

ROTARY CLUB of BAROSSA DISTRICT Inc.

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THEME: ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

R.I. President: Ian Riseley

District 9500 Governor : Peter Schaefer

Assistant Governor for Group 9: Brian Eckermann

President of Rotary Club of Barossa District: Brian Eckermann

Board of Rotary Club of Barossa District: All members

Secretary: Ray Duance

Treasurer: Joy Thorn/Tony Randell

Attendance Officer: Brian Barnett

Public Officer: Ray Duance

Child Protection Officer: Brian Eckermann

Social Media: Farzana Kastury and David Kelso

2017-2018 Barossa District Rotary Club Annual Report

Firstly, I wish to thank 2016-2017 Barossa District Rotary Club President, Joanne Perkins, for all her work in ensuring that the transition from her year to mine could occur as smoothly as possible. Especially in the club's financial matters there needed to be much time spent in checking and updating accounts. I also include thanks to Jo's husband, Peter, for his voluntary work in auditing the financial statements for last year and previous. To anyone else who helped in this handover I sincerely thank you.

Near the end of the 2016-2017 Rotary year the Barossa District Rotary Club was very close to handing back its charter and ceasing to exist. At the May 22 regular meeting of the club (with District 9500 Governor, John Pohl, in attendance) only three members voted that they wanted the club to continue and that they were willing to be involved in seeing this happen. In particular, I agreed to be the incoming President for the next Rotary year.

Before I left for a previously arranged overseas trip to visit my son and his family in Texas I contacted all of the 2016-2017 club members (except for those who had resigned from the club in recent weeks), to ask for their support and commitment. During July it had been agreed that we do not hold any meetings giving everyone a break from any Rotary activities and hence a chance for a refreshed start to the next twelve months.

At our first meeting for the new Rotary year on Monday August 14, 2017, I was delighted to share the good news that ten people wished to be members of the Barossa District Rotary Club. These were (In alphabetic order) Brian Barnett, Ray Duance, Brian Eckermann, Farzana Kastury, Anita Kelley, David Kelso, Jim Mitchell, Bill Sibley, Colin Thorn and Joy Thorn. Leon Wilksch was approved for Honorary membership.

It was agreed that for the next twelve months all members would constitute the Board under the direction of President Brian Eckermann, Secretary Ray Duance and Treasurer Joy Thorn. This has proved to be a good working exercise for a club of this size, with a regular Board meeting scheduled for a few minutes at each second club meeting. Sincere thanks to Ray Duance for efficiently attending to Agendas and Minutes of these Board meetings.

Meetings were arranged to be less formal for the time being with no toasts or fines. Brian Barnett volunteered to be the Attendance Officer to collect the meal cost at each meeting and let the Vine Inn know approximate numbers likely to attend these dinner meetings.

Service activities were to be kept to a minimum within the capabilities of the existing membership. We opted to continue with the distribution of the Barossa-Gawler Link Telephone book that is delivered to all homes and businesses in Angaston, Nuriootpa and Tanunda during October and November. This necessitated over 150 hours of service with excellent support from members, friends of Rotary, former members, and their wider families. The return, however, was a wonderful \$2814.

David Kelso and Farzana Kastury volunteered to create a social media presence for our club and its members, as well as updating the current web site. Due to personal time constraints (work and study respectively) this has not occurred to the degree that they would have liked. I hope that

Farzana and David will find time in their busy schedules to take this initiative forward with greater success in the next few months.

The saddest day for our club in the past year occurred with the death on November 1, 2017, of Colin Thorn at the age of 78 years. Colin was a Past District Governor for District 9500, Past President and Treasurer of our club, and always willing to take a leadership or support role in club service activities. Passionate about Rotary Colin is remembered for his untiring efforts in areas like Australian Rotary Health and its Hat Day, the Bowel Scan project, the Local Contact Directory wrapping and preparing the Directories for posting, distributing the Barossa Gawler Link telephone books, and many other Rotary activities where he could contribute his time and expertise.

Colin's passing reduced our club membership to nine, but we returned to ten following the application of Tony Randell to rejoin our ranks. Tony was welcomed as our Treasurer for the remainder of the 2017/2018 year, as well as for 2018/2019. Various people have been our guests at meetings throughout the year and I am hopeful that four of these will be received into full membership in the coming weeks and months. To have a membership of 14 later in 2018 would certainly be a strong indication that the club has stabilized after the sudden departure of so many members twelve months ago.

Some projects that we normally undertake each year were cancelled or postponed for the 2017/2018 Rotary year. These included the VET Student of the Year Awards Night for VET students from our four local secondary schools, namely Eudunda Area School, Kapunda High School, Nuriootpa High School and Faith Lutheran College. Planning is already underway to again hold this prestigious night in October 2018, however.

Other projects and/or fundraisers not attempted this year were the production of the Barossa version of the Local Contact Directory (usually this brings in a profit of over \$4000, but requires a huge amount of human effort), the Scrap Metal project (money has diminished of late due to lower scrap metal payments per tonne), and a Bowel Scan kit promotion in the Co-op Mall (the government is promoting this more to the more elderly community members via direct mail).

Around \$2500 was sitting in our club's Service account ear-marked for the Bowel Scan promotion from money donated equally by the Rotary Clubs of Barossa Valley and Barossa District. Late last Rotary year a joint decision by both clubs was made to use this left-over money to sponsor an Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Medical Scholarship to a worthy recipient. I am delighted to report that this has occurred and that Montanna Doudle from Port Lincoln is the awardee for this year while she studies a Physiotherapy Bachelor degree in Adelaide. Discussion is underway as to whether all Group 9 Rotary clubs (Gawler, Gawler Light, Kapunda, Clare, Barossa Valley and Barossa District) will continue to sponsor Montanna into the future, if her current excellent study ethic is maintained. Jo Perkins, Past President of our club, is Montanna's mentor currently.

Members undertook to clean up the garden area at Luhrs Cottage at Light Pass, just as we have done for many years. Together with other Service Clubs in the Barossa area we regularly monitored over the public holiday weekends the Driver Reviver station on the Stun Highway near Nuriootpa. End of Year Student achievement awards were presented to worth students at Nuriootpa High, Faith Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran School at Angaston. A \$200 donation was given to the LAP (Learning Assistance Program) department at Nuriootpa Primary School.

Our club willingly contributed to a joint Barossa Service Clubs initiative to provide a much-needed lifter to a new gantry that enables disabled riders to safely mount a horse at the Riding for Disabled site on the Nuriootpa to Angaston Road just outside Nuriootpa. We donated \$500 to this project, plus a further \$50 towards the cost of a plaque that informs the general public which Service Clubs donated to this project.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Ray Duance over many years our supply of EMIB (Emergency Medical Information Booklets) ran out, requiring a further supply of books at a subsequent cost of \$352. These books are given to members of the public through Medical Centres and the local Ambulance Service. A gold coin donation from the recipient partially offsets the cost.

Another hands-on project we undertook this year, as in the past, was a collection day outside the Tanunda Foodland for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Despite the bleak May weather on the day we were warmly supported by shoppers and over \$800 was donated to the RFDS.

For probably the last time, as it will not be continuing in 2019, our members journeyed to Springton to offer drinks and food to sustain riders in the Juvenile Diabetes Ride through the Barossa on Saturday April 21. This activity does not cost us anything, except our time, and we receive no money in return. But over many years we have helped the Juvenile Diabetes Association around Australia raise many thousands of dollars towards their very worthy cause.

At our last meeting members decided to donate \$500 to the world-wide Rotary "End Polio Now" project, as well as \$1000 to ShelterBox Australia for them to purchase another kit to help a family after a disaster in an overseas country. Both of these projects are ones we have supported generously over many years. Earlier in the year we made a \$45 donation to the Riseley Forest planting at Calperum near Renmark. \$200 was given to the Australian Business Week program this year organized by Eudunda Area School for local government secondary schools.

One of the fundraising highlights for the year was our club working together with the Rotary Club of Barossa Valley to provide a cooked breakfast to attendees at the Australia Day celebrations at the Tanunda Show Hall on January 26. Because of our small membership our input was much less than that of our mother club, but we are very grateful that the longstanding agreement to share profits from the event was again honoured. \$2541.45 was an outstanding plus for our Service account through this event.

In March 2018 a combined Rotary District 9500 and 9520 Conference was held in the Barossa Arts and Convention Centre at Faith College, Tanunda. Over 600 people registered for this excellent event. I was asked to join the Planning Committee and be a local liaison person for program activities such as catering (lunches and morning/afternoon teas), best use of the BACC facilities, a tree planting exercise one afternoon near The Rex, hands-on displays at the BACC and Tanunda's Town Square, and engaging local speakers for the program. Next Rotary year District 9500 has scheduled its annual Conference for Hahndorf in March and I encourage members to make the effort to attend.

In 2020 Districts 9500 and 9520 will merge into a new District 9510. An extensive consultative process is underway as to how best to achieve this, so that especially the Rotary Clubs in the new District will benefit.

I sincerely thank all current members for their wonderful support to me as President in this very different Rotary year. I believe we have consolidated as a Rotary Club and are ready to again be an important Service organization in the Barossa region. My aim over the past twelve months was to find at least 10 people willing to offer their services to Rotary through our club, and thus provide a platform to increase membership and service activities in the coming year.

More importantly we have lots of fun at meetings, over meals in member homes and as we undertook important service projects in our local community.

I want to thank the Management at the Vine Inn for allowing us to meet in one of their rooms twice per month for our regular Dinner meetings, even though our numbers have been down on past years.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Meeting 1172 August 14, 2017: Club Assembly

Meeting 1173 August 28, 2017: Farzana Kastury & David Kelso: Social Media

Meeting 1174 September 11, 2017: Damien Jones & Daniel Searson - teachers from Nuriootpa HS speaking on the Science and Technology Challenge that BDRC sponsored with \$765 for students to attend.

Meeting 1175 September 25, 2017: Club Assembly

Meeting 1176 October 9, 2017: Simone Davolli - Office person from Nuriootpa Police Station

Meeting 1177 October 23, 2017: Anita Kelley - Police games

Meeting 1178 November 13, 2017: Club Assembly - Tribute to Colin Thorn, following his death on 1/1/17.

Meeting 1179 November 27, 2017: Visit and talk by DG Peter Schaefer.

Meeting 1180 December 11, 2017: Christmas dinner at home of Bill and Elizabeth Sibley.

Meeting 1181 January 8, 2018: Club Assembly

Meeting 1182 January 22, 2018: Pizza Night at home of Brian and Janet Barnett to thank all the helpers who distributed the Barossa Gawler Link telephone books.

Meeting 1183 February 12, 2018: Club Assembly and completed District 9500 Club Development (Future Directions) Assessment Guide for our club.

Meeting 1184 February 26, 2018: Brooke Howell from Yalumba, speaking on Youth Leadership in the Barossa.

Meeting 1185 March 12, 2018: Michelle Rose — LAP coordinator from Nuriootpa Primary School.

Meeting 1186 March 26, 2018: Club Assembly

Meeting 1187 April 9, 2017: Club Assembly - Induction of Tony Randell.

Meeting 1188 April 23, 2018: Sandie Simons — BBB FM — our local radio station

Meeting 1189 May 14, 2018: Planning meeting for VET Student of the Year with Di Sanders, VET Coordinator from Faith, and her husband Mike.

Meeting 1190 May 28, 2018: Michael & Rachael Nietschke — their perspectives on Papua New Guinea.

Meeting 1191 June 11, 2018: Club Assembly

Meeting 1192 June 25, 2018: Changeover to 2018/2019 President Brian Barnett.

With Brian Barnett as our President I am sure his drive, enthusiasm and positive spirit will be a real asset to everyone. I encourage everyone to support him fully, invite local community people to meetings and bring forward positive ideas to grow our club in membership and service activities.

ROTARY CLUB OF BAROSSA DISTRICT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY at 12 June 2018

Club Funds	=	\$978.53
Project Funds	=	\$6,655.99
TERM DEPOSIT	=	\$3,000.00

FUNDRAISING

Gawler Barossa Link delivery	\$2814.00
Australia Day Breakfast	\$2541.45

DONATIONS

NHS award	\$250.00
Good Shepherd Lutheran School award	\$140.00
Faith Lutheran College award	\$250.00
Nuriootpa Primary LAP	\$200.00
Riding for the Disabled	\$500.00
ARH Indigenous Scholarship	\$2500.00
Calperum Project	\$45.00

2018-2019 ROTARY CLUB of BAROSSA DISTRICT:

President: Brian Barnett

Secretary: Ray Duance

Treasurer: Tony Randell

Immediate Past President: Brian Eckermann

Attendance Officer: Tony Randall

Social Media :

Child Protection Officer: Brian Eckermann

Public Officer: Ray Duance

THEME: "BE THE INSPIRATION"

RI President: Barry Rassin (from the Bahamas)

District 9500 Governor: David Egan (from the Rotary Club of Adelaide)

Assistant Governor Group 9: Marie-Louise Lees (from the Rotary Club of Gawler)