

Fitzroy

District 9800

Established 8th August 1968



2025-2026

March Rotary Bulletin 2026 Water Sanitation and Hygiene Month

Presidents report – February 2026.

Hello fellow members.

As the adage goes- time flies when you are having fun (or getting older).

Those at the February 2 meeting, when we were addressed by Chris McGeachan and/or were at Megaswim would have seen our club's new banner, which has, **SERVING THE COMMUNITY** as our current logo.

I will set out some of our community activities, in no particular order of importance.

1. We cater for hundreds of swimmers and volunteers participating in the **MS Megaswim**. Almost every club member volunteered for this event, which drew high praise from MS. Our club has provided services to this event for 25 years.
Thank you to everyone who helped.
2. At least 4 times a year we work the BBQs for **Chris McGeachan's youth/sport events**, at the various high-rise flats, Collingwood Secondary College and more recently Bundha Sports Centre and St Josephs in Collingwood. Sue organises the volunteers from the club, for these events.

3. Bev organises **Christmas in July for the First Fitzroy Scouts**. This function raises more than \$1,000 for the scouts, each year.
4. Pat and Barrie organise the food and volunteers for **Step Up for Downs**. We were able to contribute \$1,000 to the organisation, from the sale of food.
5. Peter Hille organises an annual lunch combining the efforts of our club and Fitzroy Football Club. Funds raised enabled 4 **scholarships to junior football players**.
6. Recently I worked at the **Fitzroy Community Market**, coordinated by the Department of Fairness, Families and Housing and the City of Yarra at Atherton Gardens. In **May** we will host 3 speakers from those organisations. And later in April we will have Peta from **Open table**, an important contributor the market (27 April). The market will be held every 4 months.

In addition to providing services to organisations, we contribute money to community causes, for example:

1. Over the past few years, we have donated at least \$6,000 to **Sacred Heart Primary school** for projects of repairing musical instruments, excursions to the zoo and very recently, materials for its art program.
2. And to the **Positive Future Fund, at Fitzroy Primary School**, which pays for children to attend excursions etc. that would otherwise be unavailable to them.
3. We have contacted **Fitzroy High school** with many offers of help, but they seem disinterested. We could access grants from **District** to match funding for year 11 and 12 students, as we have done in the past. **If anyone has a suitable contact at the high school, please let me know.**
4. We have funded year 10 to 12 students to attend **MUNA - Model United Nation Assembly**, organised by Rotary and have been contacted by Rotary this week, seeking our involvement

once again. I have sent an email to Fitzroy HS – (who are responsible for Wurun Secondary College) concerning our willingness to fund students to attend this event.

5. We have contributed funds to projects organised by Geeks following the deaths of Sudanese youths, who are or were local to the area. In addition, we have funded **Geek's Foundation** and contributed to the costs of the **Yarra Wildbeasts** travelling to Canberra for the south Sudanese Australian National Basketball Association.

Outside of our community we have, in this financial year, made donations to:

1. The **Stroke Foundation** following the very entertaining presentation by Tommy Quick, including money raised from the sale of raffles tickets for a Xmas cake baked by Bev.
2. **WaterAid** -\$1,000, following a presentation by Dave De Brincat.
3. \$1,000 to Rotary Castlemaine for the **Harcourt bushfire appeal**.
4. Our club has bought a 3-year membership to/of **RIMERN Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network**.

We are a small club, but we make valuable contributions to our community and beyond.

If you have a project of interest, let me or the Board know.

If you are curious about Rotary and what the network does, in Victoria, Australia and internationally look up MY ROTARY. There is much to learn.

For the duration of my presidency, I wish to focus on our local community and introduce you to people from organisations who work in our neighbourhood and will hopefully, provide information on how we can contribute more.

At our next meeting, on **2 March** we will be addressed by **Jane Tonkin, an organiser at the Fitzroy Neighbourhood House situated at Atherton Gardens**. Thanks, Sue, for liaising with Jane.

I await to hear from **MS Megaswim** of details of the money raised. I asked Kate O'Meara, that she, or someone from MS speak to the club about how the funds raised are distributed. The goal this year was \$150,000.00. Before Covid, scholarships to MS sufferers were allocated at lunches at the bowling club and we club members waited on the tables. Maybe we could re-establish those functions, as another community service.

Jonathan will be organising the **annual raffle** soon, with our aim to donate \$3,000 to the **Rotary Foundation**. Rhonda has secured an 85inch Samsung smart TV for half price, for the raffle. Thanks to both Jonathan and Rhonda.

The **bookshop** continues to provide a great source of fund raising.

YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR INVITATION TO **CRACKERJACK**, to be held on **Friday 13th March**. Please do your best to rally friends, families and neighbours to make this a great evening.

Our club is absent a president elect. If you are interested, please contact me. There is **training/information weekend** in Bendigo on May 1st to lunchtime of Sunday 3rd. Accommodation is at the Four Seasons and most meals are covered by Rotary.

If you would like to join the Board let me know.

Please note the meeting dates in your diary. After the 2 March the next meeting is scheduled for 23rd March and thereafter 13th April then 27th April. The Board decided to hold only 2 meetings a month. On the non-meeting nights, we can have fellowship dinners at the

Clifton Brewhouse, where sirloin steaks cost \$27. Hopefully someone will volunteer to send out reminders.

I will be away from 30 March to 18 April.

NEWSFLASH. **Jasper Coffee** has donated coffee to us, for Megaswim, for more than 20 years and now offer 20% discount to all members who purchase online. The code is ROTARY20.

Cheers Anthea

March Birthdays

Michelle Bootes 14 March

Albert Bloom 28 March

Michelle Earl 30 March

Reminders:

- **Sue needs volunteers to assist with the BBQ at Atherton Gardens on 17th March. Please contact Sue if you can help.**
- **Crackerjack Bowls Tournament 13th March. Bring along family and friends.**
- **Remember, everyone who volunteers for Rotary must have a current Working with Children Check.**

Club Program and Calendar

March

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Month

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| 2 Mar | Rotary meeting Speaker Jane Tonkin Fitzroy
Neighbourhood House |
| 13 Mar | Crackerjack Bowls Tournament |
| 17 Mar | BBQ for Geeks –helpers Annie and Kevin 12.45 to
2.30pm. |
| 21 Mar | BBQ Richmond Housing Estate volunteers required
to help Sue |
| 23 Mar | Rotary meeting Speaker tbc |

April Program

Environmental Month

13 Apr Fitzroy Rotary Meeting
 27 Apr Fitzroy Rotary meeting



Chris McGeachan
 Speaking to Fitzroy
 Rotary Club on 2nd
 February.

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