

**ROTARY CLUB OF PORT FAIRY Inc.**

**Minutes**

**Board Meeting No.09 (2022-23)**

**7.00pm, Wednesday 19 April 2023 (@ Star of West Hotel)**

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**Present:** Graeme Cox, Harry Bracegirdle, John Clue, Michael Crowe, Jeff McLean, Jed Macartney, Andrew Long.

**Apologies:** Mllee Cox, Jill Gleeson, Sue Robertson, Bill Moore

**Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** (*Meeting #7 held 15 February 2023*).

Moved: **John Clue**, Seconded: **Harry Bracegirdle** that the Minutes be confirmed. **Passed**

**Business & Action items arising from previous Minutes:**

- 1. Update of Club Bylaws:** Graeme Cox is pursuing this matter and has contacted Adrian Crosier who recommended a number of changes that will be required before it can be put to the general membership.  
It was proposed that a special meeting of the Club be called for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to consider the change to the By-Laws. Secretary, Mllee Cox, to issue a notice for this special meeting.  
**Action: Mllee Cox**

**Director's Reports:**

**President:** (Graeme Cox)

*Graeme welcomed guests Jed Macartney and Andrew Long to the meeting. Their presence is in keeping with the Club tradition of inviting incoming Board members for the final two meetings prior to the next Rotary year to maintain continuity.*

- **Community Assistance Fund Application**

Information has been received from the Moyne Shire regarding our application. It is anticipated that it will be approved on 9<sup>th</sup> May when the Council Workshop meets. A cabinet and a compressor fridge freezer were requested to be funded.

- **Winter Weekend Program**

Plans are well underway for the RCPF to participate in the Winter Weekend Program. 10<sup>th</sup> June will be the date for the **Rotary Quiz Day** to be held at the Senior Citizens' Room. Tony Bawden and the Friends of Rotary (FOR) will be co-ordinating the event.

11<sup>th</sup> June has been confirmed as the date to conduct the **Lighthouse Tours** provided the Moyne Shire Council approve our application. Adrian has been coordinating this with the Moyne Shire. Adrian has recommended that the fees be \$5 per adult or \$10 per family, which was approved by the Board.

- **Fundraising**

We are in the final stages of our participation in the Ballarat South Car Raffle. It has been a long time with volunteers ensuring that it has been well supported. There is just one more shift to go before returning tickets (*both sold and unsold*) by 27<sup>th</sup> April, along with monies. The Treasurer, Jeff McLean, will pay the balance owing by direct credit to the nominated bank account. Graeme praised the great effort by Club members and FOR members in going close to selling our full quota of 1000 tickets.

- **Friends of Rotary**

The FOR had a meeting at the end of March at Charlie's on East. Michael Crowe officially handed over the reins to Tony Bawden. Other matters discussed at the meeting included the Fashion Parade, records of volunteer hours (200 hours from Friends, 1000 hours from Club members) and a general update on the Club's very busy start to 2023.

Also, it is proposed the Friends will resume meeting monthly at Charlies, most likely on the 4th Friday subject to what best suits the Friends. However, due to Graeme's availability and the need to push on planning for the Trivia Quiz, the next meeting will be held on **Friday 5th May** at 10am.

- **ClubRunner – Review of Pricing Structure**

Over the past 20 years, ClubRunner has been committed to delivering the best value, technology, and features for thousands of clubs worldwide. They are dedicated to ensuring that our success remains their top priority. To continue to deliver a best-in-class platform and experience, ClubRunner continually invests in the infrastructure, security, and support necessary to keep their technology up-to-date, secure, and reliable. In response to rising costs and the recent economic climate, it has become necessary to review CR pricing structure. **The new pricing will take effect for renewals starting July 1, 2023, onward.** They have also upgraded the included [email credits](#) for all tiers.

Based on our current member count of **23**, this represents a monthly increase of **\$3.50** to our main license.

- **Murray to Moyne Catering**

The catering volunteering for the Murray to Moyne went well. Thanks all the volunteers who gave up their time to set up, cater and pull down after the event.

- **Port Fairy Jazz Festival**

Below is the email that was sent from **Jenni Hider-Smith**, the Jazz Festival President.

*“Hello to each of you wonderful volunteers who ensured Jazz Festival 2023 went ahead; it really wouldn't have happened without you giving generously of your time and energy. We are sincerely grateful.*

*I have deliberately left this email of thanks until after our monthly meeting, in case there was any news to forward. The main outcome was that we are in a position to plan and hold the festival in 2024. The outcomes from the survey sent to all on the database, which I believe includes each of you, will be discussed in detail at our next meeting. In the meantime there were many positive comments on the introduction of the John Huf award, the inclusion of The Sentinel as a new venue and the quality of the bands/musicians. I was as excited by the 2023 festival as I was for the inaugural festival in 2017. Perhaps it was because there hadn't been a 'proper' one since 2020 when we were just lucky enough to be able to run it (although it was a finer cut for the Folkie!). You could hear the music around the town and the proximity of most of the venues to each other, contributed to this. The vibe was palpable and the musicians and patrons seemed so happy to be here. My sincere thanks to each of you. With 2 weeks to go, we had a lot of 3 hour spots to fill and despite having many offering additional help at the last minute in past years, I was planning to alter the roster to put only one person on to enable all times and venues to be covered. Then miraculously it seemed, a number of new people contacted me offering their assistance and all spots were filled. Surprisingly most were people living locally which is wonderful for future years. We did have someone though who travelled by train and bus from Gippsland – how amazing is that! I think Gavin Franklin's interview on our local ABC radio with Jeremy Lee may have been responsible for the introduction of new volunteers. On another note, we are looking for a couple of people to join our committee – it really is a great group of people with everyone providing support and pitching in. Please let me know if you or anyone you know may be interested. My thanks again to each of you and my very best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead. See you next year”.*

- **PDG John Clue's – Relocation**

Below is an extract of an email sent by Graeme to John after news of John's and Heather's forthcoming relocation to Castlemaine:

*"Firstly, it is indeed a sad time for the RCPF after 33 years as a resident of Port Fairy, 10 years as a member of the RCPF and an active community member. Your contributions to Rotary and to the Port Fairy community are well documented, culminating in being appointed District Governor in 2021-2022. Heather has been a tremendous support and a Friend of Rotary, ably assisting you in your Rotary duties.*

*I thank Heather for her commitment and passion. Castlemaine's gain is certainly our loss; however, we understand the reasons. The Rotary Club of Castlemaine will benefit greatly from your experience, enthusiasm, and community involvement. Thank you on behalf of the Club and I know I speak for all Club members that we wish you and Heather all the best in the future and as I used to tell members back in Horsham 'Don't be a stranger, our Rotary door is always open'.*

- **Youth Protection/Child Safety Policy**

Following concerns raised by Jo Levey about the proposed policy document, the topic will need to be discussed further and ultimately ratified by the Board after further consultation. Jo had concerns about the length of the document and although the intent was sound, she felt it could be better worded. **Action: Graeme Cox**

**Past President:** (Jill Gleeson) – No report in Jill's absence.

**Treasurer:** (Jeff McLean)

- **Financial Report:** Treasurer, Jeff McLean tabled reports for February and March which reflected net incomes of \$4,926.16 and \$2,237.55 respectively and a net balance at bank of 17,974.25 at the end of March. The current bank balance, at 19<sup>th</sup> April, stands at \$21,253.26.
- **Proposed disbursements at end of financial year:** Consideration now needs to focus on how fundraising monies will be disbursed to various organisations and charities at year end. The primary recipient will be **Australians for Women's' Health** for which \$6,000 has been earmarked. The organisation has been asked to recommend a suitable project to link the funds to and they are expected to respond in the next three weeks to this request. In considering other, more local beneficiaries, it was suggested that Jeff compile a list of last year's recipients and that this be discussed, along with other potential organisations / groups, for consideration by the Board at the next meeting. Club members will also be asked to nominate other potential recipients at the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May. John Clue reminded Board members that the net profit left in the D9780 (2022) Conference Fund (\$1,616.29) needs to be set aside for suitable youth-focused projects but this can be carried over into the next financial year.
- **It was moved** (Jeff McLean / John Clue) that the Treasurer's report be approved. **Carried**

**Service Projects / Environment: (Michael Crowe)**

- **Rail Trail:** Michael last week sprayed the weeds under and around the Rotary seat and sign on the Rail trail. He also spoke with the **Friends of the Rail Trail** regarding the long grass and weeds among the plants in the Rotary plantation. They support the idea of controlling this growth and would be willing to contribute to the effort involved (*whipper snipper plus spray*), however, they are short of suitable equipment for this work. After discussion, **it was moved** (HB/MC) that *"The Rotary Club provide up to \$750 towards the purchase of a suitable brush cutter to help control weeds and grass at the Port Fairy end of the rail trail"*. The brush cutter to be placed under the care of local Rail Trail coordinator, Phillip DuGleishen.

**Footbridge project:** Michael has spoken to Cameron Brown (Port Manager) who advised that the Council would require any Rotary and other volunteers to undertake a short OH&S induction before working on the site. We need to advise a suitable time and date and how many will attend. He also requested that we develop a simple design for the site. We discussed the proposal that the Barclay Street garden beds would provide a suitable model for this. He then spoke to Ashley King, who is currently travelling in central Australia, and Ashley advised that he would be back in time for an induction during the second week of May. Michael also spoke to Marten Syme who is a keen supporter of the project who can assist with plant selection and site preparation.

**It was resolved** that a working group of 5-6 Rotarians be assigned to assist with the work and to also undergo OH&S induction training (*Michel Crowe to compile the list at the next Rotary meeting*).

Other matters discussed in relation to this project was the request by Moyne Shire Council (MSC) for a simple design and also the role of the Port Fairy & District Community Bank in the project – *will they perhaps provide funding rather than volunteers?*.

Michael Crowe advised that his grandson, who is completing a master's degree in *Landscaping Architecture*, has software used to prepare diagrams and he has offered to help produce suitable design drawings for presentation to the MSC. Marten Syme's recommendations on the type of plants will be considered.

Finally, it was agreed that the design should incorporate 2-layers (shrubs and ground cover) and that crushed basalt rock be used as topping above suitable weed mats to be laid after preliminary weed spraying. It was suggested that a small rotary hoe may be required to first remove current vegetation.

#### **Youth / International Service: (John Clue)**

- John Clue advised that, despite promotion on the Club's Facebook page and the linked community noticeboard, there had been no takers for the RYLA seminar. We are still promoting and searching for a suitable candidate for the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

**Membership: (Bill Moore).** No report in Bill's absence

#### **Public Image: (Harry Bracegirdle)**

- Following a busy period for Rotarians we are now in a quiet period with only one week of ticket selling for the Car Raffle to complete. Meals on Wheels will be the next event in May.
- Articles for RYLA and Youth Exchange had been posted on Facebook and Club's website.

#### **Fundraising:**

- A query was raised about the proposed 2023 **Rotary Golf Day**. Harry Bracegirdle undertook to consult Adrian Crosier on this matter (*NB. Adrian has undertaken to contacting the Golf Club for the actual date, which he thought was in May*)

#### **General Business:**

- **Anzac Day Commemoration:** Marg Broers has organized a wreath which will be placed by **Jill Gleeson** on behalf of the Rotary Club at the Anzac Day ceremony at the 10:30am ceremony.
- **Jacob Murray:** Brett Murray has sought out support for his nephew, **Jacob Murray**, who will soon be travelling to Japan to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> *Asia Childrens' Convention*. After a general discussion it was agreed that Jacob be financially supported to assist in the purchase of mementos, pins/badges which Jacob can exchange with other delegates in Japan. John Clue also undertook to talk to his neighbour, Darby Lee who is in charge of tourism for the MSC to see what else might be appropriate. **It was moved (JMCL/GC) "That Jacob be provided with \$100 towards the purchase of suitable goods for his trip with any excess being retained by him for spending money". Passed.**

It was suggested that Jacob be asked to attend a Rotary meeting after his return to report on his attendance at the convention.

- **Club Changeover Meeting date:** As the D9780 Changeover is scheduled for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June it was resolved we should schedule our Changeover for 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 subject to available venue. It was resolved that the Club should investigate The Sentinel as a possible venue with other options being Charlies on East and the Star of the West Hotel. Graeme Cox undertook to consult with incoming Secretary, Tony Murray, to pursue venue options. Further suggestions / recommendations were - to review last year's invitation list, to consider Mayor Karen Foster as a keynote speaker and the need to order badges and banners from RDU Supplies.
- **Pride of Workmanship:** Harry Bracegirdle suggested that a "Pride of Workmanship" award be made to local postman, **Stephen Dwyer**. Stephen had, to Harry's knowledge, been delivering mail to all Port Fairy households for well over 15 years. He does this through all extremes of weather and has constantly provided a reliable service. It was agreed that Harry follow up with Stephen to see if he was amenable to accepting such a recognition. **Action: HB**
- **Paul Harris Fellowships:** Potential nominees were considered by the Board for recognition and awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship at this year's Changeover Dinner. The nominations were enthusiastically supported by Board members and guests present. **It was therefore moved (JC/HB) "That Paul Harris Fellowships be awarded to the nominated persons which are to be bestowed at the 2023/23 Changeover Dinner". Passed** (NB. Names have been suppressed in the Minutes at this stage as the Board wanted to maintain an element of surprise.)
- **Potential venue for 2023/24 Board meetings:** Harry Bracegirdle had recently attended the official opening of the Community Room at the Port Fairy Men's Shed (PFMS) at the Port Fairy Showgrounds. Harry suggested, that if available, it would be an ideal room to hold Board meetings. Accordingly, he had briefly discussed this with the Shed President who had indicated that although letting out the room had not been considered, it wouldn't hurt to write to the Committee with a request. A small donation or a monthly fee could be set to cover overheads. **It was resolved: "That the Secretary write an official request to the PFMS to explore the availability of the Community room".**
- **Absence of Treasurer:** Jeff McLean advised that he will be away for the period 5-21 May but would endeavour to provide the financial report up to the end of April.
- **Visit of Caravanning Rotarians:** Graeme Cox reported that the visiting Rotarians had booked the Taylor Room at the Star of the West Hotel for 45 persons on 6<sup>th</sup> May and that local Rotarians were invited to attend.

#### Correspondence summary:

- Bulletins- DG Kathy Rivett Travel guide, Ballarat South, Hamilton, Corio Bay, Grovedale-Waurn Ponds
- Email to advise increase in RDU subscription (see attachment)
- Email from District Secretary seeking nominations for this District's representative to the Council of Legislation- closed Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Email from RI encouraging the purchase of 2023/24 committee badges etc
- Invitation from DGE Ian McKay to attend special dinner at Mt Gambier following convention-special guest RI President Gordon McInally on 5/6/23
- Rotary Foundation advising availability of a bespoke Will on-line **for free** through Rotary's arrangement with [Safewill](#).

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:** NIL

**Next Board Meeting:** 10 May 2023

**Meeting Close:** 8:40pm