

Rotary Club of Boronia

INCORPORATED • REG NO 18626A

DISTRICT 9810 • VICTORIA • AUSTRALIA

Charter granted 25th April 1968

President: Robert Hilliar
Secretary: Janet Windebank

Fifty-second Annual Report 2019-2020





“Rotary Connects the World”

Rotary International Theme
2019/2020

The Rotary Club of Boronia (Inc)

Board of Directors 2019/2020

President	Rob Hiller
Secretary	Janet Windebank
Treasurer	Helen Wilkie/ Annette Haworth
President Elect	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Vice President	TBA
Club Service	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Projects	Peter Van Zeyl
Finance/Fundraising	John White
Fellowship	Val Henry
Membership and Marketing	Jim Sly
Immediate Past President	Annette Haworth
<hr/>	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stephen Payne /Glenn Tippett



Rotary Opens Opportunities

“Rotary Opens Opportunities”
Rotary International Theme 2020/2021

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Board of Directors 2020/2021

President	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Secretary	Janet Windebank
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Vice President	TBA
Club Service	Peter Dalwood
Projects	Glenn Tippett
Finance/Fundraising	John White
Fellowship	Val Henry
Membership and Marketing	Peter Dalwood
Immediate Past President	N/A (Resigned from Club)
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Peter Van Zeyl

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1 President's Report



Our Club President for the 2019/2020 Rotary year, Robert Hilliar, resigned membership of the Club at the end of May 2019. Accordingly, a President's Report as such has not been prepared.

The following overview of the year's activities is presented as a summary record and in acknowledgement of individual input.

This Rotary year has brought many changes to the way that the Club operates. The first eight months we continued in our normal way of meeting each week at the Knox Club and continued with our fundraising and project activities in the community. The last four months has seen a difference in that meetings are now held online via 'Zoom', fundraising activities in the community have ceased and the implementation of our projects and programs has been severely curtailed. The Covid-19 pandemic throughout the world, with the resultant restrictions on all group gatherings, and requirements for social distancing and isolation, has changed all that we did before. When restrictions are finally lifted it will be great to get back to see all our Rotary friends again at a meeting.

Sincere thanks go to all members who held positions on the Board; their input has been sincerely appreciated by all members. Special mention and thanks go to:

- Janet Windebank as Secretary.
- Val Henry as bulletin editor, who provided so many interesting stories to read each week.
- Annette Haworth who took over as Treasurer in March.
- Peter Dalwood who, as Program Chair, arranged so many inspirational speakers during the year.
- Glenn Tippett as the much-loved Sergeant-at-Arms who, following on from Stephen Payne, extracted lots of great fines from members. Glenn also continued managing our Club Facebook page.
- John White as attendance chair.
- John White and Ken Barrett for their work on fundraising activities, specifically through our Golf Day. Money from this and other activities, including a series of Bunnings' BBQs, has been distributed to local charities.
- The Fellowship Committee, which organised our Christmas lunch at Heritage Golf and Country Club with help from Lillian Daff and Stephen Payne. The first meeting for the year was at Better Rentals for a BBQ dinner and vocational visit organised by Peter Van Zeyl.
- Special thanks to our Project chair Peter Van Zeyl who looked after the avenue of service areas of Community, International, Vocational and Youth.

Without these people in the background, the Club would not function as well as it does.

On a very sad note our esteemed member Past President Helen Wilkie passed away in March. Helen was President in 2011/12 and held the position of Treasurer of the Club for over ten years. She was also a member of the District Youth Exchange Committee, Annual Bike Ride Committee for which she tirelessly organised all the accommodation and meals, and a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Boronia. She is sadly missed. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a memorial service will be held for Helen when restrictions are lifted.

This year we added another Little Street Library which encourages the community to “*Take a book; Give a Book; Share a Book*”; this makes a total of three libraries currently in the community. This latest addition was set up at the King Bean Café at Wantirna Mall shopping centre, with the aid of a grant from Knox Council. Thanks to the efforts of member Chris Karajas, who has now made an additional three little libraries, the Club is planning more for the Knox community in the coming Rotary year.

Our Anzac Day celebrations with the local schools had to be cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions; however, Lance Deveson and Glenn Tippett are already organising next year’s event.

Our Youth program this year supported local primary and secondary schools with awards and certificates. We also presented an Apprentice of the Year award at Swinburne University.

Our new website is up and running; many thanks to Jim Sly for all his hard work.

As at the end of the Rotary year, we have thirty-three (33) members with two members joining this year. Jane Mifsud joined in September and Greg Mossop re-joined the Club in October. Robert Hilliar resigned at the end of May.

The Annual District Conference this year had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This year we again held our annual joint meeting with the Inner Wheel Club of Boronia in March 2020. The speakers were from Angel Flight Australia, with donations going to that organisation.

The Taveuni Eye project was deferred this year due to the virus but Peter Malden is still busy organising and fund raising for next year’s eye surgery in Fiji.

The Annual Ride for Medical Research was successfully completed in March; money raised from the event was contributed to the Rob Henry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Club members Stephen Spiers, Eddie Post, Ken Barrett, Gonny Rundell, Peter Dalwood, Glenn Tippett and Helen Wilkie were again part of the organising committee; John White and Stephen Payne also participated in the event.

The Club is carrying over two specific new projects into the next Rotary year. The first is the Community Meals project, which is being implemented in partnership with Knox Infolink. The second involves investigating the feasibility of providing accommodation for the homeless.

There is sure to be someone whose input this year has not been specifically acknowledged, so a special thanks to all people who helped on all projects this year.

Best wishes to our incoming President, Bernadette Vanderwolde and her husband Jon, and her Board for the coming year; may it be another successful and rewarding year.

2 Administration

2.1 Secretary's Report

As Secretary of our Rotary Club in 2019-20, I suppose I was gifted with the old Chinese curse "*May you live in interesting times.*" The year has been far from what any of us expected.

In my particular tasks, I had the pleasure of working with helpful members whose assistance in fulfilling my role has been absolutely essential; from Peter D helping me to navigate ClubRunner and the RI website, Gonny and Annette giving invaluable experienced Secretary tips, Jim in helping with the wording of some crucial letters, and Val and Bernie and the Board generally in many difficult conversations at times when the Club's management became a worrisome issue.

We also had the experience of the Extraordinary General Meeting on 2nd June and the passage of the amended Constitution and By-laws; another first time for me, ably assisted by Neville.

There was a lot of trial and error in that process, but it was successfully concluded.

All of our expectations for the Rotary year were thrown aside with the Covid-19 lockdowns, and the role of Rotary in our lives changed; from activities and regular formal meetings, to a focus on friendship and fellowship in challenging times, and the effort to continue to assist the community where the need is great.

I am looking forward to the coming Rotary year and am so grateful for the way in which our Club pulls together to face and overcome difficulties.

The resilience of our Club shone through this year.

Janet Windebank
Secretary 2019/2020



2.2 Treasurer's Report

Audited financial statements for the 2019/20 Rotary year will be presented to the Club at the Annual General Meeting, to be held in November 2020.

Donations paid out by the Club during the 2019/20 Rotary year are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Rotary Club of Boronia Incorporated
Donations paid out during the 2019/20 Rotary Year (Unaudited)

Recipient	Amount
Taveuni Eye Project	1,500.00
Vocational/Citizenship Awards	1,300.00
Foothills Community Care	2,000.00
Skyline Education Foundation	2,000.00
East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid	2,000.00
East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid (Club Member contributions)	500.00
Knox Infolink – Community Support	2,000.00
Knox Infolink – Case Support	500.00
Days for Girls	529.00
Aphasia Victoria	500.00
Miss World Variety Club (Cassandra Van Zeyl)	500.00
Angel Flights (via Inner Wheel Club of Boronia)	500.00
District 9810 Family Project (Books for Kids) – Guest Speaker recognition	500.00
Rotary Foundation Annual Giving	3,500.00
End Polio Now (Australia)	1,000.00
Australian Rotary Health – in memory of Helen Wilkie (Member funds from Admin A/C)	1,000.00
Australian Rotary Health – Lift the Lid Collection	350.00
Total	\$ 20,179.00



3 Projects

3.1 Overview

Committee:

- Peter Van Zeyl – Chair;
- Gonny Rundell - Community;
- Peter Malden - International;
- Paul Cassidy - Vocational;
- Annette Haworth - Youth;
- Stephen Payne'
- Neville Windebank;
- Judy Jacobs;
- Richard Spinosa-Cattela;
- Heather Anderson;
- Bruce Crago;
- Leigh Elsey;
- Doug Gibson;
- Wal Goodwin;
- Chris Karajas; and
- Jenn Critchlow.



Report:

Full details of activities undertaken in each avenue of service are reported separately in the following pages.

I would like to take this opportunity thank all members for their contribution during the year.

Highlights for me, were the team of members who came equipped with an assortment of tools to spruce up the Country Women's Association (CWA) facility in Sundew Avenue, Boronia. Our Club has a long history with the CWA, and they were very grateful of our efforts, sharing the traditional morning tea of scones, jam and cream at the end of the clean-up activity.

The CWA has some challenges ahead, with an aging membership and some ongoing financial burdens. I trust our Club can continue to assist into the future.

I was also honoured to host a Vocational visit at my employer's business, Better Rentals in Gifford Street, Ferntree Gully. This was an opportunity to showcase the assortment of equipment available to hire, and to send a few members high up in a Cherry picker. The evening concluded with a fellowship barbeque.

Peter and Jan Malden are to be commended for their continued efforts with the Taveuni Eye project in Fiji.

Gonny and her team have been investigating a project to initiate “Pods” to accommodate the homeless in our Community; thank you for your ongoing commitment with a challenging task.

As we are all aware, the second half of the Rotary year has become a completely new experience. Rotary and Rotarians are resilient and will meet the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic that has impacted on the world. The Avenues of Service are the perfect vehicle to ask, how may we help?

In our local Community, with our Youth who will inherit what we leave them, our Vocations and how the focus changes and finally on the International front.

I wish Glenn Tippett, the incoming committee members and each member all the very best as we work back to a ‘new’ normal Rotary experience.

Peter Van Zeyl
Chair, Projects Committee

3.2 Community Service

3.2.1 Lift the Lid on Mental Illness



Lift the Lid on Mental Illness, or “Hat Day”, is Australian Rotary Health’s national annual fundraising day for mental health research. As in previous years, Club members assembled at Bunnings’ Bayswater store with their collection cans to solicit donations on 4th October 2019.

Bunnings supported the event by making space available in-store for a display, assisting in the setup and providing a competition and prizes for people that that made a donation.

A fun time was had by all who participated, and once again our Club and the work we undertake were visible in our local community. A total of \$350 was collected on the day; a valuable contribution to this very worthwhile and relevant cause.



3.2.2 CWA Hall and Yard Maintenance



This year we once again continued our support in maintaining the CWA (Country Women's Association) facility in Boronia. This support is provided in part as our Club storage shed is located at the rear of this facility.

On Saturday, 19th October, a group of members gathered to clean up the yard, particularly around the storage shed at the rear of the property. The area had become overgrown and there was an accumulation of rubbish that had been dumped over the fence from the neighbouring property and/or the railway car park at the rear.

Those in attendance made light work of the task at hand, and generated a large pile of waste for disposal. In traditional style, the CWA ladies put on a 'banquet' type morning tea, which made it all the more difficult to get back to work!



3.2.3 Polio Australia:



This Rotary year our Club acknowledged World Polio Day with a special dinner that included Guest Speaker Gary Newton from Polio Australia. Gary is a Rotarian and also a

polio survivor, so he spoke passionately about Polio and its ongoing impact for survivors.

It was interesting to learn that, although world-wide eradication of Polio is tantalisingly close, for the 400,000 polio survivors in Australia a new fight is under way. Polio survivors continue to suffer the symptoms of this disease, yet they are receiving little or no support. As they grow older, new symptoms are developing yet they do not qualify for support from the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) because that support does not apply to people over 65 years of age.



Polio Australia supports those living with the effects of Polio; its mission:

“Polio Australia committed to standardising quality polio information and service provision across Australia for polio survivors.”

Its support initiatives include education; advocacy; maintaining registers of both polio survivors and health practitioners with related knowledge; supporting

younger “New Generation” polio survivors; maintaining its Rotary connections; and raising funds to finance these initiatives. Education related activities include Clinical Practice Workshops for health professionals; Polio Health and Wellness Retreats for polio survivors; Community Information Sessions; and increasing community awareness during Polio Awareness Month (October each year).

In recognition of Gary’s presentation, a donation of \$1,000 was made to Polio Australia.

3.2.4 Little Street Libraries

“TAKE a Book, GIVE a Book, SHARE a Book”



On Friday, 13th December 2019, the Club successfully launched its third Little Street Library, which is located in front of the *King Bean Café* at Wantirna Mall. This adds to the two existing Little Street Libraries, which can be found at Alchester Village (in front of the *Koko Lime Café*) and in the Boronia Mall.

The Wantirna Mall Little Street Library was launched by City of Knox Mayor, Cr Nicole Seymour and Ward Councillor, Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch, assisted by student

leaders from Regency Park Primary School, Wantirna and Club members. The Library was built using a minor project grant from Knox Council; students from Regency Park Primary School decorated the library.

Like the Alchester Village and Boronia Mall libraries, the Wantirna Mall Little Street Library was initially stocked with both adult and children’s books donated by Rotary members and their friends. The project encourages community members to take a book to read and replace it with one for someone else to enjoy. All three libraries have sustained themselves in this way throughout the year; only minimal re-stocking or reallocation of stock has been required.

During the year, Club member Chris Karajas has constructed a further three libraries, all using recycled materials. These additional libraries will eventually be positioned in locations around the community, with the next to be located in front of Svaks’ Café in The Basin. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not been able to get the new libraries painted; this is typically undertaken by students at a local school.



One of the new libraries has, however, been put to effective use in the interim period. Army Road, Boronia residents have benefitted from the library being located in the driveway of Lance and Liz Deveson’s home. By all accounts, it has been so well used that Lance has now installed a permanent little library on their front fence.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Lance Deveson
Project Coordinator

3.2.5 ANZAC Day Commemoration for Knox Schools



The Club's 2020 ANZAC commemoration for local Primary schools was scheduled to be held on Friday, 17th April. Planning was well advanced with guest speaker and school bands organised; ten schools had committed to attend.

Unfortunately, however, the event had to be cancelled at relatively short notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, events with large numbers of attendees, as was expected for the proposed ceremony, were not permitted.

We look forward to being able to proceed with next year's commemoration service, which is currently scheduled for Friday, 16th April 2021.

Lance Deveson and Glenn Tippett
Event Coordinators

3.2.6 Supporting Knox Infolink



Knox Infolink, which is based in Boronia, is a fabulous group of people that continues to support those in our community who are most in need. Our Club has a long-term ongoing relationship with this highly effective organisation.

COVID-19 has meant that the need for support has increased exponentially, so we donated \$2,000 to help Infolink purchase more supplies. The image to the right shows some of the care packages they are creating; the supplies on the shelf are ready to go to people who need it.

In response to a specific request for support from Infolink, the Club also provided \$500 to aid relocation of a person at-risk of domestic violence.



3.2.7 Community Meals Project



In the context of discussions about the move to online 'Zoom' meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic, President Elect, Bernadette Vanderwolde suggested that Club members may wish to consider using the money that they would normally have spent at the Knox Club to purchase a meal from a Boronia restaurant, thereby supporting local businesses

that are being severely impacted by the imposed restrictions. Further discussion led to agreement that funds could be used to purchase meals for local people who are struggling due to loss of income of other impacts.

Further investigation revealed that as a result of the pandemic, Knox Infolink is being called upon to provide emergency support to an increasing number of families and individuals. As a result, the Club has partnered with Infolink to support their response.

Our Club then proceeded to develop a project through which food vouchers will be provided to Infolink for distribution to those in need during the current coronavirus pandemic. Food will be provided by a selection of local restaurants, thereby also supporting them during these difficult times. Agreement was ultimately reached with Flame Tree Burger Bar (Ferntree Gully and Bayswater) and Siam Terrace Thai Restaurant (Boronia) to provide food packages from fixed menus.



As at the end of the 2019/20 Rotary year, arrangements were still being finalised; however, members had personally contributed a total of \$2,660 by donating the money (or part thereof) that they would normally spend at our weekly meetings. Implementation of the project has subsequently progressed.



3.2.8 Other Community Support

Overview:

During the 2019/20 Rotary year, representatives of two community organisations gave presentations as guest speakers to the Club. As a result we subsequently made donations to these organisations in support of the work they undertake; both were recipients of part of the proceeds of our annual Charity Golf Day, which was conducted in February 2020 (refer **Section 4.2**).

Some proceeds from the Golf Day were also donated to East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid, together with contributions made by individual members.

Foothills Community Care:



In August, Stephen Barrington, CEO of Foothills Community Care, spoke about the work of his organisation, which provides meals, hospitality and a place to belong for those in need in the Dandenong Ranges and foothills of outer eastern Melbourne.



The range of services they offer includes Christmas lunch, community meals in various locations, community casseroles, domestic violence support groups and winter sleepovers, to name just a few. Having served over 9000 free meals, 4500 free hampers and 21 tonnes of rescued food in 2019 (at the time of the presentation), it was great to see community spirit at its best.

A donation of \$2,000 was made to support the work of Foothills Community Care.

Skyline Education Foundation:



In November, Jane Sydenham-Clarke talked to the Club about the work of the Skyline Education Foundation, an organisation that provides bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds consistent with its vision statement:

“Our vision is that high ability students – who are gifted and/or academically talented and who display a growth mindset, leadership potential, and resilience in the face of their social and economic challenges – find pathways to further study and employment, becoming leaders for change.”



The Foundation’s model is designed to provide deep and significant educational experiences to a few stringently selected students who would otherwise not have the opportunity for a high quality education. These students often come from single-parent low income backgrounds; Skyline Education targets schools most likely to have students who come from such family circumstances and it was noted that there are four schools in Knox that qualify. Children on the Autism spectrum are encouraged to apply.

At the time of the presentation, Skyline Education Foundation was supporting 103 students in 26 different schools. All of these students are highly intelligent and commonly regarded as gifted or with specific learning abilities. With the support of Skyline Education there is a high likelihood that they will become high performers, not just in their education, but on the world stage as well, thereby transforming their lives.

A donation of \$2,000 was made to support the work of the Skyline Education Foundation.

East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid:



East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid is an initiative of the five Rotary Clubs of East Gippsland, which came together and formed a Fire Aid Committee to coordinate Rotary's local response in supporting individuals and communities that were severely impacted by bush fires in early 2020. This arrangement was adopted in preference to each Club working on their own with possible double up, thereby providing a greater force as a collective.

To provide background in respect of East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid, a "YouTube" video update on the Committee's work to date was viewed by the Club at our 26th May meeting. This provided an overview of the activities being undertaken, challenges and achievements. All donated funds were distributed to the following areas:¹

1. *Hay, Fodder, Fencing*

Many land-owners have insurance for their fencing and only require volunteers to assist with cleaning of fence lines. Others will require hay/fodder for their livestock.

2. *Money Vouchers*

Allowing people affected to purchase items they determine for themselves at participating businesses, placing money into local retailers which have been hit hard by the loss of the peak holiday season trading.

3. *Emergency Fund*

For items that sit outside the above two categories and are deemed to be having a great impact on a community or a family and need urgent action.

4. *Community BBQ's and Working Bees*

Organised to assist and support communities to reconnect.

A Club donation of \$2,000 was made to support the work of East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid. This was supplemented by a further \$500 donated by individual members (refer **Section 4.1**).

¹ <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000005327/en-ca/files/homepage/east-gippsland-rotary-fire-aid-report-2019-20/EGREA-2020-Annual-Report--RC-Bairnsdale-.pdf>

3.2.9 Homeless Accommodation

With a growing awareness of homeless and rough sleepers in the City of Knox and in response to a suggestion from Stephen Payne, a new project committee was convened; under the leadership of Gonny Rundell, this committee has been investigating the feasibility of providing temporary overnight accommodation for the homeless. In addition to Gonny, the committee comprises Lance Deveson, Greg Mossop, Lillian Daff and Stephen Payne.

Stephen's suggestion was prompted after becoming aware of a project being implemented in Wales by a group called Amazing Grace Spaces. The group's objective is to ensure that any person faced with homelessness gets a safe place to sleep, and is not sleeping rough in the street.

Stephen travelled on a (self-funded) fact-finding mission to the UK in November 2019 to learn about and inspect the accommodation facilities being provided by Amazing Grace Spaces, which comprise both single person "pods" and larger "container-based units". Importantly, information about the management of the accommodation facilities was also obtained, thereby providing valuable background information.

Although curtailed in its activities during the latter part of the Rotary year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee has been active in investigating the feasibility of such an initiative in the local environment. This has included consultation with Knox Council and local support groups, amongst others.

Although this is potentially a very worthwhile project that will bring benefit to the homeless people in our community, there is much work yet to be done before its viability can be confirmed. Work is continuing in the 2020/2021 Rotary year.



3.3 International Service

3.3.1 Overview

This report seeks to present what International Service projects the Rotary Club of Boronia has been involved in during the past Rotary year.

In previous years, two separate reports have been prepared; one for the Rotary Club of Boronia and one for our Sister Club, the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island.

For those new to our annual report, the Sister Club relationship was created following the visit to Taveuni Island, Fiji by Eddie and Michele Post and Peter and Jan Malden. They visited the island as part of a District 9810 work team to assist with the construction of a girl's dormitory at the Buca Levu Secondary School.

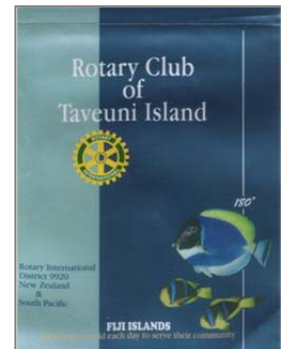
The following is a combined report as our projects and our relationship with the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island are as joined and as strong as ever.

3.3.2 Our Sister Club – the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

Club Officers 2018/2019:

- President: Bob Goddess;
- Secretary: Helen Brown;
- Treasurer: Michael Prasad; and
- IP President. Byron Fisher.

The Rotary Club of Taveuni is a mighty force with a minimum of fuss. One of the most effective Rotary Clubs in the Southern Hemisphere, the Club currently has 15 members. It has raised millions of dollars to support all types of projects on the ‘Garden Island’ of Taveuni.



Fiji Group of Islands



Our Club has contributed to/worked with the RC Taveuni Island on a number of projects undertaken during the 2019/2020 Rotary year, with a particular focus on the Taveuni Eye Project.

3.3.3 Taveuni Eye Project 2019

This Rotary Year's Taveuni Eye Project in Fiji was run very successfully from Monday, 7 October to Friday, 18 October 2019; **on time and on budget!**

The Rotary Club of Boronia completed its fund raising following many talks given to various Rotary Clubs in Victoria. The funding arranged was:

- Rotary Club of Boronia \$5,000 USD;
- Rotary District 9810 \$5,000 USD (District Designated Funds (DDF));
- Rotary Club of Geelong Central \$1,000 USD; and
- Rotary District 9780 \$1,000 USD (District Designated Funds (DDF)).

By adding the Rotary Foundation matching, this resulted in a total contribution to the project of \$17,500 USD.

Logistical support was given to the project with PP Peter Malden taking the role of Project Manager and attending the project for the two weeks in October.

Prior to the project we were able to utilise our extensive network of friends and businesses to organise and freight the following to Taveuni in time for the project:

- Patient trolley x 1;
- Surgeon stool x 2;
- Patient vital signs monitor x 1 (for the children's general anaesthetic operations);
- Patient suction unit x 1;
- Oxygen regulators x 4;
- Oxygen flow meter x 4;
- Protective shirts for volunteers x 20;
- Laptop x 2; and
- Stickers for equipment identification.

Final number of procedures for the project:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| ▪ Cataracts | 216 |
| ▪ Pterygiums | 81 |
| ▪ Other Operation | 7 |
| ▪ Total operations | 304 |

In addition to the above surgical procedures, 118 people completed eye and health checks that did not need any optical intervention. That makes a total of over 400 Fijians treated and given critical health advice and referral to their local medical teams.

The primary goal of the Taveuni Eye Project is to give sight to children and adults from the more remote and rural areas of Fiji. The 14th annual Taveuni Eye Project (TEP) 2019 was successfully funded and fully approved thanks to the help of many donors from Australia, New Zealand and from across the World. Fiji donations of labour, food and vehicles make a huge difference to the project.



Dr Grace Richter was the Surgical Eye Expeditions representative at this year's Taveuni Eye Project. Dr Grace went to Columbia University for her Medical Degree, as well as her Master's Degree in Public Health. After completing her ophthalmology residency at the University of Southern California, she served as the assistant chief of service for ophthalmology at the Los Angeles County Medical Centre.

Dr Grace is passionate about international ophthalmology and enjoys volunteering her time to perform and teach manual small incision cataract surgery in developing areas of the world. She is shown here operating in the theatre at Taveuni Hospital.

Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) supplies the bulk of the medicines and surgical requirements for the project by sourcing donations from various suppliers in the USA and around the world. Most items are near their use by date, however, are used in Fiji before they expire. Thank you to SEE!

As is to be expected, there is a lot of preparation for such a project. New equipment was brought into Taveuni and was commissioned ready for service before the medical staff arrived. The required medical supplies were brought in and the schedule for the surgical operations was completed.

In preparation for the project, the Fiji Society for the Blind completed screening across rural Fiji and, in consultation with Rotary Club of Taveuni, allocated places in the project to some 300 patients. This process included compiling patient lists and implementing travel plans. As in previous years, it was expected that an additional 50 to 80 people would walk into the hospital during the project.

The medical team assembled from Friday the preceding week, with the local support teams and Rotarians working to get the hospital ready for a Monday start.

The 2019 project saw the introduction by the Rotary Club of Taveuni of a website which was updated daily with the progress of the project; see www.rotaryeyesfiji.com where daily reports detailing the project as it progressed can be viewed. The following is but a very small snapshot from the website as an example:

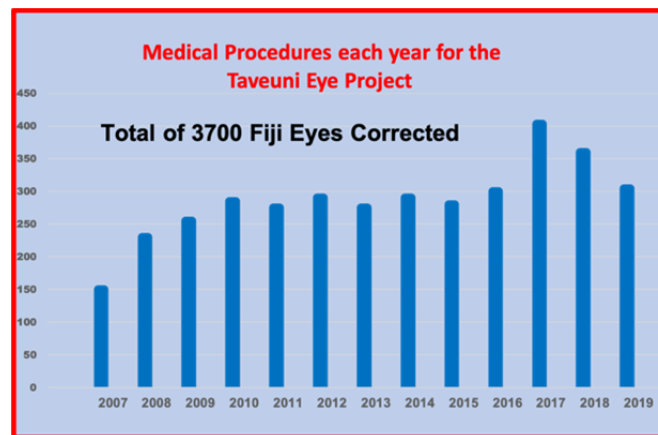
Bhan Mati is having her second eye attended to today. She comes from Nasarwaqa village in Bua province. She is staying with her son and daughter-in-law on Taveuni Island so that she can easily access the hospital. She is a good Fijian and has added six daughters and four boys to the population! Her husband has an unusual occupation – he manages livestock; sheep, goats, cattle, chickens and ducks. Bhan has twenty-nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. A wonderful family.



Bhan after her second eye surgery



Patients wait for their eyes to be examined the day after their surgery



The Rotary Clubs of Taveuni Island, Newmarket and Boronia would like to extend sincere thanks to all our supporters, Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Rotarians who assisted with fundraising, sunglasses collection and the provision of linen, supplies and services.

WELL DONE TO THE MANY WHO ASSISTED

3.3.4 Taveuni Eye Project 2020/21

In late 2019, work commenced on the 2020 project with a number of Rotary Clubs and Districts across the world being approached and making pledges in their budgets.

Then Covid-19 hit and upset the plans of many groups, including Rotary Clubs worldwide. Not only were their meetings upset, but their fund-raising activities basically curtailed. Many Clubs indicated they no longer had the funds to fully support the new Taveuni Eye Project with many reductions occurring.

Following discussions, it was decided to re-schedule the 2020 project to become the 15th Annual Project and commence on the 7 June 2021. The Grant funding application title thus became "Fiji Eye Project 2021".

The ability to proceed with the project at that time will, of course, be dependent on the lifting of travel restrictions; however, the team is confident that the date will be available. Planning then progressed.

Then the next bombshell hit us. To quote The Rotary Foundation:

"Due to the incredible efforts of Rotarians to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we've fully expended this year's global grant budget. When the pandemic hit, global grant submissions rose 33% as Rotarians moved into action. It has truly been inspiring.

Global grant applications that have been submitted but not yet approved on 1 July will receive the World Fund match for cash contributions, but subsequent global grants will not be eligible for the 50% cash contribution match. The 50% match for cash contributions will no longer be available for any future grants."

If we were to lose the cash match for the 15th Taveuni Eye Project, we would need to raise at least another \$20,000 USD to run the project.

The sudden change in The Rotary Foundation rules meant that we had to submit the application by the end of June 2020 to have any chance of receiving matching for the cash donations from Clubs.

Thanks to lots of great work, the formal application for the 2020/21 Rotary Global Grant was finalised and received by The Rotary Foundation and is in the approvals process. This stage was completed by the 30th June deadline. Let us hope we are successful in getting a grant for the 15th Taveuni Eye Project.

The budget for the project has been trimmed and will need to be very closely monitored to ensure that overspend does not occur. The funding from Victoria is the same as it was for 2019 project; effectively \$17,500 USD contributed for an overall project of some \$80,000 USD.

One new innovation for the next project will be the supply of a backpack kit of optical and medical test items plus training in their use for the Fiji Society for the Blind screening volunteers. The kits have been sourced and will be dispatched from Melbourne in August. The formal training program is under development and will be conducted in Suva in February 2021 in time for the screening to be completed for the 15th Project.



The funding for the training will be provided by the Rotary Club of Boronia.

As a result of The Rotary Foundation not having the same level of incoming contributions, no 50% match available for cash contributions, Rotary Clubs not making as much charity money and many of the traditional supporters of the Taveuni Eye Project not in a position to support the project into the future, global grant projects such as the Taveuni Eye Project will be very much harder to fund. The world is constantly changing around us.

3.3.5 School Building Projects on Taveuni Island

The Rotary Club of Taveuni Island has previously built nine 2-bedroom teachers' quarters and two 4-bedroom teachers' quarters with much assistance from RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service), the Rotary Club of Boronia and our valuable supporters. This has all been previously reported, but is included here to show the total amount of school work completed.



Two-bedroom Teachers Quarters



Four-bedroom Teachers Quarters

The Rotary Club of Taveuni Island is currently completing the building of twelve 2-bedroom teachers' quarters, having completed a four-classroom block and another two-classroom block.

Construction at **Naqara Central School** has been completed. Due to the lack of facilities at the school, the students had to walk across the street to attend classes held at a local temple. Grant money has funded the construction of four classrooms. They all have the facility to be closed off or adjoining walls "opened" to form one long "hall". Naqara, where there are 531 students, is the second largest primary school on Taveuni.

In all, there are twelve primary schools and four secondary schools on the island. Naqara Central has classes for levels 1-8, with two classes per level. There are at least 30 students per class.



Naqara Primary School – four classrooms under construction as reported last year



The classrooms were completed early in the Rotary year

The Rotary Club of Taveuni Island is managing construction of the houses and school classrooms using a grant provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in conjunction with Rotary New Zealand World Community Service.

3.3.6 Secondary Scholarships

For many years the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island and their supporters have been involved in a scholarship program for needy students in secondary schools across the island.

Again, this year the Rotary Club of Boronia contributed to the project by way of a financial donation to assist the fundraising.

Each year students are interviewed by a committee of Rotary Club members. Scholarships are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Grade reports from the previous year;
- Attendance at school;
- Teacher's and administrator's comments;
- Conduct at school; and
- Financial needs of the family.

After assessment of these various points, scholarships are given in the form of a voucher with which only school supplies may be purchased. In 2020, the voucher is for \$250 FJD. While the Fiji government pays the school fees, the scholarship pays for other required items that the student must have to attend school. This includes uniforms, sports or athletic clothes, sandals, book bags, exercises books for each subject, pencils, pens and other supplies the student may need.

Grade reports are reviewed by the Club committee and, if the student maintains a 65 or higher grade, the scholarship will be renewed for the next school year.

This year the Club was able to provide 160 scholarships, an increase from 120 the previous year. This year 90 scholarships were given to returning students and we were able to provide 70 scholarships to new students.

As the number of students increases, so does the need for scholarships. It is very difficult to turn away students who, with a little help, could gain an education and go on to become successful members of the community. This year we had to turn away 250 needy students, many of whom will not be able to continue their education.

The School Assisted Learning Packages (Scholarships) is the name we in Australia must use when funds go via Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) due to Australian Taxation Office rulings for charitable donations.

3.3.7 Beach Clean-up – June 2020

In June 2020, Rotarians and many 'enlisted' volunteers put in a mighty effort to clean up what many regard as Taveuni's best beach; Prince Charles Beach. This beautiful oasis fronting the Somosomo Strait is used by many of the residents of the northern end of Taveuni and tourists who stumble on this gem.

It was a great day of hard work, fellowship and left all who participated with a sense of satisfaction at a job well done. **Special thanks to Ruiz Truck Hire for use of the tray truck; more than 20 cubic metres of rubbish was removed!**



Prince Charles Beach Clean-up – workers and the pile of rubbish collected

3.3.8 International Activities for 2020/21

International projects to be undertaken during the 2020/21 Rotary year may potentially include:

- Training for Fiji Society for the Blind Volunteer Screening people;
- Taveuni Eye Project 2021;
- Scholarship Project; and
- Internal refurbishment of the Buca Levu Girls Dormitory (now 10 years old).

Peter Malden
International Service Lead

3.4 Vocational Service

Apprentice of the Year Award:

The apprentice awards at the Swinburne University of Technology were scheduled for 4th June 2020 but were cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation. However, Swinburne has recently advised that it is hoping to make the presentations on 27th August 2020. This may well change but, at the time of writing, we intend to present a \$1,000 voucher to the successful candidate on that night. We await advice from Swinburne.



Vocational Visits:

This year we were able to enjoy two vocational visits prior to Covid-19 thanks to Peter Van Zeyl and Peter Dalwood.



In January Peter Van Zeyl hosted us at Better Rentals where we enjoyed playing with some of the 'Big Boys Toys' as well as finding out about the range of gear they have available for hire. This was followed by a BBQ and, as usual, great fellowship.





Our second visit happened in February and was something different but extremely interesting. Peter Dalwood arranged a night at Aussie Dog Factory where we heard about a local business supplying animal toys, amongst other things, to zoos all around the world.



One of the most interesting things was the elephant shoes. These are used to protect elephant's feet while they heal and also as a prosthetic if an elephant was unfortunate to have stepped on a land mine. Although some of the talk was drowned out by heavy rain on the tin roof, it was a fascinating insight into an enterprise that most would be unaware of.

Paul Cassidy
Vocational Service Lead

3.5 Youth Service

Citizenship Awards:

Awards were presented at seven schools in December 2019, as follows:

- **Park Ridge Primary:** Cameron Ellis – watch and certificate.
- **Boronia Heights Primary:** Josh Rowan – watch and certificate.
- **Boronia K12 Primary:** Jasmine Ashlin and Jayden Costa – watches and certificates.
- **Boronia K12 College:**
 - Year 7, 8 & 9 Dux awards – \$50 voucher and certificates;
 - Year 10 Dux – \$100 voucher and certificate;
 - Year 11 VCal Dux – \$100 Voucher and certificate;
 - Year 11 VCE Dux – \$100 Voucher and certificate; and
 - Year 9 Citizenship award: Jake Hay – watch and certificate.



Awards for Year 12 VCE and VCAL Dux last year were not awarded as results were not in at time of presentation evening.

- **Knox Park Primary:** Gabby Arvanitakis – Watch and certificate.
- **Basin Primary School:** Chloe Jacques – watch and certificate.
- **Knox Central Primary:** Bentan House – watch and certificate.

Special thanks to all that presented awards at schools; Paul Cassidy, Val Henry, Bruce Crago, Glenn Tippett and Bernadette Vanderwolde, and I presented at two schools.

Other Youth Programs:



Due to pandemic situation all other youth programs, which are conducted principally in the second half of the Rotary year, were put on hold until further notice.

Annette Haworth
Youth Service Lead

4 Finance & Fundraising

4.1 Committee Report

Committee:

- John White – Chair;
- Helen Wilkie (ex officio);
- Lillian Daff;
- Michael Jacobs; and
- Carolynn McManus.



Report:

This year the Club ran several fundraising events including a number of Bunnings BBQs, support services at the annual Meyer Cookware Warehouse Sale, support services at the inaugural Knox Car and Art Show and our annual Charity Golf Day. Club members also contributed funds in response to two specific needs.

Details are as follows:

Bunnings BBQs:



The Club ran BBQs at Bunnings' Canterbury Road, Bayswater warehouse on five (5) occasions during the year. These were staffed by willing crews comprising members and partners on 21 July 2019, 4 November 2019, 18 December 2019, 23 December 2019 and 28 February 2020.

Each BBQ event presented its own challenges and benefits. For example, the 4th November event was a rather wet affair; the one on Wednesday, 18th December was very hard going with the temperature near 40 degrees by the afternoon, whilst the one on the following Monday (23rd December) was quite comfortable.

In spite of the inclement weather, the 4th November event generated approximately \$800 income. The two pre-Christmas BBQs (18th & 23rd December) raised \$2,345; all very worthwhile efforts.

In total, the BBQs run this Rotary year raised a total of approximately \$7,200. Thank you to all those members who helped out throughout the year; well done everyone for a great result.

Meyer Cookware Australia – Warehouse Sale:

We again worked at the Meyer annual clearance sale on Friday/Saturday, 13th/14th September taking customers purchases to their cars for a gold coin donation. We partnered with the Inner Wheel Club, which ran a BBQ to cater for the hungry shoppers.

The Club's input at this event resulted in a total profit of around \$2,000; another rewarding effort in addition to two days of fellowship.



Knox Car and Art Show:

On 17 November 2019, the Club supported the inaugural “Knox Car and Art Show”, an event affiliated with the Association of Motoring Clubs Inc. Our members manned the gate at which entry fees were collected, and managed the BBQ providing food for the hungry enthusiasts.

Whilst our efforts raised only a minimal contribution to the Club's project funds, the event provided an excellent opportunity to show our presence in the local community.



Annual Charity Golf Day:

The Club also ran its Annual Golf Day, which was again a tremendous success. A separate report on this event follows (refer **Section 4.2**).

Member Contributions:

During the 2019/2020 Rotary year, Club members made significant personal financial contributions in response to two specific needs.

Following the Bushfire Disaster in East Gippsland in early 2020, a number of members donated a total of \$500 via the Club. These funds were subsequently passed on to East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid, together with a share of the proceeds from the Annual Golf Day (refer **Section 4.2**). Some members also contributed to the Bushfire fund established by RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service).

Club members also contributed substantial funds to the Community Meals project (refer **Section 3.2.7**). The Club has been meeting online since the end of March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and many members have chosen to donate the monies they would normally spend on their weekly Rotary meal to this very worthy cause. As at the end of June 2020, a total of \$2,660 had been contributed, with further donations continuing to be made in the new Rotary year.

Prepared on behalf of ...

John White
Chair, Finance and Fundraising Committee

4.2 Charity Golf Day

We are pleased to report that again this year, our annual Charity Golf Day, which was held on 10th February 2020, was a great success.

Thanks to the support of generous sponsors, Eastwood Golf Club and our Club members, the day ran very smoothly. The weather gods once again smiled on us with the rain holding off, allowing players to enjoy a warm and dry morning of golf.



72 players hit off in a shot gun start at 8:00am and, apart from a few minor delays, were finished by 12:30pm.

Lunch was served in the Club House at 1:00pm by our regular caterers, Rodamz Catering. Thanks go to Amy and Rod for once again putting on a great spread.

Results for the Ambrose Event were as follows:

- Winning Team: Barry Plant Real Estate (1), with a team Handicap of 13.5 and a nett score of 52.5
- Runners Up Team: LMP Accountants men's team (on a countback), with a nett score of 56.5.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we were able to award Nearest the Pin prizes on each Par 3 hole and Longest Drive prizes on the 16th hole.



Our raffle and lucky envelope table (with over 150 prizes) produced a great result on the day.

We were very pleased to end the day with a profit of approximately \$9,500 which has been distributed to three charities; East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid, Foothills Community Care and Skyline Education Foundation.

Thanks again to all Club Members who helped out on the day. Your support continues to make this such a successful Club project each year.

Ken Barrett and John White
Golf Day Project Coordinators

5 Fellowship

Committee:

- Val Henry – Chair;
- Ken Barrett;
- Eddie Post; and
- Stephen Spiers.



Report:

The Club has had some very enjoyable social gatherings during the 2019-2020 year.



In September 2019 members and partners enjoyed a dinner at Siam Terrace. This was an informal night and an opportunity for everyone to have a very pleasant social evening with a set menu catering for any special dietary requirements.

The annual Christmas Party was held on 15th December at Heritage Golf Club. This event was hosted by Lillian Daff and Stephen Payne, and thanks are extended to them and the many others who assisted on the day with catering. There was no shortage of delicious food and excellent company to be enjoyed by everyone attending. Of course, it wouldn't be a Rotary event without a raffle; and there was a great array of prizes to be won. It is an opportune time to once again thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.



Our first meeting on 7th January was a combined Vocational/Fellowship night at Better Rentals in Ferntree Gully. Many thanks to Peter Van Zeyl who helped organise this evening and to his partner Helen, for organising the delicious food on the night.



On 30th January 2020, we supported the Rotary Club of Forest Hill by organising a group to attend the performance of “Waiting for God” at the Peridot Theatre in Waverley. This was an excellent performance and very enjoyable night socialising with Rotarians from many Clubs within D9810.

At our Club’s recent 2020-21 Changeover, the Fellowship Committee organised a “Trivia Fun and Frivolity” session which tested everyone’s grey matter with some questions on historical Club activities, Australian and general knowledge.



Unfortunately with the onset of Covid-19, any other planned activities in recent months had to be cancelled.

I would like to thank my team – Ken Barrett, Eddie Post and Stephen Spiers for their much appreciated advice and assistance in arranging the year’s activities.

And thank you to Club members and their partners who have helped make these events a great success.

Val Henry
Chair, Fellowship Committee

6 Club Service



6.1 Club Service Report

Club Service focuses on the effective functioning of the Club. It involves a range of activities, including (for example):

- maintaining our membership;
- ensuring that our members remain informed and involved;
- ensuring that our weekly meetings are interesting, engaging and well controlled; and
- overseeing our engagement with the broader Rotary organisation, including our contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

Our Club continued to operate effectively during the 2019/2020 Rotary year and we continued to make some great contributions.

Some points of note are as follows:

- **Covid-19 Pandemic:**

The Covid-19 pandemic has proposed challenges to the way our Club has operated; however, as reported elsewhere, our Club has risen to the challenge as has the Rotary organisation worldwide. Our normal (in-person) weekly meetings were cancelled from 17th March; online meetings commenced on 14th April and have continued successfully since.

A number of activities have had to be cancelled at both Club and District level. For example, our annual ANZAC Day commemoration for local schools was cancelled, as was the District Conference; District Assembly was conducted online rather than by in-person attendance.

The pandemic has also provided new service opportunities, which we continue to explore and implement. These are detailed elsewhere in this report.

- **Program:**

Our Program Chair, Peter Dalwood continued to provide a program of very interesting guest speakers for our meetings throughout the year. These speakers have both educated us and inspired us to continue our work in the community.

Details of our meeting program during 2019/2020 are presented in **Section 6.5**.

- **Bulletin:**

Bulletin Editor, Val Henry continued to produce a high quality and informative weekly Bulletin throughout the year. The Bulletin remains the primary mechanism (apart from attendance at Club meetings) for ensuring that our members are appropriately informed.

▪ **Club Communication and Public Relations:**

Glenn Tippett has continued to maintain our Facebook page, posting regular updates about our meetings and other Club activities, and other related items of interest. Our following has grown both locally and internationally and now total almost 450 people.



Our new Club website, which went live in late June 2019, has continued to present items of interest. All members are encouraged to provide details of our activities and upcoming events so that relevant information can be incorporated.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Bernadette Vanderwolde
President Elect 2019/20 and Club Service Chair

6.2 Foundation

Centurion Club:



As in previous years, Club members have continued their strong support of the Centurion Club (“Every Rotarian Every Year” program) with thirteen (13) members again giving \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. Under new arrangements this year, contributions were made by members individually submitting their contributions via the District Coordinator.

I have always felt that Foundation is a great selling point for Rotary as all administration costs are met from the income from the Foundations investments and 100% of the donations are used on the Rotary Projects.

District Grants:

The Club was again successful in obtaining a District Grant of \$1,500 to assist with the cost of bus transport for the schools to our annual Anzac Day Ceremony. However, as the ANZAC Day Ceremony was unable to go ahead due to the Covid-19 related constraints, a follow-up submission resulted in the funds being reallocated to the Community Meals project (refer Section 3.2.7).

Annual Foundation Giving:



The Club contributed the sum of AUD \$3,500 to The Rotary Foundation as its annual giving for the 2019/2020 Rotary year. These funds return to our District in three years' time and are used to fund District Grants.

Our Club is a major contributor in our District to Foundation and we continue to be strong supporters both on an individual and Club level.

Paul Harris Fellowships:



Two of our members were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows at our Club Changeover this year, as follows:

- Chris Karajas (PHF) – for ongoing community support through activities including:
 - the “Pinchapoo” project (bagging sample toiletries collected by members which are then provided to Knox Infolink for distribution to the homeless and others in need);
 - collection and repair of discarded bicycles and delivery to Donations in Kind for distribution to third world countries; and
 - building of Little Street Libraries to add to the Club’s current fleet.



- Glenn Tippett (PHF with third Sapphire) – for ongoing support of Rotary activities including:
 - District Coordinator for, and passionate supporter of, Australian Rotary Health;
 - participant in the Ride for Medical Research (in support of Australian Rotary Health);
 - initiator/developer and co-organiser of the Club’s annual ANZAC Ceremony for local schools.



Prepared on behalf of ...

Neville Windebank
Foundation Chair

6.3 Membership and Marketing

Committee:

- Jim Sly (Chair);
- Glenn Tippett;
- Peter Dalwood; and
- Lance Deveson.

Report:

Membership:

We started the Rotary year full of enthusiasm for growing our membership. A positive start was made when Jane Mifsud was inducted as a new member in September and Greg Mossop re-joined the Club in October. These gains were, however, subsequently offset by the sad passing of Helen Wilkie in March and the resignation of our President, Rob Hilliar at the end of May. At the end of the year we had maintained the status quo with thirty three (33) financial members and one (1) honorary member.

The main activity undertaken in respect of membership was the conduct of a series of two fora/workshops, the objective of which was to develop a strategy for maintaining and growing our membership.



The first session, conducted on 27th August, involved a presentation by our District Membership Chair, PDG Malcolm Chiverton, during which he talked about types of membership and engagement with both our members and the community. This was followed by some questions and a brief discussion before we heard from four of our members about their involvement in Rotary. Each addressed three questions: What brought them to Rotary? What keeps them in Rotary? What has been their Rotary highlight?



A second workshop type session was conducted on 8th October, during which members were encouraged to provide input in respect of our membership challenges. Following a brief recap of the previous session, interactive discussion addressed a Club health check (from a membership perspective); classifications/vocations (what skills would be of benefit to our projects/activities); diversity (in respect of age, gender, ethnic background); finding new members; barriers/hindrances to attracting new members; and hindrances to inviting new members (e.g. cold calling).

Whilst the outcomes of these sessions have not yet been developed into a documented strategy, they did (I believe) serve to highlight the issue of membership growth and retention in the minds of our members. Further development of a membership strategy will be undertaken in the coming Rotary year.



Marketing:

Marketing of our Club during the 2019/20 Rotary year has been achieved through:

- Club visibility when undertaking community activities, including (for example) Bunnings' BBQs, the "Lift the Lid" (Hat Day) collection at Bunnings' store, and servicing the Knox Car and Art Show at the Knox Club.
- Maintenance of the Club Facebook, with updates about our weekly meetings and other Club activities regularly posted by our site manager, Glenn Tippett.
- Maintenance of our website.

All members are encouraged to provide details of our activities and upcoming events so that relevant information can be incorporated into both our Facebook page and website.

Jim Sly
Membership and Marketing Chair

Our Club Membership at a Glance:

- Members Lost During 2019/2020:
 - Helen Wilkie (passed away);
 - Rob Hilliar (resigned).
- New Members During 2019/2020:
 - Jane Mifsud;
 - Greg Mossop (re-joined).
- Honorary Members 2019/2020:
 - Jayne Zunneberg.
- Total Membership:

Our total membership remained constant with a total of thirty four (34) members, comprising:

- 33 Financial; and
- 1 Honorary.

A list of our members as at 30 June 2020 is presented in **Appendix B**.



6.4 Bulletin

It's been another enjoyable year as Editor of the Club Bulletin.

In addition to Club news, there is no shortage of interesting articles to be found through either District 9810 newsletters or Rotary International websites, which can be included in each edition.

Club Members have continued to provide positive feedback so I'm pleased they enjoy reading the weekly issues and, of course, there is sure to be an error somewhere which always creates lots of laughs and fines for the Editor.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their contributions and much appreciated support throughout the year.

I'm looking forward to continuing in the role for the coming 2020/21.

Val Henry
Bulletin Editor



6.5 Program

The year's program started on Sunday, 30th June with our traditional changeover lunch at the Eastern Golf Club in Yering. Once again good food, good fellowship and a great venue to start the year.



Our first speaker for the year was Andrea Jenkins, who talked about financial planning for retirement. She was followed by James Clarke and Tracey Ware, from Bethel Funerals, a not-for-profit company that gives away its earnings to support people in need. A note in the Bulletin that week: *“our Immediate Past President was heard to comment that last week our speaker talked about retirement plans and this week our speakers talked about funeral plans...what is this saying about us?”*



Speakers for the next few weeks moved away from that particular theme! They were, in order:

- Heidi Victoria (former State member for Bayswater) talking about life after Parliament;
- Greg Ross, Chairman of Australian Rotary Health;
- Chris Karajas, giving us some insight into his personal background; and
- Stephen Barrington, CEO of Foothills Community Care, talking about what they do providing meals, hospitality and a place to belong for those in need.

Our final meeting for August was a membership forum chaired by Jim Sly, with District Membership Chair Malcolm Chiverton also in attendance to give us some valuable guidance and advice.

The first Tuesday in September was a social evening – dinner at the Siam Terrace restaurant in Boronia. The next week Beck Mitchell from BridgeBuilders Youth Organisation talked about her upcoming attempt to complete the World Marathon Challenge as a fundraiser. Here is an update: *“On the 12th February 2020 I became the 5th Australian female to complete this extraordinary challenge, running the standard 42.2 km marathon distance on each of seven continents, within seven consecutive days.”* Well done, Beck!

Our last speakers for September were Gavan and Dianne McIntyre, from RC Wandin, who talked about ROMAC. The final meeting in September was a Club Assembly.

We started October with the official visit of DG Shia Smart to our Club, accompanied by husband Duncan and their son, Flint. The next week we had a follow-up session to the earlier membership forum. We also inducted returning former member, Greg Mossop, on that night. Our next speaker was Amanda Southwell, who spoke about the work of International Needs Australia, partnering with organisations in third-world countries to provide education, health, women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. Our final speaker for October was the powerful World Polio Day presentation by Gary Newton, polio survivor. Our last event for October was the annual CPR refresher course, held in our normal meeting room.



November was a short month, with the first Tuesday being Melbourne Cup day and the next week our AGM. Our first speaker was Jane Mifsud, who gave us very interesting insights into her personal background and her work as a remedial massage therapist. The only other speaker this month was Jane Sydenham-Clarke, who talked about the work of the Skyline Education Foundation, which provides bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

On the first Tuesday in December we had Rose Vince talk to us about the Knox City Council programs and support for homeless people. The following week Tashena Perry and Pauline Godkin, from EACH, spoke about the L2P learner driver mentoring program. For our Christmas function, on Sunday, 15th December, Lillian Daff and Stephen Payne hosted us for a very convivial event at the Heritage Golf and Country Club. This was backed up by a very pleasant outdoor meeting on Tuesday, 17th December on the deck at the Knox Club, where Lillian gave a lively presentation about the value of using an agent in planning our travels.



The usual Christmas – New Year hiatus ended with a vocational visit to Better Rentals in Ferntree Gully, where Peter Van Zeyl and Helen hosted us for a lovely outdoor dinner and inspection of the equipment. Our first speaker for 2020 was Drew Maddison, from the Hawthorn RSL, who spoke about supporting the mental health of returned service personnel. The following week Stephen Spiers spoke about the upcoming 34th annual bike ride in support of ARH.



Our first speaker for February was Greg Mossop, filling us in on his personal story. The next week we had Konrad and Mimi Ermert, from Aphasia Victoria, talk to us about understanding what aphasia is and its impact on the lives of those affected by it. Following this, we visited the Aussie Dog factory, where Joe Parsons made a valiant effort to speak over the raging storm outside, telling us how he found an outlet for his passion, making enrichment toys for domestic and zoo animals. Our final speaker in February was Stephen Payne, who discussed his visit to England and Wales learning about the design, construction and deployment challenges of our homeless pod project. Cr Peter Lockwood attended this meeting and added valuable input.

For our first meeting in March, Cassie Van Zeyl spoke to us about her entry in the Miss World Australia competition and the goals she had set for herself, raising funds to support disadvantaged children. The following week was our annual combined meeting with Inner Wheel, where the speaker was Warren Sparrow, talking about Angel Flight Australia. This turned out to be our last meeting for some time, as the Covid-19 pandemic caught up with us and meetings were cancelled until we worked out what to do next.

We resumed meeting online with Zoom on 14th April. DG Shia Smart was present for this meeting and we all had a bit of fun by wearing hats! For the next meeting, Stephen Spiers, supported by the other members who participated, gave a wrap-up of the 2020 Ride for Medical Research. Our final speaker for April was President-Elect Bernie, who spoke a bit about herself and her plans for the 2020/21 Rotary year.

Other speakers who've presented to us at our online meetings are:

- Peter Shaw, recipient of the Australian Fire Services Medal, gave a powerful presentation about the recent bushfires. We also watched a video about the Rotary East Gippsland fires recovery aid project at a later meeting;
- Nidhi Wadhwa, president of the newly-formed Knox Rotaract Club, told us a bit about their plans;
- PDG John Barnes spoke about the need for and value of donating to The Rotary Foundation; and
- Jodie Myintoo told us about 'Glimmer for Pets' role in supporting pets for women who have to leave their homes to escape domestic violence.

Our final presenter for the year was Elizabeth Senn, a local who had recently completed an ARH PhD scholarship, talking about her research.

I would like to thank all members who have provided me with leads to the many interesting speakers we have had. Also, many thanks to our own members who stepped up and spoke very capably whenever I asked. Finally, thanks to Secretary Janet for looking after the speakers whenever I've been away.

I have enjoyed organising speakers over the last two years. However, it is time for me to move on to a new challenge, so I'm about to hand program organisation over to Stephen Payne. I look forward to the fresh approach he will bring to our weekly meeting programs.

Peter Dalwood
Program Coordinator

6.6 Sergeant-at-Arms



It was my duty and honour to take on the role of Sergeant, following my previous stint of the same role from the year before. I see this duty as one of a bit of fun and light-hearted banter, while raising some funds for the Club.



I introduced a 'joke of the week', which was endorsed by some members of the Club who willingly contributed, which I found encouraging.

Unfortunately, however, my role only lasted for half the year as I obviously overstepped the mark as I unintentionally upset some members of the Club. The remainder of the year was taken over by Glenn Tippett (Alias 'Cattle Truck'), which I was grateful for.

I must say that I did enjoy my time as Sergeant, and was grateful for the time I spent in this role. I was hesitant when I first took the position of Sergeant in 2018, as I thought it was likely that my humour would not fit, which proved to be the case.

I am not aware of the amount of funds raised, or what these funds were used for. I now hand over to 'Tippo' to complete the annual report for the remainder of the year, and I thank the President and members for mostly their support while I undertook this role.

Stephen Payne
Sergeant-at-Arms

I know that a lot of Rotary Clubs now feel that the role of Sergeant is a thing of the past; something I disagree with. If it is done in a good humoured, light-hearted way, the Sergeant's fines session can be a fun part of the meeting.

This year I had the pleasure of having six months in the role of Sergeant when Steve asked if I could take over.

Trying to extort as much change from the captive audience and keeping it as humorous as possible was a challenge I really enjoyed. There were several members who regularly gave more than the average, but I hope they enjoyed the privilege as much as I did knowing that the money raised helped make our Club the great one that it is.

Glenn Tippett
Sergeant-at-Arms

Editor's Note: Collectively, our two Sergeants extracted approximately \$1,000 from members during the year.

7 Australian Rotary Health – Ride for Medical Research



“Silos, Plains Lakes and Art Tour”

15-20 March 2020



The 2020 ride began its epic journey from Lake Bolac to Lake Daylesford with the spectre of Covid-19 hanging over it. Right up until the night before we were not sure it would go ahead, but luckily we were able to hold the event just before more severe restrictions were put into place.

The 2020 Ride was one of the most highly subscribed rides we have had in recent years with the majority of places for riders taken up by early September 2019, causing us to open a waiting list. As it was, we set off with a support crew of 11 and 32 riders from a possible 36. Unfortunately we did have a few riders pull out at the last minute due to illness including, sadly, our own Helen Wilkie, who even days before she passed away was checking up on us and making sure the things she had organised were going as planned.



Of the participants this year, 16 were new to the ride, most of whom were not Rotarians. These participants, some of whom were amongst our best fundraisers, brought fresh sponsors from outside of Rotary.

The first day of the ride saw us travel through the little town of Willaura, where the bakery opened especially to provide lunch for us, on the way to the Grampians Valley. We finished the first day in

Halls Gap, travelling to Horsham to stay for the next three nights.

The second day saw a short drive to Murtoa to begin the Silo Art Trail, riding to Rupanyup, Sheep Hills and finishing at Brim before the return journey to Horsham seeing the three sets of Silos along the way.

Day three saw a long drive to the end of the Silo trail at Patchewollock, to begin the ride back towards Horsham via Lacelles and finishing at Roseberry before again driving back to Horsham for the night.



Day four and we began the homeward bound section of the ride leaving Horsham and riding via Stawell to overnight in Ararat.

Day five saw the group ride from Ararat to Lake Learmonth via a lunch stop in Beaufort, which was hosted by the local Rotary Club.

The final day's ride from Ballarat to Lake Daylesford was only a short 50 or so kilometres to lunch, which was followed by the drive back to Bayswater.

The route was a challenging one to plan with distance the biggest problem. The weather in general was kind although the wind was not, proving a challenge to the riders on most days.



The food stops, as organised by Helen, were all excellent, with no complaints as far as I am aware. Club Chardy, an integral part of the ride organised by Gonny Rundell and her able assistant Nicole Osner, raised \$500.00 to go towards the fundraising.

This year we unfortunately had an unprecedented number of rider accidents, from fairly minor scrapes to five visiting hospital emergency departments, two via ambulance. Of these, three required hospitalisation for a period of time, two on the last day and one being sent home mid

ride. The first aid kits have never had such a work out. All credit to our ride first aiders who, in all instances, provided excellent care as commented by the professionals. Luckily everyone is okay and has (at the time of writing) either recovered or is well on the way to recovering from their respective injuries. The safety of wearing of a helmet while cycling has never been highlighted so well, with four requiring replacement but better than needing a new head.

From a fundraising point of view, at the time of writing, a sum of \$53,312.00 had been raised bringing the total raised by the ride to \$1,175,512.00. Considering the other things that were the target of fundraising in 2020, the amount raised was amazing and many thanks must go to all the participants and their respective sponsors.

A big thank you also must go to those who took part as support crew, without who we could not run the ride.

Looking forward to 2021 and as usual planning is proceeding in the hope all restrictions will be lifted by next year, allowing the ride to go ahead. The planned route will be centred around Wangaratta and indications are that it will be equally as heavily subscribed, with expressions of interest already coming in even before details have been released.

Thanks to all those on the committee, some of who are not Rotarians, who give freely of their time to make this event what it is. This includes:

Stephen Spiers, Eddie Post, Ken Barrett, Gonny Rundell, Peter Dalwood, Glenn Tippett, Nicole Osner, John Jarvis, Jennie Stewart and David Brown.

Stephen Spiers

On behalf of the “Ride for Medical Research” Committee



8 In Memoriam

Vale Helen Wilkie

(16 August 1946 to 12 March 2020)

It was with much sadness that we farewelled our highly esteemed member PP Helen Wilkie who passed away on Thursday, 12th March 2020.

Helen was inducted into the Rotary Club of Boronia on 23rd September 2003; was Club President in 2011/2012 and for many years our most efficient Treasurer.



Helen has been heavily involved in Rotary and was always a willing participant to assist with various Club and District activities, including being a member of the District Youth Exchange Committee and playing an integral role on the committee of the Australian Rotary Health Ride for Medical Research. Helen was a consistent participant at all Club projects, whether it was a BBQ fundraiser or a clean-up at the local CWA hall.

Prior to being inducted into the Boronia Club, Helen had a long association with Rotary through her late husband Don's membership of the Rotary Club of Knox.

Already a Paul Harris Fellow when she joined as a Rotarian, Helen's extensive input and commitment to Rotary was further recognised by the addition of two Sapphires.

Helen was also an active member of the Inner Wheel Club of Boronia for seven years, where she not only held the position of Treasurer for a number of years, but was always a willing supporter of Inner Wheel activities.

Recently, Helen had also volunteered her time at the Rotary Club of Warrandyte's Opportunity Shop, which is a further demonstration of her outstanding service to Rotary and the community.

Helen will be lovingly remembered as a great Rotarian, colleague and friend to all associated with the Rotary Club of Boronia.

Appendix A Club Photograph



Rotary Club of Boronia
Members and Partners present at Club Changeover Meeting – 23rd June 2020

Appendix B Club Members as at 30 June 2020

Member	Classification	Partner
ANDERSON Heather	Community Development	Lawrie
BARRETT Ken	Insurance General	Miriam
CASSIDY Paul	Engineering General	Gaye
CRAGO Bruce	Local Government Management	Margaret
CRITCHLOW Jennifer	Upholstery Designer	
DAFF Lillian	Travel Agent	Stephen
DALWOOD Peter	Retired	Pam
DEVESON Lance	Information Services	Liz
ELSEY Leigh	Manufacturing	Betty
GIBSON Doug	Menswear Retail	Ellen
GOODWIN Wal	Cattle Grazing	
HAWORTH Annette	Pre-School Teaching	
HENRY Valerie	Retired	
JACOBS Judy	Cleaning Services	Ken
JACOBS Michael	Law - General Practice	Julianne
JENKINS Alan	Business Consultant	Val
KARAJAS Chris	Public Service	Karen
MALDEN Peter	Telecommunications	Jan
McMANUS Carolynn	Draughting Services	
Mifsud Jane	Massage Therapy	David
MOSSOP Greg	Occupational Rehabilitation	Janine
PAYNE Stephen	Insurance Assessor	Lillian
POST Eddie	Tanning	Michele
RUNDELL Gonny	Commercial Property Management	John
SLY Jim	Environmental Engineering	Lucille
SPIERS Stephen	Commercial Refrigeration	Jane
SPINOSA-CATTELA Richard	Consultancy	Anne-Maree
TIPPETT Glenn	Printing Sales Management	Shereen
VANDERWOLDE Bernadette	Insurance	Jon
VAN ZEYL Peter	Business Development	Helen
WHITE John	Retail Consultancy	Gail
WINDEBANK Janet	Locum Lawyer	Neville
WINDEBANK Neville	Law - General Practice	Janet
ZUNNEBERG Jayne	Honorary	Sean

Appendix C 2019/20 Committee Membership

Projects:

Peter Van Zeyl – Chair

- Gonny Rundell - Community
- Peter Malden - International
- Paul Cassidy - Vocational
- Annette Haworth - Youth

Stephen Payne
Neville Windebank
Judy Jacobs
Richard Spinosa-Cattela
Heather Anderson
Bruce Crago
Leigh Elsey
Doug Gibson
Wal Goodwin
Alan Jenkins
Chris Karajas
Jenn Critchlow
Jane Mifsud

Finance and Fundraising:

John White – Chair
#Helen Wilkie – ex officio
Lillian Daff
Michael Jacobs
Carolynn McManus
Greg Mossop

Fellowship:

Val Henry – Chair
Stephen Spiers
Ken Barrett
Eddie Post

Membership/Marketing:

Jim Sly – Chair
Glenn Tippett
Peter Dalwood
Lance Deveson

Club Service:

Bernadette Vanderwolde

Sergeant at Arms:

Stephen Payne

Bulletin:

Val Henry

Club Welfare:

#Helen Wilkie/Lance Deveson

Historian:

Lance Deveson/Jim Sly

Australian Rotary Health:

Glenn Tippett

Probus:

Bruce Crago

Website:

Jim Sly

Program:

Peter Dalwood

Attendance:

John White

Protection Officer:

Rob Hilliar

On-to-Conference:

Bernadette Vanderwolde

Foundation:

Neville Windebank

Rotaract:

Peter Dalwood

indicates passed away during 2019/20

Appendix D Corporate Sponsors 2019/20

D.1 Fijian Education and Health Projects



- **Fiji High Commissioner for Australia – Canberra**
 - Mr Luke Daunivalu, Patty Cummins PA, Salote and Consular Staff
- **Gibson Freight Pty Ltd – Tullamarine**
 - Michelle Camilleri and staff
- **Gibson Freight Pty Ltd – Suva**
 - Salesh Prakash and staff
- **Parker Healthcare – Mitcham**
 - Claire Scully and staff
- **Axis Health – Mount Waverley**
 - Julie Turnbull, Michael Rice and staff
- **Medshop – Preston**
 - Amy and staff
- **Donations in Kind – Footscray**
 - Laurie Fisher, Bob Glindemann and team
- **Rotary Club of Wandin – Wandin**
 - Support for Eye Project Fundraising
- **Endeavour Life Care – Hallam**
 - Chris Tankard and staff
- **Eastern Health Medical Imaging – Ferntree Gully**
 - Jackie Fielding
- **Spincat Consulting – Wantirna South**
 - Richard Spinosa-Cattela
- **Paint Spot Knox**
 - Damian Vernon and staff
- **Simba Global – Bayswater**
 - Hiten Somaia, Drew Wright and staff
- **Spotless – Melbourne**
 - Joe Sullivan, Raj Malhotra, David Denham and staff
- **Knox Travel – Wantirna South**
 - Lillian Daff
- **Bunnings Warehouse – Bayswater**
 - Karen MacDonald and Em Barker

- **Bayswater South Primary School**
 - Jayson Williams and staff
- **Unique Bodyworx – Ferntree Gully**
 - CJ, Vic and staff
- **Fibcon Roofing – Eden Park**
 - Andrew Terpou
- **Trifixx Fastening Systems – Notting Hill**
 - Travis Barker

D.2 Golf Day Sponsors



- **Barry Plant Real Estate – Boronia**
 - Mark Schroeder and staff
- **Tasty Trucks – Ferntree Gully**
 - Colin Lear and staff
- **Ballard’s Solicitors – Wantirna**
 - Neville Windebank and staff
- **Bendigo Bank – Boronia**
 - Jane Zunneberg and staff
- **Robyn’s Soap House – Knoxfield**
 - Robyn & Penry Green
- **Eastern Strut Recharge – Croydon**
 - Murray Gibson and staff
- **Pro Quip International – Bayswater**
 - Stuart Broadley and staff
- **L J Hooker Real Estate – Boronia**
 - Julien Karolos and staff
- **Knox Travel – Wantirna South**
 - Lillian Daff and staff
- **ASA Financial Advisors – Croydon**
 - John Tatterson and staff
- **LMP Accountants – Croydon**
 - Darren Haycraft and staff
- **Mackinnon Jacobs Lawyers – Boronia**
 - Michael Jacobs and staff
- **Morcraft Kitchens – Bayswater**
 - Matt Wallace and staff
- **Simba Global – Bayswater North**
 - Corrine Rico
- **The Knox Club – Wantirna**
 - Ryan Clayton

D.3 Friends of Rotary 2019/20



- **Razer Graphix - Wantirna**
 - Alan Rye, Glenn Tippett and staff
- **Meyer Cookware Australia – Croydon South**
- **Mr Yogesh Punja- Fijian High Commissioner to Australia**
- **Mr Reg Hodgson– Honorary Consul for Fiji**
- **Knox Infolink**
 - Denise Budge and staff
- **Knox Community Christmas Support**
 - Wayne Guest and staff
- **The Knox Club**
 - Jo Woods and staff
- **St Joseph’s Primary School – Boronia**
 - Gayle Ashdowne
- **St Joseph’s College**
 - Bronwyn Dean
- **Knox Central Primary School**
 - Damien Kitch and staff
- **Boronia RSL**
 - Rod Canobie and members
- **Bunnings Warehouse – Bayswater**
 - Karen MacDonald and Em Barker
- **Spotless – Melbourne**
 - Joe Sullivan, Raj Malhotra, David Denham and staff
- **Simba Global – Bayswater**
 - Hiten Somaia, Drew Wright and staff
- **Country Women’s Association (CWA) – Boronia Branch**
- **Lightwavez Design - Bayswater**
 - Les Marton
- **Days for Girls – Ferntree Gully Chapter**
 - Michelle Gates and colleagues
- **University Law School**
 - Fiona MacDowall and Robin Gardner
- **Fort Knox Self Storage - Scoresby**

**Rotary Club of Boronia
(Incorporated • Reg No 18626A)
Rotary International District 9810**

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