



DISTRICT GOVERNOR REPORT – 2021/22

The Year in the mirror:

My year as DG of Rotary District 9830 - 2021/22.

Whilst COVID was still a major factor in the year, we at least managed to start the year with an in person changeover in Campbell Town.

As I went round the clubs I asked each one to do two things: increase their membership by a net two and undertake a project to help the homeless. Despite valiant efforts on the part of clubs, the COVID hangover saw many clubs lose a number of people early in the year and by the end of the year we were slightly down in numbers.

I managed over the time to get to the clubs and to a number of the group forums – time proving to be a challenge with many clubs meeting on Mondays – a difficult day for me. It was great, however to see the events and projects that clubs did manage to run although many were still cancelled or curtailed with COVID restrictions in place.

Clubs also rallied to help be the friendly faces at vaccination clinics (or as friendly as you can be behind masks) as we wrangled queues, called out numbers and explained to people that yes, you did have to fill in the same form AGAIN.

District conference was a victim of COVID – the committee postponed the conference and then ran a “not conference” a get-together on a Friday night to present District Awards and the bags for the homeless to the Salvation Army representatives. The Salvos acted as the lead agency, sending the kits out to other agencies around the state as needed. With the funds from the raffle, the support of Anaconda and Chemist Warehouse, as well as conference sponsors GDA and Huon, 100 kits were provided, along with over 200 blankets that were knitted by Rotarians and friends throughout the state and 75 scarves knitted by the wonderful St Canis knitters.

Congratulations again to District Award winners:

Best Club Communications: Central Launceston

Community and Vocational Services: West Tamar for successful collaborative fundraising for the Beauty Point Playground

Service to Youth: Tamar Sunrise for on-going engagement in a wide range of Rotary youth Projects

Best New Project: Tamar Sunrise for Christmas Angels

Best long-term Project: Devonport for Teddy Bear fly in and Kite Festival

Significant achievement: Ulverstone for Sparkle in the Dark

Multi-club project: Southern Vaccination clinics

Membership increase: Hobart for greatest number (7) , Launceston West for greatest percentage (25%)

During the year we transitioned we welcomed RC Legana to the Rotary family, using the charter from the Passport club to facilitate the setting up of the new club. We welcome all the members and particularly thank PAG and Membership Director Jodie Lowe who worked tirelessly to help the members make this happen. RC Legana hit the ground running with an Easter Egg Hunt and is a new-style, family friendly club with less formality and a focus on service and fun. A number of other clubs continue to offer hybrid meetings to allow members who can't make meetings to still be part of the Rotary family.

A number of clubs celebrated "round" birthdays:

Brighton and Youngtown: 40 years

Kingston and Launceston West: 50 years

South Launceston: 60 years

Burnie: 80 years

With the 100 years for Rotary in Tasmania and the Hobart and Launceston clubs in 2024, work was started on a special anniversary book with well known author Allan Leeson from RC Somerset managing the project.

Many of the traditional club events ended up being cancelled but the Community Shops in Longford and West Tamar continue to do well. Other events managed to squeeze in between lock-downs but, on the whole, it was a quiet year for Rotary Clubs from a fundraising point of view. A much reduced Science and Engineering Challenge was run with a number of schools pulling out.

The Rotary family weekend tradition was continued with a weekend in St Helens held in November. We cleaned the foreshore on the Saturday, ate, drank and laughed a lot. The AGM on the Sunday was a bit of a challenge as the hotel staff forgot to open the room for us but we managed to get through.

As the year finished, we recorded donations to the Rotary Foundation of USD \$196,720. My thanks to District Secretary Alicia Pelham, Finance Managers Bruce Buxton and Michael

Plunkett, and all the District Leadership Team for your support during the year.

I wish Bob Calvert, District Governor 2022/23, all the best for his year ahead and I am confident Rotary Tasmania is in good hands.

Heather Chong

District Governor - Rotary Tasmania 2021/22