

# ROTARY CLUB OF MONT ALBERT & SURREY HILLS

## Annual Report 2020 -2021

President: Val Crees  
District 9810 - Australia  
Chartered 27th October 2004

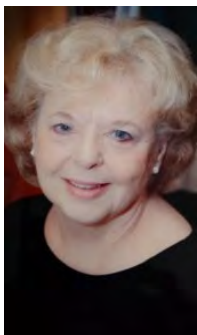


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## President's Report 2020-2021



As I reflect upon the last twelve months, I think the year is best summed up as a period of learning, especially in dealing with change. From the outset, our changeover night adopted a different format by using an on-line platform. Buoyed by good attendance, and inspired by the year's motto "Rotary Opens Opportunities", our club reviewed its plans and considered how it could transition itself whilst operating within severe "emergency" constraints imposed due to the COVID virus.

The first change was to weekly meetings which proved relatively easy through the opportunity to use on-line technology. Almost without exception, meetings had full attendance as members looked forward to catching up with friends and colleagues, particularly whilst they were in total "lock-down". In March, 2021, the club resumed meetings in person at Box Hill Institute, whilst continuing on-line, after which members had the option of attending dinner at the nearby RSL.

A major attraction at meetings this year has been the high calibre of guest speakers and, with the use of on-line connections, came the opportunity to engage an exceptional range of people from around the globe. Congratulations to Alex Starr for an outstanding effort in organising this club activity.

A significant and integral part of any Rotary club's operations is fund-raising and an opportunity arose to sell facemasks. Thank you to David Winter for being the facilitator of this project. Restrictions were lessened and, once again, through the generosity of David's business, the Club had both pre-Christmas and pre-Easter stalls at the Whitehorse Farmers' Market.

One early sign of normality was the resumption of our regular Saturday morning BBQs in Hamilton Street this year. Thank you to our "tong masters", Graeme Battersby and Rob Teese, and to the many helpers over the last five months.

After a disappointing cancellation last year, our club launched a new major fundraising event on March 21, a "Lift the Lid Walk for Mental Health". Despite the disappointing weather, the "Walk's" debut was a great success and will, hopefully, be the forerunner to many similar events in the future. Well done, to Alex Starr and club members who mustered for duties together with those who were involved in the "Walk" itself.

The following week, the District celebrated the centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand. Thank you to Anne Teese, Richard Groom and Kai-Xing Goh for being on the organising committee. Celebratory events included a baton relay through the City of Whitehorse followed by a dinner. On May 25, our club had the honour of hosting the presentation of the Whitehorse Rotary Centenary Award to Indigo Erez, an exceptional candidate from Deakin University.

Despite Covid, our Rotary club still managed to recruit a strong cohort of Interactors at Koonung Secondary College. It was a pleasure to watch Joe and Gill Somers present the students' membership badges and sense the pride and excitement amongst these young people. I had the honour to be present to give Citizenship awards to two 2020 graduates of the College.

Once again, our club was invited to assist in organising the dawn service held in Surrey Park to commemorate ANZAC Day where I had the honour of reading a poem and laying a wreath on members' behalf. Thank you to Nicole Osner for her membership of the organising committee and to Club members who were on duty to ensure COVID protocols were observed.

One of the highlights of my year was the invitation to inspect Alkira's new facility in Springfield Road. I felt honoured that senior personnel took the time to show me around and pleased that our club had been able to contribute by paying for a hoist. Alkira responded by including our club's name on its board of donors.

A very important role in any club is that of editor of its newsletter. We are indebted to Rob Teese for his tireless efforts to ensure the primary communication with our immediate and wider community is produced each week. Our thanks, too, to Rob, Richard Groom, David Winter and Nicole Osner for their involvement in regularly updating our website and social media posts. I would also like to acknowledge Richard Groom for his outstanding efforts in applying for various grants to support our endeavours. Thank you, too, to the Committee Chairs, Joe Somers, Nigel Cooper, Rob Teese, Janelle Kuc and Patt Gagliardi for their diligent leadership.

Thank you to Carol Hampton-Chubb for standing in as Club Secretary during Jan Cook's convalescence, as well as to Nicole Osner for her term as Club Treasurer. I would like to express my appreciation to the current Board members, David Winter, Vice President; Jan Cook, Club Secretary for the latter half of the year; Anne Teese, immediate Past President; Richard Groom, Treasurer, also in the second half of the year; to Kai-Xing Goh and Patt Gagliardi. All of these people have displayed professionalism in their respective roles and brought a wealth of experience and expertise to assist with the Club's governance. I thank them all for their significant contributions and generous advisory support.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Club members for their support and interest in what has been an unprecedented, challenging time. My thanks, too, to my husband, Colin, for his forbearance of all things "Rotary" throughout the year.

Now, to the future. We look forward to the exciting new plans that our joint Leaders and Board have in place and to embracing the new theme "Serve to Change Lives". I would like to welcome Co-Presidents Elect, David Winter and Joseph Somers; President Nominee, Patt Gagliardi; Secretary Elect, Simon Barnard and Treasurer Elect, Nigel Cooper to the Board and extend best wishes on behalf of all members to them for the coming Rotary year.

Valmai Crees

**President 2020-2021**

## **Office Bearers 2020-2021**

### **Board Members**

President	Valmai Crees
Vice President	David Winter
Immediate Past President	Anne Teese
Co-Presidents Elect	Joseph Somers and David Winter
President Nominee	Patt Gagliardi
Secretary	Janice Cook (Carol-Hampton-Chubb, July-October)
Treasurer	Richard Groom (Nicole Osner, July-October)
Member	Kai-Xing Goh

### **Committee Chairs**

Community	Joseph Somers
Environment/Vocational	Patt Gagliardi
International	Nigel Cooper
Youth Services	Rob Teese
Fundraising	David Winter
Membership	Anne Teese

### **Other roles**

On the Radar Editor	Rob Teese
Guest Speakers	Alex Starr
Club Program	Richard Groom
Website	Richard Groom/ Rob Teese
Certificates of Appreciation	Alex Starr
Foundation	Richard Groom
Social Media	Rob Teese/Nicole Osner
Social Activities	Val Crees/Anne Teese/Kai-Xing Goh
Club Photographer	Rob Teese

## **1. Club Operations**

Club Operations covers fundraising, social, membership, and our guest speaker program. The following reports have been prepared by the chairs of these areas of operation.

### **1.1 Fundraising – David Winter**

The pandemic has had a significant impact on our fundraising activities this year which was hardly surprising. Despite difficulties in running events, we still managed to achieve income of over \$29000 to the end of May.

Through the efforts of our grants co-ordinator, Richard Groom, we received two grants from the Bendigo Community Bank. \$5000 was for Bread Street's "Meals on Wheels" program run during lockdown and \$2500 was applied to Literacy Grants. In addition, Richard was also able to get a District 9810 matching grant of \$2000 which was applied to the Durban Computers project in Port Alfred, South Africa.

We successfully ran two COVID-19 related projects. Sales of hand sanitizer, organised by Chris and Carol Hampton-Chubb, (\$200) and sales of face masks (\$2015) assisted us with fundraising during the extended lockdown.

Sausage sizzlers added a further \$3000 in funds although COVID restrictions limited our activity this year.

Through Bread Street, and with support of our members, local schools and the general community, we were able to raise money from sales of fruit mince pies (\$6640), hot cross buns (\$1130) and from collection tins (\$1747).

This year the Whitehorse Farmers' Market was, again, an important contributor to our income with almost \$4500 raised. A special thank you to Simon Wheelton who has co-ordinated the WFM again and to Patt Gagliardi for her monthly effort in this area.

Susan Smith took on raffle ticket sales which is run annually by the Rotary Club of Glen Waverley. MASH has received over \$1600.

As a club, and given the circumstances this year, MASH has been able to continue to fund our numerous projects through the collective efforts of our members.

### **Lift the Lid Walk for Mental Health 2021 (Rosie Starr)**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 MASH members were up at the crack of dawn to set up for the "Lift the Lid walk for Mental Health" held at Gardiners Creek Reserve in support of Australian Rotary Health. Gazebos were erected and a big purple arch blown up to mark the start of the event which would be the first of its kind held in Greater Melbourne.



Despite some dreary weather, over 140 committed participants donned their rain jackets and came down for a boost of endorphins in support of a cause which had hit all too close to home for many of us during the pandemic.

The event was lucky to have the support of prominent figures including local MP, Gladys Lui, former Australian Rotary Health Chairman, Greg Ross and former Premier, Hawthorn Football Club

President and founder of “Beyond Blue”, Jeff Kennett who attended and shared their thoughts with us before the walk commenced.

After some hot coffee and a bacon and egg roll, the walkers made their way around the 3km track and were met along the way by groups of Interactors and Rotaractors who guided them along the path and handed out fruit, lollies, dog treats and blew bubbles to keep spirits high.



The pink and white lift the lid shirts and caps looked colourful on participants and the delicious cookies were a highlight. Drinks tables were manned all day in the event square with music playing from sponsor, Ross-Hunt Real Estate’s gazebo. All of this came together to create a lively atmosphere.

We are proud to announce that the event raised over \$6400 for Australian Rotary Health. This is a tremendous figure and a credit to the hard work of everyone involved, particularly event coordinator Alex Starr and club members who raised a hand to help. Thanks to our sponsors, Ross-Hunt Real Estate and Tru Fire Protection, for their generosity. Thank you also to David Winter and Bread Street for providing ingredients and facilities to bake cookies and to the Rotary Club of North Balwyn for their support and loan of the Food Cart and equipment. Officeworks kindly donated a Tablet for the raffle; Bunnings offered vouchers for the raffles; Kennards allowed us free hire of a generator and Coles donated a voucher for the purchase of our food and drinks. Great to see the community come together in such a way and looking forward to the return of



the event in 2022 which netted over \$5000. Congratulations to Alex and Rosie Starr for their wonderful effort.

## **1.2 Public Image/Social Media and Social Activities**

### **Public Image/Social Media – Rob Teese**

Richard Groom and Rob Teese have kept the club web site up to date throughout the year. Details of upcoming meetings and events have been kept current and several reviews of the web content have been performed.

David Winter, Nicole Osner, Janelle Kuc and Rob Teese have all contributed posts to our Facebook page. The Whitehorse cluster's Centenary Baton relay and the MASH Lift the Lid Walk were promoted through Facebook. We have also "Liked" and "Shared" posts from the District, Rotaract and cluster club Facebook pages.

On The Radar (our club's newsletter) has been produced weekly by Rob Teese to keep the club members, friends, honorary members and partners of MASH up to date with what is happening at the Club.

The Whitehorse cluster, including MASH, received media coverage via several local newsletters for the Centenary Baton Relay.

## Social Activities – Val Crees

When lock-down constraints were imposed in March, 2020, many of us optimistically thought the problems associated with the COVID virus would have been resolved by June. Of course, has not been the case and we have had to rethink of ways we could retain a sense of normality, have some fun and engage with each other.

Our initial effort was last August, when members “zoomed” in for a great evening of fun and frivolity as we played “Two Truths and One Lie” which resulted in some amazing and often humorous personal revelations from our club members. Thank you to Anne and Rob Teese for organising this social evening. This on-line form of engagement proved so successful that Kai-Xing Goh and Daniel Du Bois organised a

hilarious “Murder at the Ugly Sweater Party”. We are not sure how much evidence about the murderer was collected by our super sleuths, however their evil, uncharitable and egocentric characters were at the fore as they tried to discover who committed the dastardly deed. Well done to everyone for two great fun-filled evenings.



Since COVID restrictions eased, Club members have been fortunate to enjoy a picnic together at Wattle Park to start the year and three social outings, the first being at Dunyad restaurant, the second at Grande Forno and lastly at China Wei. As a result, members were transported to Lebanon, Italy and China for

indigenous feasts, good friends and merriment, including that generated by a Middle Eastern belly-dancer who was accompanied by one of our “brave” members – thank you, Jon and thank you to everyone who attended these evenings.



On May 16, eight of our members had the pleasure of driving to Ballan to join the Rotary Club of Beaufort for a delicious lunch. The occasion could not have been better – lovely, interesting people, lots of fun and frivolity, together with great food. Thank you, again, to President Denise and her club members for their warm hospitality.



We now look forward to a series of changeover functions, including one to acknowledge the significant contribution of the current District Governor, Alma Reynolds and to welcome in the Governor-elect, Daryl Moran. Thank you to Kylie Knight-Brown, our Assistant Governor for her generous assistance and support throughout the year.

### 1.3 Membership – Anne Teese

The new Rotary year commenced on 1 July and there were 26 members in the club. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, the club now has 23 members and is made up of 12 female and 11 males, ranging in age from 24 to 81.

There have been a few enquiries but at this stage we have not had any new members.

‘Connecting MASH’, which Nicole started during the COVID-19 lockdown in April 2020, continued until the end of December. It was a fantastic way to keep members in touch with each other.

### 1.4 Meeting and Guest Speaker Program 2020–21 – Alex Starr

Zoom meetings became the norm but, later in the Rotary year, we had the opportunity to meet again in person. We then offered the option of hybrid meetings – some members met in person, some via Zoom and our speakers were the same. Our guest speakers provide a richness to the club meetings and we are most appreciative to each of them for giving their time to share their stories.

Date	Guest Speaker	Topic	Zoom or Hybrid
07 July 2020	Committee Meetings		zoom
14 July 2020	Enoch Perazim	Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation	zoom
21 July 2020	Robert Parker	Australian Nuclear Association	zoom
28 July 2020	Sue Oaks	How To Discover What Makes You Feel Happier	zoom
04 August 2020	Committee Meetings		zoom
11 August 2020	Gareth Starr	Policing in the UK	zoom
18 August 2020	Ross MacDiarmid	Royal Australian Mint	zoom
25 August 2020	Dave Bennett	Manufacturing in the Auto Industry & Rotary	zoom
01 September 2020	Committee Meetings		
08 September 2020	Alan Ryan	Australian Civil-Military Centre	zoom
15 September 2020	Phil Cooper	Rainforest of Austrians & Piedras B Blancas NP	zoom
22 September 2020	Jonathon Stevenson	Victorian Marine Biology	zoom
06 October 2020	Committee Meetings		zoom
13 October 2020	Jessie Harman	Change and innovation in Rotary	hybrid

20 October 2020	Graham Battersby	Rotary Trip to India to Build Dams	zoom
27 October 2020	Gregory Landsman	Living with Racism in Our World	zoom
03 November 2020	Cup Day – No meeting		
10 November 2020	Alma Reynolds	District Governors Visit	zoom
17 November 2020	Committee Meetings		
24 November 2020	Rebecca Toll	Living in a Remote Aboriginal Community	zoom
01 December 2020	Kerryn Martin	Dog Raising and Care	zoom
08 December 2020	MASH Christmas Party	Dunyzad Lebanese Restaurant	In person
15 Dec – 5 Jan 2020	Christmas Break		
12 January 2021	Picnic in Wattle Park		In person!
19 January 2021	Greg King	End Polio Now & Rotary Foundation	zoom
26 January 2021	Australia Day Holiday	No meeting	
02 February 2021	Committee Meetings		zoom
09 February 2021	Club Assembly		In person
16 February 2021	Rohan Toll	The Value of Organ & Tissue Donation	zoom
23 February 2021	Peter Williams	Democratic development & human rights activities	hybrid
02 March 2021	Committee Meetings		
09 March 2021	Social Night	Grande Forno Italian Restaurant	In person
16 March 2021	Tom Quick	Child Stroke Survivor	hybrid
23 March 2021	Christian Doerig	Can Vaccines Eradicate all Viral Diseases?	hybrid
06 April 2021	Committee Meetings		zoom
13 April 2021	Esther Xu	Light at the End of the Tunnel- her cancer journey	hybrid
20 April 2021	Club Assembly		hybrid
27 April 2021	Literacy Grants	Local schools who were recipient	hybrid
04 May 2021	Committee Meetings		zoom

11 May 2021	Liz Stinson	Penguin Parade Mark II	hybrid
18 May 2021	Social Night	China Wei	In person
25 May 2021	Simon Starr	Birds & Conservation	hybrid
01 June 2021	Committee Meetings		hybrid
08 June 2021	Michelle Morrison	Organisational Psychologist	hybrid
15 June 2021	Kristin Vermeulen	Racing Motor Cars	zoom
22 June 2021	No meeting		



## 2. Club Service

Club Service covers community, environment/vocational, international and youth services. The following reports have been prepared by the chairs of these areas of operation.

### 2.1 Community Service Committee – Annual Report 2020-21

**Members:** Jeff Anderson, Simon Barnard Graeme Battersby Barbara Gay, Kai-Xing Goh, Richard Groom, Nicole Osner, Susan Smith, Alex Starr

With the pandemic and resulting lockdown the activities of the committee were limited.

#### Alkira

A personal hoist was funded for Alkira's new hub at Springfield Road, Nunawading – total cost \$10,250. A significant contribution from Whitehorse Rotaract and a \$5,000 Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant from a pool of money managed by Rotary Australian Benevolent Society (RABS) all added. The hoist was purchased. The GST refund was claimed by RABS/RAWCS reducing the overall cost to the project and making a further \$896 available. This amount was used in purchasing a two-seater couch for use at the new hub.

#### Meals on Wheels

This was not a MASH project, but was conceived and run by David Winter, a member of the club. Several members participated as volunteers, doing the cooking, or delivering the food throughout the lockdown to many vulnerable and deserving people. The program was extended to include international students who had been identified by Box Hill Institute as being vulnerable and unable to obtain money or food during the pandemic. At its height, the program was providing essential nourishment to over 200 people twice a week. Our Club secured a Bendigo Bank Grant of \$5000 to support this program which ended before Christmas with the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

#### ANZAC Day service

Nicole Osner represented the club at the local project team planning and organising the 2021 ANZAC Day memorial service at Surrey Gardens. MASH had budgeted for some of the expenses, but this money was not required as a sponsor emerged and funded the day's activities. Twelve volunteers from MASH (including a past member) worked as marshals on the day. The service was highly successful and has received good feedback from the local community who turned up by 5.55am on Sunday morning to participate and remember the deeds of those who went before us.



## Centenary of Rotary in Australia & New Zealand (Anne Teese)

The Whitehorse Cluster of Rotary Clubs, including MASH, Box Hill Burwood, Box Hill Central, Forest Hill, Mitcham, Nunawading, New Gen and Rotaract, worked together on projects to celebrate the centenary in April 2021. MASH's representatives were Richard, Kai-Xing and Anne.

On Sunday April 11 a Baton Relay was held in the City of Whitehorse, commencing at 7.30am at the Whitehorse Farmer's Market and finishing at 6pm at Acre Farmhouse Restaurant, Burwood Brickworks. Cluster 'A' had one baton and Cluster 'B' a second. MASH headed off from the market at 8am in the Community Policing vehicle to Koonung Secondary College and then members undertook a 7.2 km walk throughout our area of Surrey Hills and Mont Albert. The club gave away 100 finger buns with blue and yellow icing representing 100 years of Rotary to anyone popping into Bread Street. At 10.30am the walkers arrived at Alkira and the baton was handed over to Box Hill Central. Cluster Rotarians gathered at 5.30 pm to welcome the batons and enjoy a celebratory dinner.



It was a cold, wet but fun day and thanks to everyone involved – Nigel, Shia, Val, Barb, Nicole, Graeme, Kai-Xing, Rob and Anne.



The inaugural Rotary Centenary Award was designed to identify a student at Deakin University who has exhibited outstanding community service. This year's recipient is Indigo Erez. Congratulations to Richard for initiating this award.

The following projects are ongoing and will be finalised by the end of 2021. The committee is working with Eastern Health and it has identified that more information is needed for people to access community services in relation to mental health issues. Funds are being provided to produce the appropriate literature that will be readily available and will have relevant contact details. There are two other projects:

Kara House cooking kits for people from multicultural/diverse backgrounds and homeless support packs from Eastern Emergency Relief Network and the Salvation Army. Items for these are still to be purchased and volunteers will be sought for packing days.

Funding of these projects has been made possible by each club contributing \$2,250. In addition, a District grant of \$6,000, a Bendigo Bank Blackburn grant of \$10,000 and an Eastern Health grant of \$3,000 will assist.

## **2.2 Environment and Vocational – Committee Chair, Patt Gagliardi**

**Committee Members: Barb Gay, Graeme Battersby, Jan Cook, Murray Nielson, Joe Somers, Rob Teese, Nicole Osler, Jon Yoon, Gill Somers and Alex Starr**

Due to the pandemic and the resignation of Janelle Kuc (Chair Environment & Vocational) I took over the role as Chair of this committee. This has not been easy as there have not been many opportunities to become involved in activities. For example, in previous years MASH members have been involved in the Tree Growing/Planting event but not this year.

Jon asked the committee for information as to where he could donate 'out of date' medical supplies, bandages etc. Following enquiries Jon was able to donate these to an animal rescue in Oakleigh.

The club's "Lift the Lid Walk for Mental Health" had a sustainable focus and it was good to hear that disposable coffee cups and compost bins were available at the event.

Hopefully, all events that have been cancelled during 2020 will be able to take place once things are back to normal.

My thanks to all the Environment & Vocational Committee members and also other MASH members for their assistance throughout the year.

I have had a different but interesting time being stand-in chair of the committee and look forward to a better 2021-22 year.

## 2.3 International – Nigel Cooper, Committee Chair

**Committee Members: Simon Barnard, Patt Gagliardi, Kai-Xing Goh, Richard Groom and Shia Smart**

This Committee, made up of 6 members, achieved quite a lot more than was anticipated given the Covid-19 conditions that we had to cope with. The ability to run meetings via Zoom certainly assisted our progress.

The Board approved a budget of \$15,780 for projects during the year. This included \$7,500 for projects we annually support such as End Polio Now, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid, Malaria, Donations in Kind, Wheelchairs for Kids, Disaster Aid and Birthing Kits. Unfortunately, Birthing Kits did not proceed this year due to the unavailability of materials. However, we utilised these funds to make a \$2,000 donation to support Cyclone Yasa in Fiji. Donations to date totalled \$4,250 for these worthwhile projects.

In the case of Polio, the \$2,250 we donated increased to \$6,750 when matching contributions were received from the Gates Foundation contribution.

Other projects that we completed, are ongoing, or are being developed, are as follows:

**Solomon Islands** – this is an ongoing project initiated by MASH in 2018 which involves the provision of water, sanitation and educational materials to Carlisle Bay Primary School on the Island of Nendo in the Solomons. Despite having a needs analysis and a technical assessment completed last year for the provision of toilets and re-establishment of the water supply, we have been unable to visit the site to complete requirements for labour, materials and costings for the toilets. This has been delayed indefinitely. We have however, been successful with the provision of educational materials, clothing and other needs for the school and in January 2020 they received 8 boxes of educational materials which were gratefully received. Since then, we have put together another 13 boxes and these are currently being shipped via Donations in Kind. It is anticipated the school will receive these by May

Thanks go to the individual Rotarians who personally bought or donated books and clothing to this second consignment.



**Robert Veenstra Entrepreneurship Centre** – this involved the provision of 10 computers to upgrade their computer centre at a cost \$4,500. The Centre is situated in the township of Port Alfred, South Africa and is run by NHL Stenden University. The approach was made by one of Richard Groom's cricketing friends, Gerald Sieberhagen, of the Rotary E Club of South Africa One. The Board approved \$2,500 and we obtained a District grant of \$2,000 for the balance.

Thank you to Richard Groom for his dedication and initiative in promoting this worthwhile project and for also initiating and obtaining the District grant.

**Mobile Health Unit – Punjab, Pakistan** - this project commenced last year and has now been completed. Again, through Richard Groom's introduction, we supported the purchase and fit out of a mobile medical health unit in Gujranwala District. There are 4 million people in the district and the health unit is expected to treat more than 20,000 patients a year with ultrasounds, immunisation and other diagnostic testing. The local health authority will provide the staffing. The Board approved USD\$1,000 (AUD \$1,380 towards this a total global grant cost of USD\$62,400 made by the Rotary Club of Ruryila, Gujranwala (near Lahore). The project is nearly completed and we expect to receive a final report shortly.



**Indonesian Facemasks** – following a request from the Rotary club of Glen Waverley to other clubs in our District we supported the Rotary Club of Semarang-Kunthi D3420 with a donation of \$200 to assist fund with materials and local making of 7000 facemasks for distribution in Indonesia.

**Cyclone Yasa appeal** – as mentioned above, we provided a donation of \$2,000 via the Rotary Club of Boronia which was, together with other donations, remitted to Fiji to be used for the Tavenui Secondary school assistance project.

In summary our payments/donations were:

\$4,250 to our annual projects mentioned above

\$8,280 to one off projects

**Total spent \$13,530 against budget of \$15,780.**

## **2.4 Youth Services – Rob Teese, Committee Chair**

**Committee members:** Jan Cook, Nigel Cooper, Patt Gagliardi, Anjali Marcou, Murray Neilson, Gill Somers and Shia Smart

Despite the impact of Covid, the Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills managed to continue to support a number of our youth projects whilst others unfortunately had to be cancelled.

**Interact (Nigel Cooper, Joe and Gill Somers)** The Interact Club of Koonung Secondary College has continued to prosper under the guidance of Joe, Nigel and Gill and the school's teacher coordinator Peter Hodgkinson. Interact Presidents for 2020 - Hayley Mason and Elisha Punay missed out having the experience of leading the club due to the lockdown and remote learning necessitated by Covid 19. The 2021 Interact Presidents, Erin Lawson and Jaime Bastian together with their committee and members are enthusiastically embracing their return to school and their ability to now meet together, plan activities, assist in the community and raise funds for their designated charities.

In March this year, a number of Interactors assisted MASH at the "Lift the Lid on Mental Health Walk". They assisted with cooking biscuits for selling on the day of the event as well as acting as marshals at various check points. Interact Presidents (Erin and Jamie), along with leadership teams from 14 other Interact Clubs, attended the Interact District Assembly Day (IDAD) on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

In April, Joe and Gill had the honour of attending a senior school assembly to present Interact badges to all members for the current year. We acknowledge the support provided by Ms. Marianne Lee (Principal) and Peter Hodgkinson (Director of Learning: Engagement and Leadership) in allowing us to create an ongoing meaningful relationship with the students at Koonung Secondary College.



**Whitehorse Rotaract.** Our close relationship with Rotaract has continued this year. MASH members have attended both zoom and 'in person' meetings during the year. We are always made to feel very welcome at their activities.

Rotaractors, again, assisted this year with the International Women's Day Breakfast run by Rotary. They were also big contributors to our "Lift the Lid on Mental Health Walk".

Some MASH members participated in the "Virtual Marathon" run by Rotaractors who also joined with cluster Rotary clubs in the Centenary Baton Relay.

**Box Hill Institute Scholarships (Rob Teese)** Boosted by another grant of \$2,500 from the Bendigo Community Bank, we were able to provide three scholarships of \$1,000 and two for \$750 to students of Box Hill Institute to assist with their study fees or materials. The granting of the scholarships was delayed this year due to Covid and the successful students will present to the club shortly. The students had provided written applications which were then assessed by MASH members (Joe Somers and Nigel Cooper) and the Institute.

**Literacy Grants (Rob Teese).** This year, we provided grants of up to \$300 per school. The offer was taken up by the following seven schools • Our Lady's Primary School • Wattle Park Primary School • Surrey Hills Primary School • Mont Albert Primary School • Our Holy Redeemer Primary School • Box Hill North Primary School • Koonung Secondary College. Most participating teachers, together with two Koonung students, attended a MASH meeting in April. Each explained how the grant had been spent. Last year we received a grant from Bendigo Bank and \$500 remained unallocated. This \$500 was utilised to supplement the grants this year.

**Citizenship Awards** Val attended the Koonung Secondary College assembly in March to present these awards to two very worthy students - Elisha Punay and Hayley Mason. The award reflects those who exhibit exemplary citizenship and take on voluntary and extra-curricular roles in their student life.

**National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Primary School Speech Competition (PSSC) and the Model United Nation Assembly (MUNA)**

Unfortunately, all of these youth programs were cancelled this year.

## Financial position at May 31, 2021

The table below sets out the club's financial position as at May 31. Several things should be noted:

- Administration income would approximately equal administration expense if members' subscriptions for this year had not been brought to account in last year's financial statement.
- Income from the Whitehorse Farmers' Market has been included in Fundraising income for the first time.
- This year's annual contribution to Australia Rotary Health comes from a "Walk" organised by Alex Starr. The substantial difference between income and expense of the activity had not been paid to ARH at May 31.

Account	May 31 2021	May 31 2020
Administration	\$6,742	\$7,777
Fundraising	\$14,486	\$10,459
Term Deposit	\$5,402	\$5,364
Whitehorse Farmers' Market	\$8,795	\$8,181
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>\$35,425</b>	<b>\$31,781</b>

### Whitehorse Farmers' Market

MASH made one drawdown of \$2750 this year to fund the purchase of a hoist at Alkira. Takings at markets generally this year are lower because of the impact of COVID-19.

### Sources of Funds

During the year we received two grants from the local Bendigo Bank. David Winter's Meals on Wheels benefitted from a \$5000 grant and some needy Box Hill Institute students, whom MASH supports, were the recipients of a \$2500 grant.

The club also received \$2500 from D9810 as its contribution to our District Grant - International which supplied 10 new computers to the Robert Veenstra Entrepreneurship Centre in Port Alfred, South Africa.

Other funds raised are listed below.

Activity	Amount Rec'd
Whitehorse Farmers' Market	\$3,785
Sausage Sizzles	\$2,863
Tins at Bread Street and Sausage Sizzles	\$1,746
Mince Pies	\$6,641

<b>Face Masks</b>	<b>\$2,055</b>
<b>Hot Cross Buns</b>	<b>\$1,130</b>
<b>Raffles</b>	<b>\$2,236</b>

### **Use of Funds**

Our Administration account records income and expenses of all our internal club activities. Our Fundraising account records income and expenses which relate to all the projects and activities which the club supports.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expense</b>
<b>Port Alfred Computers</b>	<b>\$4,530</b>
<b>Contribution - Mobile Health Unit in Pakistan</b>	<b>\$1,746</b>
<b>Alkira projects</b>	<b>\$3,227</b>
<b>Literacy Grants</b>	<b>\$2,081</b>

### **Donations**

MASH made donations to many Rotary and other entities during the reporting period. Some of these are listed below.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expense</b>
<b>Defying the Drift</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Disaster Aid</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Cyclone Yasa relief</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Donations in Kind</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>End Polio Now</b>	<b>\$3,250</b>
<b>Rotarians against Malaria</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Rotary Oceania Medical aid for Children</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>The Rotary Foundation</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

## **The Rotary Foundation – Richard Groom (Project Manager)**

Numerous grant applications were made in the 2020 - 21 Rotary year.

- District 9810 \$2250 for 10 computers for the Robert Veenstra Entrepreneurship Centre in Port Alfred, South Africa. SUCCESSFUL
- Bendigo Bank \$5000 for David Winter's Meals on Wheels program. SUCCESSFUL
- VicHealth \$43020 for David Winter's Meals on Wheels program NOT SUCCESSFUL
- Community Food Relief \$61640 for David Winter's Meals on Wheels program NOT SUCCESSFUL
- Bendigo Bank \$3000 for Box Hill Institute support. SUCCESSFUL to the extent of \$2500

## Sponsors and Supporters

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters, without whom we would not be able to successfully run our activities and projects.

Sponsor and supporter	Program supported
Bendigo Bank	Provision of sponsorship of grants - ALKIRA, Community Meals on Wheels Program and Literacy Grants
Box Hill Institute	Provision of room at Nelson Road campus for weekly meetings
Bread Street	Provision of mince pies and hot cross buns; supply of bread and onions for our sausage sizzles.
Bunnings	Sausage Sizzle; 10x\$20 vouchers for raffle prizes for "Lift the Lid Walk"
City of Whitehorse	Venue for Whitehorse Farmers' Market
Coles Local, Surrey Hills	Food products for sale as fundraisers at "Lift the Lid Walk"
1 <sup>st</sup> Mont Albert Scout Group	For allowing us to use part of their outdoor space for our club's container storage facility.
Interact Club of Koonung	Students assisting at ANZAC Day service and "Lift the Lid Walk"
Kennards Hire, Doncaster	Generator hire at discounted rate for "Lift the Lid Walk"
Kwik Kopy Burwood	Printing of MASH Annual Report
Office Works, Box Hill	Donation of a tablet for Lift the Lid Walk raffle prize.
Ross Hunt Real Estate	Gold Sponsorship of "Lift the Lid Walk for Mental Health"
Rotary Cluster Clubs in Whitehorse	For ongoing commitment and support in the running of the Whitehorse Farmers' Market and other projects as they arise.
Surrey Hills Neighborhood Centre	Surrey Hills ANZAC Day Dawn Service
Surrey Park Panthers (Senior Footy Club)	Support from members who registered as walkers for "Lift the Lid Walk"
Tru Fire Protection	Bronze Sponsorship for "Lift the Lid Walk"
Whitehorse Rotaract Club	Various roles of assistance at the "Lift the Lid Walk"

## Membership of the Club as at June 2021 – including 7 Charter members

Jeff Anderson	January, 2020	
Simon Barnard	August, 2014	
Graeme Battersby	Charter Member	
Jan Cook	February 2016	Past President 2017-18
Nigel Cooper	August 2007	Past President 2014-15
Val Crees	June 2017	President Elect 2020-21
Patt Gagliardi	February, 2015	
Barb Gay	August 2018	
Kai-Xing Goh	July, 2019	
Richard Groom	May 2014	
Anjai Marcou	June 2020	
Murray Neilson	Charter Member	
Nicole Osner	Charter Member	Past President 2018-19, Past President RC of Burwood 2002-03, Assistant Governor 2004-05, District Governor 2019-20 Past President 2009-10, Assistant Governor 2011-12
Shia Smart	Charter Member	
Susan Smith	May 2018	
Gillian Somers	Charter Member	
Joseph Somers	Charter Member	Past President 2010-11
Alex Starr	March 2013	
Anne Teese	May 2006	President 2019-20
Robert Teese	May 2006	Past President 2016-17
Michael Willis	April 2005	Past President RC of Burwood 2004-05 Past President MASH 2007-08
David Winter	Charter Member	Past President 2015-16
Jong Sun Yoon	June 2019	

## Club Presidents

2004-05	Phillip Pearson (Charter President)
2005-06	Leonie Moran
2006-07	Ern Hermeler
2007-08	Michael Willis
2008-09	Roger Coburn
2009-10	Shia Smart
2010-11	Joseph Somers
2011-12	Tony Kuc
2012-13	Jenny Coburn
2013-14	Annette Kiernan (resigned December 2013), Tony Kuc – Acting President
2014-15	Nigel Cooper
2015-16	David Winter
2016-17	Rob Teese
2017-18	Janice Cook
2018-19	Nicole Osner
2019-20	Anne Teese
2020-21	Val Crees

## Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Recognitions

At MASH we recognise members and others who contribute “above and beyond” to the activities and projects of our club by awarding those members with a “Paul Harris Fellow Recognition”. This award is also made to those who contribute \$USD1,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation.

### MASH Members & Past Members

Name	Level	Years
Geraldine Battersby	PHF	2007-08
Graeme Battersby	PHF & 3 Sapphires	2007-08, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2017-18
Kevin Chewlun	PHF	2006-07
Jennifer Coburn	PHF & Ruby	2008-09, 2012-13 RC MASH, Box Hill Central & District 9810
Roger Coburn	PHF & 3 Sapphires	2004-05, 2006-07, 2012-13
Jan Cook	PHF	2016-17
Nigel Cooper	PHF & 4 Sapphires	2010-11, 2014-15, 2016-17, 2019-20, 2020-21
Michael Crichton	PHF	2011-12
Val Crees	PHF	2018-19
Kay Dunn	PHF	2014-15
Patt Gagliardi	PHF	2015-16
Anita Galileos	PHF & Sapphire	2010-11, 2012-13
Richard Groom	PHF & 4 Sapphires	1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06 (RC Hawthorn), 2015-16, 2018-19
Ern Hermeler	PHF & Sapphire	2007-08, 2012-13
Annette Kiernan	PHF & Sapphire	2011-12, 2012-13
Rosemary Knight	PHF	2010-11
Tony Kuc	PHF & Sapphire	2011-12, 2013-14
Marilyn Lambert	PHF	2008-09
Greg Moran	PHF	2006-07
Leonie Moran	PHF & Sapphire	2006-07, 2009-10
Murray Neilson	PHF	2012-13
Nicole Osner	PHF & 3 Sapphires	2004-05 (RC Burwood), 2008-09, 2011-12, 2013-14
Phillip Pearson	PHF & Sapphire	2008-09, 2015-16
Robyn Pearson	PHF & 4 Sapphires	2005-06, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2015-16
Shia Smart	PHF & 2 Sapphires	2010-11, 2013-14, 2015-16
Gillian Somers	PHF & 2 Sapphires	2009-10, 2013-14, 2016-17
Joseph Somers	PHF & 5 Sapphires	2009-10, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2016-17 (District 9810), 2017-18
Alex Starr	PHF & Sapphire	2017-18, 2020-21
Robert Stamp	PHF & Sapphire	2013-14, 2016-17
Anne Teese	PHF & 3 Sapphires	2009-10, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2017-18
Rob Teese	PHF & 3 Sapphires	2009-10, 2011-12, 2014-15, 2019-20
Jill Turner	PHF	2014-15
Michael Willis	PHF & 2 Sapphires	2006-07, 2010-11 (District 9810), 2012-13 (RC Alice Springs)
David Winter	PHF & 5 Sapphires	2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2012-13, 2018-19, 2020-21

## Community & Beyond the Club

Susan Anderson	PHF	2008-09 Antiques Fair & Bush Fire Auction
Hon. Anna Burke MP	PHF	2012-13 Support of club and community
Allira Howe	PHF	2018-19 Support for Rotary Youth programs at Koonung Secondary College in particular the Interact.
Shima Ibuki	PHF	2020-21 Recognition for contribution to community and inclusion of other local organisations.
John Maddock	PHF	2005-06 Recognition for Box Hill Institute
Trevor Rowe	PHF	2018-19 contribution to preventing family violence
Marlene Sinclair	PHF	2010-11 Toastmasters – Primary School Speech Competition
Bev Winter	PHF & 1 Sapphire	2011-12, 2019-20 Recognition for contribution to Blaze Aid and Fostering Children
Peter Wright	PHF	2015-16 Recognition for Koonung Secondary College
Annie Wysham	PHF & 2 Sapphires	2016-17 Recognition for coordinating “Friends” & strong support of MASH (previous PHFs from RC Richmond)

## Other Significant Achievement Awards

### Avenues of Service Citation

Jennifer Coburn – 2005-06

Robyn Pearson – 2010-11

### The Ken Scheller Award (for a literary contribution of outstanding merit)

PDG Jennifer Coburn 2009-10 Honourable mention for article in Rotary Down Under

### Companion of Australian Rotary Health

David and Bev Winter 2013-14

## Achievement Awards for MASH

Presidential Citation 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 (Gold Distinction), 2019-2020

District 9810 Award for Outstanding Rotary Club for Club Building, Club Projects, Club PR and Communication 2018-2019

District 9810 Award for Club PR and Communication 2016-2017

District Award for Club Building 2014-15

District Club Award for Strategic Planning 2013-14

Rotary International Significant Achievement Award 2012-13

District 9810 Outstanding Rotary Club in 2012-13 for Club Building, Club Projects and Club Public Relations/Communication (two only awarded in District). The Club also received certificates in each of the three areas.

District 9810 Award for Public Relations and Marketing 2010-11

District 9810 Award – Best Club Newsletter/Bulletin and Best Club Web Site 2009-10

Note: Awards received prior to 2009-10 have not been included

## **District Involvement**

### **Additional Involvement of our Members in our District (and beyond)**

This year six members of MASH undertook roles beyond the club. We acknowledge their involvement and say thank you.

Nicole Osner	District Ride for Medical Research Committee
Murray Neilson	District Sustainable Communities Committee
Shia Smart	Director of Rotary District 9810 Project Funds Ltd; District Youth and District Membership Committees
Kai-Xing Goh	District Marketing/Public Relations Committee
Susan Smith	Director of Rotary District 9810 Project Funds Ltd





ROTARY CLUB OF  
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