

# **Banyule City Council and Banyule Rotary Clubs CONFERENCE**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

### **BANYULE CITY COUNCIL**

Mark Di Pasquale - Councillor and Mayor

Peter Castaldo - Councillor

Craig Langdon - Councillor

Tom Melican - Councillor

### **ROTARY PRESIDENTS**

Greensborough - Zilis Hardiman

Heidelberg – Noel Sturgeon

Ivanhoe – Kevin Richie

Rosanna – Merle Maunder

Dr. Bruce Anderson – Assistant Governor

Greg Paul – Assistant Governor

Rotarians from the above clubs

**The objective** of this conference was to develop a base from which Rotary Clubs in the City of Banyule could engage with BCC as a single force in support of our common community.

Our message to Council was “Rotary represents a considerable resource for Banyule community projects”. Attendees therefore were asked to participate in conversation over lunch at each table focussing on community issues and project concepts for future consideration by our clubs – hopefully in partnership with BCC.

The main issues and opportunities identified at the tables were as follows:

- Youth leadership and development. An existing RYLA focussed project, in conjunction with Bendigo Bank (Heidelberg Branch) and supported by BCC Youth Services was highlighted as an example of a small step towards our objective.
- The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) offer opportunities for selected young people to receive support for specific projects and programs. We could work jointly in identifying more candidates.
- Could our clubs link with BCC outreach staff in addressing the needs of “drop out youth” so that they can be linked with youth support organisations in the district?
- The Banyule community is diverse so how can we draw it together through different club activities? We could offer to work with various ethnic groups and indigenous Australians on projects of their choosing.
- Rotary needs to generate a higher profile and public awareness of its work in and for the community. Rotary seldom rates a mention in the Leader newspaper or in Council information e.g. BCC’s “The Banner”.
- The BCC’s website of Rotary Club contacts needs updating by the clubs.

- Rotary would benefit by the inclusion of a regular (perhaps fortnightly?) column in Leader newspapers where events and projects could be listed; one outcome being a possible influx of interested participants (and potential new members).
- There are working bee opportunities at the location of the Hi City and RDNS facilities on Oriel Road, Ivanhoe. There are also four houses in Liberty Parade, Heidelberg West that could be refurbished to become emergency housing.
- Our clubs have the human resources to provide the labour but we do not have large finances to offer.
- Through the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) our local clubs could combine to provide some immediate financial support to the drought-affected farmers in northern NSW and southern Qld.
- Information could be aired on local radio through “Inner-FM” radio (96.5 FM), inviting the local community to contribute.
- Interclub visits could occur at least annually to canvas possible joint projects. Each club could nominate a contact person to liaise with their equivalent elsewhere.
- Contact with BCC needs to be maintained so that opportunities for project identification can occur. The possibility of collaborations between BCC and some or all other Banyule-located clubs would be greatly enhanced.
- “Relay for Life”, organised by the Greensborough Club in support of the Cancer Council, has been a very effective way of engaging with the public, enabling large amounts of funds to be raised for cancer programs. It presents the Banyule Rotary Clubs with opportunity to join forces and work on this as a collaborative project.

### Council comments

Mayor Mark Di Pasquale encouraged us to speak with our councillors about what we would like to do, be it with their involvement or without (but with their endorsement). Mark was unaware of current Rotary projects. Summaries of these and future projects would be welcomed.

Rotary Clubs were encouraged to nominate people for the Volunteer Community Awards.

Mark also suggested that a link be established between the BCC website and each Rotary Club website, enabling readers to view our projects and activities at any time. (From the floor it was suggested that the BCC’s “The Banner” could also be used for this purpose.)

Cr Peter Castaldo invited email contact with our clubs. He said that BCC is encouraging apprenticeships within the district and our clubs could help to identify new apprenticeship opportunities by providing details to BCC.

Cr Tom Melican said that the (NSW & Qld) drought has presented us with an opportunity to do something for our interstate neighbours (through the Rotary movement) that would be very worthwhile. It would be a tangible demonstration of our community uniting to help another.

Cr Craig Langdon asked if we might be able to help BCC in its establishment of “social enterprises.” A new BCC staff member is soon to begin, who will be tasked with developing this important role. Rotary’s help would be appreciated.

Craig also revealed that, in honour of the architectural contributions of our late member Max Chester OAM and Napier Waller (the architect who designed the Australian War Memorial), BCC is in the early stages of planning a memorial glass window installation in the new building to be erected on the site of the current Library, next to the old Heidelberg Town Hall administrative offices. A dedication to both architects will occur at some future date and we will be involved as more aspects are finalised.

## **TABLE CAPTAINS**

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