

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PENNY PAXMAN

At the beginning of my year as President, I promised to do my best to ensure that I did everything possible to ensure that the Rotary Club of Yea remains the wonderful club that it is. It is my pleasure to report that the club has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months.



The Rotary International Theme chosen for the year—the Magic of Rotary, helped tremendously as it gave us the chance to create fun along the way. We set out to increase our impact. While continuing to maintain projects and events the club has undertaken over many years, we tweaked things where we could to include additional benefits to the community. One example of this was providing a BBQ or sausage sizzle at extra venues where possible eg. Yea Cruise Night. Darryl King kept the BBQ trailer sparkling so it could go out at very short notice and as a result Rotary has been seen around town a lot more this year.

This was one way to promote what our club was doing and we continually sought other opportunities to become more visible in the community. Photos were frequently uploaded to Facebook, local newspapers were advised of events and we now have two segments on radio. Glenda Woods should be acknowledged for all she's done to promote our club this year.

The community told us what they needed and Les Hall has worked hard to provide our regular events geared to service the community eg. The Seniors Christmas Dinner. In addition, thanks to

the initiative shown by PP Tony Jacobs, we have begun working on a joint project with the Yea and District Memorial Hospital. We have also been able to help individuals with an immediate need like house painting for the survivor of an accident, and a laptop which ensured the ability to take on tertiary study.



Our finances remain healthy, thanks to treasurer Gary Fitzgerald and we have been able to assist financially in different areas over the past year.

To expand our reach, we opened up weekly meetings to members of the public some of which promised to be quite controversial. We've also invited speakers to attend via Zoom so that our members could hear from Rotarians doing extraordinary things in other parts of the world.

Vocational visits began again with a visit to Lake Eildon to see and hear about the huge houseboat industry located there. We reached out to other clubs to join us for the trip and have linked up with different clubs over the year for projects including Cycle Dindi (RC Alexandra) and Youth Exchange (RC Broadmeadows).



Youth Exchange brought us the delightful Haru from Japan and promises us visitors from Taiwan and Chile over the next twelve months. We have been challenged by the need to find host families, but have persevered and been rewarded with support from the wider community. Huge thanks to Chris Kellett for all the work she had done to meet this challenge.

Lily Cox took on the role of Youth Director and she and her team have focused on organising bursaries and scholarships awarded in 2024. Our club attracted a large donation to enable a new scholarship to be awarded to a secondary student

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in 2025.

Tippy Anderson continued her work in Thailand with English speaking corners in three schools. Our club has maintained contact and members have donated books and toys to support them as well as participating in a Thai/Japanese night hosted by our club for members and guests.



From the outset, the Board was determined to

make this a year when members had fun! We realised that a club that was having fun achieved more and attracted new members along the way. Glen Milliken managed a club calendar that offered opportunities for everyone.

When District Governor Stephen O'Connell and his wife Carol visited last year, our club had already undertaken a member survey and started to identify changes which could be made to enhance our members' experience. Our members wanted less formal meetings, more emphasis on service and less on fundraising, flexible meeting times and the chance to involve new members more. We have listened to what was said and introduced quite a few changes.

The whole Board have become a dynamic team bringing ideas to the table on a monthly basis and most of these have met the approval of the club as a whole. We have also met the year's guidelines introduced by District 9790 and have earned recognition for our efforts.



It has been my pleasure to lead the Rotary Club of Yea for 2024/2025 and I am delighted with all we have achieved. I am excited to welcome incoming President, Darryl King and his Board and wish them all the Magic of Rotary for the coming year.

