

President Brian Doherty 2002-2003

President Brian undertook to lead the Club in the early years of the 21st Century. When I joined Rotary in 2000, I remember Brian for not only his enormous amount of enthusiasm for leading projects like Golf Days and Men's Health, but for his infectious smile and warmth whenever he met you. Let us now look back at his year as President.



In 2002-2003, Brian undertook to make some changes to not only move the Club forward into the 21st Century, but to ensure the Club was more efficient with how it operated. There were several changes that took place during his year that were sometimes only subtle, but overall, the changes President Brian introduced have influenced how the Club now functions today.



A very simple example of change began at the very beginning of his year as President. Members were given a very new look Club Directory. Later in the year, members were strongly encouraged to receive The Fossicker via email. For some members, this change was difficult to accept. For many years, members were sent The Fossicker in the post and to have it now sent electronically was resisted by some members.



The reality was, President Brian could see very clearly that this change would not only be more efficient and reliable with sending The Fossicker electronically to members, but such a move would save the Club around \$1,700 each year. The benefit to members was this change would also reduce the overall cost of membership.

President Brian also undertook to reduce paperwork at Board level by advocating that Club records such as The Fossicker, Annual Report and Board minutes be kept in electronic form. Since the Club began, all records were written or typed and filed away. Keeping such records was always problematic with respect to where they could be kept. During the year, the history records had to find a new home and much time was spent by the History Committee sorting out all the records. President Brian could see how easier it would be to have all the records of Board Minutes, the Annual Report, The Fossickers, all filed away in electronic form, rather than in 100's of pages of documents.



During the year, President Brian had a very productive year. With regular trips now being undertaken to Samoa by the Club, President Brian and Gary Gunnell applied to The Rotary Foundation and received a \$60,000 grant for providing clean water and sanitation for students at remote schools in Samoa. It also provided funding for a Health Education Program on Diabetes which is very prevalent in Samoa.

The Golf Day during the year was a huge success with \$7,673 being raised for the work of ROMAC. The Men's Health Project also grew in popularity and now held two events during Men's Health Week: A Men's Health Breakfast with a prominent speaker. Also, a Men's Health Night with not only a special guest speaker, but with free Health Checks, courtesy of Bendigo Community Health.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Assessment Service received a \$10,000 donation towards their important work. Polio Plus, B-Central, The Salvation Army, Uniting Church Outreach and St. Vinnies are just a sample of many charities that also received funds during President Brian's year.

Other changes for the Club involved a Adopt a Highway Project and a regular, casual get -together every Friday night at the Rising Sun Hotel. Interestingly, other members from other Clubs would also attend the night.



President:
Brian Doherty

President Elect:
Colin Burns

Immediate Past President:
Ian Monotti

Secretary:
John Flood

Treasurer:
Nicole Cox

Public Officer:
Ian Monotti

Director, Club Service:
Keith Oberin

Directory, Community Service:
Gail Robertson

Director, Foundation Service:
Garry Gunnell

Director, International Service:
Charlie Martin

Director, Vocational Service:
Daniel Buttolph

Director, New Generations:
John Krakowiak