

1. The Youth Skills Shed opening went off well and the kids were VERY keen to get on with the job! Sessions to date have seen them introduced to a variety of skills from trades including woodwork, metalwork, concreting, electrical and plumbing, with more to come. Planning is underway for next year, with a proposed start on 12<sup>th</sup> February.
2. Our association with Boronia K-12 is proceeding well, with several events about to happen:
  - We will be manning a stall at their fete on 30<sup>th</sup> November as well as having some members assist visitors with directions to find their way around.
  - The formalities are underway to establish an Interact Club.
  - A RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) session will be run at Box Hill TAFE Lilydale on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.
  - The school has expressed interest in having their students run a Wheelchair-a-thon in the new year with the aim of funding one or more chairs through Wheelchairs for Kids.
3. We've just held or are about to run several volunteer projects:
  - The sewing bee for Backpacks 4 Vic Kids was a great success, producing Santa sacks and hats.
  - Items for the Xmas break-up service project are all donated and ready to be packed.
  - We will man the gift-wrapping station at Westfield Knox for one day again this year.
  - We've been asked to help Days for Girls FTG by making bags for sanitary products. We're also sharing our next Bunnings BBQ with them - they will provide volunteers in return for a share of the profits.
4. We had an initial meeting with a group including Past President Greg's son who are looking at the possibility of forming a satellite club. We will say more about this as it develops.
5. Our Trivia Night was a great success, raising about \$7,150 after costs. \$6,000 of this will go to funding our third SkyHydrant. The balance will go to a group project with our fellow Rotary Community clubs (another SkyHydrant).
6. Mark and his Knox Rocks team are planning a concert in February 2025. The plan, if all goes well, is to have the concert cover the costs of running the project, making it self-funding.
7. Our relationship with Knox Infolink continues to develop:
  - The board has agreed to purchase a defibrillator to be available for the Community breakfasts.
  - We are negotiating the details with Infolink and Knox Council to install a street library outside the Infolink office in Boronia Road.
  - Investigations are underway to see if we might be able to host breakfasts on Wednesdays, when Infolink is closed. Ray will be discussing this at a club meeting soon.
8. In our ongoing investigation of a partnership with Rotary Club of Colombo Port City (Sri Lanka) they have proposed two projects for which they would like our support:
  - Gift of Sight – treating cataracts in children, and
  - Drop of Hope – a water purification plant.

The board has agreed to participate in the cataract surgery project. We are investigating some other options for the water project.

We are also looking for a Rotary Club in northern Sri Lanka to partner with on the Little Trees Nurture project (presented at a recent meeting).
9. The club's plot at the Knox Community Gardens, looked after by a team consisting of John Poke, Paul Cassidy, Annette Griffen, Pam King and several other non-Rotarian community members was discussed. Some of you may not be aware of this project and what it achieves. To help in this regard we are seeking to hold our last meeting for this year (17<sup>th</sup> December) as an informal gathering at the gardens – plan to be confirmed.