

Rotary Club of Bairnsdale



BULLETIN 14
MARCH 2020
VOL. 82



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our summer has been very challenging in many ways with the ongoing drought, then bush fires.

As Rotarians we all accept our challenges and we persevere. This has been proven with ongoing donations for Drought Relief and Bush Fire Aid. Even though we have several years of work ahead of us we as Rotarian are committed to helping those who are in need.

I would like to congratulate one of our members, John Beynon for being awarded the (OAM) Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day Honours for his service to the community.

Thank you to all the club members for their commitment to our clubs ongoing projects and our fundraising. Your passion for Rotary and dedication to what Rotary is all about truly shines in our community of East Gippsland.

Yours in Rotary,

Patricia Murray-Walton



No one is doing it for recognition,
they're doing it to help.
It's alright to raise the profile,
but it's not for the pat on the back.

- John Beynon OAM

BIRTHDAYS

Rex Estoppey – 15 March

Judy Moore – 22 March

Ian Campbell – 25 March

EVENT CALENDAR

MAR 03: Meeting

MAR 10: Meeting

Ula Sheather

**MAR 14: Cann River Community
Day & Music Perform.**
EGRFA supported event

MAR 17: Meeting

Rod Bridgborn

(Rotarian behind the Badge)

MARCH 20-22 2020

Rotary District 9820 Conference

Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo

MAR 24: Meeting

Report on Conference

MAR 31: BOARD MEETING

APR 07: 37th Annual Charity

Golf and Bowls Day

Bairnsdale Golf Club

Supporting the Bower Birds

APR 10: Good Friday Appeal

Tin Rattling & \$ Counting

For Royal Children's Hospital

APR 11: Buchan Kinder BBQ

Buchan Caves Reserve

Supporting Buchan Kinder.

APR 14: Meeting

APR 21: Meeting

Tuesday Meetings

5:45pm for 6:15pm

The Bairnsdale Club

68 Nicholson Street

RI President

Mark Maloney

D9820 Governor

Adrian Froggatt

D9820 EG Ass. Gov.

Anne Cross

2019/20 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

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Martin van Elst vanelst.rotary@gmail.com

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Michelle Young mmyoung20@bigpond.com

Immediate Past President

0428 561 483

Tony Murray lathrop.murray@bigpond.com

2019/20 Directors

Membership & Vocation

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Brian Ross brian@egbp.com.au

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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

As many will be aware, our club has been helping farmers during this terrible drought since August 2018.

The fires have taken a lot of the focus off the drought and some recent rains have eased the situation somewhat. Our club is on the case and will continue to support these drought affected farmers and will honour our commitment to see it through.

Donations are very welcome to:

Rotary Club of Bairnsdale Projects Acct:

BSB: 633-000

Acct: 165960451

REF: Farmer Relief

A Message of thanks from Ensay Farmers

Hi Rex,

Ensay farmers want to say "Thank you" to the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale and Rotary across the world. It is humbling to think that people are helping us here in what is a very difficult long drought and now fires.

We have been given gifts of hay, bulka bags and lick blocks. I thank you all on their behalf.

These gifts will certainly help feed sheep during the recovery period and for the coming wet and cold winter. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely, Ensay Farmers



(L-R) Warren Kennedy (Driver) with RC Bairnsdale members Bonnie & John Walker and Rex Estoppey. All three are part of Farmers Relief project, each with decades of experience.



MD PETS
21-23 Feb 2020
RACV Goldfields

9780*9800
9810*9820

As President Elect for 2020-21, Martin van Elst along with his partner Trish, attended the Multi-Districts Presidents Elect Training Seminar at RACV Goldfields in Creswick on 21-23 February.

As many of you will know these seminars provide an opportunity to learn and network with experienced Rotary, business and community leaders, as well as realising that every other President-Elect knows as little as you! Kicking off with a casual Aussie BBQ on Friday evening, the weekend was full of talks discussion panels and the ubiquitous 'breakout' sessions.

One takeaway I have is all clubs and most districts are aware of RC Bairnsdale's efforts with Farmers Relief and more recently with the Fire Aid. For the first time at these events, everyone knew where Bairnsdale was! All were curious as to how we are going 'way over there'.



(LEFT) View of the Golf Course from dining room
(BELOW) Grand Ballroom Dinner on Saturday Night



Adrian Roach getting a bit 'turned around' during a panel discussion.



East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid



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

The recovery and rebuilding process is progressing, with a meeting between Grocon and various community groups including RC Bairnsdale's own Brian.

Brian & Judy have been to the far reaches of East Gippsland with their work and are well appraised of the situation. They will inform us all where help is most needed.

Shipping containers are now being distributed to those who need them.

The voucher system based on RC Bairnsdale's Farmers Relief system has well and truly commence, with 306 stores in towns across East Gippsland on board.

Michelle Y's work load has quadrupled with these vouchers now being redeemed so I'm sure we can allow her some slack with non-essential club financial needs.

The Cann River Community Event is back on with it now occurring on Saturday March 14. RC Bairnsdale job on the day will be to man our BBQ so we will be needing 3-5 volunteers for the day. RC Orbost will also be providing their BBQ and Fairy Floss machine, and the Australian Army Band of Melbourne will be playing. Do not forget, it is basically a 2hr drive to Cann River, so plan accordingly.

Martin van Elst



Tony Brock from Rotary Club of Lilydale with Michelle Young & President Patricia Murray-Walton at RC Bairnsdale last meeting.

Tony has come to the area to help with bushfire recovery, as he has done in the past.

What have EGRFA achieved over the past 8 weeks since our formation on 1 January? What have the donations been used for?

- Source & distribute hay to the drought & fire affected communities.
- Co-ordinating haulage contractors.
- Purchase Bulka Bags of stock pellets for farm breeding stock, using local grain stores for distribution.
- Source & distribute 'star pickets' to assist with the many kilometres of fencing required to prevent stock wandering. Treated pine posts & wire are also being sourced.
- Implementing a Voucher system, where the severely fire affected can receive funds in the form of money vouchers, which can be redeemed in over 300 retailers & service providers across East Gippsland.
- The voucher system will be an ongoing program for the foreseeable future, potentially lasting for up to 2 years.
- Supporting local retailers.
- Distributed new workwear to fire affected properties.
- Community BBQ's & working Bee's where members of communities can reconnect and 'talk'.
- Sourcing & distributing donated furniture, bedding and white goods to those in desperate need.
- Providing 20ft shipping containers to fire affected properties that have lost all shedding, which will allow them to store work tools, etc securely.
- Being a conduit for those needing professional assistance urgently.
- An amazing amount of volunteering & traveling over a vast region to assist all communities.



East Gippsland
Rotary Fire Aid

Pearl Findlay-James (*Sunrise*) Chairperson

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*)



(ABOVE) The volunteers helping with fencing and rebuilding. These guys do an awesome job.

(BELOW) Fencing done at a Sarsfield property.



OTHER ROTARY DISTRICTS & FIRE RELIEF PROJECTS



Reflections on a drive through Bush Fire affected areas

Last week I drove from Bairnsdale to the Gold Coast and saw some of the devastation that the recent fires have brought and how widespread it actually was.

The first sight that hits you as you leave Bairnsdale is of course Sarsfield. It is hard to believe that nearly all the houses were burnt to the ground and some of the remaining ones will have to be demolished. It was heartening to see vehicles and workers beginning the task of clearing debris and putting up much needed fencing. Some of these teams were organised by the Master Plumbers through Bernie Farquhar and were assisting at the Wild Flower Farm in Sarsfield who had suffered greatly.

As you drive towards Orbost evidence of the fires pops up here and there, some houses still intact, some gone and burnt trees at the side of the road for several kilometres with road signs damaged which confirms why the roads were closed during the height of the fires. I know that Wairewa was badly affected but from the highway there is no evidence of what has happened.

Passing the Bellbird Hotel, I wondered how on earth the hotel was still intact as

all the trees surrounding it were well and truly burnt, another one of those miracles that happens during events like these. Nearing Cann River the fires had made their mark on the trees on both sides of the highway and further back into the bush. I stopped at the local café and commented to the woman there on how it was amazing that the town was not touched, she had evacuated twice, but was back working and carrying on as normal.

Turning towards Bombala more evidence of the fires appeared every now and then, looking at a hill in the distance I noticed that the trees were brown, obviously burnt and would have been a frightening sight when it was on fire. It was not until I was about 20kms from Bombala that the burnt areas were no longer visible, but an isolated house in the middle of a green paddock had not fared well and was partially burnt. That night I stopped at Marulan, which from the highway looked unscathed but the owner of the motel said that at the height of the fires it had been frightening and they were all on fire watch.

You go through Sydney and think that will be the end of it, but coming into Taree the

ravages of the fires was evident at the sides of the highway, signs and fencing looking a bit worse for wear, not to mention the trees, burnt black. So here I was over 1000 kilometres from Bairnsdale and the fires were still making their mark, of course it would have been a terrible sight had I been able to take the coast road, most of which was closed, I was lucky that the road to Canberra had opened only a few days prior to my departure.

We have to consider ourselves lucky that as a club we have escaped relatively unscathed, although PP Helen's house was destroyed in Sarsfield, some had to evacuate, but we are all still in one piece. It just shows the full scope of these fires and what work we have ahead to help all those in need in East Gippsland and as always I am glad that I am a Rotarian and helping our great organisation achieve so much. Not wishing to become political, I am dismayed at local, state and federal governments as they do not seem to see that so many people are in need and will require ongoing assistance, but the locals know that Rotary once again will be here for the long haul.

Gillian Reeve



Roy Rooney
Rotarian behind the Badge
 4 February 2020

A snap shot of the life and times of Roy Rooney

Born to English parents in 1951 in Thomastown – Australia.

1956 went to England, returned to Australia in 1958.

Lived in Brighton for a couple of years, attending Gardenvale primary school.

In 1960 my parents bought their home in Elsternwick, where I now went to Caulfield state school.

Developed a need to play sport. Introduced to soccer and started in the juniors for South Melbourne Hellas... a Greek team based at Albert Park.

As a teenager I played senior soccer as a semi pro for Hellas and Hakoia Ajax. In later years I played and coached for Werribee, Brighton & Creswick soccer teams.

During my late teenage years and early twenties I played in a couple of bands as a bass guitar and percussion musician for two groups. JC Maddison Sounds and the Konkords.

My secondary studies were at Brighton Technical School. At the end of my tech studies I joined the Southern School of Judo which I enjoyed for about 20 yrs. In the 1980's I became a black belt instructor teaching the gentle art of self defence.

Meanwhile after graduating from Brighton Tech I got a job as a cadet engineer working for the government aircraft factory in Port Melbourne. I worked there for about 3 years but the urge to travel convinced me to spend some time working on the iron ore fields in WA. After Dampier I headed overseas to England and Europe. When I returned to OZ it was time to settle down and get a real life getting a job in a canvas goods manufacturing company in Port Melbourne. Marriage came along in 1976 and Cathie and I headed for Daylesford, We bought 20 acres, built a house and that was the start of our country life. Horse riding was big on the agenda.

Our son and daughter were born in Daylesford. I was still working in Port Melbourne driving back and forth. After about 4 years doing the Port Melbourne run, I decided to build a small shed and manufacture canvas goods and some theatre drapery. Over the years in the canvas game I had built some good contacts especially in the theatre and TV industry.

I quickly grew out of the Daylesford shed, so we sold up and moved to Mount Eliza, moved the business into a workshop in Moorabbin, employed people and away we went. Our little business soon grew into one of Australia's biggest theatre and TV supply companies. Some productions we were involved with include Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Mama Mia, Les Miserables, The Lion King, We Will Rock You and many others. Over the years we would have been involved in over 200 productions.

After living at Mt Eliza we moved to Berwick, lived there for about 6 years and then on to Garfield North. We ran some cattle and sheep and our own horses. We developed the property into a race horse facility mainly for our daughter. After 26 years in Garfield North we decided to pack up and move to the Gippsland Lakes. After 40 years of theatre and television I have since retired, enjoying the life in Goon Nure boating, fishing, table tennis, Rotary and sampling red wine.

Roy Rooney

BOWLSCAN PROGRAM

The Bowl Scan Program conducted by Rotary Club of Bairnsdale will this year be conducted in MAY. Hopefully all the 5 Pharmacies in Bairnsdale and Paynesville will be participating – just hope they pay promptly this year!!!!

Last year our club sold 212 kits, well below the 342 we sold during the 2018 program – this may be due to the stuff-up with reminder letters, and also the wider distribution of the “free” Government kits to more people in the 55-74 age group being eligible. Despite extensive advertising on TV and Radio, the return rate for these free government kits was less than 30%.

All participants who returned a Negative test in 2019, (as well as those from 2018, who missed out due to a mix-up with the mail-out last year), will be sent a reminder letter this year.

The Multi-District Rotary Program which we are part of, tested 10,268 kits last year with 1411 positives detected.

John Beynon

MEETING APOLOGIES

A reminder to **ALL MEMBERS** to provide an apology if you are unable to attend any meetings.

Call the Bairnsdale Club on (03) 5152 4301, or drop in and speak to the staff to do so.

APRIL ROSTER

Welcome: Ian & Geoff

Sergeant: Tony M

MEETING ROSTERS

Don't wait for someone else to take your spot, volunteer now!



Rotary Club of Bairnsdale

FROM THE BOARD

With so many projects on at the moment it is surprising we have so many members attending a Club Board Meeting. Once again Judy stepped in for Gillian.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bonnie reported that in these weeks Primary Producer part of the Advertiser there was an article.

COMMUNITY

Gillian will be organising the Good Friday Appeal once again this year. Gillian, Michelle and Judy will be counting the money as usual, Bairnsdale Camping and Outdoors have offered the use of their office for the third year in a row.

John Beynon reported on Bowel scan kits with letters going out in May.

37th Annual Charity Golf & Bowls Day on 7th of April with proceeds going to the Bower Birds at the hospital. John Crawford is assisting Geoff with some of the organising for the bowls.

FOUNDATION

Foundation seminar to be held via Zoom on Sunday 1 March, at this point Gillian has registered and not sure if anyone else is able to attend. If anyone else is interested please follow "organise an invite with Gillian".

FARMERS RELIEF

Visit from the Rotary Club of Lilydale with correspondence read out. John Walker welcomed the Rotary Club of Lilydale to Bairnsdale.

FIRE AID

Voucher system is going with 306 shops in East Gippsland honouring vouchers.

Michelle Y's workload has quadrupled at least since vouchers started being redeemed but she does have assistance from Gillian & Martin.

YOUTH

NYSF Event was cancelled and Students will get their refunds. NYSF is not a Rotary Programs, NYSF were not covered for Smoke!!! Still no word on refund for clubs.



**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



The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale & The Bairnsdale Golf Club

37th Annual Charity Golf and Bowls Day



Tuesday 7 April 2020

All players will be entered into the draw for \$100.00

Sponsored by Elders Insurance



GOLF

Entry fee of \$25.00 per person
Includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea

Hit off times

8.30am - 9.00am and 11.30am onwards

Registrations can be made at the
Bairnsdale Golf Club
or by phone 5156 6252

18 hole Ambrose Teams of four

Teams can be men, ladies or mixed and can
include non handicap players

Nearest the pin on all par 3 holes
Sponsored by

Peter Murray Funerals

BOWLS

Entry fee of \$20.00 per person
Includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea

Starting time - 10.00 am

Mixed Rinks

Sponsored by

**Macleod Street Medical Clinic
&
R & C E Estoppey**



INTERNATIONAL

Ken, Ula and Roy will be travelling to India through RAWCS and Disaster Aid to take Sky Hydrants to the Rotary Club of Thimphu, Bhutan. Ken and Ula Sheather and Roy Rooney will be leaving on the 16th of April.

Part of this trip includes a visit and further training for teachers at Awake and Shine School, Samthar West Bengal.

MARCH ROSTER

Welcome: Brenda & Tony D
Sergeant: Tony M

MARQUEE ERECTIONS

MAR 14: Eastwood