President’s Report - Peter McEwen (2021 - 2022)

It has been a privilege to serve Applecross Rotary Club as President for 2021-22.

We started the year with a bang with the celebration of Applecross Rotary’s 50th Anniversary at the Sunshine Harvest Works on 6th July 2021. This was also our 2021 changeover. Almost 100 Rotarians, partners and friends attended the event.

While COVID was around us, and indeed some members were forced to miss meetings, our Club continued with regular meetings at Dome, Mount Pleasant. The meetings were complimented with online ZOOM. Thank you to the management of Dome for allowing us to use their facilities on a weekly basis.

Our primary fundraising activities were again well supported.

With the Jacaranda’s in full bloom, our 21st Jacaranda Festival was held on 27th November 2021. While the heat intervened, it was another successful community event in which over 160 stallholders showcased their goods, and an estimated 8,000 people enjoyed the day. Over 100 volunteers made it happen! Thank you to all the Rotarians and volunteers who generously gave of their time to make this event such a special day.

We must also acknowledge the ongoing commitment of City of Melville and Lotterywest, as well as our Club sponsors, Ross North Developments, Pharmacy 777, Mont Property and The Good Grocer. It would be remiss of me not to mention the enormous contribution of our Jacaranda Festival Leader Kenn Williams.

Whilst COVID caused some date changes, 7 Perth Makers Market (PMM) events were held during the year. Our Club with the support of volunteer groups such as Attadale Rotary, E Club and Waylen Bay Sea Scouts organized the parking for these events. Since 2016, car park donations have surpassed $100,000. Thank you to Chris Whelan who organized our Club PMM activities. Chris has recently handed this responsibility to Brett Hammill.

Our third major fundraising event is the annual Art Show. This is a joint initiative with Melville Rotary Club. The 47th Art Show was held recently at Garden City and provided the opportunity for 150 local artists to display their creations. In all, 402 paintings were displayed, with 60 sold. Thank you to our coordinator Hamish Turner and all Rotarians and family who assisted.

During the year, two membership milestones were achieved. PDG Bruce James celebrated 50 years with Applecross Rotary and Doug Telfer was awarded Life Membership of our Club. Special presentations were made with family members present. Despite continued effort, there was little change on the membership front. A new three-tiered approach is being implemented to boost members.

Despite COVID, our Club meetings were generally well attended. Thank you to our Sergeant Chris Dawson, Deputy John Kelly, who ensured that the meetings were not only on time, but that we left with a smile on our face. Thanks also to Tony Haeusler for managing reception. The Clubs guest speaker programme, managed by Gordon Dunbar, is a critical part of our meetings.

At one meeting, Erin Hegarty outlined Mama Responds activities, and vision for a disabled class and ablutions block at a school in Noonkopir, Kenya. PP Chris Whelan took a lead role with the result that the new facilities are now being built. With Erin’s efforts, and Rotary’s support, USD95,000 has now been raised for this special project. Chris’s efforts didn’t stop there. In a new initiate, Chris organized a joint ZOOM meeting with the Washington Rotary Club, Pennsylvania (WRC). WRC have since pledged a further USD15,000 for the fit out of the new facility.

Fellowship has always been a key component of life at Applecross Rotary Club. Members enjoyed a full programme of social activities. Thank you to Liz Palmer, Lorri Brazier and Max Cunnington for your efforts.

Throughout the year, Applecross Rotary distributed over $64,000 to worthy organizations and projects. This is a wonderful effort and I would like to thank all members, family and volunteers who contributed to this great result. A special thank you to Life Member John Henderson who generously donated $10,000 towards a local community project.

Finally, I would like to thank all Directors for your contribution and support throughout the year. In particular, immediate PP Ray Philp efforts have been highly valued. Ray has been our Vice President, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and Technical Expert. I wish incoming President Logan and his team, all the best for the year ahead.