

Rotary Club of Bendigo South **SIGNPOST**

Volume 65, No. 25, 13th January 2022

Meets Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm at the Lakeview Hotel (TBC weekly)

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



bendigosouthrotary.org.au

<http://www.twitter.com/RotaryBendigoS>

President's Report

Happy New Year!! I trust you all had an enjoyable Festive Season. Now the reality of Omicron is upon us and hence our first get together was sensibly cancelled. I called an extraordinary Board Meeting to discuss Rotary Meetings for January and on-going. It was decided to resume Zoom Meetings with the new starting time of 7.00 pm to allow Members to have dinner before the Meeting. Zoom Meetings will continue for the foreseeable future until density rules change plus venues can hire enough staff to serve meals! We will be planning an outdoor get together at some stage, most likely in February, so watch this space!

A BIG thankyou to the members who again volunteered for the Foodshare Christmas Pantry on January 4. No speeding fines this time I hope! It is always humbling to see how tough some folk are doing it eg. the lady who had finally found accommodation, a rental property at \$560 per week!!!! She was just grateful to have accommodation, but needs Foodshare/Eaglehawk Community House to put food on the table!

FOR A MEAL where Clubs are asked to gather at the Eaglehawk Club Rooms to pack boxes with supplied suitable items is planned for Saturday February 19. Of course this will be dependant on Covid rules, but please put the date in your diary and assist if you are able.

See you on Zoom!!

Merlyn AM



District Governor's Message to us all

I hope you have had a chance to rest, recuperate and enjoy time with family and friends over the Christmas break.

After what has been a challenging two years for all of us, we move forward into 2022 with COVID even more prevalent in our community and together we must navigate, what appears to be our new normal, living in a COVID world.

Clubs will be adapting their meetings and activities to consider the changing COVID/Omicron environment. This could mean meeting outside in a park or connecting electronically.

I trust you will keep connected with, and look out for, your fellow club members and be there to support each other in these challenging times. Many people have been hard hit by COVID and many people suffer in silence. You never know what is going on in people's lives and I'd like to think, as Rotarians, we are always there for each other and that we live by our motto 'Service Above Self'. That doesn't mean we shouldn't look after our own well-being at the same time.

The District Leadership Team is here to offer support to all Clubs and members. If you do need assistance, please reach out to either your Club President, a fellow club member, your Assistant Governor, another member of the Leadership Team, or me. Remember you are not alone.

For me, it has been a challenging and extremely busy first six months but an exciting one as well with lots of boxes ticked and a lot of exciting projects completed or works in progress (outlined in the [Networker Issue 9 December 2021](#)). One thing I've learned is that you can only do what you can do and do it to the best of your ability, especially in Pandemic times. I'm so grateful to work with many wonderful, generous people making such an impactful contribution to our communities.

One of the highlights of the last six months for Maureen and I has been catching up with fellow Rotarians, club visits fitted in-between zoom meetings, and the wonderful support of so many of our fellow Rotarians. We have appreciated being so warmly welcomed into the clubs and the many new friendships we have formed during these club visits and continue to be amazed at the range of significant community service projects clubs are undertaking.

I look forward to a very busy six months ahead and hope that as many members as possible will attend (COVID restrictions permitting) our District Conference in Albury 22-24 April 2022. Our "Let's Get Together" Conference will be an opportunity to come together in friendship and freedom once again and enjoy a fun-filled exciting event. More to come on the conference in next couple of days.

Finally, please find attached the official statement from Rotary International about COVID and the issues of vaccinations. This has been forwarded to every District Governor across the Rotary world to help to provide some clarity about the issues involved and the stance taken by Rotary.

COVID-19 VACCINATION



POSITION

As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through the mass immunization of children, Rotary believes the decision to vaccinate against COVID-19 is a civic and humanitarian imperative.

MAIN POINTS

- Rotary is strongly encouraging all eligible people, including its members, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- In areas where the coronavirus is surging, communities are facing extreme challenges, health systems are overwhelmed, and contentious rhetoric is dividing us.
- We are requesting our global membership to continue to:
 - support equity in vaccine access for all people,
 - combat misinformation hindering the fight against COVID-19,
 - recognize the lifesaving services provided by health workers, and personally support the effort by getting vaccinated.
- Global vaccination is the pathway to ending the coronavirus pandemic and the emergence of new variants.
- We believe it is critical for the global community to contain the coronavirus through vaccination and continued prevention measures.

FAQ

How is Rotary helping to support global vaccination against COVID-19?

- Our long-term commitment to fighting disease meant that we were prepared to respond when the pandemic struck.
- Rotary has provided over US\$ 49 million in grants for projects related to COVID-19, and members have donated supplies, sourced PPE, supported hospitals and health workers, and publicly highlighted the efficacy of vaccines.
- Globally, Rotary is actively engaged in assuring equity in vaccine access for all people.

Are you encouraging all Rotary members to be vaccinated against COVID-19? Does Rotary support vaccine mandates?

- As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through the mass immunization of children, Rotary believes the decision to vaccinate against COVID-19 is a civic and humanitarian imperative. We strongly encourage vaccination for all individuals, including our members.
- Rotary is a non-political global network of community leaders. We are not involved in government policy-making discussions, nor are we acting in a political manner on this issue.

What is the current plan for having RI employees return to the office?

- Rotary's World Headquarters staff at One Rotary Center in Evanston will have the option to resume in-person office operations beginning Monday, 10 January 2022.
- Rotary International has joined a growing number of employers who are requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters, as a condition of employment.
- Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 is required for any guest of Rotary entering Rotary International's world headquarters in Evanston.

How can Rotary – a non-health organization – responsibly issue an endorsement of the COVID-19 vaccine and encourage people to be immunized?

- Rotary always aims to use accepted scientific data to drive impact. Vaccines have proven to be one of the greatest advances of modern medicine.
- Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio – our flagship program since 1985, has only been successful because of vaccinations.
- In addition to polio eradication, two of our seven areas of focus - disease prevention and treatment and maternal and child health - rely upon vaccinations.
- The World Health Organization estimates that vaccines save between 2 to 3 million children's lives each year, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative estimates the polio vaccine has saved 20 million children from paralysis.
- Vaccines are safe, effective and are responsible for eliminating or controlling many other vaccine-preventable diseases such as smallpox, measles, rubella, and Ebola. And now, there is the opportunity to end the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccines.

Is Rotary's endorsement of COVID-19 vaccination a departure from your non-political stance? Are we getting too political?

- We're following the science and data around COVID-19, which clearly indicate that unvaccinated individuals are significantly more likely to contract the virus, become ill, require hospitalization, or die compared with those that are fully vaccinated.
- Misinformation is hindering the fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to providing our members with science-based information.
- Our support for vaccination is not about politics, it's about safety and humanity.
- For more information, please contact Rotarysupportcenter@Rotary.org.

Will this endorsement of COVID-19 vaccinations take the focus away from Rotary's other causes like polio eradication?

- The eradication of polio remains a goal of the highest order for Rotary. We can apply the lessons we have learned in fighting polio to the efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I thought Rotary was non-political. I am/members of my club are/my entire club is threatening to leave Rotary because of this endorsement of COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Rotary is a non-political global network of community leaders.
- While we're actively engaged on societal issues that impact our communities, Rotary is not involved in government policy-making discussions, nor are we acting in a political manner on this issue.
- Rotary has long supported disease prevention and eradication through vaccinations.
- We hope you or the members of your club reconsider, but we respect your decision. Please do continue your efforts to make the world a better place through volunteer service.

If enough people are upset with this endorsement of COVID-19 vaccinations, will you change your mind?

- Our endorsement of COVID-19 vaccination was a unanimous decision made by the Rotary International Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees. We stand firmly behind our position and expect there will be continued support from the Rotary family.

Further questions can be directed to rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org

JANUARY PROGRAM

(NOTE - The program for January is dependent on the COVID situation).

JANUARY	VENUE	PROGRAM
Thurs Jan 20th	ZOOM 7pm start	Guest speaker – Julie Oberin Manager - Annie North Centre Chair – Tony Plant
Thurs Jan 27 th		No Meeting in lieu of Australia Day

January 20 Meeting 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Julie Oberin will finally be presented with her Paul Harris Fellow Recognition as well as bringing us up to speed with any developments at Annie North Women's Refuge. Our Club has a continuing Partnership with Annie North via our gardening team as well as numerous donations from Members. **Please join us for a special occasion.**



Annie North supports all women & children who have experienced family violence or intimate partner violence

Annie North has been operating crisis and transitional supported accommodation/refuge services for women and children who are escaping domestic and family violence, or who are homeless due to domestic and family violence, since 1989. Annie North has a state-wide catchment and is located within the Loddon region. The organisation is growing and is undergoing significant change with the recent development of a “Core and Cluster” 24-hour refuge facility complementing the existing high security refuge, medium security refuges and transitional properties. Annie North also recently began delivering the Loddon Family Violence After Hours service.

Annie North provides a mix of short to long-term case management and therapeutic support to all women and children residing in safe accommodation. The organisational operational focus is grounded in feminist understandings of domestic and family violence as gender-based violence against all women. Annie North provides a 24 hour 7 day a week 365 days a year service providing a crisis response to all women and children.

Women *in* Rotary 

SAVE THE DATE

International Women's Day Breakfast

Wednesday, March 9th
7:30 - 9:00 AM
Sofitel Melbourne + Online

**Women Thriving in Stem:
Our future is in innovation and advancing technology**

Hear from international and national experts as they explore both the advantages and possible ethical issues of technology while discussing the challenges of creating a healthy work-life balance for women.

This event is brought to you by Rotary Brighton North & Rotary Melbourne

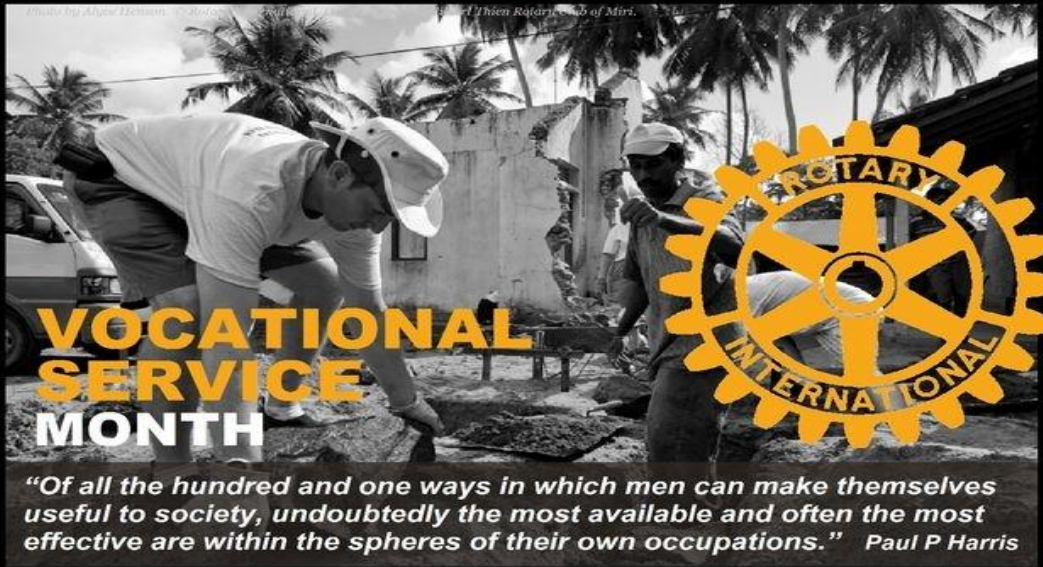
www.iwd.org.au

Apology to our Entertainers at the Christmas Party!



Entertained by member, Katie Kim, her daughter Jemima (not Rachel) on the violin, and student Reece Hendricks on the trombone – wonderful!

JANUARY IS



TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives

VALE - HOWARD OSBORNE

EAGLEHAWK ROTARY CLUB

Sadly over the Christmas/ New Year break, we were informed of the death of Howard Osborne. Howard was a wonderful member of Eaglehawk until he became terminally ill some time ago.

Current Club Member Tony Plant recalls ...

" Howard established the Rose Program at Eaglehawk Rotary Club which was about fostering kids I think from South East Asia. These kids who were fostered out to families in Eaglehawk and sent to school in Bendigo. He also did all the engineering drawings for the Camp Getaway kitchen renovations. In addition he was also able to assist Eaglehawk members in their efforts out at the Camp over many years.

My experiences with Howard were always positive and would just say that he was just a lovely man to have known.

I have sent a message of condolence to the club secretary at Eaglehawk Rotary Club on behalf of all Directors and Members of the Rotary Club of Bendigo South.

PAUL G
SECRETARY

Rotary

District 9800



THE FOUR WAY TEST

- Is it the TRUTH
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST.

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND.

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

THIRD.

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH.

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional



**SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

WHO'S WHO?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT:
RI DISTRICT 9800 GOVERNOR:

Shekhar Mehti
Dale Hoy

CLUB PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
CLUB SERVICE DIRECTOR
CLUB PROTECTION OFFICER
ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR
FUND-RAISING and FINANCE
CLUB COMMUNICATIONS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Merlyn Quaife AM
Paul Gibbons
Greg Noonan
Mark Tracy
Heather Nixon
Zoe Pocock
Tony Plant
Rod Spitty
Geoff McKinna
Peter Kilpatrick
Gary Pinner
Matthew Scott
Sue Duncan

CLUSTER CLUB MEETING TIMES

DISTRICT 9800 GOLDFIELDS CLUSTER ROTARY CLUBS

RC KANGAROO FLAT: Monday 6pm, Rotary Gateway Park

Secretary - Geoff Wakefield 0408510218

RC BENDIGO: Tuesday 12:45pm, Bendigo Club, Park Street, Kennington.

Secretary: Danielle Ioniescu – 5444 0190 secretary@rotarybendigo.org.au

RC ECHUCA MOAMA: Tuesday 6pm, Moama Bowling Club, Shaw Street, Moama.

RC BENDIGO SANDHURST: Wednesday 7.30am, New Meeting Venue to be advised.

Secretary: John Harkin – 0409957000

RC EAGLEHAWK: Wednesday 6pm, Mechanics Institute

Contact on 0428468298 eaglehawkrotary@gmail.com

RC ROCHESTER: Thursday 6pm, The Court House building, Moore Street (Opp. G. Nelson Motors)

Contact - Heather Watson on 0439842177

RC CASTLEMAINE: Wednesday 6:30pm, The Cumberland Hotel

Secretary - Lyndal McClure 044339116