



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is with great pleasure that I present this Annual Report of our club's activities for the Rotary Year 2010-2011; the 61st year of the Rotary Club of Moe.

At the start of this Rotary year I presented a **Club Plan** to our club of what I believed was achievable throughout the year; I am pleased to announce that most of the objectives we planned for were achieved, as well the opportunities and challenges that were not envisaged at the planning stage. All activities were undertaken with willingness and enthusiasm. I sincerely thank The Board and all members of this club, together with their partners, for their support, dedication and hard work throughout the year that ensured the ongoing success of our club.

Rotary International's World President Ray Klinginsmith's theme for this Rotary year was "**Building Communities, Bridging Continents**". The Rotary Club of Moe has worked towards achieving this theme in our work with the local community and through national and international projects and programs. We should feel proud that throughout the year we have indeed helped to 'build' the local community as well as helped to 'bridge' the gaps across the continents.

A strong characteristic of our club is the tremendous **fellowship** between our members and the warmth of the greetings given to our guests and visitors throughout the year. Visitors, both Rotarian and non-Rotarian, have commented that 'fun and fellowship' is a fantastic feature of our club and that they felt very welcome at our meetings. We should be proud of the fact that we interact with each other so well considering we come from many backgrounds and walks of life. I am certainly proud to be able to say that the members of The Rotary Club of Moe not only have a **huge** amount of fun together but also work well together to achieve many goals and that each member contributes in so many ways towards the overall success of our club.

This year we have seen our President Elect Pash Demagistris chair a large and diverse **Club Service Committee**. He has embraced his responsibilities and the challenges of this program and, together with his hard working committee, has done a wonderful job and I am sure we are going to have a great year in 2011-2012 with Pash at the helm.

David Prust and Michael Koch both had a busy, but extremely successful, year sharing the **International Service Committee**. David's commitment to International Service has seen the club's strong involvement with hosting the GSE Team from Finland, and, at the same time, the running of the Annual Charity Golf Day. With the help of the International Service Committee both activities were very successful. Thank you David for putting your hand up and taking on the Golf Day, which was a huge success with major sponsorship being achieved as well as a good time being had by all those who attended.

When David took leave of absence during the year Michael willingly stepped into his shoes and continued with the success of this committee.

In January this year we welcomed home **Rotary Youth Exchange** student Melissa Howlett from her exchange year. Melissa had an amazing year living in Austria.

This Rotary year we once again hosted an Inbound Exchange Student. Jeppe Straaup came to our district and club in July 2010 from Denmark and has had a wonderful year experiencing life 'down under', and, through the 'Rock to Reef Safari', got to visit possibly many parts of Australia that some of us Rotarians haven't seen. A huge thank you must go to Rotarian and non-Rotarian families that hosted Jeppe, and also to Melissa's counsellor, Diane Wilkinson, and Jeppe's councillor, Michael Koch, for always being there in a counselling role for these students when needed. I am sure both Melissa and Jeppe will remember the good and the not-so-good experiences of youth exchange for the rest of their lives and, because of these experiences, will be able to face the challenges of life with more maturity, wisdom and confidence into the future.

Len Cairns, Vocational Service Chair, and his committee have continued a great tradition of **Vocational Service**. The annual Pride of Workmanship Awards was a highlight of the year's programs and it was wonderful to be able to formally acknowledge those recognised by their school for outstanding workmanship. It was also great to see two local businesses being awarded Vocational Awards for their work and commitment in the local community. Chris, together with his committee, also showed a huge support to Rotary Youth Programs by sourcing students from local schools to attend programs.

Mike Carter and Alan Sinnott, **Community Service** Chairs, provided our club with plentiful funds for community and Rotary projects. Mike jumped in when the senior citizens requested our help with the Medic Alert books and he was always willing to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty when needed. This is always a hard working committee with lots of things to do; thank you to all committee members for an excellent year of community service.

During the year we had Bryon Puddy provide us with lots of information about **The Rotary Foundation**, and Laurie Huffer was our guru on **Rotary knowledge**; their input helped to confirm what we already know - that Rotary International is a great organisation to belong to.

One of the objectives all Rotarians see as a constant is to increase the net membership of our clubs worldwide. At our club we too hope to increase our numbers where possible; regrettably though, this year we had to accept a resignation due to relocation. We have, however, been fortunate to welcome Peter Kingsbury and Maureen Wadell as new members to our club. Under the reins of **Club Membership** liaison officer, Roger Taylor, we continue to promote Rotary and The Rotary Club of Moe whenever and wherever we can. We continue to find that word-of-mouth and being as high profile as possible in the local community is generally the best way. Brian Gregory has helped greatly with club promotion through articles and photographs in the Moe News.

Neil McCluskey, our **Bulletin**, editor provided our club with a very informative and entertaining weekly newsletter. Thank you Neil for all your wonderful hard work in getting our bulletin out on time each week and congratulations on winning 'District 9820 Best Bulletin Award' for our club.

Throughout the year our Director of **Programs**, Roger Taylor, helped keep us 'educated and entertained' at our weekly meetings with a variety of programs, activities and many great guest speakers. Part of that weekly entertainment was our **Sergeant Session**; Sergeant John cleverly managed to extract lots of money from us whilst making light fun of our many misdemeanours and our inaccurate footy tipping.

I would like to extend my thanks to **Treasurer** Barry Dunstan for his ongoing commitment to The Board and to me. Barry has kept our financial books in good order this year, and, as we all know, the treasurer has a difficult job that must be carried out quickly and accurately, particularly following events such as the Golf day and barbecues. Barry has done this very well.

My grateful thanks go to **Secretary** David Power for his efficiency and dedication to our club. I could not have performed the role as President without his support, his management and his forward thinking.

One of my last responsibilities for the year, and one I am proudly looking forward to, is to honour two very worthy members of our club with the prestigious **Paul Harris Fellow Award** for dedication to the ideals of Rotary through service to our Club, our Community and Internationally. These awards will be presented at Changeover Night with due ceremony.

Once again I extend my sincere thanks to our Board Members for their commitment and valuable time given. My thanks also go to all Committee Chairs who carried out their duties in their respective portfolios with great enthusiasm and energy. Each Chair has presented their portfolio reports for this Annual Report

Well, for me, I have had a busy but very enjoyable year as President of The Rotary Club of Moe. This role has not only given me the opportunity to learn more about our local community, individual members of our club and of course Rotary International and its work around the world, but it has also taught me a lot about myself and where I fit in the 'grand scheme of life'.

I truly thank you all for this remarkable opportunity to serve you as President for 2010-2011 and for allowing me to experience such a 'special' year that I will always remember. I trust Pash has an equally rewarding year as President.

Finally I would like to thank my husband Brett and my family for their love, encouragement and support given to me throughout the year. I could not have done this without them at my side.

Wendy Farmer
President 2010-2011
The Rotary Club of Moe