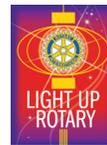




District 9780
2014-2015 Rotary Year
25 Pekin Rd, Maryborough, Vic. 3465
Incorporation No. A0051943L
ABN 46 630 698 183



District Governor: Geoff James
M: 0407 684 619
E: geoffandmeryl@aanet.com.au

District Secretary: Derrick Marsden
M: 0487 392 233
E: sandek44@bigpond.com

District Treasurer: Trevor Lea
M: 0419 009 104
E: trevorlea@ncable.net.au

19th September 2014

President Neil Podger, and President Elect Ann McDowell,
Rotary Club of Cobden,
Cobden Vic.

Dear Neil and Ann,

Thank you for the very warm welcome and hospitality extended to Meryl and I on the occasion of our 'official visit' to the Rotary Club of Cobden last Thursday, September 18th 2014.

Also, thank you Ann for arranging the meeting with yourself, and members of the Club Board beforehand. That gathering enabled me to gain a good understanding of where the club wants to be, and how the club is travelling at present.

I was delighted to hear about your good range of service projects covering Rotary's five avenues of service – particularly those that directly benefit the Cobden community. I was especially impressed by your significant, ongoing commitment to your joint project of the Miniature Railway complex and your own Mini Golf course, along with your spectacular New Year's Eve event and fireworks, your alarm battery replacement service, your roadside clean up and involvement with Relay for life, just to mention a few!

It is great to see you doing things with young people through your provision of school citizenship and welfare awards, and your work as host club for RYLA. I'm particularly pleased to hear that you continue to be strong supporters of the Youth Exchange program and your current involvement with the RANZA short term exchange with New Zealand.

You're flying the flag for Rotary's special connection to Vocational service through your impressive Business Awards covering seven categories, and your occasional vocational visits and speakers.

You are also maintaining a global perspective in your programs through your support of Donations in kind, Rotarians Against Malaria, ROMAC and Interplast as well as your International Quiz night.

To fund these projects, you are, amongst other activities, conducting your New Year's Eve event, your train rides, mini golf, selling show bags, working on the Show gate and running barbeques at Bunnings.

To deliver these programs, I've noted that your club is using the Traditional Club structure, and to plan for them, I'd encourage you to at some time consider a process of longer term Club Visioning and Strategic planning.

To promote the great work that you do, you have told me of your two facebook pages, your website and your efforts to encourage attendance from the local newspaper reporters.

It is pleasing to see the ongoing support of members for the Rotary Foundation, and your club's support of the Polio Plus program. I'm also pleased that you have qualified for the application process for a District Grant. It's reassuring when members can see their Foundation donations coming back to the District and the club through such grants.

It is great to know that in the midst of all the "doing good", you are finding time to have lots of fun through your social nights such as your Christmas party, Quiz night, and "Dress up" nights for the Spring Festival.

I am affirmed by the fact that you have updated your By laws, are in the process of having your financial reports reviewed annually, are using risk assessment procedures, and have updated your asset register.

On the communication front, I've noted that your club has yet to record your membership, engagement, communication, public relations and Foundation giving goals on Rotary Club Central. When you do, it will be good to see your aims shared with your members online, and Rotary International will be able to use this data for long term planning and promotion in the future. I'm also pleased that your club has a regular newsletter to communicate with members.

We certainly enjoyed our time visiting the Rotary Club of Cobden because apart from being made feel so welcome, your members are putting into practice so many of those steps towards what I've called an "Enlightened Rotary Club". Please pass on our thanks for the very enjoyable ride on the Mini Train before our meeting, and for the pair of wine glasses. We'll put them to good use.

Neil, I wish you as President, and Ann as President Elect, along with all members of the club continued success as you "light up Rotary" and in so doing, help to bring about health, wholeness and peace for your members, your local community, internationally, and for the planet. I assure you of my ongoing interest in your activities and of my readiness to assist in any way I can.

Continue to enjoy the Rotary journey,



Governor (2014-2015) [Rotary District 9780](#), Victoria

geoffandmeryl@aanet.com.au

Tel: +61 (0)407 684 619

Home: 61 3 54605474

