

# THE CHURCHILL ROOM

Rotaract Club of Brisbane Rivercity

## A message from de captain

Dean Heckscher

Well, what can I say?

A lot has changed since the last edition of the Churchill Room. I looked back at our January edition, and smiled at how both myself and the club were looking forward to the rest of the year, as well as the beginning of a new decade. But despite the events of COVID-19 putting a holt to many of our plans and events, Rivercity is still going strong because of its members and their dedication to help others, and being a part of something.

As I type this, I'm thankful by being surrounded by so many amazing, driven and talented individuals, for who I don't think I would've survived this year without. Not only because they dedicate their time to events such as Clean Up Australia Day, donated over \$1,200 for the Australian Bushfire Appeal, looked to improve their skill set with our Professional Development Series, or partied hard at our annual Weekend Away and Australian Rotaract Conference, but because they take the time to check in on others, whether there's a global crisis or not. I knew I'd miss seeing this amazing group of people, but after our first board meeting via video chat, I truly realised just how lucky I am. It's tough being a leader in a time of uncertainty, but having these members at my back fills me with confidence to keep putting one foot in front of the other. From my club to yours, I hope you are staying safe, and I'm looking forward to welcoming you to a face-to-face meeting soon once this is all over.

Yours in Rotary,  
Dean

**Rotaract**  
Rotary Club Partner



### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

**Changeover - Iso style**

**Online activities**

### CLUB FOCUS FOR NEXT QUARTER

**Embracing each other  
and our new normal  
from a safe distance.**

## Don't forget to sign up for My Rotary

In 2019/2020 we have been encouraging our members to sign up to access tools and information to enhance their membership experience. The take up so far has been fantastic. If you haven't had a chance to sign up yet or have questions, please email [brisbanerivercity@rotaract.org.au](mailto:brisbanerivercity@rotaract.org.au).

## Meetings and Vocations

We had a wonderful start to our professional development workshop series, with two fantastic presentations on the topics of "Presentations" and "Personal Development Plans" by Bruce Kerr and Paul Jenkins. I was thrilled to see how engaged our members were with the topics and the warmth of the club towards the speakers. Unfortunately our third presentation on "Negotiations" was cancelled due to COVID-19. However, our third presenter, Ben Warren still kindly shared his presentation slides and resources with the club.

During this time, with many of us dealing with cancellations of plans and the indefinite postponing of goals, I encourage each of our members to take this opportunity to reflect and upskill in new things they have always wanted to try. There is no end to the resources and courses available online, such as edX and Coursera, as well as mentors you can reach out to who are willing to help you grow. It is amazing to see how creative and focused the people around me are becoming in response to this unforeseen time, and I am excited to see what comes out of it when we are all united in person again.

For some fantastic resources and stories from the club, please check out the Vocations newsletter from this quarter. Take care all!

EI - Vocations Director

# Committee Updates

## Community and Social

As our club members came back from their well-earned Christmas breaks, the club eased into the calendar year with our weekend away at an Air BnB in North Brisbane. Eighteen club members spent a relaxing weekend of bonding over cards, pool volleyball and fresh pineapple (thanks Troy!).

Next on the calendar we had a large group of members travel down the Pacific Motorway for the Australian Rotaract Conference, hosted by the Burleigh Heads Rotaract Club. Our members enjoyed a weekend of inspiring guest speakers and breakout sessions, including Bruce Sullivan and sessions run by Shelterbox Australia. Between this personal and professional development, we made sure that Rivercity was well represented at the conference ball, where our dedicated member Jane Hillyard was nominated for Rotaractor of the Year.

After these fun and relaxing events, nine Rivercity members found time to roll their sleeves up and lend a hand to the Cleanup Australia Day crews. Throughout a sunny morning in the Botanic Gardens, our group picked up dozens of bags of rubbish, hundreds of cigarette butts, and one slightly discoloured Socceroos scarf (if interested contact Dean Heckscher). After disposing of our rubbish and 20 minutes of solid hand scrubbing, we celebrated our success with a well deserved burger.

Our last event for the quarter saw a massive turnout of around 20 members to support the MND and Me Corporate Swimathon event, to raise vital funds for research into finding a cure for Motor Neuron Disease, and supporting those living with MND. The event held at the Valley Pool, saw members dusting off their hospitality skills working the kitchen and bars for the evening. The night was a blast while supporting a great cause, and was capped off by generous support from the Stone and Wood Brewery hosting an afterparty and providing free refreshments for volunteers. As always, a big thank you to all our members for participating in supporting our valued charities, and also our social events throughout the quarter.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy end to the financial year as we adapt to this new way of life dealing with COVID-19, stay safe everyone!

Lachy - Community & Social Director



## Events

The year started off nice and busy from an events perspective. After trawling the city for venues for our Shine for Shelterbox cocktail party we found one that was just right and were quick to lock it in. At our official Shine Planning Day we began collecting raffle prizes for the night from some generous local business owners and brainstormed creative ways to advertise. We also discussed the acts we'd like to have on the night, considering everything from bands and singers to magicians, circus performers and dance groups. The event was beginning to take shape and excitement was building. However, shortly after due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we made the tough decision to cancel it in the interest of public health. While this is disappointing, the club certainly hasn't gone into hibernation. These unique times are stretching us to think up creative new ways to connect using the magic of the internet, which will undoubtedly lead to some exciting activities popping up in the coming months.

Rosie - Events

## Club Member News

Rotaract Brisbane Rivercity was pleased to induct the following members in the first quarter of 2020:

- Eliza Berry
- Lewis Campbell
- Catherine McFarlane
- Aman Sidhu
- Ryan Branch
- Daniel O'Brien

We have been so impressed by new members and guests joining our meetings via ZOOM and look forward to seeing new people online and on person in time. Please email us at [brisbanerivercity@rotaract.org.au](mailto:brisbanerivercity@rotaract.org.au) if you know of anyone who wished to join our online meetings.

