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**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

**Sister Clubs**

**Osaka–Midosuji Hommachi, Japan**

**Echuca-Moama, Australia**

**Rabindra Sarobar, Kolkata, India**

**Cork, Ireland**

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# President's review of 2022-2023

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A year ago, I stood before you to share my priorities for our Rotary year, which were:

- Re-engage in our service projects;
- Invite friends to participate in our service projects and meetings;
- Help our new members to find their place in Rotary.

At our first Club Forum in August, I commented that we had made a good start in July with 40 members involved in one or more service projects. I then asked those present to imagine the impact that we could have if we sustained our early momentum throughout the year.

Any lingering question that I had about our ability to do so was quickly dispelled as I saw members regularly answering the call for volunteers for our projects including our signature projects of mentoring Victorian Police and Ambulance Officers, Garden DesignFest and the Paul Harris Breakfast.

By the end of our year, we will have completed almost all our planned service projects and on average, two-thirds of our members have contributed to one or more projects each month.

I would like to highlight five of these projects for special mention given their impact:

- As a first step in the vision of one of our members for his ancestral village in South Sudan, we partnered with South Sudan Health Matters, Days For Girls Uganda, The Chagai Foundation and local chieftains to supply reusable menstrual kits and provide education to 800 girls to help them avoid missing school on average six days each month. Thank you Mawien Ariik for sharing your vision and inviting us to contribute to this wonderful project.
- Responding to growing community concerns about the mental health of young people, we ran four Youth Mental Health First Aid workshops for charities working with young people. The workshops helped the participants to better recognise early warning signs of mental distress then respond effectively to reduce the risk of young people taking their lives. Thank you, Rhys Williams and Doug Robertson, for coordinating these workshops.
- Continuing our long-term commitment to helping young people realise their professional dreams, we hosted David Rosenberg and Charly Brielmaier as part of the New Generations Service Exchange. Thank you, Alan Seale, for coordinating this program and Warwick and Jill Cavell, Roy Garrett, Alan and Robyn Seale, Roger and Pippa Thornton and Sarah Overton and David Duncan for hosting David and Charly.
- As part of a multi-club initiative to recycle household goods (Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network, - RIMERN), we have helped almost 700 people to furnish their homes and rebuild their lives after experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, incarceration and civil unrest in their countries of origin. Thank you to the members who have volunteered at the warehouse and donated goods. Thank you to Paul Fowler, who convinced his fellow trustees of the Gailey Lazarus Foundation to provide a community grant of \$40,000 to RIMERN.

- Our Fundraising Team, well supported by our members, raised ~\$70k, which has supported this year's planned projects, enabled us to respond generously to calls for support from our sister club in Echuca following major floods and Rotaractors in Germany to provide medical supplies to Ukraine and left a strong financial position to support projects in the coming year. Well done Campbell Chambers, Roger Thornton and Rob Hines for delivering this great result.

With an eye to the future of our club and our ability to continue to serve local and overseas communities, Membership Chair Neville John and I kicked off a membership drive in October by asking members to invite friends who may be interested in Rotary to join us at one of our meetings or hands-on projects.

I am very pleased to report that Warwick Cavell, Alan Seale, Rhys Williams, Maureen Jackson and Neville Taylor answered the call and as a result, Nicholas Oei, Grace Davidson, Annet Brouwer, Jo Garretty, Kerrie Hicks and Puja Ganguli are now members of our club.

I am also happy to report that three of our new members, Nicholas, Grace and Kerrie, were introduced to Rotary through involvement in our projects. This again demonstrates how our service projects can attract people to Rotary.

As important as it has been for new members to join us, it is even more important now for us to help them to find their place in Rotary. Whilst this remains a work in progress, I would like to acknowledge the contributions already made by some of our newer members.

Steve Turner is putting his engineering knowledge and skills to good practice by testing and repairing electrical goods at the RIMERN warehouse. Steve has shown initiative by training to become an accredited tester of electrical equipment.

Grace Davidson is mentoring an international university student and working with Rhys Williams to develop a scholarship program to assist young people with vocational backgrounds to undertake university study.

Annet Brouwer is working with Cecily Neil to develop a project to support an eye clinic in India.

Jo Garretty and her fiancé are regularly volunteering at Bunnings Collingwood, with Jo demonstrating her leadership skills at the front and Jason showing us how sausages really should be cooked.

Kerrie Hicks is using her professional experience as a police officer and coach to contribute to a review of the Ambulance Victoria Leadership Mentoring Program and the multi-District initiative to recognise excellence amongst Victorian emergency service workers.

Nicholas Oei and Puja Ganguli are also involved in our international university student mentoring program.

During the year, Adele le Roux (relocation to Perth) and Des Benjamin (retirement) resigned from our club. We wish them both well.

On a very sad note, one of our Charter members and second President, Cec Akerley, passed away at the age of 91. As shared by our Charter member Herb Greenwood, Cec took on a great challenge in leading our young club in his quiet and unassuming way. During his year as President, the club raised money to fund a community bus and hosted an international exchange student. Cec's family are in our thoughts.

The 2022-23 Rotary year culminated with the successful Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, which was well attended by members and families of our club. It was a great opportunity to meet Rotarians from around the world and hear inspirational stories about how Rotarians are building better futures for people. We also had the opportunity to renew friendships with members of our sister club of Rotary Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi at a dinner on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, which was attended by 27 members and families.

We are extremely grateful of the generous gift of Y200,000 made by Rotary Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi to us, which we will allocate to our Laos School Library project and use this project to hopefully rejuvenate our sister club relationship.

In closing our “Imagine Rotary” year, I again thank all members for the privilege to be President of our great club. I would like to thank Past Presidents Warwick, Therese and Elias for keeping us together and leading us through a very challenging two-and-a-half years.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of our Board for their sound advice and support throughout the year and your individual contributions to specific projects.

#### Officers

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| ➤ Immediate Past President | Elias Lebbos     |
| ➤ Vice President           | Neville Taylor   |
| ➤ Vice President           | Therese Robinson |
| ➤ Secretary                | Paul Fowler      |
| ➤ Treasurer                | Doug Robertson   |

#### Directors

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ➤ Club Service Director          | Suvam Ganguli     |
| ➤ Community Service Director     | Michelle Crawford |
| ➤ Fundraising Director           | Campbell Chambers |
| ➤ International Service Director | Cecily Neil       |
| ➤ Vocational Service Director    | Ignacio Inchausti |
| ➤ Youth Service Director         | Rhys Williams     |

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Sue, who encouraged me to accept then DG Neville John’s invitation to join Rotary Central Melbourne, supported me throughout my Rotary journey and encouraged me this year to regularly remind myself and members of the many positives of our club.

Whilst the year has not been without challenges, it has been very rewarding. I have seen the impactful work that our club and many clubs in our District are doing. I have received compliments from members of other clubs about our impactful projects and our ongoing contribution to District initiatives. I have frequently received feedback from visiting Rotarians and guest speakers on how welcome they have felt at our meetings. I have had the absolute privilege to welcome new members to our club.

My enduring hope for our club is that we will continue to:

- dream about better futures for those in need;
- dare to believe that we can make a difference;
- do what we can when we can to make those dreams come true.

I now wish Michelle a rewarding and successful year as our President, helping us to Create Hope in the World.

**Rohan Williams**  
**President**

## Memories of 2022 Changeover



David Jones, Julie & Campbell Chambers, Marjorie Gerlinger



Roy Garrett and Sally Moon



Pamela Robertson, Leonie Greenwood, Neville Taylor and  
Lorraine Meehan



Past Presidents Warwick Cavell and  
Therese Robinson



MC Michelle Crawford taking a selfie



PP Therese Robinson receiving her PHF  
Recognition Award





Allan Driver receiving his PHF Recognition Award



New 2022-23 President Rohan Williams



Pres Rohan, Uttam Ganguli, DG Amanda Wendt, PDG Neville John exchanging banners



Cecily Neil receiving D9800 International Service Award

# Awards 2022-2023

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## Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions

A Paul Harris Fellow is a Recognition that was introduced in 1957 by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in honour of Paul Harris who founded Rotary in 1905. To recognise the achievements of our members Elias Lebbos, Cecily Neil and Rhys Williams, our Club has made donations of US\$1,000, in each of their names, to the Rotary Foundation to enable it to carry out programs that may improve conditions in the world such as increased food production, literacy, polio immunisation, goodwill and understanding.

### Elias Lebbos

Elias Lebbos is recognised for his service as our President in 2021-22 during which we commenced our transition out of lockdown. Elias arranged an excellent Paul Harris Breakfast back at the RACV City Club with an engaging and insightful presentation from Jeroen Weimar. I thank Elias for impressing upon us the importance of helping people to find their place and space within Rotary.

### Cecily Neil

Cecily Neil is recognised for her personal contribution to water, sanitation and hygiene projects and leadership of the International Service Team over the past 2 years. Cecily has demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering sustainable projects by travelling at personal expense to ensure that local Rotarians have all the necessary resources to successfully complete the project.

### Rhys Williams

Rhys Williams is recognised for his tireless efforts in revitalising our Youth Service projects including coordinating the Youth Mental Health First Aid workshops and building the partnership with Victoria Police Legacy, his support to the International Student Mentoring program, establishing contact with Rotary Saigon and regularly volunteering at working bees and Bunnings sausage sizzles.



## President's Rotarian of the Year Award

### Roger Thornton

For his extraordinary contribution over two years as the coordinator of the multi-club initiative to showcase beautiful gardens across Victoria which raised \$100,000 for Rotary humanitarian projects and his behind-the-scenes support for our club over many years, we recognise Roger Thornton as our Rotarian of the Year.

## Royce Abbey Award

### Peter Duras

The Royce Abbey Award is named in honour of Royce Abbey AO DCM, the President of Rotary International 1988-89 and a member of the Rotary Club of Essendon from 1954 until his passing in 2014 at the age of 91. Royce Abbey displayed enthusiasm and commitment to Rotary, his local community and to the wider international community. A Royce Abbey Awardee will have also displayed enthusiasm and commitment during their Rotary membership, consistent with Royce Abbey's theme for his presidential year: "Put Life into Rotary, Your Life".

In recognition of his service to Rotary over almost 50 years, President Vera Maljevac from Rotary Essendon and I awarded Peter Duras a Royce Abbey Award for his enthusiasm and outstanding service at the Rotary Essendon Charter Night on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May.

During his time at Rotary Central Melbourne, Peter has been an active supporter of local community initiatives to reduce homelessness and has been the driving force for several clubs to support the work of Youth Projects in the CBD. Peter is also one of our "BBQ Kings", who with Frank O'Brien, re-established Bunnings sausage sizzles as an ongoing funding source for our projects.

At the Rotary Essendon Charter Night, Sue Duras was also recognised with a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition for the strong support that she has provided to Peter and her active involvement in service projects over almost 50 years.

Nine Central Melbourne members were present to congratulate and thank Peter and Sue for their outstanding service to Rotary and many people.

## Family of Rotary Award

### Pippa Thornton

Each year, Rotarians rely upon the understanding and support of their families. This year is no exception with the number of service projects that we have successfully completed.

Pippa Thornton is recognised for her active support to Roger and involvement in hosting Charly Brielmaier and Garden DesignFest.

## President's Distinguished Service Citation

The five members have been recognised for the behind-the-scenes yet vital work that is required to ensure the smooth and healthy running of our club.

### Paul Fowler

Paul as our Secretary has ensured the correct running and recording of Board discussions plus effective and timely responses to external correspondence. Paul has also kept member engagement on my radar throughout the year.

### Doug Robertson

As our Treasurer, Doug has kept the Board well informed of the club's financial position, which has enabled the Board to confidently decide upon emerging service opportunities. Doug has also pursued options to maximise the returns on our cash reserves.

### John Ilott

John as our Executive Secretary has continued to be the go-to person for me and the Board on all governance issues, supported Paul and me with arranging our Annual General Meeting and helped Michelle and me to arrange our Changeover.

### David Jones

As our Speaker Coordinator, David has arranged a wide variety of interesting and informative guest speakers at our meetings.

### Daniel Lim

Daniel as our Bulletin Editor has published an informative weekly newsletter and regularly posted newsworthy stories on our Facebook page.

# Directors' Reports

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## Club Service

Director: Suvam Ganguli

### Committee members

Tom Callander (Club Protection Officer)	Michelle Crawford (RI Convention Coordinator)
Allan Driver (Club business)	John Illott (Website and ClubRunner maintenance, club historian)
Neville John (Membership Development and Retention – see separate report)	Rebecca John (Almoner and Wellbeing Steward)
David Jones (Guest Speaker Coordinator and Assistant Bulletin Editor)	Daniel Lim (Bulletin Editor and Social Media Liaison)
Darren Park (Auditor)	Millie Swann (Social activities)
Roger Thornton (Photographer, Club Storage, Archiving and Membership)	Mary Voice (Assistant editor, social activities)

As Director of Club Service for the year 2022-23 I had a full roster of transformation and change agenda for the club. I could not have done the great things that we have achieved this year without the support and dedication of the amazing team. Their tireless and often behind-the-scenes work has kept the club humming. I am immensely grateful for their achievements.

### Objectives

To ensure Club Service contributes to the Vision, Mission and Purpose of Rotary Central Melbourne where we are seen to be a progressive and connected club with strong networks and a diverse membership and a catalyst for social change including demonstrating compliance with the Rotary Four-Way Test.

### Implementation of objectives

*Progressive and connected:* The Rotary year 2022-23 signified the year in which RCM members and the community in Melbourne truly shook off the shackles of the pandemic and came out to play. There was an energy among our members to socialise and volunteer and to be connected. The club service committee facilitated this transition by renegotiating our yearly contract with RACV for up to three in-person meetings a month and hot breakfast being served in one of those meetings. This was achieved without any significant cost impact for members.

*Strong networks:* With club revenue on a decline due to fewer in-person meetings and no raffles to raise money, a \$2,000 club expense for offsite storage was a large expense for the club. But Peter Duras solved that issue by reaching out to his network and organising free storage for the club at Wilson Storage. Since then, Peter and Roger Thornton have moved and organised all the club's equipment. Roger and John Illott have also sorted through the club storage cupboard at RACV fitness centre.

*Diverse Membership:* Neville John continues to attract new members from diverse backgrounds to the club. John Illott and Neville continue to maintain the highest standards in member onboarding and development. Senior members continue to play a key role in mentoring new members and making them feel welcome.

*Catalyst for Social Change:* As the saying goes, charity begins at home. This year the focus of the club service committee has had change at its core. But this change was linked to the social change the club and its members aspire for. We took a small step towards this by supporting social enterprises in our community. We switched to a meeting booking system, Humanitix, which is a social enterprise, we bought gifts for our guest speakers from social enterprises, and we encouraged members to buy their Christmas presents from social enterprises such as Sisterworks.

## *Meetings*

One of the biggest changes this year has been the way our members attended in-person and online meetings. The club service team was very aware of the efforts members had to make to get used to the new way of doing things.

With rising costs and changes to the contract at RACV the team has had to constantly adapt to facilitate regular meetings and special events such as the Paul Harris Breakfast, Christmas Breakfast and Victoria Police Mentoring Breakfast, without significant cost implications for members.

The club service committee, along with President Rohan Williams continues to work hard to negotiate with the RACV Club to come up with innovative ways to limit costs for members in the coming Rotary year.

On the back of the feedback received from a members' survey and conducting some research around alternate venues the club service team put forward the following recommendations to the RCM board for implementation in 2023-24:

- Implement a 3-month trial using the RACV Theatre with optional breakfast in the Bistro, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.
- Request the use of RACV Level 17 for the Paul Harris Breakfast on Tuesday 21st November with a full breakfast at an increased cost of \$43 per head.

## *Social*

Social events for the year included:

- July Open House at Kevin & Veronica Love's house for members to catch up with Honorary Member, Marjorie Gerlinger during her visit to Melbourne.
- Neighbourhood Dinners in August attended by about 30 members over five venues around Melbourne.
- International and Club Service drinks and dinners in March to encourage committee members to meet in person.
- Sister Club, Rotary Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi welcome dinner in May attended by 15 guest members from our Japanese sister club and 27 RCM members and guests.

## Speaker program

David Jones has outdone himself in the speaker coordinator role this year. David brought speakers to us covering broad topic categories such as the arts, architecture, economy, environment, nature, Rotary focus topics, rural Australia, science, technology, as well as RCM member talks. The following is the list of speakers the club has hosted in the past year.

Date	Presenter
5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Mikaela Stafrace and Kerry Kornhauser OAM
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Stuart Harrison
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Dr Natasha Castree
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Amritpal Singh
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022	Service Directors
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Prof Lisa Given
16 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Member talk - Sonia Dhillon
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2022	Susie Cole
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Assoc Prof Michael Brown
6 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Rob Landale
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Dr Helen Addison-Smith
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Assoc Prof Yen Ying Lim
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Gary Morton
4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Service Directors
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Member talk - Rhys Williams
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Acting Inspector Melissa Blair
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Past District Governor Greg Ross
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Past District Governor Grant Hocking ASM
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Lesley McCarthy
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	Paul Harris Breakfast - Jeroen Weimar
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Environment & Sustainability Rotary Action Group
6 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Prof Renata Kokanović
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Club Christmas celebration
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	Daniel Williams
7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Club Forum
14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Dr Tania Miletic
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023	Heather Campbell
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Past District Governor Dennis Shore
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Laraine Stephens
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Paddy Macrae



Date	Presenter
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Dorian Jocquet
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Des O'Shanassy
4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Kane Bowden and Mitch Brown
11 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Member talk - Nicholas Oei
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Ben Harrington
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023	Deborah Pengilly
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Michael Brosowski OAM
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Silk Miller – Josh Guy
23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023	Aviv Palti and Rotaractors from Siem Reap
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Victoria Police Leadership Mentoring Program
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Club Forum
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Member talk - Grace Davidson

### *Social Media*

Daniel Lim has again done a stellar job at maintaining the club's social media pages.

This year, thanks to all the contributions from various members, our Facebook followers have increased by almost 100, from 850 to 947 followers. This is a great achievement, and we expect to exceed 1,000 followers in the next 12 months. We have posted four events to raise awareness, mainly the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course and the Paul Harris Breakfast. The gender of our followers is quite balanced, 54.3% male and 45.7% female.

### *Club Bulletin*

Daniel and his team of assistant editors, Mary Voice and Roger Thornton have worked tirelessly this year to bring the bulletin to life every week.

Daniel has carried out a facelift on the existing bulletin into a more modern white-background clean-look feel to follow Rotary International's style guide. A training video on how to create the Bulletin has also been recorded.

Bulletins have been published to all 147 recipients. On average, members are very active in reading the bulletin with an average open rate of 67%-75%. The bulletin was enhanced by the regular photographs provided by Roger Thornton and other stand-in photographers when required.

### *Club Protection*

Many thanks to Tom Callander for maintaining the member data for Working with Children Checks. Tom's efforts keep our members and the community we serve safe.

### *Website and Executive Secretary*

My gratitude to John Ilott, for his behind-the-scenes work, maintaining the club website, ClubRunner and Humanitix. I can't thank John enough for always offering to assist me in every way and keeping the club ticking along.

## Meeting and Social Memories



PDG Dale Hoy presenting a PHF Recognition to Warwick Cavell



PDG Neville John with Nicholas Oei and Tomoya Iizuka



Wilson Storage representatives Terry Gleeson, Trudy Iacobucci & Denise Hayball



Bunnings sausage sizzle with NGSE visitor and musician David Rosenberg



Guest speaker Acting Inspector Melissa Blair



Guest speaker, Ben Harrington





Michelle, Sue, Suzette, Neville and DG Amanda  
at Christmas breakfast



Harambee a cappella singers at Christmas  
breakfast



New member Jo Garretty and Jason Pursell at  
Jo's induction



New member Kerrie Hicks with President Rohan  
at Kerrie's induction

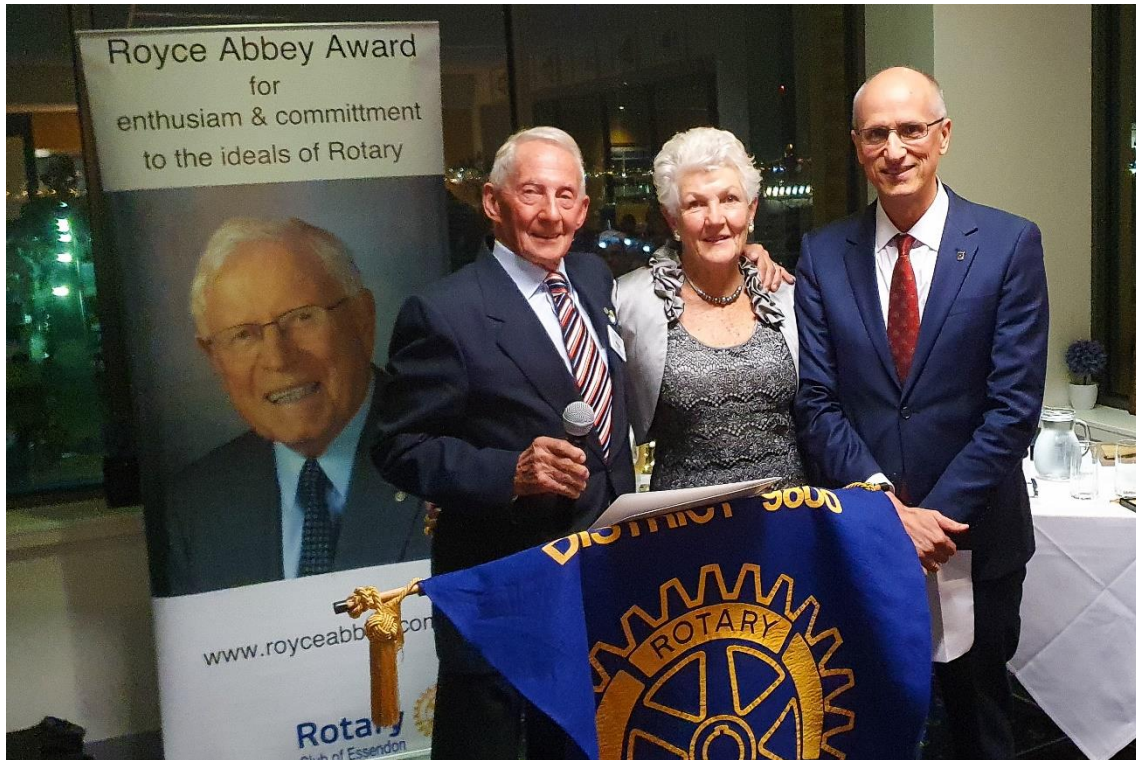


New member Annet Brouwer with Rob Hines  
and Pres Rohan at Annet's induction



PDG Julie Mason presents Paul Harris Society  
membership to Anne King





Peter and Sue Duras with President Rohan, recognising Peter's 50 years in Rotary



Rotarian Susan Archibald visiting from Arizona for the RI Convention and hosted by Kevin & Veronica Love, Marjorie Gerlinger and Allan & Athina Driver

## Community Service

Director: Michelle Crawford

### Committee members

Tom Callander

Sean Car

Alison Chan

Peter Duras

Maureen Jackson

Rebecca John

Steve Turner

Rohan Williams

Throughout the 2023 financial year, the committee has progressed several key projects, strengthened existing partnerships, and explored new opportunities for collaboration that lead to service and impact.

My thanks to the committee members for their active involvement and commitment to service through the following endeavours.

### *Donation by Caprice*

Caprice continues to be a generous supporter of the club, donating an estimated value of \$25,000 in goods for distribution to various community partners.

In addition to disbursement through existing networks, donations were shared with the Rochester club who distributed items through their Op Shop to people in need.

### *Support for Youth Projects*

Our collaboration with Youth Projects has gone from strength to strength throughout the Rotary year. The club has been supportive of activities including a working bee in partnership with Woodend Rotary which resulted in the installation of new shelving in the sorting room and creating a more functional area.

We have responded where possible to support the increased demand for services that has been experienced with a doubling of contacts over the past twelve months.

The committee was delighted by the club's response to a request for sleeping bag donations. The call for financial support to purchase new sleeping bags resulted in \$1,325 being donated by members. Through this generosity and the donation of unwanted sleeping bags, the club was able to provide Youth Projects with a total of 48 sleeping bags.

### *Christmas Hampers*

Rotarians and friends generously donated 90 Christmas hampers to families supported by Concern Australia STEPS and UnitingCare Lentara. With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, we were able to return to our tradition of delivering the hampers to representatives of Concern Australia and UnitingCare at our Christmas breakfast.



### *Tree of Joy*

After a few years break due to the pandemic, it was fabulous to reconnect with TAL Insurance who actively supported the success of the *Tree of Joy* with 70 gifts donated to Concern Australia's STEPS and UnitingCare Lentara. For the first time, TAL staff also had the opportunity to donate directly to these two charities, with more than \$2,000 raised. Gifts donated were collected by charity representatives and we were delighted to welcome two TAL employees to our Christmas breakfast.

### *"Lift the Lid" on Mental Illness*

Once again, the club supported fundraising for mental health, raising \$725 as part of *Lift the Lid on Mental Illness* during October. *Lift the Lid* is Australian Rotary Health's overarching campaign brand for mental health research.

### *Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN)*

Our financial and practical support for RIMERN has gone from strength to strength. This partnership allows a unique avenue of service for club members, with regular days set aside for working bees which have been well-attended. Rotary Central Melbourne also provides financial support for overheads and has committed to this contribution into the 2023-24 Rotary year.

RIMERN has experienced a dramatic increase in demand over the past six months, with an ever-increasing customer base and need for practical support from vulnerable members of the community.

In addition to the work of the committee and Rotary Central Melbourne members who have had an ongoing commitment to practically supporting RIMERN, special thanks go to Roger Thornton who passed on chopping boards donated from the Melbourne Men's Shed.

The committee looks forward to continuing its support for RIMERN and building on the impact that has already been achieved.

### *Assistance to Travellers Aid Mobility Service*

#### *Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show*

We were delighted again to partner with Travellers' Aid to provide practical support to patrons of the 2023 Flower and Garden Show, who expressed great appreciation for the services provided. While our response was overstaffed, this presented a fabulous experience and showed the commitment of the club to access and inclusion.

### *Diversity and Inclusion*

An application has been submitted to the City of Melbourne to cover the costs of a "*Dinner of Friendship*" during Ramadan early in 2024. If successful, \$7,500 will be secured to cover the cost of a dinner for club and community members. It is anticipated that the outcome will be advised early in the new Rotary year.

## Community Service Memories



Lunch during Rochester working bee



Campbell Chambers at *Lift the Lid*



Rebecca John presenting Christmas hampers to Thyda Pich and Anne Mitchell from Concern Australia.

## Foundation

Director: Elias Lebbos

### Committee members

Stella Avramopoulos

Bruce Heron

Alice Miller

Therese Robinson

Mary Voice

Koren Harvey

Kevin Love

Justine Murphy

Neville Taylor

The Rotary Foundation is recognised as one of the most effective and well-managed charitable organisations in the world, with 14 consecutive four-star ratings from Charity Navigator and an A-plus rating from CharityWatch.

The Foundation committee agreed to retain the same areas of focus as the goals for previous year plan and continue the club history of supporting the Foundation.

### *Promoting awareness of The Foundation*

The Foundation Committee continued to focus its work on November as Foundation month to host a range of events and speakers to inform and engage Rotarians and non-Rotarians and subsequently broaden the general awareness of The Foundation. The committee placed a significant amount of effort on reinvigorating the ‘in-person’ Paul Harris Breakfast event as we emerged from multiple pandemic lockdowns. The challenge was to find an attractive guest speaker who would draw a crowd.

### Foundation Month Speaker Program

A series of breakfast speakers was provided throughout November, Foundation month comprising the following:

#### *8 November 2022 - Past District Governor Grant Hocking ASM*

*An overview of the Foundation, the areas of focus and how individuals and clubs can get involved.*

Grant spoke on the background of the Rotary Foundation and linked two key actions - service and fund raising, that contribute to achieving Rotary’s vision statement. The Foundation had scored the highest rating in 14 consecutive years based on Charity Navigator evaluation criteria. Grant highlighted that this is achieved through governance and stewardship processes within the organisation. He spoke on funding opportunities available on a local level that can be augmented with financial assistance from the Foundation.

He noted that District 9800 is the only district in the world to have a peace scholar every year for 20 years.

He provided a background to the various funds individual members can contribute to including the annual, endowment, polio and disaster relief funds. Grant’s presentation provided information to enable members to have confidence in providing individual support through donations to the Foundation.

*15 November 2022 - Lesley McCarthy - Past President of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington & ESRAG Oceania and District 9800 Environment & Sustainability Committee Executive.*

*Environment and Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) Oceania and District – what can Rotarians do?*

Lesley explained that ESRAG has a goal to have an active committee in every district and a representative in every club in Rotary's Zone 8. ESRAG's primary objective is to educate clubs in six focus areas of biodiversity, circular economy, climate, food systems, pollution (e.g. plastics) and sustainable living.

With a focus on climate and environment, Rotarians are able to take many actions to make a difference. ESRAG Oceania can assist with resources, connections and ideas.

This presentation showcased some of the work already being done, the partnerships clubs can make and the hands-on projects available to undertake.

*22 November 2022 - Jeroen Weimar - Chief Executive Officer of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee*  
*A journey of leadership and self-transformation*

Jeroen gave a polished and entertaining address on the challenges and lessons of leadership, illustrated with examples from his career with Transport for London and in his various roles since moving to Australia eight years ago. His recent career included assuming responsibility in July 2020 for the mass Covid-19 testing system in Victoria at the start of the 'second wave' in our state.

His leadership address covered four main themes.

- Making decisions in crisis situations with very limited information, in the face of clearly competing human priorities and with a lack of preparation or planning for a system-wide response.
- The need to understand the substance of what you are dealing with and whom you are dealing with, to be able to connect and build trust with those you are seeking to lead.
- Own and acknowledge your mistakes, plus have a thin-enough skin to realise what is going on in the external environment and adjust your strategy and actions accordingly.
- Dealing with the media: simplicity and clarity of message, the need to be authentic, recognition that there will be good days and bad days, so resilience is required.

*29 November 2022 - Kristine Tey - Australian DFAT in Myanmar*  
*The Rotary Foundation's theme of Peace and Conflict Resolution*

Each year, Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA) compiles a list of Women to Watch which aims to shine the spotlight on Australia's next generation of women working in government, academia, think tanks, the private sector and civil society across international affairs. Kris Tay has been added to the YAIA 2022 list of Young Women to Watch in International Affairs.

As Second Secretary at the Australian Embassy in Myanmar, Kris has steered Australia's gender equality aid program and foreign policy priorities. After the military coup and Covid-19 pandemic, Kris ensured assistance to women for sexual and reproductive healthcare, psychosocial support and refuge from gender-based violence. She developed DFAT's flagship gender equality investment in Myanmar, supporting women at the grassroots to deliver essential services and elevating marginalised voices.

The February 2021 Myanmar election resulted in reduced representation by the military, which led to a military coup and the imposition of martial law. The country's internet was shut down and phones were widely tapped. The Development & Economics team at the Australian Embassy was in a quandary about how to deliver aid and support people safely in the face of military control.

Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence were increasing and sexual and reproductive health products and services were not getting to the people in need. Kris and her team were able to lead the delivery of services through unencumbered funding to trusted local organisations. This enabled women's community organisations to deliver much-needed services with over \$20 million over five years.

This was a wonderfully informative presentation, delivered by a speaker who is obviously deeply committed to her work. Kris demonstrated a detailed understanding of Myanmar and its people and left the audience enthusiastic about the goals that she has achieved.

### *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*

Throughout the year the committee placed an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. We were able to weave these topics into the weekly speaker program.

During Diversity and Inclusion Week 2023, we heard from guest presenter – Dorian Jocquet about the importance of diversity while building software and AI technology.

In April, Ben Harrington shared his experience with finding work and the range of associated challenges. Ben also explained how living with a disability presents a variety of challenges and barriers to overcome. These barriers are often caused by systems and practices that aren't designed with people with disabilities in mind.

RCM members continue to contribute the Rotary District 9800 - Belonging Matters Steering Committee which aims to support Belonging Matters in matching people living with intellectual disabilities and autism find meaningful employment opportunities.

### *Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution*

Rotary Central Melbourne once again supported District 9800 in supporting the Rotary Foundation Peace Scholarships in the 2022-23 Rotary year. PP Neville Taylor represented RCM in this process as a member of the D9800 Foundation Peace Sub-Committee. We were thrilled to be able to support two successful candidates for Peace Scholarships.

1. Sadia Bibi of Pakistan has accepted a scholarship to complete the Masters degree at Uppsala University, Sweden
2. Kristine Tey of Australia was successful in being offered a scholarship in the Professional Development Certificate course at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Unfortunately, that course has since been postponed indefinitely by the university. Kristine has since been offered a Global Scholarship by D9800 to continue her higher education studies abroad.



### *Charitable Giving & Foundation Grants*

Rotary Central Melbourne continued to support giving to The Foundation as a part of its commitment to the constitutional obligation. In the club giving we donated \$10,700 to the Trust of The Foundation, thus meeting the RI Presidential Citation target of US\$100 per active club member.

Further to the club giving, individual members of Rotary Central Melbourne have continued to choose the Rotary Foundation as a charity of choice and given:

Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) - 10 members	Contributions to the Annual Fund
Sustaining - 9 members	Centurions who have given US\$100 or more to the Annual Fund
Paul Harris Society eligible - 6 members	Annual contribution of US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus or an approved Foundation Grant
Major Donor Level 1 - 3 members Major Donor Level 2 - 2 members	Recognition levels are defined as: Level 1 - US\$10,000 to \$24,999; Level 2 - US\$25,000 to \$49,999; Level 3 - US\$50,000 to \$99,999; Level 4 - US\$100,000 to \$249,999

## Foundation Memories



District Governor Amanda Wendt at the Paul Harris Breakfast.

Paul Harris Breakfast guest speaker  
Jeroen Weimar with MC Koren Harvey



## Fundraising

Director: Campbell Chambers

### Committee members

Malcolm Fielden

Herb Greenwood

Anne King

Daniel Lim

Frank O'Brien

Russell Rolls

Roger Thornton

After a couple of disjointed years our members got back in the swing of fundraising in earnest.

The Garden DesignFest was the centrepiece of our efforts. It was held over 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November with a majority of members giving up some time to support. The Club owes the Chair of the event Roger Thornton a debt of gratitude for his meticulous planning and commitment over many months to make it a financial success.

We have been fortunate to secure regular spots at both Collingwood and Port Melbourne Bunnings sausage sizzles, and with the increase in prices these have become a meaningful source of funds for the club. Again, so many members have given up their time this year but a special thanks to Neil Salvano, Frank O'Brien and Neville John at Collingwood and Rhys Williams, John Ilott and Peter Duras who have attended every event. We have also had members attend both locations regularly including Yanpu Zhang, Ignacio Inchausti, Paul Fowler and Rohan Williams; sometimes giving up a Saturday and Sunday on the same weekend to help out. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to come along to a sausage sizzle please give it a go. It is a terrific opportunity to engage with the public and to enjoy some social time with other club members.

The committee also supported the annual Paul Harris Breakfast which was in-person for the first time in three years. The raffle and virtual auction were very popular, and many members contributed items or were the winning bidders.

In addition to the above the Club ran a number of other fundraising activities in support of specific causes including Lift the Lid on Mental Health, Youth Projects and medical aid for Ukraine citizens. These were normally drawn during our on-line meetings and members were very generous in getting behind these events.

Finally, we would like to thank those who made individual donations to the club. Sometimes these were in lieu of attending the in-person breakfasts, but also just because they could. We appreciate your kindness to allow the Club to continue in its efforts to fund the various projects.

The committee is pleased to advise that as a result of all of the hard work from members the Club was able to raise \$70,000 during the year and we thank you for your contribution.

I would like to also thank the members of the fundraising committee personally for their ongoing support and I'm looking forward to next year. Just a reminder to all members that if you have any ideas regarding fundraising, please let us know so we can keep up the good work.



## Fundraising Memories



The Port Melbourne Bunnings team



Rohan Williams and Roger Thornton at White Hills Rd Garden DesignFest

## International Service

Director: Cecily Neil

### Committee members

Mawien Ariik

Suvam Ganguli

Jo Garretty

Rob Hines

Neville John

Frank O'Brien

Alan Seale (until October 2022)

Annet Brouwer

Roy Garrett

Herb Greenwood

Maureen Jackson (until November 2022)

Daniel Lim

Russell Rolls

Rhys Williams

### Summary

The International Service Committee is responsible, on behalf of Rotary Central Melbourne, for conducting overseas projects, managing relationships with our sister clubs (RC of Echuca-Moama, RC of Rabindra Sarobar, Kolkata, RC of Cork and RC Osaka–Midosuji Hommachi, Japan), providing resources for Donations-in-Kind (DIK) and supporting other Rotary projects such as Rotary Against Malaria and Disaster Aid Australia.

With the waning impact of the pandemic, the International Service Committee has been able to become fully active again in 2022-23, with past plans reignited, and new projects completed.

### Projects

#### The Clean Water and Sanitation Project, Cambodia

Last year a District Grant, together with a donation from Rotary Central Melbourne, helped fund the provision of potable water, sanitary toilets, and sanitation training in the village of Kok Tnoth, about 30 minutes from Siem Reap, Cambodia – a project initiated by the NGO Cambodian Clean Water and Toilets. This year, again supported by Rotary Central Melbourne, and this time by our Sister Club in Cork, Ireland, the Cambodian Clean Water and Toilets Project expanded into the neighbouring village of Kok Benh. Again, the project is providing residents with bore water and toilets with sealed septic tanks.

Both these projects have two critical features: first, they seek to provide infrastructure, and to change behaviour; secondly, they seek to ensure that all families in a community – either a cluster or the whole village – have potable water and sanitary toilets. Achieving these two goals is important if the full impact of improved water and sanitation on health and quality of life is to be realised.

Following the success of these two projects, Rotary Central Melbourne is now involved in a major new project in Cambodia. This new project involves a collaboration between Rotary clubs in Australia, the USA, Thailand, Ireland, and Cambodia. The project objective is to enhance the safety and dignity of women in Cambodia through the construction of toilets and washrooms. The project is the subject of two separate Global Grant applications with World of Difference, our District project, playing a significant role in both.



The first grant is intended to cover health and hygiene training and the further construction of toilets and washrooms in Kok Benh by a team of local residents trained and paid for by the Clean Water and Sanitation NGO. It will construct another 130-150 toilets and washrooms.

The second grant with which Rotary Central Melbourne will be directly involved, will deliver 200-220 toilets and washrooms in the village of Tapour. A second team of villagers will be trained, with the Cambodian Clean Water and Sanitation NGO providing training in the correct construction techniques and overseeing quality control. The workers will be paid for completion to the specified standard of each toilet and washroom. This will build a sustainable ongoing project team that will be equipped to build these toilets and washrooms to agreed specifications in the future.

The second Global Grant application is still in the drafting stage. The partner will be Build Your Future Today, a not-for-profit organisation headed by a Cambodian. The project has the in-principle agreement to participate from four clubs in District 9800, RC Mooropna (District 9790), Edmund Daybreakers (District 5030 Seattle), RC Northern Beaches (District 9685 Sydney), RC Cork (District 1160 Ireland) and the District 9800 World of Difference.

### [Menstrual Hygiene and Education for Girls in Lou-Ariik Village, South Sudan](#)

Many girls in Lou-Ariik Village in South Sudan lack adequate means of protection during menstruation. As a result, they may miss school for five or more days a month or face social stigma. Lack of hygienic means of protection is also a potential health risk.

The Menstrual Hygiene and Education for Girls in Lou-Ariik Village Project in South Sudan was a collaborative project between Rotary Central Melbourne, the South Sudan Health Matters Inc (in Australia), the Chagai Foundation (in South Sudan), and Rotary Australia World Community Service. An MOU was signed with the Chagai Foundation to distribute 800 'Days for Girls' sanitary kits (sourcing the hygiene kits made in Uganda) to schoolgirls in three locations and to provide menstrual hygiene training to these girls, as well as to some health providers and some boys.

The project has now been completed. Some 800 reusable menstrual hygiene kits, along with 400 donated Modibodi leakproof menstrual kits were distributed with a carefully designed education program on menstrual hygiene and women's sanitary hygiene carried out prior to distribution. The intended outcome was to improve school retention, education performance and health. In essence, the project was designed to empower girls, address the stigma and traditional cultural mores of menstruation in a sensitive way, and to reduce infection rates. The extent to which the project has achieved this is being carefully monitored.

In designing the education program, a train-the-trainer model was developed to help women in the village gain sanitary hygiene knowledge that would remain with the area as human capital for reuse in the future.

### [The SkyHydrant Project, Philippines](#)

Two SkyHydrants have been donated to the RC of Ortigas Central for installation in communities with no access to water other than deep wells, the water from which is not potable. There has been some delay in the installation of these SkyHydrants due to a misunderstanding on the part of the local Rotary Club as to what was involved in their installation. Arrangements have now been made for two members of the club to be trained in the installation and maintenance of SkyHydrants. A strategy for sustainability has also been discussed with the local Rotary Club, including issues such as budgeting for asset maintenance. It is expected that the project will now be completed in relative short time.

### *The School Library, Laos*

This project has been in the pipeline for some time, the start having been delayed due to the impact of the pandemic. However, news arrived recently that they are now ready in Laos to start the project. It is anticipated that construction will begin in October or November 2023.

### *Involvement with Sister Clubs*

Rotary Central Melbourne has four Sister Clubs: RC of Echuca-Moama, RC of Rabindra Sarobar, Kolkata, India, RC of Cork, Ireland, and RC Osaka–Midosuji Hommachi, Japan.

This year, close relations have again been maintained with our Sister Club of RC of Echuca-Moama. Shared activities have included:

- work with Echuca-Moama members to help clean up several houses in Rochester that were badly affected by the floods;
- the donation of \$3,000 to this Sister Club to assist them in providing flood relief; and
- the delivery of boxes of children's clothing donated by Caprice to the Echuca-Moama Club for distribution to the children of East Echuca Primary School whose homes were on the wrong side of the levee during the recent floods. This activity simultaneously helped our Sister Club, indigenous families, and the country.

A hospitality dinner was also organised for Sister Club members attending the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne in May.

### *Donations-in-Kind (DIK)*

Rotary Central Melbourne has provided assistance to Donations-in-Kind via rental support and working bees on site at the warehouse in West Footscray.

### *Other Activities*

Other activities throughout this year have included:

- donation of \$3,000 for medical aid for Ukrainian citizens, and
- funding of four ShelterBoxes for disaster relief in Turkey and Syria.

## International Service Memories



Workers at Donations-in-Kind



Cambodian clean water and sanitation project





Learning about menstruation, South Sudan



Sister Club Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi dinner



Sister Club Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi dinner prior to the Rotary International Convention

Working bee at Rochester with Sister Club Echuca-Moama



## Vocational Service

Director: Ignacio Inchausti

### Committee members:

Warwick Cavell	Sonia Dhillon
Paul Fowler	Puja Ganguli
Kerrie Hicks	John Illott
Kevin Love	Nicholas Oei
Sarah Overton	Neil Salvano
Alan Seale	Rob Soros
Millie Swann	Neville Taylor
Rhys Williams	

### *From the RI Website*

Vocational Service is the essence of Rotary from which we serve our communities around the world. It is rooted in the second Object of Rotary which calls on Rotarians to encourage and foster:

- High ethical standards in business and professions.
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations.
- The dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Building on last year the Vocational Service Team was able to remain active through and coming out of Covid. Another successful year!

### *Our key projects*

#### Victoria Police Leadership Mentoring Program

VPLMP is a joint project of Rotary, Victoria Police and the business community. It involves all Rotary districts in Victoria and has two streams, one of which matches Rotarians with Senior Sergeants with a focus on community engagement and ethical leadership.

Over the 2022-23 Rotary Year the participants have enjoyed active and fruitful relationships. The continuing commitment from mentors and positive feedback from mentees is testament to the solid, effective and efficient teamwork and stewardship on display. This applies to the volunteer mentors, the Club's Program Coordinator, Victoria Police Steering Committee and, of course the cohort of mentees. The 2022-23 program concluded with a celebratory breakfast on 6th June 2023 at the RACV Club, Melbourne.

### Ambulance Victoria Leadership Mentoring Program

AV decided to pause the program for 2023 to allow stakeholders to conduct an evaluation of all AV's leadership program outcomes. This will help reflect on lessons to apply for future programs and reinforce positive aspects.

The committee has commenced an internal review of the program to highlight the value of the program for Ambulance Victoria's evaluation.

### International Student Mentoring Program (MentorMatch)

This program is intended to help international students acclimatise to Melbourne, its vibe and culture and integrate successfully as Melburnians during their studies. The venture is led by MentorMatch and Rotary Central Melbourne recruits Rotarian mentors.

This year the program comprised a cohort of Indian students. Regular feedback indicated all mentor/mentee relationships were successful and participants were happy with their experiences.

This program has the potential to have a significant impact on the Victorian economy as well as the reputation of RCM and Rotary more broadly within government and the broader community.

### New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE)

We hosted David Rosenberg (violinist from Germany) and Charly Brielmaier (final year medical student from Germany).

In the coming Rotary year, with the assistance of DGE Michael Lapiña, the Club will be sending mezzo-soprano Olivia Federow-Yemm to Germany to further her professional career. She will be departing in August 2023.

The Club is also expecting the arrival of inbound musician from Germany, Charlotte Hornauer who will be hosted during a 6-week period by two of our members.

We will see a change in NGSE Committee membership with Alan Seale, stepping down and handing the reins to Sarah Overton. The NGSE program has great potential to develop across various vocations and industries and is seen as an important element of the Vocational Service program.



## Vocational Service Memories



NGSE exchangee, David Rosenberg



VPLMP mentee Tania Vanston, DG  
Amanda Wendt, mentor Paul Fowler,  
Asst Commissioner Kevin Casey



VPLMP mentor Neil Salvano, DG  
Amanda Wendt, mentee Anthony Vella  
and Asst Commissioner Kevin Casey

VPLMP mentor Warwick Cavell  
congratulated by DG Amanda and Asst  
Commissioner Kevin Casey



## Youth Service

Director: Rhys Williams

### Committee members:

Grace Davidson

Rana Ebrahimi

David Laurie

Kevin Love

Doug Robertson

Yanpu Zhang

Trevor Dymond

Neville John

Elias Lebbos

Lady Pastidio

Rohan Williams

### Overview

The Youth Service Committee offered a range of Rotary and Club-specific programs to benefit young people. The focus of RCM's youth service is to assist both young people directly and persons involved in providing services to young people. The outcomes of the programs supported are described below.

Strategically, the committee concentrated on the following activities as it 'rebounded' from the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Locating new long-term partners (schools and other organisations) to provide participants for the existing and potentially new Rotary programs supported by the Club. To this end, the Club has formed a partnership with Victoria Police Legacy which supports the families of police members who have died.

The major initiative will be an international community service and leadership development tour in the following year for a group of approximately 25 legatees between 18 and 25 years of age. The tour will be run by Rotary World of Difference and visit Cambodian Rotary project sites.

- The Club is developing employability and public speaking projects for launch in the new year.

### *Silk Miller Scholarship*

The Club continued to fund the long-running Rotary Silk-Miller Scholarship. The scholarship provides further study funding support for a Victoria Police officer involved in youth services. Scholarship recipients are selected jointly by the Club and Victoria Police. The scholarship covers 50% of the individual's tuition fee for each of the four units in the University of Melbourne's Graduate Certificate in Adolescent Health and Wellbeing.

During the past year the Club funded two scholarship holders. To deepen our partnership, the Club secured agreement for the 2023 calendar year for the University of Melbourne to make a financial contribution to a new recipient. Under this arrangement the University Department offering the course and the Club will fund, in equal measure, 50% of the individual's tuition fee.

### *Youth Mental Health First Aid*

The Club was successful in its application for a grant of approximately \$8,000 from the City of Melbourne to offer the above course to persons working with young people in the geographical area of the city. The Club was able to offer five courses to approximately 70 persons. Reported course satisfaction was very positive. It is hoped to locate a partner to enable us to continue this initiative, in conjunction with partners.

### *Bernie Gerlinger 'Hope for the Future' Scholarships*

In partnership with Steps Outreach Service, a program of Concern Australia, the Club provided scholarships to assist disadvantaged young people to overcome barriers to educational success. Over the year, the scholarships provide financial support and mentoring and support for six primary and secondary students. The results to date have been positive.

This program commemorates the memory of long-time member the late Bernie Gerlinger.

### *Rotary Youth Programs: RYLA, RYPEN and MUNA*

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) are youth leadership programs offered in developmental camps for 18 and above and 15–18-year-olds respectively.

MUNA is a Model United Nations Assembly meeting. The Club allocated funds to support these programs. Unfortunately, due to the lack of current youth partnerships, we succeeded in providing only one person for the RYLA program. The recipient reported that the program was beneficial.

## Youth Service Memories



Silk-Miller Scholarship 2023  
awardee, Joshua Guy

### Silk-Miller Scholarship Award presentation:

- Dr David Broderick (VicPol)
- Supt Kelly Lawson (VicPol)
- Sen Const Joshua Guy (VicPol)
- Dr Ani Wierenga (UniMelb)
- Doug Robertson (RCM program coordinator)



# Club Officers' Reports

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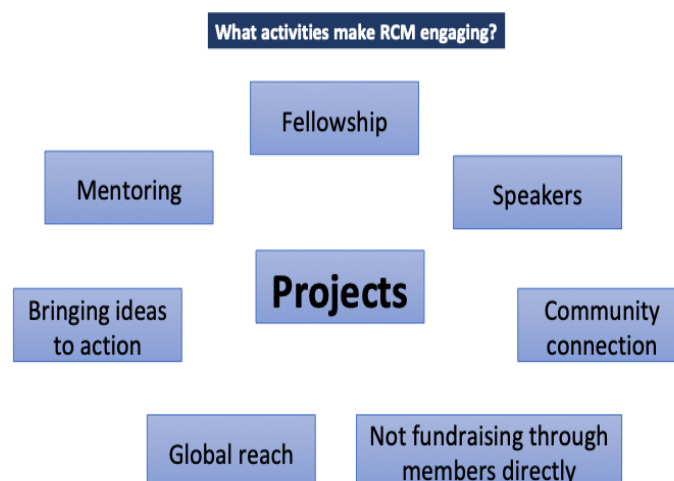
## Membership

### Club Membership Objectives

The objective of membership recruitment and retention activity in 2022-23 was to continue to ensure that new and existing members are engaged in the club to their level of their satisfaction. The club believes that people will join and remain in Rotary if we offer them a range of interesting projects and activities to engage in.

The results of surveys over recent years revealed that our members like to be involved in hands-on service work, fellowship and vocational activities and are very positive about what the club is doing. The survey identified the following main areas of value:

Project work and the speaker program were the two most commonly referred to activities which make our club's value proposition engaging



### Outcomes of Membership Activities

Club members were asked to continue their efforts in identifying friends and colleagues who may be interested in our projects and activities. Four member referrals resulted in new members joining and I thank the members who introduced these people. I look forward to more referrals in the year ahead.

### Diversity

The gender mix in the club is 37% female and 63% male (2022 – 32% and 68%).

The age diversity shows that:

- 33% of members are age 70+ (2022 - 33%)
- 18% are aged between age 60 and 69 (2022 – 22%)
- 18% are aged between 50 and 59 (2022 - 22%); and
- 31% of the club is under the age of 50 (2022 - 23%).



The diversity in the club is continuing to show that the group has a good mix of experience, and our activities are attracting both women and men. This doesn't just happen by itself, and every member can assist in member development by taking time to help newer members find something to engage in and to invite someone they feel would enjoy helping others to get involved in our activities.

The approach to new member recruitment will continue to evolve in 2023-24 as will the approach to membership retention to ensure all members continue to be provided opportunities to be engaged in club activities.

### *Membership Statistics for 2022-23*

We started the year on 1 July 2022 with 58 members, welcomed seven new members and had three resignations during 2022-23, finishing the year with 62 members. The aim for 2023-24 will be to increase membership to 65 members.

#### *New Members:*

Amir Dast Aziz, Nicholas Oei, Grace Davidson, Annet Brouwer, Jo Garretty, Kerrie Hicks, Puja Ganguli.

Thank you to members who have been involved in mentoring new members during the year. Thank you also to Roger Thornton for his assistance in organising pins, badges and other new member related materials.

#### *No Longer Members:*

Amir Dast Aziz (transfer to Sydney), Des Benjamin (retirement), Adele Le Roux (work relocation).

#### *Honorary Membership*

Honorary Membership is offered to members who have distinguished themselves by giving meritorious service to the club and in the furtherance of Rotary ideals. The current Honorary Members of Rotary Central Melbourne are:

Brian Downie, Geoff Fairhall, Keith Frampton, Marjorie Gerlinger, Steven Hallis, Brett Jones, Bruce McBain, Lorraine Meehan, Heather Walklate.

### *Conclusion*

Rotary Central Melbourne provides a wide range of project engagement opportunities, which is an important part of attracting new and retaining existing members. Some other important elements of what makes RCM relevant include the quality of meetings, flexibility in managing our members' time and life circumstances, the care and support we provide one another, the friendly disposition of our members and the respect we show for one another.

As we are still predominantly a group whose members work (or have worked) in the central business district and live in the suburbs (and beyond), we are susceptible to members leaving due to changes in work and living circumstances. Consequently, we need to constantly be watchful for prospective members to invite to our meetings and events, which will give us the opportunity to demonstrate how enjoyable it is to be involved.

Neville John

Membership Development Chair



## New members



Annet Brouwer



Grace Davidson



Puja Ganguli



Jo Garretty



Kerrie Hicks



Nicholas Oei

# Strategic Advisory Group

## Membership

Rohan Williams (President)

Campbell Chambers (President Nominee)

Therese Robinson (Vice President – Club)

Michelle Crawford (President-elect)

Neville Taylor (Vice President – Strategy)

Elias Lebbos (Immediate Past President)

The Rotary Central Melbourne Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) was initiated in the 2017-18 Rotary year specifically to research and advise the then Board of the potential for a corporate membership package. The SAG was later formalised as an ongoing strategy to enhance advice to the subsequent boards on strategy, planning and governance.

There are two ongoing areas of focus for the SAG.

## Strategy

In this ongoing capacity the purpose of the SAG is to identify and recommend strategy to the board to ensure the relevance and health of the club into the future by (but not necessarily limited to):

- Engaging members in developing the club strategy and club priorities.
- Drafting and maintaining the club's one-page plan including the strategic pillars of Rotary and RI's current priorities.
- Conducting a 90-day pulse check on the plan and reporting to the Board.
- Communication of progress against the one-page plan to the club on a regular basis.
- Overseeing the club visioning process – development and ongoing implementation.
- Getting consistency of direction across the years (i.e. change of presidents).
- Systemising processes – reducing dependency on individuals e.g. knowledge-banking and continuity issues.
- Driving and encouraging innovation e.g. use of technology.
- Providing support to committees as required.

## President pipeline

Highlights for 2022-23

- Pulse check of the club's strategic plan and reinforcing the Mission and Purpose of Rotary Central Melbourne for the 2023-24 year is to be a progressive and connected club with strong networks and a diverse membership. A catalyst for social change in the communities we serve.
- President pipeline reviewed with future club leaders identified to be supported over the coming years with their Rotary leadership development.
- Hosted a dinner and induction session for those in the President pipeline.
- Conducted the third members' survey and advised the Board on options for modifications to weekly meeting schedules and member engagement initiatives.

**Neville Taylor**

**Vice President (Strategy)**

## Treasurer's Report – Doug Robertson

### Profit and Loss (unaudited)

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

#### *Club Service*

##### **Income**

Breakfast revenue	21,988
Changeover income	5,400
Interest income	793
Joining Fee	205
Other revenue	11,877
Subscription income	17,762
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>58,023</b>

##### **Operating Expenses**

Badges & engraving	427
Bank fees	114
Breakfast expense	21,439
Changeover	5,895
Chubb Ins claim for reimbursement of travellers	11,877
ClubRunner	987
Computer	191
Consulting & accounting	635
Flowers & gifts	491
Postage & post box	218
Printing & stationery	145
Reconnection dinners – Aug22	21
Rotary District Levy	6,443
Rotary Down Under	2,182
Rotary International	6,079
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>57,143</b>

<b>Club Service Surplus</b>	<b>880</b>
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## Committees

### Fundraising

#### Income

Sausage sizzles	27,994
"Cooking for Charity" dinner	2,000
Donations	1,164
Garden DesignFest	10,915
Lift the Lid on Mental Health	725
Raffle revenue	4,351
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>47,148</b>

#### Expenses

Bank fees	357
Garden DesignFest expenses	871
Raffle expense	606
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,834</b>

### Community Service

#### Income

Sleeping bag donations	1,345
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,345</b>

#### Expenses

Lift the Lid donation	725
RIMERN	1,000
Rotary Echuca-Moama flood relief	3,000
Sleeping bags – Youth Projects	1,345
Youth Projects (equipment purchase)	1,728
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,798</b>

**Deficit (funded by Fundraising)** **(6,453)**

### Foundation

#### Income

Paul Harris Breakfast	4,793
Paul Harris Breakfast raffle & silent auction	6,402
Donations	449
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,644</b>

#### Expenses

Paul Harris Breakfast expense	568
Eradicate Polio	1,600
Rotary Foundation	7,850
Royce Abbey	1,250
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,268</b>

**Surplus** **376**



## International

### Income

RC Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi donation	2,200
ShelterBoxes for Turkey and Syria	5,499
Taste of Africa – fundraising	240
Taste of Africa – funds raised 2021-22	1,985
District Grant – South Sudan Health Matters	3,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,924</b>

### Expenses

Donations-in-Kind	3,500
Interplast	500
International visitors	188
Medical Aid for Ukraine	4,300
Philippines SkyHydrant project	4,000
RAWCS overseas aid	500
ShelterBox Australia	5,500
Osaka-Midosuji Hommachi Sister Club fellowship	958
South Sudan Education Support for Girls	3,000
South Sudan Health Matters Inc	2,225
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>24,671</b>

**Deficit (funded by Fundraising)** **(11,747)**

## Youth

### Income

Bernie Gerlinger <i>Hope for the Future</i> Scholarship	1,000
Youth Mental Health First Aid grant – City of Melbourne	7,060
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,060</b>

### Expenses

Concern Australia - <i>Hope for the Future</i>	5,000
D9800 RYLA Program	864
Silk Miller Scholarship	6,390
Youth Mental Health First Aid Project	7,041
Victoria Police Legacy	700
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,995</b>

**Deficit (funded by Fundraising)** **(11,935)**

## Vocational Service

### Expenses

	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>

**Deficit (funded by Fundraising)** **0**

*Profit and Loss Summary by Committee*  
*Year Ended 30 June 2023*

Committee	Surplus/(Deficit) \$
Club Service	880
Community Service	(6,453)
Foundation	376
Fundraising	45,314
International Service	(11,747)
Vocational Service	0
Youth Service	(11,935)
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>16,435</b>

## Balance Sheet (unaudited)

As at 30 June 2023

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
<u>Bank</u>	
Debit Card	110
General	6,095
Investment Cash Reserve Account	46,189
Local projects	2
Miscellaneous	2
Overseas projects	2
Westpac term deposit	75,000
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>127,400</b>
 <u>Current Assets</u>	
Accounts receivable	274
Cash float BBQ	200
Cash float	200
Other debtors	8,030
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>8,704</b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>Current Liabilities</u>	
Accounts payable	0
Deferred income – Garden DesignFest	10,044
GST	(965)
Ian Angus bequest	12,833
Bernie Gerlinger Hope for the Future Fund	7,969
W & M Jacobs bequest	18,045
Other liabilities	10,929
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>58,855</b>
 <b>Net Assets</b>	<b>77,249</b>
 <b>Equity</b>	
Current year earnings	16,435
Administration reserves	38,223
Retained earnings	22,591
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>77,249</b>

## Central Melbourne Rotarians Serving on District Committees

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Name	District role
<i>Warwick Cavell</i>	District strategic planning resource <i>ad hoc</i> role
<i>Suvam Ganguli</i>	District Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group
<i>Kerrie Hicks</i>	RCM representative on Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) steering committee
<i>Rob Hines</i>	World of Difference – Vice Chair
<i>John Ilott</i>	Victoria Police Leadership Mentoring Program Steering Committee
<i>Ignacio Inchausti</i>	District Vocational Champions Group - member
<i>Neville John</i>	Vice Governor Foundation Grants Auditor Youth Exchange Ambassador
<i>Anne King</i>	District Secretary
<i>Kevin Love</i>	Victoria Police Leadership Mentoring Program – Rotary Coordinator
<i>Justine Murphy</i>	District Assistant Secretary District Strategic Planning Committee - member
<i>Cecily Neil</i>	RAWCS D9800 Sanitation and Hygiene Coordinator
<i>Sarah Overton</i>	District Vocational Service Director
<i>Therese Robinson</i>	Assistant Governor – Eastside Cluster
<i>Alan Seale</i>	New Generations Service Exchange Committee - Chair
<i>Rob Soros</i>	Ambulance Victoria Leadership Mentoring Program - Rotary Coordinator
<i>Neville Taylor</i>	District Foundation Peace Scholarship Sub-committee – member RCM representative on Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) steering committee



# Office Bearers and Directors since Charter in 1987

Directors														
Year	President	Vice Pres	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant	Vocational	Community	Youth	International	Club Admin	Foundation	Fundraising	Horizons	Bulletin
1987-1988	T Cocks	B Gilbert	D Mitchell	R Stone	A Forbes	P Sharman	D Swanton	C Akerley	B Johnson	B Tassell	N/A	N/A	N/A	G John
1988-1989	C Akerley	B Gilbert	J Hall	P Comley	L Butterfield	C Ferris	I Angus	D Farrell	H Greenwood	G Pitt	N/A	B Lockwood	N/A	F O’Brien
1989-1990	H Greenwood	R Thomas R Stone	T Callander	C Lavender	B Gilbert	D Swanton J Wright	I Angus	G Pitt	G Pitt	M Moorfield	N/A	P Denham	N/A	B King
1990-1991	M Moorfield	R Thomas	G Upton	J Meehan	R Taggart	I Angus	J Wright	B Bowman	B King	D Cassidy	N/A	C Lavender	N/A	B Bassat
1991-1992	D Cassidy	R Thomas	D Blyth	N Smart	G Pitt	R Taggart	B Gilder	B Bowman	D Swanton	J Meehan	N/A	B Boyd	N/A	H Greenwood
1992-1993	J Meehan	P Comley	R Taggart	B Gerlinger	J Hall	N Smart	S Hallis	R Gilding	P Maguire	L Butterfield	M Moorfield	K Frampton	N/A	H Greenwood
1993-1994	L Butterfield	R Stone	B Sampson	B Gerlinger	K Frampton	A Seale	S Hallis	G Maloney	I Rust	M Holland	C Akerley	F O’Brien	N/A	K Waldron
1994-1995	T Callander	R Stone	D Neilson	B Gerlinger	G Maloney	D Mitchell	S Hallis	P Maguire	P Routledge	B Sampson	C Akerley	J Eddy	N/A	I Angus
1995-1996	G Upton	J Meehan	B Bassat	B McBain	B Gerlinger	P Comley	G Rogers	J Selak	J Wright	A Seale	T Callander	M Dumais	N/A	D Blyth
1996-1997	R Stone	H Greenwood B Sampson	N John	N Shepherd	F O’Brien	B Tassell	M Bromby	K Keele	D Gibb	M Holland	M Gerlinger	D Neilson	J Meehan	R O’Donnell
1997-1998	K Frampton	K Keele F O’Brien	S Hallis	E Estlin	P Comley	M Holland	J Selak	B McBain	D Neilson	G Rogers	B Tassell	N John	G Trainor	W Pittaway
1998-1999	B Sampson	D Neilson R Foenander	B McBain	J Wright	S Hallis	P Conquest	R Norman	M McAninly	M Gerlinger	F O’Brien	I Murray	N John C Malkin	R Stone	S Kroeger
1999-2000	B Gerlinger	B McBain R Foenander	A Driver	J Wright	M Holland	G Farrell	P Conquest	R Norman	R Bowen	N John	F O’Brien	C Malkin	K Frampton	M Gerlinger
2000-2001	S Hallis	R Norman K Frampton	N John	B McBain	G Rogers	T Thomas	A Driver	K Love	M Bromby	M Gerlinger	J Meehan	C Malkin	N/A	B Heron
2001-2002	A Seale	J Meehan B Gerlinger	G Tong	K Walklate	M Bromby	M McAninly	M Gerlinger	F O’Brien	A Imbardelli	R Norman	B McBain	J Selak	N/A	P Daniels
2002-2003	N John	M Holland B Gerlinger	M Bromby	K Walklate	M McAninly	B McBain	K Frampton	S Kroeger	A Driver	S Bell	S Hallis	J Selak	J Meehan	T Thomas
2003-2004	M Gerlinger	J Selak A Seale	P Conquest	K Walklate	R Norman D Robertson	K Stevens	J Ilott	P Daniels	A Driver	M McAninly A King	P Comley	K Campbell	J Meehan	T Thomas
2004-2005	M Bromby	P Conquest N John	G Hogan	J Mirams	K Walklate	L McMeekan	A Driver	B Gerlinger	R Thornton	P Maguire	G Farrell	A Seale L Walker	P Daniels	T Thomas
2005-2006	B McBain	R Bowen P Maguire	J Ilott	K Stevens	L McMeekan	A Driver	C White	E Fenby	A King	R Thornton	P Conquest	K Walklate	J Meehan	T Thomas

Year	President	Vice Pres	Pres-Elect	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant	Directors							Bulletin
2006-2007	<b>S Bell</b>	R Thornton	J Ilott	J Meehan	M Gerlinger	M Voice	R Bowen	G Edgecombe	A King	P Maguire				T Thomas
2007-2008	<b>J Ilott</b>	T Callander	R Thornton	A King	M Gerlinger	B Gerlinger	G Edgecombe	G Hogan	N John	K Walklate				T Thomas
2008-2009	<b>R Thornton</b>	A King	K Love	D Jones	M Gerlinger	T Thomas	G Edgecombe	M Lapiña	G Mills	N Salvano				T Thomas
2009-2010	<b>K Love</b>	A Driver	A King Also Fundraising	D Jones	R Riebeling	D Robertson	S Bell	M Lapiña	J Murphy	N Salvano				T Thomas
2010-2011	<b>A King</b>	H Greenwood	K Walklate	D Jones	M Gerlinger	H Greenwood	A Driver	M Lapiña	B McBain	J Murphy	T Thomas			R Riebeling
2011-2012	<b>K Walklate</b>	M Gerlinger	K Stevens Also Club Service	N Salvano	D Robertson	E Stockdale	A Driver	K Love	J Murphy	J Warner	M Wells			R Riebeling
2012-2013	<b>K Stevens</b>	T Callander	D Robertson Also Community	N Salvano	B Gerlinger	M Bromby	R Garrett	D Park	K Steiner	N Taylor	M Wells			B McBain R Stevens R Riebeling T Thomas
2013-2014	<b>D Robertson</b>	A Seale	R Garrett Also International	B McBain	Y Zhang	M Bromby	J Cavanagh	G Cuthbert	G Mackey	R Stevens R Thornton	N Taylor			D Jones K Steiner T Thomas
2014-2015	<b>R Garrett</b>	T Callander	G Mackey Also Youth	T Thomas	Y Zhang	B Gerlinger	G Cuthbert	D Jones	F O’Brien	N Taylor N Salvano	R Thornton			D Jones
2015-2016	<b>G Mackey</b>	M Gerlinger	J Murphy	N Salvano	D Robertson	<b>Presenter</b> T Thomas	G Cuthbert	P Duras	K Harvey	R Hines	A King	R Thornton		A Driver
2016-2017	<b>J Murphy</b>	A Seale (Operations) W Cavell (Strategy)	F O’Brien	N Salvano	K Walklate	<b>Presenter</b> T Thomas	S Ellis	P Fraser	M Gerlinger	R Hines	A King	N Taylor		D Jones
2017-2018	<b>F O’Brien</b>	M Gerlinger (Operations) W Cavell (Strategy)	N Taylor	N Salvano	K Walklate M Gerlinger	G Hogan	S Ellis	P Fraser	H Greenwood	R Hines	E Lebbos	A Seale		D Jones R Soros
2018-2019	<b>N Taylor</b>	K Love (Club) W Cavell (Strategy)	W Cavell	K Harvey	B Gerlinger C Chambers (asst)	G Hogan	H Greenwood	R Hines	E Lebbos	S Overton	T Robinson	R Soros		R Williams
2019-2020	<b>W Cavell</b>	N John	T Robinson	P Fraser	A King	B Jones	H Greenwood	R Hines	G Hogan	E Lebbos	S Overton	R Williams		N Clift
2020-2021	<b>T Robinson</b>	A King (Club) K Love (Strategy)	E Lebbos	P Fraser	M Langton	<b>Presenter</b> B Jones	W Cavell	A Driver	R Hines	D Laurie	C Neil	N Taylor	R Williams	N Clift I Inchausti
2021-2022	<b>E Lebbos</b>	N Taylor (Club) K Love (Strategy)	Rohan Williams	P Fowler	M Langton	<b>Presenter</b> B Jones	W Cavell	A Driver	R Hines	D Laurie	A le Roux	C Neil	T Robinson	I Inchausti
2022-2023	<b>Rohan Williams</b>	N Taylor (Strategy) T Robinson (Club)	M Crawford (also Community)	P Fowler	D Robertson		C Chambers	M Crawford	S Ganguli	I Inchausti	E Lebbos	C Neil	Rhys Williams	D Lim