

Rotary Club of Bairnsdale



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank all the members at the Changeover in person, those who joined via Zoom and those who provided video. It made the day special to me by having so many people embrace the new experience.

I hope to restart in person meetings soon. We are just waiting for government regulations to relax enough for us to be able to have all members attend, not just 20.

A full report of all EGRFA activities from the first day will be emailed to all members in time for our meeting on June 16. It does include everything you could possibly want to know and has been compiled by myself for our Club members. EGRFA Chair Pearl Findlay-James has also written an Annual Report, which is included in this bulletin.

As was said at the Changeover, with all the extenuating circumstances, disasters, extremely trying conditions our region has experienced recently, this year can only get better!

**Yours in Rotary,
Martin van Elst**



COVID-19

Restrictions on social gatherings have been lifted by the Victorian Government.

We will be returning to in person meetings once these restrictions allow for 50 people

INDUCTIONS

Roy Rooney

1 Year – 18 June 2019



EVENT CALENDAR

JUN 16: ZOOM Meeting

Weekly meeting @6:30pm
RC Bairnsdale Changeover
Video Presentation @7pm

JUN 20-26: 2020 Rotary Virtual International Convention

Register your interest online

JUN 21: District 9820 Assembly

Main Plenary @ 10am
Other Topics covering July

JUN 23: Meeting

Either in person / ZOOM

JUN 28: DISTRICT 9820

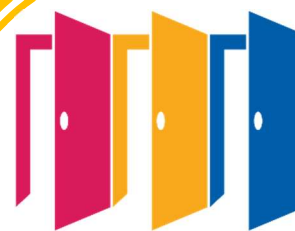
2020/21 CHANGEOVER
Register your interest online

JUN 30: BOARD MEETING

Either in person / ZOOM

JUL 07: Meeting

Either in person / ZOOM



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Tuesday Meetings

Login by 6:30pm

ZOOM Meeting

on a device in your home

BULLETIN 01
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VOL. 83

RI President	Mark Maloney
D9820 Governor	Adrian Froggatt
D9820 EG Ass. Gov.	Tony Murray

2020/21 EXECUTIVE

President	0450 921 756
Martin van Elst	vanelst.rotary@gmail.com
Secretary	0458 099 274
Judy Moore	bairnsdale.rotary@gmail.com
Treasurer	0400 168 173
Michelle Young	mmyoung20@bigpond.com
Immediate Past President	0487 117 600
Patricia Murray-Walton	plmwalton@gmail.com

2020/21 Directors

Foundation	0439 610 206
Brenda Burney	bbbeans59@hotmail.com
Membership & Vocation	0419 379 739
Brian Ross	brian@egbp.com.au
Community	0408 307 835
Michelle Worsley	michelle_worsley93@outlook.com
International	0411 432 522
Gillian Reeve	gillianreeve@aussiebb.com.au
Youth	0487 117 600
Patricia Murray-Walton	plmwalton@gmail.com
Programs	0438 432 482
John Walker	bonnieruthwalker@hotmail.com
Public Relations	0438 432 482
Bonnie Walker	bonnieruthwalker@hotmail.com

Marquee	0412 432 325
John Crawford	johnacrawford43@gmail.com
BBQ	0458 099 274
Judy Moore	bairnsdale.rotary@gmail.com
Social Media	0411 432 522
Gillian Reeve	gillianreeve@aussiebb.com.au
Bulletin	0450 921 756
Martin van Elst	vanelst.rotary@gmail.com



Rotary

Club of Bairnsdale

82nd Changeover 2020



Martin van Elst

I am honoured the members have given me the opportunity as President, to lead the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale.

The Club has such a storied history with long standing commitment to community engagement and it is this that resonates strongly with me. To be counted among other outstanding community leaders and Club members to have held the position is a privilege.

With an 82 year old Club comes a history and many traditions, I look forward to the responsibility of upholding these values



Rotary Club of Bairnsdale - 2020/21 Leadership Team

while doing things which will reflect current community needs.

I was once asked “why did I become a Rotarian?” The answer is quite simple “to make the community I live in a better place”. This is how I intend to approach my term as President.

Club activities that are beneficial to our community with tangible and positive outcomes that clearly address a need, which the members involved have a real passion for implementing.

The Farmers Drought Relief Program is one such program that fits the description of a “passion project”, and should remain a top priority this year.

While I’m advocating for a greater local community focus, it will not detract from our club’s years of work on International, Foundation and other projects.

Working alongside a wonderful group of committed members, I am pleased to introduce my board for the coming year;

Secretary	Judy Moore
Treasurer	Michelle Young
Foundation	Brenda Burney
Membership	Brian Ross
Community	Michelle Worsley
International	Gillian Reeve
Youth	Patricia Murray-Walton
Programs	John Walker
Public Relations	Bonnie Walker

Holger Knaack’s RI theme for 2020/21 is **“ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES”**. As we have seen recently there are many opportunities to work with our local community, to create lasting working partnerships, and provide others with opportunities that might not be attainable to them in ordinary circumstances. Let us all practice the Rotary motto **“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**.

Yours in Rotary,
Martin van Elst



I joined Rotary to make the community I live in a better place.
That is how I intend to approach my term as President.

Martin van Elst (2020/21 President)



What a unique Changeover this was!

It can safely be said that RC Bairnsdale has never had a changeover quite like it.

Covid-19 conditions meant that we were never going to have a Changeover in the traditional sense. With some clubs delaying their own Changeover to August or even September, others doing small in person events and some cancelling entirely, our decision to push ahead as scheduled using the technology available was keeping with the 'at the forefront' mindset RC Bairnsdale has a name for.

A hybrid Changeover utilising in person speeches, ZOOM speeches and pre-recorded video presentations was a technical challenge given we were using computers, devices and knowledge available only through club members. Though there were a few hiccups with the technology side of things, it did not detract too much from proceedings and even provided a few lighter moments which had the room chuckling.

The intimate atmosphere from having 20 attendees was appreciated by the members in the room. Wonderful to have so many animated conversations as we had not seen each other for a couple of months. With the exception of a few internet connectivity issues which made some of the Zoom speeches difficult to hear in person and sound issues on the TV at the Bairnsdale Club, the hybrid nature of the day while not perfect, could not be considered a failure.



Martin trying to solve a ubiquitous technical issue



Winner of Heads & Tails. Luckily Rex was attending in person



Tony enjoying the day amid the decorations



Thank you must go to the members who assisted to make this Changeover special.

Gillian Reeve & Martin van Elst for the technical aspects. Trish Prighel for the decorations. Cec Estoppey for the gifts and bits and pieces that were overlooked in the initial planning.

To our dignitaries on ZOOM; DG Adrian Froggatt, DGE Mark Humphries & PDG Janne Spiers.



The ZOOM attendees showed remarkable patience. It was wonderful to have people attend who wouldn't normally.



MC Tim Gibson did a marvellous job in exceptional circumstances

Rotary

Club of Bairnsdale

82nd Changeover 2020



Michelle Young PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



A member for 3 years, Michelle has certainly made her mark at the Club in that time.

Always ready to step up to volunteer when required, she picked up the treasurers role

early on and has made the job her own.

An avid animal lover born in the area who studied Horse Management, she is still involved with the local horse clubs bringing her bookkeeping skills to them as well as riding skills.

Michelle is deservedly receiving her Paul Harris Fellow for her outstanding work with EGRFA over the last 6 months, a task that immense in its scope and time demands and requirements.

All this in addition to RC Bairnsdale's Farmers Drought Relief, other community groups and a full time job.

For the huge effort that Michelle has put in over the last two years, Michelle is a truly worthy recipient of this Paul Harris Fellow. Well done Michelle.

Ula Sheather PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



A member for 4 years, Ula devoted herself to many service projects prior to joining fellow Rotarian and husband Ken in Rotary.

Currently Champion of 'Days for Girls' in

D9820, a program providing sanitary education and supplies in Asia, Ula spends her time coordinating and producing these items for distribution.

Ula has made many trips to India through her work with "Awake and Shine", a program to provide an educational background for rural children in India, and teach them English.

Over the years Ula has also travelled to administer Polio vaccines through Rotary's Polio Plus program

Ula is also the President of Bairnsdale Inner Wheel for 2019/20, having been a member for many years.

It is for the accumulation of her efforts across these programs over the years that Ula receives her Paul Harris Fellow.

Rex Estoppey PAUL HARRIS FELLOW (2nd Sapphire)



Rex has always done his own style of community work, a person who does not have any grandiose ideas. Honest old school attitude of talking to country people is who he is, because that is where he came from.

A non-conditional regard and respect, caring for those who are hurting. A gentle word of encouragement or saying nothing at all, and just listening.

Rex received a 2nd Sapphire to add to the Sapphire he was awarded in 2019/20, for his extensive work with EGRFA in assisting farmers since January 2001.

We are proud to honour Rex once again.

Rex, you are a silent achiever and a true Australian to the core.

CLUB HISTORY IN THE MAKING

This was an historic Changeover for our club in more ways than just having the first 'hybrid' Changeover of 2020 in the District.

At the age of 41, Martin van Elst became the youngest President that the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale in its 83 year history.

Our Club historian Tim Gibson has confirmed that current Club member John Beynon was the previous holder of this title, becoming President in 1985 at the age of 43.

Another piece of history achieved is that it was the first time Rotary Club of Bairnsdale has had a President with a parent who is still an active member of the club, whom has also been a President. We are not sure how many other clubs can claim that honour.

It is a great honour to see my son Martin become President of our club. He has been a member for several years now and he has added a lot to our club with his youthful enthusiasm, so I am very proud of him.

I am excited for you in taking on the leadership of the Club. I may not be there most of the time next year, but that may be a bit of a bonus as you do not need your mother looking over your shoulder and telling you what to do and I know that that could happen.

Well done Martin and I look forward to your year as President.

Gillian Reeve – Proud Mother & Past President



Rotary Farmers Relief

CLUB PROGRAM CONTACTS

RC Bairnsdale Farmers Relief

Gillian Reeve **Co-ordinator**
0411 432 522 bairnsdale.rotary@gmail.com

East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid

Martin van Elst **Club Representative**
0450 921 756 vanelst.rotary@gmail.com

Golf and Bowls Charity Day

Rex Estoppey Geoff Johnston

Donations are very welcome to;
Rotary Club of Bairnsdale Projects Acct

BSB: 633-000

ACCT: 165960451

REF: Farmer Relief (or name of Club Project)

Do you have an idea for a Club activity?
Have you seen an issue in the community that you think Rotary would be able to help with?

Do you have an idea sitting at the back of your mind that you've always wanted to do?

This is the year to bring it to fruition!



D9820 Champion for
'End Polio Now'
GILLIAN REEVE



D9820 Champion for
'Days for Girls'
ULA SHEATHER



OUR SIX AREAS OF FOCUS



Basic Education
and Literacy



Maternal and
Child Health



Peace and Conflict
prevention / resolution



Disease
prevention and
treatment



Water and
Sanitation



Economic and
Community
Development



East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid



Direct Deposit to:
East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid
BSB: 633-000
A/C: 165960451
Use the reference 'Fire Aid'

Rotary  **East Gippsland
Rotary Fire Aid**

Pearl Findlay-James (*Sunrise*) Chair
Michelle Young (*Bairnsdale*) Treasurer
Robyn Counihan (*Sunrise*) Secretary
John Fallon (*Sunrise*)
Bernie Farquhar (*Mitchell River*)
Don Osbourne (*Orbost*)
Peter Sindrey (*Lakes Entrance*)
Martin van Elst (*Bairnsdale*)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT (by Pearl Findlay-James)

Since the inception of the East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid Committee on the 1st January after the most destructive of fires in East Gippsland on December 30th (following a meeting called by then Assistant Governor Anne Cross) a myriad of tasks have been undertaken. These have ranged from much needed assistance with fencing materials, hay and high energy fodder, money vouchers for fire survivors to use in shops / businesses in local towns, provision of warm Winter clothing, King Gee work clothing, donated furniture, white goods and many other desperately needed areas of assistance, which, despite the Covid 19 restrictions of the past three months, have continued to be distributed where possible and still within the bounds of the lockdown. A major recent development has been the delivery of a number of refurbished caravans which have become new homes for some of those previously living in tents on their properties. Thanks go to Rotarians in District 9800 and particularly from the Rotary Club of Melbourne for their role in this venture. I must also mention the grants which we have already received from RAWCS and also the RI Disaster Recovery Fund which have assisted specifically in the areas of fodder and fencing materials.

Since the arrival of the first shipping container on March 13th, progress in this area has been frustrating at the very least. Unfortunately, promised containers have either not arrived or have come extremely slowly resulting in desperately needed – and promised – storage not arriving on site. Other means have been and continue to be sourced but for both the Committee and those

who should have received their containers by now, there has been concern, frustration and angst – especially among survivors who are at times 'walking a fine line' anyway.

The Rotary money vouchers have proved to be a great success with over \$180,000 being distributed to fire affected survivors so far. The vouchers are providing a source of income for local retailers during this very unstable time economically. Committee members visit the family or individual referred to us, carry along a Rotary fruit cake to share over a cuppa. There are also follow up visits to present the vouchers, clothing or other needs as determined during the initial visit.

Valuable contacts have been made within the non-Government sector over the last six months, with Lisa from GIVIT becoming a major asset and her program has added a valuable source of specifically needed goods, not least of which have been generators.

Two Community BBQ days were held at Bruthen and Cann River prior to COVID-19 lockdown, but later in the year, we will assess both the demand and the restrictions and endeavour to continue these events if they are still requested. Assistance to and continued contact with our fire survivors while keeping ourselves safe has been a major priority during the health crisis and the Committee has continued to meet fortnightly by ZOOM with regular emails and phone calls still playing a major role as well. It has been interesting over the last few weeks to see that, while a few survivors are starting to rebuild their lives as insurance comes through and their bonds with us loosen,

as the weather has turned cold there has been a spate of new referrals as some who had tried to 'go it alone' have realised that this is no longer viable and have sought assistance.

We may have slipped from the headlines however we are still in the thoughts of many by continuing to receive both financial donations as well as the incredible Winter clothing response.

As Chairperson I must acknowledge the work of the whole committee as a team, bringing specific skill sets to a situation which has taken us all into uncharted waters. We have achieved an amazing amount of work over a very short time frame and I am very proud to lead this team of dedicated Rotarians. The Rotary family of Districts 9820, 9800, and all other districts within Victoria and beyond have also assisted, financially and physically and we look forward to being able to see many Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike returning to the area as restrictions lift further and we are able to really get into working bees and practical projects to help the overall recovery of this area of our District. Even, as one Club has already done, rebooking Club visits down here, helps our local economy and lifts everyone's spirits enormously.

Thank you all, for assisting us to assist those in desperate need here in East Gippsland.

Pearl Findlay-James
Chairperson
EGRFA Committee

*Annual Report as submitted to District 9820.
Report reproduced in its entirety and covers
all EGRFA activities from 1st January 2020.*



Rotary Club of Bairnsdale



RC Mitchell River (Bairnsdale)
Bairnsdale RSL
Monday 5:45 for 6:00pm



RC Bairnsdale Sunrise
Bairnsdale International Hotel
Wednesday 6:45 for 7:00am



RC Lakes Entrance
Central Hotel
2nd & 4th Wednesday 6:00 for 6:30pm



RC Orbost
Orbost Club
1st & 3rd Wednesday 6:00 for 6:30pm

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

With the Changeover comes the new Rotary year. RI Fees for the Club covering the first half of 2020/21 are calculated on membership levels as at 1 July 2020.

We need to ensure our club has the correct information on membership numbers at that time, so the Club does not unnecessarily pay for members that resign in July.

It has been a tough year for the Club in terms of fundraising with the bushfires and then Covid-19 severely affecting Club fundraising activities.

BULLETIN

The bulletin has now moved to being issued twice a month, prior to 1st and 3rd meetings of the month.

Bulletins should never be left to one or two people to write.

If you are aware of good being done by a selfless Rotarian or other Rotary news, write an article and send it in, with a picture if possible.

Submissions are welcome from all Rotarians, you are encouraged to make your contribution.

JUNE ROSTER

Welcome: NOT REQUIRED

Sergeant: Tony M

MARQUEE ERECTIONS

We have got our first Marquee booking since New Year's Day! Unfortunately it's not until March 2021 but it is a start.

District Changeover

Rotary
District 9820



via Zoom

Saturday 28 June
at 12 noon



Thinking of
resuming
in-person
meetings?

Check out
our guide

Rotary
District 9820



District Assembly

Online Webinars

21 June - Plenary Session
4 - 12 July - Break Out Sessions
(Individual webinars on various dates in July)

Rotary
District 9820



NOW MORE THAN EVER, ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD: THE 2020 ROTARY VIRTUAL CONVENTION

20-26 June 2020 | Learn more at riconvention.org

Rotary

