

# ROTARY CLUB OF TORQUAY ANNUAL REPORT—1 JULY 2016 - 30 JUNE 2017

## PART A



### FROM THE PEN OF PRESIDENT LESLEY SHEDDEN

2016 – 2017 has been a most successful year for the Rotary Club of Torquay. We have completed or been involved in more than 16 planned projects and programmes, raised over \$45,000 to allow us to continue doing good in the world, and had hands-on involvement in our local community in numerous ways. Certainly Rotary Serving Humanity in action

There have been many highlights for me, not least the installation and unveiling of our four fitness stations on the Torquay foreshore and our Annual Motor Show. Let's also reflect on the successful Book Fair, Ride the Bellarine, ANZAC Day, Hat Day with Belmont RC, support for Interplast, ROMAC, Australian Rotary Health Foundation and water filters for the Awake and Shine school in India. Our Youth activities with encouragement awards to students in local schools, RYLA and welcoming home our out bound exchange student Liam.

Our financial support for the Rotary Foundation, as we celebrate its centenary in 2017 and gets oh so close to the eradication of Polio, continues.

#### Club Highlights 2016-2017

- Installed four fitness stations on the Torquay foreshore.
- Members and volunteers contributed more than 2,700 volunteer hours into Rotary projects.
- Over \$45,000 donated to local, national and international projects
- We welcomed 4 new members.
- Celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our own Rotary Foundation.
- Join all other local Rotary Clubs to run a very successful Ride the Bellarine, raising funds for End Polio Now.

## PRESIDENT CONTINUES ...

We have been challenged this year with several compliance considerations and changes, including the need to focus on child protection and develop a suitable policy and code of conduct and understanding the importance of and implementing stringency in our risk management processes for every event. Changes to Rotary International rules now allow us to consider greater flexibility in how we manage the club, how and when we meet and types of membership now available to us.

Membership is a major issue for Rotary nationally and internationally. I am please to report our membership is up by three on this time last year. All members need to consider how to tell the Rotary story and our Club story as this, in itself, is the most effective way to raise interest from possible members, along with simply being visible in our community.

Thank you to the 2016 – 2017 Board. You are the real leaders of the Club and the ones to bring together members to get things done. I hope you are proud of your achievements this year. And thank you to all members and partners for your enthusiasm, participation, interest, comments, questions and overall willingness to do good in the world in the name of Rotary. I have no doubt this will continue into 2017 – 2018.

Thank you for the privilege of leading the Rotary Club of Torquay. It has been a pleasure and an honour.

Lesley Shedden



President Lesley with  
Rotary International  
President 2016-17  
John Germ

The Board – missing Greg  
Plumridge & Mike Reed



## RIDE THE BELLARINE

Our club was well represented in the annual “Ride the Bellarine”, a District fundraiser for the End Polio Project. This is an event all Rotary Clubs in the Geelong area participate in, to raise funds for eradicating Polio. Many thanks go to Greg Plumridge who is not only our club representative, but is also on the organising committee. Although the weather was a little unfavourable this year, there was a great turn out of riders – including our own Brian Mynott and Karan Dawson, who rode the course – Well done!

Thank you to all Rotarians and partners who volunteered their help with marshalling, BBQ, driving the emergency vehicles and with setting up and packing up the riding course.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Firstly, I would like to thank all members of the Rotary Club of Torquay for your participation in the many events we have been involved with during the past year. Your commitment to the club activities enables us to take on these events, and have Rotary involved in our community. Thank you to all the Rotarians, Partners, families and friends who have helped out on community events during the year.

Mike Reed, Community Service Director



### RELAY FOR LIFE

The Rotary Club of Torquay continues to support, and be involved with this event, seven years after initiating it on the Surf Coast.

The event has raised over \$400 000 in that time for the operations of the Cancer Council Victoria. Thank you all for participating in the Rotary Team or as volunteers in running the event.



### NIGHT JAR PARKING

The night jar parking is a terrific source of income for our club. As there are no expenses for these events, all funds taken from the parking are retained in our fundraising account, and make up part of our annual Community funds distribution.



In January, we held our annual book fair. Rhonda Anchen did a fantastic job coordinating and publicising the fair. Thank you to all who helped. With well over 15,000 books, there was a lot to set up, help out with the days of the fair, and pack up.

It was very well received in the community and supported by many locals and holiday makers. Great Effort!



## SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Our Sausage Sizzles continue to be very worthwhile for our club. We raise good revenue from the BBQ's we run at community markets, events and at Ripcurl. Many Rotarians took multiple shifts on the BBQ. Thank you to all the helpers who 'stepped in' at short notice when shifts were 'light on'.

Many thanks Mal Slater for your coordination of the BBQ roster and trailer.



## MOTOR SHOW

Our annual Motor Show was again a huge success. With so many entries this year the area was well packed! Needless to say, there was a great variety of vehicles and was plenty for all to see .... and dream about. Thanks to the organising committee for coordinating the event. Well done to all Club members, Partners and Rotary friends for assisting in this major event.

The Motor Show has become a significant fundraiser for our club. This event is now firmly on the social calendar of the motoring public, with many enthusiasts returning each year. The results of all the effort put into this event, raises much needed funds which are used to help the less fortunate.

## STRATHEWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

This is the eighth year that our Club has been hosting the children, parents and friends from this school since the terrible Black Saturday fire that traumatised their whole community. It is always pleasing to see the smiles from these people .....enjoying a day at the beach, and enjoying the food and hospitality provided by our club and members.

Thanks to Gail Chrisfield and Alan Anderson for coordinating this special day for the Strathewen community.

## BATTERY RECYCLING

This has been a great initiative. It is pleasing to see the amount of used batteries deposited in these recycle bins, keeping the used batteries out of land fill. Thanks to Rudi Schols for his ongoing commitment and coordination of this community service.

## ANZAC DAY



Although a little cool and very wet this year, several thousand people attended Point Danger for the dawn service. A very strong team of Rotarians were in attendance, and helped make it 'happen', through roles in crowd control, handing out orders of the service, collecting donations, manning the BBQ at the Gunfire Breakfast and selling raffle tickets. Thanks you to John McDonald for again liaising with the RSL and assisting in organizing this event. Numbers attending the service were down this year, however we still managed to raise much needed funds for the Torquay RSL.



I would like to thank you all for your time and commitment to The Rotary Club of Torquay Community Programs, Events and BBQ's. Together we have raised funds (which will be detailed in the Treasurer's Report) and provided opportunities for our local Community, for our Rotary District and Rotary International Projects.

## ROTARY FITNESS STATIONS



The four fitness stations situated around the local foreshore, funded by The Rotary Club of Torquay and donated funds, continue to be well utilised.



## YOUTH SERVICE

My sincere thanks to the members of the Youth Services Committee for their contribution to our activities over the past twelve months. Whilst we weren't able to participate in all of the youth programs on offer there were opportunities to be involved in new activities. I would like to thank Scott Diamond , Principal of the Surf Coast Secondary College , for his invaluable assistance and ongoing rapport

Chris Sims, Director Youth Service

### Rotary Youth Exchange Program (YEP)

Our Outbound student, Liam Binyon, continued on his exchange in Canada enjoying, both the experience and friendships that a successful exchange can provide, and the care and hospitality of his host families in Canada. Many thanks to his counsellor, Gail Chrisfield, for a job well done.

Liam returned from his exchange on 10 January 2017 , and at the Club meeting of 12 February 2017 we were treated to the double occasion of hearing Liam talk of his experiences in Canada and President Lesley inducting his mother Kelly as a member of the Rotary Club.

### Mock Interviews

The Club continues its involvement with this important role supporting the mock interviews conducted by the Grovedale Secondary College in the latter part of 2016 , and those conducted by the Casuarina organisation on behalf of the Surf Coast Secondary College in May 2017 .

Many thank to those Rotarians who gave up their time to support these programs.



### ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

The Club continued the practice of providing annual encouragement awards of \$1,000.00 each to the Surf Coast Secondary College, Torquay College, and St Therese Primary School. This year we included Bellbrae Primary School in the round of awards. These awards are very much appreciated and enhance our presence in the local community.

### WINCHELSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

For the third year the Club made a grant of \$1,500.00 to the Winchelsea Primary

School for the development of resources for the school literacy program. Chris Sims was pleased to attend the school on behalf of the Club to make the presentation of the cheque and address a number of parents in attendance.

## And furthermore – from Youth

- Rotary Young Driver Awareness – continued support for this program and a pledge to grant \$200.00
- Science and Engineering Challenge at Deakin University - assistance provided by Vernon D'Souza
- Blake Edwards, Surf Coast Youth Development Team Leader attended Club meeting with two students from Surf Coast Secondary College to speak on Youth Issues on the Surf Coast
- Compliance with QBE Sexual Abuse Liability Insurance requirements and appointment of Child Safety Officer – thank you Peter Bollen
- Revision of Working with Children cards and Police checks – thank you Linda Neale

# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

In 2016 – 2017 The Rotary Foundation celebrates 100 years of “Doing Good in the World” as part of the Foundation’s mission to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. This year is an opportunity for Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to not only celebrate the achievements of

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) but plan for the future.

It is also an opportunity for Rotarians to share these achievements with our communities and make them aware of the vital work of Rotary International and The Rotary



In 2016 – 2017 the Rotary Club of Torquay has contributed \$3,700.00 or \$100.00 per club member to the Annual Programs Fund as part of our ongoing support.

In addition a grant of \$1,900.00 has been made to the End Polio Now fund. This includes donations to the Ride the Bellarine event.

In October 2016 the Club TRF Chair attended the District Foundation Grants Seminar in Ararat to enable the Club to be qualified to apply for Foundation grants.

Also in October 2016 the Club approved a donation of AUD1000.00 to the Cambodia Fresh Water program facilitated by Rtn Bryan Humphrey from the Rotary Club of Geelong East. This is part of a Global Grant Project with 23 Clubs in the District committing a total sum in the order of \$AUD77,790.00.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 the Club celebrated World Polio Day to highlight the need to continue the fight for the eradication of this preventable disease.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the Club celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of The Rotary Foundation with a birthday party on our Monday meeting night and venue .We are delighted that DG Stephen Lamont and his wife Gaye were with us on that night to share in the celebrations.



To round out the year on a positive note, President Lesley has initiated an application for a District 9780 TRF District Grant Project . The application is for a grant of \$AUD3793.00 for a project entitled “Traffic controller training and equipment for the provision of critical traffic control at community and Rotary events”.

Chris Sims  
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Committee

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

### **AWAKE AND SHINE SCHOOL, SAMTHAR**

AU\$5940 was provided for the purchase and installation of 2 Skyjuice water filters for the Awake and Shine school in India. The RC of Benalla are building the water tanks and supervising this project. There have been various delays to this project and the filters are currently awaiting customs clearance in India. The purpose of this project is to supply clean water to staff and children where currently the children walk to and from school for up to 1½ hours morning and afternoon but only have approximately 300 ml. of water to drink.



### **CLEAN WATER IN CAMBODIA**

Our club contributed \$1000 to Global Grant 1745092. This grant was initiated by Bryan Humphrey, Rotary Club of Geelong East, and supported by many clubs in our district. \$US58,489 was approved to provide 12 water wells with pumps, 5 rain water collection systems and one bio-sand filter system.

### **ROTARY AID FOLLOWING DEVASTATION IN HAITI**

In Oct 2016 hurricane Matthew hit Haiti leaving 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Our club responded to the Rotary request for action by donating \$1000 to Shelterbox.

Gaynor Schols, International Service Director



### **Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)**

Following on from the initiative of Rhonda Anchen, the Club was able to sponsor two students from Diversitat to attend the April RYPEN camp at Creswick .

Brother and sister Andrew and Angella Bijimba attended a Club meeting in May to talk on their experiences at the RYPEN camp and also to speak about aspects of their life in Africa before coming to Australia. They were very grateful to the Club for having the opportunity to attend the camp.

## CLUB SERVICE

An experienced Rotarian recently observed to me that for him Rotary begins with the weekly club meeting of fellowship, some fun, socialising, networking and sharing of information.

For this to happen however requires someone to perform the detailed planning and logistics tasks to make the club meeting a success for active, engaged members keen to provide service to their communities.

For several years Maggie Isom has put together programs of meetings, activities events and guest speakers that have enabled members to get their weekly Rotary experience. Caterers Rod and Lorraine have consistently served up hearty and enjoyable



meals that are often themed to the meeting agenda or the activity of the meeting.

After a period of experimentation we now seem to have settled on a meeting format and process that meets the basic needs of most members. Each week we learn a bit more about rotary and club activities, have a bit of fun and are wine and dined all by

8:00pm. All done in the mostly laid back and casual Torquay way.

After bearing the brunt of the work for at least two President years Maggie has recently announced that she will step back from program planning for the new rotary year to focus more on other aspects of her life. She has done an outstanding job and I personally thank her for making my role as Club Service Director relatively uncomplicated this year past.



Working under

the radar, Mike Reed and Peter Bollen routinely arrive early to set up the room, and display the rotary banners, flags and meeting paraphernalia while discussing their latest fishing adventure. Mike also manages to keep the drinks fridge and wine supplies stocked week by week. By 6:00pm the job is done and we are ready to roll.

Trevor Pickles and Bruce Smith conspire to create a fines session to raise funds for the Club account and to give us a few laughs in the process. Richard checked us in at the door and collected meeting and dinner fees.



But as one worker steps aside others put up their hand to help. Thankfully Bruce Smith and Helen McDonald are

already on the case and we can look forward to a continuation of vibrant rotary meetings, events and some serious fun.

Greg Birchall, Club Service Director

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

This past year has provided our Club with many opportunities to promote to the community just who we are and what we do. We are very fortunate that our major events such as the Book Fair and Motor Show naturally draw significant media attention which helps to make the marketing job easier.



fact the only limiting factor is the people power to capture the images and video to post on our Club and Motor Show Facebook pages.

Rudi Schols has been a great support in ensuring that, between us, we have a camera at all Club events to “capture the moment”. Rudi has also done a great job as Bulletin Editor in my absence....not to mention his work on the Club Website and Facebook Page..... thanks Rudi.

Marg Isom does a great job writing an article for each edition of the Spring Creek House “Springboard” newsletter.

Throughout the year there have been many Rotarians who have assisted with Public Relations. Trevor Pickles again captured some sensational Pics at the Motor Show which is an event where you can never have too many images.

Our club is also indebted to Rotarian Ben Smith and his employer Brian Hayden from Hayden Real Estate who have provided considerable promotion of our events in The Surfcoast Times at no cost to the Club.

My work colleague Ashley Markham is also a great support on both our Motor Show and the Ride the Bellarine photography teams.

This year, District Public Relations Chair Pauline Stewart invited all Clubs to produce a one minute video to “Tell Your Club's Rotary Story” and these videos were shown at the District Conference here in Geelong.

So, for the first time we embraced yet another medium and were one of a dozen or so Clubs in the District who embraced the challenge. This video is a ‘toe in the water’ with what can be done using video particularly on Social Media as a tool for promoting our achievements and to attract new members to join our Club. Thanks, must go to Zac Plumridge for his technical assistance with the editing production.

There is a link to this video on our Club Website at [www.torquayrotary.org.au](http://www.torquayrotary.org.au) if you haven't yet viewed it.

As we roll into the new Rotary year our first event will be the “Dine with Cadel Evans” fundraiser for Rotary Health Projects. It has been exciting to observe the Event Committee led by Howard Randall planning this event in a most professional manner.

Thanks to everyone in the Club for your assistance with Public Relations and promoting our Club to the community throughout the last year.



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**Club of Torquay**