

Rotary Dunedin

Presidents Report (2021-2022) for AGM

The 2021-2022 year began brightly with our usual Changeover night able to be held as normal. Within a few weeks though, the latest Covid-19 wave meant a return to tighter controls on public meetings and events. I'm pleased once again, that the Club was able to adapt to this, with some meetings held purely online, and for most weeks then on an opportunity to join remotely. So no matter the lockdown or virus wave, our regular meetings continued with high quality speakers throughout.

With most events and fundraisers curtailed, there was still an opportunity to plan for the future and in particular our upcoming Centenary year. I am grateful to firstly Gordon Tucker and later John Drummond for spearheading the Centenary planning group. From the brainstorming and considerations of this group we were able to narrow down two major Club Centennial Projects – Rotary Park and a new Aviary at Orokonui. I'm excited by the addition of these projects to the legacy of the Club as we mark 100 years.

In 2021 we recognized Hamish Seaton for his efforts in spearheading and developing many bike tracks throughout the South Island with a Paul Harris Fellow award. We are now also thankful to have him involved in our Rotary Park project team.

The end of 2021 saw the passing of long-standing member Wyn Chirnside, and we remembered his good company and dry humour. Ellen Henderson, spouse of former member John Henderson and long-time Rotary supporter also passed away.

While Covid-19 impacted many planned events, congratulations to the Club for what was still able to be achieved – this includes:

Sleeves Rolled Up and Community Out-Reach

- Carried out further supermarket collections for local food banks.
- The annual Trees for Families event at West Harbour with around 50+ trees planted.
- A further bike repair station was installed along the harbour bike trail.
- Sold raffle tickets to fundraise for Hospice
- Women in Leadership event in association with Rotaract.
- Provided marshals for Otago Rally
- Delivered Meals on Wheels
- Joined the wider Dunedin Rotary Clubs wasp eradication project.
- Assisted with a Student Driving Course.

Fundraisers / Gifting

- Scholarships for rural education students.
- Donations to Rotary Foundation, and Youthline.
- Firewood was provided to a local family in need.
- Flights and accommodation were funded for a local man to receive his 'hero' award in Wellington.
- Collected presents for local families at Christmas time.
- Participated in a food can drive.
- Contributed to a log-splitter to add local community fundraising.
- Annual Circus Quirkus fundraiser

Social events and fellowship

- Social Breakfast held.
- Sea Monster exhibition fundraiser.
- Visit to Telford and the Rotary Club of Balclutha.
- Off-site meetings at the new Ebb Hotel, and the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.
- Were entertained by the Salvation Brass band for Christmas.
- A Ten Pin Bowling session and lunch.
- The annual Town & Country safari, this year to Wanaka

Membership growth continued to be a focus with this being aided by bi-monthly marketing flyers. Discussions were had with former Rotaractors and Rylarians about a Satellite Club. While nothing has come of this to date, efforts in this space continue. To aid member retention a member survey was initiated which proved helpful to gauge member sentiments on a number of items.

It was a pleasure to award former member and President June Mills with a life membership of the Club at our Changeover this year. We also recognised Bill Thompson, Gillian Bremner, Graeme Chesney, Les Green, Garth Lucas and Peter Thomson with Honorary Memberships for the year to reflect the esteem in which we hold them and our desire to keep them connected to the club.

This Club runs very smoothly, thanks in no small part to the talented and long-serving officers and duty-holders who must be mentioned –

- Club Secretary David Neill, our Treasurer Steve Hydes, our Trusts Administrator David Ojala, and further directors - Craig Radford, Lynne Guy, Don McEwan, Rick Wellington, Bruce Cowan, Katie Slaughter, and Gordon Tucker.
- our Trustees - Neville Horne, Alastair Logan, Jackie St John, Bill Thompson, Murray Bayly, Les Green, and John Henderson.
- Duty holders -
 - o Meals on Wheels Co-ordinator Dave Stewart
 - o Speaker Co-ordinator John Drummond
 - o Foundation Officer – Grant Chirnside
 - o Speech Competition Co-ordinator Lynne Guy
 - o Circus Quirkus Co-ordinator – Bruce Cowan
 - o Supermarket collection organizer Ron Mackintosh
 - o Bulletin Editor +-Bruce Collier

So ultimately, despite a challenging year, the Rotary Club of Dunedin has endured; planning opportunities for the future were grasped, and some exciting projects are now underway. While our membership has declined, our Club remains strong, thanks to the service and fortitude of many fine members! Thank you to everyone for your support during my year as President and the opportunity to learn and serve.

Cameron Olsen
October 2022