

.. ANNUAL REPORT .. ANNUAL REPORT ..

President Ian Bell .. 2019-20

Rotary meetings this past year have been fraught with difficulties. As well as dealing with the impact of drought and bushfires, we have been dealt the Corona Virus but each Rotarian has contributed in a positive way to the growth and life of the Club. COVID 19 taught us to use technology to meet each week and provided an opportunity to thank Emergency Services in more than words; we delivered morning tea to worksites. We also used the opportunity to assist housebound residents affected by “lockdown”; Rotarians were rostered to contract locals people who may require assistances or a listening ear.

Rotary continues to be the **ONLY** Community Services Club profiled in our community and is called on to assist with a number of activities—determining which to support becomes our most debated subject; so feel privileged if Rotary has supported your group in any way whether you are a recipient of funds, our catering team at your event, or member have undertaken a task to make life better.

Despite COVID19 we have met targets in fundraising and tonight we distribute those funds to our community; but please know that while we do this each Changeover, we respond to special requests throughout the year. Things like supporting NYSF and MUNA students, school award nights, Art Shows and Carnivals and the DG’s Partner Fundraising Project this year its Lifeline) and we seem to top up at this time each year are just a few of the ways in which we expend our hard earned funds. In this past year we have distributed in excess of \$23,000.

Our membership welcomed the return of one member (who had left because of drought impacts) and in addition we have inducted three new

members. That with the loss of four active members gives us a total of 23 members.

Happily, I can announce an interest in Rotary and the amount of local level involvement shows that we are recognised and valued. The community calls on Rotary for community service knowing that funds raised go back to the community. We have partnered with Council and initiated several local activities that benefit the whole community. The Club continues to support other Rotary Clubs and their events, projects and celebrations.

Our catering skills are in high demand and even with COVID19, the Club has swung the tongs at several fetes, Race Meetings and local events. Catering for visiting groups has also helped the Club and again I thank the Rotarians who turn up and feed the multitudes. These put “fun” into Fundraising and are fun days where a sausage sandwich is the preferred snack food.

The major fundraising arm of Rotary is the Bookshop and the volunteers who contribute their time – this began when there was no bookshop in town. Some of the volunteers are Rotarians while some are simply Friends of Rotary who make this happen each and every week; they too should bask in the achievements of Rotary; we all value their time and efforts.

In closing I wish to acknowledge those Rotarians who have assisted with fundraising – the community benefits; but the Board and Directors are the engine room that makes this organisation hum – thank you all – for your time and your energy.

Now for a plug .. Membership needs an ongoing change base and we welcome our members for the contribution each makes. Perhaps you think you need an invite to join ROTARY; we do meet weekly but that is no longer a rigid requirement – please speak to a Rotarian if you think we can satisfy your need to serve. As a Rotarian you can impact on the lives of others and on YOUR OWN!!! Together we can make a difference ...

Rotary connects the world!!

President Rotary Club of Coonabarabran 2019-20 Ian Bell

Treasurers report JOHN SAWYER

As in the past Club Members, their Partners and several Community Members have contributed many hours towards the Club's fund-raising efforts.

The Club's catering trailer, whilst it has been mothballed since late February and the Rotary Bookshop since late March because of "Covid 19" regulations, the Club over the nine-month period raised considerable monies. The Catering Trailer had a nett result until 30/6/20 of \$7,662.76; and the Rotary Bookshop had a nett income of more than \$15,000.00. From the Regional Bank of Australia Community Partnerships Program the Club received \$2615.56 thanks to clients nominating the Rotary Club as their preferred recipient. .

Activities have given the Club a net income of more than \$24,000.00 to re-distribute to various community groups as follows:

Throughout the year:

Numerous Local Youth Programs	\$3,203.00
Gamilaroi Aboriginal Dancers	\$ 500.00
Coonabarabran Schools Awards nights	\$ 150.00
Drought Relief Catering	\$ 999.00
Mental Health Seminar	\$ 330.00
Tree of Joy	\$ 281.00
Various Small Donations	\$ 900.00
Riding for the Disabled	\$ 1,000.00
Days for Girls (to assist purchase of industrial overlocker)	\$ 3000.00

D.G.'s Partners Program (Life Line) \$ 500.00

R.C. Caboolture \$ 500.00

(for advertising for Variety Bash)

D9650 Foundation Grant Project \$ 500.00

Kathmandu Mother & Child Hospital

Together with monies distributed tonight:

VRA \$ 5,000.00

Coonabarabran Girl Guides \$ 500.00

Westpac Helicopter Service \$ 1,000.00

Careflight Service \$ 1,000.00

Warrumbungle Radio Station \$ 2,000.00

The Orbital Swing Band \$ 1,000.00

Angel Flight \$ 500.00

Coonabarabran High School \$ 500.00

(Flight Simulator)

TOTAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED this YEAR \$23,363.00

This is an extraordinary funding distribution effort for such a small club. A special thanks to the wonderful Bookshop Community Volunteers, Roach's Hardware for the nominal rental charge, all Rotarians, their Partners for their continued and frequent assistance and especially to the Community of Coonabarabran for your enormous support throughout the year.

Club Services

Director HUGH RAADGEVER

Undoubtedly the past twelve months have seen our club meetings face unexpected challenges.

The arrival of Covid 19, following continuing drought and severe bushfires meant a disruption to our normal Monday meetings at the Bowling Club,

Rotary Meetings continued and we rose to the challenge of holding our meetings online, using Zoom Conferencing. We need to thank our PP and Zoom expert, Jo Wilkin, under whose guidance we have learnt how to connect and use the correct Zoom etiquette!. Commencing in April, the Zoom meetings, while restrictive, have also provided new opportunities, including the attendance and participation of distant/overseas Rotarians and Guest Speakers.

Recapping some of the year's highlights were: the return visit by the Bavarian Friendship Team, various visits by Sydney Rotarians supporting our drought funds, a visit by a Friendship team from South Dakota with the Dubbo Macquarie Rotary Club, meeting a gathering of Rotary caravanners at the John Oxley Caravan Park.

During the year members have enjoyed listening to each other's life stories and more recently these have been re-examined in an interview format with members giving a deeper meaning to the term "profile".

An interesting variety of Guest Speakers have included Dr Anniello Iannuzzi, a local Doctor and Warrumbungle Shire Councillor; our Health Services Manager, Christine Duce; the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service; Jenene Pout from the RMS; Peter Brown, on his R100 Project; and Mark and Wendy Osborne gave a comprehensive presentation on Zoom about their Off Grid Emu Farm.

Breakfast meetings scheduled each month were popular with members reluctant to leave after the meetings!

As tradition dictates,, we enjoyed a Christmas BBQ at the VRA shed and a Christmas Lunch organised by the Bowling Club in December. District Governor Phil Hafey and wife Bronwyn were finally able to join us at a February meeting (postponed from November), when the bushfire danger had receded.

I would like to thank our members who have offered to be speakers or suggesting interesting speakers/topics: also my thanks to those members who have hosted visitors on the Club's behalf.

Last but not least, may I express my appreciation to the staff at the Bowling Club who assisted in organising tables and providing our Monday evening meals prior to Zooming.

Mal Unicomb

Director of Membership Services

This Rotary year has seen a slight decrease in membership with the induction of three new members and the return of one member but we farewelled two members, and more recently received resignations from two more. Our membership sits at 23 members.

COVID 19 has presented challenges and new opportunities for membership.

Although we have had very limited ability to have potential members join us face to face, we have through ZOOM been able to alert some local people to the presence of Rotary through having them as guest speakers.

The club has refocused its efforts to keep the public informed of Rotary activities using a social media presence and more particularly a Facebook page which hopefully is another means by which we can attract new members.

As President Elect I was fortunate enough to have Lynda Brain take on the Membership Director role for 2020-21. Lynda is energetic and keen and I look forward to fresh approach to attract new members.

Bob Guichelaar

Foundation Services Director

Foundation Grants seem to be the work of the Club and the completion of work at Neilson Park, the town entry signs and the installation of covered seating at the Visitor Information Centre complete our requirements for Foundation Grants that were allocated to us.

At a recent meeting the Club agreed to support the Port Macquarie Clubs in their bid for a Foundation Grant to cover the funding shortfall to build and equip a Mother and Baby Hospital in Kathmandu in Nepal. While the Club was invited to contribute \$250, the decision to raise that to \$500 was unanimously received. The building of the hospital begins. Foundation Grant cannot be used for the actual building and the Port Macquarie Rotary Clubs have liaised closely with Dr Ray Hodgens from the Obs and Gyn Unit of Port Macquarie Hospital. He and the hospital will work closely with the clubs to provide equipment, Education and training and resourcing of the Nepalii facility.

Aileen Bell

Director of Public Image

With 49 Bulletins, plus articles and columns in the Coonabarabran Times, a reactivated Facebook page and connections to Radio the work of PR each week has been driven by the need to publish a bulletin for members. Relationships with PR agencies have worked well for our club and we thank the Time and 2WCR for their support. Note the Club has also purchased Rotary Banners for the Bookshop which se promotes the work of Rotary to the wider community.

Robert Cox

Director of Community Services

Community Service is the fundraising arm of our Rotary Club, whether it be fundraising via the Rotary 2nd Hand Bookshop or the Catering Trailer, Rotary is there!!

As the “go to” organisation for catering, Rotary has been called on to cater throughout the year; the first half of the Rotary year was busy. Starting with Catering at the Equestrian Expo (our major catering fundraising exercise), the BBQ

trailer was used consistently during the next 6 months with Rugby Carnivals, Race Meetings, Local Shows, School Sports Days, Open Day at Siding Spring Observatory and a thank you dinner at the VRA. Toowoomba Rotary Club called in during their western tour and were treated to our hospitality with a BBQ Dinner and Breakfast at the Caravan Park. Australia Day was also catered for again although we used the Golf Club bbq facilities this year. Still, the bookshop volunteers continued their shifts to generate community service funds. Then COVID 19 hit and everything came to a sudden stop. The bookshop was required to close for part of the “Lockdown” period but with No Bunny Bazaar, Equestrian Expo, race meetings or catering the trailer was put into mothballs just waiting to be fired up again which we will do again for the Junior Rugby Carnival in August and hopefully, the October Coona’ Cup.

A big thank you to all members, partners, family members, trailer haulers and friends who have helped with any functions and thank you for putting trust in Rotary to provide for your service, as without you we wouldn’t be able to help the local organisations and raise much needed funds. Thanks also to the VRA for secure accommodation to house the BBQ trailer.

Members have worked on a number of town initiatives – replacing the town entry signs, repairing the shelter at Nandi Park, repairing the roof on the Wishing well in Neilson Park - the list continues on to include several Town Beautification tasks, but is not limited and also includes installation of shelters at the Visitor Information Centre.

The Club has taken responsibility for working with marginalised groups and distributed gifts to such groups at Christmas time (gifts provided by the RC of Belrose and collected for distribution by Simon Tighe and Rob Cox The West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook RC contributed to gifts and vouchers for distribution to drought effected families at Christmas time). Our club also provided and distributed morning tea to Emergency Services personnel during “lockdown” and established a program to help housebound residents. The participation of young people in personal and professional development is a priority within Community Service – whether it be supporting young people to RYLA, MUNA, NYSF, onto

exchange programmes or simply to assist young families doing it hard.

The Rotary Bookshop is the Major fundraiser for the Rotary Club and I have asked the Coordinator to prepare a report re this.

Community Services 2nd Hand Bookshop Col Welsh

The bookshop operates like a “well oiled” machine and thanks must go to the band of volunteers because without partners and other volunteers Coona’ would continue to have NO BOOKSHOP. The contribution of rostered volunteer personal is immeasurable, ensuring operation from 9.30 - 5 each weekday and Sat mornings 9-12 as well as trialling sales at the Townlife Markets each month. Thanks also to those who donate preloved books to the cause.

Many of the funds distributed tonight are Bookshop funds. Support us and we can support our community which happens because of the dedication of the volunteers.

This year we have netted more than \$19,000 in sales, a balance which is subject to costs such as Incidentals and a generous rental arrangement with Roachs Hardware (Not bad when a book resells for an average of \$2.00).

Again thank you for your contributions – purchases and donations

Supporting us and you support YOUR community.

**Robert Noakes,
Director of International Services**

2019-20 was a difficult year for international work. This is largely due to the focus of our club, and others in responding to the more immediate needs of the drought with consequences for funding availability both in our own club and potential partner/donor clubs.

Nevertheless, a concept was developed for an offshore aid project in either Laos or Vanuatu, which received a positive response from two Sydney based clubs as possible future funding partners as well as from several high-level stakeholders. In the event, this did not proceed over 2019/20 and the arrival of Covidd19 in early 2020 made it impractical for the foreseeable future and so the project is currently on the backburner

PDG Jo Wilkin Director of Youth Services

Unfortunately, circumstances in 2019-20 have determined that a number of our usual Youth programs could not available in the usual way.

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) and RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) in May were both cancelled because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Our Year 11 candidate for the Public Speaking competition had to withdraw at the last minute and Work Experience at the High School meant that Year 10 students were not available.

Our NYSF (National Youth Science Forum) candidate Harry Williams managed to complete half of his stay in Canberra and enjoyed every minute of it, but then had to return home because of the level of smoke caused by the bushfires at the time. He was more fortunate that those in the second group who missed all of their camp.

We did have some success in enabling two candidates, Lachlan Eshman and Annabelle Shannon to attend the Science Experience program in January. Since we have been meeting via Zoom most of the time since then, they have not had the

chance to report back to us. We look forward to hearing from them soon. Meanwhile we have two candidates, Lachlan Eshman and James Whalan to assist in their preparations for selection for the 2021 NYSF program.

Simon Tighe
Director Vocational Services

Rotarians in the past year have visited several worksites. We thank those who provide opportunities and shared their space which really creates an awareness of what is here in Coonabarabran.

Members enjoyed the opportunity to visit Coinda in their John Street Office to learn about Coinda and its services. Members left without a question about the viability of a shopfront in the CBD for Coinda.

Good numbers attended the evening session at Tony and Jo Coles, Wok, Surf and Street and saw the embroidery machine recently purchased for souvenir making and named spores and work ware.

There have been guest speakers who have talked to the club about their enterprises including the Osmans about establishing and running their Emu Farm. Students have attended several RYAG events including RYAG Wool and came back to tell us what they learnt. RYLA is seeking numbers so if you know someone between 18-25 who could benefit from, or contribute to, an excellent personal development program let Rotary know. RYLA is a weeklong event held at Lake Keepit in August.

In the next year there will be more site visits – if you have something new or something to show off let us at Rotary know.

Members:

ROTARIAN	PARTNER	CLASSIFICATION
Bailey, Roger	Natalie	Local Government
Barrington, Kevin PHF PP	Robyn PHF	Beef Cattle
Bell, Aileen PHF PP	Ian PHF2	Tourism & Economic Development
Bell, Ian PHF 2 PP2	Aileen PHF	Woolgrowing
Brain, Lynda		Community Services
Cox, Robert PHF PP	Rowanne	Plumbing Services
Dawson, Laurie, OAM		Blazeaid Coordination
Dean, Robert PHF	Sheila	Electronics
Deep, Michael PHF PP	Marea	Pharmacy
Guichelaar, Bob PHF PP	Jill	Chemical Engineering
James, Russell	Joanne	Business Development Services
Kelly, Bill PDG PHF2 PP	Joyce PHF	HONORARY MEMBER
Knight, Marie OAM PHF PP	Tony	Wool Grower
Maher, David	Rachel	Police Services
McLean, Ian	Kathryn	Kitchen Suppliers
McWilliams, Arnold PHF PP	Beverley	HONORARY MEMBER
Noakes, Robert		Community Services
Pearson, Jim PHF PP	Margaret	Hardware Retailing
Raadgever, Hugh PHF5 PP	Susan PHF	Dental Services
Sawyer, John PHF2 PP2	Trish PHF	Banking
Unicomb, Mal	Lyne	Highway Patrol Policing
Welsh, Col PHF	Liz	Medical Services Admin
Wilkin, Jo PDG PHF3 PP2	Lindsay PHF	Teaching
Wilkin, Lindsay PHF PP	Jo,PDG,PHF3	Woolgrowing