



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

RI President: Gordon R. McNally

District 9820 Governor: Linda Humphries

District 9820 Assistant Governor: Dianne Harrison

President: Chris Drenen

Secretary: Diane Carson

Treasurer: Andrew Lewis

President Elect: Tony Carson

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President's Report 2023/2024 - Chris Drenen

Warragul Rotary was chartered on 13 July 1938, almost 86 years ago. It was an absolute honour, and privilege, to hold the office of President of this fine Club and I thank my fellow Members for bestowing this privilege on me.

A President is only as good as the elected Board of any Club. And what a Board I had working with me! My gratitude to the following hard-working Members:

Tony Carson – PE & Club Service	Diane Carson – Secretary
Andrew Lewis - Treasurer	Chris Major – Community
Geoff Chilver – Youth	Andrea Klindworth – Environment
Lyn Bennett – Membership & Bulletin	Alan Tatlow - Vocational
Fleur Craig - Governance	Sunil Bhatt - International
Greg King - Foundation	Teresa Mitchell – PP

In addition to the Board, I adopted an Executive Committee to oversee Club operations. Special thanks to Tony Carson, Diane Carson, and Andrew Lewis for ensuring that the Club functioned appropriately and in compliance with requirements.

I also implemented a slight change in procedure at the commencement of meetings with the appointment of monthly Meeting Chairpersons. I believe this has operated very well and I thank the Members who undertook the role of chairperson.

Club's 85th Anniversary of Charter

In July 2023 the Club celebrated its 85th anniversary of charter and the celebratory function at Rotary Park was well attended. Here's hoping for many years to come!



In 2023-24 Rotary International President Gordon McInally adopted the annual theme of "Create Hope in the World" and our actions in the past 12 months have done just that.

The 2023-24 Rotary year commenced well before 1 July 2023 when every Member of the incoming Board met to put in place an Action Plan for the Club. From these meetings goals were set, a Board Report template was set in place, and we approached the coming year as a coordinated group. Thank you to PDG Alma Reynolds for leading us in this process.

2023 Changeover Function

The 2023 changeover proved a challenge with a change of venue in the week prior! My thanks to Alan Tatlow for the suggestion and initial contact, and Rhys and the team from Parnassus Function Centre, for assisting with the last-minute change.

And what a function it was! We were honoured to have now DGE Colin (and Leanne) in attendance to assist with the presentation of several well-deserved Paul Harris recognitions to Club members and to our special guest, Samuel Johnson OAM, PHF.



Membership

Membership is the cornerstone of any Club. At the changeover function last year we welcomed back former members Lyn Bennett and Roger Colls and in November I had the privilege of inducting Nick Rainbow.



Unfortunately, this year Member John Morgan, PHF passed away after a short illness.



And tonight we welcome Hannah Farnham into the Club!

Club Achievements

Whereas I will leave it to the Board Members to report on the achievements of their avenue of service or portfolio, the highlights of the year for me were:

- ❖ Having 6 inaugural members of the D9820 branch of the Polio Plus Society;
- ❖ The Club now having three (3) Paul Harris Society members;
- ❖ An increased focus on the Rotary Foundation, our charity;
- ❖ The continued funding of scholarships for students at Warragul Regional College (with matching Foundation contributions!);
- ❖ Assisting at many community-based functions;

- ❖ The sensational public working bee at Rotary Park in May 2024;
- ❖ Meeting so many varied and interesting guest speakers at weekly meetings;
- ❖ Attending the Drouin Rotary 75th anniversary function;
- ❖ The Christmas function where we raised funds during the hilarious auction and presented Paul Harris recognitions to Rosemary and Frank; and
- ❖ The numerous photo opportunities to assist in promoting the Club.



Meeting Venue

As in previous years, the Club faced the challenge of sourcing a new meeting base. After several short-term venues, we were embraced by the team at The Courthouse and we have enjoyed some delicious meals, enlivened fellowship, and an all-round great time!



Next Year

The forthcoming Rotary year produces further challenges with the commencement of D9815, Warragul Rotary joining a Community Group with several different Clubs not previously in the West Gippsland Cluster and hopefully a renewed focus on membership.

The Club will be ably led by incoming President Tony Carson, and I look forward to serving on Tony's Board as Vice-President (IPP).

In Closing

As everyone is aware, I have been a member of several Rotary Clubs since 2000 and Warragul Rotary is the second Club that I have had the honour of serving as Club President. I have thoroughly enjoyed the year and I trust that I have lived up to the expectations of Club Members. If not, it is too late!

Thank you to DG Linda Humphries for your guidance and support this year and to AG Di Harrison and PDGs Mark Humphries, Charlie Speirs and Janne Speirs who have always been there when I required assistance!

And finally, thank you to my wife Rosemary whose untiring support (and patience) I could not have survived without!

While this year we have worked towards creating hope in the world, next year our goal, as per incoming RI President Stephanie's theme, is to enliven the "Magic of Rotary".

Chris Drenen
President

Financial Report Treasurer - Andrew Lewis

Rotary Club of Warragul inc. Financial Statements

For the Period 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024

			Balance	Total
Opening Balance (as per ledger) 01 July 2023				
Project Account			\$ 11,118.10	
General Account			\$ 8,797.29	
Cash Management Account			\$ 49,189.78	
Art Show Account			\$ 2,978.52	\$ 72,083.69
<i>Project Account</i>	Income	Expense		
Donations Received/Given	\$ 7,389.15	-\$ 33,504.64		
Film Night	\$ 1,750.00	-\$ 1,089.50		
Pine Trees	\$ 16,897.01	-\$ 3,528.51		
Rotary Park Stage 3	\$ 7,700.00	-\$ 15,338.55		
Farm World Project	\$ 8,000.00	-\$ 1,954.00		
Flavorite BBQ	\$ 6,348.47	-\$ 4,303.50		
Art Show Raffle	\$ 7,308.50	-\$ 525.00		
Art Sale	\$ 3,624.74			
RYLA		-\$ 2,600.00		
NYSF		-\$ 2,850.00		
Other	\$ 2,266.39	-\$ 2,454.21		
Total Project Account	\$ 61,284.26	-\$ 68,147.91		-\$ 6,863.65
<i>General Account</i>				
Membership Subscriptions	\$ 9,250.00			
Meals	\$ 14,427.00	-\$ 12,851.39		
Rotary District & International Fees	\$ 2,122.00	-\$ 9,633.90		
Other	\$ 1,549.03	-\$ 7,009.39		
Total General Account	\$ 27,348.03	-\$ 29,494.68		-\$ 2,146.65
Closing balance (as per ledger) 30 June 2024				
Project Account			\$ 6,055.58	
General Account			\$ 6,650.64	
Cash Management Account			\$ 50,367.17	
Art Show Account			\$ -	\$ 63,073.39

Andrew Lewis
Treasurer 2020-2021

Administration – Tony Carson

As Club President-elect, the major tasks I undertook were the appointment of portfolio holders for 2024-25, securing a permanent “home” for the club and the year’s calendar.

A permanent home was found at The Courthouse restaurant in Warragul following a couple of teething issues, I believe we have settled into a great venue with accommodating hosts that provide a great venue.

From all reports the club calendar for 2023-24 was well received; and added to the speakers were the environment mini talks as well as talks about End Polio, Foundation and the club’s annual Excellence in Small Business Awards. The speakers presenting covered a broad spectrum of topics, some of the highlights being Shockbuster (Ambulance Victoria), Rubber Tough Industries, Warragul Optical, Gulwarra Heights and NBN. And of course, film nights for End Polio, Foundation and the two 16mm film nights.

With the portfolio holders confirmed for the coming year, it appears we will have another successful and fulfilling year.

Tony Carson

President Elect

Public Image - Lyn Bennett

It has been an interesting year in Rotary Warragul doing the Newsletter. We have had some interesting times including our gathering at Chris Major’s and Kerrie Warren’s home for a movie night.

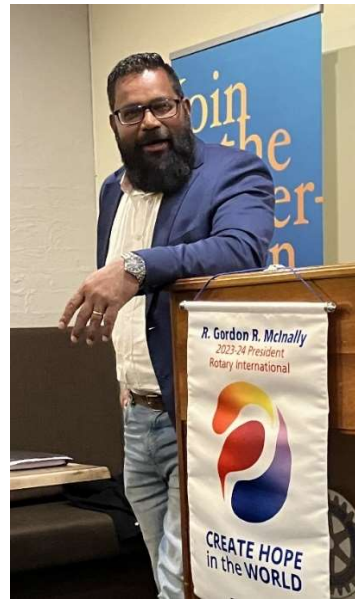


Board Members have been terrific submitting their reports into me by 5pm on a Friday in order to give us time to get the newsletter to everyone on Sundays.

Some of our very interesting guests shown below and I must say too many to list them all.



Brett Evans from Rubbertough



Gerry Marvin, Warragul RSL

And to finish, here are some of our projects:



Art from the Air.

Below: Chris Major, Dr Aunty Eileen,
and Di Carson.



Rotary Park.

Tony Carson



Rotary Art Sales in conjunction with Baw Baw Arts Alliance.

Lyn Bennett, Public Image

Membership- Lyn Bennett



New Member Nick Rainbow.

Membership has been difficult this year due to the issues with venues. We welcomed new member Nick Rainbow; Nick has blended into the Club very well. Shortly we hope to sign up another new member. It really requires not one person but at least three people to drive membership with the full support of all the other club members.

It has been a great year.

Lyn Bennett, Membership

Community Service - Chris Major

Our fundraising ventures and community interactions continued to regain momentum throughout the Rotary year. We were able to once again undertake activities that included the sale of Christmas Trees, conduct a Christmas BBQ's for Flavorite employees, assist at Farm World, the Garden Show and partner with the Baw Baw Arts Alliance to host a very successful Art Sale and fundraising raffle to support Baw Baw Food Relief. We also provided a BBQ and Rotarians in support of the Geoff Watt Fun Run in October, 2023 which was greatly appreciated by the event's main organiser Geoff's daughter, former Olympian Kathy Watt. The Club's BBQ Trailer was certainly put to great use throughout the year, being provided free of charge to the Warragul Regional College on numerous occasions.

A great effort was undertaken by all members who were able to assist with these projects that had very positive community interaction at the same time raising valuable funds to support our Club's projects.

Rotary Park Stage Three

A significant amount of work was undertaken at Rotary Park Stage Three during the Rotary year at the Indigenous Garden "Art from the Air" inspired by Doctor Aunty Eileen Harrison's painting. The Painting was provided to Baw Baw Shire Arts Centre Warragul and was installed on 6 December, 2023 in the Warragul Rotary Foyer along with the video recording of the "Art from the Air" Totem descriptions produced by Darryl Whitaker with Aunty Eileen's voice over available on a TV monitor. The installation was well attended by Aunty Eileen with her family members, the Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Anna-Marie McCabe and staff and several Rotarians who were able to attend. An excellent morning Tea was provided by the Shire

Establishment and maintenance of the garden beds and pathways, the installation of additional features that included QR Codes on the centre circle seating that provide a summary of each installed Totem and their relevance to Kurnai Culture has been undertaken during the Rotary year. Large rocks provided free of charge by the Drouin Pistol Club were also installed with the professional assistance of Chris Wilkinson and his machines.

Additional painting of the seating area was completed under the guidance of Aunty Eileen and Kerrie Warren by the "Deadly Daughters" a group of young Kurnai girls supported by Anglicare, the local police Youth Resource Officers, Community House, Warragul Uniting Church and Rotary Club members. A sensational initiative.

Well attended working bees were held throughout the year by Rotarians, their partners and community members with great assistance at the final one in May from the staff of G.J.Gardner Homes, Warragul Scouts, Uniting Church members and a host of other community members and Rotarians. Well done to Andrea Klindworth for organising this day.

Installation of Picnic Tables with seats along with array of professionally painted bollards depicting native animals will occur in the near future. Additionally planting of more native plants are planned for the next Rotary year to complete the project and provide a base for ongoing maintenance over the years.

Christmas Tree Project.

The Christmas Tree harvesting season commenced with trees being made available at the Warragul North Service Station in early December, 2023 along with plantation sales on weekends leading up to the Christmas period. Rows Nursery also provided another outlet for sales and have done so for quite a number of years. Sales from our project site at Gulwarra

Heights continue to be a success with more customers choosing to pick their own tree on site each year.

A huge thank you to John Gallienne, Richard Habgood and Tony Carson for their tireless work in all facets of our Christmas Tree project. The involvement of all Club members assists in the ongoing success of this fund-raising venture and those club members who have been able to assist over the year your involvement is appreciated.

Flavorite BBQ.

The BBQ for Flavorite employees once again created an opportunity for the Club to make some additional funds, as was the case with November BBQ's at Flavorite. They went extremely well with Di and Tony Carson organising the food then being assisted by other Rotarians with set up and cooking, everyone pitching in to produce quality food at a reasonable price for the Flavorite Xmas BBQ'S for some 500 plus staff over 3 days. A lot of time and effort was put in behind the scenes to ensure the success of this project. Well done to all members who were able to assist.

Easter Art Sale.

We continued to partner with the Baw Baw Arts Alliance for support with the Art Sale being held over 10 days during the 2024 Easter period at the Exhibition Building in Warragul. Their past President Anita George and Treasurer Prue were a driving force behind the event along with Bob Lewis who continued to act as the main liaison person with the Arts Alliance group and with Bob's efforts, as always, helped to make the show even more successful than the previous year. Well done, Anita, Prue and Bob.

The Art Sale Raffle raised over \$7,000 thanks to the great efforts of Bob and Roger Colls ably supported by Lyn Bennett and other club members along with Baw Baw Arts Alliance members.

The Baw Baw Arts Alliance members were very happy with the overall event, painting sales a record of almost 100 sales, and were very appreciative of our support. Thank you to all club members who were able to assist.

Probus.

Bob Lewis again led the charge with the Probus Club Project, the well patronised Probus Clubs in our area continue to conduct excursions and other social events for their members' benefit. Thanks again to Bob for your valuable input into the Probus Project that our Club readily supports.

Farm World.

Farm World 2024 was held in March 2024 over three days. Some early mornings were needed to fulfill our commitment including an increase in shifts to be covered from previous years. Club members, Inner Wheel ladies, some friends of Rotary and others helped to fill all the rostered duties. We were also greatly supported by the Warragul Woodies who covered ten shifts assisting us greatly. A big thank you to Darold Klindworth for organising the Woodies' support. The joint effort produced funds of \$6,000. shared equitably based on participation from each Club. The CEO Craig Debnam was again very appreciative of our support and hopes our assistance continues in the future. A big thank you to all the Club and Inner Wheel members, the Warragul Woodies and others who assisted.

Garden Show

The Garden Show was conducted in October 2023 at Lardner Park over two days. Duties similar to Farm World were undertaken and some assistance from Inner Wheel was greatly appreciated to fulfill our commitment over the two days. A donation of \$2,000 was provided by Lardner Park Events and our assistance with this event is greatly appreciated by them with anticipation that we will continue to provide our support in the future.

A monumental thank you to all Club Members who were able to assist with any, or all of the projects and events undertaken under the Community Services portfolio this Rotary year.

Chris Major

Director Community Services

Environment - Andrea Klindworth

Supporting the Environment is Rotary International's 7th area of focus. The club has an active Environment Committee comprising Rotarians Rosemary Allica, Geoff Chilver, John Gallienne, Andrea Klindworth (Chair) and Teresa Mitchell

The goal of the Committee is to work with other Rotary committees and community organisations to protect and enhance our natural and built environment. Regular meetings were held jointly with the Youth Committee and actions were implemented to:

- Support the goals of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)
- Partner youth organisations to engage in pollinator habitat restoration and education programs
- Reduce negative environmental impacts

Many environmental topics were presented to the Club through articles in the weekly Bulletin, guest speakers and the People for the Planet monthly mini-talks.

A broad range of topics were considered including growing food in the home garden and how to preserve it for later, electric vehicles, gift giving to reduce waste at Christmas, Maryvale Waste to Energy Plant, Resource Smart Schools Program, the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network, Platypus and Volunteering for Australian Nature Conservancy.

Operation Pollination is an ESRAG initiative that enables and encourages Rotarians to engage in pollinator protection and education programs. The Club has signed a pledge to support the program. To support the pledge, the Club has introduced an annual grant of \$500 to a youth organisation to create a garden that will provide additional habitat for pollinators.

The inaugural grant is awarded to Warragul Regional College to construct an indigenous food garden. Students designed the garden and made garden beds. In May, Rotarians and staff at the school worked together to position the garden beds, fill them with soil and commence planting and mulching. Other partners in the project include Peppermint Ridge Farm and Landcare. Following completion of the garden by the end of June, it will be launched in July during NAIDOC week.

Working with the Rotary Park Committee, a May community working bee was held at Rotary Park to plant the native grass *Lomandra longifolia* along the borders to the paths in the Indigenous Art Garden. *Lomandra longifolia* provides habitat for insects that are important for pollinating food crops. Also, the grass is a larval food plant for a butterfly called the *Symmorium* skipper. The Club welcomed the enthusiastic support from G J Gardiner Homes, Warragul Uniting Church, the Baw Baw Sustainability Network, Landcare and the Warragul Scouts.

To reduce negative environmental impact, the Club held two clean up events, adopted trees to gift guest speakers and recovered recyclables from BBQ meetings held at Rotary Park.

In March and August, Warragul Rotarians joined millions of Aussies participating in Clean Up Australia and Keep Australia Beautiful activities. Following legislation to limit single use plastics, the environment team found a reduction in confectionary and fast-food packaging between August and March. Cigarette butt littering remains a persistent problem and there is always a surprise. In March, the bottom of a street bin had been blown apart. Separate bags of rubbish and recyclables were taken to the Lardner Park Transfer Station where the fees were waived courtesy of the Baw Baw Shire Council, so thanks for their support.

The activities of the Environmental team increase Rotary's profile in the community, provides opportunities for collaborating with other community groups and builds partnerships with other organisations to make our community and the world a better place.

Andrea Klindworth
Chairperson, Environment Committee

International Committee – Sunil Bhatt

It was a relatively quiet year for activities for the International Committee. However, this is not to say that things have not been happening.

Vanuatu:

- Although we have not been active directly in this area, we were contacted by Port Vila Rotary regarding assistance with the establishment of a medical clinic in the village of Mele. We are currently awaiting finalization of their project plan to determine the assistance required for this project.
- The Club did however, donate \$2,500 to Port Vila Rotary Club following the damage caused by the 2023-2024 cyclones.

Seasonal Workers Program:

- This is an area where we have been busy over the past 12 months. With the changes implemented through the Pacific Agricultural Labour Movement Scheme (PALM), the transition for employers and workers has been significant; and to add to the difficulties, Air Vanuatu went into administration which affected visas, and the inward and outward flow of workers, accommodation availability and work schedules.
- However, we now have a system in place with Flavorite for the supply of clothing and footwear with backup assistance for food during the first 6 weeks of a worker's placement. We are also included in the Arrival Briefings of all new workers to Flavorite.
- Rotary also assisted with the repatriation of a worker to Fiji whose son has passed away suddenly.

Sunil Bhatt
International Director

New Generations (Youth) - Geoff Chilver

The year was both busy and successful for the Youth committee thanks to committee members Rosemary Allica, Geoff Chilver, John Gallienne, Andrea Klindworth, Fleur Craig and Teresa Mitchell. The committee meetings were once again held in conjunction with the Environment committee which aided discussion with the numerous cross-over programs between the two groups.

The Club continued to Promote Youth programs through liaison with secondary schools. In particular Andrea's work from the environment committee assisting Warragul Regional College with the establishment of an indigenous food garden at the school.

RYLA – Program for Youth aged 18-30. The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is a conference that focuses on personal development, leadership, and teamwork.

Warragul Rotary is always ready to sponsor participants to attend and although RYLA was well promoted unfortunately no local participants came forward for RYLA 2023.

Instead, the Club sponsored two RYLA leaders, Cassie Leong and Ashley Gillespie who later spoke of their experiences at our Club meeting on 9 August 2023.

RYLA 2024 will run from Monday 8 July to Saturday 13 July – The event is being promoted widely to hopefully secure candidates.



MUNA - High school students. The purpose of the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly is to encourage young people to learn about other countries and to develop an understanding of the workings of the United Nations. Delegates will also develop debating skills, gain self-confidence in public speaking and leadership skills. In many cases, long term friendships are also made through MUNA.

The Club reached out to the local high schools but was unable to secure teams for the 2023 MUNA event. The next MUNA will be held on 19 August 2024. Warragul Rotary will be keen to support a delegation at this event.



District 9820
Model United
Nations Assembly



National Youth Science Forum - Year 11 & 12 Students. NYSF is a conference for students with a passion for science. The students attend a two-week camp in Brisbane in January.

The Club was very pleased to sponsor Marist-Sion student Zali Miron to attend NYSF in 2024. Zali spoke at the Club meeting on 7 February 2024 and gave an enthusiastic talk on her experiences at the forum and the friendships she made at the camp. Zali mentioned the knowledge she gained on the various options available for university studies and future career pathways. Zali was particularly grateful to the Warragul Rotary for providing her with the opportunity to attend NYSF 2024.



Student Grants - High school students.

In 2023-24 Warragul Rotary was successful in obtaining three Rotary Foundation Student Grants via District 9820.



The Club co-contributed on a one-for-one basis which resulted in \$3,000 going to assist selected students from Warragul Regional College and Marist Sion College to participate in the normal school curriculum more fully.

Andrea Klindworth spoke to the assembled audience at the Warragul Regional College presentation evening.



Breakfast Club – Warragul Regional College.

The Club continues to support the Warragul Regional College Breakfast Club. Each Friday a rostered member of the Club assists Chaplain Oscar Correa to deliver this program.

Before school, students can enjoy each other's company while being nourished with Milo, toast and cereal. The Club identified the need to supply Milo for the program and started a 'Milo Drive' where members drop-off pre-purchased Milo to stock the school's pantry.

A 'thank you breakfast' was held at the end of the school year where Oscar and the students prepared breakfast for Rotarians and other volunteers.



Other Programs –

2023-24 saw Warragul Rotary rekindle its association with the Warragul Scout Group.

The Club made a \$2000 donation to the Scout Section to support their attendance at the 2024 Scout Jamboree in New Zealand.

A Joint meeting was held on 22 May 2024 at the Rotary Park rotunda where the Scouts cooked a 'thank you' meal for the Rotarians.

The Scouts also helped out at the May community working bee held at Rotary Park to plant the native grass along the borders to the paths.

Regional College VET Student orientation Day BBQ was held on 15 November 2023. The Rotary BBQ was ably crewed by Geoff, Tony, Nick and Alma.

Many thanks to past youth director, Andrea Klindworth for her keen input in this portfolio, and to President Chris for his constant support for everything the committee was pursuing.

Geoff Chilver, New Generations Director

Rotary Park Indigenous Art Garden- Andrea Klindworth

The creation of an Indigenous Art Garden at Rotary Park is the Club's project to celebrate more than 100 years of Rotary service in Australia and New Zealand and our gift to the Warragul community.

A painting by local Kurnai artist, Dr Aunty Eileen Harrison, called *Art From the Air*, inspired the project. The Club purchased the painting from Aunty Eileen. It is on permanent display and may be viewed at the West Gippsland Art Centre.



A landscape plan guides the creation of the garden on the previously under-utilized grassed hillside at Rotary Park, Warragul. When the garden is completed, a drone above the garden will capture the likeness of the original painting.



Funded by the Club and Baw Baw Shire, the year commenced with the bare bones of the park in place, the meeting place in the centre, six paths converging upon it and lighting. The year finished with a community working bee attended by forty people to plant grasses in the borders to the pathways. Further work to be completed will see the installation of seating, painting of the seating wall in the meeting place and signs erected.

Hard work by many people throughout the year brought the project closer to completion. Achievements include:

- Creating and planting garden beds along pathways
- Creating a crushed rock pathway that flanks the Hazel Creek
- Completing the central circle
- Documenting Kurnai stories for the Park about the animals represented on the totems and the pathways
- Partnering other organisations in the community
- Installing the rock features representing the sun the moon and the stars



Andrea Klindworth
Chair, Rotary Park Committee

Vocational Services – Alan Tatlow

The last Vocational Services annual report was written while the Club's Excellence in Small Business Program was under way.

Subsequently, a number of owners and staff of local enterprises attended a special club meeting. Certificates were presented to the 6 successful awardees, nominated by both Rotarians and members of the public.

It was pleasing to see business owners had invited members of their family and staff to attend. Tribute was paid to these for their contribution and support which had led to the award.

This is an indication of the significance attached to the Excellence in Small Business awards by those receiving them.

The prominent display of certificates at the place of business also shows that the award is regarded with pride.

The Excellence in Small Business Awards were presented at the Club meeting on 5 June 2024 and the very worthy recipients were Warragul Dry Cleaners, Aussie Disposals Warragul and Studio 21.



I would also like to mention many excellent small businesses that are represented in our club, which, although not participating in the Awards program, are notable for their high standards which form the criteria for nomination, ie ethics, customer service, good value and so forth,

Although it has been difficult to maintain adequate membership in Vocational Services, Don Cumming and Sunil Bhatt have been available as to contribute as and when needed.

Richard Habgood's work in publicity has been invaluable.

Sunil Bhatt and Suzy Warenycia have kindly provided outlets for nomination forms.

I would like to express my thanks to David Mifsud of Community College Gippsland, a former recipient of the Excellence in Small Business award, for his help in updating and re-designing forms and certificates.

During the year, a number of guest speakers were invited to address our meetings on vocational topics, enhancing our awareness of local trades and industries.

With the waning of the Covid virus restrictions, future Vocational Services efforts may be directed towards seeking resumption of suitable workplace visits, long held in abeyance, when club visits to locations such as West Gippsland Laundry Service, and Abbey Gardens Aged Care, were planned, then had to be postponed.

Alan Tatlow
Director, Vocational Services

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

The presentation of Paul Harris Fellow Recognition is Rotary's way of expressing its appreciation for a person who has displayed conspicuous service to the community over a period of time, and/or a most significant contribution to a Rotary project or to the community at some specific time, supported by a wider general involvement over a period of time.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award is named for Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer who started Rotary International with three business associates in 1905. Rotarians often designate a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives of The Rotary Foundation.



For each Paul Harris Fellow Award and Paul Harris Sapphire Pin, a donation of \$US1,000 is made to the international arm of Rotary, Rotary Foundation, by the Rotary Club of Warragul. With these funds, The Rotary Foundation is able to carry out a variety of programs to achieve beneficial changes in our world: improved living conditions, increased food production, better education, wider availability of treatment and rehabilitation for the sick and disabled, new channels for the flow of international understanding, and brighter hopes for peace.

The Rotary Foundation gives grants to Rotary clubs to enable these programs to be carried out. One of the best known is *End Polio Now* that has almost eliminated polio across the world.

A contribution to The Rotary Foundation is an investment in the ideal of good will, peace and understanding, which is an ideal held high by Rotarians the world over. In 2022, donations have been made to European Rotary Clubs, to alleviate the suffering of Ukrainian refugees. Working with such individuals of good will, we believe the ideal will become a reality.

Recipients of this year's Paul Harris recognitions are:

- Rosemary Allica, Lyn Bennett and Frank Spiteri who received sapphire pins for their contributions to Rotary and the community at large.
- Roger Colls for his unwavering support for Rotary's projects, in particular Rotary Park and the selling of raffle tickets for the Easter Art Sale.
- Former Rotarian Ross Dawson for his work in establishing and continuing the men's morning coffee groups that are so valuable in providing connection and alleviating loneliness.
- Kerrie Warren for her contribution to visual art and her invaluable assistance with the indigenous paintings at Rotary Park.