



Let's Help  
the Community  
Together

**PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER  
2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS**

President 2023 -2024

Graham Rose

Installation of President 2024 -2025

Helen Rose



**Thursday 6th June  
Cessnock Supporters Club**

## CESSNOCK ROTARY PRESIDENT - GRAHAM ROSE



As my tenure as Rotary Cessnock President comes to an end. I reflect on the footprint our club has on the Cessnock community. Being a small club in active members we deliver many programs that support local school, charities and the citizens in our area. Our feeding to needy program continues to support those living in difficult circumstances. The team of Rotary members and friends of Rotary work tirelessly providing meals and fellowship. Scone Time at Marthaville is a go to destination for many locals who simply need a cuppa and a chat. We support several schools with scholarship programs to assist with further education supporting students as they navigate their learning journeys. We are supporting 4 local students who will attend a 3-day leadership program. Where they will develop skill that will take them through to adulthood. Cessnock Mayoral scholarship program where we support a student moving on to further education. The Cessnock Rotary bike program giving individuals transport for fun, to gain work and for exercise continues to grow. A high light was certainly the start of Rotary Interact club at the Cessnock High School. Since their inception they have an immediate and significant impact on the community. Of course I need to mention the many many BBQs Cessnock Rotary cooks to support schools and charities. Also to raise the funds needed for our ongoing work.

Two of our members were nominated and awarded NSW Volunteer of the year. Vicky Steep is a key figure in our club and tireless supporter of our community. It was a proud moment to present this greatly deserved award to Vicky Steep. Another member of our club, Tony Mak was also awarded the NSW Volunteer of the Year Tony was nominated by "Heal For Life" for his outstanding contribution to that organization for about thirteen years

I offer my thanks to the club members and the friends of Rotary for their efforts and support throughout the year. Particularly the incoming president Helen Rose. Also, my ever-suffering Secretary Penny McNaughton who carried me through the year.



The Rotary Club of Cessnock is deeply engaged in a multitude of projects, extending far beyond just BBQs. While we are often recognised for our BBQ activities, akin to many other service groups, our involvement transcends this singular focus. In reality, we participate in a diverse array of initiatives. These include hosting "Feeding the vulnerable" every Wednesday at the Uniting Church hall, hosting "Scone Time" at Marthaville Cottage every Friday morning, contributing to Field Days at Tocal, providing supervision at the Hunter Valley Lights Spectacular, spearheading The Bike Project, volunteering at the PCYC BBQs, supporting numerous youth programs, participating in Roadside Clean Up efforts, and much more.

The underlying narrative is our extensive engagement in various community events, always accompanied by smiles, as evidenced in the photos above.

# PENNY MCNAUGHTON - SECRETARY'S REPORT



## **Dear Members and Supporters,**

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report for the Rotary Club of Cessnock for the year 2023-2024. Over the past year, our club has continued to uphold its commitment to service above self, making a positive impact in our local community and beyond. Here are some highlights of our activities and achievements during this period:

### **Community Service Projects:**

Throughout 2023-2024, our club organised numerous community service projects aimed at addressing various needs within the Cessnock community. These projects include Scone Time for those in our community who may be lonely or isolated.

Weekly free Breakfast & Lunch for the vulnerable in our community. We would like to acknowledge the support from Cessnock Leagues through Club Grants that has enabled us to continue and expand feeding the vulnerable.

We continued our partnership with local schools to support educational initiatives, such as providing scholarships, backpacks, and sponsoring the newly formed Interact Club at Cessnock High School. We funded four students from Cessnock High who are members of the Interact Club to attend Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN). Additionally, each Friday evening, we provide a sausage sizzle at our local Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC).

We've refurbished and donated numerous bicycles to individuals who lack the means to purchase their own. We would like to thank Steve Whitby from Cessnock Bicycles for his ongoing support of this project

### **Membership Growth and Engagement:**

Over the past year, our club has maintained its membership and seen growth in friends of Rotary. We would like to thank our members and friends of Rotary who support our programs through their commitment and hours of volunteering.

This report is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our members and friends. Together, we have made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals, both locally and globally. As we look forward to the coming year, let us continue to work together to serve humanity and make our community and the world a better place for all.

Warm Regards Penny McNaughton

# PENNY MCNAUGHTON - TREASURER'S REPORT



## Treasurer's Report 2023-2024

Dear Members and supporters

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the year 2023-2024. It has been a remarkable year filled with accomplishments, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our dedicated members for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions. Your tireless efforts have truly made a difference, and I express my sincere gratitude for your dedication.

As of 16 May our accounts reflect a substantial cash balance, \$25,763 held across our Community, Club and Dream Cricket accounts. This financial stability provides us with a solid foundation as we transition into the new fiscal year. Additionally, our term deposit with NAB stands strong with a balance of \$17,400. Serving as a reliable resource to address contingencies and support major projects as needed.

### Sources of Funds:

Our Club operational expenses are primarily funded by Sponsorship from local businesses and members through subscriptions and other generous contributions. It is worth noting that without the essential support of local businesses through sponsorship, meeting our Club's operational expenses would present considerable challenges. Special thanks to our Sponsors Creightons Funeral Service, The Deck, CPR Pest Management Services, Jurds Real Estate, Optimum Health, Hulin Chadwick Lawyers, Weekenda, Llynda Narin and Oswald Plumbing,

### Community Engagement:

Throughout the year, we have actively participated in various events within the Cessnock and surrounding areas. I extend our sincere appreciation to all the organisations that have graciously allowed us to partake in these events, thereby enabling us to raise funds to support our community.

In conclusion, I am incredibly proud of our collective achievements over the past year. Your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support have been instrumental in driving our success. As we look ahead let us continue to work together to uphold our mission of serving the community and making a positive impact. Thank you once again for your outstanding contributions.

Warm Regards Penny McNaughton



<b>Total Donations &amp; Scholarships</b>	
<b>2023 - 2024</b>	
<b>\$29,175</b>	
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mayoral Scholarship Cessnock Council	2,500
Sydney Children's Hospital	2,450
Umoja Orphanage	2,000
VRA Heavy Vehicle	2,000
Health Stays	2,000
Greta Bus Tragedy	1,650
4 students sponsored for RYPEN	1,400
Rotary Hat Day	1,300
PCYC	1,166
Rotary Shelter Box	1,040
Cessnock Minor Rugby League CMRL	1,000
Marthaville	1,000
Cessnock Family Support Services	1,000
Little Wings	1,000
Rotary Foundation	818
Combined Churches	792
West Cessnock Don Perkins scholarship	500
Mark Hughes Foundation	500
Timber Creek School	500
Kurri Fire RAWCS	500
Science Engineering Challenge	500
Samaritans Christmas Appeal	500
Cessnock Girl Guides	500
Interact Club	500
Morocco	375
Backpacks for local schools	301
Ukraine	300
Ellalong Public School Scholarship	250
Cessnock High Awards	250
Mount View High Awards	250
Broke Public School	233
Abermain Eisteddfod	100

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT - GEORGE KONCZ



This year marked the resurgence of our website. With our old Clubrunner platform no longer available, I was tasked with creating a new site. Upon exploring the online presence of other clubs in our newly assigned District 9660, I observed that most relied heavily on Facebook for communication. However, I also noticed a handful of clubs with impressive websites. Inspired by this, we embarked on creating our own. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mitchell Beattie from madcat Marketing for his invaluable assistance in developing our new Cessnock Rotary Website. It's packed with comprehensive information and

Facebook remains our primary conduit for disseminating information to both Rotary Clubs and the general public. Graham Farish and I consistently share updates on projects and events, employing hashtags to broaden their reach. Furthermore, our members actively engage by liking and sharing posts, amplifying our visibility.

In addition to Facebook, our newsletters serve as another vital source of information. Sent to all club members and numerous Friends of Rotary, these newsletters are also accessible on our website, complete with links to our Facebook page.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all our members who contribute to the success of our website and Facebook presence.



## SOCIAL EVENTS AND FUND RAISING REPORT - VICKI STEEP



**Fundraising Events:** Our primary fundraising endeavor this year has been Bunnings BBQs, which has served as our main source of income. Additionally, our BBQ has been deployed at a multitude of community events, including the monthly Broke Markets, Tocal Field Days, Postie Bike, Mark Hughes Golf Day, Carols in the Bush, The Bushland Festival, Branxton Twilight Markets, Cessnock Light Aircraft show, and The Brewhouse Markets. The proceeds generated from these fundraising activities and donations from the community have empowered us to offer scholarships to local students and extend support to various local, national, and international Rotary Projects. In June of this year, we will be sponsoring four students from Cessnock High School to participate in the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN).

**Community Support:** We are steadfast in our commitment to serving the vulnerable members of our community. Each Wednesday, we provide a nourishing three-course lunch and a hot breakfast, extending our gratitude to the Uniting Church for graciously offering their community hall, fostering a welcoming café ambiance conducive to social interaction. This year, we expanded our assistance by offering complimentary grocery items and fresh fruit, made possible through a generous grant from the Cessnock Leagues Club. Friends of Rotary join hands with our Rotarians weekly to ensure the success of this endeavor.

Every Friday morning, we host 'Scone Time' at Marthaville, offering a warm invitation to those who may be feeling lonely or isolated to forge new connections over a delightful Devonshire tea. The overwhelming turnout, with attendance often reaching capacity and the joyful camaraderie witnessed among attendees, underscores the profound impact of these gatherings. On special occasions musical performances by Ron Jackson further enhance the experience, making these mornings truly delightful. Thank you to our friends of Rotary for your support

Friday evenings find us bustling with activity as we provide a hearty sausage sizzle for approximately 100 young people at the PCYC. The generous donation of bread from 2nd Bite is always appreciated, aiding us in our mission to support the community. We also stand in solidarity with neighboring communities, lending a helping hand to the Rotary Club of Singleton during the memorial for the Greta Bus Tragedy, offering our support during a poignant and emotional day.

Volunteering opportunities abound, including engaging with children at Broke Public School on various occasions and participating annually in The Science and Engineering Challenge (SEC). This nationwide program, organized by the University of Newcastle in collaboration with Rotary clubs, universities, and sponsors, exposes students to the fascinating realms of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, enriching their educational experiences beyond the classroom. It brings us great satisfaction to offer our support to Creightons during their Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas memorial events. Georgina, representing Creightons, is a familiar presence at our gatherings, consistently demonstrating her willingness to lend a helping hand in any capacity possible.

**Social Events:** The Interact Club, newly established, graciously invited us to a splendid dinner prepared by the students, where they shared their accomplishments and aspirations.

Our Christmas celebration took place at Marthaville, featuring a delightful traditional dinner that left us thoroughly satisfied. The enjoyment was so palpable that we decided to recreate the festive spirit with a Christmas in July event at Marthaville. Additionally, we relished a scrumptious meal prepared by the students at Kurri Tafe.

Numerous social gatherings have also been hosted at the homes of our members, each proving to be a delightful and enjoyable affair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members and friends of Rotary. Your willingness to volunteer your time, energy, and resources have not gone unnoticed. Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication and commitment. Together, we will continue to embody the spirit of Rotary and create a brighter future for all.



## YOUTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT - ANNETTE D'ADAMS

Cessnock Rotary has been involved in the local PCYC for a year now providing a sausage sizzle each Friday Evening. It has grown from humble beginnings to a regular crowd. Our Foundation Director Helen Rose and I have come to know the regulars and its been a pleasure to hear them talk about how good the snags are, we even have some parents as well. PCYC have had a few challenges to overcome one being the loss of their Manager James. James brought a caring vibe to the centre, and he was very invested in the promotion and success of this great space. Unfortunately, James has moved on along with the deployment of the police back to stations. It is a great project providing a source of food to our most vulnerable children in our community.

Interact has recommenced with the support of our Club. Stacy Jacobs who works at Cessnock High School has been instrumental in driving this successful Interact Club. We have been able to support 4 students from this school to attend RYPEN. We will hear the great stories of their adventure later next month.

We've just received word that a student we sponsored has been chosen for The Rotary Youth Exchange program in Germany.

I am looking forward to anchoring down these projects in our next year along with some other exciting fundraising events to support financially some other Youth needs in our community.



# MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP REPORT - GRAHAM FARISH



## Friends of Rotary

We have had a number of new friends of Rotary join us this year

Marg Kidd, Greg Clarke, Cynthia Snelgrove, Jenny and Glenn Rozynski and Christine Ringland. All volunteer at our Lunch by Rotary

Christine Went is volunteering for gardening at Marthaville and in the future at Mount View Lodge

## Sponsorship

Our three Major Sponsors Creightons Funerals, The Deck Café, CPR Pest Management

are part way through their three year Sponsorship so we continue to receive their sponsorship in the 24/25

We had minor sponsors agree to support us in this current year

Jurds Real Estate, AJB Maintenance, Weekenda Accommodation, Hulin Chadwick, Optimum Health Solutions, Oswald Plumbing and Llynda Nairn - celebrant

Our sponsors in total supply approximately \$3000, which goes along way to covering our Admin costs.



Our New Member Elsie Grace with President Graham and President Elect Helen

## PUBLIC OFFICER AND FOUNDATION - HELEN ROSE



Throughout the year, members of Rotary Cessnock contribute to the Rotary Foundation. Despite being a small club, our collective donations accumulate globally, forming the basis for impactful foundation grants.

Rotary Foundation spent US \$ 345 million in 2022-2023 on projects such as Polio plus. Approximately 90.8 percent of these funds go directly to support our service projects. Ending Polio, Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean Water, Supporting Education, Saving Mothers and Children, Growing Local Economies, Protecting the Environment, Disaster Response. These endeavours show a small amount can go a long way.



The Rotary Club of Cessnock stands ready to lend a hand wherever assistance is required. Renowned for our expertise in BBQs, we always serve with a welcoming smile.

Helen Rose and Annette D'Adams have been instrumental in spearheading our support efforts at the PCYC every Friday night.

# A YEAR IN FOCUS - THE ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK

