

Fitzroy

District 9800

Established 8th August 1968



2025-2026

April Rotary Bulletin 2026 Environmental Month

Presidents Report – March 2026.

Hello fellow members.

Our thoughts are with Steve Bromilow, our caterer for 11 years who, was severely injured in a motor vehicle accident and remains in ICU. Monday the 23rd of March was to be Steve's last night catering for us. We had a beautiful bunch of gaily coloured flowers to present to him and Barrie had made a slide with our thanks.

I will be away from 30 March to 19 April, but Peter H will keep the Board informed and the Board will ensure flowers are sent at an appropriate time.

Thanks to Rhonda for winning the auction to buy the flowers.

Because of Steve's departure from the Bowling Club, the Board considered meeting at other venues, e.g. the Clifton Brew House, however, most of the board voted in favour of staying at the Bowling Club. Peter H advises the BC will be interviewing potential caterers. Peter advises a caterer has been organised for the 13th April at the same price.

I think the club needs to review the venue during the summer months, as the noise from the bar, is in my opinion disrespectful for our guest speakers. **Please contact me if you have any ideas.**

At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that rather than collect money from attendees at the meeting for donations for Foundation, the profits from meals once a month will be set aside for **Foundation.**

Through meeting with members of other clubs, I learned one of the greatest sources of dissatisfaction within clubs with resultant decline in attendance and membership is the unsatisfactory and sometime relatively expensive cost of the meal.

Following analysis of **the questionnaire**, Kevin has prepared a report recording areas which some of the 14 who responded made with respect to changes the club could make, with view to improving membership and assisting with recruitment.

At Monday night's meeting I called for **volunteers to join a subcommittee headed** by Kevin and I again request members to contact Kevin if they would like to be part of that group. Kevin's email is kfsharp@virtual.net.au . Kevin has recruited Peter H., Sue and Annie so far.

Unfortunately, we still haven't received a response from Fitzroy HS regarding our offer to fund a student for the Rotary organised MUNA Model United Nations Assembly.

Jenny Farrar, from the Bendigo Community Bank (BCB) contacted me about applying for funding in conjunction with the local schools, for specific projects. We reached out to Sacred Heart PS, Fitzroy PS and Fitzroy HS. We didn't receive a reply from Fitzroy HS, even though I sent the email with our offer to persons recommended at reception.

Fitzroy PS would like funding for its Positive Futures Fund. I had sought information from BCB as to whether that would constitute "a project" but didn't hear back. When I return from holidays, **I will**

propose the Club contributes to this fund, which assists disadvantaged students with the costs of excursions, equipment etc.

Sacred Heart PS has made an application to BCB for \$10,000 towards the \$18,000 required to make musical productions for a community affected by trauma and disadvantage. I am advised our Club should not make an application for money towards this project, but we may consider contributing.

We need to know how we can benefit from the available funds form BCB. I will also investigate whether we could apply for a **District Grant** for this project. **If someone already knows the probable answer to this query, please let me know.**

The **bookshop** continues to be a good source of fundraising with \$1,500 earned by the Club for February.

Thanks to Sue and all the helpers who have continued to support the **Geeks Foundation** bbqs for the students at the high rises and schools. The helpers include Kevin, Rita, Barrie and Annie. Apologies if I have omitted to mention a relevant helper over the last month.

Our guest speakers for March were **Jane Tonkin from Fitzroy Neighbourhood House** at Atherton Gardens and **Alison Dean the Chief Transinformation Officer with MS PLUS**, which organises the MS Megaswims.

Jane spoke of many services provided by the Neighbourhood house, many of which could lead to volunteer work by our members. I will catch up with Jane on my retune from holidays.

We advised Alison, that prior to Covid the recipients of the MS (Megaswim) scholarship were presented at lunches at the bowling club and our members provided the wait staff. Alison said MS

continues to host the event on line, as it is more inclusive, given some members would not be able to attend the lunches. Depending on when the next online MS event is, we may organise a catered meeting (or BYO food) and watch the event on the screen.

At the next meeting on 13 April at the Bowling Club, Peter H will interview Mary Guiney for a “Behind the badge” session and hopefully Barrie will be able to show a Rotary video.

Bye for now and see you on Monday 27rd April when we will hear from Peta Christensen from Opentable, a local charity.

Anthea



Some Crackerjack moments.

April Birthdays

Michael McCarthy 6 April

Annie Haynes 8 April

Reminders:

- Remember, everyone who volunteers for Rotary must have a current Working with Children Check.

Club Program and Calendar
April Program
Environmental Month

- 13 Apr Fitzroy Rotary Meeting
 Speaker: Mary Guiney ‘Behind the Badge’
- 27 Apr Fitzroy Rotary meeting
 Speaker: Peter Christensen from Opentable

Board Members

President	Anthea MacTiernan
President Elect	Tba
Secretary	Pat Morton
Past President	Denise Charman
Treasurer	Wallace Lehmann
Community	Anthea & Sue
Membership/ Youth	Peter Hille
Web & Social media	Barrie Morton
Foundation & Fundraising	Jonathan Thick
Bulletin	Ann Haynes

Assistant: Social Services Menka Simmonds