groups & causes and Rotary projects – detail in the financial report.
- Enjoyed a wide range of guest speakers at our meetings.

In this Rotary Centenary Year, we were also privileged to have our Past President & Paul Harris Fellow John Clue be appointed as the District 9780 President Elect - congratulations John. He has had a very busy year in gaining knowledge and preparation for this position and support training & enabling Club President Elects and office bearers for their terms. Our Club have pledged to support John in this role and I know that his wife Heather is right there for him also. This year's Rotary International theme 'Rotary Opens Doors' certainly applies to John.

I'd also like to mention the significant body of work that's been undertaken in research, consultation and planning for our Rotary Centenary Clock for Port Fairy. We met with senior officers from the Moyne Shire in November and made a presentation to the Councillors in March. We have lodged a Community Grant application with the Shire which will be considered next month and are also awaiting their green light. Thank you to my subcommittee Michael, Geoff and Jill for their support.

Finally, I'd again like to thank you all for your support and contributions throughout the year. Also, my thanks to our local businesses who have generously supported our raffles even through these difficult times. I'd also like to thank my wife Mandy for her support and tolerance throughout the year.

Tony Bawden,

President

Financial Report 2020/21 (as at Mid June 2021)

Activities	Notes	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	
Club Operations					
Income	\$16,825	<i>Meetings, fines, membership dues etc</i>	\$17,698	\$23,410	\$27,599
Expenses	16,141	<i>Meetings, Rotary dues & subs, admin exp.</i>	\$19,393	\$24,714	\$29,178
Fund Raising					
Income inc. Donations Rec'd	3,243	<i>* see list below</i>	\$29,387	\$37,645	\$27,618
Expenses	447	<i>Catering BBQ costs Golf Day, raffles, etc.</i>	\$3,307	\$8,224	\$6,175
Grants Projects/Activities					
Income	8,650	<i>Town Clock-Grant/Golf Day, Club BBQ/Raffle</i>	\$6,920	\$5,730	\$1,570
Expenses	3,708	<i>Inc.AV Equip-re Grant Jones Foundation</i>	\$4,555	\$5,025	\$1,923
Donations Made					
Donations	2,940	<i>* see list below</i>	\$26,479	\$32,210	\$20,605
Total Income	28,718		\$54,005	\$66,785	\$56,787
Total Expenses & Donations	23,236		\$53,734	\$70,173	\$57,881
Profit/Loss	\$5,482		\$271	-\$3,388	-\$1,094

Fund Raising Income	Amount	Donations Made	Amount
Golf Tournament	1,927	Bandari Project - Student Sponsor	240
Collection Rotary Foundation	263	Belfast Community Pool Group	200
Painting Raffle	1,053	Donation In Kind Organisation	200
		Foodshare	200
		Indigenous Literacy Project D9780	200
		Moyneyana Festival	200
		PFSLC Nippers	500
		Rotary Foundation	1,000
		School Awards	200
Total Fund Raising income	\$3,243		
Less: Fundraising Expenses:	-447		
Net Fund Raising income	\$2,796	Total Donations Made	\$2,940