

Rotary in Action – District 9780



District 9780, Australia
Rotary Clubs in Action
24 September 2019
District Governor Rosanne Kava

Foreword

Rotarians in District 9780 Australia are most definitely People of Action. In our regional towns and cities, Rotarians are having a positive impact – addressing community needs, making connections and having fun!

Clubs in District 9780 are proud to be part of Rotary International – a global network of people who connect to create lasting change across the globe, in communities and in themselves. Our Clubs are enthusiastic and creative; devising a range of innovative projects and activities to make their communities and the world, a better place.

We are particularly pleased to welcome to our District Rotary International President Mark Maloney and Gay - to share news of Rotary around the world and to learn about the wonderful outcomes being achieved right here in District 9780. Thank you both for making the time to visit.

This eBook features a snapshot of the projects being conducted by our 58 clubs. We hope you enjoy seeing the results of Rotary in Action in District 9780.

District Governor Rosanne Kava, 2019-2020
24 September 2019



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Community Halloween Party

Rotary Club of Alfredton

After the success of our Community Halloween Party in 2016 and 2017, the Alfredton Rotary Club decided to run this party as an annual free event giving back to the locals that have supported us.

The 'Free Community Halloween Party' was put together with the support of our members, other Rotary Clubs (for allowing us to use their BBQ and marquees) and students from Ballarat Grammar donating their time to assist in manning the activity stalls.



Free sausages are given out to everyone that comes in costume, seeing us distribute around 1400 sausages, up from the 400 given out at the first event – this event is growing bigger each year. Along with this we give away free bags of lollies, popcorn, balloon animals and treats. With free activities such as a haunted house, which proves to be a real drawcard, especially with our moving monsters, spider races, biscuit decorating, mummy wrapping, tile painting, ball games, photo booths and activities, we have everyone entertained and smiling throughout the event and again asking if we would do it again the next year. Each year we have entertainment such as a roving musician who weaved through the crowd, a balloon artist and a magician creating a happy, friendly buzz. The atmosphere is fabulous for an event targeted at keeping kids safe and off the streets at Halloween. Families are now bringing along their picnic baskets and setting up around the event area. Great to see!

All members of the Alfredton Rotary Club dress in the Halloween theme, along with a lot of the attending adults now dressing up adding to the atmosphere and fun of the event. Not only is this a great free event for the community but it also gives the 'Alfies' an opportunity to promote the club in our local community as well as holding a fun event.

Food and coffee vans are in attendance along with 2 BBQs cooking sausages which are kept busy throughout the 2 hours the event runs.

This is another successful community project run by the club that hopefully will continue into the future as a signature event for the community and for the Alfredton Rotary Club.

Solar Panels for Klibur Domin, Timor Leste

Rotary Club of Ararat

The Rotary Club of Ararat has received Rotary Foundation funding of \$3,000 which, together with \$3,000 of club funds, will see the installation of solar panels on the Klibur Domin centre in Timor Leste.

Klibur Domin provides facilities for Tuberculosis (TB) testing as Timor Leste has endemic drug resistant TB. Klibur Domin has all the scanning equipment and stocks medical supplies under refrigeration. As electricity supply is not always secure in Timor, solar panels fitted to the roof will enable Klibur Domin to use equipment all the time and store medicines safely.

Klibur Domin provides accommodation to Timorese people with disabilities and again, consistent electrical supply is important in the care of the residents.

Days for Girls - sanitary kits for girls

The Rotary Club of Ararat has also begun a 'Days for Girls' group which meets monthly in a local church hall. Female Rotarians and a number of other women from the Ararat community, meet once a month to sew reusable sanitary kits for girls in Timor Leste which are distributed at the local girls' school.

Days for Girls kits enable girls to manage their menstrual cycle hygienically and, most importantly, allows girls to stay at school and ultimately to have more control over their own lives.



Springfest

Rotary Club of Ballarat

SpringFest Ballarat has been running for over 25 years, attracts between 15,000 to 20,000 people each year, and is a combination of Rotary events held during the spring months, locally in Ballarat. In 2019 these events will include a Harness Racing night and our famous Market Sunday, held at Lake Wendouree.

The annual market spans the entire six kilometres of the Lake Wendouree foreshore and features over 520 market stalls, serving up a wide range of food, art and craft, music, clothing, jewelry, plants and flowers, performers, car displays, events and activities for all ages and interests. Highlights at this year's SpringFest Ballarat will include the Show-n-Glow/Vintage Car Display, Pet Corner, Spring Garden, Children's Wunderfest, and the Strong Man and Woman competitions, including Tram Pull.

Every dollar raised from SpringFest Ballarat is donated back into the local community. Our 2019 SpringFest Ballarat beneficiaries are: Ballarat Chinese Dragon Boat Club, Miners Rest Primary School, Bungaree Primary School, Mount Egerton Primary School and Pheonix P-12 Community College. Over the years, Rotary Club of Ballarat has supported a wide range of local community groups and organisations, through the funds raised from SpringFest Ballarat and have distributed in excess of \$500,000 into our local community.



Trivia Night

Rotary Club of Ballarat East

The Ballarat East Rotary Club hosted our 2nd annual Trivia Night in July 2019, raising money and awareness for the homeless population of Ballarat.

Homelessness can affect people from all walks of life. It is underpinned by issues such as family violence, a shortage of affordable housing,

unemployment, mental illness, family breakdown, financial distress and drug and alcohol misuse.

On any given night 1 in 200 Australians are homeless, and of those in Victoria 33% are homeless because of domestic violence and relationship issues. There were 894 people under the age of 25 needed help for homelessness in Ballarat last year.

Over the past 2 years we have raised over \$18,000 which we have then distributed to various local organisations to assist those living rough in Ballarat. Uniting Breezeway and the Soup Bus offer free meals to those in our community in need, and CAFS supports families who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness.

Rotarians of various Ballarat Rotary clubs and members of the wider community enjoyed a night of laughter, fun and trivia, all the while raising much needed funds for those less fortunate in our town.



Community Assistance Raffle

Rotary Club of Ballarat South

Rotary Club of Ballarat South's Community Assistance Raffle was first established in 1992/93. Now in its 27th year the Raffle allows community organisations to sell raffle tickets for \$2 and keep \$1.60.

Our Club subsidises the prizes and manages the process. That management includes obtaining Government permits, purchasing cards, sending out and receiving tickets, displaying a show-car, keeping track of the tickets and money, organising the draw, various notifications and handing out of prizes. This all cranks up about September and rolls to a stop at the beginning of February each year.



In the first year of operation, the enormous task of selling the concept to community and welfare organisations involved many strategies. Acceptance turned out to be overwhelming. Success beyond expectations was achieved with 143 organisations participating and generating an income of \$156,121.

The 2018/19 Raffle Committee decided on two prizes of cars, both Mazda's with support from Ballarat Mazda. Over a period of five months, 106,000 tickets were sold, earning a total income of approximately \$206,000. Consequently \$163,209 was earned by the 106 'not-for-profit' participating clubs.

Club members gather to participate in "Screw-Up Night" and work diligently and sociably for more than four hours to prepare the tickets for the raffle draw. One the day of the raffle draw, the big barrel is brought out at the Ballarat Sunday Markets and loaded with the tickets for the Mayor of Ballarat to draw the winning ticket. This is a fun social day for everyone to participate in with members of the public, musicians and their families, Rotarians, representatives from Ballarat Mazda and the City of Ballarat.

National Oral Health Hospital

Rotary Club of Ballarat West

Amongst our many service and fundraising projects, our major project ably steered by our Rotarian David Goldsmith is to create a National Oral Health Hospital for the Solomon Islands (RAWCS project *29/2018-19).

Rotary has been given the task of converting an empty building at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara into a fully functioning Dental Hospital. This is a large and important project which we are doing in stages, and which with full Rotary support, has potential to be extended into the main hospital itself.



An initial Needs Assessment and Project Evaluation was made in September 2017 on a visit to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara by Dr David Goldsmith (RC Ballarat West) Gus Dominguez (RC Berwick) and Dr Felipe de Lemos (Vanuatu dentist) with a joint RAWCS project 29/2018-19 being registered between the Rotary Clubs of Berwick, Ballarat West and Honiara, and MOUs signed with the NRH executive in 2018.

Next was the Procurement and transportation of the necessary specialized equipment from DIK Adelaide and DIK Brisbane 2019 e.g. 9 dental chairs selected by dentist Rotarian Dr Dick Milner from RADH, and all the same models (important for future maintenance).

April 2019 Visit to NRH by Dr David Goldsmith, and our technical lead, specialist dental equipment engineer Mr. Peter Copp, (a PHF with extensive experience in the Pacific Islands) resulted in 3 Initial chair installations. We agreed on detailed surgery designs and drew up plans for 6 surgeries, a Denture Lab. and a Sterilizing Room. Good working relationships have been established with Chief Dental Officer for the Solomon Islands, Dr Ellison Vane, the NRH BioMed engineer Douglas, and Rotary Club of Honiara International Director Tony Rayner.

A RAWCS volunteer work party is planned for October 2019 to complete the installations of equipment, including assembling the custom dental cabinetry flat packs, service connections for the final installations of all 6 dental chairs, stocking and furnishing 6 surgeries with supplies, and building and equipping a Sterilizing Room. It is intended the Solomon Islands dental department will move into the building and start seeing its Public Patients in early November 2019.

The Solomon Islands dental department have now requested our help to also equip more new dental surgeries in the same building which are about to be vacated by the Diabetic department. This will then create, for the first time, a fully self-contained National Oral Health Hospital for the Solomon Islands.

Securing a future for the Ballarat Toy Library

Rotary Club of Ballarat Young Ambition

As the club with the youngest members in Ballarat, the Rotary Club of Ballarat Young Ambition felt it entirely appropriate to use funds from its recent Children's' Book Drive to support the newly relocated Ballarat Toy Library.

The book drive featured hundreds of children's book titles for sale for a gold coin donation. It coincided with the end of National Book Week and the re-opening of the Ballarat Toy Library at its new location in Barkly Street.

According to club President Jane Jens, members of her club understand the relationship between early reading and success in later life. "We know that children who are surrounded by books in their formative years will succeed when they get to school. Club members really wanted to foster the love of reading in the Ballarat community" she said. "We are also really keen to support the Ballarat Toy Library" she added.

The Ballarat Toy Library is a much-loved community service. Run entirely by volunteers, the library has been operating for more than 40 years and provides more than 120 Ballarat families with easy and affordable access to more than 1,500 toys and countless hours of joy.



Changing Lives with Knitted Knockers

Rotary Club of Bayside Geelong

Rotary, always making a difference, we see where we can help and go to work to do it. It's all about support!

A small but very worthwhile project that we at the Rotary club of Bayside decided to support, led to a fun night that everyone enjoyed, and we raised money to support this amazing group of women that are changing the lives of strangers.



Knitted Knockers; the name says it all. When a woman has breast cancer, she not only deals with the uncertainty of life, but when she loses her breast she can lose so much more - femininity, confidence and choices. We decided to support this sisterhood of women who use their skills to make a difference to women who have had a mastectomy.

We know laughter is the best policy; the name alone can put a smile on your face, but also this free act of kindness gives back confidence in a soft and comfortable way.

Knitted knockers; knitters supplying women of all ages with a soft natural fibre breast prosthetic.

Women supporting women with the help of Rotary.

Driver Reviver

Rotary Club of Beaufort

Thousands of motorists and their passengers have been treated to a free cup of tea or coffee and a warm welcome at the Driver Reviver site on the Western Highway at Beaufort for the past 32 years.

Commencing in 1987 “Take a Break” as it was formerly known, was an idea developed by the newly formed Rotary Club of Beaufort after it was suggested by a club member whose son was killed in a road accident.



In the first year, they served over 400 cups of tea and coffee on Maundy Thursday or “danger day” as it had been labelled, because this was the most critical day for driver fatigue during the Easter period.

Rotarians, family members and friends manned the site until late in the evening and many motorists enjoyed their cuppa around a fire and talked with local police and Rotary members before continuing their trip to the Grampians, Stawell and all points west.

In 2003 the name changed from Take a Break to Driver Reviver, to give more emphasis to the need for motorists to stop and revive themselves with a hot cuppa, take a break and spend some time chatting to the Rotarians and other travellers.

Following a considerable amount of organisation and setting up, we now operate for around 33 hours, serving between 3000 and 4000 travellers with the assistance of family members and our Friends of Rotary, along with support from the TAC, VicRoads, Pyrenees Shire and other generous donors.

Our Club considers this project the most important Community Service we provide, and the effort put into staging this activity is well and truly worth every hour of our time. Since it commenced, there has been no highway deaths within 50km of our site.

We plan to continue Driver Reviver in 2020, and for many years to come.

Social Inclusion Program – Transforming lives

Rotary Club of Belmont

Three years ago, the Rotary Club of Belmont decided to support Headspace Geelong as a major community project. There are a number of teenagers who experience a range of mental health issues and are disengaged from education and social settings.



Unfortunately, Headspace Geelong did not receive any funding from Government for an assertive outreach services to assist these people. We undertook to support a new Social Inclusion Program which uses a social outreach model to deliver support and interventions to help these young people gain confidence and assimilate back into the community. The program targets isolated youngsters and offers them one-on-one mentoring support as well as access to group sessions to assist them to build connections within the community and overcome isolation issues.

Back in 2016, the Rotary Club of Belmont donated \$60,000 to commence a pilot program. Based on the initial feedback on the benefits of the program, the club held its first fundraising function in May 2017 and raised \$63,000. In 2018, at the second fundraiser, we raised \$65,000 which then enabled 300 one-on-one support and 60 group sessions. Early in May 2019, we held the third function. Through our networks in the business community in Geelong we had 330 people attend the event.

The support from those present was tremendous in that we raise \$81,000 on the day with a further \$81,000 provided by a benefactor, that that the total was an amazing \$162,000. This means that the program will be able to be further expanded to reach even more of the youth who need support.

The Rotary Club of Belmont is committed to supporting this program for the next two years and looks forward to showing the business community in Geelong exactly what Rotary can achieve.

Bordertown Wildlife Park

Rotary Club of Bordertown

The Bordertown wildlife park is a tourist attraction for the town, specifically due to white kangaroos, unique for the town.

After an approach from the local council, the club was asked to partner the council in developing the infrastructure in the park. The main project was the erection of shelters to enable the kangaroos to shelter from the elements and make it easier for them to be fed daily.



The council provided the major material and one of the councilors provided the brush to be woven into the structure. So, over a period of 6 months, working bees were held at the park and two shelters were constructed. They have been an outstanding addition to the park as they merge into the surroundings very well. A lot of fun was had by all involved in completing the work.

The club continues to work with council. The latest project is the creation of artwork at a cost of \$10,000 and Rotary has contributed \$5,000. We will be installing a large Rotary wheel on the fence in full view of the visiting public.

There is more happening, and this is just a snippet of what the club is conducting in support of our local community.

Easter Family Fun Day

Rotary Club of Camperdown

The Rotary Club of Camperdown held its first “Easter Family Fun Day” in 2019 on Easter Saturday.

The free event was held at the local Playspace and around 300 people attended. All Club members and some family members joined with “Friends of Rotary” and Camperdown Community House to make the day a great success.



Children and adults were involved in old fashioned games including sack races, egg and spoon races, skittles, pin the tail on the bunny and tossing the ball through the Easter bunny. Community House organized a craft table where children made bunny masks and baskets for collecting Easter eggs hidden around the park for the Easter egg hunt. Rotarians cooked a barbecue which was very popular.

The aim of the project was to offer the community a free, fun activity and importantly to raise awareness of the Rotary Club of Camperdown. The event was well publicised in the local press. Among the attendees were visitors from nearby towns and some others passing through the town. Being on a major highway gave us maximum exposure and attracted very good publicity.

It is planned to make the “Easter Family Fun Day” an annual event and the Rotary Club has already attracted a Shire grant for 2020 and planning has already commenced. It is anticipated next year will attract even more participants.

Lest we Forget – Seats at the RSL Cenotaph

Rotary Club of Casterton

In the Rotary year of 2018/19, the Rotary Club of Casterton decided that the local community would deeply benefit from some seating at the local RSL Cenotaph.

Immediate Past President Darren Brown approached the local Returned Services League (RSL), Glenelg Shire and VicRoads for the various permissions needed to place some metal seating at the Cenotaph. The seats

would be used by the elderly Diggers and their family and friends, enabling them to attend the annual ANZAC Day service; previously seating at the Cenotaph was non-existent.



Planning was the key to the successful project. With RSL President Barry Kent and Glenelg Shire councillor Karen Stephens backing the idea, local businessman Rick Wombwell was approached. His business, RJ Steelworks was straight on board and the seats began to take shape. The club was under a timeline pressure as members wanted the seats for this year's ANZAC service. To note, VicRoads waived the fee for the permit and for this the club are very grateful.

The design of the seats was similar to those already in Henty Street, the main street of Casterton. Dark green metal creations with a very dominant Rotary International wheel, in bright yellow/gold in the arm rest of the 2 outside seats. The seats have the words "LEST WE FORGET", laser cut into the back of each seat, one word per seat. The wording and the Rotary wheels are very clear to all who venture past.

The total cost of the seats was \$2,574 completely paid for from community contributions to the Rotary Club of Casterton.

Rotarian Roger Dalby offered his previous services as a builder to install the seats, ably assisted by Darren Brown and Rotarian Paul Talay. Rick Wombwell applied the finishing touches by making the Rotary wheel visible to all with a final coat of paint.

The club thanks everyone who helped this come to fruition.

Charlton Art Exhibition

Rotary Club of Charlton

The Rotary Art Exhibition is the major project of the Rotary Club of Charlton and this year marks the 38th Show which is held annually on the second weekend in October.

Typically, the club has between 250 to 350 exhibits from about 100 artists from throughout Central and Northern Victoria. Prize money of around \$3500 and usual sales of around 10% of exhibits give artists plenty of encouragement to display their best works.



Giving Farming Families a Great Day Out

Rotary Club of Cobden

One of the Rotary Club of Cobden's biggest projects in recent years was the Free Farmers' Day that was held at the Cobden Miniature Railway. The event was first held in September 2016 and then again the following year in 2017.

The event was attended by almost 1000 people on both occasions. It was organised to give dairy farming families a stress-free day away from their properties. This was during the time farming families were doing it tough with the downturn of the milk prices and ongoing battles farmers were dealing with at the time.

Activities included a BBQ lunch, mini golf, train rides, jumping castles, magician and free food/drinks. All free of charge to all of those that attended the day.

A combination of Community groups in the area took part of the day including WestVic Dairy, South West Model Engineers and multiple Rotary and Lions Clubs in the area.

The Free Farmers Day in 2016 was named the Community Event of the Year in the Corangamite Shire. The award presented as part of the Australia Day celebrations in 2017.

This is one of those projects that reflects how well our community does when an idea is put out there and organised well. It also demonstrates the value of collaboration - how many different community organisations and groups can work together to make something happen and be successful.



Community Market

Rotary Club of Colac

The Rotary Club of Colac Community Market is a once a month (every 3rd Sunday) market day aimed at providing a venue for stall holders from Colac and beyond to sell a range of local products and showcase craft work to the Colac community.

The market has created opportunities and an outlet for local producers and craft makers to sell their wares and it has also added something different for local community engagement and participation.

The Rotary Club of Colac has involved both local and outside community members in this market to foster and support a sense of community and connection within the local Colac area and to raise the profile of Rotary.



Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon

Rotary Club of Colac West

The Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon annual fundraiser in Colac in 2018 was a terrific success. The local Filipino community supported our Luncheon and enjoyed the day with our members and friends. It was wonderful to have them bring some diversity to our function.

The Luncheon raises money for the Long Road Appeal which was launched in August 2014 by the Colac Area Health Foundation to raise money to build a Cancer Centre.

The Centre was opened in 2016. In 2016, the Appeal continued with raising funds for consulting rooms for visiting specialists. Three new consulting rooms and a treatment room have since been built to accommodate visiting medical specialists. The Long Road Appeal now takes on another mantra – ‘Building a Healthier Community’ to support the work of Colac Area Health.



Serious Fun with Futsal

Rotary Club of Corio Bay

The purpose of this project is to increase the participation opportunities for young females in the sport of Soccer / Futsal in the northern suburbs of Geelong. It places a focus on making the program as affordable and accessible to females aged 13 – 25 years of age - enabling them to play sport in a fun, friendly and safe community facility.

Geelong's north has a lot of new arrival communities who are not currently involved in or participate in any regular or structured sporting activity. For a lot of these nationalities, soccer is an extremely popular sport, and this was proven through the previous partnership project which the club undertook with young boys and men in the past few years. That project was highly successful, and the progression was to then offer an opportunity for the young females in the community.

The females within these communities often have very limited access to attend and participate in regular sporting activity, or to develop skills in a safe and welcoming environment. Specifically, the outcomes were to:

- Provide a weekly female football program
- Bring the community together through sport
- Build players into positive role models and leaders within the community
- Be financially sustainable enough to become a long-term program
- Foster league ownership by the players through shaping the program, develop key policies, procedures, codes of behaviours and rules of the competition
- Develop and train referees with possible future opportunities for casual work and earnings
- Foster club development and understanding through learnings of booking facilities, club registration, uniforms etc.



Nepal Chicken Farm – Rotary Connecting the World

Rotary Club of Drysdale

The latest news from Nepal is that the Rotary Club of Drysdale micro-economic project to support seven women and their families is open for business. The project was the brainchild of local women wanting to provide for their families and those in the local area. This project was funded with a District Matching Grant.

The construction of the henhouse “Cluckingham Palace” was commenced with the help of three visiting Rotarians from Drysdale who made the trip Kangel in the Solukhumbu District of Nepal. The solid stone, iron roofed building was completed in March 2019. Using local materials and employing local labour the project has already had an impact in the impoverished area.

The purchase of 42 chickens has given the project a flying start and some 19 plus chicks are being reared to add to the number. More chicks will be bred in the future to add to the numbers hopefully taking the number to over 100. Pictured below are some of the local children keen to give a hand and help their mums with the project.



Old Geelong Gaol in Protective Custody 1995 - 2019

Rotary Club of Geelong

The Old Geelong Gaol Project – by far the longest service project ever undertaken by the Rotary Club of Geelong - concluded in June 2019.

This was celebrated in style with a banquet at the Gaol on Friday 14th June. The event brought together former Rotarians including Ray Abikhair, the prime mover in developing the Gaol project, past and present Civic leaders including Bill Dix who, in his capacity as Chairman of Commissioners of the City of Greater Geelong in 1994, approved the Club's proposal to take over the then redundant Gaol.

A highlight of the evening was the official release by President Anne Kavenagh of a high-quality glossy booklet “Old Geelong Gaol In Protective Custody 1995 -2019” providing a permanent record of this 24-year service project. In a brief address President Anne emphasised the Key results achieved: Total rent paid to the City of Greater Geelong \$650,000 (approximately \$853,200 in today's money. Net of rental and all other expenses total funds raised by the Club exceeded \$1,520,000 (approximately \$1,835,100 in today's money).

Over the 24year period more than 30,000 voluntary hours were provided by members of our Club—emphasising that Service is the very basis of Rotary. By any standard this service project has been an outstanding success, not only in terms of funds raised to support deserving local and international needs, but also in preserving an historic community asset and enabling tens of thousands of visitors to experience part of Geelong's early history. In addition, many community organisations have been able to make use of the property at rentals below commercial rates.

Photo legend: Top left, Front Cover of Brochure, Top Right from left to right, our 3 remaining Gaol Keepers from the original committee in 1995. Alec Hand, Bill Holt and Brian Hall, Bottom, Rotarian Ewen Urquhart in a publicity piece for the closure of the Gaol.

Digital and hard copies of our Publication are available from the Rotary Club of Geelong Inc.



Garrthalala (East Arnhem Land) Indigenous Program

Rotary Club of Geelong Central

Garrthalala is an aboriginal homeland community 150 km south of Yirrkala in East Arnhem Land. It is being set up as base for secondary education within the region. Students are flown from other outlying communities.

July 2006 saw the successful completion of stage 1. A purpose-built classroom added to the end of the existing two classroom structure. Primary classes no longer must vacate their classrooms while the secondary students are being taught.



During the four weeks of construction, Rotarians lived in the small Aboriginal community of Garrthalala. Many friendships were made, and cultural bonds formed. An experience we will never forget.

With stage 1 complete we set out to complete Stage 2. This involved the building of accommodation and multipurpose areas.

The accommodation is for both female and male Aborigines, as well as an area for staff or visitors to stay during teaching periods.

The construction was completed within 3 weeks, again with the help of many Rotarians and friends from the Geelong region.

Rotary clubs involved have provided labour for construction, funds for administration, provisions for volunteers and many other essential items.

In 2006 18 students graduated from the initial intake and the success of the program has been proven beyond doubt.

Barwon River Safety Markers

Rotary Club of Geelong East

From personal experience, club Rotarian Keith Dawson realised that users of the strips of parkland on both sides of the Barwon River in Geelong, Victoria would benefit from emergency markers strategically placed along the walking and bike paths.

Keith managed the design stage and began his research, finding that the Emergency Services

Telecommunications Authority was the relevant body to obtain approval for the concept. However he also found there was no standard for a sign that was sponsored by a community organisation like Rotary. Now there is!

The length of river to have signs on both sides stretches from the Breakwater to the Ring Road, a total of approximately 10 kilometres requiring 46 double sided signs and is managed by the City of Greater Geelong and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. Despite several hurdles finally approval was obtained from all relevant authorities and the project was handed over to Rotarian Tony Alsop from the club to manage the construction stage.

The signs were then ordered, posts fabricated and supplied by a local manufacture. Club Rotarians Jenny Acopian and Graham Thompson, along with Keith and Tony, marked the location of each sign, checked for services with Dial Before You Dig and assembled the signs of their posts to enable local contractors to install them.

Funds were provided by Rotary Club of Geelong East, a Rotary District 9780 Grant and a Stronger Communities Program Grant and the City of Greater Geelong.

From Keith's initial proposal to completion in December 2018 five and half years elapsed with the contribution of over 600 hours spent by Rotary volunteers. There have already been several incidents where the signs have been used to report medical emergencies, public security concerns and fire emergencies. The CCMA estimates that an average of 5000 people use the area per day. If these people only pass 5 of the 46 signs that means that the Rotary logo will be seen over 9 million times each year (and that's only looking at one side).

This project is a great example of Rotarian's using their Vocational knowledge to provide Community Service making the parkland along the river safer and saving lives.



Famous Book Fair

Rotary Club of Geelong West

Twice a year the people of Geelong and the wider community come to the Geelong West Town Hall and spent their \$1 and \$2 coins on books, books and more books which have been carefully sorted, boxed and stored by hard working Club members several times each month rain, hail or sunshine.



It was thought that there would never be enough books but, to our amazement, libraries and the locals continue to empty bookshelves and ring us up to arrange members to collect those beloved treasures. We now have so many books that we have set up a storage facility “Rotary House” at the Geelong Disabled People’s Industries location (which was set up many years ago by the Club) and we now have two book fairs a year.

Each year the profit rises. This July we made a profit of about \$23,700 with one more to go. We encourage DIK to come and pack up left over books for children to send overseas as well as any other organisations that can benefit such as local small school libraries.

Although a club of Rotarians who are mostly over the age where we can bend with ease, we have been inspired by the use of social media for advertising, the help of local organisations such as Mr Zippy removals offering their time and drivers free of charge, VCAL students from two local schools who help on set up day and all members, partners and family members who help with the four day event. The Geelong Rotaract Club have offered to help next time and we are always assisted by members from Lara District Rotary Club.

What an amazing way of promoting Rotary working to connect in the community.

House of Angels, Coffee Bay South Africa

Rotary Club of Grovedale Waurn Ponds

On the 3rd of August 2018 a group of 16 members and partners from our Club in Geelong went to Coffee Bay, South Africa. The reason for our trip was to go over and to help maintain and help where we could in a local orphanage - The House of Angels.

The members helped with the reroofing of their rondavel from thatch to tin and the construction of playing equipment. The Club also helped with the installation of two water tanks for the orphanage.

While helping in the orphanage a few members were lucky enough to be taught by some of the local women about life in Coffee Bay and such things as cooking and what sort of maintenance goes into housing and boarding all the children. As you might have guessed the children ran rings around us but that was more of a challenge to try and keep up with the children.

It was rewarding for our members to help those who had so little but who were living such full lives - it was an amazing experience for all those involved.

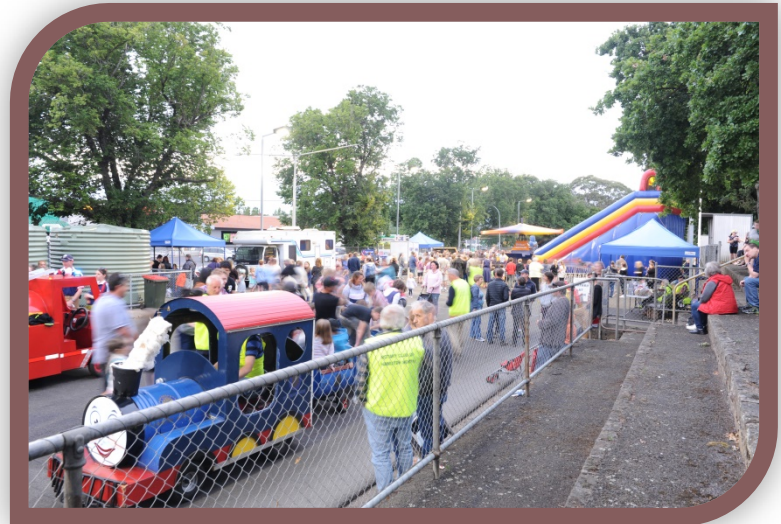


New Year's Eve Street Party

Rotary Club of Hamilton North

In the past there was little happening in Hamilton on New Year's Eve, apart from events at licensed premises and private parties. Families with children had no options locally, unless they wished to travel for about an hour to coastal resorts.

In response to these circumstances, the Rotary Club of Hamilton North decided to run a street party, aimed at families with young children.



The event is usually held at Melville Oval, Hamilton and is followed by a spectacular fireworks display. As a club we pay for the event, with some financial help and in-kind assistance from Southern Grampians Shire Council. Our Rotary Club considers this event as a, "gift to the community" for supporting our other events.

Our people catchment is young families with children under 13 and in 2018 we had approximately 2500 people attend. We are fully aware with information from our local charity colleagues that many of the families that attend are involved in domestic and alcohol abuse situations.

We believe that this evening gives children a break from such violence and allows our club to have community engagement with a different demographic.

Our attractions include a merry go round, slides, magicians, bands, face painter and CFA mini fire truck. The club uses its own ride, known as the "Rotary Train" which is extremely popular with young children. We also arrange for a sausage sizzle, ice cream and coffee van. St Johns Ambulance is in attendance.

Our event has been running for over a decade.

Star Search

Rotary Club of Highton

Highton Rotary has been hosting 'Star Search' since 1976 as part of its Community Service program, long before talent quests became a popular television item.

Star Search is open to vocal or instrumental entries from Geelong and the surrounding District. Entries can be solo or group (up to 5 members) in either vocal or instrumental sections.



The aim is to provide young musicians up to the age of 25 the experience of performing under audition conditions, and then if they are successful in being selected as a finalist, performing at a Grand Final event in front of a large audience with professional judges, sound and lighting.

Several winners of the competition have attributed their progression into successful musical careers to the opportunity and experience gained through Star Search. The winners have been a variety of different styles from Paul Rettke (jazz guitarist) through several different Jazz bands whose members have taken up their own individual career paths, to Cheryl Barker and Miranda Orford (opera), Tim McCallum (opera and motivational speaker), Missy Higgins (popular singer-songwriter), Amy Lehpamer (musical theatre performer) and several others.

Whether winners or not, all finalists are awarded prizes with generous prize amounts for section winners. We rely on and are grateful for the generous support of local businesses and organisations providing financial and in-kind prizes for our winners.

As always in the case of long-running projects, we have questioned the relevance of continuing, especially since the advent of so many television and other talent-based competitions. In every instance, however, we have been astounded by the continuing enthusiastic support of the local community, music teachers and the young musicians who want to compete. Star Search has become an annual event which is set to continue for quite some time.

Hugh Jenkin Photographic Awards

Rotary Club of Horsham

One of the signature programs of our club is the annual Hugh Jenkin Photographic Awards for Secondary Students.

Our Club was very pleased in 2019 to present the 17th annual 'Hugh Jenkin Photographic Awards' for Secondary School Students of thirteen colleges in the West Wimmera area. We hope that participating in these awards assists young people in their engagement, education and perhaps lifetime careers.

We present this in memory of PP Hugh Jenkin PHF, a former member of the Rotary Club of Horsham from 1952 until his death in 2002, his vocation was 'Portrait Photography'. Hugh's speciality was portraiture, weddings and family groups. At the time of his death in 2002 Hugh was the longest serving member of our Club, serving 49 years and six months.

He loved to see young people experimenting with and enjoying photography and our Club enjoys offering this competition to Secondary Students to encourage them to be involved in photography *perhaps as a career ...*

The student's photographs are exhibited in display frames at the Federation University, Horsham campus for six weeks. Our club hosts entrants and their families at a presentation night where prizes for: Year 7-10 Black & White; Year 7-10 Colour; Year 11-12 Black & White and Year 11-12 Colour categories are presented.



Horsham Infant and Child Memorial Gardens

Rotary Club of Horsham East

The Rotary Club of Horsham East was instrumental in the planning and construction of the Infant Memorial Garden at Horsham Cemetery which was named 'Leaves of Love'. This project was supported by local community clubs, including Rotary Club of Horsham, Apex, Lions, Masonic Lodge, Quota, SIDS, SKIDS and the Horsham Cemetery Trust.



The project came to the club's attention from a local resident who was affected by several infant deaths in her family and knew what it did to other mums and dads. The concept of the Infant Memorial Gardens grew from this, and our club was pleased to be involved.

This project was also supported by other local community clubs and groups which donated \$88,000 within the first three months from the launch.

These gardens give people a place where they can go to grieve and reflect and is a place of solace for the loss of an infant or child. The wall has a bronze tree which is the main focus of the gardens with leaves inscribed with personnel details.

The project objectives are to improve community awareness of and involvement in, the loss of infants and its ramifications to their families and to expand the current facilities to all families and friends to create a place that allows them to pray, to remember, and find peace.

The coordinator of the project PP Robyn Lardner Rotary Club of Horsham East said the garden now provides a good feeling when you walk into the area. It has an embracing atmosphere, an atmosphere that feels like it is putting its arms around you.

This is an ongoing project with continued involvement to be by service organisations to upkeep the gardens on a revolving roster.

Children's Edible Garden

Rotary Club of Kardinia

Kardinia Rotary in partnership with Northern Bay Children's Centre have built an edible garden complete with chickens for children aged 0 – 4 years.

The garden once fully completed will house a chicken coop with chickens, five raised vegetable garden beds, a variety of fruit trees and a sensory garden.

The garden will encourage healthy eating in a fun and interactive way for the children. Produce from the garden and eggs from the chickens will be used by staff in cooking classes planned at the centre for parents as well as children from the centre.

It is a fun and hands on way for the children to learn about where food comes from with the children have the responsibility of planting and maintaining the garden with support from staff at the centre.

This project supports the formal educational aims at the centre regarding healthy eating and diet. Northern Bay Children's Centre is adjacent to Northern Bay College in Corio. Corio is a large suburb in the north of Geelong. It is one of the most disadvantaged communities in the state of Victoria. Northern Bay College is the main high school for the area. The Children's Centre provides family support across the community with a focus on parenting support for those high school students who become young parents, with the aim being to support them to stay engaged in their education.

Rotary will provide ongoing support of the garden with annual ongoing financial support as well as maintenance of the garden and coop.

This is a large project for our club and has provided the opportunity for members to get hands on with the building and maintenance of the garden and chicken coop.



Alternative to Schoolies Program

Rotary Club of Kerang

The signature program for the Rotary Club of Kerang is the 'Alternative to Schoolies' Program.

Established in 2007, it offers year 12 students an alternative way to celebrate the end to their Secondary education.

From mid-November through early December students from Kerang & Cohuna Secondary Schools, together with the Northern Territory School of Distant Education travel to Cambodia for 12 days of Community Service and Cultural and Historical awareness.

In Siem Reap students work with Life & Hope Association building houses, sheds & fences in a Community Village, while at the Green Gecko Orphanage the major focus has been on developing an agricultural farm, including a mushroom house, hen house together with garden plots and an irrigation system to enable them to be self-sufficient.

After a day's boat trip, they arrive in the Capital of Phnom Penh where they work with the Tabitha Foundation to build houses in rural communities. The trip concludes with a very privileged visit to the Australian Embassy. The students return home with a greater sense of 'what it means to give to others who are less fortunate' and the importance of family.



Community Market

Rotary Club of Lara District

The Rotary Club of Lara District started a Market Project in October 2018.

We partnered with the Lara Returned Soldiers League and run the market in their car park and grounds. Whilst not a big revenue project currently, it has been a great way of informing residents of Lara that Rotary is alive and well.

The Club currently runs a Golf Day once a year in February and has raised over \$20,000 on each occasion.

As a result of better exposure and adoption of social media the Lara District Club has grown from 10 members at the start of the 2018 year to 19 members at the start of the 2019 year. We currently have two prospective members arising out of the market held last Sunday.



Saying NO to Family Violence

Rotary Club of Maryborough

In 2013, prompted by increasing reports of family violence in the region, Maryborough Rotary was moved into action, based on the premise that remedying the issue was the responsibility of everyone in the community.

Among the club's first tasks was to link and consult with government and non-government agencies, to become informed about the issues and determine

what Maryborough Rotary could do. It found that a significant barrier to successfully tackling family violence was fear within the community to openly discuss the issue. People typically didn't want to make the situation worse and believed that 'what happens in the family, stays in the family'. There were also concerns about stigmatising the town socially and economically.

These revelations prompted Maryborough Rotary to lead by example and make a public statement in the form of a White Ribbon oath - pledging to take a stand against family violence and become strong advocates for its eradication. That experience seeded the motivation to put words into action.

Members decided to develop a campaign focused on safety and the provision of a safe environment. The result was the 'SAFE model' - Support; Advice; Facilitation and Early Intervention promoted through the "#SayNO2Familyviolence" hashtag, and initiatives that have increased understanding of family violence, promoted non-violent relationships and encouraged conversation about the issue. Examples of these initiatives may be found on the Family Violence page of the Club website at: <https://rotarymaryboroughvic.org/sitepage/family-violence-program/what-is-the-family-violence-program>

Under the driving force of PP Garry Higgins OAM, the program has received national press coverage in the Age newspaper, State and National awards and was the only Non-Profit to present at the Royal Commission on Family Violence. The club is currently developing a package of materials that will be freely available to Rotary Clubs that want to follow the Maryborough example. The Rotary clubs of Horsham and Portland already have.

Caption: Members of Maryborough Rotary with Victorian Premier, The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP.



Rotary Park

Rotary Club of Millicent

In 2003 the Millicent Rotary Club was looking for a major community project in the to mark the Centenary of Rotary International in 2005. The Club “adopted” the long neglected 6-acre block bounded by Williams Road, Park Terrace and the Lakeside Caravan Park.

Known as the “scrub block”, it had been largely overtaken by such exotic species as Portuguese Laurel, so the eucalyptus trees and other native species were under threat and the whole block a fire hazard. Millicent Rotary developed a plan to clean-up the area and turn it into an area that the community could enjoy. This involved many hours of “hard yakka” from Rotarians, their partners and at different times, help from the Millicent Lions Club. Advice was sought from Wattle Range Council and the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Native Vegetation Council about the removal of exotic species, retention of existing native vegetation and suitable plantings.



With the assistance of Wattle Range Council, and some Government grants, plans were well under way to turn the “scrub block” into a Park. Plans were made for a walkway through the Park in the shape of an “R” to signify it as a Rotary project. The walkway was lined with 100 trees to denote the centenary of Rotary International.

Since that time work has continued at Rotary Centenary Park with a dedicated band of volunteers.

The next stage of the project was to have a shelter built over the picnic table setting that was donated in 2011 by an enthusiastic Rotarian family to mark the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. This year also marked the grand occasion of the first wedding to be held in the park.

The park has become a popular spot for the community, where people can walk or picnic. There has been a resurgence of birds and native fauna re-establishing homes within the park.

There is now a ‘Friends of the Park Group’ who conduct monthly working bees and ad-hoc activities as required. The Wattle Range Council is very active in the Park, seeing to the mowing and weed eradication.

Book Fair Bonanza

Rotary Club of Mount Gambier

Although, from its weekly Rotary Community Market, during the past 26 years the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier has raised over \$600,000 for local and international projects, in the past three years it has created a BOOK FAIR which raises between \$6,000 to \$8,000 for a different project each year.

Books in Homes - provides books-of-choice to children living in remote, disadvantaged and low socio-economic circumstances, ensuring crucial early literacy engagement and the development of reading skills needed for lifelong achievement. Our club is involved in the Books in Homes project together with the State Education Department and the local council owned Mount Gambier Library. About 240 young children at four preschools in the city. have been personally presented with books they have chosen. Some families may not have books in their homes and this initiative may also encourage parents to read to their children.



Drought relief in Central Queensland - one of our members had worked for several months in Longreach and attended meetings of the local Rotary Club. Their major project was (and still is) supporting rural communities, especially small remote communities that had been hit hard by up to 8 years of drought. It is gratifying that the Rotary Club of Longreach manages the distribution of the funds we provide by distributing to projects like confidential cash drops for families to keep food on the table, using a portable movie/BBQ trailer to bring local families together for a night of socialising and entertainment and delivering Christmas hams to the smaller townships.

Australian Rotary Health's 'Lift the Lid on Mental Illness' - will benefit from this year's Book Fair. The campaign started in 2016 in partnership with Rotary Clubs of Victoria. The event was such a success that it has now been extended to all Rotary Clubs across Australia. ARH notes that "each year approximately 1-in-5 Australians will experience a mental illness and in order to help future generations of young Australians, we need to look ahead through research and find out how we can prevent this type of illness occurring".

Annual Blue Lake Fun Run

Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes

The Blue Lake Fun Run has been an annual event on the Mount Gambier calendar since 2010.

Proudly organised and run by the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes, it regularly attracts around 1000 runners (almost 5% of the city's population) and raises much needed funds for a host of community projects and organisations in the town.



The family friendly fun-run is held on the first Sunday in December each year and involves a scenic course in beautiful Mount Gambier, South Australia. Runners can choose between three different distances – 10.4km, 6.8 km and 3.2 km – with the two longer races featuring the city's spectacular steel-blue Blue Lake. Runners come from all over, and include team entries from schools, sporting clubs and workplaces.

In organising the annual event, the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes involves a host of other community, government agencies, non-government organisations and businesses - as sponsors and supporters. The Club has even partnered with a local fitness company to create fully supported training plans and support groups preparing runners for the three different fun-run distances.

Each year the Blue Lake Fun Run raises around \$20,000. Since 2010, the Club has distributed Fun Run proceeds to numerous worthwhile projects and organisations in the town, including local schools, library, mental health initiatives, swim programs and youth sport scholarships.

The event is a wonderful success each year and a terrific example of Rotarians making positive connections in the community.

Working Bee for Ryder Cheshire Homes

Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West

On Saturday July 27th The Rotary Club of Mt Gambier West organized a working bee at the Ryder Cheshire Homes in Mt Gambier. The homes house 10 people living with physical and mental disabilities.

We were asked to help fill 10 raised garden beds with soil and do some gardening. The task was quite physical and was more than we could handle as a club with our aging demographic, so we enlisted some help from the local Lions club, Mt Gambier Lakes Rotary Club and some of the board members of the Ryder Cheshire Home foundation. In total there were 16 of us contributing some 55 hours of service.

These garden beds will be used by the residents to plant vegetables and flowers. We started at 8.30am and had the job completed by 11.30am. The residents provided us with a magnificent morning tee that was very much appreciated.

We had a wonderful morning connecting with other service minded people in our community for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves.



Investing in our Youth

Rotary Club of Naracoorte

The Rotary Club of Naracoorte has invested heavily in the youth of the local district over many years. As a small club in a small community, at a considerable distance from capital cities, we have the intention of giving local youth a broader understanding of the world.



To this end we have supported eleven students in the last ten years to go to the National Youth Science Forum, whether in Canberra, Brisbane or Perth. Here they have gained exposure to the highest calibre of scientists (including Australia's Chief Scientist) and their cutting-edge research. Participants have overwhelmingly reported back, that their understanding of the possibilities is immensely larger.

The club hosts exchange students each year. The rationale being, that while also great for the incoming student, it is even more important for Naracoorte youth, whose understanding of being a world citizen are so expanded. Our youth embrace it with our most recent exchange student, Ingrid from Norway, expressing her surprise at how willing our youth were to befriend her.

Each year, a group of around ten students has participated in the Science Experience at the University of Adelaide. Sponsored by the Rotary club, this has again allowed students to explore possibilities for their futures. A number come from families without any experience in tertiary study and from recent migrant families. One parent commented that this experience had completely changed her son and provided him with so much focus.

Funding this has been helped by a group of Rotarians who raised funds by driving a bullock team pulling a dray loaded with wool to Adelaide as part of the 1986 South Australian Jubilee 150 celebrations. Money raised was placed in a fund known as Bullocky Jim Trust Fund which was to be used for the youth of the district.

Caption for Photo –L to R Kierra Plunkett (exchange student from Canada), Tamika Nash-Hahn (NYSF student), Toni Williamson (returning exchange student from Canada)

Karen Community Rotary Community Corps

Rotary Club of Nhill

Nhill is a small township with a population of approximately 2,000 people, located on the main highway, halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide. It is mainly a farming area with the crops being wheat, barley, canola, and in later years chickpeas, lentils and export hay. Some industries such as silo manufacturing and duck breeding and processing are a direct off shoot of the agriculture in the area. Nhill is also well served with healthcare facilities and schools.



The Rotary Club of Nhill has a long and enduring relationship with the Karen community. They are genuine Refugees from the Thai/Burma border who have been invited by our Government to come to Australia. The Karen arrived in Nhill in 2010, and now there are over 200 successfully settled in our town. (Approximately 10% of our population) They have assisted our club, as volunteers, in the many projects we have been involved in, particularly the Nhill swamp boardwalk.

Our Rotary club decided to formalise the Karen community volunteer's relationship with Rotary and established a Community Corp, Rotary's way of harnessing and formalising the involvement of people in the local community who are not directly involved as Rotarians, but who contribute to the community in other ways. We believe this is a first for our District and maybe a first for our State. We must thank PDG Anthony Ohlsen for his guidance in the set-up of the Corps.

Photo - For the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, our club planted 100 trees around the boundary of the local Agricultural and Pastoral Society's ground. Late in 2018, the original signage at the plantation needed to be upgraded, so the Rotary Community Corps was enlisted to replant trees lost in the drought and to erect the new, more prominent sign, along the main road.

Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens

Rotary Club of Ocean Grove

Each year in December, the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove hosts a Christmas dinner for over 100 local Senior Citizens who may be on their own during the coming festive season. They are referred to us by local Churches and support organisations.

Rotarians collect those unable to drive and we all gather at our club meeting location (The Ocean Grove Bowling Club) to be treated to a full Christmas dinner.

It is a fun filled night that all in attendance enjoy and many take advantage of the band to 'hit the dance floor'.



Music for Moyneyana House

Rotary Club of Port Fairy

In December last year the Rotary Club of Port Fairy donated to Moyneyana House a new Yamaha piano costing \$6645. The piano carried a 'Donated by Rotary Club of Port Fairy' plaque and allows the pianist to play wearing headphones so that only they can hear the music.

The piano was handed over just before Christmas by President Sue Robertson and support crew, David

Digby, Peter Smith and Hester Woodrup. A concert with several guest pianists was held for Moyneyana residents to mark the occasion. These musicians cheerfully displayed their extensive musical talents and gave the new instrument a thorough workout.

The instrument produced high quality sound that was greatly appreciated. The new piano replaces one that was beyond tuning and as pianos need tuning once a year a new one was essential. Rotary to the rescue!

Moyne Health Services CEO Jackie Kelly said, "that the new piano was a great addition to Moyneyana House facilities."

Music is an important part of life for the residents of Moyneyana and the Music program which runs for an hour a day, is the best attended program at the venue. Guest pianists provide the entertainment on Thursdays and a neighbouring church community visits once a week to enjoy the music.

Many of the residents have dementia; however, they are often totally engaged during the music sessions. They tend to remember songs and lyrics from long ago and the music can remind them of memories and emotions associated with popular songs from their youth. Sessions usually open with 'She'll be Comin Round the Mountain' and end with perennial favourites 'Now is the Hour' and 'Auld Lang Syne' where the residents hold hands and sing along.

Caption - Membership Director, Hester Woodrup: rear – Secretary, Peter Smith: middle – President Sue Robertson: foreground – Services Director, David Digby



Australia Day Breakfast

Rotary Club of Portland



Portland Rotary as a community service provides free breakfast for the Australia Day celebrations in Portland, Victoria.

The Glenelg Shire as a community service fully funds the breakfast event for the families attending the morning entertainment and citizenship celebrations.

The Rotary Club of Portland has delivered the Australia Day breakfast for many years as a community service. The whole club is involved with the setup, preparation, cooking and serving the breakfast consisting of muffin with bacon and egg, with orange or apple juice. Vegetarians are catered for with a veggie burger instead of bacon in a muffin.

Most Rotarians have a part to play in the breakfast including partners, friends of Rotary and exchange students, all making morning work well. Setup starts at 6:30 with the setup of the Rotary Catering Van and clean up around 10:30 with 300+ breakfasts being served in 3 hours.

A Very Busy Coffee Van

Rotary Club of Portland Bay

We have a coffee van that does twenty-five to thirty outings a year at a wide range of community events in our town.

Whilst it is our major source of fund-raising, it is so much more: coffee is our link to our community organisations and events, our public relations vehicle, a way of strengthening the fellowship between our members and a lot of fun.

We are regular attendees at our local drag racing meetings, health and support services fairs, tourist markets, Carols by Candlelight, local council and sporting events through-out the year. It takes plenty of organisation, but it is a great way of involving our new members as well. The funds raised through our coffee sales have contributed to The Rotary Foundation, End Polio Now and other core Rotary projects, but we also make a point of supporting our local organisations such as our hospital, our disability support services, schools and youth programs.



Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree

Rotary Club of Queenscliffe

The Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree is a 45 metre (150 feet) tall Norfolk Island Pine tree that has been decorated with lights over the Christmas season since 1952.

The Rotary Club of Queenscliffe auspices a committee that oversees the decoration of the tree and organisation of a community celebration of Christmas that takes place on the first Saturday of December each year. Rotary as well as Lions, local school and community members are all involved.

The tree is decorated the old-fashioned way with volunteers climbing the tree and hauling the lighting leads up. In recent years, new eco-friendly LED lighting festoons have been installed.

Several hundred locals attend the Christmas celebrations with entertainment provided by the three local primary schools.

Each year about 150 volunteer hours go into making this all happen.



Fithall Family Bridge over Lexel Creek

Rotary Club of St Arnaud

A need for a walking track and bridge was identified by the Rotary Club of St Arnaud to allow easy access to the Ballarat Road for people walking in their leisure.

Funding for the project came through a community grant with assistance from the Northern Grampians Shire as well as a district 9780 Rotary Foundation grant. The timber beams used were recycled from the old Darcy Bridge over the Avon River. The decking timber was recycled from the Shire sale yards.



Many volunteer hours were given by members and friends of the Rotary Club of St Arnaud to complete the bridge and the walking track.

Celebrating 60 years of Rotary in Stawell

Rotary Club of Stawell

The Rotary Club of Stawell celebrated its sixtieth birthday this year, but in true Rotary style it was the Stawell community that received the gifts.

A picnic table, seat and two benches were installed on the Victoria Street side of Cato Park. The furniture bears plaques explaining the significance of the gift. Secured to a slab of concrete, the new furniture matches existing furniture in the Park.



The Rotary Club worked in partnership with the Northern Grampians Shire Council to implement the project. Like many Rotary supported parks around the district, Cato Park provides a welcome resting place for locals and travellers alike.

Another major focus for the club is Rotary's Youth Exchange program. According to club President Scott Hayter, Youth Exchange is one of the most effective ways to spread peace and knowledge throughout the world. It also provides benefits for club members increasing their knowledge of other cultures and providing new members for the club.

In the past sixty years the club has supported more than 40 students to participate in the program – either to travel abroad or to be hosted in the regional township of Stawell.

Meals on Wheels

Rotary Club of Swan Hill

The Rotary Club of Swan Hill has been coordinating and supervising the volunteer rosters for the delivery of Meals on Wheels in Swan Hill for 50 years. The coordination role is managed through the office of our current President, Rotarian Arthur Graham, and has been since the service began.

Each week a Rotarian is rostered to contact the respective volunteers early every morning to ensure they are available. The Rotarian is then required to be present when the meals are delivered to the pick-up point at the Swan Hill District Hospital to supervise collection. If the rostered volunteer does not arrive, it is the responsibility of the Rotarian to deliver the meals.

Meals on Wheels is a five day a week service of freshly cooked 3 course meals provided through the Food Services Department of Swan Hill District Health, with the aim to assist the elderly and those with disabilities to remain living independently for as long as possible. Special dietary requirements are provided for.

The list of recipients is coordinated each day by the Swan Hill City Council and is drawn from those aged over 65 who have been assessed through My Aged Care, and those under 65 who have been assessed through the Council.

Several our Rotarians are also volunteers who deliver the meals and recognise that it just not about the meal. 222888888Through regular, frequent contact the volunteers develop trust, then listen and observe, almost like a family member would. Any follow-up action is taken as required, often preventing hospitalisation and even saving lives when a client fails to respond to a scheduled visit.

The Rotary Club of Swan Hill is proud to provide this service to the community.



Drinking Fountain

Rotary Club of Swan Hill Sunrise

It came to the attention of our club that there was nowhere in the main CBD area of Swan Hill for the public to refill water bottles and to access a drink of water.

Swan Hill is one of the hottest and driest cities in Victoria, so our Club sprang into action to provide a community drinking fountain for our community. With the assistance of a grant through the Bendigo Bank Community U organisation which matched our Clubs fundraising we were able to go ahead with the purchase and installation of the fountain.

Access to this fountain will be beneficial in minimising plastic bottle waste going to landfill. It provides a public convenience for health and wellbeing and is environmentally sustainable.

The provision of the fountain has enabled access to clean drinking water especially for families with young children while out shopping.



57th Annual Bowls Day

Rotary Club of Terang

The annual bowls day is, without a doubt, an institution in Terang. Organised by the Rotary Club, the much-anticipated event raises valuable funds for a host of Rotary and community projects.

This year's 57th Annual Bowls Day was no exception. The tournament attracted 22 teams (88 players) from around the district and not even inclement weather could spoil the 2019 event. The heavy rain and hail at start of play gave way to sunny conditions later and all bowlers enjoyed the play regardless.

Games were very competitive and at the end of play there were two teams clearly in the lead. Winners, Len Searle, Ray Bourke, Gary Body, and Stan Adeney took home the shield, while the runners up were Jeff Hester, David Staggard, Don Mcleod and Basil Hammond. In all respects the 57th Annual Bowls Day was a great day for bowlers and Rotary members.

In 2019, funds from the bowls day will be used to support the club's youth programs. The Rotary Club of Terang supports several District and National Rotary Youth programs and sponsors Youth Achievement Awards in the local community.



Torquay Rotary Motor Show

Rotary Club of Torquay

Torquay is situated on “The Surf Coast” of Southern Victoria and is renowned for hosting the Australian round of the World Surfing Championship at Bells Beach.

Our Torquay Rotary Motor Show is now in its 12th year and is our Rotary Club’s major annual fundraising event. The Torquay beach provides a unique backdrop to our Show which is held on community space on the foreshore.



It is very much a popular community event on the local calendar and being situated with the beach on one side and the local shopping/restaurant precinct on the other, means it is genuinely “Family Friendly” with something to entertain every member of the family within close proximity.

The annual event is held mid-February, to capitalise on the pleasant late summer weather and swollen summer holiday population and attracts more than 6,000 spectators. In recent years the event has showcased a diverse range of over 400 stunning Cars and Motorcycles from all over the state. Such an influx of people to our town over the weekend ensures that this event is also a big hit with our local traders.

This is a keystone event for our Club as it is only made possible with the involvement and support of every one of our Members along with partners, “Friends of the Club”, local students, corporate associates and volunteers, all working together harmoniously for its success.

Aside from the direct benefit of providing our Club with the funds to support our Local, National and International projects, this event also gives us a platform to promote our Club and the Rotary brand in our local community and beyond via the many local print media articles that it attracts.

The Sheep Project: An Alternate Approach to Fund Raising

Rotary Club of Warracknabeal

The sheep project started because of a personal loathing of selling raffle tickets and working long hours over a BBQ to make only a small amount of money for the club in a small country town.

The economic strength of our district is Agriculture; so go with “the strength.” It is not hard for a farmer to run a few extra sheep for Rotary alongside his own mob. The maths was simple: 40 or 50 lambs divided between 3 or 4 farmers would return \$1000+ compared a few hundred dollars from a BBQ or raffle tickets.

The whole club got behind the project to finance the purchase of a mob of ewes. Each member had the opportunity to buy a sheep for \$100 and name that sheep with a certificate issued. The understanding was, if and when the project ceased, they would receive their money back. Most members of our club bought a sheep, as did members of our sister club Wyndham. With this backing the club purchased a mob of 45 cross bred ewes. Approximately 50-55 lambs are available to be sold at our local market annually returning \$10,000 to \$12,000.

The ewes are kept together on one farm. Rams have been donated by a club member. Club members help at lamb marking time. The lambs after being weaned and shorn are divided between 3 or 4 local non-Rotarian farmers for 2 to 4 months to fatten and deliver to market.

The project has delivered terrific results and ticks quite a few Rotary boxes:

- ✓ Vocational, non-farming members learn about the sheep industry
- ✓ Fellowship, there has been lots including running 2 Paddock to Plate Events successfully
- ✓ Extra Finance for the club to be able to support local and International projects.



The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Project

Providing Clean Water for Remote PNG Communities

Rotary Club of Warrnambool

To facilitate our ongoing and extended involvement in Papua New Guinea (PNG) our club has coordinated the aggregation of several clubs and organisations interested in being involved in PNG projects into a collective which is now referred to as the PNG Projects Group (PNGPG). The PNGPG is currently a partnership of the RC Warrnambool, RC East Warrnambool, RC Warrnambool Daybreak, RC Geelong, RC Wynyard (Tasmania), RC Mount Martha, RC Boroko (PNG), Wannon Water and the PNG Oro Community Service Foundation.



The PNG Project Group's primary objective is to work with, train and provide infrastructure to remote PNG villages and communities to help them access clean water. Allied to this we provide and distribute humanitarian aid materials and, where we can, feminine hygiene products, teaching materials, books & sports equipment to remote schools.

During 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019 we have;

- Sunk water bores and provided simple bailers or solar or hand pumps at 10 remote PNG locations
- Set up 3 tank stands and 3 x 5500 litre tanks
- Installed solar submersible pump systems on three of our bores
- Laid 1.2 kilometres of metres of poly pipe from a tank, fitted 26 taps along the pipe and built two shower units in a remote village.
- Set up a "SkyHydrant" water filtration system in a school
- Sponsored four students from a remote village's secondary school education costs
- Distributed donated encyclopedias, books and school requisites to several village schools.

Rotary Peace Concert and Community Awards

Rotary Club of Warrnambool Central

The Rotary Club of Warrnambool Central's annual *Rotary Peace Concert and Community Awards* night raises community awareness and funds for Rotary International's Peace Scholarships and the Scholars work.

We believe that Peace is not simply the absence of war, and through the performers' songs about inclusion and tolerance, the concert is a platform for

addressing local and international topics on peace. The evening is a dynamic show with each performance being a couple of songs, and includes local choirs and musicians, well known Australian musicians and International performers.

The Rotary Peace concert began in 2012 and is a highly sought-after event on the Warrnambool Lighthouse Theatre's entertainment Calendar.



Daybreak Care Project

Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak

It is estimated there are in excess of 200 people homeless or “couch surfing” in the Warrnambool area. Since September 2018, the Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak has provided laundry and shower facilities every Sunday afternoon for those in need, supplying towels, a change of clothing and hygiene packs.

Our base is Warrnambool City Council's Surfside 2 caravan park which is closed to the public from mid-February to mid-December each year. It provides a laundry, amenities block, and storage shed with urn and fridge. We also have access to an electric BBQ. We supply coins for the washing machines & dryers with Council returning the coins the following week. We also provide a BBQ meal, tea and coffee with biscuits, and generally have time to chat with the clients as they wait for their clothes to wash and dry. Three members are required each Sunday from 3-5pm, maintaining both male and female members in the roster. When the park opens to the summer tourists, we temporarily relocate to the FProject building adjacent to a commercial launderette. Here clients have access to one shower with the club funding the use of the laundry facilities.

Our club maintains contact with other charitable organisations in Warrnambool that provide meals and other services during weekdays. However it seems we are the only organisation to provide a weekend service with laundry facilities. Other organisations assist us by providing clothes and hygiene packs for distribution to our clients.

Over the past 51 weeks we have serviced 155 clients, with 223 loads of washing and 279 dryer loads. The past winter months have seen between five and eight clients per week seeking our service.

Further information contact Project Co-ordinator Glenn Rundell
E: reeandglenn@hotmail.com, or ph. 0417 031 943.



Dr John Birrell Road Safety Award

Rotary Club of Warrnambool East

The Rotary Club of Warrnambool East has established the Dr John Birrell Award for Road Safety.

Now in its second year, the award honours Dr John Birrell OAM, a former police surgeon for 20 years, who was a tireless campaigner for road safety. Dr Birrell was instrumental in introducing breath testing of drivers and compulsory wearing of seat belts; his initiatives saved many thousands of lives.

The Club seeks nominations for the award from police throughout the region

who have shown a dedication to road safety, a reduction of road trauma, as well as a demonstrated commitment to integrity and ethics. Nominees must also be recognised for setting the standard regarding organisational values, be highly regarded by their peers and supervisors and actively seeking opportunities for development. Winners of the award receive a prize of \$2,500 which they can donate to a registered charity of their choice aligned with road safety.

In 2019, the Dr John Birrell Road Safety Award was presented to joint winners, Senior Constables John Keats and Trudy Morland of the Warrnambool Police. They donated their cash prize to Warrnambool Road Trauma Support Services (RTSS). RTSS provide counselling and support services to people impacted by road trauma, and address road user attitudes and behaviours.



Photo courtesy Warrnambool Standard

Ballarat Careers' Expo

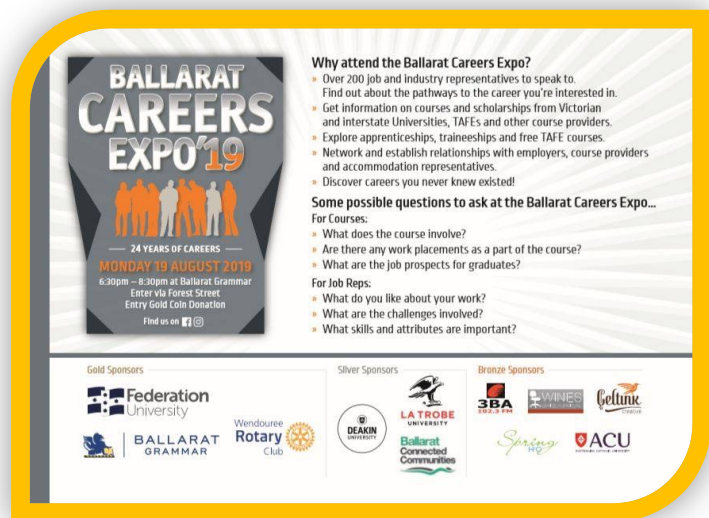
Rotary Club of Wendouree

The Rotary Club of Wendouree has a long and proud history of involvement with younger generations. Over the course of its sixty-year history the club has supported a host of local and international youth programs and activities.

The club is particularly proud of its long-standing involvement with Ballarat's annual Careers Expo. A major project for the club, the annual event attracts more than 3000 students within the Ballarat region and provides them with an opportunity to interact with around 200 business exhibitors.

Through the event, students gain a first-hand knowledge of potential career options and learn more about the education and training paths to employment.

According to the club, the strength of the Expo is that students can find out about 'a day in the life' of people in different careers. For the club, the Expo provides a direct expression of its commitment to vocational service and a very real connection to the youth of the Ballarat region.



BALLARAT CAREERS EXPO 2019
 24 YEARS OF CAREERS
 MONDAY 19 AUGUST 2019
 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Ballarat Grammar
 Enter Via Forest Street
 Entry Gold Coin Donation
 Find us on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Why attend the Ballarat Careers Expo?

- Over 200 job and industry representatives to speak to.
- Find out about the pathways to the career you're interested in.
- Get information on courses and scholarships from Victorian and interstate Universities, TAFE's and other course providers.
- Explore apprenticeships, traineeships and free TAFE courses.
- Network and establish relationships with employers, course providers and accommodation representatives.
- Discover careers you never knew existed!

Some possible questions to ask at the Ballarat Careers Expo...

For Courses:

- What does the course involve?
- Are there any work placements as a part of the course?
- What are the job prospects for graduates?

For Job Reps:

- What do you like about your work?
- What are the challenges involved?
- What skills and attributes are important?

Gold Sponsors: Federation University, Wendouree Rotary Club, BALLARAT GRAMMAR

Silver Sponsors: DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, Ballarat Connected Communities

Bronze Sponsors: 3BA, WINES, Cellink, Spring, ACU

Saving Lives with Smoke Detectors

Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast

Elderly residents in Ballarat can feel safer in their homes thanks to members of the Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast.

In April each year the State of Victoria runs a safety awareness campaign encouraging householders to renew their smoke alarm batteries for protection against the hazards of fire. This can be difficult for older residents because it usually involves working on ladders to access the alarms.



Every year club members change the batteries in more than 200 homes in Ballarat. It's a simple act of service that gives club members a lot of pleasure, knowing they are helping to keep frail and elderly residents safe. It's also a service highly valued by the residents who welcome the Rotarians into their homes and enjoy the social interaction that brings.

The project has been running for nearly a decade, and the number of homes involved in the project continues to grow. Many of the elderly residents are regulars and look forward to their annual visits. The club also adds new residents and homes every year.

In addition to being simple, the project is a wonderful example of collaboration. The batteries are donated by our local council and club members; our local Council also promotes the program, Ray White Real Estate takes the bookings, and Rotarians supply the ladders and the labour.

The club of more than 60 members looks forward to the project every year. It engages almost all club members in one way or another; a wonderful example of a simple, low cost service project that everyone enjoys, and makes a real difference in our community.