

ROTARY CLUB MODBURY GOLDEN GROVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

By Kevin Smith

2020 has certainly been an unusual year with some interesting challenges

The Rotary Theme for 2019-2020 was "Rotary Connects The World". In my introduction last year, I first noted that I intended to consolidate the beginnings of our new club that Otto has worked on. I am pleased to observe that the club now operates almost as if it has always existed as such. Thanks to the hard work of IPP Otto in bedding down the new entity the Rotary Club of Modbury Golden Grove has emerged as a stronger group, maintaining the ideals of Rotary.

I further intended to remain connected to local youth through such programs as the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), Student of the year, and the John Tilley Award for Modbury High School. Unfortunately, RYLA had to be cancelled due to current circumstances but the club sent a student to NYSF, conducted another successful Student of the Year award, and presented a John Tilley Award to a very deserving student.

I intended for us to remain connected to other organisations around the area that provide help or support to the community including the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library, Various community assistance programs, and the Christmas Party for Special Children. I am pleased to report that we again provided support to the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library, this time in the form of direct purchase of toys.

We also again supported the Christmas Party for Special Children as well as provided BBQ assistance to a local childcare centre Christmas

event and No Strings Attached, a theatre group for people with disabilities.

The club again purchased and distributed a number of Christmas Hampers in the local area.

One of the longer commitments to the local area has been efforts to improve the "liveability" of the area by contributing to clean up efforts. Again, the club participated in Clean-up Australia with a very successful (and large) group of volunteers, both club members, and outside groups, cleaning a local reserve.

The club presented two Good News awards this year: I am also pleased to note we have purchased a number of books by one of our awardees for distribution to local primary schools.

December and January saw the terrible bushfires, both here at Cudlee creek, and Kangaroo Island, as well as the eastern states. The club made a fairly significant donation to recovery efforts through a number of support groups.

When we entered this past year, we were excited to know that we would, for the first time in a while, re-connect with incoming overseas exchange students with the Rotary Club of Tea Tree Gully, sharing their hosting duties of an inbound student with us. We hosted Jenny Aminoff, from Finland, from January to March. By all accounts Jenny had a good time here in Australia but unfortunately had to return early due to complications connected with the current Pandemic.

I wanted to connect more with the other clubs in Group 4, some of whom were represented with us last year. We hosted a very successful group 4 meeting at the golf club and I and a number of other club members attended the group meeting early this year at Playford. With the merger of District 9500 and 9520 in 9510, the groups have been re-aligned and we now belong to Area 6 which is essential group 4 minus TTG but the addition of the Gawler light club

I am also pleased to note that through the efforts of one of our members, our website is a live and current record of our activities, as well, our Facebook page is very regularly updated with club events and news, as well as Rotary information. I am a firm believer in the power of Social Media and I regularly share items and observe reactions from non-Rotarians.

On the fundraising side the Covid-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on our figures for this past year. I am pleased to say that, due to a number of activities that were budgeted for but not proceeded with, our final figures end up about the same as last year and in total we raised just over \$12,000.

In conclusion I think we have had another terrific year making and continuing connections with the community. I would like to thank each and every one of the members for their moral support, their participation in various fundraising efforts, and their contributions. I particularly wish to thank the committee for assisting me in achieving the results we have obtained. I am reticent to name names but I would like to thank Otto for working with me this year and Kathy Ipacs for the social media / website presence. I would also like to thank my wife Vicki for again putting up with us!

I wish Dean the best of luck for this upcoming year and have no doubt we have chosen a great person to Open Opportunities. Thank you