PRESIDENT’S REPORT
What a great night we had on Wednesday! Congratulations to the International committee and particularly Helen. It was obvious you all had gone to a great deal of work. The buzz in the room was fantastic and I had many people tell me how much they enjoyed the evening with one member telling me, it was the best International night he had ever been to.

It was indeed a great idea to invite Jasper’s host families along, especially when we had so many members who have been involved in the Youth Exchange program in different ways. I am sure that all Rotary members are ready to support them and help to make Jasper’s stay as enjoyable as we can.

We have had to reschedule our club photo, now on June 12th.

This coming week we have our RYLA participants Jasmine Bull and Callum Zanker speaking. So if you are aware of any young people that may be interested please invite them along.

All Director’s reports are due now, so could everyone please have them to Sue ASAP.

Have a great week,
Chris.

COMING DATES
Sat 8th June  
BBQ at Football reunion, Anzac Park. 10-3:30
Sun 9th June  
Rob & Pam deVries’ MS Fundraiser walk.
Wed 3rd July  
RCW Changeover. Community Centre.
Fri-Sun Oct 4-6  
Visit to RC Kyneton. Home hosting.
(Saturday 19th Oct  
Woodbine Cabaret. “ELVIS “ )
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<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 5th June</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th June</th>
<th>Wednesday 17th June</th>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Creekside Hotel</td>
<td>Rotary Shop</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>6:00 for 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>Wendy Hewitt</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>John Tonkin</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Sue Watts</td>
<td>Rotaract/Rotary</td>
<td>Fellowship dinner at The Royal Mail hotel</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>Peter Martin</td>
<td>Fellowship night &amp; club photo.</td>
<td>7:30 Board Meeting at The Rotary Shop.</td>
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<td>Two Minute Talk</td>
<td>“Something funny/ interesting happened at work”</td>
<td>Ian Penny</td>
<td>Further details to come.</td>
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<td>Program</td>
<td>RYLA Presentation</td>
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<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Bernie O’Connor</td>
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No INDUCTIONS, BIRTHDAYS or ANNIVERSARIES

2020 D9780 CONFERENCE March 20—22 Swan Hill
Wendy has made a reservation at the Lady Augusta Motel in Swan Hill for 5 rooms. If you are interested in a room, please contact Wendy ASAP. We can book more, but need to be quick. The cost of a room (double or twin) for 2 nights is $261.

CLUB PHOTO Wed 12th June
We’ll try again. The crowd was too big at the International Night, so the photo shoot was postponed. It’s now set for July 12th at the Rotary Shop and we can get club photos of both Rotary and Rotaract.
Glenn Miller will kindly be still be our photographer.

LAST DAYS……
May is Bowelscan month and kits are available from Warracknabeal Pharmacy at a cost of $15.00. It’s easy to use and could save your life.
Have you picked up your Bowelscan kit yet?
Secretary (Sue)

All reports for the RCW annual report are to be emailed to Sue by May 31.

Community Service (Peter)

BBQ at the Eagles Football Reunion Day - Sat 8th June. 10:00-3:30 Peter, Chris H, Chris G, and possibly Sue & Megan have offered to help. If others are interested please contact Peter.

Invitation to the Golden Eagles Dinner - Tues. 11th June. The Guest speaker will be Peter ‘Spida’ Everitt. Chris Gunn will going and if you’re interested please see Chris Hewitt.

Youth (John A)

Youth Exchange. Jasper’s paperwork is now in Germany and the next step is for Jasper to get a visa. Jasper is due to arrive in the second or third week of July. This will be confirmed once he has his visa. Interestingly, his family are currently hosting a student from Naracoorte.

This coming week is the RYLA night, where we will be hearing from Callum Zanker and Jasmine Bull. I hope it is a successful as our night in Kangaroobie.

(W... If you know of any young people, or families, or employers, who might be interested in RYLA 2020, please invite them to come along... even if it’s just to hear the presentation at 7:30)

Warracknabeal and District Country Education Foundation (Tony)

The CEFWD has now received ‘charity status’.

RLI – Applications close SOON- end of June. It’s great for learning about Rotary. Please see Tony for more info.

I recently attended the D9780 Changeover in Swan Hill. I had a fantastic home stay with Rob Sonogon, the President Elect of Swan Hill Sunrise Club.

Outgoing DG Anthony Ohlson summed us his year, making appoint that our district is highly regarded as it does well in so many criteria – membership, Donations to the Rotary Foundation and community service projects. Anthony was justly proud to lead and support our district in 2018-19 and enjoyed his DG year immensely.

I also attended the Membership and Public Image Seminar in Kerang. As Rotary evolves, we need to be ever mindful of the importance of being relevant in our communities, and relevant to members.

Please consider sponsoring Rob and Pam.....

“We are looking for sponsors for a 50Km walk to Leave MS Behind (50K in May). One of our Rylarians, Zara, has MS and while on this year’s camp was told that more lesions have been found on her brain. Specialists are now putting her on to a different medication to keep it under control. (I think that I have the facts right). Zara, 22, was the girl who put together and conducted the choir on the RYLA concert night.

I am organising 10 Rotarians (minimum) to walk 5Km, to make up the 50K in May, hopefully dressed in an appropriately inappropriate manner and sponsored at $10 per Km. Anyway I thought you may see fit to sponsor Pam and myself and hopefully help one of our local Rylarians in the process. Due to the Club’s work load the walk won’t happen till June 9.
What a great night! I’m so grateful to the amazing Rotarians of our club. Everyone pulled together to make an exceptional night. There was such a variety of tasty food from cuisines from all around the world. What wonderful flavours and aromas came from the night, and a great way to start an International Night.

Numbers for the night grew daily, with the final number at 54 people. There was plenty of food for all, thanks to the efforts of so many Rotarians, partners, honorary Rotarians and even some guests. It was so warm and spacious in our Rotary Shop; a very comfortable setting for enjoying a night of fine food, fellowship and hearing about Rotary Youth Exchange.

In early July, Jasper Holst, will be arriving in Warracknabeal to start his 12 months in our community. His host families will be Hugh & Merrily Keam, Andrew & Gaye Golder and Craig & Mel Byron and their children. One of the main aims of the night was to introduce our host families to our club members and to help them learn a little about the Exchange program. The Golder and Byron families were both able to join us for the night, and commented how much they enjoyed the night and how valuable the evening was.

Thanks to Peter Martin and Kate Liersch who shared their experiences about being exchange students. Thanks to John Liersch who comforted our soon-to-be host families with his recollection of being a host parent. Thanks to Ian and Lorraine Penny who also spoke about hosting. Ian then explained the rigorous process for selecting and preparing students for exchange, and the important supporting role played by the student councillor. (Jack Daniel will be Jasper’s councillor, with Helen Peters as assistant) Ben Bentley completed the talks with recollections of their exchange experiences. Ben and Joan have hosted 11 incoming students over the years— a most impressive commitment to the RI Youth Exchange Program. They still keep in contact will all of them, have welcomed some back on their return visits to Warracknabeal and on their overseas trips, have visited many in their home country.

Ben aptly summarised all the speaker’s views…. “When you’re hosting, these young people are part of your family. They are your children…..You make lifelong friendships.....Rotary exchange is a connection to the world.”

Rotarians and guests alike had a fantastic night.

Winner of the raffle prizes: First Carolyn Morcom (hamper & Bentley fuel voucher) , second Lachie Golder (Sports Bag), and third John Tonkin (stubbies!!!) The raffle raised $172.

Thank you to all that assisted in any way, including all that attended.

International Committee: Helen Peters, Christine Gumpula, Mandy Morcom.

Jasper’s Hosting families at the International Night – Golders and Byrons, (Absent: Keam family)

From left: Matt Golder, RCW President Chris Hewitt, Angus Byron, Andrew Golder, Gaye Golder, Elsa Byron, Lachie Golder, Mel Byron, Craig Byron.
Letters From Laura

Liebe Rotary Club of Warracknabeal,

I hope all is well and it isn’t getting too cold!
These last couple of months here have been some of the best of my life and I’m so excited to share with you some of my experiences.

At the beginning of April I headed off on my EuroTour along with 70 other exchange students from my district and beyond. The tour took us to 10 different countries over 20 days in one double decker bus. I made so many amazing friends from all over the world and had an absolute ball.

We started in Paris where I got to see the Notre Dame (just two days before the fire), The Eiffel Tower at night and The Louvre. Paris was absolutely beautiful and I was so overwhelmed as it’s a place that I’ve been dreaming about visiting for so long. After an overnight stop in gorgeous Avignon, we arrived in Barcelona. We stayed there for three nights in little cabins along the beach. The city was certainly one of my favourites with the cool little streets and relaxed atmosphere, also Barcelona was the place where I felt our group became a big family as we were all so chilled just enjoying every second. We then spent a night in Nice, then lived it up for a day in Monaco.

After a very long bus ride we arrived in Italy which as a whole is the most beautiful country I have ever visited, an added bonus of course was the endless pizza, pasta and gelato. I took a shameless tourist photo in front of the leaning tower of Pisa, and met two new Aussies that I will go on a ski tour with at the end of the year. Then came Rome, full of so much history and breathtaking sites. I had a guided tour of the Colosseum, attended mass in the Vatican on Easter Sunday—these were some of my favourite moments of the tour. Next was a very wet and cold 16th birthday in Venice. I spent much of the day lost in the maze of alleyways and chilling in a cute cafe with one of my best friends on the tour. That night my roomies and a few more of my close friends threw a surprise party for me which was really lovely.

Next was Vienna, an incredible city that is definitely one of the best I’ve visited. We got dressed up for the opera and had a ball! Second to last was hands down, the best city I’ve ever visited, that being Budapest. Not only was it beautiful but the people were so friendly and welcoming. I really got to spend the most quality time with my closest tour friends—perhaps too much time as we all had to sprint 10 kilometres to make curfew on time because one member of our group made some Hungarian friends and got lost in the metro! Lastly was Prague, the coolest city ever. The loud food markets and strange museums about summed up Prague but it was the best because of the people that I had met along the way and the true friendships I had made. Then after a very emotional end of tour speech from our chairmen and so, so many tears and hugs, we boarded the bus driven by the legend, Theo and set off to Frankfurt, then home.

EuroTour was by far the best experience of my life, and I’m so grateful to have been given the opportunity to see so many of the places I’ve only dreamed about seeing and to have done all of that with 70 of the best people I’ve ever had that chance of meeting.

A few days after returning to Landau I moved host families and am now living in a village called Bornheim. I have two host brothers, one is in my class at school and is heading to New Zealand in July and the other is younger and is really sweet. My host parents are so wonderful and welcoming. I’m so lucky to be able to go with them to Sweden and to Northern Germany on a beach holiday in the summer.

Currently I’m organising and packing to go to the International Rotary Convention in Hamburg this weekend, where I’m lucky enough to be carrying the Australian flag in the parade. I’m so excited and will for sure send you another update shortly.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,
Laura