

Rotary Club of Boronia

INCORPORATED • REG NO A0018626A

DISTRICT 9815 • VICTORIA • AUSTRALIA

Charter granted 25th April 1968

President: Monique Smith
Secretary: Peter Dalwood

Fifty-seventh Annual Report 2024-2025





“The Magic of Rotary”

Rotary International Theme
2024/2025

The Rotary Club of Boronia (Inc)

Board of Directors 2024/2025

President	Monique Smith
Secretary	Peter Dalwood
Treasurer	Mark Smith
President Elect	Bernadette Vanderwolde
President Nominee	Ray Siegersma
Club Service	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Foundation	Neville Windebank
Community Service and Environment	Ray Siegersma
International Service	Neville Windebank
Youth and Vocational Service	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Fundraising/Entrepreneurial Development	Annette Griffin
Public Image	Glenn Tippet
Membership and Wellbeing	Geoff Griffin
Immediate Past President	Greg Mossop

Sergeant-at-Arms

Ray Siegersma



"Unite for Good"
Rotary International Theme
2025/2026

The Rotary Club of Boronia (Inc)

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President	Bernadette Vanderwolde
Secretary	Peter Dalwood
Treasurer	Mark Smith
President Elect	Ray Siegersma
President Nominee	Geoff Griffin
Club Service	Ray Siegersma
Foundation	Neville Windebank
Community Service	Peter Malden
Environment	Annette Griffin
International Service	Neville Windebank
Youth and Vocational Service	Ray Siegersma
Fundraising	Helene Kamieth
Public Image	Glenn Tippet
Membership and Wellbeing	Geoff Griffin
Social/Fellowship	Jan Malden
Immediate Past President	Monique Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms

Michael Jacobs

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1 President's Report



As I reflect on the past year at the Rotary Club of Boronia, it is with immense pride that I present this report. This year has been a remarkable journey filled with significant accomplishments, community engagement, and personal growth, all made possible through the collective efforts of our dedicated members. We have witnessed remarkable growth and engagement within our community, driven by our shared vision and dedication to service.

Leadership Reflection

Looking back on my year as president, I am filled with gratitude for the trust and support I received from each member. I want to take a moment to say thank you for all the support you've shown me this year. Serving as your President has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I've cherished every single moment. It's been a busy year, yes, but the rewards have been profound – both for the Club and on a personal level. When people ask if I have enjoyed being President, I can say without hesitation that I have, because of each member. We make a great team. You have all done the hard work, and I've had the honour of representing your dedication and passion. I am so proud to be a member of the Rotary Club of Boronia. Together, we have made a meaningful impact in our community and beyond, and I'm filled with excitement about where we can go from here. This experience has enhanced my confidence as a leader and deepened my appreciation for the incredible talent and experience within our Club. The journey has been transformative, and I owe my growth to the unwavering encouragement from all of you.

Key Achievements and Initiatives – Highlights Only

■ Boronia K-12 Interact Club Formation

The formation of the Boronia K-12 Interact Club has been a significant milestone for our Club, allowing us to engage with local youth. This initiative empowers young people to take an active role in community service, fostering leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. The Interact Club has already got ideas for projects, including organising a café that supports the community, reinforcing our connection with the community.



■ Recognition and Awards



Our Club was awarded the GOLD Club Excellence Award for District 9815, recognising our commitment to service and the positive impact we have made. This accolade reflects the hard work and dedication of all our members.

■ Christmas Service Project

Our Christmas Service Project was an endeavour where members came together to pack food for Knox Infolink and toiletry hampers for Tamminya House for families in need. This initiative not only provided essential supplies but also fostered a sense of community spirit during the festive season.



■ Youth Skills Shed

The Youth Skills Shed program has been a beacon of opportunity for local youth, providing hands-on learning experiences and skill development. The program's opening ceremony was met with enthusiasm, showcasing the positive impact it has on participants and the potential for future expansions. Having completed its 3rd round of sessions, this project has proven to be so successful. The kids get so much out of it, as well as the volunteers and tradies.



■ Defibrillator for Knox Infolink

A defibrillator was donated to Knox Infolink late 2024. Thankfully this was available as it was used to save a life recently. A huge shout out to Ben Giaurd for his quick actions and the use of the defib.

■ District 9815 Conference – Bendigo

A group of 17 members/partners attended the District 9815 Conference in Bendigo. It was a fun weekend, where we enjoyed each other's company, met lots of new people, listened to engaging speakers.



■ Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Trivia Night was a resounding success, raising significant funds for Disaster Aid Australia, funding a water purification filter in Timor-Leste. This event not only provided a platform for fun and camaraderie but also strengthened our Club's community ties, making it a highlight of our social calendar.

Community Engagement



- **Knox Volunteer Expo:** Our active participation in the Knox Volunteering Expo allowed us to connect with potential new members while showcasing the impactful work we do. We were proud to be nominated for the Knox Community Volunteer Awards, recognising our commitment to service and community involvement. Ray Siegersma was given the prestigious recognition of Knox Volunteer of the Year.

- **ANZAC Service:** Each year we run an ANZAC Service for the local school children. This year we had around 450 children and many councillors and dignitaries join us. As always, it was a wonderful day, and so important for the children to learn of our ANZAC history.

- **Knox Rocks Concert:** Knox Rocks is a youth songwriting initiative, where secondary aged participants, learn how to express themselves through songwriting. This is such a powerful project which was celebrated at a concert where the participants were able to perform their final creations.



Service Projects

Throughout the year, we engaged in numerous service projects, including:

- **Knox Community Christmas Support:** We helped Knox Infolink with picking up donated items, delivered to a central location where goods could be sorted.
- **Infolink Breakfast Program:** Providing volunteers 4 mornings a week to support the breakfast program, ensuring that people in our community have access to delicious and healthy meals, build relationships, get access to local services and support networks.



- **Environmental Initiatives:** We partnered with the Bayswater Rotary Club for a tree planting event, contributing to local sustainability efforts. We also have garden plots at Knox Community Gardens, where a team of volunteers grow produce which is used at the Knox Infolink Breakfast program.
- **Different Journeys:** We ran BBQ's for the swim events run at Knox Leisureworks, providing a meal for the participants.
- **Little Street Libraries:** We now have 8 libraries installed across our community, providing books for people to borrow.
- **Backpacks 4 VicKids:** We ran a sewing day, where we made Santa Sacks and bucket hats for children in need for Backpacks 4 Vic Kids. We also had a collection of much needed items that were delivered, including toiletries, underwear, socks etc.



Fundraising events

We successfully held numerous fundraising events, including:

- Trivia Night
- High Tea – Hayden's Helping Hands
- Glengollan Village Online raffle
- Boronia Hotel Community BBQ
- Golf Day
- Raffles
- Bunnings BBQ's



New Member Inductions

We proudly welcomed several new members this year, enhancing the diversity and strength of our Club. We welcomed Ron Brooks, Beth Pardoe, Helene Kamieth, Michele Post, Vanesshka Seevathean and Lyn Shepherd.

Paul Harris Fellow Awards

This year, we recognised outstanding members with Paul Harris Fellow awards, honouring their dedication and contributions to our mission. Recipients included:



- Geoff Griffin – for his warmth and support of fellow members.
- Annette Griffin – for her exceptional organisational skills as Fundraising Chair.
- Jim Sly – for his extensive contributions over 36 years.
- Lance Deveson – for his dedication to community service and mentoring.
- Glenn Tippet – for his mentorship and contributions to our Club and the District.
- Ray Siegersma – for his innovative projects and recent Volunteer of the Year recognition.

Community Award

I would also like to acknowledge an outstanding member of our community, Penny Robinson, the Centre Manager at Knox Infolink. Her passion for helping the community is truly commendable. Penny's tireless work with the Breakfast Program and her dedication to supporting those in need exemplify the spirit of service we hold dear.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Board members for their dedication and collaboration:

- *Past President* – Greg Mossop
- *Secretary* – Peter Dalwood
- *Treasurer* – Mark Smith
- *Youth Chair* – Bernadette Vanderwolde
- *Community Chair* – Ray Siegersma
- *International Chair* – Neville Windebank
- *Public Image Chair* – Glenn Tippet
- *Fundraising Chair* – Annette Griffin
- *Social Chair* – Gonny Rundell
- *Membership/ Wellbeing Chair* – Geoff Griffin



Together, we have formed a remarkable team that has achieved significant progress. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to making this year a success.

Conclusion

As I conclude this report, I want to take a moment to reflect on the essence of what it means to be part of the Rotary Club of Boronia. This year has been more than just a series of accomplishments and projects; it has been a journey of connection, compassion, and community. Each of you has played an integral role in weaving the fabric of our Club, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

Witnessing our members come together to support one another, to serve our community, and to inspire change has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The dedication you have shown, whether through organising events, volunteering your time, or simply being there for one another, exemplifies the true spirit of Rotary—Service Above Self.

As we celebrate our achievements, let us also look ahead to the opportunities that await us. There is so much more we can accomplish together. I encourage each of you to continue to bring your passion, your ideas, and your heart to our Club. Together, we can build on the strong foundation we have established and make an even greater impact in our community and the world.

Thank you for your support and commitment throughout this year. It has been an honour to serve as your president, and I am excited to see where our collective journey will take us next. Let us continue to inspire one another, uplift our community, and embody the values we hold dear. Together, we are not just a Club; we are a family dedicated to making a difference.



Monique Smith
Rotary Club of Boronia
President 2024/2025



Rotary
Club of Boronia



Rotary
Club of Boronia



*2024-
2025
at a
Glance*



**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

- High Tea – raised \$2000 for Hayden's Helping Hands
- RYLA – Supported 2 participants, with Nic becoming a Rotaract member
- Polio Plus Donation \$1000 USD matched by District and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Wearing Red in support of World Polio Day
- Xmas in July event – members wearing Xmas attire
- Attendance to the DG's Partner project at the Chinese Restaurant
- Different Journeys Swim Event BBQ
- Completion of the Wine Raffle – raising over \$5000
- Glengollan Online Raffle – proceeds to Garden Furniture
- Little Street Libraries – Ongoing maintenance and re-stocking of books
- Infolink Breakfast Program – Volunteers 4 days a week
- Collection of goods for Backpacks 4 Vic Kids
- Community Gardens – growing produce for the community
- Supplied Aprons for Infolink Breakfast Program
- Contributed \$5000 to the Connecting Kids Program
- Raised \$1255 DG's Partners Project – Monash Children's Cancer Centre, via TJ Bears & donations
- Club Workshop – Working on ideas – Area's of Focus
- Boronia Hotel BBQ's – Community Engagement Program
- Social Events – Dinner Caesars Restaurant and visit to Open Gardens/Lunch Monbulk
- Sewing Day for Backpacks 4 Vic Kids – Santa Sacks & Bucket Hats
- Support of Bridge Builders Postie Ride - \$1000
- Purchase of Defib for Knox Infolink
- Bunnings Halloween Night
- Bunnings Xmas Night
- Food packing Project – Knox Infolink
- Toiletry Bags Packing for Tamminya House
- Days for Girls – Help with Bags and Bunnings BBQ
- Christmas Break Up at the CWA Hall
- CWA Hall - garden maintenance
- KCCS – Knox Community Christmas Support – Donation collections
- Christmas Gift Wrapping at Westfield Knox
- Local Schools Presentations – Watches & Certificates
- Attendance DG Partners project Gala Dinner
- New Member Inductions (5)– Ron Brooks, Beth Pardoe, Helene Kamieth, Michele Post, Vanesschka Seevathean
- Knox Community Gardens – Vocational Visit
- Installation of DEFIB at Knox Infolink
- Picnic at Quarry Reserve – 1st get together 2025
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzles
- Vocational Visit to Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple
- Annual Golf Day
- MOU set up with Eastern Health
- Youth Skills Shed – Round 2
- Knox Rocks Concert
- Presentation of PHF to Ben Giraud – Infolink Breakfast Co-ordinator
- Participation in Ride for Medical Research
- PELDS
- Attended Bendigo Conference
- Funding towards the purchase of a Marquee for BHPS
- Community Group 4 Combined meeting & Workshop hosted by RCB
- Delivered dental equipment to Rotary DIK
- Attended Bingo Night – Rotary Club of Belgrave
- ANZAC Ceremony for local school children
- Presented Tamminya House with \$2575 – proceeds from Golf Day
- Presented Days for Girls \$2500 – Proceeds from Bunnings BBQ
- Supported Knox Infolink with Breakfast Sausage Sizzle ABC Radio
- Probus Croydon Park AGM
- Mothers Day Sausage Sizzle – Bunnings Bayswater
- Attended Disaster Aid Fundraiser – Comedy Night
- Attended Probus Boronia 1st Anniversary Celebration
- Participate in District Assembly session – 'How to run a Successful project'
- Nomination for 2025 Knox Community Organisation of the Year
- Ray & Monique nominated for 2025 Knox Volunteer of the Year
- Street Library No. 8 - Knox Infolink
- Youth Skills Shed – Round 3
- Working with Bayswater Rotary Club – National Tree Planting Day
- Initiate Discussion New Project – Mens Hub (mental Health)
- Completed & Submitted Framework for Improvement – Club Excellence Awards
- Social Activities 1812 Theatre & Lume Melbourne
- Knox Volunteer Expo
- District Assembly presentation – How to run an Amazing Project
- Sri Lankan Cataract Surgery for Children Project \$2000
- Interact Club Chartered Boronia K-12
- \$1000 Disaster Response – Flood Relief
- GOLD Club Excellence Award
- Signage organised for community gardens
- Attended Rotary Club Maroondah Gala Ball
- \$1000 Disaster Response - Drought Relief
- NYSF Sponsor Participant
- New member Induction - Lyn Sheperd
- 1st Interact meeting Boronia K-12
- Hours & Hours of work behind the scenes



Rotary
Club of Boronia

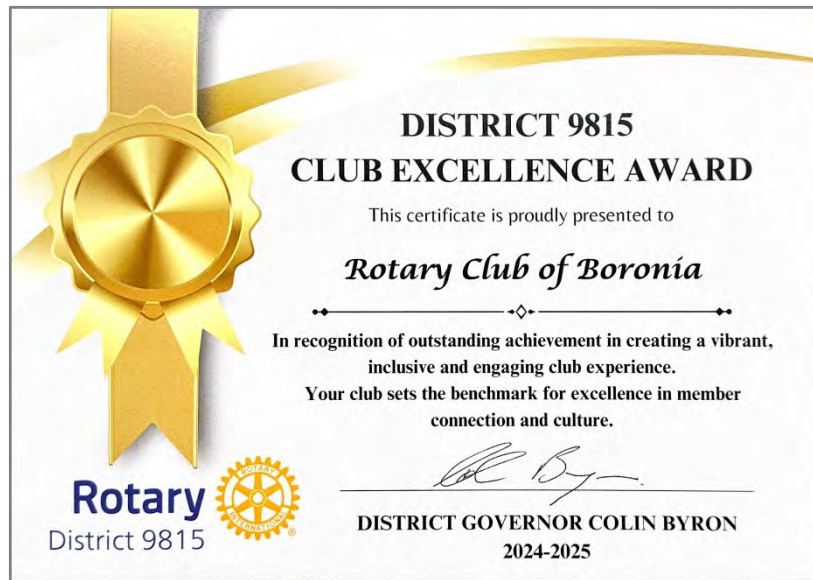


2 Awards

2.1 Rotary Club Excellence Awards

The achievements of our Club during the 2024/25 Rotary year were recognised by both District and Rotary International.

The Club was initially awarded a **GOLD Club Excellence Award** by District 9815 Governor, Colin Byron:



This was followed by a **Club Excellence Award** from Rotary International, signed by 2024/25 Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick and Chair of The Rotary Foundation, Mark Moloney:



The certificate from Rotary International was accompanied by the following note of congratulations:

Dear 2024-25 Club President,

Congratulations! Your club has earned the Club Excellence Award, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2024-25. This past year, your club demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.

Congratulations on a successful year as club president!

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Urchick

2024-25 RI President

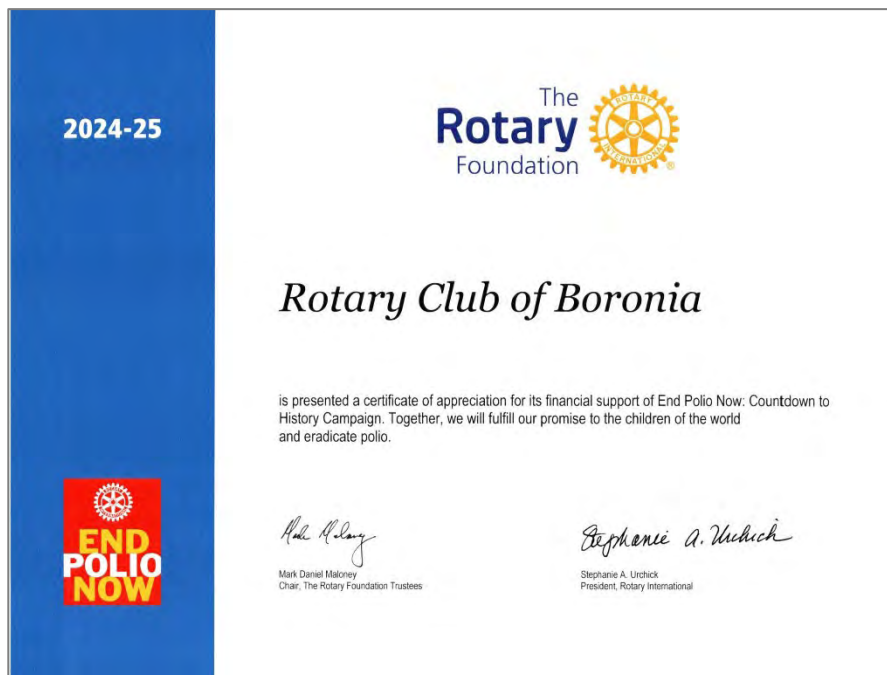
These recognitions are awarded to Clubs who set and achieve their goals for the Rotary year. This year's awards were based on achievement in areas including:

- ***Increasing our impact*** – some of our projects have included ongoing support of the **Knox Infolink Breakfast Program**; launching of the **Youth Skills Shed** for primary school aged children; embedment of the **Knox Rocks** youth music therapy project; the provision of **Christmas Food Hampers** for distribution by Knox Infolink and Tamminya House; operating two garden plots at the **Knox Community Gardens** where produce is shared with the Knox Infolink Breakfast Program; the annual **ANZAC Day Commemoration Service** for primary school students.
- ***Enhancing participant engagement*** – leadership development; increasing our membership and ensuring that members are engaged; maintaining a welcoming environment for members and visitors; improving communication.
- ***Expanding our reach*** – we have formed new relationships with groups in our community, for example Boronia K-12 College, which has resulted in more focussed activities such as chartering of a school-based Interact Club (a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people), and support for involvement in the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program; we donated a defibrillator to Knox Infolink, which has been used to save a life; and we have shared our successes through online and local media.
- ***Increasing our ability to adapt*** – we conduct 'hybrid' meetings, which enable members and others to attend in-person or online; we promote flexibility in member participation and welcome family members, including children, at our meetings and other activities; we have explored the idea of "Value Proposition" as a means of demonstrating the benefits of being a Rotarian and the positive effects of volunteering.

The Rotary Club of Boronia can be proud of its achievement!

2.2 End Polio Now

The Club was also recognised by The Rotary Foundation for our contribution in support of the *End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign*. It was noted that we were one of the first ten Clubs who contributed \$1000 USD, which was matched 2-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and by our District.



This contribution was also separately acknowledged by District.



2.3 Paul Harris Fellow Awards

2.3.1 Club Awards

As is tradition in our Club, it was again the privilege of the President to present Paul Harris Fellows to members who have made significant contributions to the Club's activities at our annual Changeover. The following were acknowledged by the presentation of PHF recognition by outgoing President Greg:



- **Geoff Griffin** was presented with a PHF for his warmth and support of fellow members.
- **Annette Griffin** was presented with a PHF for her exceptional organisational skills as Fundraising Chair.
- **Jim Sly** was presented with a PHF with three Sapphires for his extensive contributions over 36 years.
- **Lance Deveson** was presented with a PHF with two Sapphires for his dedication to community service and mentoring.
- **Glenn Tippet** was presented with a PHF with six Sapphires for his mentorship and contributions to our Club and the District.
- **Ray Siegersma** was presented with a PHF with one Sapphire for his innovative projects and recent Volunteer of the Year recognition.



President Monique Smith with first time PHF awardees: Geoff and Annette Griffin (left) and 'repeat offenders': Jim Sly, Lance Deveson, Glenn Tippet and Ray Siegersma (below).



2.3.2 External Award

In March 2025, the President Monique presented Ben Giraud, Program Coordinator at Knox Infolink, with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his ongoing service to the community and his recent heroic response to a life-threatening situation.

In an event that took place earlier in the year, Ben responded to a 23-year-old unconscious male in the adjacent (to Infolink) Boronia Progress Hall. He called 000 and when asked if there was a defibrillator nearby, he was able to confirm, thanks to the donation made by our Club late last in 2024. Maintaining his composure, Ben followed the defibrillator's instructions and performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, stabilising the young man until paramedics arrived. Thanks to Ben's efforts, the young man survived and subsequently recovered.



PHF awardee Ben Giraud (left) with President Monique Smith.

2.4 Walter Goodwin Award

This was the third year that the Club presented the 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.

This year's Walter J Goodwin Award was presented to **Ray Siegersma** for his outstanding service to our Club and the community. The award was presented by the previous year's winner, Paul Cassidy.



*Walter J Goodwin Award recipient,
Ray Siegersma*

2.5 Other Club Awards

At our annual Changeover, President Monique presented **Paul Cassidy** with a President's Award in recognition of his ever-present support of the Club's activities.



*President's Award recipient, Paul Cassidy
with President Monique Smith*



*Community Service Award recipient,
Penny Robinson with
President Monique Smith*

President Monique also presented **Penny Robinson** with a Community Service Award in recognition of the outstanding work she does as Centre Manager at Knox Infolink.

2.6 Knox Community Awards

The community service provided by the Rotary Club of Boronia and our members was again acknowledged at the 2025 Knox Community Service Awards.

Club President, Monique Smith and Community Services Director, Ray Siegersma were both nominated for “*Outstanding Volunteer Service*” and “*Knox Volunteer of the Year*” awards. Ray was recognised as one of five recipients in the “*Outstanding Volunteer Service*” category:

Congratulations Ray.

The Club was recognised as a nominee in the “*Knox Community Organisation of the Year*” award category.



3 Administration

3.1 Secretary's Report



When asked by then President-Elect Monique if I would take on the role of Secretary, I was happy to accept and looked forward to working with her and the other members of her Board. Now, as we approach the end of the year, I look back on what has been a rewarding experience with a great deal of pleasure and pride at what we have achieved as a club. I have enjoyed working alongside Monique as President – what a great example and inspiration she has been to all of us this year!

As is usually the case for secretaries, my main tasks and responsibilities have been maintaining the records of Club activities, scheduling, attending and recording minutes of Board meetings and acting as the ‘middleman’ to ensure members are kept informed of what is going on in the Club and wider Rotary community. A principal tool for informing members is the report from the Board published in the Bulletin each month. I must thank President Monique for her reports to the Board – they were always well written and comprehensive and I was able to copy many items verbatim to form the bulk of the Board reports!

This year there has been an additional task on me as Secretary and a member of the technical team. Last year the Board approved applying to Microsoft for a free not-for-profit subscription to the Microsoft 365 suite of software products. When the approval for our ‘tenant’ came through toward the end of last Rotary year Jim Sly, Tom Mason and I set about switching on and configuring the main services including Teams for online meetings (replacing Zoom), Exchange for Club related email accounts and OneDrive/SharePoint for online storage. Throughout this year I have been working at collecting Club documents and other data from various sources and putting them all together in our new online ‘cloud’ storage, as well as assisting members of the Board to set up and use their email accounts and online storage access.

We now have permanent email accounts that may be published and remain current from year to year for all the Executive, Board and other principal Club roles. The actual mailboxes will be re-assigned to the relevant member/s each year. The roles and their assigned email addresses may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report. Where a member performs more than one role, their email addresses are linked so they only need to monitor a single mailbox.

I would also like to thank the other members of the Club Service team for their support, particularly Janet Windebank as Attendance officer and Ron Brooks who took over the role of Program chair mid-year while Robyn Green was not well and has done a wonderful job.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure being Club Secretary this year. Bernie has asked me to do it again next year and I look forward to another enjoyable year of service.

Peter Dalwood
Secretary 2024/2025

3.2 Treasurer's Report

This has been my first year as Treasurer for the Club, and I would like to thank Peter, Ryan and Monique for their help and support throughout the year.

Audited Financial Statements for the 2024/2025 Rotary year will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2025.

During the year, the Board recognised a build-up of excess funds in the Administration Account. The Club members were asked to vote on what to do with the excess funds; the result of the vote was as follows:

- \$3,400 transferred to the Committee account to be used in conjunction with the Wal Goodwin Bequest funds available in 2025/2026,
- \$1,700 to subsidise the Club Christmas Party and Changeover events, and
- \$3,400 to go to the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust.

The weekly raffle proceeds, as well as the Sergeant's fines, have continued to build the Administration Account balance so that we will be able to subsidise events and or membership in the future.

This year we added another bank account to administrate funds on behalf of the Chandler House Continuing Care team. Funds will be deposited into this account by Eastern Health, and our Club will manage the distribution of the funds under the direction of Chandler House. The funds are used to purchase equipment for their clients from smaller suppliers that are not registered in the Eastern Health system. These funds and transactions are separate from the Club funds and strict reporting is required by Eastern Health.

Our Club should be very proud of its achievements this year. Our fundraising efforts have been outstanding, and we have been able to contribute an enormous amount of \$60,975 back into the community through projects, donations and support.

A list of projects and organisations that we have supported financially is provided in **Table 1**.

Congratulations to Everyone!!

Mark Smith
Treasurer 2023/2024



Table 1 Projects funded and donations paid out during the 2024/25 Rotary Year (Unaudited)

Month	Project/Recipient	Amount
July	Polio Plus	1,550
July	RYLA	1,350
July	Youth Shed (Bendigo Bank Grant \$5,000; Club \$2,500)	7,500
Sept	Hayden's Helping Hands (High Tea)	2,000
Oct	Glengollan Raffle	360
Oct	Infolink Connecting Kids Program	5,000
Oct	Postie Ride Donation (Bridge Builders)	1,000
July-Nov	Knox Rocks Program & Concert (Tickets and Donation \$3,100; Club \$5,300)	8,400
Dec	DG Partner Project (Guest Speaker recognition and Teddy Bears)	1,800
Dec	RYDA Day (Boronia K12)	1,000
Dec	Infolink Defibrillator (this saved a life!)	1,800
Dec	Youth Skills Shed	2,750
Dec	School Award Presentations	485
Dec	SOSA Defibrillator	1,800
Jan	Infolink (Christmas Meal Vouchers)	935
Feb	Boronia Height Primary School (Marquee)	840
Feb	Disaster Aid (Sky Hydrant - Trivia Night)	6,000
March	Disaster Aid (Rotary Community Group Project)	500
April	Australian Rotary Foundation Trust (\$100 per member)	5,000
April	ANZAC Commemoration (Grant \$3,120; Club \$960)	4,850
April	Days For Girls (Bunnings BBQ)	2,500
April	Tamminya House (Golf Day)	2,575
May	Infolink BBQ Day Proceeds (Funds raised on the day)	1,750
May	Flood Relief Fund District 9660	1,000
June	RYLA Sponsorship	1,650
June	Street Library	150
June	Drought Relief Fund RAWCS	1,000
All Year	Countless hours of Volunteer time to make all of this happen	????
Total project expenditure and donations		\$ 65,545

Total: \$65,545

Congratulations to Everyone!!

4 Community Service and Environment



4.1 Overview

Committee:

- Ray Siegersma – Chair
- Paul Cassidy
- Ken Barrett
- Bruce Crago
- Annette Haworth
- Peter Malden
- John White
- Jackson Taylor
- John White
- Beth Pardoe.

Introduction:

This year the committee has focussed on the continuation of established programs and projects within our local community. These have included our ongoing support for Knox Infolink and Different Journeys; maintaining our fleet of Little Libraries; and conduct of the annual ANZAC Commemoration for local schools. Our garden plots at the Knox Community Garden are providing a steady source of produce for use by Knox Infolink in its breakfast and other community support programs.

A major achievement this year has been the opening and operation of the Rotary Club of Boronia Youth Skills Shed, which is located at the Boronia Heights Primary School. We have also commenced planning for a Men's Mental Health Hub.

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

It has been another very productive and rewarding year for the Community Service and Environment Committee. I thank my team for their hard work and the contributions each and every one has made through the year.

Ray Siegersma
Community Service and Environment Committee Chair



4.2 Knox Infolink

4.2.1 Introduction

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



4.2.2 Boronia Community Breakfast

Many Rotarians, along with other volunteers, help at the Community Breakfast held in the Boronia Progress Hall. Breakfast is provided 4 days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Funding remains an ongoing issue, and this has led to the loss of the Breakfast Program Coordinator, Ben. Existing Infolink staff have taken on extra work to cover Ben's loss. Infolink is exploring various funding avenues so the program can continue.

An ABC radio broadcast from the Progress Hall provided good publicity for Infolink and the breakfast program, while we assisted with a sausage sizzle that raised just over \$1,700 for Infolink.

Although having a good breakfast is the main function, the clients appreciate the opportunity for social engagement and soft entry to access various supports options.

The average attendance at the Community Breakfast is around 35 people with some 9,800 meals provided. Some client statistics:

- 12% were experiencing homelessness,
- 24% mentioned financial distress,
- 14% mentioned battles with addiction (alcohol, drugs and gambling),
- 15% described battling poor mental health,
- 186 clients accessed caseworker support,
- 86 clients were formally referred to external support services,
- 122 free haircuts provided, and
- 49 Centrelink appointments.



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

Paul Cassidy
Program Coordinator

4.2.3 Knox Community Christmas Support (KCCS)

Collection boxes for donated goods (food and toys) were distributed to 64 local businesses and with the help of Mark Smith, Penry Green, Ken Barrett, Ray Siegersma, Peter and Jan Malden, Peter Dalwood and Paul Cassidy these boxes were collected and taken to be sorted.

As a result, 800 people were helped, including 299 children who received beautiful toys and gifts, and 300 families who received nonperishable festive food hampers and Christmas items along with fresh fruit and vegetables, baked goods and meat vouchers.

A little something from KCCS organiser Julie Hanman:

“A massive, massive, massive thank you to the Rotary Club of Boronia again for all that you contribute to the Knox Community Christmas Support project. We could not have done it without you. Rotary have been amazing contributors to our program for years now, providing so much support in getting the donation boxes out to businesses / organizations across Knox and collecting them all again.”



Paul Cassidy
Program Coordinator

Thank you to our transport elves



Paul, Ray, Mark, Peter,
Penry, Peter and Jan



4.2.1 Connecting Kids Program

The Infolink Connecting Kids Program supports disadvantaged families who may not be able to afford various sport and recreational activities for their children. It includes activities such as football, basketball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.



The program had a shortfall of \$5,000 and our Club has donated the money to the program so it can continue to reach over 160 children doing various activities. Unfortunately, due to health issues Julie the program coordinator has finished up, and a new person is yet to be named.

4.2.2 Defibrillator for Infolink – Progress Hall

The Club agreed to source and supply a defibrillator for Infolink, primarily for the Breakfast Program at the Progress Hall. Just weeks after it was installed at Infolink, the unit was used by Ben (Infolink Breakfast Coordinator) to save the life of a young man who had stopped breathing. His life was saved as a direct result of having the defibrillator, which our Club supplied, available.



A very worthy gift to Infolink!

4.2.3 Infolink Emergency Relief pickup and delivery



Penny (Infolink Manager) asked if Rotary would be able to pick up large items from the Emergency Relief Centre and deliver them to clients in need. Paul Cassidy and Ray Siegersma provided this service, which has been used multiple times.

4.3 Different Journeys



Due to lack of funding, Different Journeys was only able to run one swim event at Knox Leisure works on 8 September 2024. Our involvement was cooking the BBQ (with Jonathan) and serving those who attended.

We may have other opportunities to assist Different Journeys in the future.



Paul Cassidy
Program Coordinator

4.4 Little Street Libraries

In the 2017/18 Rotary year, the Club decided to further reinforce one of Rotary's aims, supporting Education, by commencing a project placing Little Street Libraries near cafés in the Knox Council area. The Club registered our interest with the Street Library Association of Australia (<https://streetlibrary.org.au>), the aim of which is to encourage reading books in the age of everything online. The Street Library Association's motto is:



“Take a Book, Give a Book, Share a Book”

The Club asked a local Men's Shed to build a Library for us, and we invited the local primary school to decorate the library with paints donated by our local Bunnings store. This approach to decoration of the libraries has continued.



After the initial placement of a Library outside Koko Lime Café at Alchester Village, the Club has since placed another six libraries at the following sites: inside Boronia Mall; Wantirna Mall inside the IGA Supermarket; Studfield Shopping Strip outside Chocolate Café; outside Mums Café, Boronia; The Basin Shopping Strip outside Svaks Café; and Alchester Village Preschool, Lockwoods Road, Boronia.

After the initial two libraries were made by the Men's shed, past Club Member Chris Karajas took on the project of making them with much success and these again have been decorated by local schools. Over the past seven years only two of the libraries have been damaged by vandals, both in the past year, and quickly repaired by Club members Ray Siegersma and Paul Cassidy. The remainder of the libraries have not been touched, but very well received by all the communities where they have been placed.



Recently the Club was approached by Knox Infolink to place another Library near their hall where the Club supports the Breakfast Club during the week. This will happen before the end of the Rotary year.



A project such as this needs Club support and the support of Rotarians and partners. The support of Annette Haworth, Jim Sly, Heather and Laurie Anderson, and Peter and Pam Dalwood who assist with regular visits to the libraries is much appreciated.

I encourage all members to visit our libraries and ...

“Take a Book, Give a Book, Share a Book”.

Lance Deveson
Project Coordinator

4.5 ANZAC Day Commemoration Service for Knox Primary Schools

Tim Neville Arboretum, 22nd April 2025

This Rotary year, 450 Year 5 & 6 Students and teachers from fourteen schools in the Knox Council area assembled at the Tim Neville Arboretum and Cenotaph in Ferntree Gully for the now annual ANZAC Commemorative Service on Tuesday, 22nd April. This annual service has grown over the past ten years from an initial 100 students to this years' service hosting 450 students plus staff. Numbers were slightly down this year as the date clashed with the first day of Term 2 and several previously invited schools did not start until the following day.



The theme this year was focused the early development of the Australian Flying Corp (AFC). Squadron Leader Gerard Powell, Royal Australian Airforce, presented the story of the first crew of the fledgling AFC that was formed in 1914. In 1915, Australian Georg Merz and New Zealander William Burn together formed the first flight of the AFC, and possibly the first recorded ANZAC joint action, over the Western desert where they were fired on by Bedouin rebels whilst flying a very basic Caudron G3 aircraft and forced to land. Both were injured during the firing, and whilst the plane was later recovered, both men were not. Merz was also a doctor and the first registered doctor of the AFC; he had been practising in Ballarat before war was declared. Squadron Leader Powell, himself a medical

professional, backed up his presentation with photos of the crew and their plane, which the students viewed at the conclusion of the Service.



The Service was enhanced by music from the St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully Concert Band and Choir directed by Bronwyn Dean and choral items by the School Choir from St Joseph's Primary school, Boronia, which were also conducted by Bronwyn Dean as St Joseph's Primary School Choir mistress, Gayle Ashdowne, was ill and unable to attend. During the sacred part of the service, led by President of Boronia RSL Steve Everett, and



after the Ode to the Fallen and was recited, St Joseph's College Year 11 Trumpeter, Thomas Evans played the Last Post and then the Reveille. All Schools and invited guests laid wreaths at the Cenotaph during the service.

In addition to the schools, the invited guests included, Mary Doyle MP, Member for Aston who welcomed the guests; Cr Paige Kennett, representing Knox Council who also delivered a welcome from the Council; Crs Peter Lockwood, Robert Williams and Susan Pierce; Jackson Taylor MLA, Member for Bayswater; Steve Everett and Bob Menzies, representing Boronia RSL; Rotary District 9815 District Governor Colin Byron and incoming Rotary District Governor Peter Behm; and Rotary Club of Boronia President Monique Smith. Daniella Di Martino MLA, Member for Monbulk was an apology.



More than twenty members of the Club attended the Service undertaking a variety of activities such as Master of Ceremonies, School and VIP hosts, Sound Technician, Flag bearers, and Traffic Control, which all contributed to a wonderful service for the children. Schools attending were St Joseph's College, St Joseph's Primary School, Boronia Heights Primary School, The Basin Primary School, Regency Park Primary School, Wantirna Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School, Dillbadin Primary School, The Knox School, Bayswater South Primary School, St Luke's Primary School, Knox Central Primary School and Mooroolbark Grammar.



Lance Deveson and Glenn Tippet
Event Coordinators

4.6 Knox Community Garden

The Club leases two plots at the Knox Community Gardens; Plots 131 and 132. Each plot is approximately 3 metres by 10 metres (30 square meters) and we have them bursting with produce all year round.



The primary purpose of the plots is to grow produce for use by Knox InfoLink for the breakfast program and to supplement the food parcels that Second Bite (food relief organisation) drops off for the InfoLink clients.

This Rotary year, we also had the use of parts of Shirley and John Neilson's plot (Plot 132) which added to our produce and also provided us with additional volunteers for the critical watering through the hot months. And there were lots of those this year!

There are several active volunteers at the garden, who all contribute to the success of the project. They include:

- John Poke
- Pam and Peter Dalwood
- Paul Cassidy
- Annette Griffin
- Shirley and John Neilson



Annette Griffin
Project Coordinator

4.7 Boronia Rotary Youth Skills Shed

The Youth Skills Shed, located at the Boronia Heights Primary School, finally opened on 23rd October 2024 after twelve months of planning. The fitout was completed by members of the Club. Sponsors and donors of the project are:

- Boronia Rotary Club
- District 9810
- Bendigo Bank
- Fleet Plant Hire Solutions
- Bunnings Warehouse
- Harvey Norman
- Boronia Heights Primary School
(use of the Shed)
- Knox District Woodworkers Club.



Rotary
Club of Boronia



A Committee of Management had to be formed, and we have six people on that committee:

- Ray Siegersma – President
- Kristy Foster (Boronia Heights Primary School) – Secretary
- Peter Malden – Treasurer
- David Orlandi (The Basin Primary School)
- John White
- Lance Deveson

President Monique opened the Shed with many Club members, sponsors, donors and parents from the school all in attendance. The seven participants were introduced one by one (six from Boronia Heights Primary and one from The Basin Primary) and proceeded to put on their PPE (safety vest, plastic apron and hard hat) all of which was supplied by Bunnings. They were now “*Bunnings Junior Tradies*” much to the delight of the Bunnings staff who attended!

The program continued for all of Term 4 with all trade sessions delivered by our qualified Tradies:

- John and Todd – Woodworking
- Peter – Electrical
- Blake and Leigh – Plumbing
- Sam and Caleb – Concreting
- Brad – Metalwork
- Richard – Signwriting
- Scott and Simon – Bricklaying
- Marina – Hamburger making (last session).





The feedback and evaluation forms, which were completed at the end of the Term by the kids and their parents, showed excellent results not only from what the kids were able to make and skills learnt, but also in connecting with others in the group.

The next sessions were in Term 1 2025 (six kids) and Term 2 (eight kids). In Term 3, we will welcome two participants from Boronia K-12 College following a meeting between Ray and the Principal, Paul Broecker who is very enthusiastic for the program.

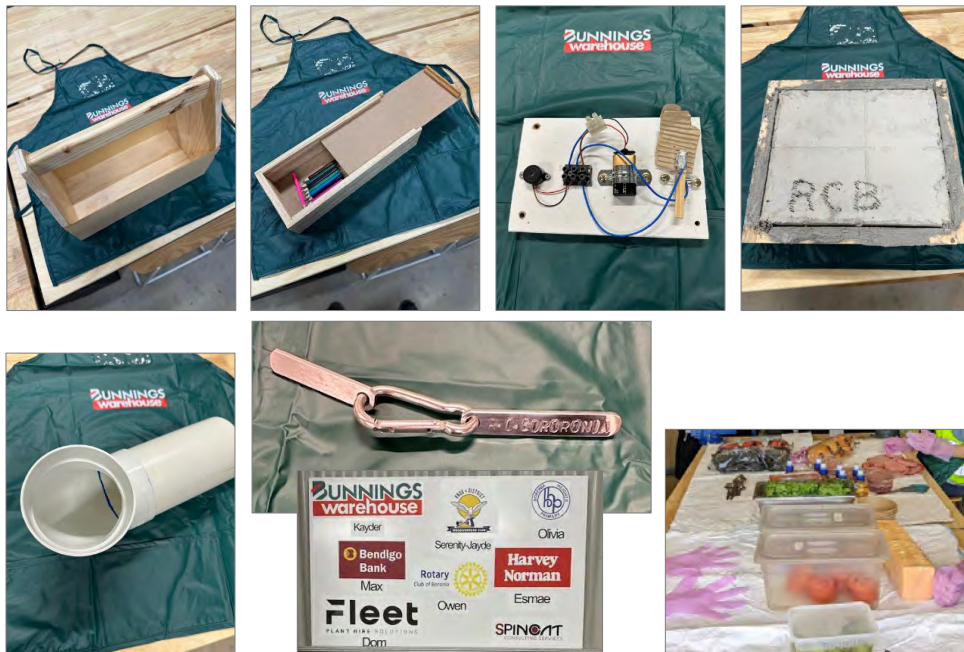
We thank the Tradies who volunteered their time, all of whom were invited to a Club meeting where they were thanked and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation (they were a bit rowdy at times as it was the first meeting of its kind they had ever attended!).

Other support at each session was from our own Club members, Peter Malden, Paul Cassidy and Jim Sly (fantastic work on the IT and photos/videos every week), Graeme Smith (Mark's Dad) and Peter the Electrician who attended every session because he loves the program so much. We also had cameo appearances from Beth Pardoe (OHS lesson), John White and Ken Barrett.



The program has been a huge success and there will be many more “*Bunnings Junior Tradies*” coming through each Term.

Note: A participant from the first sessions keeps returning, saying, “*I wish I could do the Shed again!*”



4.8 Men's Mental Health Snack and Chat

Ray met with Inga and Felecia (both experienced Mental Health counsellors) who were very interested in creating a Men's Mental Health Hub. Following discussions, it was decided to have a Snack & Chat on Fridays around lunch time to support men with mental health issues.

Funding is required to run the program so Ray proposed, and the Board agreed, to use the Wal Goodwin gift, a District 9815 grant and Club funds to match the District grant. The program will require \$19,000 to run for a year. Further grants will be pursued to enable the program to continue.

A subcommittee of Club members Glenn Tippet, Greg Mossop, Mark Smith and Ray Siegersma has been formed. The expected start date is in October 2025 when Wal's funds become available.

The program will be run out of the Boronia Scout Hall in Chandler Road on Fridays from 1:00-3:00pm. There may be an opportunity to run an evening/night session so men who are working can attend.

The project is a work in progress at this stage; however, the Community Service Committee will continue to make it happen in the coming Rotary year.



4.9 Other Community Projects

4.9.1 Boronia K-12 College Fete

In November 2024, Boronia K-12 College had a fete. Our Club was able to have a promotional stall at the fete; we also helped with parking and traffic control.

A great day was had by all with many locals attending the day.



4.9.2 Boronia Heights Primary School Marquee

The Club received a request from Boronia Heights Primary School to assist with the purchase of a marquee, which would be used at various events in which the students partake. We were able to provide 50% of the marquee cost; we have our Club name on the sides of the marquee in recognition.



4.9.3 Boronia Heights Primary School Chairs and Tables

Boronia Heights Primary School had a number of secondhand chairs and tables to be donated where they may be needed. Our Club approached Rotary Donations in Kind, and they agreed to take them and distribute them to needy recipients. They may end up going to Papua New Guinea where there is a desperate need for these items; however, the cost of transport is an issue that will need to be addressed.



4.9.4 Blood Bank Lifeblood Team



We have registered a Donor's Team in the name of the Rotary Club of Boronia at the Blood Bank. Every donation made by members will be added to the Boronia Rotary Club Lifeblood Team.

To date there have been 13 donations with an estimate of 39 lives saved. Keep up the good work and if you can donate blood, plasma or platelets!

4.9.5 Australian Flag at Boronia Station



The Australian Flag at the Boronia Railway Station, which has for many years been maintained by the Club, is currently being attended to by Paul Cassidy. When the flag gets a bit scraggly, Paul replaces it with a new one from MP Mary Doyle's office.

5 International Service



5.1 Overview

Committee:

- Neville Windebank – Chair
- Peter Malden
- Dushan Perera
- Stephen Spiers

Introduction:

This year our committee has focussed on investigating potential projects in Sri Lanka, overseas placement of used school classroom furniture and dental equipment, and ongoing support of Disaster Aid.

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

Neville Windebank
International Service Chair



5.2 Sri Lanka Projects

Early in the Rotary year, an online meeting was held with members of the Rotary Club of Colombo Port City, Sri Lanka to discuss possible projects that we might assist them with. Their Club, while only four years old, has 70 members and is the fourth largest in Sri Lanka.



Several current projects were discussed., with those considered most likely for our support being:

- Cataract surgery for both adults and children,
- Healing minds, which is a joint project with the psychiatric department of the Colombo Hospital, and
- Local production and distribution of sanitary pads for girls, which we thought we might share with Days for Girls.

The Rotary Club of Colombo Port City subsequently provided a detailed written proposal in respect of two projects:

- “Gift of Sight” – providing cataract surgery for children, and
- “Drop of Hope” – providing safe drinking water for communities in northern Sri Lanka.

It was decided that the Club would participate in/provide financial support for the “Gift of Sight” project. The “Drop of Hope” project was to be discussed with Disaster Aid Australia to see if one or more SkyHydrants might meet the needs of the communities involved.



As a separate initiative, we have been looking at providing support to the “Little Trees Nurtury” preschool project in northern Sri Lanka, following a presentation to the Club by Asanka Aruna of Bridging Lanka. We have been looking for a Rotary Club in northern Sri Lanka to work with.



5.3 Overseas Placement of Pre-loved Items

5.3.1 Used Classroom Furniture



We were approached by Boronia Heights Primary School who had surplus used classroom furniture for disposal/placement. Simultaneously, Desley Tunstall alerted us to schools in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea that were in desperate need.

Following investigation, the logistics of transporting the furniture were proving difficult (read expensive). As an alternative, Donations in Kind has offered to take the excess furniture items and distribute them to

other clients; this solution was subsequently adopted (refer also to **section 4.9.3**).

5.3.2 Dental Equipment for Ukraine

Fully operational chairs and dental other equipment, gifted by a local dental surgery, were delivered to Donations in Kind, in Footscray in March 2025. This equipment, which was included in a shipment to Ukraine in support of the Ukraine Crisis Appeal included:

- 2 Dental Patient Chairs
- Dental X-ray Unit
- Amalgam Mixer
- Suction Unit
- Walking Frame
- Wheelchair.



5.4 Disaster Aid

Fundraising

On Saturday 23rd November 2024, we held a Trivia Night at the St. Johns Anglican Church in Boronia. It was a fun filled night with over 100 people in attendance. We had many Silent Auction items, and 6 rounds of Trivia. We raised a massive \$7,440.



Support for Disaster Aid Australia and Sponsorship of Two Sky Hydrants

This report outlines the support provided by our Club for Disaster Aid Australia, specifically focusing on the sponsorship of two Sky Hydrants. We sponsored one from the proceeds of the Trivia Night \$6,000 and the other one was sponsored through our Rotary Community Group. This initiative has been made possible through the collective efforts of the clubs within Group 4 D9815 for the year 2024-2025.



All twelve clubs in D9815 Group 4 have participated in this collaborative effort, showcasing the strength of our community as a true cluster project. We contributed \$500 to this combined effort.

Current Status of Installations (as of 30 June 2025)

Due to unforeseen circumstances in Timor-Leste, the completion of installations has been delayed. Max Bird from Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East, who oversees the project in collaboration with the Don Bosco Mission, has been working diligently to catch up with the fourteen fully sponsored installations currently on the list. He has travelled to Timor-Leste with the goal of installing seven Sky Hydrants. Furthermore, he is optimistic about the possibility of completing an additional three installations, provided the sites are ready.

Regrettably, our installation is not included in this immediate batch due to its timing. However, Max is expected to identify new sites with the Don Bosco team during his visit, and we anticipate having an update on the installation site once he returns. Our goal remains to complete this installation before Christmas 2025.

Due to the success and high demand for these life-changing clean water installations, there may be a delay of several months before Disaster Aid Australia receive comprehensive details back from the field.



About Disaster Aid Australia

Disaster Aid Australia uses SkyHydrants purchased from the 'not for profit' Sky Juice Foundation to bring safe, clean, drinking water to communities in many countries that need safe drinking water.



- The SkyHydrant water purification unit produces safe drinking water without the need for power or chemicals
- The SkyHydrant is a lightweight (18 kg) water filter, portable and easy to deploy in the field.
- Operating functions are simple and manual, with virtually no consumables
- Designed to produce water for 500-1000 people as standalone unit, or can be configured for larger capacity.
- A single unit can produce up to 1000 litres per hour.
- Clean drinking water can be produced from the majority of non-saline surface and ground water.

The core of the system is an ultrafiltration (UF) membrane, consisting of thousands of microporous hollow fibres. Harmful bacteria, micro-organisms, dirt and other contaminating particles are removed as they are unable to pass through the pores.

No chemicals, coagulants, pumps or energy are required for the filtration process. The system operates under gravity with typical head pressure of 2-4 metres. The cleaning process is simple taking just a few minutes a day.

Monique Smith
President 2024/25 Project Coordinator

6 Youth and Vocational Service



6.1 Overview



Committee:

- Bernadette Vanderwolde – Chair
- Lance Deveson
- Marina Barker
- Bronwyn Chang
- Jarom Deeks
- Jane Mifsud
- Mark Smith
- Vanesschka Seevathean

Introduction:

This year we had another successful year supporting our youth and recognising vocational/community service. Details of these are set out in the following pages.

Bernadette Vanderwolde
Youth and Vocational Service Chair



6.2 Youth Programs

6.2.1 Boronia K-12 College

Introduction:

We have certainly gained huge traction with Boronia K-12 College this year, where we have been actively working with the new Principal, Paul Broecker. Paul has been very interactive and really engaged in working with us. A few of the ideas that have come to life over the last twelve months have been as follows.



Interact Club:

We have worked with Boronia K-12 College to formalise a new Interact Club.



Interact is Rotary International's Service Club program for young people aged 12-18. It empowers them to develop leadership skills and make positive changes in their schools and communities through hands-on service projects, fostering international understanding, and connecting with adult Rotarians for guidance. Members gain practical experience in leadership, event planning, and community impact, embodying the Rotary motto "*Service Above Self*" while building friendships and global awareness.

We have certainly interacted with the team with President Monique Smith and Ray Siegersma joining their meetings. They have a good group of members and are looking to grow. They are working on the school café, and we look forward to hearing more about what they are doing.



Gardening Project:

We provided Boronia K-12 College with \$2,000 towards their gardening project, buying equipment (garden tools, etc.).



Fete:

We, as a Rotary Club, assisted in supporting the Boronia K-12 College Fete. It was great to interact with the community providing support to the traffic flow and the community.



Rotary Youth Driver Awareness:



In December 2024, the Club sponsored approximately 50 students from the Boronia K-12 College to attend a **RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness)** program, a Rotary initiative which is now facilitated and presented by Road Safety Education (RSE), a not-for-profit organisation with a commitment to the reduction of road trauma. The program comprised a series of workshop sessions through which participants learnt to identify crash factors, appreciate personal risk and develop personal safety strategies to lower risk (around speed, impairment, vehicle safety, distractions, mind state and sharing the road).



President Monique, Jim Sly, Paul Cassidy and Peter Dalwood supported the program, each looking after a group as they moved through the various sessions. A practical demonstration of the impact of speed on braking distance was but one of the highlights of the program.



MAKING OUR ROADS A SAFER PLACE

Acknowledgement of Support:

The following letter acknowledges the Club support for some of the Boronia K-12 College programs and activities.



6.2.2 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA is a program to support young adults (aged 18-30) to develop their skills as leaders in the community. Skills include team management, project management and communication.

We had two amazing participants, Nicholas and Sydney, represent our Club at the 2024 program. They are pictured below with Jane and Geoff.

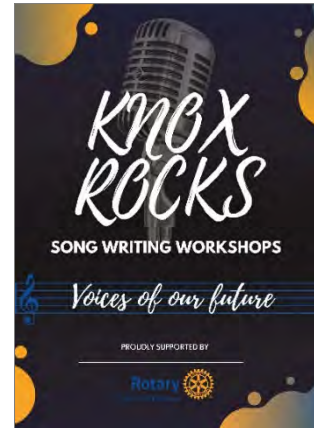


6.2.3 “Knox Rocks” Youth Music Project

The third edition of the “Knox Rocks” youth music project was conducted during the latter part of 2024. Under the expert leadership of Mark Smith, and song-writing tutelage of Emma Jury, the program once again fulfilled its objectives of giving the participants an increased sense of confidence, empowerment, achievement, engagement, mastery of skills and self-expression through the medium of music.

This year six participants developed their songs through a series of group workshops and one-on-one sessions before heading to the professional recording studio to capture their creations. All instruments, equipment and support materials were again provided as part of the program.

In a change from the previous editions, this year’s program culminated with a ‘full blown’ concert at EV’s Youth Centre in Croydon. More than a hundred people attended to hear the remarkable music and songs written by the extremely talented participants of this year’s program, four of whom performed the songs themselves. Performances by five ‘supporting’ bands filled the evening.



All “Knox Rocks” songs from the 2022, 2023 and 2024 programs have been published on the Club website at: <https://rotaryboronia.org.au/listen-to-the-knox-rocks-songs/>

Prepared on behalf of ...

Mark Smith

Project Coordinator

6.3 Vocational Programs

6.3.1 School Citizenship Awards

Jane Mifsud again did an amazing job working with the schools to coordinate this year's citizenship awards. Each of the following schools chose a student to receive an award for their community spirit:

- Park Ridge Primary School
- Knox Park Primary School
- The Basin Primary School
- Knox Central Primary School
- Boronia Heights Primary School
- Boronia K-12 College – Primary School
- Boronia K-12 College – Secondary School.



The award recipients were selected by the school for their outstanding work and dedication to their community.



Frankie Mills from Park Ridge Primary School who was presented with her award by Jane Mifsud and Youth Chair Bernadette Vanderwolde.

6.3.2 Vocational Visit – Hindu Temple

This year we made a Vocational Visit to the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple in The Basin.

Vanesscha arranged the visit, which comprised enjoying an amazing sit-down meal before entering the temple to view the many amazing artefacts.

We were pleased to donate \$850 to the Temple in recognition of its contributions to the community. A memorable and informative experience.



Enjoying a meal of South Indian food and hospitality during our visit to the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple.

7 Fundraising and Entrepreneurial Development

7.1 Committee Report

Committee:

- Annette Griffin – Chair
- John Poke
- Robyn Green
- Michael Jacobs
- Sandra Kemp
- Greg Mossop
- Ryan O'Shea
- Peter Van Zeyl.



Report:

This year, we held Trivia nights, a High Tea, several raffles including the very popular Wine Raffle, the Annual Golf Day and many sausage sizzles, which involved an enormous amount of volunteer time from so many members of our Club. Thank you to everyone who played a part in our fundraising efforts.

We raised money for the Club to enable it to provide for many projects and causes. But some of the specific projects our fundraising went to, were:

- \$2,000 to Hayden's Helping Hands, to assist them with providing food and care packages for the homeless and disadvantaged.
- \$7,000 for a Water Hydrant (pump) for Disaster Aid Australia for an overseas remote community (refer **section 5.4**).
- Through the Golf Day proceeds (refer **section 7.2**), we gave \$2,575 each to Tamminya House, Anchor Community Care and Backpacks 4 Vic Kids.



- We provided some funds to Glengollan Aged Care to assist them with beautifying their outdoor area for their residents.
- Raised over \$550 through a dedicated raffle to provide funds to the Community Garden to be able to continue their work in providing food for the InfoLink breakfasts and food parcels for the InfoLink clients.
- Donated \$2,500 to Days for Girls, Ferntree Gully Chapter to enable them to continue their great work.



A rough estimate of the total raised by and through the Fundraising Group to date is \$46,000, and Michael is busy organising the Wine Raffle again for a June release, so our tally will rise even further. Thanks once again to my team.

Annette Griffin

Chair, Fundraising and Entrepreneurial Development Committee

7.2 Charity Golf Day



Our annual Charity Golf Day was held at Eastwood Golf Club on Monday 17th February 2025. The weather was perfect and the event proved to be a great success.



This year our field consisted of more than 90 players who hit off at 8:00am.

This event each year is one of the main fundraisers for the Club and was once again successful in raising over **\$10,000**.

Our thanks must go to our Rotary Club Members who attended during the morning to help set up the Club House with raffle and lucky envelope prizes as well as selling tickets during the lunch period. A special thanks to Peter and Jan Malden who drove the course to put out sponsor's signs from 6:30am and collected them again after play had finished.



To all hole sponsors (see next page) and Club Friends, our thanks for your continued generosity.



Winning this year's competition was the team from Razor Graphix (see left), a long-term sponsor of the event.

The majority of the funds raised on the day were distributed to:

- **Backpacks 4 VIC Kids**, which provides crisis packs and gift packs to vulnerable children, aged from birth to seventeen years;
- **Anchor Community Care**, which supports disadvantaged people, with a focus on youth homelessness; and
- **Tamminya House**, which provide emergency housing for victims of family violence.

Our next Golf Day will be held on Monday, 23rd February 2026.

John White on behalf of ...

John White and Ken Barrett
Golf Day Coordinators



The Rotary Club of Boronia wishes to sincerely thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the

2025 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

Major Sponsor
LJ Hooker Real Estate Boronia 9762 1022

Hole Sponsors:

Bendigo Bank Boronia	0422 143 760
Ballards Solicitors	9800 7500
Morcraft Kitchens	9729 2684
ASA Financial Advisers	9890 4055
Mackinnon Jacobs Lawyers	1300 424 452
LMP Accountants	9723 7100
Razer Graphix Printing	9729 4300
Cookware Brands Outlet Shop	9722 8910
Robyn's Soap House	0411 133 554
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Eastern Strut Recharge	0407 510 185
Wim Technologies	0481 602 592
Office Choice	9720 4899
Tasty Trucks	1300 827 898

Associate Sponsors:
Bunnings Bayswater, Drummond Golf, The Knox Club, Billy's Kitchen
Members of The Rotary Club of Boronia

LUCKY ENVELOPES 5 for \$20 MAJOR RAFFLE TICKETS 5 for \$20

Over \$2500 in Prizes

Proceeds from todays event will go to:
Backpacks for Vic Kids
Anchor Community Care
Tamminya House



8 Membership and Wellbeing

Committee:

- Geoff Griffin – Chair
- Val Henry
- Susan Hanger
- Brad Hebblethwaite
- Sandra Hayes
- Janet Windebank.

Goals for 2024/25:

- Grow or at least keep membership at around 50 members.
- Be in regular contact with members, particularly those that are unwell.
- For members all to feel appreciated, needed and valued by the Club.



Membership:

Happy to say that we increased membership by six this year with Ron Brooks, Beth Pardoe, Michele Post, Helene Kamieth and Vanesschka Seevethean joining us and Lyn Shepherd to be inducted at Changeover.



New members during 2024/25: Ron Brooks, Beth Pardoe, Helene Kamieth, Michele Post and Vanesschka Seevethean, and Lyn Shepherd.

Sadly, however, we also lost five members in 2024/25; Kristian Dauncey, Sandra Hayes, Sandra Kemp, Beth Pardoe and John Poke.

We need to get cracking in 2025/26 to increase membership due to an ageing member population and a few members that have hardly or not attended during the year which presents a risk of not renewing.

Wellbeing:



We introduced this year:

- Phone calls to members to check in on their wellbeing.
- A diary for members to indicate their pending holidays/procedures/time away that we could report on at meetings as updates.
- Light-hearted humour in the weekly Membership

and Wellbeing reports as these reports can leave members a little low at times.

- Christmas cards sent to members.
- A food roster for members and families in need (yet to be utilised, but good to have).
- Introducing visitors (who are interested in joining our Club) around to as many members as possible in the visitors' first few weeks to make them feel comfortable and at home.
- Phone and text messages to members who are/have been sick or are not attending meetings for various reasons (to offer our support and assistance if needed).

The Chair, or a member of the Membership and Wellbeing Committee sits with potential members for their first few weeks to provide information and explanations, and to answer questions about meetings and our community work.

Geoff Griffin

Membership and Wellbeing Committee Chair

9 Social/Fellowship

Committee:

- Gonny Rundell – Chair
- Stephen Spiers
- Heather Anderson
- Leigh Elsey
- Julianne Hyams
- Doug Gibson
- Jan Malden
- Helene Kamieth
- Michele Post.



Report:

This Rotary year kicked off with a bit of a rebrand – we officially changed our name from the *Fellowship Committee* to the *Social Committee*, which the Board kindly ratified in July 2024. A small but meaningful change that better reflects our focus on fun, connection, and making Rotary a progressive place to belong.

We jumped straight into the spirit with *Christmas in July*, complete with festive tunes, trivia, decorations, prizes, and all with members wearing a touch of red. September then saw us sharing good food and laughs over dinner at Caesar's Restaurant – a casual evening enjoyed by around 20 members.



In October and November, we tapped into footy fever with a finals tipping competition and a themed club night – a fun way to bring out our competitive (and colourful scarf-wearing) sides. November also featured a visit to a stunning open garden. While the weather tried to dampen our day, we stayed one step ahead of the rain and enjoyed a lovely lunch at Rose Cottage.



Our *Christmas Function* was a standout event – a perfect summer day, drinks, nibbles and canapes under the trees, a delicious spit roast dinner, festive music, Kris Kringle and of course even a visit from Santa! Even better, we tied in some community service to remind us all why we are here.

We also soaked up some culture with two well-attended 1812 Theatre nights – *The Great Gatsby* and *The Housekeeper* – both preceded by dinners at

Ferntree Gully Hotel which is always a winner. These theatre outings are always a remarkable success. In May, a smaller group ventured to *The LUME* for the Van Gogh exhibition, enjoying a pre-exhibit coffee and followed by a relaxing riverside lunch in the sunshine.



February brought more tasty food and conversation at Bella Piatto in Croydon – a lovely dinner under the stars and a great lead-in to the highly successful *Knox Rocks* concert.

We wrapped up the year by helping organise the Changeover Luncheon at Churchill-Waverley Golf Club. Thanks to our members' stellar coordination, it ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all. A classy and relaxed way to end our year on a high note.



While our jam-packed Club calendar meant fewer social events, we made the most of each one. Looking ahead, we are already planning more great activities like *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and a weekend away to Daylesford to keep the good times rolling. We are proud of the year's achievements and remain committed to building the already strong social and friendship bonds within our Club.

Gonny Rundell
Social Committee Chair

10 Public Image

Committee:

- Glenn Tippet – Chair
- Tom Mason
- Penry Green
- Jim Sly
- Richard Spinosa-Cattela
- Anne Boyd
- Peter Dalwood.



Public Relations Activities:

This year has been a remarkable year for the Club with our profile and presence in the community very high.

The best public relations we as a Club 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 that we have been involved in this year are listed below; details of each of these events are available in the relevant committee reports:

- Different Journeys swim event barbeques.
- Little Street Libraries.
- Infolink breakfast program (4 days per week).
- Bunnings Halloween community night barbeque.
- CWA hall garden maintenance.
- Knox Community Christmas Support.
- Christmas gift wrapping at Knox City.
- Local school presentations (Citizenship awards).
- Installation of DEFIBRILLATOR at Knox Infolink.
- Visit to the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple.
- Youth Skills Shed.
- Knox Rocks.
- ANZAC Commemoration for Primary Schools in our area.
- Bunnings Mother's Day community barbeque.
- Knox Volunteers Expo.

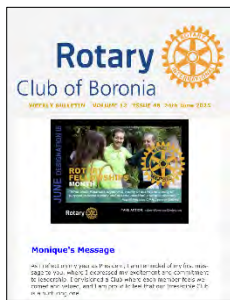


All of these projects are opportunities for the public to engage with and see some of what the Rotary Club of Boronia and Rotary in general does, greatly enhancing our presence in the community. We don't use any of the above to raise funds for the Club, they are just examples of our Rotary Club at work.

The Club's website has been managed by Jim Sly who has done a fantastic job keeping the site current and updated regularly with information about the Club and its projects.



The Club's Facebook page continues to grow. At the time of this report (end of the 2024/25 Rotary year), we have 1354 followers around the world.



The Club Bulletin is another fantastic opportunity for our profile to be shared, with Bernadette producing a remarkable comprehensive publication every week.

Thank you to all members of our Public Relations committee everyone has done a tremendous job over the year.

Finally, I would like to thank President Monique for her tremendous leadership and support over this year it has been a great pleasure to have been involved in your year.

Glenn Tippet
Public Relations Committee Chair

11 The Rotary Foundation



Overview:

Our Club continues to be a major contributor to The Rotary Foundation, with strong supporter at both individual and Club levels. During the year a total of \$US27,400 was donated to the Rotary Foundation in the name of the Club. This was an average of \$333 per Club member, which compares with the District average of \$158 per Club member.

Every Rotarian Every Year (formerly Centurion Club)/Sustaining Members:



As in previous years, the Club members have continued their strong support of the annual giving to Foundation with 16 members contributing to the Every Rotarian Every Year project and 6 members being Sustaining Members. In each case, \$A100 or more per annum was contributed to The Rotary Foundation.

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 Rotary Projects.

End Polio Now:

The Club donated a total of \$A1,550 to the End Polio Now Campaign during 2024/25. Coupled with members and third-party contributions, a total of \$US11,765 was donated in the name of the Club



Annual Foundation Giving:



The Club has contributed the sum of \$A5,000 to The Rotary Foundation as its annual giving. Member contributions, the Club's contribution and third-party donations resulted in a total of \$US15,635 being contributed in the name of the Club.

Fifty percent of these funds return to our District in three years' time and are used to fund District Grants. The other fifty percent is used for Global Grants. The administration costs of the Foundation are paid from the income earned on investing the funds for the three years.

Paul Harris Fellowships:



Paul Harris Fellows (PHFs) were awarded this year to Geoff Griffin, Annette Griffin, Jim Sly, Lance Deveson, Glenn Tippet and Ray Siegersma for their service to the community (refer **Section 2.3** for further information).

During the year, President Monique also presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award to Ben Giaurd, Program Coordinator at Knox Infolink.

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

Neville Windebank
Foundation Chair

12 Club Service



12.1 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 2024/2025 Rotary year, and we again made some great contributions.

Some points of note are as follows:

- **Maintaining our Membership:**

As reported in **section 8** and **12.6**, notwithstanding the departure of several members, we maintained our Club membership with the induction of six new members. The wellbeing of our members was given further emphasis this year.

- **Hybrid Meetings:**



We continued to run “hybrid meetings”, which enable members/guests to attend online. Several members took advantage of this facility, primarily when travelling or unable to attend in-person due to ill health or other constraint.

- **Program:**

Program Chairs Ron Brooks and Robyn Green 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 2024/2025 are presented in **Section 12.2**.

- **Bulletin:**

Using the format developed by the previous incumbent, Monique Smith, Bulletin Editor Bernadette Vanderwolde continued the production of a high quality and informative weekly Bulletin throughout the year. The Bulletin remains the primary mechanism (apart from attendance at Club meetings) for ensuring that our members are appropriately informed.

- **Sergeant-at-Arms:**

Sergeant-at-Arms, Ray Siegersma kept us well entertained during his weekly sessions. It can be an arduous task to continually identify interesting and innovative ways to extract fines from members; however, Ray put his own spin to the sessions as reported in **section 12.4**.

- **Public Relations:**

Glenn Tippet, with support from President Monique, has continued to maintain our Facebook page, posting regular updates about our meetings and other Club activities, and other related items of interest. Our following has grown both locally and internationally and now total more than 1350 people.



Our Club website continued to present items of interest to showcase our activities and promote the benefits of joining Rotary. All members are encouraged to provide details of our activities and upcoming events so that relevant information can be incorporated.

As reported in **section 10**, being seen actively working in the community is the best form of public relations.

- **District Conference:**

The Club's engagement with the broader Rotary organisation was enhanced by attendance at District Conference. This year seventeen members and partners attended the "We Belong" themed event from 28th to 30th March 2025. As usual, those attending excelled in dressing up for the Gala dinner theme, "Rotary Rocks".



- **Foundation:**

As detailed in **section 11**, our Club again provided strong support to The Rotary Foundation, with more than \$US27,400 donated in the Club's name.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Bernadette Vanderwolde

President Elect and Club Service Chair 2024/25

12.2 Program

In setting the program for this year, the plan was to have a Committee Meeting night each month, to have a Club Assembly every few months, and to have a speaker every other week. Speaker topics were varied including Rotary programs, other charity programs, outside speakers, and we had a wonderfully informative site visit to our local Hindu Temple for a vegetarian meal and talk about their beliefs.



There were three social events: a picnic in Ferntree Gully, a visit to our Community Garden in Knox, and a visit to the 1812 Theatre with pre-theatre dinner. I was grateful to receive a number of speaker suggestions from Club members.

As a matter of courtesy, each speaker was contacted one week before to confirm, and afterwards an email was sent thanking them for their visit. A big thankyou to Robyn Green for taking over these communication duties when I was unavailable.

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

- July 2024:
 - o 2nd President Monique Smith introduced her plans for the year.
 - o 9th Speaker – Anton Hockey, Road Safety Education Limited: RYDA road safety education program.
 - o 16th Committee meetings.
 - o 23rd Speaker – Gail White: researching Family History, and “Christmas in July” celebration.
 - o 30th Club Workshop – forum to discuss potential Opportunity Shop.
- August 2024:
 - o 6th Speaker – PDG Daryl Morgan, District 9815 Youth Service Chair: Rotary Youth programs.
 - o 13th Speaker – Janette Etherington, Rotary Club of Nunawading /Interplast Rotarian Engagement Coordinator: Interplast update.
 - o 20th Committee meetings.
 - o 27th Speaker – Carol Bellew and Sarah Baird, Soap Aid: the work of Soap Aid, saving children's lives through improved hygiene, while positively impacting the environmen
- September 2024:
 - o 3rd Speaker – Marcus Adams and Emma Clark, Rotary Club of Emerald and District: organising a District Conference.
 - o 10th Speaker – Asanka Aruna, Bridging Lanka: Little Trees Nurtury preschool education project in Mannar, Sri Lanka.
 - o 17th Committee meetings.
 - o 24th Club Assembly.



■ October 2024:

- o 1st Club Workshop –development of our Club’s *Rotary Action Plan*.
- o 8th Natalie Goold and Steven Lakey, Bendigo Bank: Bendigo Bank’s role in the community.
- o 15th Speaker – Nic and Sydney: their experience as RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) program participants.
- o 22nd Committee meetings.
- o 29th Speaker – Maureen McLaughlin, Living Our Best Life Project: A community support project aimed at reducing feelings of loneliness and social isolation in people aged 60 and over.



■ November 2024:

- o 5th No Meeting – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.
- o 12th Speaker – Grant Klaaysen, Wheelchairs for Kids: Wheelchairs for Kids project.
- o 19th Committee meetings.
- o 26th Annual General Meeting and Steve Crosling, ShelterBox: Shelter Box program update.



■ December 2024:

- o 3rd Speaker – Bob Allardice, Rotary Club of Nunawading: Rotary Overseas Relocated Playgrounds (RORP) project.
- o 10th Speaker – Ray Siergersma: Youth Skills Shed Project, with tradies and proigram helpers.
- o 17th Visit to Knox Community Gardens.



■ January 2025:

- o 14th Informal Social Meeting – Picnic at Quarry Reserve, Ferntree Gully.
- o 21st Speaker – Penry Green: “*Rotarian behind the badge*” presentation.
- o 28th Visit to The Basin Hindu Temple for an insight into Hindu culture and religion and a meal.



■ February 2025:

- o 4th Speaker – Davinia Upshall (business coach), Brainiact: the “Value Proposition”.
- o 11th Speaker – Julianne Hyams: “*Rotarian behind the badge*” presentation.
- o 18th Committee meetings.
- o 25th Club Assembly.



■ March 2025:

- o 4th Speaker – Penny Robinson, Knox Infolink: update on the support programs offered by Infolink.
- o 11th Speaker – Shia Smart, Rotary Club of Nunawading: “Simple Steps” mental health support program for youth.
- o 18th Social/Fellowship Night: St Patricks Day Quiz (facilitated by Ron Brooks).
- o 25th Committee meetings.



■ April 2025:

- o 1st Speaker – Club Members reported on their experience at the District 9815 District Conference.
- o 8th Speaker – Marc Bowles: participation in the 2024 Bridgebuilders “my kids” Postie Bike Ride.
- o 15th Speaker – Colin Byron, District 9815 Governor: official visit to Group 4 Rotary Clubs, including Boronia, Healesville, Upper Yarra, Wandin, and Lilydale Clubs; hosted by the Rotary Club of Boronia.
- o 22nd Speaker – Leanne Pinfold and Mel Murphy: support of the Hope Katolo Nursery School in Kenya.
- o 9th Speaker – George Petrou, Artist,/Graphic Designer and Author: “*The Art of Humanity*”, his literary/artistic work.



■ May 2025:

- o 6th Speaker – Steven Lakey, Sam Jayasuriya and Andrew Hewitt, Bendigo Bank: Scams and Cyber Fraud.
- o 13th Committee meetings.
- o 21st Social/Fellowship Night – Dinner and 1812 Theatre play.
- o 27th Club Assembly.



■ June 2025:

- o 3rd Speaker – Desley Tunstall: potential projects in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea.
- o 11th Speaker – PDG Alma Reynolds: The Rotary Foundation.
- o 17th Speaker – Mary McGowan: “My Room” Children’s Cancer Charity.
- o 24th Committee meetings.
- o 29th Club Changeover.



Ron Brooks

Program Coordinator 2024/25

12.3 Bulletin

Bernadette Vanderwolde took on the role of Bulletin Editor this year, adding to her positions as both President Elect/Club Service Chair and Youth and Vocational Service Chair.



The Bulletin continued to be presented in the familiar format developed by the previous incumbent, Monique Smith. The weekly publications have included:

- Information regarding both Club and District activities.
- Articles of interest on the work undertaken by our Club and the broader Rotary organisation.
- Details of the Rotary International designated months of service.
- Built-in links that direct readers to ClubRunner, where they can find more detailed information about Club activities, events, and announcements.
- The all-important allocation of weekly duties, which are essential to the smooth running of our meetings.

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

Prepared on behalf of ...

Bernadette Vanderwolde
Bulletin Editor 2024/25

12.4 Sergeant-at-Arms

This year, Ray Siggy took on the role of the Club's Sergeant-at-Arms, conducting the weekly sessions during which he extracted money from members for any perceived or fabricated misdemeanours in the true spirit of *"don't let the truth get in the way of a good story"*.



Sergeant Siggy's Rules for 2024-2025

Sergeants are usually in command of a club or membership of up to 51 Rotarians. Normally they have the role of discipline, the maintenance of standards and identify any misdemeanours or mistakes of fellow Rotarians.

- All fines to be \$2.00, a small increase from what they are now.
- When a Rotarians' AFL team plays against Hawthorn and Hawthorn loses, they must pay a fine.
Hawthorn supporters are exempt from being fined when Hawthorn win or show their Hawthorn colours on a Rotary night.
- Any Rotarian who owns or purchases a VW Amarok in this Rotary year will not have to pay a fine from date of purchase, and for the remainder of this Rotary year. Subaru Brumby and red Ram Ute owners are exempt from this deal and must pay fines regardless.
- Any Rotarian who provides the Sergeant with fines on a weekly basis, will not incur a fine for one week (special Terms and Conditions apply at the Sergeants discretion).
- End of each session – Trivia question. Get it right no fines next week, wrong you pay up double!

Sergeant Ray set out his 'rules' at the beginning of the year. Being a Hawthorn supporter attracted benefits, as did correctly answering the weekly trivia question posed at the end of each session.

Updates and never-ending anniversaries celebrated by Ray's Amarok ute were featured throughout the year. Noting that purchase of an Amarok would obviate the need to pay fines for the remainder of the year (Sergeant Siggy's Rule No 3), Greg Mossop called Ray's bluff by buying and presenting him with a replica Amarok toy ... a very well received fun gesture!

As always, the Sergeant's sessions were presented and received with good humour. A total of \$2,615 was contributed in response to or in anticipation of the weekly Sergeant's session.

Thanks to all members for their support. Best wishes to Michael Jacobs in filling the role for the 2025/26 year.

Prepared on behalf of ...

Ray Siegersma

Sergeant-at-Arms 2024/25



12.5 On-to-Conference

Seventeen members and partners from our Club attended the inaugural Rotary District 9815 Conference which took place from Friday, 28th March to Sunday, 30th March 2025, at the Red Energy Arena in Bendigo.

Encompassing the theme:

“We Belong” *We are better together*

the conference featured two days of keynote speakers, interactive sessions, a Rotary Expo, and a ‘Rotary Rocks’ themed Gala Dinner.



As noted by President Monique:

“It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and learn, and a great way for us members who attended to spend some time together and have some fun.”

Monique also passed on the insights provided by RIPPR (Rotary International President Personal Representative.) Bharat Pandya about the **‘Three T’s in Rotary.** Time, Talent, and

Thinking are interconnected concepts that resonate deeply with the values upheld by Rotary International: service, fellowship, integrity, diversity, and leadership (see next page).



THE THREE T's IN ROTARY¹

The Three T's in Rotary - Time, Talent, and Thinking are interconnected concepts that resonate deeply with the values upheld by Rotary International: service, fellowship, integrity, diversity, and leadership.

Time – represents the essential element of time, emphasising the importance of commitment and dedication in service to others. In Rotary, members are encouraged to invest their time in community projects, initiatives, and programs that enhance the lives of those around them. This aligns with the Rotary value of service above self, demonstrating that the time spent helping others is invaluable.

Talent – refers to the unique skills and abilities that each individual brings to the table. Rotary thrives on the diverse talents of its members, leveraging their expertise to tackle various challenges within communities. This diversity not only enriches our Clubs and the Rotary organisation but also helps in creating innovative solutions to problems. By recognising and utilising talent, Rotary fosters an environment where all contributions are valued, contributing to a stronger community.

Thinking – encapsulates the critical aspect of reflection, strategy, and foresight. Rotary members engage in thoughtful planning and decision-making to ensure their projects are impactful and sustainable. This aligns with the values of integrity and leadership. Encouraging innovative thinking also reflects Rotary's commitment to adapting to new challenges and embracing change.



¹ Extract from Rotary Club of Boronia Bulletin 8 April 2025.

12.6 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:



- New Members During 2024/2025:
 - o Ron Brooks (3 September 2024)
 - o Beth Pardoe (22 October 2024)
 - o Helene Kamieth (10 December 2024)
 - o Michele Post (17 December 2024)
 - o Vanesschka Seevethean (17 December 2024)
 - o Lyn Shepherd (29 June 2025).
- Members Lost During 2024/2025:
 - o Bronwyn Chang (membership not renewed)
 - o Kristian Dauncey (membership not renewed)
 - o John Poke (resigned January 2025; moved to RC Rowville-Lysterfield)
 - o Beth Pardoe (resigned January 2025)
 - o Sandra Hayes (resigned March 2025)
 - o Sandra Kemp (resigned June 2025).
- Honorary Members 2024/2025:
 - o Anne Boyd (ongoing)
 - o Alan Jenkins (ongoing)
 - o Stephen Payne (ongoing).
- Total Membership:

During 2024/25, our total membership remained stable with a total of fifty-one (51) members, comprising:

 - o 48 Financial; and
 - o 3 Honorary.

A list of our members as of 30 June 2025 is presented in **Appendix B**.

13 Australian Rotary Health – 2025 Ride for Medical Research



District 9815

1st Annual Rotary Ride for Medical
Research

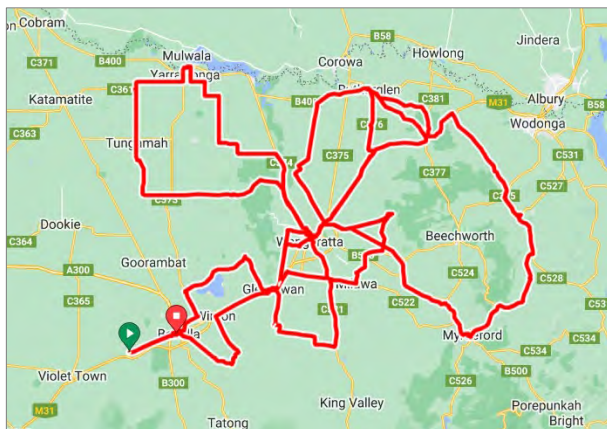
16 to 21 March 2025

This year's ride, named the “**Ruby Ramble**”, celebrated 40 years of fundraising for Australian Rotary Health. It was also the 38th

such ride and the first under the auspices of the new joint District 9815.



Beginning on Sunday, 16th March in the quiet hamlet of Baddaginnie, the ride finished six days later in nearby Benalla, after spending five days wandering around the northeastern region of Victoria. Centered around Wangaratta, looping in and out each day, the ride took in the sites and small towns in this scenic part of our State.



Generally, the weather was kind to us, although we experienced one day where, from the morning tea stop, it basically poured for most of the day. Come lunchtime, we agreed that we couldn't get any wetter and as it wasn't cold, most riders soldiered on until the end. The ride was enjoyed by all who came along. This year we had a number of new riders who, in no time at all, fitted into the rhythm of the ride, enjoying the comradery of their team members and the ride in general.

This year we had 29 riders and 10 support crew, a little up on last year's rider numbers, with a number of these coming from the old District 9820 as well as a number from U3a. Approximately half were not Rotarians, but all helped with the fund raising, which is what we do it for.

Fundraising started a little slowly this year and it looked like we were going to raise around \$20-25,000, but once the ride got under way this changed, with money being donated regularly and continuing to come in, well after the ride was completed.



This year the **Mad March Challenge** raised \$6,474.00 and the **Ride for Medical research** raised, at the time of writing, \$43,387.00, making a **total of \$49,861.00** for Australian Rotary Health to put towards its research programs. We are expecting some more donations to come in before we finish up for the year, which should push the final figure to just over \$50,000, either way a great result.

Many thanks to all those who took part and the people who sponsored them, a great effort by all.



Next year's ride is already in the planning stages for March 22-27 March 2026 and should see us top \$1.4 million dollars raised for Australian Rotary Health. Watch out for: **The Search for the Centre of Victoria**, Woodend to Kyneton, looping in and out of Bendigo. If you would like to go on the early bird registration list, please send an email to: - rfrmr9815@gmail.com.

2024-25 Committee Members:

Members of the 2024 Ride organising committee were:

- **Rotarians:** Janet (Co-coordinator) & Peter Wallas (Rotary Club Traralgon); Stephen Spiers (Co-coordinator), Ken Barrett, John White and Peter Dalwood (all Rotary Club of Boronia); Nicole Osner (Rotary Club of Mount Waverley); and Ian & Marg Vessey (Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield).
- **Non-Rotarians:** David Brown, Karen Brown and Will McKeown.

Stephen Spiers

2025 Ride Co-coordinator

On behalf of the "Ride for Medical Research" Committee

Appendix A Club Photograph



Rotary Club of Boronia
Members present at Club meeting – 24th June 2025

Appendix B Club Members as of 30 June 2025

Member	Classification	Partner
ANDERSON Heather	Community Development	Lawrie
BARKER Marina		
BARRETT Ken	Insurance General	Miriam
BOYD Anne	Honorary	
BROOKS Ron		Robbie
CASSIDY Paul	Engineering General	Gaye
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
GREEN Penry		Robyn
GREEN Robyn		Penry
GRIFFIN Annette		Geoff
GRIFFIN Geoff		Annette
HANGER Susan	Counselling Service	Brian
HAWORTH Annette	Pre-School Teaching	
HEBBLETHWAITE Brad	Metal Polishing	Marie
HENRY Valerie	Retired	
HYAMS Julianne	Primary & Secondary School Business Manager	
JACOBS Michael	Law - General Practice	Julianne
JENKINS Alan	Honorary	Val
KAMIETH Helene		
LIU Kathy		Justin
MALDEN Jan		Peter
MALDEN Peter	Telecommunications	Jan
MASON Tom		Anne
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
POST Michele		
RUNDELL Gonny	Commercial Property Management	John
SEEVATHEAN Vanesscha		Azagen

Member	Classification	Partner
SHEPHERD Lyn		Bob
SIEGERSMA Ray		Annette
SLY Jim	Environmental Engineering	Lucille
SMITH Mark	Business Solutions/Stationary	Monique
SMITH Monique	Business Solutions/Stationary	Mark
SPIERS Stephen	Commercial Refrigeration	Jane
SPINOSA-CATTELA Richard	Consultancy	Anne-Maree
TAYLOR Jackson	Member of Parliament	
TIPPETT Glenn	Printing Sales Management	Shereen
VAN ZEYL Peter	Business Development	Helen
VANDERWOLDE Bernadette	Insurance	Jon
WHITE John	Retail Consultancy	Gail
WINDEBANK Janet	Locum Lawyer	Neville
WINDEBANK Neville	Law - General Practice	Janet

Appendix C 2024/25 Committee Membership

Community Service and Environment:

Ray Siegersma – Chair
Paul Cassidy
Ken Barrett
Bruce Crago
Annette Haworth
Peter Malden
Jackson Taylor
John White
Beth Pardoe^{2,3}

Youth and Vocational Service:

Bernadette Vanderwolde – Chair
Lance Deveson
Marina Barker
Bronwyn Chang
Jarom Deeks
Jane Mifsud
Mark Smith
Vanesschka Seevathean²

International Service:

Neville Windebank – Chair
Ron Brooks²
Lillain Daff
Kathy Liu
Dushan Perera
Stephen Payne

Fundraising and Entrepreneurial Development:

Annette Griffin – Chair
John Poke³
Robyn Green
Michael Jacobs
Sandra Kemp³
Greg Mossop
Ryan O'Shea
Peter Van Zeyl

Membership and Wellbeing:

Geoff Griffin – Chair
Val Henry
Susan Hanger
Brad Hebblethwaite
Sandra Hayes³
Janet Windebank

Social/Fellowship:

Gonny Rundell – Chair
Stephen Spiers
Heather Anderson
Leigh Elsey
Julienne Hyams
Doug Gibson
Jan Malden
Helene Kamieth²
Michele Post²

Public Image:

Glenn Tippet – Chair
Tom Mason
Penry Green
Jim Sly
Richard Spinosa-Cattela
Anne Boyd
Peter Dalwood

Foundation:

Neville Windebank – Chair

² Joined Club during 2024/25.

³ Resigned from Club during 2024/25.

Club Service:

Bernadette Vanderwolde – Chair/President Elect

Bulletin Editor:

Bernadette Vanderwolde

Program Coordinator:

Robyn Green
Ron Brooks

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Ray Siegersma

Club Welfare:

Geoff Griffin
Val Henry

Facebook Administrator:

Glenn Tippet

Club History and Archives:

Jim Sly
Lance Deveson

Attendance/Knox Club Liaison:

Janet Windebank

Club Protection/Risk Management Officer:

Bernadette Vanderwolde

Club Photographer:

Glenn Tippet

Technology Support:

Peter Dalwood
Jim Sly

Website Administrator:

Jim Sly

On to Conference:

Gonny Rundell

Appendix D Corporate Sponsors 2024/25

D.1 Fijian Education and Health Projects



- **Fiji High Commissioner for Australia – Canberra**
 - His Excellency, Mr Ajay Amrit and Consular Staff
- **Simba Global – Bayswater**
 - Hiten Somaia, Mehul Somaia and staff
- **Gibson Freight Pty Ltd – Tullamarine**
 - Michelle Camilleri and staff
- **Gibson Freight Pty Ltd – Suva**
 - Saleshe Prakash and staff
- **Spincat Consulting – Wantirna South**
 - Richard Spinosa-Cattella
- **Marrich Equity Pty Ltd**
 - Neville Windebank and Hector
- **Donations in Kind – Footscray**
 - Laurie Fisher, Bob Glindemann and team
- **Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)**
 - Pauline Lane and team

D.2 Golf Day Sponsors



- **Tasty Trucks – Ferntree Gully**
 - Colin Lear and staff
- **Ballard’s Solicitors – Wantirna**
 - Neville Windebank and staff
- **Bendigo Bank – Boronia**
 - Stephen Lakey 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
- **Morecraft Kitchens – Bayswater**
 - Matt Wallace and staff
- **Simba Global – Bayswater North**
 - Mehul Somaia
- **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 2024/25



- **Razer Graphix – Wantirna**
 - Alan Rye, Glenn Tippet and staff
- **Meyer Cookware Australia – Croydon South**
- **Mr Ajay Amrit – Fijian High Commissioner to Australia**
- **Mr Reg Hodgson – Honorary Consul for Fiji**
- **Knox Infolink**
 - Penny Robinson and staff
- **Knox Community Christmas Support**
 - Julie Hanman, Lori Dudley and team
- **The Knox Club**
 - Ally Lonie 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 Sharon Costantino
- **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 9815

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Rotary Club of Boronia
Website