

Rotary Club of Boronia

INCORPORATED • REG NO A0018626A

DISTRICT 9810 • VICTORIA • AUSTRALIA

Charter granted 25th April 1968

President: John Poke
Secretary: Monique Smith

Fifty-fifth Annual Report 2022-2023





“Imagine Rotary”
Rotary International Theme 2022/2023

**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

The Rotary Club of Boronia (Inc)

Board of Directors 2022/2023

President	John Poke
Secretary	Monique Smith
Treasurer	Peter Dalwood
President Elect	Greg Mossop
Club Service	Greg Mossop
Foundation	Neville Windebank
Community Service/Environment	Bernadette Vanderwolde
International Service	Peter Malden
Youth and Vocational Service	Jane Mifsud
Fundraising and Fellowship	John White
Public Image	Glenn Tippet
Membership/Welfare Inclusion	Greg Mossop
Immediate Past President	Peter Dalwood
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Val Henry



“Create Hope in the World”

Rotary International Theme
2023/2024

CREATE HOPE
in the **WORLD**

The Rotary Club of Boronia (Inc)

Board of Directors 2023/2024

President	Greg Mossop
Secretary	Monique Smith
Treasurer	Peter Dalwood
President Elect	Monique Smith
Club Service	Monique Smith
Foundation	Neville Windebank
Community Service and Environment	Ray Siegersma
International Service	Neville Windebank
Youth and Vocational Service	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Fundraising/Entrepreneurial Development	John Poke
Public Image	Glenn Tippet
Membership and Wellbeing	Mark Smith
Fellowship	Val Henry
Immediate Past President	John Poke
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Val Henry

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1 President's Report



This has been another busy year in the life of the Rotary Club of Boronia. There has been lots achieved, lots of happy memorable moments in Rotary service.

I want to thank all our members for their fine assistance and support. The willingness of members to contribute to projects with our reach out to the community and indeed the world.

Our Board members have been marvellous in their diligence and support. We have worked harmoniously to build and develop our Club in all manner of ways.

Our Club Projects:

- **Different Journeys:** Different Journeys has been a real highlight of our year. Doing the Sunday BBQ's, meeting Different Journeys' clients, seeing the excitement to be able to have a meal provided for them has all been rewarding. Their funding from Knox Council has not lapsed, so I am sure we will be glad to assist them in projects and assistance they will need in the future.



- **Infolink:** We are very committed to this fine organisation, an association we have had for many years.



The breakfast program is truly wonderful. Our members are rostered on each day to assist with the cooking of the meal, to be at reception to greet each of the clients as they come in, then offering a quiet word of encouragement. So good to see our members providing much needed assistance.

Then there is the Monday event of picking up fruit veggies that are packed into bags for their emergency relief program. We have also provided vouchers for the weekend and Christmas break for folk to have some refreshment.

We honoured Denise Budge after her retirement. She was a guest at the Club where we presented her with a Paul Harris Fellow in honour of her wonderful community service. That evening we also presented \$10,000 to the new manager of Infolink to assist them with their work. There has been a huge increase in the demand of their services in the community.

- **Knox Rocks:** Knox Rocks has been the standout project for the year. Many thanks to Mark Smith; the creative way he reached out to the community and engaged the participants to write their music and words was truly amazing.



I will never forget the occasion I was at Mark and Monique's home to meet the participants as they heard for the first time each other's compositions. The emotion, the delight, the sharing that evening was amazing. They then presented to the Club at one of our regular meetings; again, seeing them perform was truly wonderful.

Many thanks to Mark for showcasing his talent for the benefit of young people in our community; we have been privileged to witness this. Knowing it took lots of hours of preparation, then developing networks of support, we have seen something that is marvellous. I met one of the participants recently, once he knew I was a Rotarian he mentioned his delight of being involved in this project.

- **Community Gardens:** The Knox Community Gardens is one of the best garden projects anywhere. We use two plots to grow produce for Infolink.



Our involvement has been very successful for networking with people from our community. There is a huge amount of garden knowledge and skill; then there are others who value having a garden, but they don't have much gardening knowledge, so they ask. It is good to assist them; they feel a sense of belonging to a community and can grow their produce and take home some home-grown veggies and herbs.

Our objective is to assist Infolink through the supply of fresh produce that they can give to clients and families in need in our community. The Club donated \$500 which enabled the garden to purchase a new greenhouse so participants can grow seedlings for their plots.

Many thanks to members who are assisting with this project.

- **Knoxbrooke:** One of the highlights of the year was becoming aware of the fine work Knoxbrooke does in assisting people with disabilities to learn about gardening, gain associated qualifications, and grow produce for commercial sales. It is truly wonderful to observe the commitment of and application to their allocated task. We can develop this further into the future; I believe that an association with Knoxbrooke will become a real opportunity for our Club.



- **The Ride for Rotary Health:** We have completed again the annual ride for research. This is a huge undertaking, but it is a strong and significant funding source for Rotary Medical Research. Stephen Spiers and his team do a remarkable work each year; this year was no exception. This year they based themselves in Bendigo and rode through some gold history towns and communities. Next year it is expected the ride will reach the \$1.3 million for the work they do each year.



- **ANZAC Day Commemoration:** This has been another great outreach to the school children in our community. Many thanks to Lance and Glenn who do much of the organisation with support from members that come in to help on the day.



- **Little Street Libraries:** These are a real feature across our city. Many people access them and use them to have books for reading and developing the children of our community. It's a project that keeps on giving; our community is all the richer for having this service.



- **The Taveuni Eye Project:** This project provides a holistic approach to eye health, assisting adults and children in Fiji. Peter Malden does marvellous work in support of this project, constantly seeking out materials and supplies, and managing the project from an overall perspective. Once people in remote communities can have their sight restored, their lives are transformed.



Many thanks Peter for your dedication and remarkable efforts. The Club benefits from reaching out into the international world providing much needed assistance and help.

- **Sky Hydrants:** Thanks to Mark and Monique Smith who organised a trivia night that raised funds so we could have a SkyHydrant installed to assist communities in East Timor. We will soon be receiving images of the unit that has just been installed.



- Worm Farms: Worm farms have been installed into a couple of schools this year. The children really value learning about the work of worms and the benefit of how waste materials can be used to make worm casting for the gardens many schools now have. I am sure we can do much more in this project in the coming years.



Club Service achievements:

- Club Public Relations and Communication: We have had lots of feedback on our Facebook page. Other clubs are envious on how well we do this and are following by example. So far to date we have 891 Facebook followers.

Our public relations and communication are reflective on how many new members we have inducted this year; eight so far, potentially another two by the end of June.

Our weekly Bulletin is also commended by other clubs. Our editor creates a very informative and modern bulletin each week.

- Membership Growth: This has been one of my objectives. There is a real need to grow Rotary; this can only happen at club level. Greg Mossop has been a real champion of introducing new members to the Club. We are always delighted to meet quality people becoming members of our Club and in turn members of Rotary International.

The Club has been pleased to present a number of Paul Harris Awards this year, the first to Denise Budge following retirement from her position as Centre Manager of Knox Infolink. Awards were also made to Club members John White, Stephen Spiers, Heather Anderson, Melanie Karajas and Janet Windebank. Details of these awards are presented in **Section 2.2**.

This year the Club introduced the Walter J Goodwin Award to honour the life and service of Wal Goodwin, who was a Charter Member of our Club. Wally left a gift to the Club in his will, and we as a Club wish to honour him. Further details of this Award and the inaugural awardee are provided in **Section 2.3**.

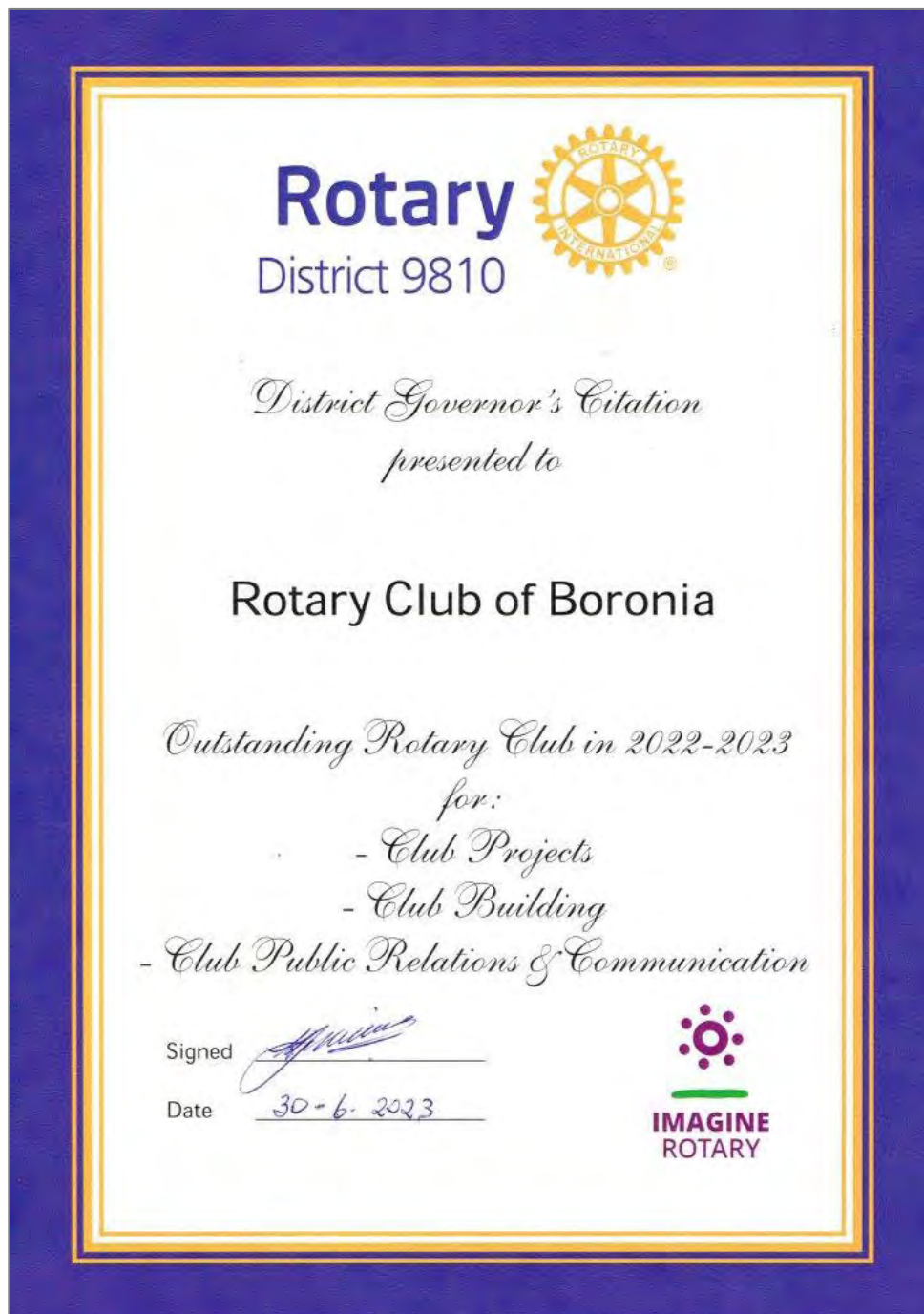
As President, it was also my pleasure to make two awards in recognition of “behind-the-scenes” contributions made by partners of Rotarians. A President’s Award was presented to Pam King and a President’s Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Annette Griffin. Further details of these awards are presented in **Section 2.4**.

John Poke
President 2022/2023

2 Awards

2.1 District Award

The Club was once again awarded the following District Award for our outstanding service across all three Rotary District Award area's: Club Building, Club Projects and Club Public Relations and Communications.



2.2 Paul Harris Fellow Awards

2.2.1 Club Awards

As is tradition in our Club, it was again the privilege of the President to present Paul Harris Fellows to members and others who have made significant contributions to the Club's activities at our annual Changeover. The following were acknowledged by the presentation of PHFs and/or sapphires or ruby:



- **John White** was presented with his fourth jewel (PHF with fourth sapphire) for his remarkable 40 years of membership of our Club. John has been one of the hardest workers in our Club. Some images of John through the years were shown in support of his recognition.



- **Stephen Spiers** was presented with his sixth jewel (PHF with Ruby) for his remarkable organisation of the bike ride for medical research. In March we will top \$1.3 million raised for Rotary Medical Research. Stephen's attention to every detail is amazing; we are so fortunate to have Stephen in our Club making the contribution he does each year.



- **Heather Anderson** was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow for her community work in different agencies, always doing something for others. She works tirelessly assisting others; she collects stamps for use to assist Rotary reaching out into the world amongst her other valued contributions.
- **Melanie Karajas**, a newer member of our Club, was recognised for the tireless work she has undertaken to achieve fine outcomes for the Club. Mel has produced a wonderful edition of the Bulletin each week; she has developed and implemented our ClubRunner presence; and she has taken care of our services at the Knox Club (our meeting venue). Mel has an eye for detail; we love her passion and her care for each of the members of our Club.
- **Janet Windebank** was presented with a PHF with second sapphire for her ongoing service to the Club.

Heather Anderson, Melanie Karajas and Janet Windebank, who were not present at Changeover, were presented with their awards at subsequent Club meetings.



PHF awardees: John White (top right); Stephen Spiers (top left); Heather Anderson (far left); Melanie Karajas (middle left); and Janet Windebank (left).

2.2.2 External Award

The Club recognised **Denise Budge**, recently retired Centre Manager of Knox Infolink, for her long-term work in the community services sector by naming her a Paul Harris Fellow. Denise has held leadership roles in various community service agencies throughout her career, culminating in her role at Infolink.

Rotary District 9810 Governor, Ken Miller presented Denise with a certificate and lapel pin in acknowledgment of this award at our Club meeting on 11 April 2023.



PHF awardee Denise Budge (left) with District Governor, Ken Miller

2.3 Walter Goodwin Award

This year the Club presented the inaugural Walter J Goodwin perpetual award for outstanding service to both Rotary and the Rotary Club of Boronia. This award has been established to honour the life and service of Wal Goodwin who was a Charter Member of our Club.



Wally left a substantial gift to the Club in his will and the Club has initiated this award to honour him.

Each year at Changeover the Walter J Goodwin Award will be presented to a member of the Club that is deemed to be a Rotarian who has worked well through the year, as determined by the members. The awardee will be given a plaque to take home and keep; there will also be an Honour Roll/Shield that will be placed on the reception table each week to remind members of the fine service Wal provided to the Club. A donation to the value of \$200 will be made to Australian Rotary Health in the name of that Rotarian each year.

Following presentation of a synopsis of his service through Rotary by Lance Deveson, the inaugural Walter J Goodwin Award was presented to **Charter Member, Doug Gibson** for his remarkable contribution over more than 55 years.



*Inaugural Walter J Goodwin Award recipient,
Doug Gibson (left) with Lance Deveson*

2.4 Other Awards

At our annual Changeover, President John presented two special awards in recognition of “behind-the-scenes” contributions made by non-Rotarians.

President’s Award:

This is an award the President makes to a non-Rotarian who has made a significant contribution in community service. Partners of members excel in duties that often go unnoticed; people are not aware of the fine support partners are to our members.

This year we had the honour of awarding the President’s Award to Pam King. Pam does an enormous amount of work assisting the Club with the breakfast program. Pam is on duty early Monday morning to pack the veggies and fruit to be distributed by Infolink with their emergency aid. Lifting heavy boxes, sorting out what is good and not so good, then packing up parcels of veggies and fruit ready for Infolink to distribute to clients through the coming day.

Pam also assists with the Community Garden program; her assistance in sowing seedlings is a great help. Pam also takes rotten fruit and veggies up to the community gardens where it is composted.

Pam is also often involved in the Bunning BBQ activity. Her passion and support of the Club is greatly valued. \$200 will be donated to Australian Rotary Health in Pam’s name this year.



President’s Certificate of Appreciation:



An Appreciation Certificate from the President was this year awarded to Annette Griffin who does incredible work assisting us in the community garden. Annette is there each Saturday morning for a considerable time assisting in developing the garden, and attends to the garden after her work each Wednesday evening. She also provides products, seedlings, for the garden at her own cost.

Annette is a regular participant with the Bunnings BBQ. She, with Geoff, often store product that needs to be frozen in their own freezer.

We value the contribution Annette gives to the community in the name of our Club.

3 Administration

3.1 Secretary's Report

What a year! Only being a fairly new member of the Rotary Club of Boronia, having joined in May 2021, I have learned so much. My first year being Club Bulletin Editor and then approached by PE John Poke to join him and become Secretary. John visits my office regularly and his assistance in fulfilling my role as Secretary has been essential.

Becoming more active in the running of the Club has been one of the best decisions I have made. It has been a privilege to work with you and get to know you all better. I threw myself into the task by completing courses in the online Learning Centre in "My Rotary" and attended District Assembly. Handover from the previous Secretary, Janet Windebank, was very much appreciated. Janet has been wonderful in helping me with anything that I have been unsure about; I thank her for that. The format of the 'Consent Agenda' has meant that the Board Agenda is more simplified, and minute taking a lot easier. As an organised person, I found that getting secretarial tasks done in an efficient and timely manner was the way to go, as I also have a priority to help run our own business.

I have reported monthly in the Bulletin the 'Report from the Board'. This has kept you all up to date with what is happening and being planned. Navigating ClubRunner and the RI website has led me to so much information about Rotary and all that we do. The introduction of using ClubRunner for attendance has been a big change for our Club. The benefit with moving forward with technology has great benefits. It has been great to see everyone adapt to the change without too much hassle. Mel Karajas has been instrumental with this change, and we have both learned so much.



A highlight of my year as Secretary was attending the 'Inspire Rotary' 2-day workshop. This was a unique training session modelled on the successful RYLA leadership seminar aimed to invigorate and inspire Rotarians. This weekend awakened something in me and has given me invaluable leadership training and tools to create positive connections within our Club. Another highlight was attending District Conference and the Rotary International Convention. It is

amazing to see Rotarians come together and share ideas and learn from each other. I left these events feeling very inspired!

It has been wonderful getting to know all the Board members; they have all been so helpful and supportive. It has also been great getting to know all the Club members. You are all very special people. We are all united for the greater good and 'Service above Self'. I am honoured to be a member of the Rotary family of the Rotary Club of Boronia and beyond.

I look forward to another great year, working closely with President Greg Mossop and the Board for 2023/24. I especially look forward to working with every member of our Club and encourage you all to involve yourselves wherever you can and come forward with any ideas you may have. I appreciate you all, thank you.

Monique Smith
Secretary 2022/2023



3.2 Treasurer's Report

Bank Accounts:

The Rotary Club of Boronia currently operates three bank accounts:

- **Administration account** – is used for the running of the Club. The main sources of income are membership dues, meeting attendance/meal charges and fines. Outgoing payments include Rotary International and District levies, magazine subscriptions, venue hire and meals at meetings and special events, complimentary meals for prospective new members and special guests, costs of inducting new members (i.e. new member kit, badges, etc) and the everyday running costs of the Club such as bank and reporting fees, meeting equipment, website and Zoom.
- **Committee account** – receives income from fundraising events such as the Golf Day, Bunnings BBQs, raffles and other events. Funds accumulated in the Committee account are used to cover donations to designated charities, payments for sponsored programs like RYLA and school awards, and contributions to local community, national and international projects (refer *Club Donations* section below).
- **District Grant Projects account** – this account is used for projects receiving support from District grants. These funds must be kept separate from the Club's other finances as a condition of the grants. Our Club's contributions to these projects are transferred from the Committee account as needed.

We received a \$2,000 District grant in 2021/22 for the 'Knox Rocks' youth music project but start-up delays meant the project did not spend any money until this year. In the end it did not cost as much as budgeted (mainly due to some professionals engaged not charging for their time and resources), so we finished up returning the unused portion of the grant money to the District Foundation committee.

Closed account:

- **Taveuni Projects account** – similar to the District Grants account, we previously operated a separate bank account for our projects run in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Taveuni and other contributing clubs. This account was closed in 2022/23 and the balance of funds transferred to the RAWCS Taveuni Eye project.

Bookkeeping:

For the past few years Lucille Sly has managed the Club's financial records, maintaining the accounts at no cost to the Club. When I became Treasurer, I took over the bookkeeping, relieving Lucille. I would like to thank Lucille for her very generous in-kind contribution to the Club over a period of several years. I would also like to thank Ryan O'Shea for his assistance in organising the transfer of our accounts from MYOB to Xero and his ongoing support whenever I have asked for advice.

GST:

Prior to this year the Club was registered for GST, making quarterly BAS returns. As there was little benefit in registration and our turnover is under the voluntary limit, we applied to the ATO to be deregistered. This came into effect on 30th December 2022.

Financial Position:

Audited financial statements for the 2022/23 Rotary year will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2023. In brief, the financial position may be summarised by saying we had a very good fundraising year. While we managed to disburse funds to a variety of projects and charities, we have also retained a healthy balance to carry forward into the next Rotary year.

On the administration side our growing use of EFT has led to an increase in bank merchant fees. This plus a few other unbudgeted expenses reduced the administration account balance carried forward. Finishing the year with a good balance has been taken into consideration in setting membership fees for the 2023/24 Rotary year.

Club Donations:

Projects funded and donations paid out by the Club during the 2021/22 Rotary year were listed in **Table 1**.

Peter Dalwood
Treasurer 20



Table 1 Projects funded and donations paid out during the 2021/22 Rotary Year (Unaudited)

Project/Recipient	Amount
ANZAC Day	2,073
▪ <i>expenses incurred</i>	4,473
▪ <i>less Knox Council grant received</i>	(2,400)
Australian Rotary Health (Svaks collection jar + fines 28/3/23)	162
Disaster Aid Australia SkyHydrant (Trivia Night proceeds)	5,000
InfoLink support	11,333
▪ <i>Golf Day proceeds donation</i>	10,000
▪ <i>Food vouchers</i>	722
▪ <i>Breakfast program</i>	611
Knox Community Gardens	900
▪ <i>Donation</i>	500
▪ <i>Rotary Club plot expenses</i>	400
"Knox Rocks" Youth music project	2,398
▪ <i>Club contribution</i>	1,199
▪ <i>District Grant contribution</i>	1,199
Other community projects	1,933
▪ <i>Boronia Hawks Football Club BBQ</i>	500
▪ <i>Boronia Inner Wheel club (share of Meyer sale income)</i>	500
▪ <i>CWA hall clean-up</i>	498
▪ <i>Days for Girls (raffle at Frida meeting)</i>	290
▪ <i>Little Libraries</i>	145
The Rotary Foundation	7,550
▪ <i>Polio Plus – member contributions</i>	900
▪ <i>– Club matching contribution</i>	900
▪ <i>Rotary Foundation - annual giving (\$100 / member)</i>	4,500
▪ <i>DG's family project – \$50 / guest speaker</i>	1,250
Rotary Peace Bells	500
RYLA (2 participants @ \$1,250 each)	2,500
Schools' projects	9,974
▪ <i>Boronia Heights PS</i>	1,500
▪ <i>Boronia West PS</i>	3,985
▪ <i>Templeton PS</i>	1,440
▪ <i>Knox Central PS worm farm</i>	99
▪ <i>Citizenship awards (watches)</i>	650
▪ <i>Tilly Aston essay competition</i>	2,300
Taveuni projects - admin. expenses	1,248
Ukraine appeal	1,500
▪ <i>Club contribution</i>	750
▪ <i>Private member matching contribution</i>	750
UNICEF foreign notes and coins collection (4.1 kg)	130
Victorian flood relief appeal	3,000
Total project expenditure and donations	\$ 50,200

4 Community Service



4.1 Overview

Committee:

- Bernadette Vanderwolde – Chair
- Paul Cassidy
- Peter Van Zeyl
- Heather Anderson
- Eddie Post
- Jackson Taylor
- Helen Urban.

Introduction:

The main focus of the committee this year has been the continuation of established programs and projects within our local community. These have included our ongoing support for Knox Infolink and Different Journeys; adding to and maintaining our fleet of Little Libraries; and conduct of the annual ANZAC Commemoration for local schools. A new activity this Rotary year was our involvement in the Knox Community Garden where we have initiated our plots and have been growing produce for use by Knox Infolink in its breakfast and other community support programs.

Details in respect of each of these activities are set out in the following pages.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Bernadette Vanderwolde
Community Service Chair 2022/23



4.2 Knox Infolink

We have continued to maintain a strong relationship with Knox Infolink this year, particularly through our involvement with the following projects:



▪ ***Boronia Community Breakfast***

Many Rotarians, along with other volunteers, help at the Community Breakfast held in the Progress Hall every morning Monday to Friday. Each morning a different hot meal is provided along with fresh fruit salad, cereal, fruit juice and tea or coffee. The breakfast also provides the clients with the opportunity for social engagement and soft entry to access various supports.

On average, the Community Breakfast serves 30 to 40 clients. Some statistics for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th April 2023:

- 346 community members have been guests with a third of them experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough;
- other issues are loneliness, addictions, financial and mental health;
- 6031 breakfasts served;
- on average each guest attended 17 sessions;
- 21% of guests attended more than 17 sessions;
- 91 guests have accepted referrals for extra support;
- 114 free haircuts provided.

For weekend and public holidays, we have provided meal vouchers to the value of \$1,333 to be used at the nearby café.

We look forward to this much needed program continuing for some time.



*Paul provides support on Thursdays (above);
Free haircuts are most welcome (right).*





Lots of social activity during breakfast in the Progress Hall (above).

Jill, Lawrie, and Heather (right).

Annette provides support on Tuesdays (below).

Chris provides support on Wednesdays (bottom).



- ***Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS)***

We were able to assist with the collection of donated items from some 56 businesses. Thanks to Leigh Elsey and Val Henry for helping me with the collections.

KCCS was able to help 509 adults and 396 children with hampers (351), gifts (1089) and vouchers for gifts and meat.



Lori Dudley, KCCS Team Coordinator



Paul collecting from Coogee Aged Care



Collected items assembled at Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School



Hampers and gifts ready for distributing from Boronia Progress Hall

- ***Ongoing financial support***

A donation of \$10,000 from the proceeds of the Golf Day was presented to Infolink to assist with their ongoing work in the community.

Paul Cassidy
Program Coordinator

4.3 Different Journeys



We continued to support the Autism support group, Different Journeys, at their monthly swim events at Knox Leisureworks. On the first Sunday of each month, Rotarians assisted by supervising and helping some of the autistic participants to prepare food on the BBQ and serve to those attending. This was made easier with our donation of a BBQ to replace the existing one that was in poor condition.

Different Journeys also held a few swim events at Lilydale open air pool where we also assisted.

Unfortunately Different Journeys were not able to secure funding to continue these events and finished with the last one in April.



BBQs at the Lilydale outdoor pool swim events (left and below).

Master BBQer, Jonathan at work (second from right below).





BBQ donated to Different Journeys by our Club

Paul Cassidy
Program Coordinator

4.4 Little Street Libraries

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

The Club has again continued the growth of the Little Street Libraries in the Knox Council area. This past year members have continued to support the existing libraries at Alchester Village Shopping Centre, The Basin Shopping Strip, Boronia Mall, Wantirna Shopping Centre, the Studfield Shopping Strip and Boronia Village Shopping Centre (see next page).



Ensuring that this project continues is in part thanks to the following supporters, at whose premises the libraries are located:

Koko Lime Café, Svaks Café, Boronia Mall Management, IGA Wantirna Mall, Schokolade Café, and Mum’s Kitchen Boronia. The support provided by these organisations and their staff has made the Club’s job of looking after and “feeding” the libraries much easier. Thanks should also be made to Club members Chris Karajas, Annette Haworth, Ken Barrett, Heather Anderson and Peter Dalwood who have regularly visited the libraries and assisted in maintaining and “feeding” them.

As a result of the placement of the initial Library in Alchester Village, Alchester Village Kindergarten has now approached the Club with a request to place another library for the community in the front of their kinder. The Club has one in preparation, again thanks to Chris Karajas, and we are planning for it to be placed there before the end of this Rotary year. The children at the Kinder will be decorating this library in an indigenous theme.

This project continues to support the Street Library Association ethos of *“Take a Book, Give a Book, Share a Book”*, and if it encourages one adult or child to put down their tablet and read a book, it is a success!

Lance Deveson
Project Coordinator



Our Little Libraries:

Alchester Village – Koko Lime Café (top left); The Basin Shopping Strip – Svaks Café (top right);
Boronia Mall – Entrance Foyer (middle left); Wantirna Shopping Centre – Ritchies IGA (middle right);
Studfield Shopping Strip – Schokolade Café (bottom left); and Boronia Village – Mum's Kitchen (bottom right)

4.5 ANZAC Day Commemoration Service for Knox Primary Schools

Tim Neville Arboretum, 6th April 2023

The Rotary Club of Boronia again organised an ANZAC Commemoration Service for Grade 5/6 students from Knox Primary schools at the Tim Neville Arboretum and Cenotaph. This is the 8th year that the Club has organised the Service and this year, again with funding from Knox Council, more than 450 students and staff attended and enjoyed the warm autumn day and wonderful location at the Arboretum whilst commemorating ANZAC Day.



Attended by Knox Mayor, Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch; Jackson Taylor MP, Member for Bayswater; Rotary District 9810 Governor, Ken Millar; and Club President John Poke,



the theme for this year's service was *The Role of Dogs in Service*. This theme was presented by Sergeant Shaun Forde (Retired), Australian



Defence Forces Chief Dog Trainer for more than 20 years. Shaun spoke to the students about the training and multitude of roles the Dogs play in both war and peace zones; and backed up his presentation with a visual display of his years in the Services and his Dog partners.

As in past years music for the Service was provided by the school students and this year the Concert Band from The Knox School provided the music before, during and after the Service. The Choir from St Joseph's Primary school also sang two songs commemorating the ANZAC spirit. Student, Eric Li from The Knox School, led the singing of the National Anthem and Band Trumpeter, Alex Hick played the Last Post and Reveille.





Schools attending included: The Knox School, St Joseph's Primary School, Wantirna Primary School, St Bernadette's Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School, Boronia Heights Primary School, Boronia K-12 College, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Regency Park Primary School, The Basin Primary School, Knox Central Primary School, and Boronia West Primary School. During the Service, students from these schools, and the Guests, all laid wreaths at the Cenotaph.



Lance Deveson and Glenn Tippett
Event Coordinators

4.6 Knox Community Garden

One of the new projects the Club undertook during this Rotary year has been the establishment of garden plots in the Knox Community Garden.

It is worth noting that the Knox Community Garden is one of the largest of its kind in Australia. This enterprise, which is gratefully assisted by the Knox City Council, engages many different people including people of different age groups; young people learning about gardening; and older people who have a vast knowledge of gardening. There are also many different cultural groups implementing their own style and tradition of gardening.



We as a Rotary Club are delighted to be involved in this community group. We have two plots 10 metres long and 5 metres wide. We have established 14 different garden beds in the two plots.

The method used is a no dig method. The plots have wooded surrounds 300 mm high. In developing the plots, our first step was to lay down cardboard after which chip mulch was applied; the purpose of this is to minimise the weeds. We then applied fresh soil, which was overlaid with fresh mulch. Seedlings were then planted into the different beds.



We use liquid fertilisers to feed the plants. Banana tea is good as it provides potassium to the soil. We also use comfrey tea, which provides the soil with lots of minerals. So our soils are healthy and they produce wonderful healthy plants.



We have grown a large number of winter veggies this year. We also have a good variety of herbs that are a good staple to add to meals. The purpose is to grow the produce to donate to Infolink to support their emergency relief, and for their breakfast program.

If there are any garden enthusiastic people who would like to become involved with this project, you would be warmly welcomed. This is a community activity that is unique and special in our community. The more we have involved the better our garden will become.

Our involvement with the Knox Community Gardens led to the Club donating a new greenhouse, adding to the communal facilities available for use by the members/participants. The greenhouse will provide additional 'controlled environment' capacity, thereby increasing the opportunity for propagating seedlings and/or nurturing tender or out-of-season plants.



John Poke
Project Coordinator

5 International Service



5.1 Overview

This report presents the international projects we have been able to achieve in the 2022/23 Rotary year. COVID has put a huge dent in our capability to conduct projects and to raise money for them, but we have managed to rise above the hurdles and have achieved great results this year.

Thank you to all who have assisted in this area; it has been a great year!

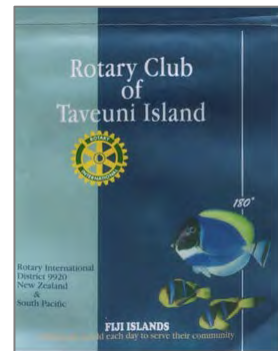
5.2 Our Sister Club – the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

Club Officers 2022/2023:

- President: Alan Petersen;
- Secretary: Paula Gonebeci;
- Treasurer: Helene Brown; and
- IP President. Paul Purvis.

Club Officers 2023/2024:

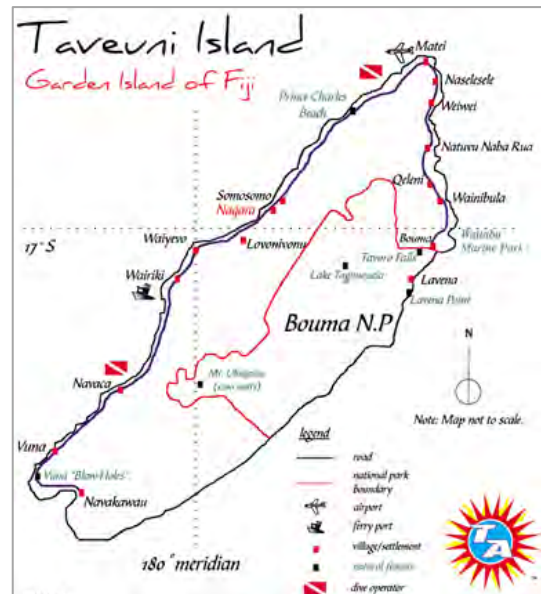
- President: Peter Brown;
- Secretary: Helene Brown;
- Treasurer: Charlie Kuffner; and
- IP President. Alan Petersen.



The Club currently has 15 members.



Fiji Group of Islands



In addition to those reported below (in which the Rotary Club of Boronia was involved), projects undertaken by the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island during the 2022/23 year included:

- Dreketi School – funding completion and planning for the rebuilding of the school at Dreketi village on the island of Qamea following damage during Cyclone Winston in 2016.
- Diwali 2022 – distribution of hampers as part of the Diwali 2022 celebrations.
- Wash your hands! – promotion of the Global Hand Washing Program in association with the Fijian Health and Education Departments; events were held at South Taveuni and SomoSomo Primary Schools.
- Books for Qilo School – presentation of books donated by the Rotary Club of Whakatane, New Zealand to Qilo School on Yanuca Island.
- Bus Shelter Refurbishment – refurbishment of a bus shelter adjacent to the road to Matei Airport (Taveuni Island).
- Airport sign – in partnership with the Taveuni Tourist Association, the Club had a large and colourful sign erected for tourists to admire as they arrive and leave Taveuni.
- Studio in a Box – provision of a Studio in a Box, a complete suite of video editing and creation tools, to the Holy Cross High School in Wairiki.

Further details of all the Rotary Club of Taveuni Island’s activities can be found on the Club website at: <https://taveunirotary.com/>.



*Dreketi School
(damaged by Cyclone Winston).*

*Wash Your Hands promotion at
South Taveuni Primary School*



Airport welcome sign.

5.3 Fiji Projects

5.3.1 Girls Dormitory – Buca Levu Secondary College

The Rotary Club of Knox, Rotary Club of Taveuni Island, D9810 and District Clubs used a Global Grant to outfit a then recently constructed (by Rotary) 40 bed girls' dormitory at the Buca Levu Secondary School in 2010. Two members from the Rotary Club of Boronia and their wives attended to assist with the project.

Following completion our Club raised the funds to provide a laundry area, rear drying area with undercover clothes lines, side verandah for shade and relaxation, and a front porch to keep the weather off the front door. All work was completed by the local team as separate projects.

The dormitory is now 12 years old and has been very well used but was a little tired. A project to refurbish the facility was conceived prior to COVID and was completed by the local team during the past year, with funding provided by the Rotary Club of Boronia.



The local team that we funded to complete the work, led by Keith Covert.



Views of the completed refurbishment work.

5.3.2 Medical Grade Protective Equipment

Simba Global approached Rotary Club of Boronia with an offer of many cartons of excess protective equipment - all at hospital grade level and destined for land fill if we could not use it.

A plan was soon put in place to ensure the best use of all the free to Rotary equipment.

Sri Lanka was approached but they have sufficient quantities of the equipment and did not wish to receive any of it.

Fully funded by Simba, two (2) x 40-foot containers were loaded by them at their Bayswater Warehouse and dispatched by sea to Fiji.



Pictured to the right (and above) are the team loading the container with Peter Malden explaining the work Rotary was doing in Fiji and how the equipment would be used.

Upon arrival the goods were taken into the Medical Department stores for use throughout Fiji in hospitals, dental units and nursing outposts. The saving to the Health budget was very much appreciated by the recently elected Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonia Lalabalavu.



A special part of the consignment was further dispatched to Taveuni Island for use in the 2023 Eye Project and for trans-shipment to the Labasa Hospital.



Here we can see Nurse Lois working with a patient in the pre-op area, and one patient with a very distinctive red cap, all in Simba protective gear.

The Simba donation saved the project from having to purchase the protective equipment and meant we could do more procedures than the planned 200 (244 in fact!).



Here we see the local team unpacking and stacking, about half of the boxes from Simba, to be used for the Eye Project with the remainder to be sent to Labasa Hospital. They will make use of the equipment to stretch their budget and assist more local patients in their health care activities.

5.3.3 Fiji Society for the Blind – Patient Testing Equipment

A joint project of the Rotary Clubs of Boronia and Forrest Hill this was to supply five sets of patient test equipment, such as quality backpacks, blood pressure, blood glucose, eye inspection torches and all the equipment needed to assess a patient for cataract and pterygium conditions.

The project included training during the Taveuni Eye Project and a follow up conference and training session to be held in Suva in September, all fully funded by Rotary.

The following thank you message was received from Vishwa, one of the Fiji Society for the Blind Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Officers:

Thank you, Sir, for your tremendous donation of eye screening equipment's which we will be using in field. All the CBR staffs of Fiji Society for the Blind are very happy that now they are well equipped with screening tools which you have provided.

Once again I would like to thank you on behalf of all my CBR colleagues and members of Fiji Society for the Blind.

Attached is my picture with backpack filled with everything, ready to serve people in communities.

CBR Officers are members of the team that travels across Fiji helping Rotary identify eye patients, providing for their after care and giving vital health tests and information to mainly remote Fiji villages residents.



Here we seen Vilisi Salafabisi (a CBR Coordinator) and Noa (a CBR Officer) receiving their backpacks stuffed full of equipment.

5.3.4 Taveuni Eye Project 2023

A Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation in support of the 15th Taveuni Eye Project was fully approved in 2022 and, thanks to very generous people at The Rotary Foundation, we were able to carry the project through COVID until we were able to launch it this year. Following the lifting of travel and immigration restrictions the project, initially planned for 2020, was re-scheduled to commence in June 2023.

A large number of hurdles were overcome in the weeks just prior to the project. Such things as changes to Fiji Government, freight companies amalgamating, medicines in short supply, travel ticket issues, shipping timetables changing and general post COVID issues to name but a few.

Despite weather, uncertain transport and local issues, the ten (10) days of surgical operations kicked off on Monday, 12 June 2023 and was an amazing success. Peter Malden (Project Manager) and wife Jan again travelled to Fiji to manage and support implementation of the project.



The initial aim was to carry out 200 procedures but due to demand from islanders the number was increased to 245 with the help of medicines and assistance from the Labasa Eye Department.

The islands serviced by this year's project included Taveuni, Koro, Kioa, Qamea, Rabi and a few patients coming from Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (identified by orange stars in the adjacent map).

Full details of the project including patient interview stories, lists of participants, sponsors and key suppliers can all be seen at: <https://rotaryeyesfiji.com/>.



Here we see the patients in Dormitory.



Jan Malden comforts a patient.



Patients waiting for post-operative checks.



The oldest patient this year – 92-year-old Spencer.



Happy smiles all round after surgery.



This is Leisa from Koro who is deaf and had bilateral cataracts, so she could see and hear nothing. Every time anyone touched her, she screamed, not knowing what was happening.

Dr Bryce guided her through the whole process, twice, and after the two procedures she was a 'new woman'. She is walking on her own and is pictured here laughing with Dr Bryce.

*This is the team from Labasa Hospital.
TEP Project Head Surgeon Dr Grace is in black.
We could not do the project without them – a great
contribution to the project by them all.
Well done!*



*The full medical team here at the
final closing ceremony.
Fantastic job
– 245 procedures plus another
145 full medical checks.
Again, well done!*

*Here Peter and Jan brief the
Divisional Medical Officer,
Dr Emosi Koroi with the project
results.*



5.3.5 Rotary Club of Taveuni Island Hybrid Meeting Facilities



Our Club paid for twelve-months of full Zoom subscription to allow Rotary Club of Taveuni Island to better manage its meetings.

Peter Malden
International Service Chair

5.4 Disaster Aid

Working through Disaster Aid Australia, the Club funded the installation of a SkyHydrant MAX water filter at the 'Kids Ark' school in Hera, Timor Leste towards the end of the Rotary year. The SkyHydrant was installed as part of a water supply upgrade project undertaken by Disaster Aid Australia in partnership with Yooralla Living Water Community Development Program; funding for tanks and pipes was also provided.



Each SkyHydrant MAX unit can provide 10,000 litres per day of clean, bacteria free water for ten years. That is enough for a village of 700 people or a school with 1,000 pupils.

These ultrafiltration units remove dirt and bacteria from water without the use of chemicals or needing a power source. They are extremely simple to operate and require the absolute minimum of mechanical devices, such as pumps, in the process.



School children enjoying a drink of filtered water (above).

SkyHydrant water filter installation (right).

Complete water supply installation, with SkyHydrant at back left beneath tank stand (far right).



Funding for the project was raised through a Trivia Night conducted in November 2022, at which more than \$6,000 was raised. Thanks to all who contributed by donating goods or services, contributing questions, setting/cleaning up, etc. Special thanks to Mark Smith for being an amazing MC and Nadja Wood for adjudicating and scoring.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Monique Smith
Project Coordinator



The winning Trivia Team



Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to:

Rotary Club of Boronia

Disaster Aid Australia thanks you for the opportunity to deliver your international safe water project in Timor Leste for

Kids Ark Hera School



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Faulkner".

PP Peter Faulkner
Chairman

Disaster Aid Australia is a project of



6 Youth and Vocational Service



6.1 Overview



Committee:

- Jane Mifsud – Chair
- Chris Karajas
- Ray Siergersma
- Mel Karajas
- Lance Deveson
- Glenn Tippet
- Annette Haworth
- Geraint Gardner
- Bronwyn Chang

Introduction:

This year we had a successful year bringing a few projects to light. Details of these are set out in the following pages.

Jane Mifsud
Youth and Vocational Service Chair 2022/23



6.2 Youth Programs

6.2.1 Rotaract

Our Rotary Club of Boronia supported these outstanding youths in our community.



They organised their annual “**The Biggest Morning Tea**” fundraising for Cancer Council, which was held on Sunday, 21st May 2023 held at Ferntree Gully Girl Guide Hall. It always exceeds their expectations, and this year successfully raised \$1,940. These legends prepared lots of delicious finger food, with other volunteers pitching in, and baked other treats which made the display table a good feed for this event.

They played various fun games like building the tallest Tower with dried spaghetti and marshmallows, ping pong ball into a teapot and Pick a Card Auction. These activities helped to raise much needed funds.



A “**Macrame ‘N’ Sip Fundraiser Event**”, which was held on 30th September 2022, was also a great success raising an incredible amount of \$2,600. These funds were used to provide dignity packs to girls in the rural Lubombo Region in Swaziland).

This event was so much fun and very creative to us all as everyone learnt how to make a pot.



\$2600 RAISED

Thank you to everyone who attended PDI x Knox Rotaract's **Macrame N' Sip Night**. \$2600 will now be used to provide dignity packs to girls in the rural Lubombo Region, as part of PDI's Child Dignity Packs Project.

6.2.2 RYLA – Rotary Districts 9810 & 9820



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is an intensive leadership experience organised by Rotary Clubs and Districts where the participants develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections.

The 6-day program attended by young persons chosen and supported by Rotary Clubs was this year held at The Golden Valley Adventure Camp, Flinders, from Monday 26th June until Saturday 1st July 2023.

We sponsored Josh Simmons, a 22-year-old who showed enthusiasm and was very interested in the opportunity provided by this program. He was certainly a worthy candidate as he participated and contributed very well in group activities.

Josh will be our speaker on 18th July and will share his experience.

The highlight on the fourth day of the program is an Expo that is set up on camp where Rotary Projects are displayed. This brings the RYLarians to ask questions and learn about the power of an idea!

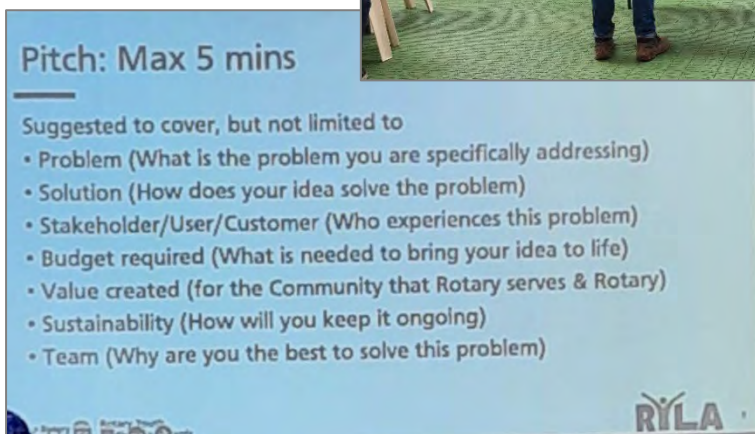
The Social Impact Pitch module of the 2023 RYLA program is one of the key elements as it brings together all the learnings from across the week, combined with Rotary’s “5 Avenues of Service” and “7 Areas of Focus”. Furthermore, it brings an ongoing connection between Clubs and RYLarians that is designed to provide a long-term relationship well beyond the 6-days of onsite magic.



Rotarian Jane Mifsud seeing Josh Simmons and fellow RYLarians off, boarding their bus to take them on a Magical Ride to Flinders. Friendships have already started.



A full room of Rotarians, RYLarians, and Leaders showing us what RYLA is all about.



This team is brainstorming and working together.



Josh's team pitching their project. Their findings and solutions to impact the community of differently abled people (above and right).

Josh receiving his Certificate of Participation (below).





Trish Carr, one of the directors of putting RYLA together is holding Ricky (the puppet) graduating with the others.

How cute is he! 😊

Monique Smith and Jane Mifsud attending the "One Day Program".



Dorset Business Solutions – Office Choice, donated all the stationery, pens, butcher's paper used at this event which was greatly appreciated. Monique Smith received a certificate in recognition. Thank you!

6.2.3 Essay Writing Competition – Matilda Anne Aston

The Rotary Club of Boronia, encouraged by our President John Poke who wanted to acknowledge Tilly’s life, invited several local Secondary Colleges to participate in writing an essay on Tilly Aston. Tilly was an incredible woman of her time back in eighteenth century; she was born at Carisbrook in central Victoria and her remarkable monument stands to tell her story.

Tilly has the federal electorate of Aston named in her honour; the City of Knox has an honour award for the most significant volunteer each year. Several schools also have an “Aston Shield” recognising a student for their community service.

The essays were judged by Lance Deveson and Pam King who were very pleased with the quality of the students’ work handed in. They read how the entrants were inspired by the project and researching the life of Tilly as they discovered she was an outstanding advocate for people with disabilities.

We presented at Bayswater Secondary College school assembly hall on the 22 June 2023. Those attending on behalf of the Club were Pam King, Annette Haworth, Peter Dalwood and Jane Mifsud; John Poke was unfortunately unable to attend.



Penny Thomas and Daniel Eagle

The winner was Daniel Eagle, who received a certificate and a JB HiFi voucher for his excellent effort. Second place was awarded to Penny Thomas, who received a certificate and a JB HiFi voucher as well.

You can read Daniel Eagle’s work below as he certainly told a great story. He also relates to Tilly as you read at the end of the story. Well done, Daniel!



Annette Haworth, Daniel Eagle, Penny Thomas, Ash McCormick (front), Peter Dalwood, Melissa Presutto (Literacy Leader), Pam King and Jane Mifsud

Boronia Rotary Essay Writing Competition

Entrant: Daniel Eagle, Bayswater Secondary College

Matilda Ann 'Tilly' Aston was an accomplished author and teacher, which she achieved, despite being blind. She advocated for rights for people with disabilities; specifically blindness, and founded multiple organisations which helped give blind people a voice, the right to vote. These organisations are still around today, as the Victorian Braille Library, and Vision Australia. Tilly's eyesight was defective upon birth, though, she still had some vision; up until her seventh birthday. She influenced the course of Australian history by speaking out about the injustice felt by vision impaired people in the late 19th and early to mid 20th centuries.

Born in December of 1873, Matilda Ann Aston, was initially born with limited eyesight, to parents Edward, a bootmaker and Ann (who is the namesake of Tilly's second given name) Aston in the town of Carisbrook, Victoria. Aston recalled that in her early childhood, her parents described the beauty of the nature around her, and helped her to understand colours, which, without verbal input, is a difficult concept to grasp. She later accredited a portion of her success to the vivid memories that her parents provided her. After being enrolled into private school, Tilly learned to read from large type books, and was able to memorise and write poetry. Unfortunately, in the year of 1881, Aston's father passed away, so her mother undertook more roles in her occupation in order to help support the family. The first opening into the vision-impaired world came six months later, when Tilly met a man named Thomas James. James was a miner who lost his sight in an industrial accident, he then changed occupations and became an itinerant blind missionary. Thomas James taught Aston how to use braille to read, and soon after a choir from the Victorian Asylum and School for the Blind visited Tilly's hometown of Carisbrook, where the school's headmaster, Reverend William Moss, convinced her to begin attending the school. Tilly enrolled as a boarder at the school on 29 June 1882. At 16, Matilda Aston was admitted to and began an arts course, studying at the University of Melbourne, but the lack of accessibility in the form of braille textbooks forced her to abandon the course in her second year. Throughout her struggles at university, Aston gained many friends who supported her alongside the Australian Natives' Association when she established the Victorian Association of Braille Writers; then, with a few friends, she founded and became first secretary of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind; she was president in 1947.

Tilly experienced further discrimination and judgement in 1913, when she applied for the Education Department post of head of the School for the Blind, she completed her training, but some and officials at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind did not fully accept her, they believed that her impaired vision would be a hindrance in the classroom. It was also demanded that she sever any and all existing connections to blind societies, societies she had helped to found. Consequently, although she did enjoy teaching, her time at school was not pleasant. Aston retired in 1925, due to a small stroke, and received two pounds a week, in lieu of superannuation, but (although extremely late) was finally recognised as a competent educator by the school administration. Matilda Aston passed away from cancer on November 1st, 1947, after moving into her own house in Windsor, where a housekeeper took care of her.

People in my family have different disabilities ranging from physical disabilities to sensory ones. My mum is deaf, my dad, sister and I all have a walking disability. I hope that one day, I will be able to advocate and be as successful as Tilly Aston was, as well as supporting others, regardless of the disabilities they may have. My parents have always instilled in us that you can do whatever you want to do in life, regardless of disability. Sure, some changes may need to be made to make it happen, and expectations need to be managed, but with the right encouragement, supports and services in place, nearly anything can be overcome.

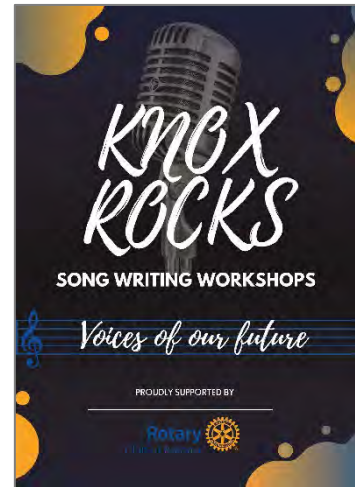
Tilly Aston dedicated her life to being an advocate for deaf people across the world. Her attitude towards living her life with a disability is inspirational to not only people with blindness, but people with disabilities in many different areas. Having an award based on student achievement, attitude and engagement named after her that is presented annually in the Aston electorate at every primary and secondary school is testament to the person that Tilly was. Tilly's contribution to these services has certainly provided help for many, many people in the past, and her legacy will continue well into the future.

Thank you, Tilly Aston, for being the person you were, and showing the world that people with disabilities are valuable members of the community, adding to the vibrancy of life in many different areas.

6.2.4 “Knox Rocks” Youth Music Project

After some unavoidable delays during the 2021/22 Rotary year, the “Knox Rocks” youth music therapy pilot project came to fruition in the latter part of 2022. Proposed by Mark Smith, himself a local musician, this initiative was aimed at giving participants an increased sense of confidence, empowerment, achievement, engagement, mastery of skills and self-expression through the medium of music.

Extensive work was undertaken in developing and implementing the program under Mark’s leadership. Key support was provided by Club member Maria Thompson, a clinical counsellor and mental health practitioner whose expertise was used to identify qualitative and quantitative measures of program outcomes as a basis for assessing the success of the program; and by Sadie Mustoe who drew upon her extensive musical experience to facilitate the workshop sessions through which the program was implemented. The leadership group liaised closely with local schools to identify program participants, noting that having a musical background was not a prerequisite.



The program comprised of a series of six song writing workshops/musical sessions over several weeks where the five participants, local year 9 and 10 students, wrote songs and music through which they expressed their personal feelings. The songs were then recorded professionally and given to the young artists as tangible results of their participation in the program.

The success of the pilot program was celebrated at a Club event on 14 February 2023, at which each of four participants (one was unable to attend) spoke of their experience before the audience listened to each of their creations. All songs/music were of a high quality and left many in the audience emotionally moved.

The pride and passion demonstrated by the students and their parents was amazing, and a clear demonstration of “mission accomplished” for this new endeavour!



Thanks go to Sadie Mustoe for leading the song writing sessions and helping compile the musical arrangements; Lucy and Ivor Santurni for the use of their studio for the workshop sessions; and Les Marton of Lightwavez Design for recording and production of the finished songs, along with supporting members of the Rotary Club of Boronia, without whose input the project could not have proceeded.

Given the success of the pilot project, it is now planned to develop further programs on a similar and/or larger scale to further serve our local community.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Mark Smith

Project Coordinator



6.3 Vocational Programs

6.3.1 School Citizenship Awards

After having to present via pre-recorded presentations in 2020, the annual Citizenship Awards were presented in person this year.

We were again delighted to present annual Citizenship Awards, comprising a Citizenship Certificate and a watch, which the students loved, at some of our local schools.

These schools nominate a well deserving student in receiving this Award sponsored by our Rotary Club.

The Awards were presented in person except at Boronia Heights Primary School which preferred a pre-recorded presentation.

The schools supported and the respective awardees were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Boronia Heights Primary School | Eleanor Mak |
| ▪ Park Ridge Primary School | Charlee Hannett |
| ▪ Knox Park Primary School | Samantha Koedyk |
| ▪ Knox Central Primary School | Jon Accetta |
| ▪ The Basin Primary School | Lola Dunn |
| ▪ Boronia K12 College Primary School | Summer Smith |
| ▪ Boronia K12 College Secondary | Miranda Skevington |



*BORONIA HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eleanor Mak with her teacher,
Rebecca Koole. Eleanor was presented
with her certificate and a lovely watch.*

Eleanor wrote a thank you note of appreciation:

Dear Rotary Club of Boronia,

My name is Eleanor Mak and I was lucky enough to be honoured by your academic achievement award at the Boronia Heights Primary School Grade 6 graduation. I really enjoy wearing my watch and I'm looking forward to wearing it to high school as a good luck charm and as a reminder of my primary school days!

*Thanks again,
Eleanor Mak*

PARK RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotarian Janet Windebank presented Charlee Hannett her certificate and a lovely watch.



KNOX PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotarians Jane Mifsud and Geoff Griffin presenting Samantha Koedyk with her certificate and a lovely watch.

KNOX CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotarian Jane Mifsud presenting Jon Accetta his certificate, and a watch. Ms Bree Fewson presented Jon with the School Shield.





THE BASIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotarian Val Henry presented Lola Dunn her certificate and lovely watch.

BORONIA K12 COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotarian Annette Haworth presenting Summer Smith her certificate and a lovely watch.



BORONIA K12 COLLEGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

President John Poke presented Miranda Skevington her certificate and a lovely watch.



6.3.2 Vocational Visits

Club members participated in two vocational visits during the Rotary year. The first was to Disaster Aid Australia premises in Eumemmerring and the second to Catnap Cattery in Knoxfield.

Disaster Aid Australia:

Several Club members visited the premises of Disaster Aid Australia on 2 August 2022 to learn about the work this organisation undertakes in responding to disasters in our region. Their stated mission is *“To provide, and assist, in delivering sustainable humanitarian aid relevant to people affected by natural and other disasters, including safe water and shelter”*.



A project of the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills, Disaster Aid Australia has members/volunteers from across the country. It provides education and training in aspects of disaster relief to individuals, community groups, businesses, schools and other organisations; and works in partnership on humanitarian projects funded by other organisations, including Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts and Non-Rotary organisations.



CEO Brian Ashworth, ably assisted by colleagues Cherie and Jan, provided an overview of the organisation and its activities. They went on to demonstrate operation of a SkyHydrant water filter.

Dirty water flowing under gravity from an elevated tank (typical real-life installation) passed through the filter to produce crystal clear water suitable for human consumption.

Our visit to Disaster Aid Australia led to the Club funding the installation of a SkyHydrant MAX water filter in Timor Leste, as reported in **Section 5.4**.



The visit concluded with a sumptuous two-course home-cooked dinner provided by the Disaster Aid staff.

Thanks to all involved!



Catnap Cattery:

On 31 January 2023, many of the Club’s members visited the Catnap Cattery, a luxury accommodation facility for cats operated by Club member, Jarom Deeks. Billed as “Your Cat’s Home Away from Home”, eight different types of accommodation are available to ensure that while families are away on holiday, their pets experience the very best of care.

Jarom showed enthusiasm for his work, and his staff were also happy to show us around the world of a five-star facility. The cats that were in residence were also very happy to greet us.



Jarom has been in the cat caring business for 30 years and it was obvious that he knows his work.

January was Vocational Month, so it was good to visit and experience one of our members demonstrating their vocation.



Prepared on behalf of ...

Youth and Vocational Service Committee

7 Fundraising and Fellowship

7.1 Overview

Committee:

- John White – Chair
- Ken Barrett
- Michael Jacobs
- Monique Smith
- Jarom Deeks
- Bruce Crago
- Ryan O’Shea
- Stephen Spiers
- Val Henry
- Gonny Rundell
- Julianne Hyams
- Sandra Hayes.



Report:

Club fundraising for the last year really improved allowing us to run more events, thereby improving the amount we raised.

We have also organised several Fellowship activities during the year for our members’ entertainment and enjoyment.

John White
Chair, Fundraising and Fellowship Committee 2022/23

7.2 Fundraising

7.2.1 Fundraising Activities

Club fundraising for the last year really improved allowing us to run more events, thereby improving the amount we raised.



This year we ran seven **BBQs at Bunnings Bayswater:** on 17th September, 1st November, 19th November, 17th December, 31st December, 9th April, and 10th June.

This was nearly twice the number compared to the previous year. I would like to thank the many Club members who gave up part of their weekends to assist with the BBQs, helping to make each of them a great success.



Another fundraiser that was a great success again was the **Wine Raffle** that Michael Jacobs ran in the last two months of the Rotary year. This year there were only 200 tickets available and again the members did a great job in selling them all. The three lucky winners were advised after the raffle was drawn at the Club Changeover on 30th June.



A great new fundraiser was the **Trivia Night** run by members Monique and Mark Smith. The venue was the St Bernadettes Primary School Hall in the Basin. The hall was filled with many locals that spent money buying tickets in the auctions and raffles from a large selection of donated prizes. The night was a huge success, and we hope we can repeat the same night this coming year.



Another great fundraising activity was the **Meyer Cookware 2-Day Sale** which had not been running for the last couple of years. Our Club has a great relationship with the company management



who invited us to set up a sausage sizzle in their car park and also offer a trolley service to the customers' cars for a gold coin. The two days were quite a success. We also had a number of the members of the local Inner Wheel Club helping out with the cooking and at the end of the second day we agreed to donate \$500 of our raised funds to their club for all the work they had done.

Details of this year's Charity Golf Day, our major fundraiser for the year, are reported in the following **Section 7.2.2**.

The total of all funds raised this year from BBQ's, Wine Raffle, Trivia Night, Meyer Sale and Golf Day amounted to the very pleasing figure of approximately **\$37,500**.

After such a busy year with all the successful fundraising activities, I would like to thank my committee for their support throughout the year.

John White
Chair, Fundraising and Fellowship Committee 2022/23

7.2.2 Charity Golf Day

Our annual Charity Golf Day was this year run on Monday, 20th February 2023 at the Eastwood Golf Club. We had perfect weather, and it was again a great success.

This year more than 90 players hit off at 8:00am in the traditional shotgun start.

This day is our Club's biggest fundraiser of the year, and our many sponsors again not only had a great day, they helped us raise what we believe to be a record amount for the Golf Day.

I want to sincerely thank Ken for the incredible amount of work that he put in over many months getting all the teams that played on the day rounded up.



Thank you also to those Club members who helped set up the club house with the raffle prizes and lucky envelopes, tickets for which were sold during lunch time. I would also like to thank Peter and Chris who were both out on the course at 6:30am setting up the tee sponsor signs and collecting them after play had finished.



The total raised from our Golf Day this year was close to **\$11,000**. The majority of the funds raised on the day were distributed to:

- **Knox Infolink**, to provide food for the Breakfast Program;
- **Knox Infolink**, to support its Emergency Relief activities; and
- Support for **Disabled People** in Knox.

Our next Golf Day will be held on Monday, 19th February 2024.



7.3 Fellowship

Club members enjoyed several Fellowship activities during the year. These included:



- A visit to **The Basin Theatre** to watch the performance of “Gentlemen Incorporated” on 15th October. Dinner was enjoyed afterwards.



- A visit to the **1812 Theatre**, Upper Ferntree Gully, to see “The Woman in Black” on 16th November.
- A **Trivia Night** to raise funds in support of Disaster Aid Australia, was held at St Bernadettes Primary School on 19th November.



- **Christmas Dinner** at the Knox Club 13th December.





- Social Evening (1st meeting of new year) at the Tim Neville Arboretum on 10th January.
- A visit to the **1812 Theatre**, Upper Ferntree Gully on 21st March to see a live performance of “The Shoe-Horn Sonata” following dinner at The Royal Hotel.



- Mosso Barbi, catered by Janine and Greg Mossop, at Ken and Miriam Barrett’s home on 16th April.



- **Club Changeover** at Churchill Waverley Golf Club on 30th June.



8 Membership and Welfare Inclusion

Committee:

- Greg Mossop – Chair
- Mark Smith
- Doug Gibson
- Leigh Elsey
- Maria Thompson
- Jim Sly
- Susan Hanger
- Julien Karalos
- Kathy Liu
- Brad Hebblethwaite
- Marina Barker.



Membership and Welfare Outcomes:

We started the New Year ready to “build on” from the strong foundation that the last couple of years have provided us.

Our committee for this year was made up of Mark Smith, Doug Gibson, Leigh Elsey, Maria Thompson, Susan Hanger, Jim Sly, and Julien Karalos with myself (Greg Mossop) as Chair. My thanks go to all for an excellent year which again sees us as the top club in the District in relation to membership.



At the time of compiling this report we have inducted eight new members into the Club, six of which are female. This equates to a percentage of 36.2% of our membership being female. As a comparison, worldwide the percentage of female members is believed to be 24% and 17% Australia wide; we are extremely well placed in relation to these statistics. Our average age is 63.71 compared with a worldwide average age of 58 and Australia 71. The average age of the eight new members inducted this year is 55 so we are again well placed in relation to these statistics.

With one month to go in this year at the time of writing this report it would appear that we are likely to induct one if not two additional members in the next few weeks, with two more likely in July. This will be an excellent start for the new committee headed up by Mark, and I wish them well for the coming year.

During the year we developed a more formal mentoring program to ensure the new members are helped to enjoy and embrace their membership of our Club. This process has enjoyed some success but it continues to need refining; this will be a high priority in the coming year.

During the year the welfare part of the working group was handicapped to some extent because of Doug's injury. However, the mantle was quickly picked up with Maria and Jim preparing the reports and Jim reporting to the Club on a weekly basis. In recent months it has been good to see Doug's return and the enhancement of the process with the development of our email address (wellbeing@rotaryboronia.org.au).



Greg Mossop
Membership and Fellowship Committee Chair 2021/22

9 Public Image

Committee:

- Glenn Tippet – Chair
- Mel Karajas
- Jim Sly
- Susan Hanger
- Julien Karalos
- Kathy Liu
- Brad Hebblethwaite
- Geoff Griffin.



Public Relations Activities:

This year has been a good year for the Club overall with the profile and presence of the Club in the community very high.

The best public relations we can do is to be seen actively working, developing and delivering effective projects that help both our local community and the international one.

Some of the projects and events we have been involved in this year are.

- Bunnings free community Christmas market where John White was Santa Claus and we ran the free sausage sizzle.
- CWA working bee, during which we cleaned up the block and shed, did repairs and maintenance to the hall and made the entrance safer for those who use the hall.
- The annual ANZAC Commemoration for primary school students. This year we had over 430 students plus teachers and parents attend the Arboretum for another great event. This event is getting to be key date on the calendar of the thirteen schools who attend and is getting bigger and better every year with another new school being involved next year.
- Our support of INFOLINK and many of their programs, including the breakfast program, has been a great success and has our Club members working together with the staff regularly throughout the year.



- The newly established support for the Knox Community Gardens is another project that has us creating several garden beds to grow vegetables to be used at INFOLINK to support both the breakfast program and supply fresh vegetables for the needy.
- MEYER Warehouse clearance sale: we again supported them with a BBQ and delivery to customers car's service. MEYER has been a tremendous supporter of our Club for many years, and it feels good to repay them for that support.

All these projects are opportunities for the public to see some of what Rotary does, greatly enhancing our presence in the community. We don't use any of the above to raise funds for the Club, they are just examples of Rotary at Work.

The Club's Facebook page has grown tremendously over the last year with at the time of this report we have 905 followers, which gives a page reach of over 1.8 thousand for each post. This growth can only be attributed to the Club being so active.



We have also launched a LinkedIn page thank you to Annette Griffin who is managing it for us at the moment.



Our Bulletin is another fantastic opportunity for our profile to be shared with Mel Karajas producing a very interesting and comprehensive publication every week. Mel has also introduced Club Runner into the Club as an attendance and event booking tool.

The Club's website has been managed by Jim Sly who has been working with members and other groups to keep the site current and updated regularly with information about the club and its projects.



Thank you to the members of our public relations committee everyone has done a tremendous job over the year.

Glenn Tippet
Public Relations Committee Chair

10 The Rotary Foundation



Annual Foundation Giving:



The total donation to Rotary Foundation Annual Fund from the Club and other donations this year was \$US22,729. Half of these funds return to our District in three years' time and are used to fund District Grants.

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

Every Rotarian Every Year (formerly Centurion Club):



As in previous years, the Club members have continued their strong support of the annual giving to Foundation with 24 members giving \$A100 or more per annum and a further 10 members making donations to Rotary Foundation.

Members donated a further \$900 to the End Polio Now Campaign which was matched with a donation of \$900 from the Club for World Polio Day.



Foundation is a great selling point for Rotary as all administration costs are met from the income of the invested donations and therefore 100% of the donations are used on the Rotary Projects.

District Grants:

The Club was again successful in obtaining a District Grant of \$2,000 to assist with the cost of the "Knox Rocks" Youth Music Project (refer **Section 6.2.4**).

Paul Harris Fellowships:



Paul Harris Fellows (PHFs) were awarded this year to Denise Budge (Knox Infolink), Heather Anderson, Melanie Karajas, Janet Windebank (second sapphire), John White (fourth sapphire) and Stephen Spiers (ruby) (refer **Section 2.3** for further information).

Donations of \$US1,000 are made to The Rotary Foundation in the names of the awardees.

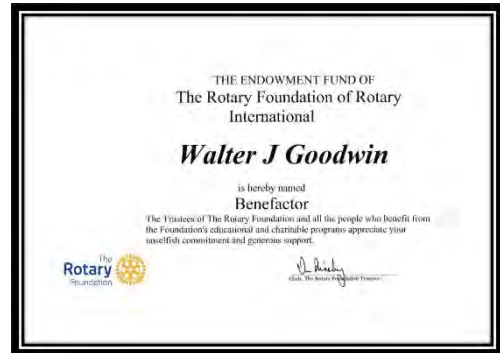
Wal Goodwin:



Wal Goodwin, a charter member of the Club, left a substantial donation to The Rotary Foundation in his Will with a proviso that half the income be returned to the Club for its use. The generous gift will assist the Club in the future in funding projects in the community and overseas.

The Donation resulted in Wal being posthumously

made a member of the Arch Klumph Society. Arch Klumph was the sixth Rotary International President in 1916/17 who conceived the idea of the Rotary Endowment Fund which he presented at the 1917 Rotary Convention. The name was changed in 1928 to The Rotary Foundation.



The Fund has grown to now hold \$US1,255,570,000 in net assets as at 30 June 2022 and spent \$US330,000 in grants for the year ending 30 June 2022

Neville Windebank
Foundation Chair

11 Club Service



11.1 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 2022/2023 Rotary year, and we continued to make some great contributions.

Some points of note are as follows:

- **Hybrid Meetings:**



We continued to offer “hybrid meetings” throughout the year, thereby enabling members who were unable to attend meetings in person due to distance or health to join. Although not used extensively, this remains an important service for our members.

- **Program:**

In another repeat performance as Program Chair, Janet Windebank has again provided a program of very interesting guest speakers and/or activities for our meetings throughout the year. Our speakers have both educated us and inspired us to continue our work in the community.

Details of our meeting program during 2022/2023 are presented in **Section 11.2**.

- **Bulletin:**

New to the role this year, Bulletin Editor Mel Karajas continued the precedent of producing a high quality and informative weekly Bulletin throughout the year, bringing her expertise to this important publication. The Bulletin remains the primary mechanism (apart from attendance at Club meetings) for ensuring that our members are appropriately informed.

- **ClubRunner:**

This year saw introduction of the ClubRunner application, principally for managing meeting/event attendance. However, it also provides ready access to member details and an associated mechanism for communication.

Mel Karajas has contributed extensively to this change, providing training and guidance in its use for those who have required it.



- **Sergeant-at-Arms:**

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Val Henry has again kept us well entertained during her weekly fine sessions. It can be an arduous task to continually identify interesting and innovative ways to extract fines from members; however, Val managed to present a fun and informative session each week.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Greg Mossop

President Elect 2022/23 and Club Service Chair

11.2 Program

The 2022/23 Rotary year again featured a varied program of guest speakers and Club focussed activities at our weekly meetings.

A summary listing of the year's meeting program is as follows:

- July 2022:
 - 5th Speaker – Alexandra Ridgeway (via Zoom), Rotary Global Grants Scholar: Family violence and spousal visa immigrants.
 - 12th Committee meetings.
 - 19th Speaker – Kerryn Redpath from DAESY (Drug & Alcohol Education Supporting Youth & Adults): substance abuse harms and solutions.
 - 26th Speaker – Kristian Dauncey, Knoxbrooke: working with people with disabilities in regular employment at this huge local Garden Centre.
- August 2022:
 - 2nd Vocational visit – Disaster Aid Australia: demonstration of SkyHydrant followed by super home-made dinner.
 - 9th Speaker – Val Cole MD: Traditional and Western medicine.
 - 16th Speaker – Jim Sly, Rotary Club of Boronia: “Rotarian Behind the Badge” – Save Water Saves Lives projects in Papua New Guinea, followed by Committee meetings.
 - 23rd Speaker – Past District Governor, David Tolstrup: Regionalisation Project for Rotary International Zone 8.
 - 30th Speaker – this date was planned as a presentation by the Knox City Council Manager of Economic Development, but a misunderstanding around our change of venue to the Wantirna Club resulted in a “no show”, so the meeting time was used for members’ discussions..
- September 2022:
 - 6th District Governor, Ken Miller – Official Visit.
 - 13th Speaker – Frida Umuhoza: the Rwanda genocide, her story of survival and forgiveness.
 - 20th Speaker – Annette Haworth, Rotary Club of Boronia: “Rotarian Behind the Badge” – Teachers Beyond Borders in Cambodia, followed by Committee meetings.
 - 27th Club forum – group discussion moderated by President John.



■ October 2022:

- 4th Speaker – Bridgette Semple: Brain trauma in children and adults.
- 11th Speaker – Rotarian Lyal Chasemore: “Busy Feet” – dance for children with disabilities.
- 18th Speaker – Peter Dalwood, Rotary Club of Boronia: “Rotarian Behind the Badge” – Polio immunisation and dam building in India, followed by Committee meetings.
- 25th Speaker – Rotarian Kate Kidd (Rowville/Lysterfield): food technology.



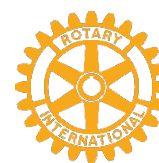
■ November 2022:

- 1st No Meeting – Public Holiday.
- 8th Speaker – Jade Hayes, Manager of Economic Development Knox City Council: new Council initiatives.
- 15th Speaker – Rotarian Gayle Barott (Emerald): District 9810 Conference, Canberra, 2023, followed by Committee meetings.
- 22nd Speaker – Mark Smith, Rotary Club of Boronia: The Mystery Box Rally.
- 29th Annual General Meeting and Club Assembly.



■ December 2022:

- 6th Speaker – Past District Governor, David Alexander: The Rotary Foundation and District Grants.
- 13th Christmas breakup party.



■ January 2023:

- 10th Informal Fellowship Meeting – Picnic at Knox Arboretum.
- 17th Committee Meetings.
- 24th Speaker – Peter Malden, Rotary Club of Boronia: Fiji projects.
- 31st Vocational visit – Catnap Cattery, Knoxfield: hosted by Rotarian Jarom Deeks (Boronia).



■ February 2023:

- 7th Speaker – Anne Wicking: Community Achievement Awards.
- 14th Knox Rocks Project presentation hosted by Rotarian Mark Smith (Boronia).
- 21st Speaker – Lee Baker: The long term effects of polio, followed by Committee meetings.
- 28th Speaker – Andrew Marshall, Coordinator of Emergency Management, City of Knox.



- March 2023:
 - 7th Speaker – Highlights of District 9810 Conference in Canberra presented by members who attended.
 - 14th Speaker – Cluster project “Knox Nocturnals” Youth Club, presented by Ferntree Gully Rotarians Christine Anderson and Graeme Aspinall.
 - 21st Fellowship night – 1812 Theatre presentation of “The Shoehorn Sonata.”
 - 28th Memorial Night – remembering members who passed away in recent years.



- April 2023:
 - 4th Speaker – Rotarian Sandi Fulcher (Chadstone /East Malvern): End Trachoma campaign.
 - 11th Speaker – Penny Robinson: Infolink update, including Denise Budge PHF presentation.
 - 18th Speaker – Lance Deveson, Rotary Club of Boronia: “Rotarian Behind the Badge”, followed by Committee meetings.
 - 25th ANZAC Day – no meeting.



- May 2023:
 - 2nd Speaker – 9810 Rotarian Patricia Armstrong (District 9810): Rotary’s 7th Area of Focus; Protecting our Environment.
 - 9th Speaker – Rotarian Ron Brookes (Forest Hill): Rotary and UNICEF foreign coin collection project.
 - 16th Speaker – Rotarian Stephen Spiers (Boronia): 2023 Rotary Ride for Research report.
 - 23rd Speaker – Helmut Abt, Bureau of Meteorology: “A career in weather”.
 - 30th Speaker – Stephen Bode: “Looking out my back door”, photography of insect and plant life.



- June 2023:
 - 6th Charter Member Rotarian Wal Goodwin’s bequest to Rotary: Presented by President John Poke and Rotarian Jim Sly, followed by Committee meetings.
 - 13th Speaker – Rotarian Glenn Tippett: Australian Rotary Health.
 - 20th Speaker – Thameena : “My Story”, detailing her experience as an immigrant.
 - 27th No meeting – Club Changeover on Friday, 30th June.



Looking back on the program for the year, I especially want to express my gratitude to the many members of our Club who shared their experiences, both as “Rotarians Behind the Badge”, and in specific areas of service such as International Service and Australian Rotary Health. By stepping up as speakers, they helped include our newer members by informing them about the Club and Rotary generally.

I thank President John for his adaptability when last minute changes were needed.

Again, I have been really impressed by the helpfulness of our members and other Rotarians as well as others with a story to tell, who have delivered us varied and interesting meetings throughout the year. It has made the job of Program Chair easy!

Janet Windebank
Program Coordinator 2022/23

11.3 Bulletin

Having joined the Rotary Club of Boronia in December 2021, Mel Karajas enthusiastically took on the role of Bulletin Editor at the start of the Rotary year, following on from Monique Smith who moved into the Secretary position.



Mel worked tirelessly to produce an excellent Bulletin each week, making improvements to both its presentation and the way it was produced. Details of Club activities (both upcoming and completed) and a wealth of general Rotary information was presented throughout the year.

Thanks go to those who submitted material for inclusion in each edition, without which the work of the Bulletin Editor is increased.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Melanie Karajas
Bulletin Editor 2022/23

11.4 Sergeant-at-Arms

I've enjoyed being the Club's Sergeant-at-Arms again this year and appreciate the input from members for either happily sharing a story about themselves or others.

Always in good humour, it's a great way to have a bit of fun which also raises funds and I'm sure has entertained guests at our meetings.

So a big thank you to everyone for helping make my job easy.

All the best to the incoming Sergeant who I'm sure will continue the tradition while putting their own stamp on the fines session.

Val Henry
Sergeant-at-Arms 2022/23



11.5 On-to-Conference

It was good to have thirteen delegates at the District Conference, held in Canberra over the weekend 3-5 March 2023. There were many highlights for all our delegates which meant we are all the richer for attending this conference.



We were dressed in our gear for the Conference Dinner. We addressed the “*Looking at the past, embracing the future*” theme by recognising some of our Club’s project highlights from “across the ages”.



The opportunity to meet with many fine Rotarians was appreciated by all. It was really good to meet with folk who have long years of Rotary experience, and just great to meet new Rotarians who are keen to learn more about this wonderful organisation.

It was amazing to witness the impact of Rotary in the world; one Club linking with another Club and serving humanity.

Plan now to join the conference for next year, which will be held at Warrnambool on 22-24 March 2024.

The southwest of our state is a wonderful region to explore and enjoy. I look forward to sharing with you in the final District 9810 Conference as the following year we will be 9815.



Prepared on behalf of ...

John Poke
President 2022/23

11.6 Membership at a Glance

Details of our Club membership and associated activities are presented in **Section 8**.

Club Membership at a Glance is as follows:

- Members Lost During 2022/2023:
 - Eddie Post (passed away 22 December 2022)
 - Jennifer Critchlow (resigned)
 - Geraint Gardner (resigned)
 - Maria Thompson (resigned).
- New Members During 2022/2023:
 - Geoff Griffin (23 August 2022)
 - Marina Barker (6 September 2022)
 - Helen Urban (6 September 2022)
 - Julienne Hyams (17 November 2022)
 - Brad Hebblethwaite (28 February 2023)
 - Kathy Liu (4 April 2023)
 - Sandra Hayes (18 April 2023)
 - Bronwyn Chang (2 May 2023).
- Honorary Members 2022/2023:
 - Stephen Payne;
 - Jayne Zunneberg.
- Total Membership:

During 2022/23, our total membership increased from forty-four (44) to a total of forty-eight (48) members, comprising:

 - 46 Financial; and
 - 2 Honorary.

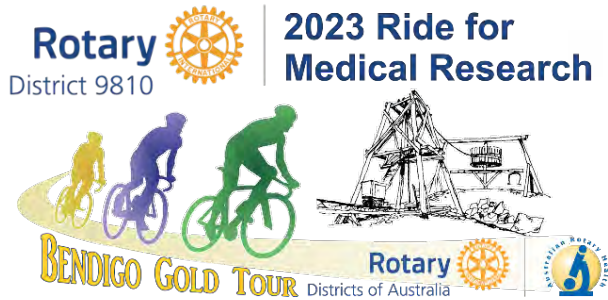


A list of our members as of 30 June 2023 is presented in **Appendix B**.

12 Australian Rotary Health – 2023 Ride for Medical Research

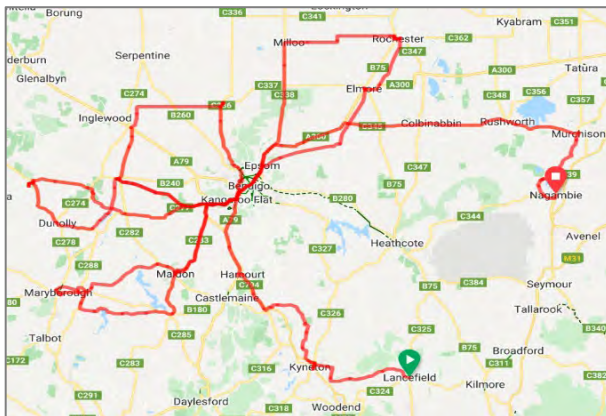


“Bendigo Gold Tour”:



The 36th Ride for Medical Research from Lancefield to Kirwans Bridge was a meandering route based around Bendigo, the “**Bendigo Gold Tour**”.

This year we had thirty riders, nine support crew and two others helping, unable to ride due to injury. Originally, we had the full thirty-six ride spaces filled, but injury, illness and family issues saw four pull out at the last minute.



More than two thirds of the participants this year were non-Rotarians; although some have an association many do not, which is both terrific in one way, raising funds outside of Rotarians pockets, and a little sad in another, where originally the vast majority of riders were Rotarians.

The ride began in Lancefield from where we made our way to Bendigo via Kyneton (for lunch) and Harcourt. Over the six days of the ride from Day 2, riding out from and returned to Bendigo, passing through many historic towns, such as Maldon, Newstead, Moliagul (home of the welcome stranger gold nugget and John Flynn, the founder of the flying Doctor service), Tarnagulla and many more. The ride took in the sights and scenery along the way, admiring a lot of silo and town wall murals, generally having a lot of fun. Sadly, some of the towns we passed through, such as Tarnagulla, were well on the way to becoming ghost towns.





As per a typical ride, weight loss was not on the agenda, with excellent food provided at all lunch stops and nightly dinners in various Local Bendigo venues. No problems with lunchtime leftovers; there either were none, or they were consumed at some point in the afternoon, at the afternoon cyclists' fuel stop or Club Chardy that evening. This year the riders and drivers were particularly rowdy, and it was great to see everyone having a good time.

Of course, we can't have a ride without "Club Chardy", organised by Gonny, which raised another \$500 for Australian Rotary Health. Everyone appreciates a nice cool drink and a few nibbles after a hard day on the road!



Thanks must go to the organising committee, all the riders and support crew; but I would like to particularly thank those from our Club who helped out on the committee: Glenn for his printing services, Peter for creating the web sites for the ride and virtual ride, Ken for organising the cars and making sure we had District insurance cover, Gonny for organising Club Chardy, team snacks and drinks and the dinner bookings, and John White for organising the team shirts and radios.

Thanks also, to those Club members who took on the role as support drivers, one of the toughest jobs, as the newbies found out. Thanks to Leigh Elsey, who also provided the use of his own vehicle, Jane Mifsud and her husband David, Steve Payne and John White. Without the support they provided we would not have been able to run the ride.

I also would like to express special thanks Eddie Post, who prior to his passing had started confirming the drivers and made sure someone knew where everything for the support trailers and vehicles was kept. A big thankyou also to Kia and Nissan Dandenong for supplying vehicles at no cost.

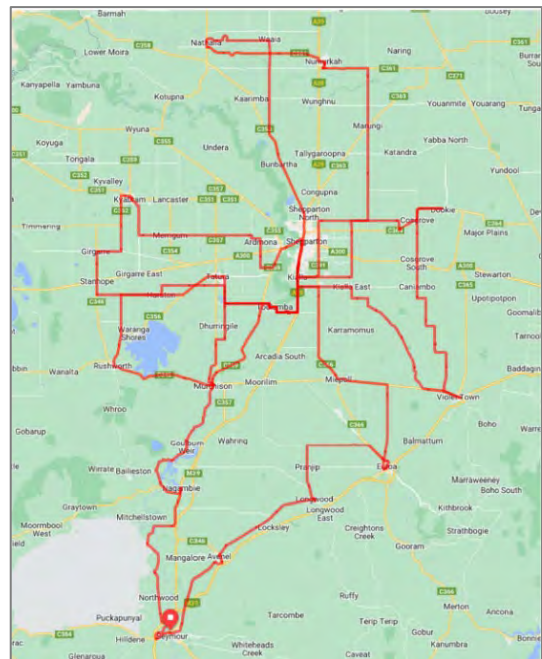
As of this latest ride, we have now ridden over 29,880 kilometres and the ride this year raised a further \$35,477.00. We again incorporated a virtual ride, “**The Mad March Challenge**”, which raised \$2,430.00, bringing the total raised to \$37,907.00 to date this year. The Ride Committee account will add to that total, bringing it to \$40,907.00 for 2023. The total raised by the ride for Australian Rotary Health over the years it has been conducted is now \$1,284,435.00 (a bit over 20% of the District’s total donations since the inception of Australian Rotary Health).



Many thanks to all those who participated, those who supported the participants with their generous sponsorship donations and the committee members for all their work through the year, planning and facilitating the successful event that it was.

2024 Ride – “The Fruit Bowl Roll”:

Watch out for next year, originally the 2023 ride was looking to be the last District 9810 Ride, but at the organising committee’s 2023 washup meeting we decided, due to popular demand, to give another one a go. The proposed dates for the next ride are 3-8 March 2024; the ride will be centred around the town of Shepparton, travelling from Seymour to Seymour.



If you would like to join the committee or take part in next year’s event please talk to Stephen.

2023 Committee Members:

Members of the 2023 Ride organising committee were:

- **Rotarians:** Stephen Spiers (Joint Ride Coordinator), Ken Barrett, John White, Gonny Rundell, Peter Dalwood, Glenn Tippet (all Rotary Club of Boronia) and Nicole Osner (Rotary Club of Mount Waverley).
- **Non-Rotarians:** David Brown (Joint Ride Coordinator), Karen Brown, Will McKeown, Karlo Lavicka.

Stephen Spiers

Ride Chair and Coordinator

On behalf of the "Ride for Medical Research" Committee

13 In Memoriam

Vale Eddie Post¹

(Passed 22 December 2022)

Eddie Post joined the Rotary Club of Boronia on 24 January 1995 ... so he gave almost 28 years of Rotary service to the local and international communities.

Eddie was always an active member of our Club; he was always involved, whether it be in higher profile Club projects or lower profile/behind the scenes projects and activities.

Eddie served on all our service committees over the years, often as Committee Chair, with a greater involvement in International Service and Club Fellowship.

His interest in serving International Communities led him to participation in two Save Water Save Lives projects, travelling to Papua New Guinea to build water tanks in 1998/99 and again as part of a District team a couple of years later.

This interest was rekindled with another overseas Rotary trip to help build a girls' dormitory and build a water tank on Taveuni Island, Fiji in 2010. A Rotary Club of Knox initiative saw Eddie and wife Michele together and Peter and Jan Malden travel to Fiji for the "Spirit of Sharing" project. Fantastic fellowship mixed with lots and lots of hard, hot work and more than enough issues to solve – oh, and just a few Fiji Bitters – made this a trip to remember forever!

A project in which Eddie was passionately involved was the "Ride for Research Dollars" or "Ride for Medical Research" as it has been more recently known. For well over twenty years Eddie has been riding, helping raise funds for Australian Rotary Health, with Michele coming along as a support driver to keep an eye on him. During this time more than a million dollars was raised.

Eddie's association with the "Ride" as a rider and an effective fundraiser (always the first one to get his sponsorship sheet out to the Rotary Club) is well known, but there is much more that Eddie did in the background. As a long serving member of the ride organising committee, over more than 20 years, Eddie was involved with sourcing support vehicles; arranging safety, sponsorship and Rotary signage; chasing up and coordinating support drivers; helping with route planning; sourcing communications equipment; and picking up, maintaining, repairing and setting up the Ride's support trailers. Always generous with his time, for many years Eddie along with Michele offered their property as a meeting place and parking lot for the start of a number of rides, using their yard for the pre-ride storage of the support trailers, as well as the gathering spot and carwash after the ride, where any loan vehicles would be cleaned prior to returning them.



¹ Words drawn from Eulogies presented by Past Presidents Jim Sly, Stephen Spiers and Peter Malden at Eddie's memorial service.

Eddie was our Club Secretary in 2001/02 and 2002/03, before going on to serve as the Club's 37th President in 2004/05, a year during which we celebrated the Centenary of Rotary. One of Eddie's main objectives for the year was to hold our Club together in Fellowship, an objective that was well achieved. His strong support of the Club's fellowship program continued throughout his years in Rotary.



During his Presidential year, Eddie, Michele and family hosted Janni Moller from Denmark, one of several Exchange Students they hosted, which also included Minami Tsuburaya from Japan, Stephanie Rose from Canada, and Heikki Tanner from Finland.

Eddie and Michele also home hosted inbound Group Study Exchange Team members (young professionals) on several occasions, and this welcoming open house approach was extended to the Club. For several years they hosted the first meeting of the year (a Fellowship event) at their home, as well as Guess Who's Coming to Dinner events.

Not only did Rotary gain a fantastic member in Eddie, but when Michele joined Inner Wheel, that organisation gained an energetic partner who was always there to assist and offer a hand. For Eddie, in cohorts with Peter Malden, the Rotary and Inner Wheel conferences and meeting activities then blurred together; after starting in Canberra, they travelled all over Australia. Along the way Eddie and Peter created the "Guinness Club" and along with other members are the only all male group to have their photo in the Inner Wheel National Magazine.

Eddie's extensive contribution through Rotary has been recognised by the award of two Paul Harris Fellowships.

Some closing comments in memory of Eddie:

"Eddie was a great friend and supporter of the ride he was such an integral part of. He will be sadly missed on the next Ride by us all, but I am sure he will be with us in spirit."

"A better Rotarian you will not find. Service Above Self to be sure."

"Rest in peace Eddie knowing you have left this Earth a better place."

"Like many others, one of the benefits I have gained through my membership of Rotary is establishing great friends and colleagues; I am pleased and privileged to count Eddie as one of the best. May he rest in peace!"

Appendix A Club Photograph



Rotary Club of Boronia
Members present at Club meeting – 4th July 2023

Appendix B Club Members as at 30 June 2023

Member	Classification	Partner
ANDERSON Heather	Community Development	Lawrie
BARKER Marina		
BARRETT Ken	Insurance General	Miriam
CASSIDY Paul	Engineering General	Gaye
CHANG Bronwyn	Physiotherapy	Darrell
CRAGO Bruce	Local Government Management	Margaret
DAFF Lillian	Travel Agent	Stephen
DALWOOD Peter	IT Systems Analyst (Retired)	Pam
DEEKS Jarom	Cattery Operator	Erin
DEVESON Lance	Information Services	Liz
ELSEY Leigh	Manufacturing	Betty
GIBSON Doug	Menswear Retail	Ellen
GRIFFIN Geoff		Annette
HANGER Susan	Counselling Service	Brian
HAWORTH Annette	Pre-School Teaching	
HAYES Sandra		Barry
HEBBLETHWAITE Brad	Metal Polishing	Marie
HENRY Valerie	Retired	
HYAMS Julianne	Primary & Secondary School Business Manager	
JACOBS Michael	Law - General Practice	Julianne
JENKINS Alan	Business Consultant	Val
KARAJAS Chris	Public Service (Retired)	Karen
KARAJAS Melanie		
LIU Kathy		Justin
LJ HOOKER Boronia represented by KAROLOS Julien	Real Estate Agency	
MALDEN Peter	Telecommunications	Jan
MIFSUD Jane	Massage Therapy	David
MOSSOP Greg	Occupational Rehabilitation	Janine
O'SHEA Ryan	Tax and Audit Accountant	Marcia
PAYNE Stephen	Honorary	Lillian
PERERA Dushan	Refrigeration Equipment Import and Export	Niranjala
POKE John	Fundraiser	Mary
RUNDELL Gonny	Commercial Property Management	John
SIEGERSMA Ray		Annette
SLY Jim	Environmental Engineering	Lucille
SMITH Mark	Business Solutions/Stationary	Monique

Member	Classification	Partner
SMITH Monique	Business Solutions/Stationary	Mark
SPIERS Stephen	Commercial Refrigeration	Jane
SPINOSA-CATTELA Richard	Consultancy	Anne-Maree
TAYLOR Jackson	Member of Parliament	
THOMPSON Maria	Clinical Counselling (Psychology)	
TIPPETT Glenn	Printing Sales Management	Shereen
URBAN Helen	Insurance Broker	Duane
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

Appendix C 2022/23 Committee Membership

Community Service/Environment:

Bernadette Vanderwolde – Chair
Paul Cassidy
Peter Van Zeyl
Heather Anderson
Eddie Post²
Jackson Taylor
Jennifer Critchlow³
Helen Urban

Membership and Welfare Inclusion:

Greg Mossop – Chair
Mark Smith
Doug Gibson
Leigh Elsey
Maria Thompson³
Jim Sly
Susan Hanger
Julien Karalos
Kathy Liu
Brad Hebblethwaite
Marina Barker

International Service:

Peter Malden – Chair
Richard Spinosa-Cattela
Dushan Perera

Youth and Vocational Service:

Jane Mifsud – Chair
Chris Karajas
Ray Siegersma
Mel Karajas
Lance Deveson
Glenn Tippett
Annette Haworth
Geraint Gardner³
Bronwyn Chang

Fundraising and Fellowship:

John White – Chair
Ken Barrett
Michael Jacobs
Monique Smith
Jarom Deeks
Bruce Crago
Ryan O'Shea
Stephens Spiers
Val Henry
Julienne Hyams
Gonny Rundell
Sandra Hayes

Public Image:

Glenn Tippett – Chair
Mel Karajas
Jim Sly
Geoff Griffin

Foundation:

Neville Windebank – Chair
Janet Windebank
Peter Malden

² Passed away during 2022/23.

³ Resigned from Club during 2022/23.

Club Service:

Greg Mossop – Chair/President Elect
Peter Dalwood – Vice Chair (Treasurer)

Bulletin Editor:

Melanie Karajas

Program Coordinator:

Janet Windebank

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Val Henry

Club Welfare:

Doug Gibson
Maria Thompson
Jim Sly

Facebook Administrators:

Glenn Tippett

Club History and Archives:

Jim Sly
Lance Deveson

Attendance/Knox Club Liaison:

John White

Club Protection/Risk Management Officer:

Bernadette Vanderwolde

Club Photographer:

Glenn Tippett

Technology Support:

Peter Dalwood
Jim Sly

Website Administrator:

Jim Sly

D.2 Golf Day Sponsors



- **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
- **Muscle Harmony – Wantirna**
 - Jane Mifsud
- **Dorset Business Solutions/Office Choice – Boronia**
 - Monique and Mark Smith
- **WIM Technologies – Bayswater**
 - Ray Siegersma

D.3 Friends of Rotary 2022/23



- **Razer Graphix – Wantirna**
 - Alan Rye, Glenn Tippett and staff
- **Meyer Cookware Australia – Croydon South**
- **Mr Ajay Amrit – Fijian High Commissioner to Australia**
- **Mr Reg Hodgson – Honorary Consul for Fiji**
- **Knox Infolink**
 - Denise Budge/Penny Robinson and staff
- **Knox Community Christmas Support**
 - Julie Hanman, Lori Dudley and team
- **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**
 - Lisa Burt and staff
- **Boronia RSL**
 - Rod Canobie and members
- **Bunnings Warehouse – Bayswater**
 - Karen MacDonald and Em Barker
- **Country Women’s Association (CWA) – Boronia Branch**
- **Lightwavez Design – Bayswater**
 - Les Marton
- **Days for Girls – Ferntree Gully Chapter**
 - Michelle Gates and colleagues

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

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Web: <http://www.rotaryboronia.org.au/>**