

Rotary Club of Berwick



Annual Report 2020-21



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President's SUMMARY

It was a very interesting start to the 2020-21 Rotary year. Lock downs were well in place and there were not a lot of opportunities to move about or do the usual physical Rotary work. Meetings were still held weekly from 29th June 2020 to 18th November 2020 before physical meetings resumed.

All major projects such as Carols by Candlelight and Australia Day were cancelled and smaller projects were adopted to keep the Club active during uncertain times.

Accepting Zoom as the only available way of meeting during lock down was challenging, but PP Isobel Caulfield was unphased and learned all there was to know about the Zoom platform. Getting members setup, especially ones with limited IT skills when there was no visiting allowed left a few members out. There were also members who refused to join in on Zoom. None the less, the members who did attend made all the difference to the social fabric of the Club.

On the 25th of November 2020 we were allowed to meet at Holm Park again. We kept going with Zoom to include some members who were not able to attend in person due to ill health. For our Club to adopt new technology to stay connected was incredible and proved to me that our members are more adaptable to change than they give themselves credit for.

The world today is not the same as it was when Rotary was founded in 1905. Demographics have shifted, the pace of change has accelerated, and technology has created new opportunities for connection and service. What hasn't changed is a need for the values that define Rotary:

FELLOWSHIP

INTEGRITY

DIVERSITY

SERVICE

LEADERSHIP

By honoring our past and embracing our future, we can evolve and keep Rotary not only relevant, but thriving.



About the Club.

THE BACKGROUND

The Rotary Club was chartered in 1961 by a group of local businessmen with the help of the Rotary Club of Dandenong. For many years, the Club was a focus of local business people who could use their networks to enable many significant projects to be conducted for the community. As the years passed, most of these people retired, and Rotary's ability to use business networks to help the community decreased. It is a sign of the times, as many clubs have struggled with recruiting new enthusiastic members.

Compact and refocus

Over this Rotary year, 2020-21, it has been a year of consolidation and refocus. To be a powerhouse of community service in the future, there is a need to take stock and redefine a new direction. Times are changing and so are the challenges of being a volunteer organisation.

Regenerate

Introducing new members with new passions and new enthusiasm is the lifeblood of all organisations. People, with their own skills and experiences can contribute enormous potential and allow an organisation to regenerate. The Rotary Club of Berwick is set for regeneration.

The right people

Rotary is really about finding people that fit with our values and want to do some good work in the community, while having a great time doing it. Not everyone is cut out to be a leader in the community.

Build the team

Team building is an important aspect with any organisation. A fully functioning team can accomplish a lot of good but it takes work to build the team. Learning about the many programs that Rotary International has going gives team members the skill to fulfil their roles.



Rotary



Rotary's Vision Statement

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES

Our vision is to

Build meaning into peoples lives by finding value in community service and all the benefits that come with it. Volunteering can help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your career, and even make you feel happier and healthier.

Do it with passion

A Rotarian has a focus on why they want to be part of an international volunteer organisation. Through the structure of Rotary, simple passion to do something good in the world then gives a way to channel that passion and deliver an outcome.

Be the leader

One of the values of being a Rotarian is the opportunity to learn and practice leadership. That is not a natural skill for most but Rotarians are encouraged to become leaders in the community, their workplaces and their lives.

OUR MISSION

The purposes of this club are to pursue the Object of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support the Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.

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;

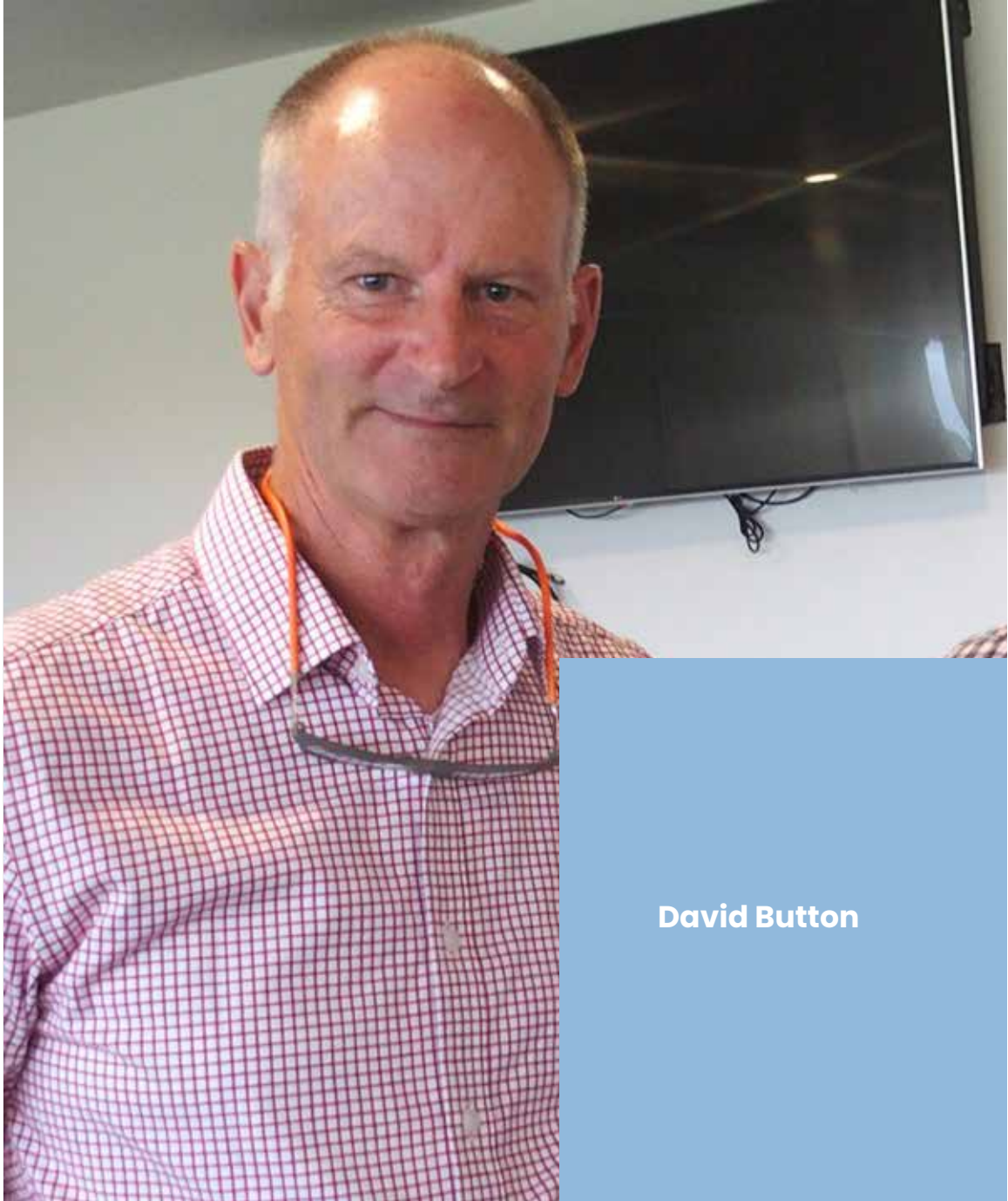
SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

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 persons united in the ideal of service.



Words from the President.



David Button

There is an expectation that every Rotarian will lead their Club in some way. This year I was promoted to President , a position of responsibility. There was much to do and the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic made things a bit more complicated.

My planning for the year began in February 2020 where I created a 28-page President's plan for the Club. The idea of the plan was to put all members on the same path so there was no confusion of where I wanted the Club to go. Naturally, not many read it, but for those that did, it made what the Club did much clearer and set the agenda for changes needed in the Club.

I have been fortunate to have some wonderful people on my Board of Directors. Nothing gets done without forward focused thinkers and doers. The biggest challenge that the Club has been facing for many years is an aging membership and lack of ability to fully commit to projects the Club was once known for. The Directors were determined to put in the work required and it was my wish to involve all members along each step of the process.

The first steps for the Club were bringing all the governing documents up to date. The Club rules and by-laws needed to be brought into line with both Rotary International requirements and Victorian law. The Club needed to implement a Bullying and Harassment policy. The Club also needed clear guidelines for the way funds were raised and how they could be utilized in the community.

The next steps were around membership and what Rotarians expected from their Rotary experience. Through PDG Tim Moore, we were able to have a Rotarian from New Zealand and an expert in recruiting, Tony Heyward talk to the Club at a Zoom meeting. This talk laid some groundwork for what we needed to change/fix/modify to be a suitable proposition to anyone wanting to do work in the community.

Public image and actively getting the Club out and seen in the community was the constant underlying message in every discussion about attracting new people. Public Image Director Sam McCurdy wasted no time at all in his portfolio to get our Club's achievements out to the public through the local paper, website and Facebook. Sam also put together a great weekly Club bulletin which has found a following way past Club level. I know our message is getting out now and other members are now contributing to spreading the word.

The need for more social activities within the Club was the underlying message from the members. Being social was a difficult task over Zoom however we had a crack at a Guess Who's coming to Dinner progressive dinner and that was a bit of fun. The meeting format at Holm Park has now changed to allow for a more social atmosphere and that has given rise to a lot more fun at the meetings. Attendance across the last few years has been low and even with making changes from member feedback, has not translated to more members showing up.



There are a few people I need to thank for helping me get through this year. PP Isobel Caulfield: Zoom, Presentation Balls icon. PDG Tim and Jane Moore: Zoom, small projects, Public Image, Governance, member welfare proactivists. PP Gus Dominquez for taking on my position as President of the Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society. Sam McCurdy: Best Secretary ever!

Secretary's Report

2020-2021 posed many unique challenges to all Rotary Clubs, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Long term planning has been a real challenge with the ever-present risk of a COVID outbreak and associated lockdowns and restrictions. President David Button has been the "Man for the moment", providing bold and innovative approaches to problems, as they arose. It has been my privilege to be his secretary.

Being Secretary to both the Rotary Club and the Rotary Berwick & District Benevolent Society certainly kept me busy and provided a wide range of experiences.

The 2020 Changeover on 1st July was largely conducted via Zoom under tight COVID restrictions that allowed only a small group of six to be present in person. David Button was inducted as President by Immediate Past District Governor Adrian Froggatt from his home in Loch Sport. The Zoom technology also allowed several former international exchange students to take part in the proceedings, which was quite unique.

The year began with investigations into suitable alternative venues to the Beaconsfield Club at Holm Park, as well as trying different meeting formats. It was clear that the Zoom option would need to be accommodated at meetings for some people, even in normal circumstances. This and the need for catering options resulted in confirmation of the Holm Park facility as the preferred venue. Negotiations were then completed with Carlyle Complete Catering, the new caterers at the facility to provide meals suitable to our needs.

Weekly meetings continued to be conducted via Zoom until November 2020, when face-to-face meetings at Holm Park returned with a Zoom option (Hybrid



Sam McCurdy
Secretary



meetings). There was a significant drop in attendees at the weekly Zoom meetings, as some members did not accept the technology as much as others, preferring the social interaction of face-to-face meetings. There was some experimentation with the format of the meetings to make them more interesting. In fact, we managed to support a busking performance and a progressive dinner on different occasions via Zoom.

An historic meeting was held on 28th April when a joint meeting was held between the club and the Rotary Club of Biggleswade in England. Locally, we had a hybrid meeting occurring with members meeting face-to-face and others on Zoom when we were joined by eight members of the Biggleswade Club via Zoom. Despite the time difference of 9 hours and the tyranny of distance (72,000 km), a stimulating and memorable meeting took place.

Thanks to the courage and tenacity of PP Isobel Caulfield, Peter Batterham and the organisers at Berwick College, in overcoming threats of COVID restrictions, two successful Presentation balls were held at the Grand in Wantirna in May.

Fifty debutantes and their partners, made up of Year-11 and some Year-12 students, were presented over two nights. The students, their friends and families thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

For the first time since I joined the club, the New Year barbecue, normally held at the "Kraan's" property, had to be held at a public venue due to the COVID restrictions at the time, on the number of people allowed at private homes. It was eventually held at the Young Farmer's Building at Acoonah Park in Berwick.

Although lacking the intimacy and comfort of the "Kraan's property, it provided an enjoyable "Getting to know you" experience for the participants.

In addition to the AGM in November, two Special General Meetings (SGMs) were called. In September 2020, the first SGM endorsed the new Club Rules and By Laws that incorporate Rotary International requirements. The endorsed Club Rules were then lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV). In March 2021, the second SGM endorsed the Club's Bullying and Harassment policy and procedure, which was then added to the Club By Laws.



We welcomed three new members to the club this year. They were Greg Lee, Andrew Somers and David Anderson. All three are keen to contribute to club activities and to help the community. They are valuable additions to the club.

Five new honorary club members were appointed this year. They were PP Gary Cooper, PP Gerald Treasure, Bob Lay AM, Andy Merrill and David Collyer. They joined our existing honorary member, Rob Wingrave, who has now moved to Drouin.

Foundation Report



Mark Caulfield -
Foundation Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the annual International / Foundation directors report for 2020–2021. Again, it has been an unsettling year with COVID and all it implies. Our fundraising efforts have diminished, but there was a bright spot earlier in the year.

The Berwick Rotary Boomers and Shakers did a magnificent effort in raising over \$4000 to end Polio. The Walk With Us campaign challenged people to walk, run or roll 10,20, or 50km in one month to raise vital funds that will help eradicate and prepare us for a Polio free world. This was a great way of getting out and about safely while in lockdown and raising much needed funds. Well done to all.

Paul Harris Fellow presentations are always a pleasure to present. A Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition is named for Paul Harris, who founded Rotary with three business associates in Chicago in 1905. The Paul Harris Fellow presentation was established in his honour in 1957, to express appreciation for a contribution of US\$1,000 to the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation. These programs include an array of projects that save and invigorate the lives of people around the world and enhance international friendship and understanding.

Rotarians also designate a Paul Harris Fellow to recognise another person whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives and mission of The Rotary Foundation to build world understanding and peace.



Roger Page, Principal of Nossal High School, is a well deserved awardee. The Rotary Club of Berwick has had a long association with Nossal High School. We have spent time here catering for school functions. The student mock interviews are a highlight for all. We have a community representative on the school board. As founding Principal, Roger has built the school culture around pioneering practices with teachers who push the educational boundaries. The encouragement for the development of not just good student results, but students

who are leaders and are community focused. Something that Rotary values dearly. Mary Anne Burr received a PHF for assisting in establishing a Day Oncology and Infusion service at the St John of God Hospital in Berwick. Mary Anne's sense of community interaction and involvement has led the Day Oncology Unit for local cancer patients as one of the best around. Through her involvement and establishment of Oncology Services and continuing community education, Mary Anne has fulfilled the Rotary Foundation mission of promoting good in the world. Our own Rotarian Graham Johnstone was pleasantly surprised on receiving a long overdue PHF. Graham has provided excellent and reliable service to Rotary throughout his membership in different roles. His careful and precise planning as Safety Officer has kept us safe and adhering to all the rules. He is also the man who can light the BBQ and cook up a feast whenever needed. A pleasant surprise on the presentation night was a video call from his daughter in Canada.

The Centurion Club continues in the background. Members are encouraged to donate \$100 per year to the Rotary Foundation. David Button and Bruce Shaw must also be commended for their ongoing support for the Rotary Foundation in gaining additional PHF's.

The Rotary Club of Berwick has always been supporter of the Rotary Foundation. As such we are able to access funds via the District 9820 grants scheme. We have been successful in obtaining funds for building seating in the new Grassmere Wetlands precinct in Berwick. These will be placed, along with tree planting in the coming months.

Due to the COVID pandemic, unfortunately any international initiatives have been put on hold. Hopefully, next year the club will be able to participate in more projects.

Congratulations go to President David Button for leading the club in these difficult times. Thank you to all club members for your support throughout the year. A big thank you also to my fellow board members for the efficient way we have navigated this Rotary Year. I wish the incoming board all the best success. Mark Caulfield Director International / Foundation 2020-2021



Membership Report

2020 -2021 has thrown a lot of challenges at us, personally, professionally and socially. Meeting on-line instead of in person presented a massive challenge to the club's membership portfolio, because let's be honest Rotarians are people of action!

Di Scheepers and Jen Marshall

- Membership Chairs



Di Scheepers and Jen Marshall:
Membership

Despite this daunting task, the start of the Rotary year saw Di Scheepers take on the challenge of membership director. Di worked hard to develop a sound membership plan and asked everyone in the club to get involved. Unfortunately, Di's family commitments saw her take a step back from the role of director. Luckily, her plan and passion got the conversation going and lit a flame under President David to continue Di's plan to attract passionate

community minded people to our club. While it was a challenge to attract people to join us when we were meeting on zoom, Di and I are delighted to report that we have had three fantastic new members join us this Rotary year.

The Rotary Club of Berwick are excited to introduce our newest members:

Greg Lee – July 2020 in the midst of lockdown we were thrilled to have Greg, an active police officer join us. Greg is keen to get his hands dirty and be involved in the club wherever he can.

Andrew Somers – in January 2021 after getting to know Andrew over several months on zoom, it was wonderful to officially welcome Andrew to the club. Andrew works as an engineer in the communications industry.

David Anderson – after retiring from a successful career in management in the banking industry, David joined our club in May 2021. David has a passion for giving back to his community, with a focus on developing leadership and

building relationships between our club and the community. The other focus of membership is engaging with our current members. It was great to be back at Holm Park and meeting for dinner with our friends, getting involved in a variety of activities and planning new project ideas to work with our current members interests. It's great to see our members back together and making a difference in our community again.

Sadly we did say goodbye to a few members this year including Bob Lay AM, Gerald Treasure, David Collyer, Betty Tudge, Cheryl Zuhlsdorff and Anand Amarnath. We wish to thank these Rotarian for all their contributions over the years, please stay in touch and we wish you all the best for the future.

I am excited for the future of our club, as we continue to follow Di's plan to develop our mentorship program, engage and recruit new members, continue to nurture the current members through seeking new projects and areas of interest. If our new members are anything to go by the future looks bright for our club!

Jen Marshall and on behalf of Di Scheepers



Public Image Report



Sam McCurdy –
Rotary Club Public
Image Director

Rotary
Club of Berwick



**Meets every Wednesday
at Holm Park Reserve,
Beaconsfield**

6:30 pm for 7:00 pm

secretary@rotaryberwick.org



Goals for the Public Image area were outlined in the President's Plan for the 2020-2021 Rotary year. They highlighted the need to promote the club's projects and activities through the following:

- Public Relations Committee
- Club bulletin - Spoke 'n' Word
- Club website
- Club photographers
- Flyers and banners
- Social media



Public Relations Committee:

Unfortunately, prolonged restrictions on face-to-face meetings imposed by the COVID-19 crisis, limited the activities of the Public Relations Committee. Nevertheless, several of the committee members continued to make significant contributions to the promotion of the club's projects. Special thanks must go to Jane Moore and PP Isobel Caulfield for their excellent work in producing colourful and informed Flyers for different projects and events during the year.

To maintain current knowledge of Rotary's Public Image requirements and best practice examples, the Zone 8 Public Image Newsletters were circulated to the Public Relations Committee members, when they were published.

Advantage was taken of the District 9820 "Town Sign Upgrade" project that offered reimbursement of \$150, to help clubs upgrade their town signs. As a result, two club signs compliant with current Rotary branding, replaced the outdated ones at either end of High Street in Berwick.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis forced the cancellation of major events that promoted the club locally, namely Australia Day, Carols by Candlelight and the Charity Golf Day. Despite these restrictions, the club managed to gain a significant level of promotion in the local community. Eighteen articles were submitted to the Star News Group during the year and sixteen of those were published in the local papers. This represented an 89% success rate.



To further increase our profile in the community, we had a club representative (Greg Lee) appointed to the Strategic Liaison Group on the Clyde Road Railway Crossing Removal project in Berwick. The SLG was established as a key information sharing avenue between the project and local community during major construction.



Greg did a great job in this role, resulting in a very informative presentation on the status of the project by five of the Project Managers, at a Zoom meeting in June. Over 45 people from the club and the

broader community, attended the meeting.

Public Image Report **continued**

Club Bulletin – Spoke ‘n’ Word:

Spoke ‘n’ Word continued to be issued on a weekly basis through ClubRunner. However, it had a new approach this year, in that it contained more information on the external Rotary community, rather than mainly reporting on internal activities as it had done in the past. Several innovations by President David included occasional embedded videos, that added interest to the specific story.

David and myself contributed articles each week, with me doing the final editing and distribution. Although contributions were invited from club members, only a few took up the offer and to them I express my sincere thanks.

Several of the articles in Spoke ‘n’ Word were also published in local newspapers and their online platform. One article on our participation in the “Clean Up Australia Day” event, was actually published in the City of Casey’s e-Newsletter “Green Living in Casey”.

Club website:

The Club website was monitored and updated on a regular basis. Articles on club activities that were prepared for local papers, were added occasionally to maintain its currency.

Evidence that people were looking at the website was demonstrated by several enquiries about membership and a request from City of Casey to use the ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ article in their e-Newsletter.

Club Photographers:

Since most of the year involved meetings by Zoom, there were not the same opportunities for our Club Photographers to take photographs. Photographs for Spoke ‘n’ Word and newspaper articles were obtained from a range of sources. In fact, whoever happened to have a mobile phone with them at the event, took photographs and forwarded them to me. Thanks to everyone who contributed in this way.

Since face-to-face meetings began again in late January, Sandi Tarant has been doing a great job taking photographs. My thanks to Sandi for all her work, it is really appreciated.

Flyers and banners:

Every opportunity was taken during the year to display our four teardrop Club banners at the few local events allowed under the COVID restrictions.

The banners of our sponsors, St John of God Hospital and Bendigo Bank have been displayed at regular club meetings, as well as the 2020-2021 podium banner.

Social media:

In addition to the articles published in local newspapers, Facebook has proved to be a valuable platform in getting information about club activities out there into the local and international community. It has been used throughout the year, both as a source of District 9820 information and to promote and report on selected club activities. The main contributors to our Facebook postings have been Jane Moore, PP Isobel Caulfield, P David Button and me.. Thanks everyone for your contribution.

Although not as popular as Facebook, (personally I do not use it), I feel Instagram should be explored and used more in the future. I am told by my grandchildren that Facebook is for older folk and Instagram is more popular with younger generations. Oh, the truth hurts!

In summary, I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Public Image Director this year. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted me in the role.

Rotary Club of Berwi...

Overview Ads Notifications

Home Shop About Photos Reviews

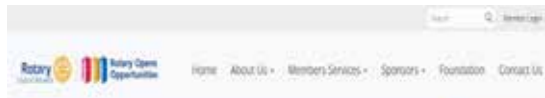


32 6 Comments 16 Shares

Like Comment Share

5,361 people reached

Boost Post



Issue 48
16th June 2021

What's in the box?

Posted by David Butten on Jun 16, 2021

Join our meeting

Each Wednesday at
The Beaconfield Club,
Holm Park, Beaconfield,
Victoria, Australia

Enquire by Email:
mailto:rotary@berwick.org.au
Rotarians and Rotaries are welcome.

Take us for a test drive!
CALL: 0838 363488

rot. P.O. Box 33, Berwick 3806



is 'Fellowships' Month



ry Fellowships are international
It that share a common passion.
part of a Fellowship is a fun
g make friends, around the
L explore a hobby or profession.

This week's meeting had it all: life and death, engineering, business, humanitarian pursuits and sad internet. There was something for everyone and all members attending Holm Park were very interested in the topic to right, flat-packed coffins. Perhaps some were window shopping for a less one, others were intrigued by the engineering and manufacture and I was interested in the humanitarian aspects that Rotary may be able to utilise. Unfortunately, the internet was dodgy, but the Zoomers all hung in there and hopefully got the gist of the presentation, even though they probably didn't see it. Our rotarians put on a terrific dinner and the atmosphere in the room was alive. A great night out on a cold winter night.

Speaker Casey Wong from ICON/ANER spoke about the engineering, manufacture and marketing of a range of patented flat pack coffins and caskets, the coffins were designed to take up as little space as possible (disassemble), easily fitting in the boot of a normal car and weighing less than 30kg. This was important for ease of distribution and storage, especially in areas of natural disasters or war zones.

Assembly of the coffin takes around eight minutes and there are no nails.

Fundraising Report



Pete Batterham - Fundraising Director



This Rotary year presented many challenges for our fundraising efforts. In particular, the Presentation Balls which had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequential restrictions on gathering and subsequent lockdowns. Thankfully, the Balls were able to be held in May 2021. We had to postpone and eventually cancel our Charity Golf Day at Beaconhills Country Club as a result of restrictions on play, as Australia's golfing authorities struggled to get the sport back on track. Our Art Screens Hire project saw a collapse in bookings due to limitations on gatherings in the series of lockdowns and the uncertainty for planners and organisers of the various events.

Presentation Balls

Fortunately, we were able to hold two Presentation Balls in May 2021. These were hugely successful events due to the willingness of members to meet the pent-up demand by Debutants; we had students from Berwick College current year 12 (those who had missed out in 2020) as well as the 2021 cohort. Past President Isobel Caulfield successfully took over the running of the event (from Pete and Sue Batterham who had conducted the project for 3 years and needed a rest) and with a desire to automate many of the processes to reduce the time and various administrative issues, the planning and execution of the project was a huge success. A considerable amount of funds has resulted in a big donation to the College.



Charity Golf Day

Hopefully, we will see a partial return to normal in the next Rotary year which should see us able to resurrect the event.

Art Screens

This project has been one of our best earners for a number of years and was setting up to be a record year with lots of bookings. However, the advent of Covid-19 brought the project to a sudden stop with all bookings cancelled. Fortunately, as lock-downs were successful in slowing the pandemic we were able to take and execute a number of bookings, which resulted in a very good return for effort by the team lead by PP Gus Dominguez and ably supported by "towers" and carriers etc. All those members involved say they have a great time doing a successful project and enjoy the comradeship and coffee at days end.

Miscellaneous fund-raising Projects and activities

A number of projects and activities ranging from BBQs, and Charity tins were again profitable. Club meeting activities such as Jokers Wild, Fines sessions and Heads and Tails also contributed to the Club's income

Sponsorships

We have reached agreement for the major Club sponsors to continue their support. These sponsors are the St John of God Hospital and the Beaconsfield Bendigo Community Bank.

Pete Batterham - DIRECTOR of FUNDRAISING

Youth Report



PDG Tim Moore - Youth Director

The Rotary Club of Berwick has a long and successful history of supporting most of the Rotary youth programs available

Youth Portfolio

Under normal circumstances the Youth portfolio involves a large number of Rotary programs and projects. In 2020-21, Covid 19 has meant that most either could not be offered at all or were moved to online where possible. Within the parameters of this Covid environment our club has tried its best to still be active in our local community

in the Youth portfolio

Youth Exchange has not proceeded and will not until at least 2022, this is an international exchange that has been affected for obvious reasons. Rotary Youth Leadership Award (for 18-28-year olds) and Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (middle school students) are active programs involving overnight camps and outdoor activities to develop future leaders.

While this year our club's face to face activities have been curtailed, we are pleased that we could contribute to the following:

Support for Local School Student Awards

Once again, the Rotary Club of Berwick supported a number of our local schools with cash vouchers for achievement, conduct and leadership. These schools were Harkaway Primary School, Brentwood Park Primary School and our major partner, Berwick Secondary School, where President David was able to represent the club in the presentation of these awards.

National Youth Science Forum

Our successful candidate was Zimo



Zhu, a resident of Upper Beaconsfield and who attends Methodist Ladies College. She is now in Year 12 and is passionate about the Sciences, particularly Biology and Medicine. Her hobbies include

playing the violin, the piano and the harp. She is a member of the school's symphony orchestra, a drum major for the marching band and a div 3 Eight coxswain for the MLC 2020 Rowing season. Zimo loves fitness and works out daily.

"Zimo here. NYSF finished last Friday, and I have to say: wow! I never imagined how an online "summer camp" would be so amazing, and it was unbelievable how even separated by screen, how many new friends you could make. There were so many really fascinating speeches that I heard, they were so motivating and inspiring, it was a pity not to be able to meet

these awesome lecturers in person. NYSF is truly eye-opening! Unfortunately, I had other commitments that came into conflict with a week of NYSF, so I was attending rowing camp at the same time. That particular week was difficult to balance, since streaming a lecture while on the river was pretty impossible. But I will watch the re-plays soon. Two days ago, the Victorian NYSF students gathered for a dinner together, because unlike the other states and territories, we didn't have the opportunity to visit STEM places in-person. Not going to lie, the world is a very small place, I met lots of people who I had mutual friend with! And a few new friends that I would've never had the chance to meet if it wasn't for NYSF. Overall, I am very grateful to be given this opportunity to explore science into new degree, from a different angle (online learning). Thank you to the club in supporting me on this program! I loved it so much, I think I might apply to attend the LIYSF (London International Youth Science Forum) in 2022"

Zimo

Interact

St Margaret's Berwick Grammar Interact Club – Club Report (2020-2021)

The inaugural year of the St Margaret's Berwick Grammar Interact Club has been quite a challenging one. The coronavirus pandemic created changes within the school community that were hard to account for and are still doing so.

In 2020, Jessica Elfick (Class of 2020) founded the club, through connections with her mother at Emerald Rotary. During this period, the whole school was online, so it was quite



The Crane Project, 2020-21

enjoyable to be able to log onto a Zoom call during lunchtime with a bunch of like-minded peers and have a little fun. We had a guest speaker from the City of Casey supporting Rotary's new point of focus: "Protecting the Environment". Additionally, we started our first project: Letters to the Elderly.

This first project was quite simple, but one we felt was important during the lockdown. In contact with Fiddlers Green Retirement Village and Melville Grange Aged Care, members wrote personal letters about themselves, and passed them onto the nurses and aged care workers at these facilities. Feedback was delivered back to us that this was enjoyable for the elderly, and many girls are still in touch with their recipients!

During this time, the Black Lives Matter movement was very prominent in our day-to-day lives, whether it be on social media or discussions in class. As a club, we decided to support the movement, and broaden it to 'equality for all'. The question was, how would we do this? Our answer was to fold 1000 paper cranes, to follow along with the Japanese legend that the folder of 1000 origami paper cranes would be granted 1 wish. We wished for equality. Over a year later, we are still working on this project and have almost reached the milestone of 1000 paper cranes.

We plan to fundraise for an organisation named Black Rainbow, who "currently support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI+SB people through a variety of community



projects and initiatives.” (Black Rainbow, 2021).

This project carried into the new year and the induction of many leaders, including myself (Class of 2022), Poppy Elfick as Vice President (Class of 2022), Rajsi Verma as Secretary (Class of 2023), Asmi Gupta as Treasurer (Class of 2023), and our newly introduced position: Lucy Kent as Public Relations Chair (Class of 2022).

This year we have introduced a couple of projects including a Bake Sale and Pride Project, The Push-Up Challenge where over 30 members of the Interact Club took part completing over 3,318 push-ups from June 1-25, raising fund for headspace.



Year 11 Girls completing push-ups as part of The Push-Up Challenge, 2021

Also we took part in Billy G's Gourmet Cookie Dough Fundraiser. From 3 weeks of fundraising, we have made over \$500 in profit

I, for one, am very grateful for all the opportunities the Interact Club and Rotary have supplied, with a couple of girls competing in MUNA in the upcoming weeks. On behalf of the club: we are very excited for what is to come!

Annabelle Morton

President of the St Margaret's Berwick Grammar Interact Club (2021)

Class of 2022

We thank PP Isobel Caulfield for her ongoing work in helping establish and look after this club. We are investigating the starting of other clubs too.

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

We have contacted most of our local secondary schools and are happy to report we have sponsored 4 teams (of 2). The schools are Nossal High School 2 teams, St Margaret's and Berwick Grammar 1 team each.

MUNA is an annual event that is part of an International Rotary project to educate senior high school students on the United Nations organisation. The way the U. N. plays a vital role in promoting world peace, in addition to improving health, education and living standards around the world. run by Rotary District 9820 to develop the skills and international understanding of youth in our Gippsland wide district that includes Melbourne's South East, the Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland regions.



Delegates are encouraged to wear an appropriate national costume and have fun doing it. The objective is to encourage young people to learn respect and tolerance for people of all cultures, races, religions and nationalities. MUNA is all about building bridges of goodwill for world peace and understanding in the minds of our youth. As we move into the third millennium, we hope that by encouraging and facilitating dialogue between young people the future of our planet and of those who inhabit it will be enhanced.

MUNA challenges our youth to respect cultural diversity and differences of race and religion while retaining their own individualism and the best of their national customs and traditions.

MUNA is different this year The Rotary District 9820 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) Committee is offering an alternative video submission award as the usual face-to-face event is not possible in 2021 due to complications and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizing MUNA requires much planning and the committee has decided to reduce stress on Rotarians, clubs, schools, teachers/counsellors and parents by offering an opportunity for interested students to participate in a unique online MUNA experience.

A delegation of two students, from either Year 10 or Year 11, will be tasked with producing a 5-minute video in response to an adapted United Nations resolution (Sustainable Development: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind). The aim is for students to gain deeper understandings of complex humanitarian issues, further develop their research skills and ability to prepare and present information specific to their chosen UN Member State (the Country they represent). MUNA Committee and Rotarian, Alf Riena, has had an extensive career with the United Nations, the Australian Government, NGOs and International Organisations working in the fields of migration management, human rights, refugees, peace keeping and development.

Many thanks to the club members and our community for their ongoing support of these valuable programs for our youth.

PDG Tim Moore
Youth Director 2020-21



Treasurer's Report



Wendy Langdon – Treasurer

As the Financial year is ending, the Club has performed financially well considering that we are coming to the end of a year affected by Covid-19.

The pandemic stopped three significant events, Carols by Candlelight, Australia Day and Charity Golf Day.

The Club was fortunate to have a fabulous team of volunteers who successfully ran the Presentation Balls and Art Screens Hire. These two projects ran while the state allowed us to enjoy life with the new Covid 19 regulations.

Rotary Club of Berwick was fortunate to gain sponsorship from St. John of God Hospital and Bendigo Bank for the year.

The range of this year's beneficiaries reflects the reduced capacity to fundraise during the year, and the Boards focus on supporting areas that matter to the Club and to Rotary. Rotary-based programs were the major winners and our Presentation Ball partner school, Berwick College. Most of the beneficiaries give back value to our Club through running programs, providing funding

or making a difference to our local community. Our Club members must get a return on their time investment in Rotary and the community must get value from having an active Rotary Club in their area.

Rotary Donations in Kind (DIK), for example, have provided our Club with 780 pairs of Croc shoes and three pallets of new clothes that we have been able to distribute to the local people in need. Last year, DIK provided the Club \$50,000 worth of medical equipment for the Hallam Secondary medical teaching program. We need our member earned disbursements to work for the Club and also for our community.

The Board has also set aside \$4,000.00 for the Grasmere Wetlands Project. This project involves installing four public bench seats early in the new Rotary year. A District 9820 Grant has been applied for to reduce the cost of the project; however, the Club must fund the project in the first instance.

\$2,000.00 has also been aside to start on the Vocational Awards project as soon as possible in the new year.

During the year, Isobel worked to set up a PayPal account. PayPal has enabled

payment online and reduced the need to handle money manually. PayPal is now imputing straight into the Club accounting system and shows where the funds originated. Having an online payment system has saved valuable time accounting for transactions, especially with the Presentation Balls project, weekly meetings and our large vocational visit.

The Club Accounting system remains in the cloud. Andrew Harper at HBT Advisory has been a great support to the Club to maintain the status of maintenance and transparency of the Rotary Club of Berwick's Books.

I want to acknowledge the work that Gary Castricum has put into the financial accounts as Treasurer for the first six months of the year. I took over after his resignation and would like to mention the support from the Board during this time.

I want to say a special thank you to David Button for spending time and teaching me about Rotary in general and to Cait, my daughter. Cait has been a great support as a personal assistant this year. She has put a lot of time and effort to teach me about the modern world of computers and cloud stuff. Without her, I'd be lost, but with her, our Club can move forward.

Rotary Club of Berwick Distributions 2020-21

• <u>Berwick College</u>	<u>11,000</u>
• <u>Donations in Kind Inc</u>	<u>3,500</u>
• <u>Donations in Kind: Dili Flood Disaster</u>	<u>1,000</u>
• <u>Leukemia Foundation</u>	<u>2,000</u>
• <u>Mick Morland Memorial</u>	<u>1,000</u>
• <u>MUNA</u>	<u>200</u>
• <u>National Youth Science Forum</u>	<u>950</u>
• <u>Nossal High School low level grant</u>	<u>1,000</u>
• <u>Peace Pole Project</u>	<u>176</u>
• <u>Polio Plus</u>	<u>2,500</u>
• <u>School Awards</u>	<u>950</u>
• <u>The Rotary Foundation</u>	<u>4,400</u>
• <u>TOTAL</u>	<u>28,676</u>

The Games we played





And the work we did

I am immensely proud of what my Rotary Club has achieved in a year of turmoil. It has been a hectic year of change, and a bit of Ninja opportunism was needed to sneak in work between lockdowns.

This year has been very difficult to plan out so in the absence of a plan, we made good with what we had combined with our own drive to succeed in the face of adversity. Naturally we made the most of every opportunity because everything we were doing made a difference to someone as well as making a difference to ourselves.

Collectively we have managed to:

Recognise **two outstanding individuals** in Roger Page and Mary Anne Burr with Paul Harris Fellow Awards



We fitted out **Berwick College's new Wellness Centre** with hospital beds and bedside trolleys. Rotary Donations in Kind kindly supplied them and we built a stronger relationship with the school.



Our team of active Rotarians made a good dent in cleaning up the **Berwick Cemetery** this year.



The Art Screen crew have been hard at it when they get a chance. They have picked as many available jobs as they can due to the hard work done by PP Gus Dominguez in taking the booking and organising the teams.

This a very inclusive team and everyone is welcome to join in when their time permits.

A small team of **Berwick Rotarians** helped D9820 Interact Chair Josie Wilson to organise the first-ever Interact Conference. This event was well received and an inspiration to all attending.



We have done a fair bit with **Rotary Donations in Kind**, including several pickups of goods (medical and school equipment) and preparing hospital beds for transport. Great hands-on projects!



Jane Moore organised, coordinated and educated us all about Trachoma. Our Club got together, donated goods and then packed **End Trachoma Kits** for our allocated school in the Northern Territory.



Clean up Australia Day allowed us to involve the Cubs in this project at Buchanan Park in Berwick. People need to see Rotary in public walking the talk, and this was an ideal project. The Cubs were excited to be involved, and we were able to tell them about what Rotary does.



Vocational visits are always fun, so why not have one at a local Rotary Club of Berwick business. We had an excellent crew to help out and an excellent caterer to keep us all well fed. It was a delightful evening with plenty of chatter and even something to learn. A terrific turnout from Rotarians from all around the District.



Clothes for the homeless. The Rotary Berwick and District Benevolent Society has been looking for other avenues to help our local community. This year we tried Croc shoes and new clothing, all donated to Rotary Donations in Kind. We needed to sort the goods to allocate them. While it wasn't as successful as we had hoped, it was a start that we could learn and build on.



The annual Lawn Bowls night is a project of friendship and fun. Building and maintaining bridges amongst our surrounding Clubs is essential. Also, winning the trophy is up there too!



Presentation Balls are a long-standing project of the Club spanning 40 years. In the COVID world, they are intensive and risky if a lockdown strikes at the wrong moment. Nonetheless, PP Isobel Caulfield took a chance, and we had a fantastic couple of nights out.



BBQing isn't that far away from a Rotarians heart, so looking after 100 hungry Rotarians at the District mini Conference was right up our alley!



Next year plan



Setting up for the future is a priority. A Rotary Club always outlives its President, and our Club must prevail to serve our community. This means that our Club must invest time and thought into a new strategic plan. So many things have changed since the last time we ventured down the long term planning road.

This year my Board have made an effort to take all members who are willing to listen along the Rotary Club of Berwick's journey of change. We have gone a long way to fixing our foundations, now it is time to rebuild our home.

Over the last twelve months, our Club has had a COVID driven shake down which has created a much needed opportunity to refocus on why we are Rotarians, what we want for ourselves and how we can use our talents and time to help others. While we have lost a few older members, we are now in a position to gain a different demographic with new enthusiasm and new projections. So what is our new home going to look like?

Our Club has eight essential ingredients that we need to put into our new home to ensure longevity. I am sure we all know what they are but



Positive Relationships: Every member needs to be a guide, mentor, friend, supporter or advocate to ensure we build connections with each other. This can be done through building our social activities, our committees and even just turning up to our weekly meetings.

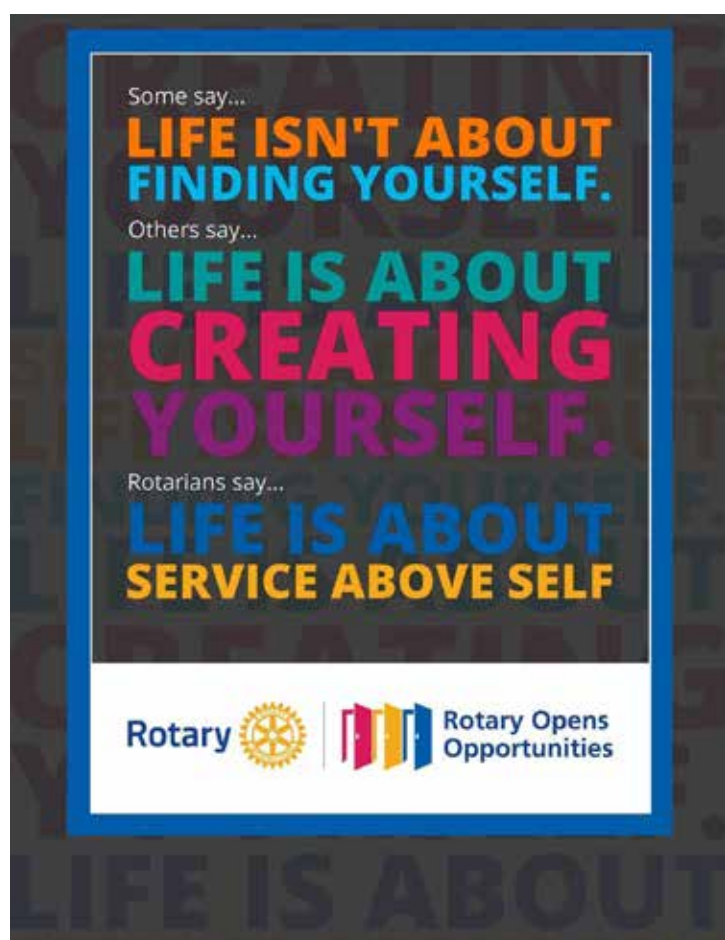
Inclusive Environment: In our Club, you are not just a member. You belong. Our Clubs success is everyone's success. We need to make an effort to get to know every member of our Club, embrace differences and learn from experiences.

Opportunity to Value and Practice Service: A chance to serve fosters self-worth and caring while gaining a greater connection to the larger community in a meaningful way. Our members have the opportunity to feel the good we can give to others and appreciate giving time to a good cause.

Opportunity for Mastery: Building knowledge and attitudes backed by experience will lead to competence in serving the community and daily life. A Rotarians life gains meaning when it is connected to the community in a meaningful way. The more we know about our community, the better we can serve it.

A Safe Environment: We all need a place to learn and practice without fear of emotional or physical harm. A safe environment with the right people to guide you and allow you to make mistakes will make you a stronger leader in the future.

Opportunity for Self-Determination: Members believe they have an impact on life's events. Learning decision making and problem-solving techniques will help members to become self-directing and independent thinkers in the Club.



Engagement in Learning:

Learning by doing is one thing, but actively studying the subject matter to become self-motivated to do more is another. Knowledge is power, and what you can learn in Rotary will translate throughout both your personal and business life.

To Be An Active Participant in the Future:

What we do today will impact the future. Believing we can play a positive role in creating a better future starts with a vision for what we would like to see the world to be in the future.

As a Rotary Club of Berwick member, our future is in our hands.

Our Sponsors



Around 16 years ago the Rotary Club of Berwick recognised the need to attract and build long term commercial sponsorship partnerships to help foster the Object of Rotary.

Rotary Club of Berwick are proud to have two Corporate Partners in the Bendigo Beaconsfield District Community Bank and St John of God Berwick Hospital who have both extended their Partnership for another year, providing mutual benefits to our respective organisations and financial support.

It is important to note that Rotarians are

volunteers and do not receive personal benefits from donations or sponsorship funds. All sponsorship funding is utilised for the following purposes:

Community Events:

- Event organisation expense
- Event advertising
- Graphics design
- Printing

Corporate Social Responsibilities:

- Donations to The Rotary Foundation,
- Donations to Polio Plus
- Donations to various local Charities (with previous agreement with sponsor)

Club Administration:

- Acquisition and replacement of computer equipment
- Licensing of computer software
- Graphics design
- Printing

Asset maintenance and replacement:

- Maintenance of community BBQ
- Maintenance of art screens trailer and advertisement placement
- Fabrication and maintenance of art screens
- Maintenance and replacement of banners, tents and tables
- Acquisition and maintenance of communications equipment

Membership Drive:

- Display equipment
- Club banners
- Graphics design
- Printing



In addition to our two Corporate Partners the City of Casey continues to be supporters of our club through event grants towards the annual Christmas Carols, Australia Day and charity golf day.



Benefits

Benefits In addition to supporting world endeavours like polio eradication, the Rotary Club of Berwick carries out several projects for the local community when COVID-19 restrictions allow such as the organisation of Berwick's Australia Day celebrations, the family Christmas Carols at Edwin Flack Reserve, a Charity Golf Day, and several other activities that generate exposure of Rotary and its sponsors in the community.

Sponsor banners are displayed at each meeting and through the magic of Zoom are beamed out as well as prominent to those attending. Sponsor logos are displayed on our Club website with links back to each sponsor.

The Rotary Club of Berwick offer:

Exclusivity. Only one business of the same industry is accepted into the program to ensure maximum results

Exposure. Sponsors receive exposure at designated events including branding (logos, banners) display, product showcasing, acknowledgement at events, hospitality and opportunities for direct contact with the public.

Corporate Social Responsibility. Sponsors contribute to The Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary which addresses challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Other Opportunities. Sponsors are provided the following but not limited to;

- the opportunity to address club members and guests at meetings throughout the year
- guest invitations to all club events and to present awards
- Corporate membership to the Rotary Club of Berwick so that staff can experience and learn about Rotary's impact in the world.



ST JOHN OF GOD

Berwick Hospital

Rotary Club of Berwick



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