



ROTARY CLUB OF CANBERRA INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

GPO Box 276

Canberra ACT 2601

www.rotarycanberra.org.au

President's Report

2019-20 was a Rotary year in two parts – the “Business as Usual” first five and a half months with face to face meetings, youth programs, fabulous theatre evenings, Buycycle, Circus Quirkus, the Seniors Concert and we even squeezed in a great Christmas function.

Then things got interesting with bush fires, emergency Board meetings, aid for areas badly hit, a serious smoke problem and a destructive hailstorm just to keep us on our toes. In response to known needs, we gave funds for a house reconstruction at Moruya, funded the purchase of petrol to transport hay for starving livestock in Tumbarumba, gave money to the Animal Rescue Cooperative, bought more hay for Tumbarumba and put together a group of Clubs to fund a BlazeAid trailer.

Like many, around early March I was thinking thank goodness that's over and we can get back to normal. The coronavirus had other ideas, of course – and it is a testimony to the quality of Rotary as an organisation and the character of all our members that we are still strong and cohesive as a Club during this COVID19 year.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Board that made things happen:

Past President	Yvonne Luxford
President Elect / Club Services	Desmond Woods
Treasurer	Barbara Griffiths
Secretary	Helen Moore
Youth Services	Sue & Peter Wigley
Community Services	Sandra Turner
International	Tiru Vallal
Membership	Howard Kemp
Rotary Foundation	Paul O'Connor
Vocational Services	Alison Russel-French
Sergeant	Michael Kumm

Each has done a fabulous job in difficult circumstances. With your help, for the first part of the year the Club ran all the programs and events I mentioned above. For all of the year we arranged funding for some very worthwhile programs overseas, kept our membership relatively stable, donated to our Foundation, and raised a lot of money through our Sergeant's sessions. We also enjoyed a fabulous vocational trip to the Canberra Times.

As you can see, lots of achievements from a Board that was focused on progress rather than activity.

A big success for the Club during the year related to the Ruby's Place initiative for vulnerable homeless youth. This is a District 9705 initiative, which is being led by RCC and has been occupying a lot of time and energy from David Marshall and me. The project has been allocated a property by HousingACT, enjoys the support of the ACT Government, has secured \$95,000 in funding from the Snow Foundation and enjoys broad Rotary and private support.

Ruby's Place is a joint initiative of Youth Coalition, ACT Government and Rotary. It seeks to:

- Reduce homelessness for 12-17 year old vulnerable children/youth
- Help to meet the need for emergency and crisis accommodation
- Provide a safe place following family conflict or domestic violence
- Help to reunite families where appropriate

But it is early days yet and there is a lot of hard work to come. I thank incoming President Desmond for encouraging me to continue work on this important project. It is an easy project to be passionate about, because in too many cases these are very young children.

Special mentions. I welcome the opportunity to acknowledge and thank some people who have made significant contributions to Rotary Club of Canberra, not just in 2019-20, but for many years. I will briefly mention each person but please know that that brevity does not diminish their ongoing and effective contributions.

1. Firstly, **Barbara Griffiths** – the Placido Domingo of Treasurers. Barbara's accounts are always in perfect shape. She provided regular, comprehensive and accurate reports not just for the Board, but also for people like me doing submissions. Barbara always takes a leading role in the Senior's Concert, of course, takes Youth Exchange and RAIC students every year and she has always been a major contributor to Rotary functions.
2. Secondly, to Organisers of our fabulous Functions – **Mark Santos** for a great theatre program, **Michael Kumm** for Circus Qirkus, and lots of members like **Michele Whitters, Jeff Bradley** and **Howard Kemp** who organised functions with your help. Many thanks on a job well done.
3. **Colin Slater** – Colin and Sing Australia have been provided wonderful support for the Seniors Concert for many, many years – and that support has been vital to the success of one of our most important Club events. Colin and his team's selfless contribution has been very much appreciated.
4. **Peter Hughes** – Peter has been instrumental in bringing the relocation and expansion of Our Place to a reality. This has involved focus, determination and hard work. Achieving a positive outcome given all the conflicting objectives and government processes is an extraordinary achievement, and his efforts should be publicly acknowledged. A wonderful result, Peter
5. The **JCOT Board** – Jeff, Richard and Helen have managed a difficult job well. On the one hand responding to our Board's many requests for financial contributions for bush fire relief and on the other hand maintaining the relief funds ability to respond to new requirements for financial support. The Trust Fund is in good hands.
6. Really importantly, the **Rotary Clubs of Hall and Canberra East**, who contributed one third shares each with our Club towards the \$25,000 cost of a fully equipped BlazeAid trailer for the Cobargo area. The trailer was organised by Paul Street and our share was funded by you. Another great result.

Rotarian of the Year

I would like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of **Paul Street** – he is the glue that holds this Club together, a tireless and valuable adviser, counsellor and mentor. Very few people know just how much work Paul does. He is always available, always sensible, always generous and he always adds value. We particularly needed that advice and support this year. That is why, at our Changeover event, I announced Paul Street as the 2019 / 20 **Rotarian of the Year**. Congratulations Paul.

Paul Harris Fellows

It was my pleasure to award five Paul Harris Fellow Awards in 2019 / 20 – one during the year and four at our Changeover event. We know all the recipients as committed, hard-working Rotarians over many, many years, taking on significant roles for our Rotary Club.

David Marshall

David Marshall's well-earned Paul Harris Fellow award was presented on the day that he addressed the Club about the Ruby's Place vulnerable youth homelessness initiative. David chairs a working group of community and service organisations that started looking into this issue about two and a half years ago. This group identified 12 to 17 year old children as the cohort least serviced in the ACT in terms of emergency housing. David's tireless efforts in lobbying Government ministers and departments and securing the support of other Rotary Clubs have been instrumental in securing the success of the project. When vulnerable young people have a safe and welcoming place to stay in years to come, they will have many people to thank, but few more so than David Marshall.

Helen Moore

The first recipient at this year's Changeover function is probably the world's greatest Secretary. Not only was Helen Moore brilliant at the usual Secretarial duties of taking minutes, providing running sheets etc and generally having everything ready for all occasions - she provided invaluable support and advice to me in many ways. Helen knows the machinery of the Rotary organisation as well as anyone, her hosting of Zoom meetings has been perfect, and she is always available to help. Helen knows everyone – she has fostered good relationships with hundreds of Rotarians, and this is to the benefit of our Club. Congratulations on your well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship, Helen.

Desmond Woods

Another person who has worked particularly hard and effectively this year has been Desmond Woods. Organising our speaker's program is an extraordinarily difficult undertaking and his performance and results has been fabulous. Desmond has also been very effective with international initiatives such as the Uganda District grant and he has been at the forefront of contacting members to enquire as to their wellbeing. Desmond has helped in many other

ways that are not always obvious to our members, he has really stepped up and he has put in a lot of time preparing for a successful year ahead. Desmond, sincere congratulations.

Richard Griffiths

Richard was recognised for his contributions “on and off the field”, i.e. within our Club, but also in the community. Richard Griffiths was recognised in the New Year’s honours list for good reason. His work for this Club but also Safe Shelter for many years has been outstanding. He is a man who recognised a desperate need, refused to think the solutions were unachievable or too hard and made things happen. He cares about people and he cares about Rotary. Richard has also been a long-standing Director of the JC Olsson Trust Fund and a dependable contributor to a wide range of Club activities. Congratulations on your Paul Harris Fellowship Richard.

Natalie Vandepeer-Bradley

It has been a frustrating year for many of us, but for none more so than for our final recipient. Natalie Vandepeer-Bradley has done an extraordinary job managing the Youth Exchange program in recent times but this year she handled the additional pressures brought on by the negative impacts of COVID-19 beautifully. It was important to provide support and help for Anna in many ways and I cannot think of anyone more capable than Natalie. Natalie also managed the RAIC program, which had to be abandoned – but not until she and her team had put in a lot of highly effective work. She has been a hard-working and valuable Club member and committed Rotarian for many years, and it gave me great pleasure to present her with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Congratulations Nat.

Fellow members, thank you all for your contributions during the year; for your support; for your patience and forbearance with our Zoom meetings and for putting up with my *Gone Viral* newsletters. There is sometimes a fine line between being informed and bombarded, but I wanted to be sure that those without internet access were not left behind or felt disconnected. We had some fun in “interesting” times.

I know it is a cliché, but I would also like to thank my wife Kate for her wonderful support and counsel. She has been fabulous.

Finally, it has genuinely been a pleasure being your President this year because the Rotary Club of Canberra is important to me and you are all important to me.

With Desmond and his Board, you are in good hands. He has my full support, of course, and I wish him well.

Alan Scandrett
RCC President 2019 – 2020

Club Projects and Activities 2019 - 2020

Youth Service Report – Directors Sue Wigley and Peter Wigley

To quote Queen Elizabeth II from her 1992 40th anniversary speech, the 2019-2020 Rotary Year has been an *annus horribilis*. 2019 commenced with a successful RYDA excursion, but then the 2020 Rotary Youth program saw disruptions with the Black Summer bushfires, January hailstorm across Canberra, then the announcement of a worldwide pandemic which locked down the city and country.

RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness)

RYDA, is a road safety education program professionally developed by Road Safety Education (RSE) and is designed to complement the Canberra high school curriculum learn to drive experience. The RYDA program sponsored by RCC is conducted at the Sutton Training Centre as a 1 day workshop. November 2019 saw 115 students from St Clare's College participate in this workshop. Feedback from the student group was very positive and our 7 Rotary volunteers are to be thanked for their full day's effort and the Sutton Training Facilities and AFP coordinators were described as first class.

NYSF (National Youth Science Forum)

The NYSF Year 12 Program is a 10-day residential program designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage continued studies in these fields. The program is operated out of the Australian National University and the University of Brisbane during the summer break. RCC sponsored three students to attend the NYSF camp held in Queensland in January 2020. (Unfortunately, the Canberra program was cancelled due to the bushfires and the ANU campus closing down for health and safety reasons.)

Feedback received from one of our successful applicants - *I am very sorry it has taken me so long to get round to writing to you, it has been a hectic year. I would like to say thank you so much for supporting me on this fantastic trip to Brisbane. It was truly life-changing, and I am incredibly grateful as I could not have done it without your generosity and support. I met some amazing people, visited some amazing places and most importantly made friends for life. Thank you so much for this opportunity.*

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is a week-long residential leadership program for young people aged 18 to 25, which focuses on personal growth, leadership development and community. RYLA 2020 was held at Greenhills Conference Centre at the Cotter in January and was the first merged Rotary Program between Districts 9700 and 9710. RCC sponsored three applicants this year who are members of the Canberra ROTARCT Club. In February two

RYLArians gave a presentation to RCC members of their experience. There was high praise for the program and our club was thanked for the sponsorship and “amazing experience”.



Kate Rice and Robin Hall, our RYLArians at their Club presentation.

Youth Exchange Program – RYE Officer Natalie Vanderpeer Bradley

Rotary Club of Canberra has been the most consistent Club in our District in annually hosting a secondary school student from overseas for one year's exchange.

We have tried to spread our choice of countries, having hosted students from various countries in Scandinavia, Western and Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Asia.

In 2019/2020 years, we hosted Valentin Ruscher from Andelsbach, near Bregenz in Eastern Austria. Valentin departed in June and was followed by the arrival in August of Anna Sophia Sutterluety from Egg, the next village in that district. Both these students were outstanding ambassadors for their countries and their families, and wonderful people to host. Anna was one the first RYE students to enter the country to the newly merged District 9705.

We are very grateful that Burgmann Anglican School has continued to host our students, who have been welcomed to settle in, to understand the academics and to be strong members of their respective cohorts of students. This has meant that they really integrated with Australian students, one of the main purposes and strengths of the exchange programme.

Anna experienced the Bushfires, the weeks of smoke, the hail storm and Covid 19, all whilst she was here. These phenomena meant that many of the usual exchange activities had to be cancelled and students were encouraged by their home countries or their parents to return home. Some students were able to stay the full year as their alternatives were not safe.

Anna was able to access a flight organised by the Austrian diplomatic community, and left us early. She was as sad as we all were.

We had been very fortunate as a Club to share Anna with Canberra East Rotary, and our thanks go to the Moores, from RC Canberra and the Powers and Barclays from RC Canberra East who fitted well with Anna and helped to make her exchange the best it could be under the circumstances.

The Rotary Youth Programme is in hiatus at present, due to the ongoing pandemic around the world and we are unsure of when we can both send “outbounders” and welcome “inbounders”.

International Service - Director Tiru Vallal PHF

In the Rotary Year 2019-2020, the International Services Committee supported the following international service projects. I wish to acknowledge the active support given to the Committee by the Club members for it to achieve good outcomes.

ShelterBox

ShelterBox provides “emergency aid and essentials that people need to begin rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of a disaster”, particularly by delivering shelterboxes and shelterkits. Each year our Club donates to ShelterBox Australia normally an amount of \$2,000.00. For the year 2019-2020 (in late 2019), we contributed \$2000.00 to ShelterBox. Additionally, in 2020, the Board approved the contribution of \$2,000.00 to ShelterBox to help it with providing relief to Vanuatu, which was ravaged by Cyclone Harold, a Category 5 cyclone, on 6 April 2020.

RAWCS

The Board decision of September 2018 committed our Club to contribute an annual payment of \$1,000.00 for three years to RC Belconnen Grants (East Indonesia) RAWCS project. In late 2019, the second instalment was paid. This project provides support for three years from 2018-2019 for alleviating poverty, and providing clean drinking water, sanitation, agriculture and education in the impoverished Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province in East Indonesia.

ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children)

Our Club contributed \$2,000.00 to ROMAC in November 2019. ROMAC’s Mission Statement is “*ROMAC provides surgical treatment for children in Australia and New Zealand from developing countries from our Pacific region in the form of life giving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country.*”

School of St Jude, Tanzania

A contribution of \$720.00 was made 2019 to the School of St Jude for teaching support. The School had been receiving support from our Club in the recent past.

Other projects (envisaged)

Supply of medical equipment to Becora, Timor Leste

Consul General for Timor Leste in Darwin was looking for donations of good quality second hand medical equipment for the National Centre for Rehabilitation of Disabled People in Becora, Dili, Timor Leste, and a list of needed equipment (includes walking frames for kids, crutches for kids, commode chairs for kids and adults, and standing frames and corner chairs for kids, and plate and spoon modifications).

The International Services Committee and then President Alan Scandrett met with Sam Soares (First Secretary of the Timor Leste Embassy), Dr Stephen Utick (Friends of Dili in Canberra) and Mr Fred Fawkes (RC Belconnen), on Monday, 25 November 2019, at the Commonwealth Club. Various options for pursuing with this project were discussed. A further meeting in the future for this matter is expected.

Wiradjuri Cultural Group Study Exchange

Our Club agreed to sponsor our Aboriginal member Donna Murray as Indigenous Leader for the Wiradjuri Cultural Group Study Exchange Program. The Program envisages a study exchange between the Wiradjuri People of the area of Rotary District 9705 and native Americans of Lakota, Dakota and Nakata Sioux tribes. The sponsorship was for \$3,000.00.

It is understood that the exchange program, which would have taken place from 9 April 2020 to 28 April 2020, has been postponed due to the current COVID-19 virus restrictions.

Club Service Report - Director Desmond Woods

The Rotary year started on 1 July 2019 with a changeover from outgoing President Yvonne Luxford to incoming President Alan Scandrett taking place a week earlier. Our new sergeant was Michael Kumm provided a diverting ranges of quips, tall tales and quizzes for the rest of the year. The club met each Monday at the Commonwealth Club but commenced replacing lunch on the first Monday of each month with an evening social event. These ‘cocktail parties’ were an opportunity to invite a larger group of Rotarians from other clubs and to have District Governor Peter Ford join us. This innovation was deemed to have been successful

and provided members who found it difficult to come to lunch with a chance to attend a social meeting of the club.

Cinema and Theatre

Another innovation which was enjoyed by many members was regular attendance at a club film night at the Palace Electric Cinema. 'Yesterday', 'Downton Abbey' and the biopic 'Judy' were standout films. Visits to the 'Q' Theatre in Queanbeyan provided a chance for an evening meal together good quality drama and comedy. Oliver and the Divine Miss Bette were two excellent live performances. This film and theatre program was organised by Mark Santos and proved to be an excellent way to fund raise and supplement the sergeants fund.

Social events

Both evening tennis and barefoot bowls evenings were organised by Michelle Whitters and Jeffrey Bradley and enjoyed. The successful Christmas Party was organised by Michelle and her team of volunteers at the Burbury Hotel. This was attended by the Defence Choir whose singers provide carols and Christmas cheer.

Speakers

Guest speakers included the Editor of the Canberra Times, John Paul Moloney. He subsequently hosted a visit to the Times. Clive Hamilton and John Blaxland, both well known academics, and the writer and columnist Robert Macklin all spoke. Matthew Raymond of the Limapela Foundation flew in from Zambia and updated us on the progress of the schools we support. The High Commissioner for Zambia joined us for Matthew's address. We hosted the Canberra Grammar School and thanked staff, students and teachers for the work they had done to make school uniforms available for Rotary's Donations in Kind program.

Mengineering, Toora and Rentwell were three examples of ACT Community Agencies who spoke to us about the services they provide to Canberrans. We hosted many experienced Rotary Club members speaking about their projects including Vere Gray on Global Grants in Manilla and John and Yvonne Mercer on their work in East Indonesia. Janet Lawrence, formerly of Canberra Woden Club spoke to us about developments in the Global Peace Fellowships on 4 November. Very sadly she died suddenly on Christmas Eve.

Club meetings resumed as usual in February and culminated in a very well attended meeting addressed by the New Zealand High Commissioner Dame Annette King on 16 March. Members of other clubs and the Commonwealth Club attended. The following week Canberra and Australia went into lockdown to prevent the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic and all face to face meetings ceased for the rest of the 2019/20 Rotary Year. However, without missing a beat, meetings continued as Zoom events each Monday. Friends from Sweden and Italy spoke to us of their experiences with COVID-19 and a wide range of speakers who would not have been able to address us in Canberra appeared on our screens.

Changeover from President Alan Scandrett to President Desmond Woods occurred on 6 July. This was a Zoom event for the first time in our club's history but was nevertheless well attended by virtual members online.

Community Services - Director Sandra Turner

Community Service opportunities this year were varied and later in the financial year were limited in our ability to provide hands-on service when COVID-19 restrictions were introduced. In a year that has seen fire, hail and pandemic, the Club has continued to provide support to the community in a number of important ways.

A combination of Community Service (supporting local theatre) and also a fundraiser, we were again able to utilise the supportive theatre contacts of member, Mark Santos, to enable members to purchase tickets and attend theatre and cinema throughout the year with proceeds going to the JC Olson Trust and specifically marked for the Youth at Risk project our Club has initiated. Mark was able to source a number of tickets for events and therefore all proceeds were donated to the cause. We thank Mark for his great friendships with the local artistic community in order to enable our participation at these events. Not only a great fundraiser, a wonderful way to have some fellowship outside of regular Club meetings.

Floriade saw 24 RCC members volunteering to assist Rotary Club of Canberra East run the Gnome project at Floriade 2019. Club support was coordinated by Paul Street this year and a total of 156 hours were volunteered – 39 sessions at four hours each shift. RCC shared the profits from the event and it was pleasing that the gnomes sold out on the last day – a combination of good planning and great promotion.

The bushfires that caused havoc across NSW and into the ACT saw many opportunities for RCC to provide support. Several donations were made to individuals in difficult circumstance which allowed them short term assistance. The Board agreed to provide further bushfire support through the JC Olssen Relief Trust Fund to purchase an equipped BlazeAid trailer which would be used by BlazeAid volunteer teams with rebuilding fencing and other farm facilities in bushfire affected communities in southern NSW. The Club is grateful for the additional support provided in this trailer purchase by equal contributions made from the Rotary Clubs of Hall and Canberra East.

Peter Hughes and his committee has continued to work with other agencies to progress the Our Place project and we thank Peter for his valuable ongoing service to this project.

November saw another successful Seniors' Concert at the Albert Hall. Ably led by Barbara Griffiths, her small and dedicated committee including Helen Moore, Richard Griffiths, Howard Kemp and Phil Byrne worked hard to ensure a successful day which was enjoyed by all. Seniors without transport were organised by a small brigade of club volunteers who chauffeured their charges to and from the event. Others spent time preparing and serving food for afternoon tea – no mean feat in itself. Thanks to everyone for their support. The event was promoted by COTA amongst others. The Canberra Flower Club once again provided magnificent arrangements for the stage and entrance hall, and Sing Australia performed to their usual high standard to entertain the attendees.

Compare and soloist, Tim Bevitt, kept the audience entertained and the Sing Australia Choir, as usual, didn't disappoint. Pianist and accompanist, Linus Lee, provided the perfect support.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the future of the Concert in the 2020-21 year remains tentative at the end of June.

I thank all my Committee members and the broader Club membership who have provided assistance this year to ensure we can continue to support our community wherever possible.



RCC's Annual Seniors' Concert held in the Albert Hall with a wonderful afternoon tea provided and served by members of the Club, their families and friends and with help gratefully received by Sing Australia members.



Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Membership Report - Director Howard Kemp

Our club membership as at the 30th June 2020 was 58, a stable year in terms of numbers. This is a pleasing result given the turbulent times of the last four months of the financial year due to COVID-19 and need to revert to Zoom only meetings.

During the course of the financial year we inducted and welcomed two new members, Chris Angus and Betsy Dixon. They both have great skills and they will be a very valuable addition to our membership base.

A big thank you to Mark Santos who raised a large amount of funds for our club via film nights and numerous theatre outings. His efforts made a big difference what we can do within the community.

All our Rotarians need to keep a lookout for potential new members while keeping in touch with existing members ensuring everyone is enjoying their Rotary journey.

Whilst there are Membership Resources within Club Runner, I have Membership proposal forms at hand as well a handout on what our club is about.

Vocational Service Report - Director Alison Russell-French OAM PHF

In the 2019-20 year, the Rotary Club of Canberra was able to make only one vocational visit in October 2019 owing to bushfires over the Christmas/New Year period and then the COVID19 pandemic.

The visit to the Canberra Times on 11 November 2019, followed by lunch at Celestino's Restaurant, was highly successful, with around 30 Club members attending. An introduction by John Paul Molony, Managing Editor of the Canberra Times, provided a fascinating insight to the workings of the paper and its production.



John Paul Molony speaking to the Club



Front page- the 2003 Canberra Bushfire

Members met with David Pope, renowned CT cartoonist who provided a very amusing insight to what inspired him to draw his very well recognized cartoons. Deputy Editor Scott Hannaford took members through the process of deciding the day's news and how it all comes together at the end of the day.



David Pope well-known CT cartoonist



Scott Hannaford, CT Deputy Editor

To conclude the visit Club members were taken to the final stages of the production process where the finished paper then rolls off the printing press into piles ready for delivery.



CT papers running from final production to waiting delivery vans.

John Paul Molony informed the Club that the CT conducts a regular series of community visits to demonstrate how the paper is produced and he noted that the visits were particularly popular with the demographic that still reads printed papers. However, he commented that how the paper's future will mesh with the social media popularity of younger generations remains to be seen.

Following the visit members went to Celestino's Restaurant opposite the CT for lunch and much discussion about the visit. Our thanks to the CT staff for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative session about a long-standing element of the Canberra scene.

Rotary Foundation Report - Director Paul O'Connor PP PHF PHS

I am happy to report that in spite of COVID-19 effects on fundraising, the Rotary Club of Canberra is still able to be a major District 9710 Foundation contributor with \$10,000 being paid to Foundation for the year 2019-2020. As part of the RCC continuing support of PolioPlus, \$2500 of that amount has been apportioned to that Program.

The RCC continues to have two members each support the Paul Harris Society with contributions of \$US1000 annually. In addition, several anonymous member donors pay sums direct through RDU.

This year Director Paul introduced the Centurion \$100 per annum donation program. Six members are already Centurions and it is hoped to extend the publicised numbers in the next year. We are aware that some members donate that amount regularly but are not noted as part of this program.

Sergeant's Report - Michael Kumm

The function of the Sergeant-at-arms is to help maintain an orderly, dignified and effective meeting.

The Sergeant's duties can include some or all of the following:

- Handle any physical preparation for the meeting, projector microphone etc
- Welcome and visitors to the club and arrange seating for them if not already done.
- Ensure that the meeting starts at the right time and runs to time
- Rings the bell and Introduces the President requesting members to be upstanding to start the meeting

The Sergeant usually runs a short 5 to 10 minute session where the primary purpose is to relax the members and encourage good humoured banter.

The Sergeant's session can also be used to increase members knowledge of Rotary, have a humorous content and generally increase members knowledge on any particular matter.

The Sergeants session can also be used to raise revenue, by way of direct fines eg – being late - incorrectly dressed – talking – etc and indirect fines for birthdays or not knowing answers to subject questions. Also, cross fines are encouraged from other members either on themselves or someone else in the room/meeting.

During the 2019/2020 years the Club was substantially interrupted by COVID-19 and consequently, with the introduction of Zoom meetings, a lot of disruption occurred.

Traditionally the Sergeant will nominate where the accumulated funds are dispersed but this year the entire amount remained in the Club's general account due to the large number of areas in need of financial assistance as highlighted in the Presidents report.

JC Olsson Relief Trust Fund

The Annual Report of the JC Olsson Relief Trust Fund including the financial statement, is provided as an addendum to this report.

Audited Financial Statements - Treasurer Barbara Griffiths

The financial reports for 2019-2020 are provided as an annexure to this Annual Report.

