



Changeover Bulletin and Annual Report 2023-24

**The Allegro Function Centre
1 Porters Rd, Kenthurst
Friday 21st June, 2024. 6.30pm for 7.00pm**



*Chris Gaskin
President 2023-2024*



*Kathy Bray
President 2024-25*



Programme

Master of Ceremonies: PP Rob O'Neill

1830	Fellowship	
1855	Call to Order	PP Rob O'Neill
1900	Opening Toast to Rotary International	President Chris Gaskin PP Michael O'Connor
1905	Welcome	President Chris Gaskin
1910	Main Course service	
1945	Presentation of Awards	
2000	President's Report & Presentation of Outgoing Board	President Chris Gaskin
2015	Dessert Service	
2030	Silent Auction, Lucky Door Prize & Raffle	
2100	Induction of President 2024/2025 Acceptance & Address Presentation of Incoming Board	PP Chris Gaskin President Kathy Bray President Kathy Bray
2100	Close of Formal proceedings	
	Fellowship	

OUTGOING OFFICERS:

President: Chris Gaskin

Vice President: Mike O'Connell

Secretary: Rob O'Neill

Treasurer: Tony Goode

Club Service Director: Kathy Bray

Community Service Director: Paul Rapp

Vocational Director: Terese Wilson

Youth Director: Elizabeth Adamson

International Director: Karo Haltmeier

Rotary International Foundation: Paul Rapp

Membership: Peter Bray

INCOMING OFFICERS:

President: Kathy Bray

Vice President/ Membership: Chris Gaskin

Secretary & Verification: Rob O'Neill

Treasurer : Tony Goode

Club Administration/Sergeant at Arms: Jeff Fellows

Community Service/ Rotary Foundation: Paul Rapp

Vocational Director: Peter Bray

Youth Director:/Public Image: Elizabeth Adamson

International Director: Karo Haltmeier

Fund Raising: Terese Wilson

Presidents Reports 2023-20234

The 50th year of The Rotary Club of Kenthurst Inc. has certainly been a busy one on numerous fronts. COVID is now hopefully in the past and the weather has been mostly kind for our events at the John Benyon Rotary Park. (Carols was rather hot). Below I have listed many of the activities that we have undertaken this year and the achievements of the Rotarians and Club.

It was wonderful to start the year with the 9685 District Shield for Community Service for Large Clubs. This is only the second time we have been awarded the shield and it was a great honour to accept the shield on behalf of Kenthurst Rotary Club at the District Changeover.



New Members: This year we welcomed 2 new members into the Rotary Club. Dawn Chang and Anthony Battah.

Board for 24/25 as voted at the AGM.

Officers

President: Kathy Bray
Vice President: Chris Gaskin
Secretary and Verification: Rob O'Neill
Treasurer: Tony Goode

Directors

Club Admin / Services: Jeff Fellows
Youth / Public Image: Liz Adamson
Community Service: Sam Ellis
Vocational: Peter Bray
International: Karo Haltmeier
Fundraising: Terese Wilson
Membership: Chris Gaskin
Rotary Foundation: Paul Rapp
Conference Promotion: Kathy Bray

So that is 11 Rotarians stepping up to be Board Members

Centurions:

(Funded through the Sergeant's session and some of the King of Club's takings). Last year we had 15 Centurions, and I am happy to announce that this year we have managed to hit our target of 20 Centurions, which equates to a \$2000 donation for the Rotary Foundation. (Chris G, Liz, Jeff, Mike, Tony, David, Kathy, Rob, Peter, Dawn, Sam, Paul, Gil, Graham, Terese, Ray, Keith, Jono, Victoria, and Chris R).

Local Sponsorships of students (not in order) covered in the youth section of the report.

National Leadership Forum – Canberra
MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly)
RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)
Galston High School Academic Awards
Dural Public School Fair
Stronger Together Foundation

Kenthurst Public School End of Year Awards
Circus Quirkus
Kenthurst Public School PNC
Windward Tall Ships training
Stand Tall

50th Birthday (6th November 2023)

We have been saving up for this party for some time and it certainly was a lot of fun. Exactly 100 people attended including 12 of our friends from our sister club in Toyama, Presidents and Past Presidents covering 25 years (including our first President Gordan Rowe) and many honoured guests.



There was singing (mostly in Japanese), and the accent was on people catching up and not listening to too many speeches.

On the next day we joined our Japanese friends in a trip to the Blue Mountains which was also a great success.

Thank you to everyone that helped to put this event together.

End of Year donations

This year's end of year donations are going to:

- RFS
- Shelterbox
- Care flight
- Royal Flying Doctors

Transitional Housing

Regarding the 2 houses now in the area, we helped get them ready. The first was handed over for use in September and the second at the start of the new year.

Anti Domestic Violence Activities

We were involved in 2 Castle Hill Anti DV Marches this year as well as the Anti DV fundraiser in May. Terese has been instrumental in running numerous activities so I will leave it to her report below to explain.

AED and ACD in Kenthurst

This year we installed an AED in the Community Bus to go along with the first aid kit we sponsor. We also purchased 2 Anti Choking devices (ACD). 1 in the village and 1 for the BBQ kit. We also installed maps in the village showing all the AEDs and ACDs in case of emergency.

War Memorial update

47 people attend the unveiling of the Vietnam plaque at John Benyon Rotary Park, including one of the Vietnam Veterans formerly from Kenthurst and a local resident who went to Vietnam but was not from Kenthurst. Julian Leaser, Mayor Gangemi and Councillors Mila Kasby also attended the event.

Thanks to Rappy and Peter Panich for all the heavy lifting and Marie, Elizabeth and Kathy for the refreshments.

International Projects

The Sepik Project is getting very near to completion. Please see the international report for information on this Project.

King of Clubs

This is a weekly fundraising game at Rotary Meetings. (borrowed from Sussex Vale Rotary, where I come from). The amount raised this year was about \$730.

Club Members getting sponsored for outside activities.

- Hills winter sleep out.
- e-fun run
- Relay for life!
- The Bobbin Head bike ride



Cluster Meetings (These are meetings which include other clubs in our area).

Youth Exchange Students and 3 Guests from WPH Rotary Club

Greater Hills Joint Meeting in Kenthurst

Norwest Trivia Night at Norwest

Pennant Hills visit to their Meeting

Cherrybrook visit to their Meeting

BBQs

So many BBQs.....

We are booked into do one every month at Bunnings and Bunnings also turn to us to do the in-house BBQs such as Easter and Mother's Day. We are trying to make sure that everyone in the club gets a chance to join in doing these BBQs as they raise Club visibility and funds for us to make a greater local impact in the community. Thanks especially to Kathy who organises the Roster and is always a participant and Mr Golden Sausage himself Mike O'Connell.

John Benyon Rotary Park

As ever, the Rotary Club team can always be seen at John Benyon Rotary Park, ensuring that the facilities are available for the huge number of local residents who use the Rotary Park on a daily basis. A big project this year was the installation of the shade cloth structure over the Children's Playground, which is vital in the hot summers we are experiencing. Well done to the park team and the Kenthurst Literary Institute.

The 4 Big annual events (Community Service)

Kenthurst Fair

We had an excellent Fair with a large turnout. Last year we had to cancel due to the weather but this year the Community Service Team under Sam organised a fantastic event (more information in the Community Service Report)



Carols in the Park

We started the Carols later in the day this time. However, the heat was well over 40 degrees and so the event really got going once the sun went down. By the time Santa arrived we had a large crowd to welcome him to John Benyon Rotary Park. (more information in the Community Service Report)



Anzac Day

Approximately 2000 people attended the Parade and Event in John Benyon Rotary Park. That is roughly the capacity of the park. It was wonderful to see so many people marching. Both those who have served and those who were marching for family members. (more information in the Community Service Report)



Klarion, Local Newspapers, Social Media, and Hansard

Thanks to Kathy, Liz and Jeff who made sure our activities are always well reported in the Kenthurst Community News, Dooral Roundup and Focus. Also, thanks to Kathy for getting our regular weekly Klarion newsletter out to the club and district. Our Social Media sites are also well frequented and our experiences with advertising through Facebook & Instagram were very well received. Thanks to our local MPs for giving us numerous mentions in the NSW Hansard.

Audit

Thank you, Keith Sutherland, for undertaking our Audit at the end of 2023 FY. This year the club moved to the Xero Account package to make tracking easier.

Grants

- Grant for Carols from Hills Shire Council
- Grant for Sepik from Federal Government DFAT
- GoFundMe page from Hills Shire Council
- Grant for Fair from Hills Shire Council

Sponsors

We could not have the positive impact on the community, help look after John Benyon Rotary Park and run the events without the help of local businesses who provide ongoing sponsorship.

Our main local sponsors are:

- Rance Property
- Walkers Quality Meats
- Beauprint
- Kenthurst Preschool

And the Park Sponsors are:

Rance Property	Kenthurst Veterinary Hospital
Todsta Plumbing	Norwest Building Services
Loxton Smash Repairs	Bespoke Designs
Annangrove Automotive	JPO Electrical
Hamik Homes	Jannsen Designs
Ellis Build Services	Bluetongue Landscapes
IN2 Staffing	D & L Jackett
Pure Plumbing	Yunz Contracting

Awards: At the turn of the Rotary year we presented the following awards:

Rotary Community Service Award

Luke Walker - Walker Meats Galston
For supplying sausages for BBQs

Arthur Maaït – Alpine Treemovals
For supplying and planting Norway Spruce worth \$11,000 in John Benyon Rotary Park

Levi and Shelby Morandin – S&M Cranes
For supplying cranes in John Benyon Rotary Park to remove huge tree and install the shade cover over the Children's playground

Michelle Byrne – Emeritus Mayor
For continued work with homelessness and domestic violence

Rotary Excellence in Workmanship Award

Gail Beaumont – Beauprint
For excellence in business and printing Kenthurst Community News monthly for last 35 years

Paul Harris Fellows

Also, at the changeover we were delighted to present 2 Paul Harris Fellows:

Mike O'Connell

Tireless work in the community, John Benyon Rotary Park, and Kenthurst Literary Institute

Dennis van Someren

His work with children of prisoners, and Transitional Housing for Women in The Hills

Pet Picture

Our resident artist Anthony has offered to draw peoples fur babies for a donation to the Rotary Club. We have now had numerous pets drawn but are always looking for more. So please contact the club to get a drawing undertaken.

Change in Venue

Halfway through the year the building that was once the Uniting Church became available for meetings (as it is no longer a church). Therefore, we ceased having meetings at the Australian Brewery (which is quite a long way off especially in winter) and moved back into Kenthurst. This move seems to have gone very well and it is much easier for people to attend (some of us can even walk to the meeting room).

Some of the Events through the year in roughly chronological order:

Beef and Burgundy night

In July we had a Beef and Burgundy evening to ensure that all Rotarians had a chance to present ideas for the Kenthurst Rotary Club as we move forward.

Christmas in July

Thanks to Kathy, Marie, and Liz for providing the food and Mike (aka Mr Claus) for getting it all organized and dished out so well. And Liz and Jeff for the ambience.

District Governor—Christine Owen

In September, our District Governor, Christine Owen came to visit the Kenthurst Club and gave a very informative discussion on Rotary during her year as DG.

Oktoberfest 16th October

In October we had a Strong Bavarian theme to the evening with an Oktoberfest celebration. We had games and quizzes as well as best dressed competitions whilst all the prizes were Germany Beer.

Rotary India

Oosha from Adambakkam Rotary Club visited us. Oosha presented us with a flag, and we responded with a Polo Shirt (we don't do flags anymore). Great to have visitors come in and share their experiences.



Melbourne Cup

As usual our Melbourne Cup evening, with games and fashion parades went down very well. We managed to raise a lot of money for the Rotary Foundation. It was also our official 50th Birthday so a cake was obviously required. We also got a commemorative certificate from the Global Rotary International President.

The Boat Raffle

This started in the previous year and finished on our birthday when Hayley Farquar won the Boat (model of Jacques Cousteau's Calipso). Huge thanks to Gil for all the work in getting this Raffle to be such a success, raising a profit of \$3,425). We sold a lot of tickets at the Voice Referendum.

Mayor's Christmas Dinner



We were invited to the Mayor's Christmas Dinner at the RSL.

Rappy and Vicky, Sam and Virginia, Terese and I attended a very enjoyable evening. DVS could not attend but we ate his food anyway and it was delicious.

Xmas Party and Awards

We had our regular Christmas party at the Kenthurst village. The following awards and suitable homemade trophies were presented by the President:

Mike – The Golden Sausage

Kathy – Stop the Presses

Karo – The Dentist Prize

Liz & Jeff – The Internet of Things

Sam – Best Fair Ever

Rob – Party Animal

Paul & Vicki – The Frequent Flyers

Gil – The good ship "RMS Rotary"



Thanksgiving

As Dawn is from Hawaii, we had an Hawaiian theme for our Thanksgiving evening (including games and quizzes). We had an inaugural game of ladders which looks dangerous but went off without a hitch.



Giving Tree



This year we took over the Christmas Giving Tree in Round Corner from Dural Rotary and raised 355 presents for Westmead Children's hospital. Next year we have arranged for an extra giving tree at Kenthurst Village as well as Round Corner.

Chinese New Year

The Club celebrated Chinese New Year with an evening out at Round Corner Chinese, we even managed to get them to run out of wine glasses. Everyone got a Lucky Red Envelope



Trip to RAAF Richmond



Dawn managed to organise a trip for Rotary members to go to RAAF Richmond. They were even allowed to go in the huge USAF planes and have a good look around. The plan is to do this again for more members soon.

Rob—Rotary 101 sessions

Thanks to Rob, who gave a set of enlightening talks at our meetings on the aspects of Rotary which were especially useful to newer Rotarians.

Some of this year's meeting presentations and guest speakers

Xmas in July
Jeff Fellows, Technology 101
Sam Ellis, Rotarian behind the badge
MUNA Students—Hills Grammar
Windeward Bound Presentation
Liz Adamson, Rotarian behind the badge
Dawn Chang, Rotarian behind the badge
DG Visit – Christine Owen
Dr Leonard Smith
Hills Hearing
Rob O'Neill, Rotary 101 Series
Youth Exchange Student Presentation
50th Anniversary Party
Melbourne Cup
Huntington's Disease presentation
Thanksgiving

AGM
Xmas Party
Robbie Burns Night
Chinese New Year
Police Experiences - Gary Raymond
ShelterBox Presentation
The risk of getting hacked - Rob Lea
Relay for life – Bev Jordan
RYPEN - Galston High School
Mental Illness Presentation
Council Happenings, Deputy Mayor Mitchell Blue
Worlds Greats Shave - Dural Public School
Citizen of the Year – Ellen Kulbicki
Rotaract – Joel Devlin

And so, to 24/25

We already have many events and activities booked into the new Rotary year and I look forward to seeing even greater success as we move forward under Kathy's Presidency. I have very much enjoyed being President for the last two years of such a strong and vibrant Rotary Club.

**Yours in Rotary
Chris Gaskin
President**



Secretary's Report

The following report covers the activities over the past year.

The club has been in full swing this year and has successfully undertaken a number of community projects.

The Board has met regularly and has been well attended, enabling Club business to be done efficiently. The club is up to date with all reporting requirements with Fair Trading and Rotary.

We had the Kenthurst Fair, Carols in the Park, Australia Day, and Anzac Day. Samantha Ellis is in charge of the forthcoming Kenthurst Fair on the 8th of September while Paul Rapp is away.

Members

We had the recent sad passing of our long-term member James Keith McGill- known fondly as Keith- on the 22nd of May. His funeral was well attended by a wide range of community members as well as club members both present and past.

New Board

At the AGM in December 2023 the new board for 2024-2025 was voted in:

President:	Kathy Bray
Vice-President:	Chris Gaskin
Secretary:	Rob O'Neill
Treasurer:	Tony Goode

Directors:

Paul Rapp
Terese Wilson
Karo Haltmeier
Peter Bray
Elizabeth Adamson
Jeff Fellows
Sam Ellis

Donations

The club again supported the Rotarian Centurion program and raised \$1553 towards the End Polio Rotary International project. This has resulted in a record number of Centurions.

Our Treasurer will report more fully on the financial position of the club.

Meeting Venue

The club now meets at Uniting Church at Kenthurst, but we have varied the meetings so that on occasions we have had meetings at local restaurants. This has been a great innovation and has helped with fellowship in the club.

Rotary Park

We continue to have a strong relationship with the Kenthurst Literary Institute with the general maintenance and upkeep of the John Benyon Rotary Park.

Progress in the park with the development of various facilities will be reported by one of the other directors. The club has been greatly assisted with grants from the NSW State government, and the Hills Shire Council.

Secretary's Report Cont'd

Thank you

I would like to thank the Directors and all Kenthurst Rotarians for their incredible work over this past year; In particular I would like to thank President Chris for his hard work and comprehensive reports to club members and his enthusiasm in the development of the club.

Next Year

This will be an exciting year with all the club's programs and projects in full swing and with the anticipated completion of the Sepik project.

Rob O'Neill
Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

We had a very successful Orange Blossom Fair with record numbers, a financial boost for both stallholders & Rotary.

Our 50th birthday party saw plenty of past Rotarians, friends plus Japanese friends from Toyama Mirai . All in all it was a great night.

The club has sponsored local school students to attend MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) & RYPEN (Rotary Youth Enrichment Camp).

Our Christmas Carols went ahead despite the heat wave at the start.

Australia Day was well attended & Anzac Day we had record numbers.

Finances of the club are in a very strong position.

Tony Goode

Treasurer

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Club Service Report

I have had the privilege of working with an effective team of active Rotarians and I have learned a lot about both Rotary and the avenues of service through some very hard-working members and District Assemblies and District Conferences.

Our weekly meetings are well structured, and members are kept informed through our Club Bulletin, The Klarion, which is produced each week. We have had some interesting visitors and some excellent and inspiring guest speakers.

At the start of the year we moved from the Australian Brewery to the Kentgrove Hall in Kenthurst. It seems to be a popular move for most of the Rotarians and we are still working out meals and drinks options.

Our website, Facebook page, and Instagram accounts have been kept up to date by Jeff Fellows and Elizabeth Adamson. Articles are inserted each month in the Kenthurst Community News, Dooral Roundup, and Hills to Hawkesbury magazine ensuring the local community is kept up to date with our activities. Jeff is also responsible for the many photographs that appear on our social media pages. Thank you to both for the excellent job they do in ensuring the word gets out about Kenthurst Rotary.

A mention must be made of our Sergeant at Arms, Jeff Fellows. He took on the role with great enthusiasm and has entertained us with his weekly quizzes as well as raising a considerable amount of money for Rotary Foundation. Well done, Jeff.

A huge shout out to the members who are always available for our Bunnings BBQs, without them our club would not be in such a good financial position.

Fellowship this year has been enjoyed on a variety of occasions. Paul and Vicki Rapp generously gave us the use of their entertainment area for the Robbie Burns Night in January which was a magnificent event. We enjoyed typical Scottish fare including haggis and were treated to some Scottish Highland dancing and bagpipe playing. A huge thank you to Keith for arranging the evening.



Haggis & Tatties

We also had an enjoyable visit to a local Chinese restaurant for Chinese New Year, took part in a Trivia Night run by Norwest Sunrise as well as entering teams in e-fun runs, and Relay for Life and of course the Hills winter sleepout, which turned out to be a cold, wet and long night.



Bunnings BBQs have featured very heavily on our calendar this year, and I think we have it down to a fine art now. It is the same core group who manage the events, but they are a great avenue for fund raising and meeting the public and spreading the word about Rotary.



I have enjoyed this year as the Director of Club Service as I have had the privilege to work with a great group of Rotarians with President Chris at the helm.

Kathy Bray
Club Service Director

Some of our Guest Speakers this Year



Community Service

Fellows,

The New Rotary Year started with President Chris at the helm for his second year and I thank him for his support of community service.

I must firstly apologise for my absence throughout this year, most of you know the reason, and unfortunately it will continue this coming Rotary year. I have had the support of the incoming Community Service Director, Samantha Ellis, to cover for me. A personal thank you Sam, you have done a stellar job and that's coming from the master himself.

I have been Community Services Director for 16 years, and 2 as President, and I'm very sad that I have to be relieved of my position due to personal reasons. I think what I have contributed, along with my team, to the community events over these years has been great for the club, bringing all 4 major events to a crescendo, and helping the club to be seen more in its community and I'm sure Sam will continue the momentum.

We started the Rotary year with an outstanding Kenthurst Fair run by Sam. Some say the best ever. Just ask Sam about that. We had record crowds; weather was again in our favour. ***Sam had no control over that!!*** As usual plenty of stalls, rides, food and stage acts. Orange juice stall run by Lorene Watson for us was a sellout, and JB café another success. A big thank you to all the organisers.

Next came Carols in the Park. Unfortunately, the weather was very hot and kept the crowds away until Santa arrived. The night was primarily run by the Rock and Soul Choir who are great supporter of Kenthurst Rotary. We had early stage performances by local dance groups and singers. BBQ was a hit. Again, Sam oversaw the event.

Australia Day again was a hot morning, so we moved the stage to the middle of the park and set the chairs under the trees. Again, incoming Community Services Director did most of the organising and we believe it was the biggest crowd ever. Well done Sam.

ANZAC Day, unfortunately I was in WA for the lead-up and day of this event. It was totally organised by Sam and she did another Stellar job. We had again full support from RAAF Richmond with a catafalque party, guest speaker, marching contingent and a Chaplin for the prayer. Again, I have heard that it was a record crowd. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain a military flyover this year. Thank you to all that was involved in the preparation for this day as it is a very important day for Australia and for Kenthurst Rotary club.

This was the final event in the community service portfolio. I would like to thank all who have helped make these events an ongoing success and specially Samantha for being there to take over more roles in my absence. Thank you again Sam and good luck as Community Director and to all who have supported her and helped on her journey to being the next community service director I thank you. I always will be only a phone call away.

Unfortunately, I will be away again this coming Rotary year to give Vicki as much time as I can as her memory is slowly deteriorating. I know you will understand that my family must come first. However, when I'm at home I will be actively involved in Kenthurst Rotary Club and the Park.

YIR

Rappy

Youth Report

It's been a very quick learning curve since joining Kenthurst Rotary on 27th March 2023 and becoming a Board Member in August 2023.

2023 was a reasonably quiet year on the Youth front. Kenthurst Rotary sponsored 2 teams (6 students) from Hills Grammar to attend Western Division MUNA. Model United Nations Assembly is a project organised and sponsored by Rotary Clubs to build international understanding and promote goodwill for world peace.

The students represented Jordan and India during the two-day event. It was evident that they valued the opportunity and enjoyed the event. Christa, Alex, Anshita and Satvik presented their experience to our club members at a meeting in August.

Our members remarked afterwards how wonderful it is to see such vibrant and enthusiastic members of the upcoming generation.

President Chris Gaskin and I attended Annual Presentation Awards Events at both Kenthurst Public School and Galston High School on the same day early December. The club donated several awards to the schools for their students, which we presented with honour.

2024 has kicked into another gear with regular contact with 4 local schools, being Hills Grammar, Galston High, Marian College and Redfield College.

Supporting Rotary's commitment to youth, the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, RYPEN, is held twice yearly in Summer and Winter. The Summer camp was held at Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen on 16th to 18th February.

Kenthurst Rotary Club proudly sponsored two students from Galston High School. Abigail Storrie and Kai Brown both attended the action-packed weekend. Kai's feedback following the program was *"The experience helped me grow. I feel more confident and had a really fun time."*

51 Year 10 students from across Sydney took part in the weekend. Both Kai and Abigail received a 'gnome award' for growth over the course of the program. There were only 4 awards given out, so our sponsorship was well rewarded.

Both students, along with parents and school deputy principal, attended a meeting in March to share their experiences with club members.

The Winter RYPEN camp is being held at Blue Gum Lodge, Springwood in the Blue Mountains on 14th to 16th June. Our club has sponsored 6 students in total, 2 each from Hills Grammar, Galston High and Marian College. We look forward to hearing these students speak of their adventures at future meetings.

Western MUNA 2024 is being held at Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School, Emu Plains on 22nd to 23rd June. We have sponsored 2 teams (8 students) from Hills Grammar where they shall be representing Israel and Turkey.

President, Chris Gaskin, Jeff Fellows and I attended Galston High School ANZAC service on 3rd May where we laid a wreath on behalf of the club. It was fabulous to see the commitment and effort that the students put in to run the event and making us proud to be involved with the school.

Elizabeth Adamson
Youth Director



Galston High School Awards night 5/12/23



Hills Grammar, MUNA 2023 students



Galston High School, Summer RYPEN students with parents

Fun times at Rotary



Unveiling the Vietnam plaque at John Benyon Rotary Park



International Report

Sepik River Dental Clinic Project



Aerial view of the Sepik River, the lake, the village and the location of the clinic.



This photo shows the Village and the location of the clinic



The above photo is during First Site Visit to the site for the dental Clinic.

This year we continued with our one and only international project, establishing a dental clinic in Korogu Village, along the Sepik River, in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea.

The clinic will serve an estimated 30,000 - 200,000 people living along the river and inland. These people have currently no access to dental services. Once the clinic is set up, we will organise volunteer dentists from Australia every year and also from other parts of the world through the NGO (Non Government Organisation), Project Sepik, who are our contact and partner in PNG for this project.

What we aim to achieve

1. Set up first dental clinic in PNG to serve rural population.
2. This clinic will serve as an example to local Provincial Government of what can be achieved with minimal funds.
3. Set example for PNG health authorities to adopt operating model for other areas and - eventually - staff clinic with locally trained dentists.

In 2021 the board approved the project but nothing happened for two years due to Covid restrictions and lack of funds. A committee was then set up to handle the project. The committee members are: Peter Bray (Project Manager), Kathy Bray, Michael O'Connell and Karo Haltmeier.

The committee settled on AUD50,000.00 which needed to be raised to build a very basic two room building, one room for the clinic and the other for the accommodation. The funds are also needed to cover the costs of:

dental chair

dental equipment

generator

water tank

corrugated roofing for the clinic and

accommodation building tools such as hammer, saw, etc .

building materials such as toilet, shower, sink, tables, chairs, bed, nails, etc

Transport of materials from Wewak to the clinic site

fuel for both land and river transportation

Timber for the building frame was donated by the villagers

Our project is registered with RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Services).

First Site Visit October 2023

During this initial site visit the proposed building site was inspected for its suitability and the precise location was agreed with the newly formed Dental Clinic Village Committee. Prior to the first visit timber had already been cut and milled for the timber frame of the building. Steel posts had been sourced by the Dental Clinic Village Committee from a disused building nearby.

Second Site Visit November/December 2023

On the second site visit we cemented-in the steel posts and the frame of the building was put up .



Roofing materials, plywood and window materials were purchased in the closest town and transported by truck and canoe to the village. The construction works continued through December 2023 to February 2024 until materials ran out.

Third Site Visit April/May 2024

A third site visit to the dental clinic at Korogu was conducted from 25 April – 6 May 2024. Construction materials were purchased to close the shell of the clinic building (i.e. flooring, remaining outside wall, windows, stairs). Outstanding bills of previously provided transport services after the second visit were identified and settled.

Materials Purchase A trip was made to the district capital Maprik on 29 April 2024 to purchase CCV treated flooring timber boards and colorbond panels to complete the outside walls. It was decided to clad the front of the building and the

verandah with locally made cladding made of woven sago leaves instead of metal cladding. This will improve the airflow inside the building and is the cheapest option and -last but not least- also provides local employment in the village.



Recruitment of plumber and electrician

A qualified plumber was brought in on 1 May 2024 from the provincial capital Wewak to assess the scope of work and check the inventory of materials against the scope of work. The plumber agreed to install the water supply to sink and the water tanks. He will also arrange a frame for the overhead roof tank to be welded in Wewak at extra cost. It was agreed to pay him for three working days at K100/day plus transport from and back to Wewak.

A qualified electrician was found in a village downstream of Korogu. He visited the work site on 4 May 2024 and agreed to install the 4 fans, 8 lights, 5 light switches and 6 power-points plus associated wiring and the feeder line from the generator shed. 5 working days at 100K/day were agreed plus transport costs.

Next steps

The first priority is to install the flooring and the completion of the side walls of the building. This has to happen to enable the plumbing and electricals to be installed. There will be costs incurred for the canoe transport of the materials and work crew to the clinic site as and when required to complete the before-mentioned works.

Other events

Six earthquakes happened during the visit, two of which on the same day. They were of the magnitude 3 to 4+ category (a good shake) and did not cause any damage. These are still ongoing aftershocks of the big 6.9 magnitude earthquake of 24 March 2024 which caused extensive damage to the houses in the village. 57 houses collapsed initially and another 13 at the first big aftershock two days later.

The wet season is coming to the end and the level of seasonal flooding decreased by about 2 metres during the visit and the village is now more or less on dry ground.



This photo shows the state of the building as per 15 May 2024

Funds

At the time of writing we have AUD3500 left for the project. This is sufficient to complete the electrical wiring, power supply, the plumbing of the sink and water supply and to close the building shell until we open the new clinic.

Fund-raising

We are still looking for funds to pay for our portable dental equipment. It has been decided to go for the cheapest option available as we cannot afford to purchase from commercial dental equipment vendors in Australia. I have been in Papua New Guinea in the last two months, speaking to companies CEOs seeking funds for the project.

Kathy, Peter, Patrick and I went to Carlingford Rotary Club on Tuesday 21 May and did a presentation on the project.

We were offered two electric dental chairs and we will investigate transportation costs etc.

Volunteer Dentists

We have three confirmed volunteer dentists from Australia 1 from Japan and 1 from Canada.

Karo Haltmeier
International Director



This photo is of a canoe full of volunteers going to the clinic site for work in November 2023.

Vocational Report

Over the last 12 months, we have focused on supporting Domestic violence and Transitional Housing programs.

Many of the Kenthurst Rotarians supported The Hills Winter Sleepout where Over 90 people gathered at Bella Vista Farm to participate in the 10th Hills Winter Sleepout. It wasn't as cold as previous years, but it was wet. This year the event raised a record-breaking \$61,180. The funds raised will be used by HCA's Homelessness Initiative and StreetMed which provides street-level first aid and a food service to the homeless.

Positive Vibes hosted a fashion show raising \$9,000. Monies raised will support the programs of The Hills Women's Shed which is an initiative of the Positive Vibes Foundation. It strives to provide a safe and welcoming space to reduce isolation and promote well-being.

Hills Domestic Violence Awareness and Fundraising evening was held at Rydges Norwest raising \$43,000.

We also supported The Hills Relay for Life, a great community event raising funds and awareness about cancer

It's great to be a Kenthurst Rotarian and I look forward to helping support our community again this coming year as we all strive to supply more homes for older women in our community who have become homeless through no fault of their own as they leave domestic violence.

Terese Wilson
Vocational Director



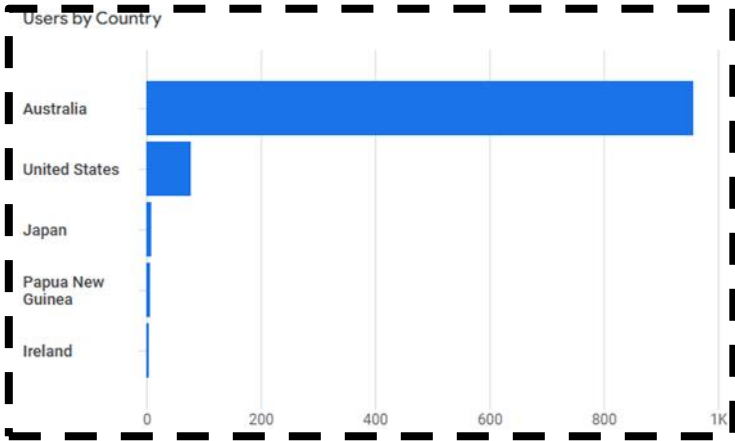
Public Relations

Kenthurst Rotary Website



Complete rebuild of the Kenthurst Website
Since November 2024 Website rebuild started in July – analytics started in November 2023

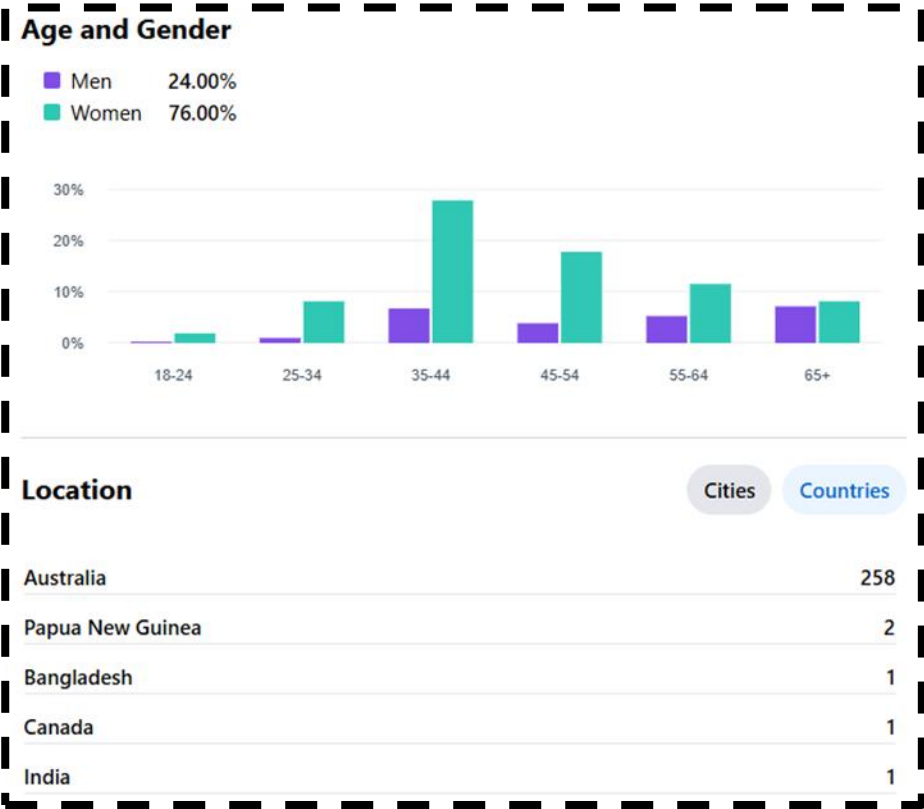
- 1121 Visitors
- 956 Visitors from Australia
- 77 Visitors of the USA
- 9 Visitors from Japan



All club events are now being posted to social media within a week – more frequent updates mean more visitors. There has been no paid advertising for our website (however we have enjoyed some spinoff from our Social Media Advertising).



Conversion of the Kenthurst Rotary page from a “Person Page” to a “Business Page” required manually loading all the historical posts to the new page. Unfortunately, all our previous followers could not be moved to the new page. Hundreds of invites were sent, and we managed to get about 100 of our old followers to follow the new site. We have now built this up to 273 followers because of the regular posting of all club events and meeting visitors. As a result of the move to a business site, we have the ability to monitor our users and their demographics.



Facebook & Instagram Advertising of our events

We have spent a total of \$735 in paid advertising for 2023 Kenthurst Fair & 2023 Carols in the Park, that resulted in 65,213 impressions for 31,020 unique visitors – these were all targeted to the events demographics and generally within 10 kilometres of John Benyon Rotary Park. In terms of 'bang for buck' it has cost .023 cents per unique target visitor.

Club Photography

With my trusty assistant photographer (Elizabeth) we have taken well over 3000 photos of club events many are posted on the Rotary website, social media and local papers. Key visitors and people assisting the club (e.g. RAAF personnel that formed the Catafalque Party) have been supplied with photos of their involvement.

Kenthurst News and other local papers

Every edition of the Kenthurst Community News and Dooral Roundup has had stories about the Club's events and activities (Dooral Roundup post most of our stories online) in some editions that can be 8 pages + of photos and stories.

Thankyou

With me working full time I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Elizabeth Adamson in all aspects on the publicity portfolio as well as managing her own portfolio of youth.

Jeff Fellows





ANZAC DAY · 25 APRIL
Lest We Forget
Kenthurst 2024
John Benyon Rotary Park
Cnr Kenthurst Road & Nelson Street
Thursday 25th April 2024

7.30am	March Assembly at Ampol
8.00am	March Step Off
8.30am	Ceremony commencement

- Family of servicemen & women invited to march
- Ceremony in John Benyon Rotary Park
- Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band
- Keynote Speaker
- Local Schools Participation
- Morning Tea provided

All donations to



Rotary
Club of Kenthurst





KLI Report

As I was not appointed to any major portfolio on the Kenthurst Rotary board, I supported the International PNG project including the direction we were to go on the type of dental equipment required for such a project. Several of us also attended several club meetings for the sole purpose of raising funds for this project.

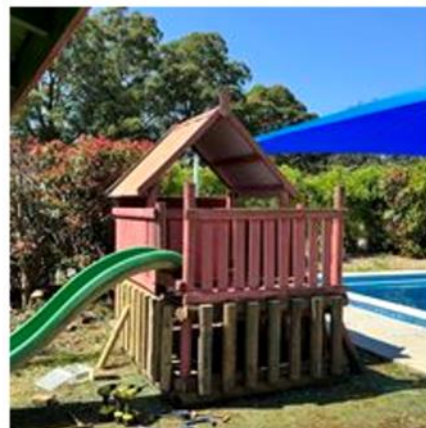
I saw my main function within the club was to oversee the running of the park and grounds including the community pool and the KLI community hall.

This included the daily inspection of the pool itself and maintenance of the pool equipment itself. Besides the help of several club members, I also had several people appointed to perform community service to work under my supervision each Saturday from 7.AM till 12.00.

During the year we were able to plant many shrubs some of which were given by Baulkham Hills Council.

As president of KLI and working with Rotary, we were able to maintain the hall used by the community. This included the floor replacement and upgrading of the lighting and solar system. Several others in the club and I joined in the many BBQs at Bunnings over the year which was a great help to our fundraising.

Michael O'Connor
KLI President



Vale – PP Keith McGill

Past President Keith McGill aged 90, passed away on Wednesday 22nd May, after falling ill that morning.

Keith has been a member of The Rotary Club of Kenthurst since December 1983 and was President in 1994-95 in which he started up Burn's Night and started the building of the Rotunda amongst many other activities. He was also President in 2014-15 and organised our 4 main events through that year. He was always up for a challenge and to help in our activities and his Burn's Night events were wonderful.

We may have said farewell to this fine daoine-uaisle (Scottish Gentleman) but his legacy will remain,

Below is the traditional Scottish Funeral Blessing:

Biodh a' ghaoth an-còmhnaidh air do dhruim. Biodh a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh blàth air d'aghaidh; tuitidh an t-uisge bog air ur n-achaidhean agus gus an coinnich sinn a-rithist, gun cumadh Dia sibh ann an lag a làimhe.

Translation

May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Knowing how much Keith enjoyed Rabbie's poems I will finish with the following poem.



My heart's in the Highlands

*My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.*

*Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
The birth-place of Valour, the country of Worth ;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.*

*Farewell to the mountains, high-cover'd with snow,
Farewell to the straths and green vallies below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods,
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.*

*My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.*

Rest in Peace Keith