

ROTARY CLUB OF BELCONNEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Rotary Belconnen



PRESIDENT

It is a great privilege to serve as President of the club in our 50th Year. The contributions of this club to the social fabric of Canberra, the nation and indeed the international community have been immense, sustained and impactful.

This year we celebrated this history and our legacy - a legacy that informs our planning for the next 50 years.

I'd like to think that at our 100th Anniversary, I might be lucky enough to be amongst the membership as an 85 year old - talking to younger members about the old days of RCB, as many members often do with me.

As I look around RCB I see a group of people who collectively have contributed so much both as members and as partners in the Rotary mission

'The same can be said for the families and friends of our members, who contribute so much to our activities through support and lending a hand to get things done.

I'd also like to acknowledge the close relationships and support of clubs from across our district and beyond, ours is a shared history of contribution and service.

There have been so many standout achievements in this difficult year, many of which were detailed in this publication. The contribution of RCB this year has been outstanding.

Despite the challenges of 2020-21 we persevere, we will continue to deliver outcomes for our community.



ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Committee 2020-21 had taken up several projects. However, Covid-19 caused many to be dropped, and the funds redistributed to other projects in some instances.

The Shepherd Centre Project was organised by Len Glare where the club members painted the centre and purchased a play rug for the centre.

The committee supported John Sheldrick's request for helping the Parkinson ACT by making a partial payment towards marketing material. This material is used to advertise the skills of an OT specialist who is volunteering to advise and assist with Aged Care and other relevant providers' information. Additional funds were provided to assist the cost of retaining the OT.

The committee supported Young Carers ACT through Audrey Wells by sponsoring a rock climbing event which was enjoyed by all participants. Part of the funds were used to purchase sports equipment that the Young Carers could use during their day off.

Kylie-Anne Rich organised fund raising through Zoom on Mental Health Day. The amount raised was \$105 and the committee matched the amount which was given to the Rotary Mental Health.

Upon the request for an electric life chair for senior citizens who have difficulty in getting up from the chair, the committee provided \$600 towards purchase of an electric chair to the Holistic Covenant Chair.

Because of Covid-19, Dream Cricket did not take place and the funds were allocated to purchase two batteries which Fred Fawke used in electric scooters for RRR project. As the extra shed used by RRR was short of rental fee from April to July, the committee covered the cost.

On the schools' front, the committee paid SVPACT to support their insurance of their Meccano project through Bob Greeney. He also organised the delivery of coffee grinds from Grind to Ground to schools.

The committee worked with Ginninderra Catchment by paying for the purchase of a mobile frog and tadpole display terrarium which is used to take frogs to schools and primary schools, and also replacement of a permanent display terrarium to house out of state frogs so that they will not affect ACT native frog population.

An amount for \$200 was kept aside to support the fundraising of 1000 Mile walk for SIDS. The amount will be given after the completion of the walk in the next term. Also, an amount of \$250 was allocated to John Sheldrick to purchase material to fix the benches which will be installed by the club members.

While Leo Farrelly built shelves for the Roundabout project, due to Covid, the project was stalled. The remaining funds were added to other rolled-back projects, and some amount was used to support Give Every Child a Future project which is a Rotary 100th year project.

Wayne Jeffs's Indigenous Projects suffered because of Covid, so we shifted focus towards End Tracoma. we will continue to work on this activity next year.

The annual Christmas hamper project went on in spite of Covid-19 restrictions. We prepared and donated 320 bags. This year, the committee as well as the Board decided to include a \$20 gift voucher in the hampers. While Rod Gardiner headed the project, Ginninderra Rotary Club volunteered support during the packing along with our club members.

The Calvary Rotary Cottage fencing project, which was handled by Bob Greeney, was completed. The club members replaced the broken fence with a sturdy fence, provided shade, laid brick pathways along with a cover, and Ginninderra Rotary club provided volunteers to do the work.

The committee chair would like to thank President Dylan as well as all the Community Services Committee members for their support and encouragement inspite of Covid-19 setbacks. A special thanks to Bob Greeney for mentoring me during this term.

VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE

We had a successful Vocational Excellence Awards Evening on the 21st October 2021. Kate Carnell the Small Business Ombudsman joined us as guest speaker.

5 awards were given on the night to:

- Anita O'Meara - Curves Gym
- Betty Lam - Baringa Day Care and Early Learning Centre
- Samantha Kourtis - Charnwood Capital Chemist
- Michael McDevitt - Magpies Sports Club
- Brady Souden - Econ Electrical & Data

NYSF was done mainly online in Jan 2021 with some on site visits. We were able to support 3 students to attend.

The Committee Chair is in contact with the University of Canberra to try to renew our scholarship agreements which expired early this year.

Unfortunately, RYLA was cancelled. Similarly, vocational visits were impractical due to covid.

RRR (RECOVER, REHABILITATE, REUSE)

The operations of RRR have continued throughout the year drawing on the physical support of numerous Rotarians and with the cooperation of both private citizens, public bodies and corporate entities.

The major operations provided support to communities within Australia and overseas. The outstanding success was in the supply of medical aids to private citizens and governmental and private agencies.

A major initiative was the recovery and redistribution of steel roofing to farmers affected by drought, bushfires and flooding.

YOUTH

The Chair would like to thank Rod Gardiner for his membership, assistance and contributions to the above during this year. Thank you to to Dylan and Wayne Jeffs for their support.

It has been a fairly busy year with the Youth Committee. We supported the following activities

- Awarded seven (7) TNT Scholarships to various high school and college students amounting to \$1000/scholarship,
- Sponsored a student to attend Australian Science Olympiads Summer School,
- Supported 2 small regional schools to revamp their library books and readers,
- Assisted St Monica's Evatt to purchase Jigsaw Puzzles and Games for their students,
- Assisted Hawker Primary to build a chicken coop
- Supported 13 Belconnen Primary Schools with various items, such as library books, providing lunches for students who come to school with none, paying for underprivileged student to attend school camps etc.
- In the process of purchasing 2 Peace Poles for 2 schools in Belconnen.

INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Small Grants East Indonesia Project was concluded in June 2021 under the direction of Project Manager John Mercer. This is a 3 year RAWCS project where the Rotary Club of Belconnen worked under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA).

The project assisted subsistence farmers, communities, and schools to construct a mix of water tanks, toilet blocks, agricultural and educational infrastructure in the Nusa Tenggara Timur Province of East Indonesia, working through our strategic local partner NTA Aid who manages and implements the projects in East Indonesia.

The committee continued financial support for Rotary International's programs Polio Plus, ROMAC, Shelterbox and Rotary against Malaria.

Other programs and projects that the committee recommended for funding included:

- Operation Cleft- surgery for underprivileged children in Bangladesh.
- Alola Australia, improving the quality and access to education for female students in Timor Leste.
- Buk bilong pikinini, promoting literacy in Papua New Guinea



RRR material collections



RRR freight to Tumburumba



Shelving with Mens Shed for Roundabout (Holt)



Covid-19 safe Trash n Treasure



Donations to the Steve Burroughs Foundation

TRASH AND TREASURE

In 2020-21 the Trash and Treasure market had its usual and unusual challenges. The market continued to operate throughout the year with minimal interruptions and COVID safe measures in place, thanks to the hard work of the Market Director, the committee and RCB members.

The committee responded to a range of challenges throughout the year, including regulatory requirements around traffic management and signage, and a new process for ensuring market vendors have appropriate insurance. The Committee is currently in the process of rolling out an exciting new online system, called MarketWerks which will streamline the bookings process for both RCB and vendors. This will Launch in July 2021.

Despite this, the market still managed to maintain revenue consistent with previous years. A phenomenal effort.

MEMBERSHIP

In summary, 10 new members joined the Belconnen Rotary Club during the year, many having found out about the Club through the Trash and Treasure market.

Unfortunately, we lost some members during the year, John Mercer has resigned after nearly 30 years in Rotary, he and Yvonne will be missed. PP Rosemary Ganly moved to the Canberra Rotary Club during the year and we wish her well at her new "Rotary home". Nancy Harrison has moved to Queensland and Haida Passos has transferred to the Rotary e-Club of Brindabella.

That shows a net gain in membership of six members. New members welcomed to the Belconnen Rotary Club during the year are:

- Susith Adikari and Nicole Adikari (nee Tietz) both medical professionals.
- Aidan Gordon, introduced by President Dylan,
- Carole Grey who is a lawyer and teacher at University of Canberra,
- David Bennison, a former club member who has returned,
- Denis Puniard who transferred from Weston Creek,
- John Wickett moved to Belconnen RC when the Canberra City Rotary Club handed back its charter,
- Matthew Thomas who has since moved to the South Coast,
- Saba Khan who transferred from Islamabad Central, and
- Jon Stanhope who has been a friend of the Club for many years.

My thanks to the TNT crew who have proven to be the best membership recruiters in the club (due to the publicity the market attracts for the club) and to those members who introduced their friends and colleagues to Rotary.