

# Rotary



# Club of Blackwood

Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Blackwood Community RSL

Brighton Parade, Blackwood

## Quarterly Newsletter

Volume #1 | Issue #2 | Summer 2019

### From the President

In this edition, you will see examples of community actions that benefit local people in many ways and demonstrates our commitment to devote the majority of our time, energy and income to supporting people and causes that are important to our region.

You'll also hear about some of our international support that seeks to improve the livelihoods of people in need in many other parts of the world.

We are a club full of happy, dedicated people of action that like doing good things for others! If you too, like helping others and have a willingness to work as part of a community service team of people, then you should come and join us!

We are also a club that is keen to try new things and get behind new initiatives so if you have some ideas please contact us. Better still, come and talk to us!

We have regular Tuesday evening meetings at the Blackwood RSL Club but attendance is voluntary so you can still be a member and contribute in ways and times that suit you. Maybe, you should join us and be one of our club's Rotary People of Action?

Bruce Cole, President

### Inside This Issue

#### PG. 2

- ◆ Blackwood High School Awards
- ◆ A Major Project in Blackwood

#### PG. 3

- ◆ Eliminating Polio from the World
- ◆ Christmas Aid for the Homeless

#### PG. 4

- ◆ Humanitarian Aid in Papua New Guinea
- ◆ Support for Blackwood Community Hall

### Almost 50 Years Old!

The Rotary Club of Blackwood is in its 49th year and continues to make a large contribution to the community. We would like more community minded people to be involved in our Club. If you would like to join us, or contribute some time helping us with our projects, or sponsor some of our activities, please phone

Bernie Morgan on 0447 212 278 or

Graham Lough on 0418 198 111.

For more information, see our website

Our club values are:

**Service before Self, Friendship,  
Honesty & Integrity, Humour, Generosity**

If you share these values, you really should join us!

## Blackwood High School Students Win Awards.

Just prior to the school summer break Blackwood Rotary Club Leaders attended year-end ceremonies to present encouragement awards to outstanding students.

Ben Curry was our National Youth Science Forum student. NYSF was held in January 2019 and Ben will be visiting our club as a guest speaker in the near future.



Cassandra Shannon won the University Scholarship of \$1,500.00 from the Club. Presented by Youth and Vocational representative Tony Hughes

As the Year 12 All Rounder, Chelsea Roper was presented with a cheque for \$500.00, a certificate and Shield by Tony Hughes.



Garry Dolman, Youth and Vocational Director presenting a Certificate and \$500.00 to Harriet Cooling as the Year 11 Rotary Award recipient.

Matthew Parker was the recipient of the Year 10 Jeff Hunter RISE Award. The Rotary Award for Innovation in STEM and Enterprise is being presented by Zanette Hunter. Jeff Hunter was a passionate Rotarian, and student mentor.



Scarlett Partridge Powell was presented the Year 10 Rotary Award, and a cheque for \$500.00 and a certificate. This award was presented by Zanette Hunter and Blackwood Rotary President Bruce Cole.

## Big Local Project by Blackwood Rotary

The Rotary Club of Blackwood is planning a major project for the community. The idea has been around for some time and was resurrected with the current redevelopment of the Blackwood roundabout.

The project is to erect (in a prominent position), a large electronic sign which will promote local service groups, Blackwood community events and local businesses that support our community. The exact location is still being negotiated as permission and permits are not easy or automatic. Funds have been committed however, and the necessary approvals are being sought.

Currently we have the strong backing of our local MP. Sam Duluk and our Federal MHR. Nicolle Flint both of whom have written letters of support. We also enjoy the backing of the past and present Mayors of Mitcham.



Rotary is hoping that you will be willing to be involved and will support this project.

How can you be involved?

- By becoming a sponsor of the project in return for us promoting your business:
- By working with us by providing information so that we can promote local events and activities:
- By writing a letter of support so that we have evidence of local support for the project.

Call Bernie on 0447 212 278 if you have questions



## DID YOU KNOW?.

**The world's progress in fighting polio must be one of the best-kept secrets in global health.**



The Rotary Club of Blackwood is a long-term supporter of Rotary International's drive to eliminate Polio from the world. Younger generations may be unaware, but older Australians will have seen the devastating paralysis and even death that polio could cause before its elimination from Australia in the 1960's

With a concerted effort wild poliovirus cases have been reduced by more than 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases in more than 125 endemic countries to 33 reported cases in only 3 countries; Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan in 2018.

In 1995 health workers and volunteers immunize 165 million children in China and India in 1 week. This level of commitment is ongoing.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year.



**Minda Dentler: Ironman athlete, polio survivor, and mother reflects on India's success in going more than 6 years without a new polio case.**

**Five years old Haseeba gets the Polio vaccine outside her family's home in Agha Saiba, a village in Afghanistan.**



**If you would like to help with our efforts you can donate at: <https://www.endpolio.org/donate>**

## HELPING THE HOMELESS at CHRISTMAS TIME

This Christmas the Blackwood Rotary Club partnered with the O'Halloran Hill Kindy to assist the Outer Southern Homelessness service. This service provides housing to families in their shelter and outreach properties throughout the southern suburbs. These are families that have experienced homelessness through illness, unemployment, relationship breakdown or a number of other reasons.

Traditionally the Christmas hampers the Service gives do not provide much in the line of Christmas treats: Christmas puddings, nice biscuits, tinned hams or sweets for the kids.

Our club felt it could address this need. So in conjunction with the giving tree at the O'Halloran Hill Kindergarten we collected the needed items and dropped the donated food, toys and treats into the shelter on the next day.

Many of these mums being supported would not normally receive anything over Christmas and so really appreciate hand lotions etc, which are not affordable on their incomes.

We expect this to be the start of a nice club tradition.



## **HELPING BUILD A SCHOOL LIBRARY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

In November we hosted an inspirational speaker involved in delivering a humanitarian aid program in the remote areas of Papua New Guinea (PNG). **Shila Yukuli Phopo**, is a PhD student at Flinders University, and the Project Manager "Soil Child" project in Dauri village in the southern highlands of PNG.

In her words: "In my village there was no school, no health facility and no infrastructure. Even today nothing has changed and people are still living in poverty. Now we are working to ensure the next generation have opportunities for education, health care and economic development. "



**The "Soil Child" project** invests in social capital - to provide education, primary health care, nutrition, agriculture and vocational opportunities. An emphasis on leadership and management by women ensures better outcomes for future generations, and an extensive process of community dialogue ensures that the initiative and responsibility for social change is shared by village members

On the basis of Shila's powerful presentation the Rotary Club of Blackwood donated \$2000 to support the building of a library in the village.

We were very pleased to receive our first, very positive, report on the progress of the programme

"This project has been a huge success. On our trip we were able to meet with all our stakeholders and discuss the future planning and set up of the library. The official opening of both the library and the classroom buildings took place on the 23rd January 2019. The entire Dauli community is motivated and grateful for this project.



We received huge respect and acknowledgement from all sectors of the community. "

## **ROTARY TO THE RESCUE OF BLACKWOOD'S MEMORIAL HALL**

Blackwood Rotary have been a long-time supporter of the Blackwood Memorial Hall as the Hall has slowly updated and refurbished its 60 year-old self to be one of the two major indoor recreation facilities available to the Blackwood and surrounding Hills communities serving over 700 clients each week.

With over 200 community groups in the area, the Hall is used for everything from yoga for the elderly, ballet and dance classes; to Taekwondo, Thai kickboxing, amateur theatrical groups and concerts; to photographic and wine-bottling clubs; to 3 year olds learning to catch and kick a football.

The Club has helped the Hall in numerous ways, not the least being the two Rotary representatives on the Hall's Management Committee.

Rotary's financial help has been for essential practical items from a new locking system for the Hall, new fire escape doors, extensions to the Hall's limited car parking, replacement of one of the fallen down boundary fences, and critical repairs to the Main Hall stage floor.

Not that it is all a one-way street. In acknowledgement of the Club's assistance, use of the Hall by the Club for functions like book sales, quiz nights and the like comes gratis.



Thank you Rotary Club of Blackwood!  
Rhys Roberts OAM  
Chairman

**Contact us:**

[www.blackwood.rotaryclub.org.au](http://www.blackwood.rotaryclub.org.au)



Blackwood Rotary