CLUB No. 18406 DISTRICT 9815 CHARTERED 1959 ABN 34766344882



Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance

District 9815
Chartered 6th November 1959



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

RI PRESIDENT: STEPHANIE A. URCHICK

DISTRICT 9815 GOVERNOR: COLIN BYRON

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL ASSISTANT GOVERNOR: BILL DEGNAN

CLUB PRESIDENT: BERNARD ABRECHT







Membership of the Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance On 1st July 2024

Abrecht, Bernard & Jenny Anketell, Mike & Louise

Bigham, Sue

Curnow, Rob & Joy

Daniel, Bill & Anne (Honorary)

Dunkley, Ian & Vivienne Goodluck, Steven & Cheyna

Li, Michael & Ping

Mackenzie, Lesley & Tony

McCormick, Peter

Murphy, Tom (Honorary)

McGown, Graeme & June

Sindrey, Peter

Yeats, Sandy & Irene

Allen, Arthur & Dianne

Beattie, Derryn

Chester, Darren & Julie (Honorary)

Dillon, Eileen

Drew Lucas & Rhiannon

Goodluck. Mike & Bernadette

Hurley, Bruce & Eileen Lazzar, Don & Sandra McAlpine, Ken & Chris

Marshall, Sandra (Honorary)

Murphy, Pam (Honorary)

Sindrey, Paula Wilson, Jeff & Sue

Woodgate Leigh (Honorary)

Membership of the Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance on 30th June 2025

Abrecht, Bernard & Jenny Anketell, Mike & Louise

Chester, Darren & Julie (Honorary)

Dillon, Eileen

Drew Lucas & Rhiannon

Goodluck, Mike & Bernadette

Li, Michael & Ping

Mackenzie, Lesley & Tony

McCormick, Peter

Murphy, Tom (Honorary)

McGown, Graeme & June

Sindrey, Paula

Wilson, Jeff & Sue

Woodgate Leigh (Honorary)

Allen, Arthur & Dianne

Beattie, Derryn Curnow, Rob & Joy

Daniel, Bill & Anne (Honorary)

Dunkley, Ian & Vivienne Hurley, Bruce & Eileen Lazzar, Don & Sandra McAlpine, Ken & Chris

Marshall, Sandra (Honorary) Murphy, Pam (Honorary)

Sheather, Ula & Ken

Sindrey, Peter

Yeats, Sandy & Irene

Note: The second name listed is the partner of the member.



Past Presidents of our Club

1959-60	Jack Vining (D)	1992-93	Terry Barling (D)
1960-61	Jack Palmer (D)	1993-94	Sandy Kee (D)
1961-62	Jack Kilby (D)	1994-95	Barrie Peel (D)
1962-63	Ron Williams (D)	1995-96	Dan Ford
1963-64	Roy Kent (D)	1996-97	Fred Albrecht
1964-65	Harold Broome (D)	1997-98	Henrie Ellis
1965-66	Jack Peel (D)	1998-99	Sandra Marshall
1966-67	George Peel (D)	1999-2000	Ron Poke
1967-68	John Warn (D)	2000-01	Mary Fincham
1968-69	Clyde Sykes (D)	2001-02	Graeme Loukes (D)
1969-70	Alan Gamble/Jack Peel (D)	2002-03	Barrie Peel (D)
1970-71	Jim Davis (D)	2003-04	Mike Goodluck
1971-72	Leigh Robinson	2004-05	Rob Curnow
1972-73	Harold Harwood (D)	2005-06	John Griffith
1973-74	Lionel Byles	2006-07	Lois Hateley
1974-75	Lex Bromley	2007-08	John Munns
1975-76	Bert Mortimer (D)	2008-09	Dick Ellis
1976-77	Geoff Ireland/Harold Harwood (D)	2009-10	Rick Watts (D)
1977-78	Frank Neaves (D)	2010-11	Mike Goodluck
1978-79	Lance Newman (D)	2011-12	Jeff Wilson
1979-80	Bill Tucker (D)	2012-13	Dan Hession
1980-81	Glynn Timmins (D)	2013-14	Arthur Allen
1981-82	Les McGregor (D)	2014-15	Lesley Mackenzie
1982-83	Bernie Ryan (D)	2015-16	Louise Allen
1983-84	Bob Lucas	2016-17	Bruce Hurley
1984-85	Mike Anketell	2017-18	Peter Sindrey
1985-86	Peter Robinson	2018-19	Peter Sindrey
1986-87	lan Farmer	2019-2020	Lesley Mackenzie
1987-88	Colin Bull (D)	2020-2021	Jeff Wilson
1988-89	Jim Grimshaw (D)	2021 2022	Peter Sindrey
1989-90	Dick Bardwell (D)	2022-2023	Ian Dunkley
1990-91	Stewart Marsh	2023-2024	Sandy Yeats
1991-92	David Jennings (D)	2024-2025	Bernard Abrecht

Paul Harris Fellows

Roy Kent	Charles Phillips	Harold Harwood	Clyde Sykes	John Warn
Lance Newman	Dick Bardwell	Bob Lucas	Tom Allen	Sandy Kee
Peter Robinson	Dan Ford	Mike Anketell	Barrie Peel	Mike Goodluck
Rob Curnow	Lios Hateley	Sandra Marshall	John Griffith	Graeme McGown
John Savage	Wendy McKean	Jeff Wilson	Arthur Allen	Lesley Mackenzie
Bruce Hurley	Bernard Abrecht	Marnie Graham	Peter Sindrey	Sandy Yeats

Friends of Rotary

Gwen Newman	Shirley Bardwell	Lois Hateley	Julie Chester	Siegfried Albrecht
Shirley Harris	Eileen Hurley	Ted Hare	Chris Howlett	Vivienne Dunkley
Rosemary de Villiers	Ross Irvine	Dan Ford	Sue Bigham	Di Allen
Jenny Abrecht				



President:
Immediate Past President:
President-Elect:
Secretary:
Assistant Secretary:
Bernard Abrecht
Peter Sindrey
Peter McCormick

Treasurer: Jeff Wilson
Rotary Foundation: Bruce Hurley
Membership: Peter Sindrey
Youth Projects: Jeff Wilson

Protection Officer / Member Liaison: Lesley Mackenzie
Program: Sandy Yeats

Sergeant at Arms: Ken McAlpine/Graeme McGown

Property Officer and Assistant Treasurer: Derryn Beattie
Public Image Director Peter Sindrey



Incoming Officeholders 2025-2026

President: Bernard Abrecht Immediate Past President: Bernard Abrecht

President-Elect: TBA

Secretary: Peter McCormick

Treasurer: Jeff Wilson
Rotary Foundation: Bruce Hurley
Membership: Peter Sindrey
Youth Projects: Jeff Wilson

Protection Officer / Member Liaison: Lesley Mackenzie
Program: Mike Goodluck

Sergeant at Arms: Ken McAlpine/Arthur Allen

Property Officer and Assistant Treasurer:

Public Image Director

Peter Sindrey

Fundraising Events

Sandy Yeats

Day's For Girls Director

Ula Sheather

President's Report 2024-2025



I would like to start by thanking my wife Jenny for all her support over the last 12 months, as well as all the Board Members, the rest of our Rotary Club members and our Friends of Rotary. Without the support from all of them, what we have achieved this year would not have been possible.

The year started very slowly mainly because after our Changeover dinner a lot of our members go travelling for a month or two and thankfully all returned safely.

Our grand final footy night was once again held at Wyanga Park Winery where Mike Goodluck was MC for the night, and his footy quiz kept us all entertained for the evening.

In October the Lions Club put on a community expo with about 40 clubs and organisations represented. We had a table there with quite a few people asking questions about Rotary. There were a lot of people coming through all day.

Around the same time, we received a Rotary Foundation Grant to go ahead with the new welcome to Lakes Entrance signage. This was organised with the help of Winning Edge Signs over the next few months, culminating in mid-December with our new sign being put in just in time for the tourist season, and to top it off Winning Edge Signs has come on board as one of our major sponsors, which is great.

The Melbourne Cup eve night went off really well with about 35 people at the Esplanade café. Peter and Jeff did a great job with the raffle and a couple of cup phantom calls.

We had 22 members of the Hawthorn Rotary Club come up for a visit at our meeting in November. It was a great night, and they have come onboard to help with funding for Timor Leste, which is great. Then off to Bemm River for our fishing weekend and our usual fish BBQ on the Saturday night.

Early December we presented Neighbourhood House with a donation to help them over Christmas; part of an idea to get money out into the community through the year rather than at the end of the year. We also gave LEADA a donation to help with the Christmas and New Year festivities as we usually do.

It was great to have members from other Rotary Clubs in our Cluster as well as ADG Bill Degnan and his wife Judy join us for our Christmas party, also held out at Wyanga Park Winery.

Our Saturday night raffles at the Sports & Community Club which started Melbourne Cup weekend and finished Australia Day weekend was a great success again thanks to Jeff Wilson and Rob Curnow along with other Rotarians who helped with ticket sales each Saturday night

January the 22nd was our first meeting for the new year at the Esplanade Café, with Judite from Timor Leste joining us and telling us how things were over there. This was also the start of our raffle with a first prize of \$1,000 in Aldi vouchers. We sold tickets in various locations both in town and out with a great response to the 1st prize we were offering. This finished on Easter Monday with the raffle draw at the Toorloo Arm Reserve by our local Federal Member, Darren Chester, and the lucky winner was Jaclyn from Sarsfield.

Easter Saturday, we managed a BBQ at the Bairnsdale racecourse to help Mitchell River Rotary Club with their Makers Market Day; one of their projects through the year. This was a successful day for both clubs and thank you to all that participated.

Through the year we have had some great speakers such as one on prostate cancer, Gippsland Ports, Aislin Jones, Haley from Lakes Entrance Ambulance on CPR, Timor Leste, and numerous others, thanks to Sandy.

As we come into the end of the Rotary year, we have been able to hand out some more donations to Neighbourhood House, the Surf Lifesaving Club and Ocean Rescue; all very deserving organisations. In addition, we have sent some funds to Rotary organisations in both Queensland and New South Wales, for their flood disaster relief fund. This has all been made possible by the efforts of the members of the Lakes Entrance Rotary Club, and their partners, for which I thank each and every one of you.

Thank you Bernard Abrecht President





Treasurer's Report 2024 – 2025 by Jeff Wilson

Account balances at 3 June 2025

Project Account: \$9,751.67

General Account: \$2,274.81

Term Deposit: \$42,500.00

Friends of Timor Leste: \$2,074.50

Cluster Account: \$50.12

Total \$56,651.10





Disbursements for 2024 -2025

International	
Rotary's Ending Polio	\$1,000
Donations in kind	\$1,000
Rotarians against Malaria	\$1,000
Rotary's Disaster Response Fund	\$1,000
Timor Leste (i) EGFTL	\$2,000
(ii) Other projects	\$395
(iii) Travel Support	\$250
(iv) Sky Hydrant	\$1,500
Foundation (meals contribution & centurion)	\$2,700
Wheelchairs for Kids	\$1,000
Sky Juice	\$1,000
Total	\$12,845
Domestic	
LEADA Fireworks	\$2,000
Sign Project	\$2,200
NSW Floods	\$1,000
Queensland Floods	\$1,000
Neighbourhood House	\$3,000
Centenary House	\$2,000
L2P Mission Australia	\$500
Surf Club	\$1,000
Ocean Rescue	\$1,000
Winter Festival	\$1,000
Future Projects Reserve	\$1,000
Total	\$15,700

Total \$28,545

Secretary's Report from Peter Sindrey

2024/2025 has been a busy and productive year for us, as our members have continued to support the President and the Board in the operation of the Club.

Progress in the past year is addressed by others in this Annual Report and can be summarised as follows:

- Important local Projects have been advanced. In particular, we have responded to Rotary policy that we should display a greater presence of our organisation to the community. Examples are:
 - Installation of new town signage, advertising Rotary and identifying our sponsors.
 - A major Club raffle, with the prize from a local retailer and with sites established to progressively sell tickets in the township and beyond.
 - Early donations to local worthy recipients, with associated media coverage.
 - Management of a weekly town raffle for a 3-month period during the tourism peak.
- Overseas, our efforts to support communities in Timor Leste have gained further momentum. Bruce has provided some detail in his section of this Annual Report.
- Our work to encourage relations with nearby Clubs in the (old) East Gippsland Cluster have seen
 cooperative efforts on Timor Leste, joint meetings with other Clubs and support for fundraising
 activities managed by others.

In addition, the year has been profitable for the Club. We have developed our fund-raising capacity by introducing new activities and improving existing processes to provide extra funding for our work:

- We introduced our own 'sold-out' raffle with sales sites used widely.
- We are now regularly offered use of the (profitable) Bunnings sausage sizzle site in Bairnsdale.
- We have gained an additional 'Major Sponsor' for the Club.

As a result of these activities, we now provide much-needed funding to others. Some examples are:

- A variety of projects in Timor Leste, such as water sanitation, solar lighting.
- Support for major Rotary projects such as Polio, Malaria, Disaster Aid, Wheelchairs-for-Kids.
- Support for local needs such as Neighbourhood House, Surf Lifesaving, Ocean Rescue.
- Support beyond the local area such as Centenary House, Qld & NSW Flood Relief.

And, most importantly, our Club contains a group of dedicated Rotarians who totally support the Board and our Club in any way it is needed. For all, it's a fun task of attending meetings and being absorbed in the atmosphere of a wonderful Club. It is no wonder that our membership numbers have remained constant.

I should also mention that our District Governor came to our Club recently and presented an award for 100%-member participation in Foundation giving.



To those who organise and sell raffle tickets throughout town, cook sausages, construct Art Show boards, manage our funding, represent us overseas and domestically, set programs, attend Board meetings, offer wise counsel and advice, manage Student Community Awards, and carry out the necessary administrative tasks for the Club, I offer the Club's thanks for your service.

Peter Sindrey Club Secretary

Report from

Foundation Director Bruce Hurley

East Gippsland Friends of Timor-Leste Locals helping Timor-Leste





As a result of a visit by Bruce and Eileen Hurley to Timor-Leste in 2023 last year the four Rotary Clubs of East Gippsland together with the staff of Gippsland Lakes Complete Health and Lakes Entrance Baptist Church formed East Gippsland Friends of Timor-Leste (EGFTL) with the aim of providing ongoing support to Timor-Leste projects.

Australia's neighbor, Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in the world. It was devasted by the Indonesian Army during 1975 to 2000 with 70% of its infrastructure destroyed and over 200,000 people killed. On gaining independence in 2001 Timor-Leste has been rebuilding the nation with support coming from a number of countries, including Australia. There are also many local projects in remote rural villages supported by Rotary and other organisations. It is these projects that East Gippsland Friends of Timor-Leste support.

A few months ago Eileen and Bruce, together with Marnie Graham a staff member from Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, made a return visit to Timor-Leste with a group called Friends of Soibada. They visited a number of remote villages in the Soibada district to see the progress of projects that East Gippsland Friends of Timor-Leste had supported and to gain insights as to what was the best way to support their future needs.

Despite the level of poverty, it was an uplifting experience. The villagers worked long hours on their farms and on improvements to their homes. Nearly all children went to the local kindergarten and school. They were very welcoming and appreciative of our visit.

East Gippsland Friends of Timor-Leste raised \$20,000 in its first year. The money raised contributed to farm improvements, basic health and education requirements, provision of fresh water and toilet blocks in remote rural villages. A number of solar lights were also distributed to villages that had no electricity.

Members of East Gippsland Friends of Timor Leste, including the Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance are committed to giving ongoing support to Timor-Leste projects. Our club recently donated a further \$3000 for Timor-Leste projects.

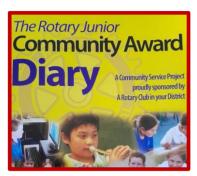
Our most recent task, with the help of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, was to acquire a SkyHydrant for the village of Kaikasa. Local work on site commenced earlier this month and we expect reports back as soon as the installation work is completed.



Kindergarten Children welcoming the visiting group that included Bruce, Eileen and Marnie.

Report on Youth Activities from Jeff Wilson

Rotary Junior Community Awards



The Rotary Junior Community Award is a program aimed at giving young children the opportunity to develop attitudes towards volunteerism by assisting organisations and people in need, learning about their own community, developing healthy attitudes towards physical recreation and developing new skills.

The Lakes Entrance Rotary Club introduced the award to our local schools in 2007. During the 2024 school year students from Nungurner, Metung, Swan Reach, Toorloo Arm, Lakes Entrance, and St Brendan's Primary School took part in the program with 22 students completing the award.

During the 2025 school year it is encouraging to see a small growth in the number of students from all six schools enrolled in the program.









Report from Programme Coordinator Sandy Yeats

- Our first meeting for the year took place on Wednesday 10 July 2024, when Irene Yeats gave a talk and showed some slides of her experiences cruising the canals of Holland, Belgium and France on a small canal boat.
- At the Club Assembly on 24 July, members were asked to provide their ideas for the forthcoming year.
- On 31 July we held our first social evening at the Sports and Community Club.
- At our Club Assembly at the Central Hotel on 14 August, Bruce & Eileen providing a comprehensive briefing on their most recent trip to visit Timor Leste.
- We had the first Bunnings BBQ of the year on Saturday the 17 August, making a profit of \$1147.
- Our Club Assembly on 28 August received a visit from Liz Dorsett, a celebrated bush poet, who entertained us with traditional Aussie poems from the past.
- On 4 September we made our first visit to the Vietnamese kitchen (now known as the Esplanade Café)
 for a social evening and dinner. That day also marked the official opening of the new Jemmy's Point
 facility and members where present for the ceremony.
- Moss Mahony gave a very informative talk on prostate awareness on 11 September: very pertinent to many of our male members of a certain age.
- On Wednesday 25 September we had our annual grand final footy night at the Wyanga Park Winery always lots of fun, well planned and managed by Mike Goodluck.
- We held our first social night at the Kalimna Hotel on 2 October.
- A Community Expo was held on 6 October, and our Club managed a table at the Mechanics Hall to talk to local community members.
- Wednesday 9 October, we hosted a presentation from Gippsland Ports David Holding on the history of the Port of Lake Entrance.
- Also, the Club held its Annual General Meeting on 9 October. The event was conducted in the usual 'prompt' fashion.
- The following week, on 23 October, our local Olympic shooter Aislin Jones talked about her experiences at the Paris Games and thanked our Club for our support to her.
- A further social dinner was held on 30 October, at the Bowls Club.
- On Monday 4 November we held our Melbourne Cup Eve Calcutta, complete with phantom race calls, at the Vietnamese Kitchen. Someone close to me won \$50!
- Remembrance Day on 11 November included services at the Cenotaph with wreath laying by Lesley on behalf of our Club.
- Sunday 17 November was our second Bunnings sausage sizzle day for the year making a profit of \$1055.
- We had a special meeting on 20 November, when we hosted a visit by members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. Arthur Allen gave a talk about Lakes Entrance. I had the honour of presenting our club banner to their President Dorothy Gilmour. Lakes Entrance and Hawthorn Rotary Clubs are now equal financial contributors to a sky hydrant project for Timor Leste.
- Over the period 20-24 November we saw many of our members travelling to Bemm River for our annual Fishing Weekend and, as usual, Bernard and Rob supplied most of the fish for the Saturday night BBQ.
- During 25-29 November a number of a members together with members of the International Yachting
 Fellowship of Rotarians boarded the "Pacific Princess" for a cruise from Melbourne to Kangaroo Island.
 Unfortunately, the weather was such that we were not allowed to land on the island, so we cruised
 slowly back to Melbourne enjoying fellowship on the way.

- We held our Christmas function on 11 December at Wyanga Park Winery, one of our generous sponsors.
 Representatives of all other Clubs in the Cluster, and Assistant Governor Bill Degnan and his wife also attended the event.
- Our first meeting for 2025 was held on 22 January 2025 at the Esplanade Café and we were privileged
 to hear from Judite, who had travelled from Timor Leste, to visit and talk to us about conditions in her
 country and the various Rotary projects that are assisting the local population.
- On 29 January we held a social BBQ at Jemmy's Point, with nice view overlooking the estuary.
- 5 February saw our first social dinner at Kathy's Kitchen.
- Hayley, one of the local members from the Lakes Ambulance Service visited on 12 February and gave us a presentation and CPR demonstration.
- Regretfully, the planned Annual Canni Creek Raceday on 15 February was cancelled due to bad weather conditions making the course unsafe for racing a big blow to the Buchan community
- Wednesday 26 February saw us again at the Central Hotel for a Club Assembly.
- On 12 March we were visited by District Governor Colin Byron and Assistant Governor Bill Degnan and wives. Representatives of the five Clubs located in the Cluster joined us for this Cluster evening.
- Three ladies from the Gippsland Lakes Complete Health met with us on 26 March and gave us a briefing on Home Care Packages.
- On 2 April we had another social night at the Esplanade Cafe.
- We managed a stall at the Foreshore markets, selling raffle tickets on 6 April.
- We held a further Club Assembly at the Central Hotel on 9 April.
- On Saturday 19 April we assisted the Rotary Club of Mitchell River at their annual Makers Market at the Bairnsdale Racetrack, which also raised funds for our club.
- We hosted a BBQ at the U3A Hub on 21 April, where Darren Chester drew the winning ticket for the Club raffle.
- 23 April saw another Club Assembly at the Central Hotel.
- On ANZAC Day, 25 April, Club members attended services at the Cenotaph where Lesley laid a wreath on behalf of the Club.
- Our 3rd Bunnings barbecue of the year was held on Sunday 4 May, with a profit of \$974.
- At our Club Assembly on 14 May at the Central Hotel, members were briefed about Changeover plans.
- At our Club Assembly at the Central Hotel on 28 May, members considered, and approved, funds to support NSW Flood Disaster victims.
- We held our final social dinner for the year at the Esplanade Café on 4 June.
- Also, our last Bunnings sausage sizzle for the year was held on Sunday 8 June.
- On 11 June we received a presentation from ESSO personnel on the removal of 14 of the Bass Strait oil and gas platforms.
- And finally on 25 June, our Club changeover event will mark the end of this Rotary year.

In addition, throughout the year, Board members of the Club held regular meetings, almost every month, to make decisions on the operation and financial management of the Club.

My thanks to all those assisting with events over the year.

Sandy Yeats, Programme Co-ordinator.



Rotary Major Sponsors

Our Club acknowledges the generous support which continues to be offered by our nine major sponsors. Their support is crucial to the continued viability of our Club and, as such, they form an important part of our life in Lakes Entrance. For these reasons our members support these sponsors and encourage others to do the same.





















Our Year in Pictures



Local Kindergarten children dancing in Timor Leste

















Eileen, Bruce and Marnie delivering basic health supplies to a rural health centre



































