



2019–2020: Michael Pearson

President Michael Pearson came to us with plenty of Rotary experience having been President of the Rotary Club of Tenant Creek twice. His focus at the beginning of his year was youth, health, music, and Aboriginal and Refugee affairs.

What no one knew was a world pandemic was going to cause mayhem for the whole of 2020 and into 2021/22. Even when it began, everyone thought it would only be a short-term problem. Unfortunately, the pandemic immediately had an enormous impact on all the major fundraising events.

President Michael did whatever was possible to raise funds to demonstrate Rotary's support to the local and wider rural community that was struggling to come to terms with the pandemic.



Highlights

Fortunately, for the Club, after meeting with local artist Terry Jarvis and his wife, Michelle, the Club was invited to assist with the Life of the Land Project in early November to assist farmers with drought relief. Close to \$57,000 was raised (\$20,000 came from the Gulf Horizon Foundation in conjunction with

Flashmarket and Eyecandy Motorsports). A major donation helped



deliver truckloads of hay to drought stricken farmers in central NSW.

The funding also provided farmers with food and supply packs. Several members (Libby Hughes, Pam Luxford and Sharon Smith) were involved on packing days.

Libby Hughes coordinated the 25hr Mega Swim with quizzes, paddle races, noodle races and a fancy dress competition, to raise money for people suffering with Multiple Sclerosis. Despite a pandemic, a very impressive \$32,560 was raised.



Apart from drought relief, President Michael and members were able to raise some money with the Xmas Carols and in innovative ways during the second half of the year to be able to donate money to Bendigo Community Health, the Australia Rotary Health Research Fund, funding for rural scholarships, the Bendigo Youth Choir, and the Writer's Festival