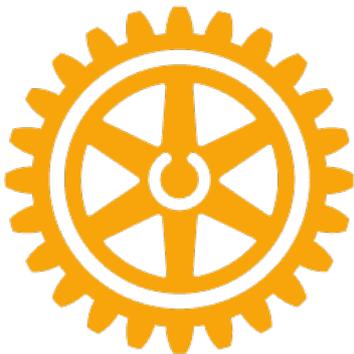


Box Hill Central  
**Rotary**



**Annual Report 2024–2025**



## President's Message – Robyn Stokes

This year the Rotary Club of Box Hil Central continues its proud tradition of “Service Above Self”, building connections locally and globally. Across our avenues of service, we have impacted lives in our community, supported young leaders, contributed to international development, and advanced Rotary’s mission to “unite people for lasting change”.

Beyond the club, 24/25 has been an opportunity for improving our reach and impact, and internally, to increase our ability to adapt and enhance participant engagement.

Please see the 24/25 highlights and explore the club achievements and photos.

Beyond the club:

- Rotary International President 24/25 Stephanie Urchick (from USA) – **“The Magic of Rotary”**
- Rotary International Convention held at Calgary, Canada June 2024 with Diane and Stephen Fisher attending.
- Rotary Zone 8, covering Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, rebranded to **Rotary South Pacific**.
- Rotary Districts 9810 & 9820 merged into **Rotary District 9815** in July 2024 and ably led by District Governor Colin Byron. From Sandringham to Maffra, Warrandyte to Sorrento.
- D9815 inaugural conference held in Bendigo. Thankyou Past President Kevin Dobson & Isabel for hosting Friday club night.
- Whitehorse cluster Rotary Presidents transitioned into **Rotary Community Group East** led by Trish Carr for growth, collaboration and encouragement. From Warrandyte to Waverley, Surrey Hills to Maroondah.

Club Highlights:

- Fit for Purpose
  - Club applied and were selected for this Regional Council membership initiative pilot.
  - Stephen Fisher and Tony Stokes attended **Club Transformation Workshop** in Sydney Sep 2024, returning with Club Fitness Plan.



- Members were surveyed and consulted, led by Stephen Fisher, resulting in a **Club Transformation Blue Print** for feeding into Club Experience renewal.
- Local hands-on service project launched April 25 “**Addressing Classroom Hunger**” (ACH) at Forest Hill Chase. Funding, preparing and delivery cheese sandwiches monthly to 7 requesting local schools for students, who for whatever reason, are without lunch. Part of Fit for Purpose pilot to end June 2026. ACH meets in lieu of same day Wednesday meeting.
- David Button (D9815 Communications Chair) commissioned for **club website refresh**. We are very grateful David.



- Club 35th Anniversary
  - Celebratory breakfast at Miss Lucy café with special guest Mark Anderson Major Grants Officer TRF (April 2025).



- Behind the scenes – special thanks:
  - Club Executive:
    - Secretary Liz Stinson,
    - Treasurer David Routledge
    - President Elect Wendy Zhang
  - Board Portfolio leads:
    - Diane Fisher: International & Foundation,
    - Malcolm Chiverton: Community & Environmental Sustainability
    - Robyn Stokes: Membership
    - Tony Stokes: Youth and Club Service
    - Wendy Zhang: Vocational & Business Engagement



- Program Diane Fisher, Rosters Greg Cooper, Venue liaison Tony Stokes
- Rotary Whitehorse Farmers Market – monthly service Malcolm Chiverton & Julian Badenach.
- Six board meetings and one special board meeting held in 24/25.
- Club Bulletin transitioned from weekly to monthly frequency. Club website displaying recent issues and upcoming events with rosters. Published on Club Runner, with ongoing focus to grow club bulletin subscribers.

- Serving in and beyond the club 24/25:
  - Kath Ronan: Chair Operation Cleft Australia Foundation Inc
  - Tony Stokes: Chair Operation Toilets Australia Inc
  - Greg Cooper: Chair Rotary Recycle Inc
  - Wendy Zhang: Chair International Women's Day Committee Inc
  - Malcolm Chiverton: Membership Chair D9815
  - Brian McPhail: Treasurer Model United Nations Assembly D9815
  - Wendy Zhang & Brian McPhail: Judges Whitehorse Business Excellence Awards
- Special thanks to Rotary Recycle Op Shop team with Manager Julie Cuskelly and Lin Mak (social media) also serving on the governance committee. We appreciate greatly all you do.





## Youth Service – Tony Stokes

Supporting and inspiring young people remained a cornerstone of our work.

- **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** – Sponsored **2 participants** (Alyssa Wong & Jake Garcia, July 2025). Both enhanced their leadership skills, with potential to return as leaders in 2026.
- **Four-Way Test Speech Contest** – Sponsored **2 students** from Our Lady of Sion College (OLSC), helping them gain confidence in public speaking and a deeper understanding of Rotary’s values.
- **Citizen Award (OLSC)** – Student recognised with an award and invited to apply for RYLA sponsorship.
- **Shining Star Award (Blackburn Primary School)** – Outstanding student celebrated at the 2024 final assembly.
- **Rotary Youth Exchange** – Co-sponsored **Inara Leeuwenburgh** with Rotary Club of Moreland, who departed Jan 2025 to spend a year in Finland, broadening her cultural and educational horizons.
- **International Women’s Day (IWD)** – Sponsored **33 student tickets** to attend, empowering young women through exposure to inspiring role models.

**Impact:** Young people in our community are developing leadership, resilience, and global awareness, with Rotary as their partner in growth.





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## International Service – Diane Fisher

This year saw strong international engagement with transformative projects in health, sanitation, and education.

- **Operation Cleft** – Donated \$17,000, funding 42 life-changing cleft surgeries for disadvantaged children in Bangladesh.
- **Operation Toilets** – Contributed \$17,000 to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in Ethiopia and Nepal, directly benefitting over 10,000 people and indirectly impacting nearly 30,000. Delivered with partner International Needs Australia.
- **Nutrition for Expectant Mothers (Bangladesh)** – District Grant-funded pilot project providing food and education, improving maternal and infant health, with government interest in scaling the program. Initiative of Stephen Mather.

- **Hatton, Sri Lanka (Mukti)** – Following screenings of 200 children, **31 children and staff** received corrective glasses, restoring vision, dignity, and opportunity.
- **“I Am Someone” Uganda Scholarships** – Continued tertiary sponsorship of students Gift & Immaculate.
- **Yr 2 Beyond St Jude Sponsorship (Tanzania)** – supporting tertiary studies
- **Wheelchairs for Kids** – Funded **10 wheelchairs**, giving children mobility, education access, and inclusion.

**Impact:** Health, dignity, and education were restored for thousands across Asia and Africa, with lives and communities transformed.





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## Rotary Foundation – Diane Fisher

- **35th Anniversary Gift** – Donated **A\$3,500** to PolioPlus.
- **Annual Foundation Giving** – Contributed **US\$6,000**.
- **PolioPlus** – Additional **US\$3,000** dedicated to Rotary’s global fight to eradicate polio.
- **“Happy Schools, Happy Learning”** Global Grant GG2570073 with Rotary Club of Udaipur Meera submitted May 2025. 571 students in 7 impoverished schools in Piplantri Region, Rajahstan India with their families will benefit from the project, through lasting better health and educational outcomes for the students, especially teenage girls. Project Coordinator Mark Balla.
- **Paul Harris Fellows** awarded by club to Tony Stokes and Stephen Mather.

**Impact:** Supporting Rotary Foundation ensures we contribute to global peace, health, and development— “doing good in the world”.

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# Community Service – Malcolm Chiverton

Locally, we focused on mental health, education, inclusion, and support for vulnerable groups.

- **Sport & Life Training (SALT)** – Raised **\$5,175** through the AFL Grand Final Breakfast, supporting positive sporting culture. Led by Julian Badenach.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing Support Wallet Card** – Printed **1,500 cards** for distribution through schools, community centres, and Deakin University, connecting people to vital resources. Work is underway to develop digital versions and additional formats.
- **Children’s Cancer Centre, Monash Hospital** – Donated **\$1,000** toward local access to life-saving apheresis therapy.
- **Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN)** – Committed **\$5,000** to infrastructure improvements for their 30th anniversary.
- **Koorie Student Sponsorship (Box Hill Institute)** – Provided **3 scholarships** and a **Student of the Year Award** to support Indigenous students.
- **Café of Connections** – Continued sponsorship of this dementia café, addressing social isolation and supporting carers.
- Supported **Martial Arts Therapy program** for growing resilience at Robert McCubbin Primary School for eight students each school term.
- Box Hill High School students supported to participate in **Impact for Women** “love bags” packing day for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

**Impact:** Strengthened community wellbeing, reduced isolation, and improved access to services for vulnerable individuals and families.





## Environmental Sustainability – Malcolm Chiverton

This year, we invested in sustainability, outdoor education, and environmental collaboration. Committee led by John Elrington.

- **Blackburn Primary School** – Funded **2 outdoor table/bench units**, enabling whole-class outdoor learning.
- **Bungalook** – Donated **4 workbenches**, increasing volunteer engagement capacity.
- **Future Problem Solvers (Team BEAP)** – Contributed **\$5,000** to support participation at the international convention in Indiana, USA, June 2025.
- **Gardiners Creek Reserve BBQ** – Partnered with Whitehorse Rotaract and KooyongKoot Alliance to support volunteer planting and weeding.

**Impact:** Expanded learning environments, enhanced environmental action, and inspired young leaders in sustainability.



## Vocational Service –Wendy Zhang

Promoting ethical business and employment inclusion was a key focus.

- **Excellence in Business Awards** – Sponsored **3 awards** and provided judges through Whitehorse Business Group.
- **Community Employment Partnership (Belonging Matters)** – Facilitated placements for people with intellectual disability or autism at local organisations, raising awareness and giving participants meaningful work.
- **International Women’s Day** – Together with local Rotary Clubs, organised a fundraising breakfast at Box Hill Town Hall, supported student engagement and celebrated #AcclerateAction, particularly for gender pay equity. Proceeds to Dream Stitches: Migrant and Refugee Women’s Sewing Inc.

**Impact:** Contributed to inclusive employment, supported business excellence, and promoted equity.



## Membership Service – Robyn Stokes

Promoting a *simply irresistible* club experience was our target.

- **New Member** – Induction of **Tim Greenham** Jul 3 2024.
- **Member Badges Refresh** – with club logo compliant with Rotary Brand Center and vocation discontinued as no longer required.
- **Club Banner Refresh** – with by line “Supporting Communities Near and Far”
- **Club Transformation Blueprint** developed in group led by Stephen Fisher.
- **Membership tally** at year end 33 active and 4 honorary members.

**Impact:** Contributed to improved club experience in preparation for membership growth.



# Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2024–25, there is much to celebrate. As we continue to adapt to change in our society, our technology, we plan for a great future for Box Hill Central Rotary to serve the needs of our communities, both near and far.

Thankyou to our members, partners, and supporters.

**Proud of the Past – Energised for the Future**

**Robyn Stokes President 24/25 5 Nov 2025**



**Stephanie  
Urchick:  
“simply  
irresistible”**

## TREASURERS REPORT – DAVID ROUTLEDGE

This Rotary year 24/25 the Club generated income of 151,000, with another excellent contribution from the Rotary Recycle Shop of 105,000 (PY 110,000). This trend should continue providing the Shop can recruit a sufficient level of volunteers. The Club also gave funding to a wide range of community groups and local and international projects. These included:

|                                    | \$      |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Community Service                  | 35,009  |
| Environmental Sustainability       | 9,903   |
| International Service              | 46,970  |
| Rotary Foundation                  | 17,230  |
| Vocational and Business Engagement | 5,035   |
| Youth Service                      | 5,175   |
|                                    | 119,322 |

### ROTARY CLUB OF BOX HILL CENTRAL INC FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 30 June 2025

| <b>Period Ending:</b>                   | <b>30-Jun-25</b> | <b>30-Jun-24</b> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</b>        |                  |                  |
| <b>INCOME</b>                           |                  |                  |
| Fundraising                             | 112,550          | 111,000          |
| Administration                          | 38,891           | 38,679           |
|   | 151,441          | 149,679          |
| <b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>                 |                  |                  |
| Givings                                 | 119,322          | 102,834          |
| Administration                          | 48,307           | 43,137           |
|   | 167,628          | 145,971          |
| <b>Surplus (deficit) for the period</b> | -16,187          | 3,708            |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>                    |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                   |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents               | 75,950           | 79,333           |
| <b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>         |                  |                  |
| Creditors and Provisions                | 16,000           | 3,195            |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                       | 59,950           | 76,138           |