



98th ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Rotary
Bendigo



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ROTARY**

ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO

Established July 30, 1925 - Charter No 2104

A member of Rotary International - District 9800

PO Box 131, Bendigo Victoria, 3552 - Website: <http://www.rotarybendigo.org.au>

**98th
ANNUAL
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2022-2023**

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OFFICIALS 2022-2023

District Governor 9800
Amanda Wendt (RC Melbourne)

Assistant Governor (Goldfields North)
Alison Bacon (RC Eaglehawk)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Peter Reading	Asst. Treasurer	Glenda Bryson	International Service	Liz Bannon
Vice President	Henry Rasmussen	President Elect	Daniela Ionescu	Rotary Foundation	Wayne Smith
Board Secretary	Daniela Ionescu	Past President	Tom Dobeli	Vocational Service	Brian Figg
Asst. Secretary	Kaye Lehmann	Club Service	Noel Hobley	Youth Service	Joy Bruce
Treasurer	Garry Gunnell	Community Service	Libby Hughes	Membership	Peter Reading

CLUB OFFICIALS

Protection/OHS Officer	Tom Dobeli	Public Officer	Wayne Smith
Association Secretary	Wayne Smith	Communications	Noel Hobley

PAST PRESIDENTS

E M Vains 1925-1926	J W Henderson 1969-1970
M G Guidice 1926-1927	D L Martin 1970-1971
W J Long 1927-1928	C Bell 1971-1972
O Flight (Snr) 1928-1929	K Mill 1972-1973
J Jeffrey 1929-1930	F A McManus 1973-1974
W Tredinnick 1930-1931	L Williamson 1974-1975
W Tredinnick 1931-1932	R W Cambridge 1975-1976
F Levy 1932-1933	J M Adams 1976-1977
A L Bolton 1933-1934	W J B Derham 1977-1978
G V Lansell 1934-1935	J M Cartwright 1978-1979
G Eathorne 1935-1936	R J Slattery 1979-1980
G Long 1936-1937	D T Watts 1980-1981
O V Morris 1937-1938	K G Scarrott 1981-1982
T H McNaught 1938-1939	R W Paulsen 1982-1983
H P Y Wright 1939-1940	D J Samson 1983-1984
W A Draper 1940-1941	D T Potter 1984-1985
L L Dungey 1941-1942	H J O'Sullivan 1985-1986
G P Hibberd 1942-1943	V F Moyle 1986-1987
A E Davies 1943-1944	P A Joseph 1987-1988
E B Pederick 1944-1945	E J Rankins 1988-1989
G A Pethard 1945-1946	W F Gray 1989-1990
F.E.R. Biggs 1946-1947	N R Phillips 1990-1991
B Mundy 1947-1948	D W Brown 1991-1992
A H Jones 1948-1949	B T McMahon 1992-1993
J. Barton 1949-1950	B L Kinross 1993-1994
E F Granger 1950-1951	H G Wheeler 1994-1995
N J Oliver 1951-1952	K A Reilly 1995-1996
E A Cambridge 1952-1953	R Poyser 1996-1997
R H Trethewey 1953-1954	G McLeod 1997-1998
C W Baker 1954-1955	C M Nankervis 1998-1999
K W Hesse 1955-1956	G R Gunnell 1999-2000
R V Brock 1956-1957	L J Winzar 2000-2001
T B Keith 1957-1958	I R Monotti 2001-2002
R Campagnolo 1958-1959	B W Doherty 2002-2003
H A Moors 1959-1960	C J Burns 2003-2004
W G Sones 1960-1961	J M McLean 2004-2005
S J Tongway 1961-1962	M J Andrew 2005-2006
G E Mayne 1962-1963	J Krakowiak 2006-2007
A C Sandow 1963-1964	H G Wheeler 2007-2008
E M Monotti 1964-1965	N A Hobley 2008-2009
J N Sutherland 1965-1966	A H Hampton 2009-2010
J C M Jeffrey 1966-1967	J Gallagher 2010-2011
K H G Ross 1967-1968	W W Smith 2011-2012
W N Johanson 1968-1969	B P Figg 2012-2013

T G Seddon 2013-2014
R McDonald 2014-2015
L J Winzar 2015-2016
G A Reilly 2016-2017
V J Broad 2017-2018
E A Hughes 2018-2019
M B Pearson 2019-2020
G S Clarke 2020-2021
T G Dobeli 2021-22
P D Reading 2022-23

Members who are Past Presidents of other clubs

M B Pearson 1994-1995, 1995-1996 Tennant Creek.
P B Hyett 2000-2001 Echuca/Moama
R V Edgar 2001-2002 Frankston North
H Rasmussen 2004-2005 Knox
B P Figg 2007-2008 Mildura
L Bannon 2009-2010 Kangaroo Flat
J M Walklate 2010-2011, 2013-2014 Bendigo Strathdale
P J Luxford 2014-2015 Bendigo Strathdale
K M Longford 2017-2018 Bendigo Strathdale
G L Bryson 2019-2020 Keilor

Members who have served as

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

A L Bolton 1936-1937
E F Granger 1962-1963
R Downey 1977-1978



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly, I wish to thank our Club for the honour of allowing me to be your President for the past 12 months. I have had a very busy, but enjoyable year.

Upon reflecting on my year, I was fortunate that the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic had slowed, allowing us to get back to raising money to finance the projects that our Club has enjoyed supporting over our many years.

An enjoyable feature of the year has been the way the Cluster Presidents cooperated with each other. We all got along extremely well and were able to work closely together with different projects and challenges. The Cluster work with the Rochester community following the floods was outstanding and appreciated by all those involved. Counter meals involving Club Presidents helped immensely to ensure the cooperation flowed easily. I am sure that many of these friendships will continue beyond this Rotary year.

To my disappointment, the Youth Exchange Program was not able to be re-activated this year, but it is great to know that in the next Rotary year we will be hosting our first student since 2020 - Freja Dahl from Denmark. At the time of writing this, our Youth Committee members are interviewing local students to send abroad for the 2024 year. These are fantastic projects and one that has a positive impact on the students.

An interesting fellowship event held in September was the Beer Tasting at Kennington Tavern. This was organised

by our very own Andrew Martin. Even though a few beer sceptics attended, we all left having enjoyed an entertaining and informative afternoon.

This event was followed, a few weeks later, with a lunch and Gin Tasting at Urban Cellars. Although I was not able to attend the latter, the reports coming from it were all positive.

Another popular fellowship event was the afternoon tea at the Rasmussens. This event has been so popular that afternoon tea spreads out to early evening!! Thanks must go to the Rasmussens for hosting this event.

Our 2022 Christmas gathering was a lunch arranged by Andrew Hampton and the Fellowship Committee. With the wet weather causing safety concerns, under the oak trees, the venue was changed to the Sutton Grange Community Hall. Again, an enjoyable time was had by everyone.

One of our major events, the Community Carols by Candlelight, was held again this year. To ease the burden of costs we were able to secure sponsorship from the Bendigo Bank which helped us immensely. Negotiations for this to be continued for our 2023 Carols, are underway.



The calendar year finished off with a group of us volunteering to help Foodshare with their collection and distribution of food over the Christmas and New Year period. Thanks certainly goes to those volunteers who assisted during this time.



Car Parking at the Bendigo Jockey Club continued during the year. After much discussion at Board level a decision was made to include another Rotary club with this fund raiser. The RC Bendigo South agreed to partner us with this activity and, after gaining volunteers from the Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail, we were able to provide enough

volunteers to make the workload easier for all concerned. Another factor that has made this fund raiser even more attractive is that negotiations to increase the fee have made this a very lucrative income source for us. During this Rotary year a sum of ~\$20,000 has been raised from this activity.



Barbecues have continued this year with IGA at Strath Village coming on-board. Other barbecues have occurred at Bunnings, Little Athletics, SPAM and the Wine Show. We enjoyed good promotion

at all these events; however, as some were done as a community event, the funds raised from these were low.

Operation Cleft was converted from golf to a lawn bowls event this year. Organised by Glenn Reilly, the event was a great success on a very pleasant evening. Thanks to Glenn, Team Reilly and the many Rotarians who helped out on the evening, I am pleased to announce that the Club will be providing \$10,000 to this project. The South Bendigo Bowls Club donated their greens to us for this event, so it was my pleasure to acknowledge their contribution by presenting their President John Dixon with a Certificate of Appreciation. John appreciated this gesture and immediately put it on show behind the bar.

In early March, the Brunch at Kaye Lehmann's was held and attended by many Rotarians and their partners. This is always a popular event and together with good weather, the event was enjoyed by everyone.

Our Annual Club Bowls Night was held

at the South Bendigo Bowls Club. Organisers Daryl Watts, Brian Doherty and their team did a sterling job of getting us all involved and revved up for an enjoyable evening. Thanks must go to the ladies for arranging the food.



Fellowship has been an active part of the year so I would like to thank Pam Luxford and her very capable team for all the effort they provided to ensure we all enjoyed ourselves.

This year we have been involved on two occasions with the Wine Festival. The first at White Hills and the other at Rosalind Park.

Our largest fund raiser for the year occurred at Easter with our Rotary Art Show. With over 800 paintings on display and 180 sales, the event continued it's previous success. Brian Figg and his team did a marvellous job at coordinating this and congratulations



must go to them all. Brian has done a lot of work with the Art Show and Life on the Land, so it was an easy decision to acknowledge his efforts by presenting him with the Royce Abbey Award.

April saw another great achievement in our Club - Daryl Watts attained 50 years of continuous service to Rotary and our Club. This was celebrated at our night meeting with a celebratory cake. It was my honour to present Daryl with a PHF with Sapphire for his dedication of service and time as a Rotarian. We have three other members in our Club who have achieved this accolade; Rotarians Des Samson and John Cartwright

were able to be present. Unfortunately, Rotarian Jim Mahoney was not able to attend, so submitted his apology.

In April this year we were saddened to learn of the passing of Liz Longford. I recall, at her funeral, just how much community work Liz has performed over the years so I am sure that, through the many people whose lives she has touched, her legacy will live on.

May saw another of our members pass away in Rtn John Flood who joined our Club in 1988 and was involved in many activities. John was very much involved in Camp Getaway and he left a great legacy, the effect of which will be felt for many years to come.

Just as we were preparing this Annual Report we lost another long serving member of our Club in Arthur Glazebrook, who joined the Rotary Club of Bendigo in 1988. Arthur's classification was Banking but he and Lorraine are most

remembered for his winery and the fellowship events enjoyed by members.

Much to my pleasure, the Board agreed for me to establish a group to look at the Club's future and the strategy required to keep the Club active in the coming years. I was fortunate to attain the services of a facilitator for this group and, although early days, progress is steady. I expect that the

work of this group will not come to fruition until later this year. I suggest to the Club that we need to keep an open mind to the findings and suggestions from this group as things are changing and, due to our decreasing and aging membership, we need to consider all options going forward. The big picture is that our Club remains healthy and can continue the wonderful work it has achieved in the past and that this continues well into the future.

As an addition to the above strategy, Rotary Zone 8 commenced a Regionalisation Project Pilot Program during the year. This program is looking

at planning Rotary's future given all the factors being encountered at the moment. Again, I recommend keeping an open mind in what will come as we need to prepare ourselves for the coming years by ensuring Rotary can continue its great work.

Although there were many highlights during the year, it is always a thrill when we welcome new members to our Club. This year it was my pleasure to induct five new members - Tyson Gleeson,



Carol McCabe, Marion Baker, as well as Dianne and Richard Petrie. We welcome them and wish them well as they embark on their Rotary journey.

One of the joys of being the Club's President is the disbursement of the money raised from our year's fund raising. Many of you will remember that I sent out an email to the membership requesting options and advice on where this year's disbursements could go. I want to thank all those who responded to my request. There were some great projects mentioned but unfortunately, it is impossible to provide assistance for every project. A list of the disbursements can be found later in this report.

In finalising, I wish to thank the individual Board members and those other members and partners who have provided their support over the last year. We had a good team to keep the Club energised and progressive.

Finally, I want to say a special thank you to my wife Vera who has supported me over the year.

I also pass my best wishes and congratulations to Daniela as she takes over the role of steering the Club through the next twelve months.

Yours in Rotary, Peter Reading

MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

ABBOTT Tabitha - Travel Services
 ACKERMAN Barry - Rubber Processing
 BAKER Marion - Midwifery
 BANNON Liz - Nurse Midwife
 BROAD Val - Music Education
 BRUCE Joy - Primary Education
 BRYSON Glenda - Accounting
 BUTTOLPH Daniel - Pharmacy
 CARTWRIGHT John - Optometry
 CLARKE Graeme - Lighting Retail
 COATES Ian - Regional Banking Services
 COIA Domenic - Hairdressing
 DeZILVA Tilika - Catering
 DOBELI Tom - Health and Safety
 DOHERTY Brian - Insurance Brokerage
 EDGAR Bob - Landcare
 FIGG Brian - Body Corporate Services
 GALLAGHER John - Plumbing Service
 GALLOWAY Greg - Healthcare
 GLEESON Tyson - Aged Care
 GRAVES Kaye - Community Health
 GRAY Bill - Bearing Services
 GUNNELL Garry - Project Management
 HAMPTON Andrew - Funeral Directing

HOBLEY Noel - Media Services
 HUGHES Libby - Friendly Soc. Pharmacy
 HUGHES Mike - Information Technology
 HYETT Peter - Farm Management
 IONESCU Daniela - Engineer Education
 KRAKOWIAK John - Social Education
 LEHMAN Kaye - Human Services
 LONGFORD Ken - Coach Operation
 LOWE Kim - Business Services
 LUXFORD Pamela - Window Furnishings
 McCABE Carol - Risk Management
 McDONALD Rod - Human Resources
 McLEOD Geoffrey - Motels
 McMAHON Bryan - Mktng Advertising*
 MACDERMID Jan - Disability Service
 MAHONEY Jim - Agricultural Supplies*
 MARTIN Andrew - Liquor Distribution
 NANKERVIS Colin - Civil Engineering
 OBERIN Leanne - Executive Assistant
 O'KEEFE Megan - Comm. Health Nurse
 PAULSEN Margaret - Business Admin.
 PEARSON Lisa - Nursing
 PEARSON Michael - GP Medicine
 PEMBERTON John - Business Banking

PENNA Barry - Locksmithing*
 PETRIE Dianne - Counselling
 PETRIE Richard - Marketing
 RASMUSSEN Henry - Hospitality
 READING Peter - Signwriting
 REILLY Glenn - Electrical Retailing
 RICHMOND Ken - Super Consultancy
 ROBINSON Alida - Sales and Marketing
 ROGERS Ron - Insurance*
 SAMMON Marty - Accounting
 SAMSON Des - Confectionery Dist.
 SHRESTHA Umesh - Electricity Design
 SLOAN Julie - Primary Health Service
 SMITH Wayne - Water Engineering
 TREVORAH Evan - Accounting*
 VANDENBERG Richard - Chtd Acct
 VANSTAN Rosalie - Pharmacy Admin
 WALKLATE Jan - Business Agent
 WASILJEW Larisa - Workplace Training
 WATTS Daryl - Legal Office Admin
 WHEELER Hugh - University Edn Admin
 WINZAR Larrie - Career/Life Coach

*Honorary Member

VALE LIZ LONGFORD

July 27, 1949 - March 23, 2023

Rotary Club of Bendigo member 732
 Inducted February 19, 2019

RC Waverley 2009-2014

RC Bgo Strathdale 2014-2019

PHF+1 July 2018 (Bgo Strath)

PHF+2 July 2022 (RC Waverley)



Liz was invited to the Village Green Hotel to be surprised by the awarding of a PHF for service to the community, through her nursing and her knitting, by the Rotary Club of Waverley and the rest is history.

Liz and Ken joined the club and when (Rotarian) Kevin Harrison Holden kicked off the community raffle, Liz jumped on board and no-one was safe. Through years of commitment and hard work, she has sold nearly \$10,000 in tickets to all who passed within her sphere.

Her knitting (baby jumpers, knitting groups) was legendary and her commitment to her community unwavering; not to mention 51 years married to Ken. - Thanks Liz.

VALE JOHN FLOOD

May 20, 1939 - May 16, 2023

Rotary Club of Bendigo member 647

Inducted November 2, 1998

PHF July 21, 2004

PHF+1 August 8, 2014



John Flood joined the Club in 1988 with the classification Electricity Supply but resigned in 1994 when he moved to NSW. Nonetheless he rejoined the club in 1998 when he returned to Bendigo.

Over 31 years as a member of our Club, John held committee positions in the Youth, Polio Plus, Club Program, Art Show, Dinner Auctions, Youth Camp, Community Service, History, Carols, Horizons, Roster, Regalia, Directory and Swap Meet, to mention a few.

He was of course well known for his 22 years of work as a committee member at Camp Getaway and is fondly remembered by all for his work there.

John also served as Bulletin Editor for some years and was a member of the first FAIM Team to Samoa in 1993.

VALE ARTHUR GLAZEBROOK

September 30, 1930 - June 2, 2023.

Rotary Club of Bendigo member 495

Inducted October 10, 1988



Arthur Glazebrook was inducted into the Rotary Club of Bendigo under the classification Banking in 1988 by President Ted Rankins.

He initially joined the Art Show committee, worked on special projects and did his bit in managing the Attendance, Dinner Auction, Vocational Awards and the Bulletin.

For many years Arthur was active on the Swap Meet, the Environment and Storm the Stage committees.

Arthur was awarded Honorary Membership of the Club in 2017.

Members have shared memories of picking grapes at Arthur's Vineyard in Sutton Grange, broken only by splendid morning teas with home baked scones jam and cream, followed by an extended luncheon barbecue under the direct supervision of Lorraine.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Director: Libby Hughes

Well! What a great year it has been. Covid restrictions have all been lifted and we didn't have to be asked twice to get back to normal.

The year kicked off with the Sheep & Wool Show which was a great event with lots of visitors eager to get back to what they love. Great work by Tom Dobeli, Peter Hyett, Bob Edgar and their team.

Car Parking and Barbecue's were dotted throughout the year. Good weather and bad!!

The Swap Meet was back after 3 years; a lot of work was done by the committee to have everything in place, volunteers, food and logistics.

Then the heavens opened and we had major flood events throughout the State. Rochester was particularly affected and the Showgrounds were devoted to an emergency relief centre for all flood affected residents from around our area. Everyone geared up to setting up beds and tents. Help from agencies was available and barbecue food from Rotary was cooked up in lieu of the big catering kitchen arriving. The Swap Meet was cancelled again.

The year rolled on and we had a very successful Christmas Market at Mandurang Valley Winery. Thanks to Wes & Pam Vines.

Then to get Christmas going, Carols by Candlelight was very successful with our compere Bruce Roberts being awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for all the help he had given the Club over many years, keeping the running sheet on stage on track.

Easter arrived and after many hours of organising by Brian Figg and his team, The Rotary Easter Art Show once again attracted lots of visitors and lots of purchasers and was hailed a great success.

Many thanks to all Rotarians who gave their time and expertise to a very successful year.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Chair: Colin Nankervis

This year (2022) Carols returned to the normal presentation following disruptions over the previous two years and, with perfect weather conditions, resulted in a large audience.

The Club was pleased to announce the Bendigo Bank as the major sponsor for Carols 2022.

Once again, an excellent musical program was professionally compiled by PP Ms Valerie Broad OAM and Ms Beverley Leeson.

For the first time, Rotary welcomed the addition of an early program contribution presented by the Bendigo Theatre Company aligned to the entertainment of children in the audience whilst waiting for the main program to commence. This was an excellent presentation, and it is hoped to be able to include the Bendigo Theatre Company in future Carols programs.

Once again, many Club members undertook the logistics of the event starting at 7.30 am on the Sunday morning and, following the completion

of the program, then undertook the packing up of the stage and other items finishing around 11.00 pm to return Rosalind Park for public use on the Monday morning.

The program compere Mr Bruce Roberts of WINTV once again, in his usual professional manner, kept the program to the tight time schedule to make the night a successful event.

The continuing use of social media, the WINTV television commercials and the Bendigo Advertiser, leading up to the event, ensured that a large audience attended on the evening, resulting in a successful evening of Carols in the Park.

Simulcasting of the program by Radio 105.1 continues to be successful and in 2022 their contribution to pre event publicity widened the Carols audience reach.

Thanks to the Club members and the Bendigo Rotary Carols Committee, together with the support of the performers, sponsors and equipment suppliers, we were able to a successfully present another Carols by Candlelight program.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Chair: Libby Hughes

The Christmas Market was a project we took over from RC Bendigo Strathdale when they folded. We couldn't run it for 2 years because of Covid so 2022 was our first year.

We decided to donate the funds raised to the Rochester Flood Relief. Everyone who came were generous and we made \$4500 for the appeal. We were greatly helped by Lyn Comer who had moved to Bendigo South RC from Strathdale RC. Bendigo South RC ran a barbecue and donated their profits to the appeal, It was decided that we approach Bendigo South RC to run the market as a joint project in 2023, to which they agreed.

Massive thanks go to Wes and Pam Vines who were hosts at Mandurang Valley Winery for the market at no cost to Rotary. Also massive thanks to Simone from SimR who made coffee all day, by herself, about 200!!

Roll on next year, we'll see if we can get bigger and better in 2023.

CAR PARKING

Chair: Greg Galloway

Due to a shortage of volunteers, car parking became a real challenge for the Club early this year. Following the Bendigo Cup, the Board made a decision to cease all car parking activities following the Red Hot Summer Tour in February. President Peter expressed a real concern about this as the meeting was not provided with an alternate activity which could replace the sizeable income received from our car parking activities.

As a result, an effort was made to locate sources for volunteer assistance so that the Club's car parking activities could continue, at least until another income source was established. This was successfully achieved when the Rotary Club of Bendigo South agreed to partner us with a supply of volunteers. The Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail Group also joined us, thus ensuring that we had a adequate supply of sufficient volunteers for this activity. An agreement was negotiated to share the proceeds from car parking on a per person equal basis with each of the partnership groups involved. After reviewing these volunteer partnerships and how they had worked

successfully, the Board reversed the decision previously made and the Club would now continue with the car parking activities.

An analysis of the funds raised from car parking was also performed and the Club was able to negotiate up the fees received, thus allowing the Club to raise more for the effort involved.

Our Club participated in six car parking events this year - Beach Party, Bendigo Cup, Camping and Leisure Show, Red Hot Summer Tour, Lost Trades Fair and Golden Mile. The result of these activities brought in approximately \$21,000 of which \$4000 was passed on to our partners.

BENDIGO WINEMAKERS' FESTIVAL:

Chair: Tom Dobeli

Once again, the Club has provided support at the Bendigo Winemakers Festival with assistance at the entry gate and have further expanded this recently by conducting a barbecue selling Gourmet German Sausages. The barbecue has proved a little challenging in terms of understanding market potential and with Covid and weather issues impacting the event.

This year, the Bendigo Winemakers also conducted a second event at the new White Hills Gardens. The original date in October was cancelled due to wet weather and rescheduled for late November. In hindsight, this was probably too close to Christmas with many other events on and, although weather was great, the crowd numbers were less than anticipated.

In April we saw the return of the traditional Bendigo Winemakers Festival to Rosalind Park. Great weather and excellent attendance saw the barbecue return a good profit. Combined with the financial gain from the Winemakers for our work at the gate, this is an excellent event for the Club to be involved with and enjoyed by all. Members look forward to next time we can assist with this event.

We also thank Gilgraves Wines (Kaye and Ken) for their ongoing donation of wines which will be available to win in the raffle at this year's Changeover.

Also, a request was answered from the Dementia fun run/walk at the Botanical gardens at White Hills. Between Daniela

and Henry, we were there waving the Rotary flag creating awareness and providing a service.

I personally wish to thank those Rotary volunteers for giving up their time and for promoting Rotary within our community by giving their time and effort on our barbecues.

COMMUNITY BARBECUES

Chair: Tom Dobeli

This year we have assisted the community in barbecues on a number of charitable occasions. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, we were able to get the barbecues out of storage and provide a service to the community. These included the following:

A barbecue at Bunnings Kangaroo Flat began the year with a busy but enjoyable day had by all, even though the weather was cold and wet.

On Christmas Eve, Kaye Lehmann provided a great community service for



the neighbourhood of Maiden Gully by providing a barbecue for locals enjoying the Christmas lights with proceeds going to support the Rochester flood relief program.

After a request from the Bendigo Little Athletics committee, we supplied breakfast and sausages in bread for their annual carnival on two consecutive days at the Flora Hill Athletic complex. Wayne Smith coordinated a team which was well supported by members.

On another occasion, we provided the labour and equipment for a barbecue for the Suicide Prevention Awareness Network (SPAN) after their annual walk around the CBD of Bendigo. This was acknowledged by a written letter of thanks from the organization. Henry and Mary Rasmussen were the principal providers for a team effort.

On another occasion, we conducted a barbecue for the opening of the IGA

store in Kennington and the proceeds were donated to the Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

BENDIGO SWAP MEET

Chair: Libby Hughes

Unfortunately, the Swap Meet was cancelled this year because of the bad floods we experienced in the Spring of 2022. Rochester was badly affected; the Bendigo Exhibition Centre was used as an Emergency Evacuation Centre, hence the Swap Meet was cancelled, but plans are in full swing for 2023, Bendigo Rotary Club will be involved again.

EASTER ART SHOW

Chair: Brian Figg

Congratulations to all Club Members and the Art Show Committee for a very successful running of the 2023 event at the Bendigo Town Hall - being the Club's 55th Art Show.

We kicked off the Show with a wonderful Preview Evening on the Thursday Evening (April 6) and this was warmly received by members and around 220 patrons and sponsors. We sold 36 paintings during the evening. Thanks to Larisa Wasiljew for being a marvellous MC and Andrew Hampton for the loaning of the William Farmer power audio equipment.

The show over the four days of Easter, held again at the magnificent Bendigo Town Hall, was well attended with approximately 2300 patrons viewing the exhibition of 825 artworks. Our selling rate was slightly down at just over 20% but still a strong showing for a regional community art show. The diversity and quality of work on display continues to be the hallmark of our Community Art Show.

Our "Artist in Residence" Col Brown also sold 8 paintings (plus three of his actual show exhibits) and was very popular amongst the patrons with several taking time to have a chat - well done Col on contributing to our Show in 2023 and thank you for the donation of the major raffle prize.

Special thanks also to our long-standing supporter, Geoff Paynter, who doubled up in 2023 as both the Honorary Judge and Curator - the committee and Club truly appreciate Geoff's efforts and this has previously been recognised by

the Rotary Club of Bendigo with the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship.



A big mention also to our Curation Team (led by Geoff) who do a wonderful job each year in hanging the enormous number of paintings in the Show.

Award Winners for the 2023 Bendigo Art Show were:



Best in Show \$2,500 No 262 titled "I Love Lucy" by Jan Henderson

Best Oil / Acrylic \$1,500 No 670 titled "Outback Station" by Mertka Skrobar

Best Watercolour \$1,500 No 760 titled "Lake Weeroona" by Nina Volk

Best Drawing/Other Media \$1,500 No 510 titled "Love Joey" by Joanne Morris

Best Small Image < A4 \$750 No 427 titled "Emu" by Barbara Madden

Highly Commended (6 x \$250.00)

No 352 titled "Sun Dew & Eucalypt Leaf Composition" by Robert Knight

No 744 titled "Backyard Bestie" by Kylie Vantole

No 13 titled "Mt Abrupt" by Christine Annett

No 227 titled "Peak Reflections" by Wilma Green

No 540 titled "Complicated" by Nicole O'Dwyer

No 367 titled "Palm King" by Elena Kolotusha

A big thank you to our platinum sponsors The Bendigo Club and The Bendigo Times, and our Gold Sponsor, William Farmer for their long-standing support of the Easter Art Show. The Bendigo Times was a new sponsor this year and provided brilliant coverage in the 6 weeks leading up to Easter.

A presentation of Certificates of Appreciation for The Bendigo Times, The Bendigo Club and William Farmer will be planned for early June to convey the Club's appreciation of our major sponsors.

Thanks also to our other key sponsors Goldfields Urology, Villawood Properties, Ace Body Corporate Management, Strath Village Shopping Centre and City of Greater Bendigo for their generous support of our 2023 show.

Other supporters provide invaluable assistance and are key to the success of this event, David Wilkinson and Family (lighting), BartnPrint (Program) and to both Mandurang Valley Wines and Turners Crossing for the donation of the wine packs and Vanstan's Pharmacy for the pamper pack as our raffle prizes.

As Easter Art Show Coordinator, I extend an enormous thanks to firstly the hardworking Art Show Committee comprising Daniela Ionescu, Tom Dobeli, Graeme Clarke, Glenda Bryson, Mike Hughes, Jan Walklate, Des Samson and Kim Lowe. Whilst unable to contribute this year, long-standing members Bryan McMahon and the late John Flood were there in spirit. On the Committee we each have our roles and responsibilities and have a lot of fun along the way.

Secondly, thanks to the many Club members (and many partners) for their fantastic efforts in making the 55th Easter Art Show another wonderful success – again it really was evident the extraordinary volunteer commitment and camaraderie that makes this show such a special event for the Rotary Club of Bendigo.

With the success of the show in 2023, we handed over a cheque of \$35k from the Art Show Committee to President Peter Reading at our meeting on June 6, 2023.

STARTHOWER

Chair: Larrie Winzar

In October, 2022 when devastating floods occurred in Victoria, our Club jumped into action to support the women of Rochester affected by this natural disaster with our Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience located in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff where I live.

Local women responded with love and enthusiasm and as at the end of June this year, we have hosted 22 women aged between 55 - 82.

The project is ongoing because many families are still living in caravans, sheds and tents because of insurance difficulties, lack of building materials and trades people. It is devastating. Many are living out of town.

With financial support from our own club funds, Brighton North Rotary and a District Foundation Grant, we have sufficient funding until February 2024. Retailers and Searoad Ferries also sponsor, along with hospitality venues. It is truly heartwarming.

We had no idea when we started that this project would go on for so long, nor that the success would be so wonderful.

I have kept our club members up to date about the project, through the Fossicker, throughout the year.

In summary, we have a fabulous team of approximately 15 women at the coast (I'm the only Rotarian) and, in Bendigo, Rotarians Larisa, Joy, Garry with support from other members, have been integral to the on-going success of Starthrower, along with President Heather in Rochester.

A group of four or six women (depending on available hosts) come to the Bellarine Peninsula each month for a three night/ four day beautiful stay, absolutely free.

From travelling by coach, train and cars to Point Lonsdale, providing travel lunches, gift boxes, hosting, with each Rochester woman staying with a woman living independently in Queenscliff/ Point Lonsdale, it is a heartwarming experience. A mix of social activities and private time has given our guests the opportunity to relax, talk, cry and laugh and to return "home" to the challenges that await them with renewed energy and the ripple effect of being more positive around their families, friends and communities. The women can choose pampering massages/haircuts, beach time, an art class, community and restaurant meals, a ferry trip and much more.

We stay in contact with our guests via phone calls and a WhatsApp group after their visit and our guests have now initiated a group of all the women who have experienced Starthrower. They meet each month in Rochester to share and support each other. Many are still living out of town awaiting their homes being restored and this group enables connection. They call themselves the "Starcatchers" There is now a very strong connection between Rochester and Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff.

The generosity of the women in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff is heart warming and absolutely amazing. They know how to care, love and share.

In creating Starthrower, our big picture is to replicate the project in other States. Women supporting women after natural disasters. We are gradually spreading the word through media and by speaking at Rotary Clubs.

For now, though, the women of Rochester are our focus.



Blankets on the Bus:

In April this year, Rochester Rotary sent out a call for doonas and blankets for residents still living in caravans, sheds and even tents following the floods. It was going to be a very cold winter without this bedding.

Our Club responded with style.

The Rochester Community Bus was transporting Starthrower guests to Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff and returning to Rochester empty. We had other ideas.

In the space of just 5 days, with the support of Rotary Ocean Grove and Queenscliff Uniting Church and the wonderful community of the Borough of Queenscliff, we filled the returning bus to the brim with warm blankets, doonas and floor mats which were distributed to residents in Rochester within two days.

The Bendigo Club was the collection point in Bendigo and with more generosity from the Bendigo community, a ute and trailer load was also delivered to families in Rochester.

A quick turnaround, wonderful effort to keep the people of Rochester warm this winter whilst they wait for their homes to be ready for occupancy.

CAMP GETAWAY

Chair: Wayne Smith

It is regretful to have to start this report on a sad note, but it would be remiss of me not to express the profound sadness felt by all those associated with Camp Getaway on news of the death of our dear friend and valued colleague John Flood.

John was a member of the Board of Management of the Camp for twenty two

years – eighteen of those as treasurer. He remained an active and dedicated member until advancing years and failing health in recent times prevented his active participation and he formally retired from the board in October last year.

John's active participation included volunteering at every working bee that was called, when available to do so and he was able to turn his hand to any task. He will be sorely missed.

On brighter matters, the Camp has continued to thrive with the continued steady increase in mid-week bookings and the maintenance of the very high level of week-end bookings.

Our funding situation has allowed us to continue with offering fully sponsored camps to "Special Needs Groups" and to actively seek out and encourage such groups to use the Camp. Where and when required, we have continued to provide catering for these groups free-of-charge.

We have welcomed other paying user groups, such as family gatherings, craft groups, school and church groups, etc. and of these, some are returning for up to the twenty first time. We must be doing something right. Oh, I nearly forgot. The Camp also hosted its first wedding reception this year.

Last year, we were pleased to welcome RYLA and RYPEN to the camp for future activities and this year we are welcoming back Youth Exchange after an extended layoff due to Covid restrictions.

Works wise, our focus over the last two years has been on the rehabilitation of the tennis/basketball courts area. Last year I reported that completion of this project was anticipated around mid-July 2022. However, due to circumstances, some of which were beyond our control, this do-by date is now mid-July 2023, but we are getting there.

The playing surface has been re-asphalted, the courts line marked and the flood lighting installed..



We managed to obtain a State Government Grant through DELWP

(now DEECA) during the year to fund a second solar installation, which included battery storage. This will assist in lowering our energy bills and is another step towards becoming independent of the grid.

Other smaller capital projects included the completion of the trailer storage shed and the replacement of the four air conditioning units in Dormitory One.

We were also able to secure a variety of catering and furniture items at auction with the closing down of the Mt Aitken Conference Centre at Craigieburn.

All of our crockery has been replaced and some kitchen equipment and a number of new tables and lounges have been acquired. We are now on the lookout for replacement cutlery (at the right price).

As usual, there have been a number of working bees by other D9800 Rotary Clubs to undertake building and grounds maintenance and minor repairs. This work together with on-going maintenance undertaken by our resident managing caretakers, Benji and Tara Harrold, has the camp looking "spick and span".

Last year, Bendigo South Rotary conducted its changeover meeting at the Camp and we are delighted that Bendigo Sandhurst has decided to hold its changeover there this year.

SHEEP AND WOOL SHOW

Chair: Tom Dobeli

This Report will briefly outline our participation in managing OH&S guidelines and implementing changes for safety reasons where necessary.

Our task is to have good PR with exhibitors, stallholders and the public visitors who were able to view a very impressive line-up of sheep and wool, sheep shearing and wool handling, and the working sheep dogs,

Also included; Women In Wool luncheon, Woolcraft, Woodcraft, Animal Nursery, Technology and Careers Hub, and the list goes on. The Wool Show has been hailed as an outstanding success. Maybe it has broken the previous records. Our team of Rotary Volunteers were a happy, dedicated lot. Helping people with their questions, and keeping an eye on safety, as they moved through the different pavilions and sites across the spacious grounds is a great way to promote Rotary" and Safety!

The site was carefully managed, from Monday the 11th July through to Thursday by our Sheep and Wool Show Team, and in particular Tom, Noel and Garry, who made sure that the sites were Work Safe Compliant, and on the Thursday Work Safe inspected the site to pick up any problems.

Tom negotiated this successfully with Work Safe. We thank Tom for his expertise in this area. To those Rotarians who were able give up their weekend and be at the Show at 8.00 am to 12.30pm and the afternoon shift; some who stayed till 6pm and later, what a great commitment you all made for such a wonderful result, and I am sure that you all enjoyed it!!

A great big thank you for your effort from our Club and the Sheep and Wool Show Team. A special mention to the Rabobank team of the three staff, who dedicated a whole day on Friday to the show, on our volunteer team.



We finalised our Commitments to the Show on the Monday with 7 volunteers pressing up the donated wool, to be sold in September. The money raised has gone to their nominated charity which, this year, was LIFE LINE. The cheque was presented at one of our meetings in October when CEO of Sheep and Wool Show, Margot Falconer, presented the cheque and our guest speaker was from LIFELINE.



We had Nicole Davies from "Nutrien Ag Solutions" who is the central organiser for the "Australian Fleece Competition" in attendance also. Another big thank you to those helpers who put in the extra day and completed our commitments for this year.

The History of Rotary Involvement.

Our Rotary Club has been involved with Landmark (Now Nutrien Ag Solutions), since 2007, in the sorting and pressing of donated wool received from farmers who enter the competition each year.

Two names spring to mind from the early years that Rotary was involved. Kurt Walder who put his hand up and offered our volunteers from Rotary and kept our project going, and Brian Doherty who regularly turned up each year to help in the team. Both, outstanding Rotarians who have served our club long and well.

I should also mention Athol Fredericks, and Candice Cordy both wool managers at Landmark and Nutrien Ag Solutions, and now their new manager Nicole Davies who all have been great to work with over the years.

Just an interesting bit of information: The first year Rotary was involved the recipient charity was The Fred Hollows Foundation. Fred himself was an outstanding Rotarian and Gabby, his wife, has continued his passion to this day in eye surgery in countries which have limited ability to have such a service.

As a service organisation, we are so pleased to be able to continue to work together, with Nutrien Ag Solutions, in such a worthwhile project.

Thank you to those many Rotarians who have helped over the years.

Peter Hyett

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Director: Brian Figg
Vocational Visit



The Club was hosted for a Vocational Visit to Langley Hall Estate in May 2023 and this was well supported with over 30 members / partners in attendance with most enjoying fellowship afterwards with dinner at the Botanical Hotel.

The members enjoyed the tour and fascinating history of Langley Hall Estate which includes the original weatherboard church building now used for events.

LIFE ON THE LAND

Chair: Brian Figg

This club project started in November 2019 after supporting local artist Terry Jarvis and partner Michelle Kent with their local art exhibition at the Bendigo Town Hall titled "Life on the Land – Our Farming Heroes". Terry entrusted the Club with the financial management/ aspects of the project.

The Committee has widened the scope of the project from its initial drought focus to include farming Families and communities in need.

The project has raised an amount of just over \$87,729 with principal distributions being:-

- East Loddon (Vic) Foodshare \$11,590 via Lockington Foodworks
- Drought Angels (Qld) \$8,000 for food, essential supplies and fuel vouchers
- Rainbow Beach Drought Runners \$12,000 for food and essential supplies parcels
- Year 12 Drought Scholarships (Vic) 9 x \$500 - \$4,500 for 2021 and 2022
- Charleville School of Distance Ed (QLD) \$5000 for annual student/tutor conference
- Rotary Club of Cobar (NSW) \$28,000 for hay bale run and food / fuel vouchers
- Rotary Club of Bendigo Agricultural Scholarship \$4,000 for 2021/2022
- HiveAid \$1,500 for Beekeepers Australia
- Combined Rotary Clubs of Mildura \$4,000 for Millewa School/Community
- Star Thrower Women's Well Being Experience \$2,000 (comprising \$1,000 from RC of Queenscliff)

The Committee congratulates Larrie Winzar on the fabulous success of the pilot program of the Star Thrower Women's Being Experience hosting women from the devastating flood impacted town of Rochester for a few days break down at Point Lonsdale/ Queenscliff hosted by Larrie and her friends of Rotary.

The Committee also acknowledge Henry Rassmussen for recently organising the Rochester men's day out in Shepparton.



FOUNDATION

Director: Wayne Smith

D9800 Foundation Grants

In early December 2022, our club partnered with the Rotary Club of Brighton North and was successful in obtaining a D9800 DDF Grant for a "Well Being Project for Flood Affected Rochester". Each club contributed \$3,000 and D9800 provided a DDF Grant (on \$1:\$1 basis) of \$6,000.

The project is an adjunct to PP Larrie Winzar's "On-going Starthrower Project" and concentrated on women of Rochester affected by the recent October 2022 flood. It is on-going and to date has proved very successful.

No doubt Larrie will be reporting on the project in more detail elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Cluster Foundation Dinner

Judy Miatke, President of Bendigo Sandhurst and our own Peter Reading co-hosted a Foundation Dinner on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at The Bendigo Club and invited Clubs within the Goldfields North and South Clusters to attend.

Approximately 90 Rotarians, partners and guests attended the Dinner and heard PDG Murray Verso present details on the current status of Polio eradication. The event raised just on \$1,200.

End Polio Now

Our Club organised a second movie pre-screening event to raise money for the Rotary Foundation's "End Polio Now" project on 7th December 2022.

The event was a pre-screening of the movie *The Lost King*, the story of the rediscovery, by an amateur historian, of the five centuries old remains of Richard III... in a Leicester, England carpark.

Ticket sales and donations amounted to some \$2,035, which was the equivalent to the value of just over 100 tickets. After costs were taken out, we were able to forward just on \$1,240 to the "Rotary International End-Polio-Now" project on behalf of the combined Goldfields Clusters Rotary Clubs.

Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

This year the Club recognised the following Paul Harris Fellows:-

- PP Daryl Watts (PHF+1 Sapphire) for 50 years of service to Rotary and the Club;

- PP Glenn Reilly (PHF+2 Sapphires) for service to Rotary and the "Operation Cleft" project;
- PP Graeme Clarke (PHF) for service to Rotary and the Club.

In addition personal contributions saw the following PHF recognitions:-

- Rotarian Liz Longford (PHF+2 Sapphires);
- PP Liz Bannon (PHF+1 Sapphire);
- Rotarian Rosalie Vanstan (PHF+3 Sapphires);
- PP Wayne Smith (PHF+3 Rubies);
- Rotarian the late Frank Lean joined John Krakowiak as our second Benefactor recognition recipient by donating US\$1,000 or more to the Foundation's Endowment Fund.

Paul Harris Society

PP Liz Bannon has joined the Paul Harris Society and will be committing to donate US\$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation each year.

Contributions to the Rotary Foundation

This year the Club's and individual Rotarians' donations to the Rotary Foundation takes the Club's all-time giving to over US\$200,000.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chair: Brian Figg

Each year the Club awards a scholarship for a Bendigo student to study agriculture at university level.

The Club introduced this scholarship in late 2019 following our involvement in the Australian Sheep and Wool Show to align a recurring beneficial distribution as a long-term investment in agricultural education and expertise in Australia.

The scholarship provides financial support of \$4,000 over two years with the following criteria: -

- Be a first-time undergraduate tertiary student;
- Have completed secondary school in Bendigo;
- Show sound academic achievement and community involvement;
- Have been offered a place to study agriculture at University or a post-secondary agricultural college;
- Demonstrate an understanding of agricultural industries;

- Have a career commitment that will ultimately benefit agriculture and/or regional and rural communities;
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent - resident.

Students so far supported are, Macey Stephens, from Axe Creek, completed her degree in Agribusiness at La Trobe University Bendigo during 2022, Declan Peppink will complete his degree also in Agribusiness at Muresk College in Western Australia in June 2023, Indi Crone from Strathfieldsaye, has entered third year Agricultural Science at Melbourne University and Alexandra Martin from Mandurang, is undertaking second year of a four year degree in Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga NSW.

Although the boundaries for eligibility were extended to include flood affected areas north of Bendigo, no applications were received for the 2023 scholarship award. The Club is keen to increase the level of interest in studying agriculture given that each year there are far more job opportunities in agriculture than there are graduates. Steps that the Club has taken include sponsoring a year 10 student to attend "Defying the Drift", a short introductory course on farming held at Longerenong Agricultural College, and also supported four Year 10 students to attend a cattle handling workshop organised by the Lowline Breed society in Geelong.

Members are also involved in the program conducted in the Careers and Technology marquee at the Sheep and Wool Show. This program, attended by more than 100 students each year, seeks to improve their understanding of farming, particularly the livestock industries.

The Club is also investigating other ways of increasing student interest in agricultural education including a special in-school event or a visit to farmers in the Birchip Cropping Group to see the impact of science at the farm level.

The committee has also been very appreciative of Catherine McAuley College and Leon Fennell and the



team at Rabobank for their ongoing support of the Rotary Club of Bendigo Agricultural Scholarship. We also appreciate the support of Rabobank for their involvement with our club in volunteering for the Australian Sheep and Wool Show.

YOUTH SERVICES

Director: Joy Bruce

As young people are our future, we are privileged to support them in developing skills and networks, making friends, and influencing their aspirations for their future.

District 9800 Youth Programs

Rotary Youth Exchange:



The Rotary Youth Exchange Program has played a big part in our Club over the past 60 years, and now we can look forward to hosting Freja from Denmark in July 2023. We continue to hear from some of our past Inbound and Outbound students who have fond memories of their time in Bendigo and overseas and they are always very thankful for the opportunities we have provided and how we have enhanced their lives in many ways.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award): The Rotary Club of Bendigo were able to sponsor Laura to participate in the December 2022 RYLA camp. Several Rotarians from our club were present for their presentation, giving us the opportunity to meet some amazing young people who have promising futures.



Laura's report back to the Club.

"The Rotary Youth Leadership Award was a week long camp for adults aged 18-25 years old. The camp day included a variety of sessions such as listening to guest speakers, team building challenges, self-reflection time and small group discussions to unpack each day's learnings with the other participants attending the camp.

The guest presenters' sessions covered a wide variety of topics, including, understanding our own personal values and vision, the importance of conscious communication, learning about the importance of power and ethics in leadership, how to connect to others or our own culture through our leadership and the importance of being vulnerable and staying true to ourselves.

Each session was incredibly impactful and insightful, I was able to gain invaluable knowledge and reflect upon how to implement this within my future leadership opportunities. Throughout the week, we were provided many opportunities to embed the skills learned through group challenges.

These challenges identified the importance of ensuring everyone is on the same page in a team, everyone's voice and ideas are heard and brought light to the importance of collaborating as a team rather than working as individuals. The camp environment was incredibly welcoming, everyone felt valued and safe to be vulnerable and challenge themselves to develop as individuals and as a team.

Towards the end of the week, we were provided the opportunity to create a project presentation where we performed an act for the attending Rotarians who came to dinner on Thursday night. Our presentation focused on displaying the four pillars of RYLA - time out, diversity, community, and challenge by choice. The presentation was a wonderful way to give thanks to the Rotarians and showcase the skills and information learned throughout our time at RYLA. This week was nothing short of amazing, I feel incredibly blessed for the experience and know this will make a positive impact in all my future interactions, occupations, and leadership opportunities in the future."

NYSF (National Youth Science Forum): Our club supported the six students who attended in January 2023, from our combined Bendigo Rotary Clubs.



Tall Ship Sailing Challenge:

We were fortunate to interview and sponsor three students from Bendigo South East College to take part in a sailing challenge on the "One and All", a tall ship sailing to and from Adelaide in May when the ship came to Melbourne for the International Rotary Conference in Melbourne.



Students were taught the skills required to crew the ship and sail into their destination. A very exciting and challenging few days.

The Rotary Foundation District 9800 Scholarship Grant:

The Rotary Foundation District D800 Scholarship Matching Grant is to support talented and motivated young people to overcome barriers to educational success and support those young people who are experiencing financial disadvantage.

This is a two year Program which was awarded to two Students from Catherine McAuley College Bendigo for 2022 and 2023 as they complete their Year 12 in 2023.

Learning about Agriculture at Catherine McAuley College, we were able to support students to participate in cattle drafting experience, and we also sponsored a student to attend Longerenong Agricultural College for a weekend Program.

We look forward to working with our young people from our schools, Bendigo Violet St Primary School, Catherine McAuley College and Bendigo South East College.

I represent our Club at a tri-monthly meeting of the Goldfields Cluster Combined Youth Directors who work together to manage many of the District Programs and share schools.

Thank you to all members of the Committee who have their own roles in planning, interviewing, contacts, and ideas.

We look forward to 2023-2024.

CLUB SERVICE

Director: Noel Hobley

Our team has done another stellar job looking after the Club Service portfolio this year and the reports below attest to that.

One of the highlights has, as usual, been the Bowls Night by Daryl and his team and another group of 'winners are grinners' get their photo in the Annual Report for time immemorial. Surely a highlight of their year and something that drives the competitiveness of the evening.

Pam's Fellowship team have provided us with plenty of opportunity for 'fun and frivolity' with gin tasting, Christmas parties and pub nights, to name a few. Pam's enthusiasm for a fun night out is infectious and her team deserve all the accolades they get.

Program is always a tough job and no matter how enthusiastic you are, the year starts to stretch out a bit and keeping the speakers fresh is a tall task. Obviously we had the usual hiccups with late withdrawals, or no shows, but over the course of the year we enjoyed a variety of speakers and appreciate Graeme and his team's hard work.

The Fossicker, the Website and our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram) were used extensively to keep members up to date and were particularly important in getting the word out into our communities. The Art Show and the Carols were particularly well served by Facebook posts and those quiet players in the background in Kim, Tabitha, Andrew and Larisa deserve high praise.

A new project this year has been the 100th Anniversary Committee and I thank those members for their support and commitment to this project. Johnny K has done a power of work getting our Past Presidents' history into some order for this. More to develop here, but plenty to talk about.

Must mention here that Henry Rasmussen took on the role of communicating with the Bendigo Club and I don't think we missed a beat all year. A great initiative and thanks very much for the effort.

Thanks also to Larrie Winzar, who kept an eye on the We Care portfolio, from afar, Peter who took over the Membership role and to the Sergeants' team who kept the meetings in order - but had to stretch their session out a bit, at times, to keep the raucous under control.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Peter Reading

Although the Club lost three members this year, we were able to gain five new members.

We welcomed Tyson Gleeson, Marion Baker, Carol McCabe, and Dianne and Richard Petrie as our newest Rotarians.



Sadly three of our members passed this year in Liz Longford, John Flood and Arthur Glazebrook. All were dedicated Rotarians with many years of service

and will be greatly missed by members.

The Club ended the year with a membership of seventy of which six have Honorary Membership.

The membership team worked well together and during the year made a visit to the RC Maryborough as they had done considerable work in evaluating their position going forward. Considerable information was gained from this visit resulting in President Peter taking to the Board a request that the Club agree to setting up a special committee to look at club Strategy and prepare a plan for going forward. An external facilitator has been engaged to lead this group. It is expected that a report back to the Board will be provided during the next Rotary year.

I want to thank all participants in the Membership team for their contribution over the year.

BOWLS NIGHT

Chair: Daryl Watts

Our annual bowls night was held on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at the South Bendigo Bowls Club.

The weather was ideal, and a great night of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the South Bendigo Bowls Club for the use of the green, their facilities and the partners of the committee members for the preparation and serving of the excellent supper.

Thanks also to the committee members for assisting with the running of the event. Thanks also to the donors of the prizes for the night.



Winners: - Kaye Lehmann, Domenic Coia, Shirley McDonald(s) and Dianne Petrie, 2 wins +12 shots up.



2nd: - Noela Nankervis, Ali Grose(s) and Pam Luxford, 2 wins +5 shots up.



3rd: - Brian Figg, Jeni Watts(s) and Ian Coates 2 wins+3 shots up.

Touchers: - Brian Figg, Noela Nankervis, Sue Wheeler, Rod McDonald and Larisa Wasiljew.

Rolling to ditch: - Graeme Clarke.

Encouragement award: - Heike Coia.

Special prize: - Carol McCabe.

FELLOWSHIP

Chair: Pam Luxford

No Covid restrictions this year but Mother Nature intervened with unprecedented wet weather causing some events to be either cancelled or postponed!



The month of September resulted in two fellowship/social events. Members were treated to a Gin tasting session accompanied with pizzas at URBAN CELLARS, thanks to the arrangements from Kaye Lehmann.



December was time for our Christmas Breakup Luncheon which was held at the Sutton Grange Community Hall – thanks to Andrew Hampton who arranged the use of the hall and the musical entertainment from the three piece band and to Larisa for the crowd participation activities.

New Year came and February activities included our annual Bowls tournament very ably organised by Daryl Watts and his team. Members were treated to a most delicious home made supper.

MARCH was the month for our annual Lehmann's Brunch at Kaye's home. Once again homemade jams and sauces were provided by Kaye for our Bacon and eggs, sausages, tomatoes, toast etc.

Three weeks later we were being hosted by Henry and Mary Rasmussen for our annual Fellowship social afternoon tea. Again lots of home-made goodies. So



This was followed by Beer sampling/tasting with food matching at the Kennington Tavern. Our host was our own member Andrew Martin guiding us expertly through the tastes of beer and 'beer' cocktails to match the accompanying food.

November proved to be a busy month - fellowship meeting for Melbourne Cup Day, parking duties at the Caravan, Leisure and Camping day, duties of handing out wine glasses at the Wine Festival at White Hills Future Gardens and then the setting up and running of the Christmas Market at Mandurang Valley Winery.

good were both these activities that the socialising ran well into the afternoons!

MAY. Members were treated to a very informative and interesting visit and tour



of Langley Estate at White Hills. We then moved onto the White Hills Botanical Pub for dinner and Social evening.

As with all our community events that we are able to 'work' at, this too proved to be a great way to socialise with each other.

Thanks to all the 'Fellowship' team members for making our events so enjoyable.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Noel Hobley

Communications was a talking point all year and our Website, our Facebook and Instagram pages, and the weekly Fossicker, were all part of the conversation.

Kim Lowe, Andrew Martin and Tabitha Abbot kept our social media options interesting and informative and Larisa Wasiljew and I tried to keep members up to date of the comings and goings in the ever present weekly newsletter, 'The Fossicker'.

The website was kept up to date announcing both our future speakers and our history with nearly 100 years of Presidents' reviews thanks to the good work of Johnny K. We also tried to keep current articles published about our projects and included access to our Fossicker amongst our News stories for the interest of visitors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Noel Hobley

The 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Bendigo will arrive in a couple of years (1925-2025) and the Club formed a committee this year to plan for the event.

Also happening that year will be the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Geelong and the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Ballarat so plenty of Rotary events to accommodate, even without adding the complications of plans for the Commonwealth Games in 2026 taking up time and space.

We have communicated with Geelong and Ballarat and will stay 'in the loop' with both clubs during these planning stages. The Rotary Club of Melbourne celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 2011 and as our sponsor club they have shared the steps they took in considering how to best celebrate their occasion.

We met with the City of Greater Bendigo early in May to bring the Anniversary to their attention and discuss options of interest in acknowledging the significance of Rotary to Bendigo's history. Not only was the Rotary Club of Bendigo established by the Mayor of Bendigo at the time, but several members have been Mayors of Bendigo over the journey.

The committee met on several occasions to establish a picture of what the priorities would be and has since broken into two committees focussing on two distinct areas of consideration:

Project Committee to focus on a major project to mark the occasion.

Celebrations Committee to focus on the timing and types of events to mark the occasion.

At this stage, the Club has asked the council to set aside the Ulumbarra Theatre for Saturday, August 23 for a Celebratory Event (after changeover season). This will be the main event of the year and planning will take some time.

COGB CEO Craig Neiman also offered a Civic Reception in the Town Hall and we suggested acknowledging the first representative meeting held in the Town Hall on March 12, 1925, presided over by Mayor Cr. E. M. Vains, would be the best opportunity.

Other options being worked on are a tram decorated in Rotary colours for the period. An installation in Rosalind Park to acknowledge the anniversary. An historic steam train arriving from Melbourne was initially considered but experience by RC Echuca and recent COGB Easter events have influenced us to drop this option.

Early days yet but rest assured planning is underway and the committee will continue its work and communication with members.

PROGRAM

Chair: Graeme Clarke

The Program Committee of Bob Edgar, Andrew Hampton, Peter Hyett, Daniela Ionescu, Marty Samon, Des Samson and Wayne Smith were called upon to dig deep and round up guest speakers to keep our meetings fresh and informative throughout the year.



Speakers included Dr Tony Britt updating us on Animal Biosecurity and tagging systems which fitted in nicely leading into our work at the Sheep and Wool Show in July.

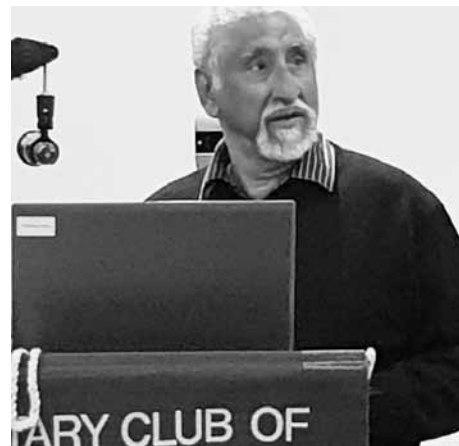
We had some fill-ins during the year and Wayne Smith Sergeants session followed by Andrew Martin sharing his experiences driving buses around Europe kept us all enthralled in August.

Mayor of Bendigo Cr Andrea Metcalfe visited the Club and brought us up to date with all things COGB - including plans to host the Commonwealth Games in 2026.

Seems most countries get eight years to prepare for such an event but we're that good we can do it in four.

To close out August the Otis Foundation's CEO, Claire Cully, accepted our invitation to speak of this home grown institution that now has retreats for anyone dealing with Breast Cancer, dotted around the country.

As per usual, we don't need to look to far afield to find entertaining speakers and our very own Rod McDonald enthralled the assembled masses with some history of the great game, golf, complete with appropriate accessories to focus the attention.



District 9800 Chair of Australian Rotary Health, Dr Sureesh Marcandan, visited the Club in September and delivered an eye opening talk that advised us that one in five Australians experience mental ill-health. The figures are exacerbated by 2020 bush fires and the Covid pandemic.

We had the usual suspects with local Business Networking group BeBendigo's CEO, Rob Herbert as guest speaker and an annual project, the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, was on board to share the outcome of the event with us and deliver a cheque to Lifeline.



Our support of students with interests in Agricultural pursuits continues and we had Sophie Lethlean from Catherine McAuley College along to bring us up to date on her time in the Defying the Drift program. Sophie's teacher, Scott Vaughan, was also able to attend and share his appreciation of our support to members.



Our next big draw card was in November when we had the secretary of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu visit us whilst being hosted by the RC Macedon Ranges. Raj Gautam had a full day in Bendigo

visiting businesses and meeting the CEO of COGB but I'm sure his visit to our Club was a highlight.

We enjoyed talks by the Director of Latrobe University Campus, Dr Julie Rudner, who brought us up to date with those 'Buildings on the Hill' and then Larissa Reinboth from the Children First Foundation made the trip to Bendigo to bring us up to date with the great work they do in getting disadvantaged children access to safe surgery.



David Judge, our award winning local 'Bendigo Bush Poet' shared a bit of his life story with us from regional NSW, to Canberra and on to Bendigo. Shortly after, we celebrated Christmas and took a short hiatus to recover.

January saw us back in the saddle and Rhiannon Kelly, a local Ambulance Victoria/Rotary Mentoring candidate visited at the completion of the program. She explained the extraordinary pressure the team had endured during the Covid pandemic and steps taken to support the vital work of her team members.



With all the talk of climate change we welcomed Ian McBurney from the City of Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration group to share the work being done behind the scenes to put Bendigo on a path to zero emissions by 2030.

Newest member at the time, Marion Baker, enthralled the meeting sharing her experiences in the PNG Midwifery Society, a project aimed at improving the maternal and newborn outcomes throughout PNG.

Jessica Klemke was an inspirational speaker in her role as a Physio bringing relief to people stuck at home after Covid and doing it all with her own physical limitations.



Just for a change, we dined at the Long Table in March and our own Andrew Martin filled us in on his trip to the Phillipines and his experience attending Rotary meetings there.



The Bendigo Bank team updated us on online security giving examples of scams and security risks we should all be wary of and to err on the side of caution, or if in doubt, talk to your bank.



Another local identity in Helen Yorston from the Bendigo Volunteer and Resource Centre gave us an informative talk on the role of the organisation and seemed obvious that we could cooperate more closely.

On moving into the later months of the Rotary year we heard from Riva Alice from Haven Homeless Hub and Michelle

Symes from the COGB Gastronomy Project, which labels Bendigo as a UNESCO Creative City of gastronomy.

We enjoyed visitors from KLFM speaking on their experience as an emergency broadcaster during the recent flood disasters and Julie Amos from Events Bendigo came to visit us and speak on the 150 years of the Capital Theatre in the heart of Bendigo.

Fittingly, we rounded out the year with a conversation about financial planning from Nicola Chaffe - just before tax season.

WE CARE

Chair: Larrie Winzar

The We Care Committee works quietly in the background supporting members through life changes and challenges. Sometimes that requires confidentiality and might involve a visit, a phone call, a card or flowers. At other times, it's bringing good or sad news to the attention of club members.

We Care can only do its work when we are notified of a need. Unfortunately, we are not mind readers. We Care covers bereavements, illness, family issues, job redundancies, retirement, new business, moving house and any number of wonderful life celebrations.

Please help us to help others. Thank you to committee members for your work this Rotary year.

SERGEANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Noel Hobley

The Sergeants roster has been flush with talent this year and Ian 'The Bear' Coates, Kaye Lehmann, Rod McDonald, Larisa Wasiljew, Wayne Smith and Glenda Bryson all provided solid commitments to our weekly meetings - at the start of the year.

Then, of course the weeks rolled on and we ran into the usual excuses - holidays, sickness, family commitments, work commitments, deaths, births, funerals, etc, etc. But true to the commitment that is Rotary, the team rallied around and we supported each other through the weekly meetings.

Suffice to say the usual fun and frivolity was attempted and many memory and general knowledge tests were employed to keep the attendees on their toes.

Thanks to the team and we look forward to another year ahead.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Director: Liz Bannon

We are fortunate to have three, active and productive international projects- Samoa, Knitting for East Timor and Toilets in Nepal. Looking at the Nepal project, the highlight of the year for many was the visit in late 2022 by the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Rajendra Gautum. He came to Australia with the support of RC of Macedon Ranges and other Rotarians in our District 9800.

We are very proud to be supporting their Nepal School Girls Toilet project with funds already saved plus some from President Peter Reading's disbursements. This will provide new toilets for girls attending the school (pictured). Thanks to Larrie Winzar for her work with this.

- 9% of Nepalis have no access to toilets
- About 220,000 toilets were destroyed in the 2015 earthquake
- In Kathmandu valley, there is one public toilet for 46,000 people
- 21.5% of girls miss school for a week per month in Sindhuli district

This was followed up with a visit to Kathmandu later this year by longtime member Jan McDermid (at right) who went to Kathmandu as a volunteer with Volunteers Abroad. While there she visited the RC Kathmandu.

Thank you to all the International Committee for your work this year. I look forward to the excellent work continuing in 2023-2024. Travel is certainly improving, and the opportunity to visit the site of any of our projects should not be overlooked.



Kathmandu under the Rotary Club of Bendigo Education and Training Scholarship.

With his Bachelor of Social Work degree, he will now be working with young people in remote areas of Nepal, focussed on health outcomes and mental wellbeing.

When Raj from Kathmandu Rotary visited our Club in November, he outlined a project that was going to make a substantial difference in the lives of many girls attending schools in remote areas of Nepal.

Girls are missing school for about a week each month simply because there are no toilet facilities for them to use during their monthly menstruation.

The projected cost is approximately \$10,500 of which the RC Katmandu is able to contribute \$1,500. Our Nepal Committee is delighted to announce that with funds from our Nepal account, and monies allocated by President Peter this year, following club members engaging in active fundraising, we are able to make up the \$9,000 balance and this project will now go ahead. We look forward to photos from Nepal as the building progresses. This project is located in a remote area 250 km from Katmandu and the school has approximately 100 students.

A successful year for the Nepal Committee.



NEPAL PROJECT

Chair: Larrie Winzar

A very productive year for the Nepal Committee this year with two important projects coming to fruition. Having visited Nepal a few years ago with a small team from Rotary Bendigo, Nepal holds a special place in my heart.

It was wonderful to have a club visit in November 2022 from the Secretary of Kathmandu Rotary, Raj Gautam and also

that Rotarian Jan Macdermid fulfilled a personal goal of travelling to Nepal this year and included a visit to Kathmandu Rotary where she addressed club members.

Whilst Raj was in Australia, he was also hosted by our club member Umesh, and his wife Jesmin Shrestha in Melbourne.

For the past four years, our Club has sponsored a Nepalese Social Work Student from a remote area, Nhawang Yonzan, in his studies at university in



Rotary Club of Katamandu secretary Rajendra Gautam (second from left) provided scholarships to students whilst scoping out the toilet project in Nepal.

SAMOA PROJECT

Chair: Garry Gunnell

Unfortunately, we have not been able to get a team to Samoa this year but planning is underway to see when we can return and continue our work with our Samoan friends. Covid issues have now diminished with the country open again to visitors and slowly returning to some normality. Lack of opportunity to travel to Samoa has not stopped the communication between our committee and local Rotary members. It is pleasing to see them very actively involved in the local community and assisting where the need is most required.

The delay in sending exercise books overseas due to Covid and also a shortage of available shipping opportunities was

overcome. After thinking we had some space in a container to East Timor and then resultant cancellation of the ship, we obtained news we could send to Samoa in December. This also was cancelled but we eventually received news a ship with space was going to Samoa in February and this did eventuate.



Above the utility loaded with books ready to transport to the docks for shipping to Samoa.



Above books have been collected in Samoa and ready for distribution to village primary schools.

With no hands-on activity in Samoa this Rotary year, the Club agreed to support the Rotary Club of Apia with its student scholarship program. This program supports disadvantaged students with university potential to undertake their final year of study prior to University to ensure the best outcome possible for their acceptance into university studies. An amount of \$2,000 was donated which supported 4 students in that program.

When I was on the National Board of Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) I had dealings with the equivalent body in New Zealand, Rotary New Zealand World Community Service (RNZWCS). Stuart Batty who is the Executive Director advised me of a project they had instigated in Samoa and asked if we could assist. The project is to establish the Imagine Science and Technology Discovery Centre in Samoa.

It is a very similar concept to Discovery Centre Bendigo. Apart from the Centre in the capital city, Apia, it will operate an extensive out-reach program to all village schools. The aim of this is to increase the teachers' knowledge and resultant ability to lift student standards in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM) fields. RNZWCS have committed to raise \$200,000 and the New Zealand Government will provide up to \$800,000.00 (4:1) towards the overall project.

To this end I have obtained project approval with RAWCS which enable Australian donors to make a donation and receive tax deductibility as it has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status via the RAWCS organisation.

RAWCS project number is 71-2022-23 on the RAWCS national website.

A secure donations page is available as follows: <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/71-2022-23>.

I see this project, especially the out-reach component, as one of significant benefit to many generations to come. To this end a grant application, under the guidance of Past President Tom Seddon, has been made with the Bowden Marstan Foundation. Whilst it is the intention that the majority of funding will come from New Zealand Rotary sources, any assistance we can find towards that contribution will be welcome. It is also hoped we can provide some hands-on assistance to the project in sending one or two teams to Samoa.

AND IN LATE BREAKING NEWS:

APPROVAL HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED FOR \$40,000.00 FROM BOWDEN MARSTAN FOUNDATION.

EAST TIMOR KNITTING PROJECT

Chair: Libby Hughes

We have been running this project for nearly two years now. A group of Rotarians meet every Thursday morning to open "The Ranch" at the Mechanics Institute Hall's grounds in School St, California Gully. We collect and sort knitting donated from knitters all over Victoria and NSW. We sort all the items into bundles to be sent to East Timor.

The project is a joint project between Bendigo, Bendigo Sandhurst, Bendigo South and Eaglehawk Rotary Clubs. We share the costs between the four Clubs and we utilise D.I.K. to send the bales of knitted goods to East Timor.

Once we have packed bags of knitting, they get transported to John Cannon's shed. When Quality Wools, Bendigo, have a time slot available, the bags of knitting are baled and then transported to Fassio Haulage to store until they get taken down to D.I.K and onto East Timor.

Massive thanks to these companies for all their help. This year we have packed 120 laundry bags of knitting.

Thanks to Reilly's Designer Appliances and Helloworld Golden Square for being available for people to drop off their knitting. We get many deliveries on Thursday at the Ranch and it's great to get to know everyone.

Everyone is welcome to come and help on a Thursday morning.

OPERATION CLEFT BOWLS NIGHT

Chair: Glenn Reilly



After 11 golf events in support of Operation Cleft, we changed things up this year to a lawn bowls night.

With perfect weather we had 16 teams enjoy a fun night at the South Bendigo Bowls Club and it was great to have three long time supporters take out the major prizes:

1st place – Helloworld Travel

2nd place -Bendigo Mortgage Brokers

3rd place – Central Kitchens



With the entry fees, raffle proceeds, several donations and support of our Rotary Club we were very pleased to present Bruce McEwan, Chair of Operation Cleft with a cheque for \$10,000. This year's event will fund 28 children's cleft palate operations!!

This year's event now takes our total to \$103,000 from our club's events in support of Operation Cleft and every member should be very proud as we have now totally changed over 380 children's lives with life changing cleft palate operations.

A big thank you to the committee and all the helpers on the night, it was a great result!

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO RECOGNISES THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY THESE ROTARIANS AND ROTARY FRIENDS.

Barry Ackerman	Clark Jeffrey #	Henry Rasmussen*
Malcolm Andrew #	George Jennings #	Bruce Reid #
Liz Bannon*	Warwick Johanson #	Glenn Reilly^ (Sapphires)
Bruce Beasley #	John Krakowiak (Diamonds)	Kevin Reilly (Sapphire) #
Valerie Broad	Frank Lean (Sapphire) #	Bruce Roberts**
Reg Brock #	Ken Longford* (Rubies)	Ron Rogers (Sapphire)
Joy Bruce	Liz Longford* (Sapphires)	Des Samson (Sapphire)
Bruce Burns #	Pam Luxford*	Eugene Sandner #
Colin Burns	Neil McLean #	Keith Scarrott #
Daniel Buttolph	Rod McDonald	Cas Sens #
Richard Cambridge **	Geoff McLeod (Sapphire)	Ron Slattery #
Warren Cambridge #	Bryan McMahon (Sapphire)	Wayne Smith (Rubies)
John Cartwright (Sapphire)	Jim Mahoney (Sapphire)	Alan Spalding**
Graeme Clarke	Charlie Martin (Sapphire) #	Murray Stapleton **
Domenic Coia	Dal Martin #	Jack Svanosio #
Alan Cox #	Bernie Masterson #	Joan Thomas # **
Allan Dingle #	Cyril Michelsen **#	Robert Trethewey #
Tom Dobeli	Ron Meurer #	Tom Tweed #
Brian Doherty	Ian Monotti #	Bob Vanstan #
Ray Downey (Sapphire) #	Hal Moors #	Rosalie Vanstan (Sapphires)
Bob Edgar* (Sapphires) (RAA)	Violee Myers-Davey **#	Jan Walklate*
Brian Figg (RAA)	Colin Nankervis (Sapphire)	Daryl Watts (Sapphire)
John Flood	Joe O'Sullivan #	Hugh Wheeler (Sapphire)
John Gallagher	Margaret Paulsen (Sapphire)	David Wilkinson**
Greg Galloway	Ray Paulsen (Sapphire) #	Ron Wilkinson #
Bill Gray	Geoff Paynter **	Bruce Williamson #
Garry Gunnell (Sapphire)	Jack Paynting #	Larrie Winzar (Sapphire)
Max Gunnell ** #	Michael Pearson	
Andrew Hampton	Barry Penna	
Ken Hesse #	Carol Penna **	
Noel Hobley	Bruce Perrin (Sapphire) #	# Deceased
Libby Hughes	Frank Perrow #	** Non-Member
Peter Hyett* (RAA)	Norm Phillips #	^ By Operation Cleft
Daniela Ionescu	Karen Quinlan **	* By previous club
Terry Jarvis**	Ted Rankins (Sapphire) #	(RAA) Royce Abbey Award

RAY DOWNEY AWARD

RECOGNISING THE EFFORTS OF A MEMBER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO - OF FIVE YEARS OR LESS - FOR OUTSTANDING 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' AND PRESENTED BY THE FAMILY OF THE LATE RAY DOWNEY.

Marshall Horne 2006-2007	Tom Dobeli 2012-2013	Kim Lowe 2018-2019
Ian Shelton 2007-2008	Libby Hughes 2013-2014	Larisa Wasiljew 2020-2021
Kaye Graves 2008-2009	Tabitha Abbott 2014-2015	Henry Rasmussen 2021-2022
Noel Hobley 2009-2010	Greg Galloway 2015-2016	Pam Luxford 2022-2023
Glenn Reilly 2010-2011	John Pemberton 2015-2016	
Joy Bruce 2011-2012	Julie Sloan 2017-2018	

CONGRATULATIONS

RECOGNISING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY THESE ROTARIANS

During this year there have been many examples of 'Service above Self' from members making a difference in the community. While I would hope we acknowledged them personally at those times, at the end of the year, it is traditionally a time to recognise the contributions of a few individuals with our most prestigious awards. On behalf of the membership of the Rotary Club of Bendigo and with thanks to the Horizons Committee members, I am pleased to make the following announcements.

GRAEME CLARKE

2022-2023 PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

Graeme Clarke was inducted into the Rotary Club of Bendigo in February 2008, by President Hugh Wheeler, and was immediately playing a part in the administration of the Easter Art Show. He led the Art Show committee for four years and has remained a member of the committee ever since.

Graeme was elected President of our club in 2020-2021 and he was instrumental in getting the East Timor Knitting Project organised into a combined clubs project which saved it from closing and he worked 'doggedly' to get a public piano installed into Strath Village for everyone to enjoy.

All the while Graeme has also worked on the Communications and Marketing committee, Program, Sergeants, Swap Meet and most recently on the 100th Anniversary committee.

It is this commitment and willingness to play his part in his local community, via Rotary, that sees the Rotary Club of Bendigo recognise Graeme Clarke with a Paul Harris Fellowship.



BRIAN FIGG

2022-2023 ROYCE ABBEY AWARD

The Royce Abbey Award is awarded in recognition of past Rotary International President Royce Abbey to a Rotarian that has shown enthusiasm and commitment to Rotary.

Brian Figg joined the Rotary Club of Bendigo in August 2008 having previously been a member of the RC Mildura since 2005. He served as President of RC Mildura in 2007-2008 and his experience and enthusiasm saw him invited to be President of our Club in 2012-2013.

Brian has served as Chairman of our Easter Arts Show committee since 2014-15 and through that time his commitment and leadership has seen the Easter Art Show grow in stature and success. This success saw Brian approached in 2019 by local artist Terry Jarvis to coordinate the distribution of funds from his "Life on the Land - Our Farming Heroes" exhibition and Brian has chaired the Life on the Land committee ever since.

The Rotary Club of Bendigo acknowledges Brian Figg's hard work and dedication to the 'Service above Self' mantra of Rotary in the awarding of the Royce Abbey Award.



PAM LUXFORD

2022-2023 RAY DOWNEY AWARD

The Ray Downey Award is a recognition of the efforts of a Club member, of five years or less, for outstanding Service Above Self and is presented by the family of the late Ray Downey.

This year's worthy recipient is Pam Luxford. Pam joined the Rotary Club of Bendigo in 2019 moving from the Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale (closed) where she was a member for 14 years, serving as President in 2014-15. She was awarded a PHF in 2016 for her tireless work there.

Pam took on the role of Fellowship committee chair and with her infectious enthusiasm and gritty determination she has kept the Club fellowship both entertaining and interesting. Pam has also helped on the Swap Meet, MSMegaswim, Craft Group, East Timor Knitting, Community Action and the Bendigo Club Facilities committees.

I have great pleasure in presenting the 2022-23 Ray Downey Award to Pamela Luxford.



CLUB SERVICE ACCOUNT

1 JULY 2022 TO 18 JUNE 2023

NOTE FIGURES FOR FULL FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE CLUB'S AGM

INCOME

Carried forward Profit Income	\$865.27
Change Over Function 2022	\$5,075.35
Christmas Meeting	\$1,640.00
Club Social Events	\$874.23
Fines-Donations	\$1,388.50
Interest Received	\$1,605.95
Meeting Collections	\$5,061.82
Member Apparel	\$399.09
Member Joining Fee	\$272.70
Membership Fees	\$17,301.12
Miscellaneous Income	\$165.00
Silverpot/Gold Pot Collections	\$783.30

EXPENDITURE

Administrative Assistance	\$861.60
Badges, Banners and Awards	\$1,357.82
Bank Fees	\$59.21
Bendigo Club Membership Fees	\$1,386.36
Change Over Function 2022	\$5,067.18
Christmas Meeting	\$1,568.18
Club Social Events	\$128.46
District Assembly Fees	\$200.00
Meeting Costs	\$2,069.14
Member Apparel	\$650.00
Member Welfare	\$188.27
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$80.00
President's Allowance	\$3,500.00
Printing & Stationery	\$1,895.53
Rotary D9800 Insurance Levy	\$2,262.32
Rotary D9800 Semi-Annual Dues	\$4,602.45
Rotary Down Under	\$2,176.85
Rotary International Dues	\$6,490.37
Transfer to 2023/2024	\$888.59

Subject to Auditor

Total Club Service Account

\$35,432.33

Total Club Service Account

\$35,432.33

CLUB PROJECT ACCOUNT

1 JULY 2022 TO 18 JUNE 2023

NOTE FIGURES FOR FULL FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE CLUB'S AGM

INCOME

Art Show	\$48,309.09
Bar-B-Que Activities	\$9,694.69
Bees and Honey Project	\$371.78
Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show	\$7,000.00
Bendigo Wine Growers Expo	\$2,500.00
Carparking Services	\$21,393.42
Christmas Cakes & Puddings	\$680.00
Christmas Market	\$4,669.35
Community Carols By Candlelight	\$23,534.89
Film Night	\$1,955.87
Flood Relief	\$14,243.10
Heathcote Scouts (Container)	\$4,500.00
International Knitting Project	\$2,468.67
Lawn Bowls Event	\$6,150.00
Market Place	\$54.55
Miscellaneous Donations	\$696.43
Rotary Foundation	\$4,089.59
Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge	\$1,750.00
Star Thrower Project	\$3,800.00
Swap Meet Committee	\$4,500.00

EXPENDITURE

Art Show	\$13,354.55	
Bar-B-Que Expenses	\$4,648.82	
Bees and Honey Project	\$372.00	
Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show	\$151.54	
Community Carols By Candlelight	\$16,525.03	
Christmas Cakes & Puddings	\$541.20	
Christmas Market	\$340.00	
Film Night	\$718.19	
Miscellaneous Project Expenses	\$1,255.37	
Rotary Foundation	\$2,900.45	
Swap Meet Committee	\$4,500.00	
	Sub-Total	\$45,307.15
Distributions		
Agricultural Scholarships	\$4,000.00	
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund	\$1,000.00	
Bendigo Regional Women's Shed Inc.	\$1,000.00	
Bendigo Kids Theatre Company	\$2,000.00	
Bendigo Youth Choir	\$1,000.00	
BVSPS Student Award	\$50.00	
CAR PARKING ASSISTANCE:		
Friends of Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail	\$1,417.26	
Rotary Club of Bendigo South	\$2,574.82	
Centenary Event	\$11,000.00	
Flood Relief	\$18,072.45	
FORaMEAL Project	\$500.00	
Heathcote Scouts (Container)	\$6,497.42	
Homeless Project	\$7,500.00	
Inner Wheel Club of Bendigo	\$580.00	
International Knitting Project	\$3,468.67	
Little Athletics Bendigo	\$1,000.00	
Life on The Land	\$2,500.00	
Music Scholarship	\$2,000.00	
National Youth Science Forum	\$1,000.00	
Nepal Project	\$5,000.00	
Operation Cleft	\$10,000.00	
Rebuilding Samoa Project	\$1,000.00	
Rotary Club of Rochester	\$5,750.00	
Rotary Craft Group	\$500.00	
Rotary Foundation	\$5,189.14	
Rotary Foundation - Polio Plus	\$1,237.68	
Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge	\$7,800.00	
Royal Children's Hospital Appeal	\$831.70	
Royce Abbey Foundation	\$1,195.00	
Run For Dad Event	\$750.00	
Science and Engineering Challenge	\$500.00	
Star Thrower Project	\$5,200.00	
Student Exchange	\$1,500.00	
Student Scholarship at Catholic College	\$500.00	
Youth Projects	\$2,500.00	
	<i>Funds remaining to be distributed</i>	\$440.14

Total Club Project Account **\$162,361.43**

Total Club Project Account **\$162,361.43**

AND INTRODUCING FOR 2023-2024 . . .

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9800 OFFICIALS

District Governor (D9800)	Ron Payne (RC Eaglehawk)
Assistant Governor (Goldfields North)	Alison Bacon (RC Eaglehawk)

ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Daniela Ionescu
Vice President	Hugh Wheeler
Immediate Past President	Peter Reading
Board Secretary	Kaye Lehman
Treasurer	Glenda Bryson
Rotary Foundation	Wayne Smith
Club Service	Colin Nankervis
Community Service	Tom Dobeli
International Service	Liz Bannon
Youth Service	Michael Pearson
Vocational Service	Brian Figg
Membership	Peter Reading

CLUB OFFICERS

Protection Officer/OHS Officer	Tom Dobeli
Association Secretary	Wayne Smith
Public Officer	Wayne Smith
Communications	Noel Hobley



2023-2024 PRESIDENT
DANIELA IONESCU



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

2023-2024
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
THEME

Rotary Club of Bendigo - Established July 30, 1925 - Charter No 2104

A member of Rotary International District 9800

PO Box 131, Bendigo Victoria, 3552

Website: <http://www.bendigorotary.org>

