

# ROTARY CLUB OF ESPERANCE BAY

## Annual Report

2015-2016



### Members List 2015-2016

Eldrian **Basson**  
Jeff **Buckman**  
Mike **Clarke** (PP)  
Charlotte **Davidson** (PP)  
David **Ford** (PP)  
Jen **Ford**  
Peter **Fox**  
Kerr **Fulton-Peebles**  
Jim **Gray** (PP)  
Greg **Hard** (PP)  
Fred **Hayllar** (Hon)  
Heather **James**  
Bob **Jones** (PP)  
Bruce **Jones**  
Lee **Mackin** (PP)

Rick **Martin**  
Frank **Matthews**  
Ian **McCallum**  
Fleur **McDonald**  
Andrew **Middleton**  
Richard **Moore**  
Tom **Murray** (PP)  
Richard **Nulsen** (PP)  
Ron **Padgurskis** (PP)  
Renae **Poot**  
Shane **Rothnie**  
Peter **Schmedje**  
Rob **Simpson**  
Warren **Slater**  
Barrie **Stearne** (PP) (Hon)

Brett **Thorp**  
Dick **Thorp** (PP)  
Brian **Tolhurst** (PP)  
John **Wallace** (PP)  
Katie **Williams**  
Garry **Wilson**  
Paul **Wennagel** (PP)

(PP) Past President - (Hon) Honorary Member

### Paul Harris Fellows

Billy **Andrews**  
Sylvia **Boast**  
Ralph **Bower**  
Mike **Clarke**  
Charlotte **Davidson**  
John **Faahan-Smith**  
Graham **Fairbrass**  
David **Ford**  
Ben **Hall**  
Jim **Hawkey**

Stan **Hennessey**  
Roger **Hill**  
Clyde **Hudson**  
Heather **James**  
Bob **Jones** (Sapphire)  
Paddy **Kerr**  
Lee **Mackin**  
Jock **Murray**  
Tom **Murray**  
Dick **Nulsen**

Bob **Piggott** (Sapphire)  
Renae **Poot** (Sapphire)  
Carmen **Saunders**  
Barrie **Stearne**  
Dick **Thorp**  
John **Wallace**  
Paul **Wennagel**

### Ralph Bower Memorial Awardees

Charlotte **Davidson**  
Heather **James**  
Bob **Jones** (x2)  
Jen **Ford**  
Lee **Mackin**  
Ian **Mickle**  
Tom **Murray**

Bob **Piggott** (x2)  
Murray **Pownall**  
Shane **Rothnie**  
Margaret **Tucker**  
Paul **Wennagel**  
Ray **Wilson**  
Radio **West**

## Attendance

Frank Matthews

<b>Basson</b> Eldrian	90%
<b>Buckman</b> Geoff	62%
<b>Clarke</b> Mike	65%
<b>Davidson</b> Charlotte	99%
<b>Ford</b> David	80%
<b>Ford</b> Jen	78%
<b>Fox</b> Peter	82%
<b>Fulton-Peebles</b> Kerr	61%
<b>Gray</b> Jim	89%
<b>Hard</b> Greg	76%
<b>James</b> Heather	69%
<b>Jones</b> Bob	92%
<b>Jones</b> Bruce	78%
<b>Mackin</b> Lee	90%
<b>Martin</b> Rick	50%
<b>Matthews</b> Frank	78%
<b>McCallum</b> Ian	90%
<b>McDonald</b> Fleur	57%
<b>Middleton</b> Andrew	92%
<b>Moore</b> Richard	65%
<b>Murray</b> Tom	94%
<b>Nulsen</b> Richard	88%
<b>Padgurskis</b> Ron	37%
<b>Poot</b> Renae	94%
<b>Rothnie</b> Shane	94%
<b>Schmedje</b> Peter	81%
<b>Simpson</b> Rob	65%
<b>Slater</b> Warren	55%
<b>Thorp</b> Brett	63%
<b>Thorp</b> Dick	63%
<b>Tolhurst</b> Brian	63%
<b>Wallace</b> John	59%
<b>Wennagel</b> Paul	94%
<b>Williams</b> Katie	100%
<b>Wilson</b> Garry	90%

### Honorary Members

<b>Hayllar</b> Fred	
<b>Stearne</b> Barrie	27%
<b>Hill</b> Roger	45%

## ROTARY CLUB OF ESPERANCE BAY 2016/2017 COMMITTEES

**PRESIDENT – Brian Tolhurst**  
**SECRETARY – Heather James**  
**TREASURER – Bob Jones**

### **CLUB SERVICE – Kerr Fulton-Peebles**

Shane Rothnie (Asset Manager)  
Richard Moore (Sergeant at Arms)  
Charlotte Davidson (Attendance)

### **MEMBERSHIP – Renae Poot**

### **INTERNATIONAL – Jeff Buckman**

Rob Simpson (LOA)  
Warren Slater  
Mike Clarke  
Jen Ford  
Rick Martin

### **VOCATIONAL – David Ford**

Jim Gray  
Dick Thorp  
Katie Williams  
Tom Murray

### **YOUTH – Peter Fox**

Brett Thorp  
Eldrian Basson  
Greg Hard  
Dick Nulsen  
Frank Matthews

### **COMMUNITY – Garry Wilson**

Paul Wennagel  
Lee Mackin (Special Projects)  
Ron Padgurskis  
Bruce Jones (Fireworks)

### **PRICKLE FARM – Peter Schmedje/Fleur McDonald**

Ian McCallum  
Andrew Middleton (LOA)  
John Wallace

# President's Report

Paul Wennagel

Our Club is made great through the work of its members. This Rotary year, there were some real stand-outs.

For starters, our Club Service Director: Garry. He drove our Club functions, our week-to-week management and our Club meetings. Garry had over-all responsibility for each Club meeting – and also ran special function such as the Christmas party, the DG's visit, our Anzac Day Munglinup camping weekend, organized our Thomas River whale watching day in conjunction with Community Director Bruce ... to name a few. Garry initiated our first-ever member survey – to give us a better idea of what members liked – and what they didn't – about how our Club was running.

Bruce has been our Community Director. His monster project this year has been the second annual – and wildly successful – New Year's Eve Fireworks event. He also coordinated our Scaddan bowls night, handled Club involvement in the Gibson footy grand final day - and worked with Garry to run Club functions. Bruce and Garry make a great working team – and bit like Snugglepote and Cuddle-pie.

Treasurer Tom has given us great service this year – taking enormous pride in his work on both Club and Prickle Farm accounts. Tom's attention to detail is the stuff of legend – but he has also provided terrific support to all of our portfolios – and has often provided us with a gentle reminder about what is important, and what is not.

Sharley has given us some wonderful vocational events this year. Visits to Teen Challenge, Lucky Bay Brewery – and a return to Pride of Workmanship made this a busy committee – and in addition, Sharley put in a power of work to properly acquit funds raised in the 2015 Radio Auction.

The Youth committee was heavily invested this year in our return to involvement in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Diego has been properly embraced by our entire Club as our incoming RYE 'son' – and we have been proud to sponsor not one but two students in outgoing exchange. Additionally, Kerr – together with our other proud Scots – hosted a sensationally successful Burns night, to the bemusement and delight of the entire Club.

International Director Warren spent time abroad this year, spreading goodwill and friendship to many in the South Americas. He has been active in extending Club support to the Rotary Shelterbox and Aquabox programs – but also in heading up the Club marquee project, providing hire service of our wedding marquee into the local community. Thanks largely to Warren's work; our marquee hire program is now a major contributor to the Club coffers. And – speaking of money – Warren's informal contributions through his 'buy the box' fines from the floor during Club meetings are also noteworthy – as much for the money raised as for Warren's polished vernacular.

Prickle Farm Director Andrew – together with his committee – put in huge hours to make the farm operate to its potential. Prickle Farm is a fundamental part of our Club – not only from the funds it generates, but also in the social fellowship we enjoy every time we attend a farm busy bee. Prickle Farm is what makes our Club unique. As a Club, we need to work out how we can fully engage with this wonderful project – and make it work even better – for all our members.

This Rotary year saw the worst wildfires in the modern history of our region. As a service Club, we – like the entire community - looked on in shock at the devastation and tragedy. Like everyone else, we wanted to help – but it was not immediately clear where help was needed.

A BlazeAid camp was established in Grass Patch in early December 2015, to provide fencing and infrastructure support for affected landholders in need. Our Club provided direct funding support to the BlazeAid effort – but importantly, our members and friends also supported the campers with a fortnightly ‘cook-up’ – a Friday night meal, and great fellowship – for several months.

This Rotary year has seen our Club re-engage with programs for those with disabilities. Chris is a young man with a limited intellectual disability, and through the Carer’s Respite Program our Club has been given the opportunity to provide him with the opportunity to join us in our Club meetings and activities and to extend his community contacts.

Not everything we do is about funding and financial sponsorship. It’s also about giving time and encouragement to those who can make good use of what we have to offer.

This year, we lost two long time members and great Club contributors – Bob Piggott and Roger Hill. We miss their contributions and their friendship - but we understand that our club is what it is now because of their influence over many years. We also lost a Rotary Partner, Jan Nulsen, who over her time with the Club also gave freely – in both her time and friendship. We miss those that have left us – but their spirit is undeniably a part of our Club.

We’ve been very fortunate to induct two excellent new members to our Club this year – Brett and Katie. No pressure – but we have high expectations of you both. I hope that you both enjoy being a part of a wonderful group – that you engage completely, and find your full potential.

This Rotary year, I was awarded the honor of being asked to act as the first ever second-term President in the history of our Club. It’s unlikely that I’ll be asked back for a third time – but it’s been a terrific ride. I wish Brian – and his new team – all the very best.

**PAUL WENNAGEL**



## Club Service

Club Service portfolio can be described simply as the “health” of our club. Indicators the club is healthy can be exhibited through high attendance at weekly meetings, supporting club activities at community events, assisting at Prickle farm “busy bees” as well as promoting of the club via the media and through friends & family.

During the 2015/ 2016 period the club has achieved many highs via the various portfolios and I’m very proud to say Club Service has attributed to the success & health of our club.

Previous Club Service Director Bruce Jones provided a number of activities club members enjoy and a general guide when these activities happen during the year. I was also keen to have input from club members and developed a simple survey for members to provide feedback on any other ideas , improvements, what the club does well and any suggestions on club activities. The intention was to capture these and implement most if not all during my “tenure”

Snapshot of the year

Changeover night held at Bonapartes on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015, guest presenter Megan Press who engaged the physical & laughing abilities of members & guests, Megan’s moto was “fake it till you make it”. New president Paul welcomed the Clubs new directors on their portfolio’s and committee members. Huge effort by Heather, Lee and Lorraine for organizing this fun night,



Guest speaker Megan engaging the crowd

Shane involved with & completed 2 “Ride to the other Side” treks, one in July 2015 across the top & the second in July 2016 from Katherine in Northern Territory along Western Australian coast to Perth in a lawn mower. Huge effort Shanal and the organizing team. Shane also attended Handicamp in January, club & Esperance Port very busy boy. Still awaiting meeting possible future Mrs Rothnie!

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July a car convoy (27 people) headed east to Thomas River to view some Humpback & Southern Right whales. We set up at day site and soon headed to the rock look out near the river mouth and soon observing many whales. The day presented many photo opportunities followed with Bucko giving all a “Masterclass” of his 4WD skills. . A stainless steel water tank added to the BBQ trailer was a welcome modification. |



A club assembly held in August, lots of input from members.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October the club supported Hat Day by members wearing colourful, custom made or stock standard hats with money taken on the night plus a little donation from the club towards Mental Illness. Held during Mental Health week. After some back ground info on mental health a pop quiz held with Eldrian the “winner”

Strong support provided following the november fires via direct donations and weekly visits to Grass Patch to meet the BlazeAid volunteers. These rewarding evenings involved giving the BlazeAiders the night off with club members providing, cooking food, enjoying a beverage and a show from the kids on the stage. The vollies, who had travelled from all over Australia to assist the farmers in our region, very appreciative and in awe of the community spirit directed at them from Esperance people.

The Christmas party held at the Deep Sea Angling Club on the 6<sup>th</sup> December was another well attended function (63 people including 19 children) and fantastic venue even when the torrential down pour arrived. Foxy & I survived to cook up the BBQ steaks, snags, fish& kebabs to complement the awesome spread of hot & cold foods inside. Thanks to Father “Wazza” Christmas for loaning his knee to all the kids- big & small and Wal & Smedge for chaperoning Katie.

Various fun days utilising the BBQ trailer to Hell fire bay with DG Melody & John Kevan in late September, Adventure land park, Bandy Creek boat harbour with rides on patrol vessel all different venues and a change from the Pier hotel. Personally the Pier hotel & staff are hard to surpass but club member cooked black angus steaks on our own BBQ's cook up pretty well.



BBQ, beers & an afternoon cruise on the DoT boat

The club assets include 2 marquees “hired out” for private functions, business use & the annual Esperance Show. Included in the hire was the erection & dismantling of the structure. A number of hazards identified & I tasked myself with attempting to improve safety via use of JSA's (or job safety analysys) starting with purchase of safety gear. Strangely the only real resistance was from members who lacked all their fingers on their hands.

On the ANZAC day long weekend in April 24 members & family travelled to Munglinup Beach Caravan Park. During this fun weekend food was catered for at minimal cost, the BBQ trailer utilized and camp oven cook up by new member Brett Thorp, I was Brett's TA. The weather was favorable for swimming at the beach and a day was spent on the Oldfield inlet. Thanks to Jimmy Grey for the dice game, won somehow by yours truly. The high light was the dawn service conducted by Mr Dick Nulsen well supported by attending members with verses & poems. Followed by gun-fire breakfast





On the Oldfield, paddling, swimming, kids & dog



Dawn Service with 2 Dicks

The changeover night 2016, after consideration of 3 venues, to be held at Bonapartes on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, the week prior to the federal Election. Lee, Heather, Katie, Renae, Bruce & myself formed a committee to organize the evening.

Finally I would like to thank all the members & directors especially Paul, Charlotte & Bruce for assisting me along the way. Eldrian for the effort with the minutes of the meetings , to Lee for always putting your hand up to help me and Shanal for allowing me to be your off-sider way to many times, you're a great mate. To my wife Rachael & kids, Lucy & Andrew, for supporting me and being patient & understanding and being involved with club activities.

**Garry Wilson**

## International Report

### Warren Slater



I would like to thank my committee for the year.

Although International had a very quiet year we managed (through club support) to continue to support the Shelter Box Australia Disaster Relief and to keep the club informed about Sustainable Cambodia.

# Vocational Report

Charlotte Davidson

With this Director's plans to be absent from Esperance in September and October, the committee had a fairly early start with our first meeting at the beginning of August. Various activities, visits and guests were listed from which the year's programme was derived.

At this first meeting we decide that the President be asked if the Four Way Speech contest would not be better placed in the portfolio of the Youth Director, (this was accepted)

The first vocational visit was to Teen Challenge where members were very warmly welcomed by the Manager, Goran Mirošević, his staff and students. We were driven round the entire facility, seeing the practical skills and occupations being undertaken by the students, before hosting a BBQ dinner, cooked by Rotarians. Goran outlined the objectives of the year long course, personal support and training provided. There is a very high success rate of the graduating students. As a result of this visit the club purchased a good second hand log chopper (courtesy of Rob Simpson) for Teen Challenge.

Our next visit was to the new business of a former Rotarian, Trevor Burleigh at his The Golf Simulator. Trevor had already been a guest speaker at a club meeting, so it was a pleasure for all to visit the business, enjoy a wonderful meal, and hear more of Trevor's goals (and memories!) before some of the company enjoyed a bit of golf!

Following the Christmas season, a number of suggested locations to visit were explored but did not reach fruition. However, we did have a thoroughly enjoyable evening at the relatively new Lucky Bay Brewing. Our hosts were the proprietors, Nigel and Robyn. They provide an insight into the brewing business and members were able to sample all of their products (within driving limits!!!). A thoroughly enjoyable experience for all beer lovers. Members and hosts then adjourned to the Pink Lake Country Club for a BBQ meal – again cooked by members (thanks Shane and Brett). We gratefully thank the golf club for the free use of all their facility. Also thanks to the very patient Bar Man.

The major event for this committee was the Pride in Workmanship Award evening. Fourteen letters/expressions of interest were sent out to a selection of Esperance Businesses, resulting in four nominations. The nominees and their employers attended a Rotary meeting where acting President, Brian read the citations, and presented certificates to each recipient. They were: Chantelle Stein (Darren's A1 Autos); Kirsty Capelli (Capelli's Hair Salon); Rebecca Brown (Bankwest) and David Dodge (SES/VMR). Our visitors expressed their gratitude and thanks, for what they described as, a wonderfully enjoyable evening.

We wish to thank our Programme officer, Jim Gray for including our two suggested guest speakers during the year – i.e. representatives from Max Employment and from the Juvenile Justice department. Each provided very interesting details about their professions.

Due to time constraints we were unable to make a couple of other visits – specifically to the Soccer Club (who were recipients from our 2015 Radio Auction) and re-visit St John's Ambulance sub center –some ideas for next year, David?

In conclusion, I thank the committee members for their work and support throughout the year: Peter Fox, Bob Jones, Ian McCallum, Richard Nulsen, Rob Simpson and Barrie Stearne and to wish the incoming committee lead by David Ford a happy and fruitful 2016-17.

**Charlotte Davidson**



# Community Report

Bruce Jones

As with previous years there were many beneficiaries of Community Funds. I would like to mention a few times where we were able to engage with the Community.

The Gibson Football club asked for our assistance on the day of the local football grand final held at their grounds in Gibson on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August. It was a leisurely day with great weather and no member rushed off their feet. It was great to start off the year with such a mellow function.

In October we were approached to help with catering for an event being help for the Festival of the Wind celebrations in town. As you should know this festival encourages local and visiting talent to help engage the community in many ways,

We were asked to help catering at the Civic Centre during a concert being help on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Numbers at the event were large due to performances by visiting band Caravana Sun, as well as local talent. We were able to provide the produce out of club funds and donate proceeds to the organizers who were very appreciative of our contribution.

The highlight of our year I fell was our NYE fireworks display. Building on the previous year we were able to make the event bigger and better than the previous year. The committee is not ready to sit back and leave it there though. Plans are well under way to make the event an even bigger success this year with all available committee members pledging to continue on for the upcoming term.



This year will focus on greater community input and involvement as well as improving the entertainment leading up to the big bang. It has been decided that to achieve our goals we are to engage the assistance of a paid position to coordinate the committee leading up to the event. This will give each of the members' greater ability to focus on their individual tasks and meeting set deadlines. More engagement from club members may be sought this year and we hope that you will be receptive if asked to help out in any way.

In April Esperance played host to participants in The Long Ride to raise funds and awareness for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Most of those involved were either current or previous members of the armed services. Organizers of the event contacted us to provide food for their time in Esperance. Though numbers of locals being low at the event our attendance was much appreciated by organizers who made time to address the club meeting on the night. It was decided that even though no funds were raised on the day RCEB directors committed funds to the organization. (Left over hamburgers were enjoyed by members that attended the ANZAC weekend camping trip to Munglinup Caravan Park).



I have enjoyed my time as director and look forward to supporting the incoming director as well as help head up the fireworks event this year.

**Bruce Jones**





## Youth Committee

### Kerr Fulton-Peebles

Jen Ford  
Greg Hard  
Frank Matthews  
Richard Moore  
Shane Rothnie  
Dick Thorp



The Youth Committee met frequently in the first few months of its existence and forged a properly costed plan for the year ahead; however the unforeseen illness of the Director precluded the same level of commitment in the latter part of the year. This notwithstanding the Committee managed to ensure that most of its goals were achieved and within the agreed budget.

The highlight must have been the arrival of our first *Rotary Youth Exchange* (RYE) student – Diego Rodriguez, from Mexico – who proved to be an ideal ambassador for his country and for the RYE Programme. He attended Esperance Anglican Community School (EACS) as a Year 11/12 student where he made a very favorable impact. Renae Poot and Andrew Middleton acted as very effective pioneering hosts, and were relieved towards Christmas by the Sharpe family (parents of students at EACS) who, mercifully, were happy to have Diego for the remainder of the exchange. Diego became an integral part of the Club, school and local communities, confirming to all that the Programme is a worthwhile one. With more host families on-board for the next year we look forward to welcoming Celine Dong Hua from Belgium who is our return student for 2016-2017. In the absence of local recruits the Club sponsored an outgoing student from Fremantle, Elias Wardrop, who is currently having a very enjoyable time in northern France. Kerr took on the role of Youth Counsellor to ensure that Diego was looked after in accordance with the expected processes and procedures; he also liaised with District. It has been heartening to witness the support the Club has given to our renewed involvement in the RYE Programme, which augurs well for the years ahead.



The Youth Committee was also responsible for assisting several initiatives and projects during the year. A student from EACS was sponsored on the *Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Voyage* and we also provided support for the Senior High School's (ESHS) *Quiet Lion Tour* of Thailand. Two Esperance students – one from EACS and one from Perth College – were supported for the *National Youth Science Forum* and another for the *Conoco Phillips Science Experience*. As in previous years we provided \$50 awards for prizes for each of the schools in the town and in the wider Shire, and supported teams from Esperance Primary School and ESHS to attend the *Tournament of the Minds* Australasian-Pacific Final competition held in Sydney.

Unfortunately we were not able to find any applicants to support for the RYPEN, RYLA or *Four-Way Speech Competition* but five students were interviewed for a place on the RYE and one selected for sponsorship, should District deem the student worthy of such support.

Happily Shane Rothnie again served as a counsellor on the annual *Handicamp* experience, with two local campers also attending, a pleasing improvement on the previous year.

We have made good progress this year, meeting most of our targets and building on the momentum of last year. I wish next year's committee all good fortune as they seek to develop our programmes for youth still further.

It remains for me to thank my colleagues on the committee for their hard work, support and good humor during the year: it has been most heartening to work with them for the benefit of young people in our community.

**Kerr Fulton-Peebles**



# Membership

Peter Fox

The Club's membership now sits at 35 members and 2 honorary members.

2 new members were inducted this year with Katie Williams and Brett Thorp joining the ranks. I am uncertain if Alistair McIntyre formally became a member this year or not due to the absence of an induction ceremony. To date the stars have not aligned. The Club is willing and as I understand it Al is willing therefore I believe the formalization of Al's membership is only one induction ceremony away.

Several other people from within our community were put forward as prospective members however for a variety of reasons did not convert to membership.

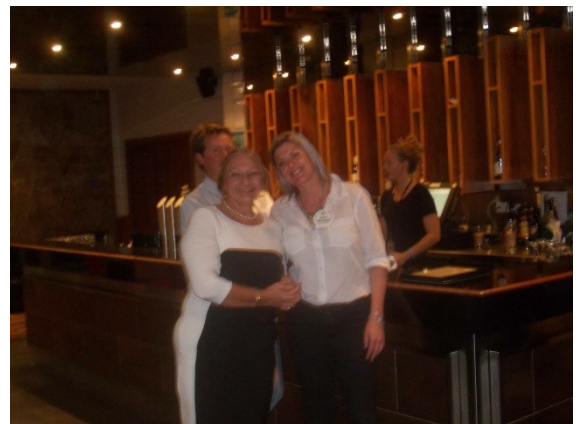
I would like to thank the following people for their support and/or being active in finding and assisting with the recruiting of suitable people for membership to our Club:

Lee Mackin  
Heather James  
Renaë Poot  
Dick Thorp  
Greg Hard  
Dick Nulsen  
Rob Simpson

This list undoubtedly should extend further so my apologies to those I have not included.

As my time as Membership Officer comes to a close it would seem that the opportunity to increase Club membership is looking promising for the coming year.

Peter Fox



## Prickle Farm

Andrew Middleton

Bob Jones  
Peter Schmedje  
John Wallace  
Ian McCallum  
Tom Murray  
Fleur McDonald



The farm has had another busy and quite productive year; although we did not achieve the financial return to the club we might have hoped. We did make some significant investments in land improvements with over 70 Ha over 3 paddocks 'spaded' to eliminate 'non wetting' sand, carried out by the Wallace's on a shared cost basis, and establishment of 75 Ha of new pasture. These measures should improve crop yield and feed available to the sheep and given a reasonable season, reduce our need to hand feed the sheep over Autumn, as we have done this year at significant expense.

A new five year lease was signed with the Esperance Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (ENAC) on 3 November 2015 and took effect on the 1 April 2016. We are paying close to full commercial lease at \$51,000/annum, and this will keep the pressure on the farm and its management to provide reasonable financial returns into the future.

My first job as a director will also be my last as we have brought lamb marking forward slightly and is planned for the 19 June 2016. So if nothing else I can claim to have marked the most number of lambs in one year.

The first marking on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 was an excellent result. I am not sure what Scottish said or threatened the Ewes and Rams with, but we marked 670 lambs from 595 ewes – 112%. Probably the best result achieved to date.

We had a good turn out from the club with 16 members present. JJ Wallace gave us some much appreciated heavy lifting in the catching pen along with Gary Varco and Bob Jones did a great job on the steaks at lunch time to cap off a successful and enjoyable day.

Shearing was the next major event, held over two days on the 12, 13 September 2015. It took a little longer than usual as we decided to shear all the lambs as most were still well short of sale weight and we had paddocks with potential grass seed issues which if they get into woolly lambs can cause significant price downgrade once the seeds pierce the skin. The risk of flystrike was also a consideration.

The weather during shearing was challenging. We just managed to get all of the remaining unshorn sheep into the shed towards the end of the first day, before the rain started the crew on the second day had to backline and tag the ewes between showers.

By the time we took the lambs and last of the ewe's home it was cold, windy and very wet. Losing sheep was a concern, however we put them in the 'kyke' paddock which had plenty of feed and shelter and only lost one ewe.

Thanks once again go to Joe and Charlotte Dellavedova for the free use of their shed and yards. In December 2015 we sold 170 of the oldest ewes and replaced them with 250 newer models from Tom Murray - a practice we have repeated for some years. This will be the last time however as Tom is himself moving out of the sheep business, so next year an alternative source of ewes will be needed.

A total of 651 lambs were sold between October and April at an average price of \$115.60 and just over \$100/ head after all costs – a good result.

We had a busy bee on the 21 February 2016 to do some general maintenance. Scottish led a team of novice fencers to do some much needed fencing repairs, while I organized a concreting operation to finally eliminate our ongoing bee problem at the donger. This involved pouring a concrete pad around the base to seal it. To date it seems to have been successful. We also started some work on the water troughs, supporting them with wooden 'sleepers' acquired by Mr Jones at no cost, (apparently fell off the back of a Horizon Power truck). This job will need to be finished in the next term.

At the end of February Theo Oorschot and I spent a day soil sampling and at the end of March, 300 Tonnes of lime was spread.

The farm was inspected twice during the year by ENAC: the first on the 4 February inspected the Western boundary fence, which was in very poor condition. They subsequently approved replacement of half the fence, the other half hopefully to be done next year, and cover 50 % of costs. Deon Lay being the landowner on the other side who will pay the remaining 50%. We were disappointed that our request for other capital improvements for this year (spading) was declined.

The approval for the boundary fence saw a further fencing busy bee 3 April 2016. A beautiful sunny day saw a good roll up of volunteers to dismantle the old fence in record time. In true Rotary style a team went above and beyond, also assisting John Wallace with burning love grass, chaff dumps and a bit of bush as an extra bonus.

After one week of rest we gathered again to crutch and vaccinate the ewes prior to lambing. Again we were blessed with good weather and a fair team of keen helpers who finished in time for lunch. Thanks to Bill Brewer and his team, as they do not charge us for the job which represents a significant contribution to the club.



Following a six week breather, the troops gathered again to erect the new fence. Scottish and I prepared for the event, a couple of days earlier, with the placement of strainer posts using McCallum's tractor and post rammer.

The weather this time was less favorable, being cold and windy and light showers. A keen crew of volunteers erected a very smart new fence by lunch time, followed by the customary good food and refreshments. Thanks to Deon lay who cleared and levelled the fence line prior to the new one going up.

#### Crop Production

The 2015-16 year saw the Wallace's produce some of the highest yields to date on Prickle Farm. The canola and barley went 1.6 and 3.2 t/Ha respectively whilst the wheat was the stand out at 4.0 T/Ha. These results could have been even better had the weather been a little kinder. The hot dry winds that fanned the devastating November bush fires also put hundreds of thousands of tonnes of grain on the ground across the regions. Prickle Farm was no exception with John and Stuart estimating 1.0 T/Ha of barley on the ground. Although the wheat shed very little the delays caused by the bushfires and extended harvest bans left crops in the paddock much longer than intended, and subject to subsequent rain events. This meant all of the wheat was downgraded to 'feed' with a corresponding \$30 / T discount.

The one positive to come of this was the summer feed enjoyed by the sheep, allowing us to keep the lambs at Prickle Farm longer with greater weight gain resulting in higher prices.

I would like to thank my committee. They are a dedicated bunch and gave me much support and guidance throughout the year. We had numerous committee meetings, many of which were hosted by Bob Jones – thank you Bob and Faye.

Next year we continue to innovate with a joint directorship between Fleur McDonald and Peter Schmedje. I wish them all the best for next year.

Finally I would like to thank all of those who volunteered for the busy bees, the shepherd duties and the sheep feeding. Your work is much appreciated, especially those who have cooked lunch and provided superb morning teas for us.

To those members who have not been to Prickle Farm this year, I would urge you to make the effort this year if possible and enjoy the satisfaction of being part of the club's biggest fundraiser on what are always enjoyable and productive days that finish with fellowship over good food and drinks.

**Andrew Middleton**





## Causes Supported by RCEB in 2015/16

Rotary Foundation	\$3,500	
Cannery Arts	\$3,000	Computer
Ride to the Other Side	\$2,000	ARHF and Cancer Council
Esp Tennis Club	\$4,000	Vehicle Sponsorship
Blaze Aid	\$6,000	Club
Blaze Aid	\$3,905	District Grant
Cancer Council	\$2,500	Bucko's Walk
Prostate Cancer Foundation	\$2,000	Long Ride
Men in sheds	\$1,900	Defibrillator
Shelter/Aqua Box	\$6,500	
Clontarf	\$3,000	
Wongutha Caps	\$6,000	Driver Training Car
Teen Challenge	\$2,500	Log Splitter +
	\$46,805	
Radio Auction	\$50,300	
Hospital Playground	\$77,600	
Total	\$174,705	





Rotary Club of Esperance Bay members

Plus exchange student Diego Garcia (front R)

June 2016