



PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER

2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT 2024 - 2025 - HELEN ROSE

INSTILLATION OF PRESIDENT 2025 - 2026

VICKI STEEP



Thursday 12th June 2025

Cessnock Supporters Club

Helen Rose President

Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

As my time as club president comes to an end I would like to thank the board and members for the support given to me during my first year as president. Rotary is a club that relies on its members and volunteers without them we would not be able to provide the community with the support that it is given.

My thanks to Penny McNaughton our Secretary and Treasurer. To Vicki Steep, who has had a difficult year but continues to organise all of the events as well as cook for Wednesday's meals for vulnerable people and Friday scone time. George Koncz for the amazing work with public relations and monthly newsletters and also all the photos. For Annette D'Adam who has provided training as well as contributed and supported youth projects.

Membership of own club has slowly grown throughout the year. With the induction of new members comes new ideas.

I would like to thank Graham Rose for the time and effort he put into the bike project. The bike project took donated bikes, were repaired and donated to people in the community who could not afford a bike.

This year we find ourselves volunteering in varied areas, BBQ's, feeding the vulnerable, Scone time, family nights at PCYC, supporting Interact, parking cars at Bimbadgen and Toocal Field days. We continue with roadside clean-ups of Quorrobolong and Maitland roads.

Throughout the year we have provided local and international support including Mark Hughes Foundation, Rotary International End Polio Now, ShelterBox, Men's Health. Educational support including Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarship, and Scholarships for other local schools. Proceeds from The Elegant White picnic funded students to attend Rotary Program of Enrichment (RYPEN). Thank you to Peter Moore for arranging the Trivia night that raised funds for Cessnock Volunteer Rescue Association Heavy Vehicle fund.

We sponsored a local student for a short term exchange program to Germany and we are about to sponsor a student from Germany on a short term exchange program to Australia. Next year another two local students are being sponsored for long term exchange programs. Our donations throughout the year have been extensive and are listed in the treasurers report. A big thank you to all our sponsors whose support allows us to continue giving back to the community.

Once again I would like to thank every member and friend of Rotary for their time and efforts with all our projects throughout the year. We are a small group of volunteers who donate many hours of service to help our community.



Penny McNaughton `
Secretary's Annual Report 2024-2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

Introduction. It is my pleasure to present the Annual Secretary's Report for the Rotary Club of Cessnock for the 2024 2025 year. This report highlights the club's activities, achievements, and contributions to the community. I would like to extend my gratitude to President Helen Rose, our sponsors, the Board, members and friends of Rotary for their dedication and commitment throughout the year.

Membership Report. As of 30 June 2024, the Rotary Club of Cessnock had **11 active members**. Over the past year, we were pleased to welcome **4 new members**, with an additional **3 members** set to be inducted during tonight's Changeover Dinner. These new additions bring fresh energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to our club. While we celebrated growth, we also farewelled **2 members** during the year due to personal and professional commitments. As of **12 June 2025**, our membership will stand at **16 active members**. Attendance throughout the year remained strong, with an **average meeting attendance rate of 74%**, reflecting a high level of engagement and commitment among our members.

Meetings & Events. Our regular meetings continued to be held on **Thursday at Cessnock Leagues Club**. Throughout the year, we hosted a variety of guest speakers, including **Mayor Danial Watton, Michelle Johnson & Ruth Goodwin** who shared valuable insights on topics ranging from community development to environmental sustainability. Special events such as the **Effie O'Neil Debate** and our annual **Changeover Dinner**, were well-attended and contributed to the vibrant fellowship within the club.

Club Projects & Initiatives. This year, the Rotary Club of Cessnock remained actively involved in numerous service projects, reinforcing our commitment to the community. Key initiatives included:

- **Environmental Projects** – Aligned with President Helen's vision, we engaged in roadside clean-ups
- **Youth Programs** – Supported initiatives such as Cessnock Interact Club and our Rotary short term exchange student, Payton Burke from Mount View High School who went to Germany.

Celebrating Our Interact Club's Achievements

This year was a milestone for our Interact Club, as they were honoured with the **Junior Citizen of the Year** at the Australian Day Ceremony hosted by Cessnock City Council as a testament to their hard work, leadership and dedication to service.

Community Engagement. Our club maintained an active presence on social media, sharing updates and engaging with the community through **Facebook, our club newsletter, club website and the district newsletter**. Several of our events were featured in local media, increasing awareness of our impact. We also strengthened relationships with our sponsors.

Future Outlook. Moving forward, our goals include increasing membership, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing our community initiatives.



Penny McNaughton: `Treasurer Annual Report 2024-2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

Introduction. As Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Cessnock, I am proud to present the financial contributions made during the 2024–2025 fiscal year. By the end of May 2025, our total contributions reached **\$34,789**. These funds have supported a diverse range of international and local initiatives, including Rotary's key programs such as **RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)**, **ShelterBox**, **Rotary Foundation projects**, and various **community service efforts**.

Through the generosity of our members, supporters, and sponsors, we have been able to deliver meaningful outcomes across education, health, youth development, and community resilience. Our commitment to "Service Above Self" continues to drive impactful change, both here in Cessnock and beyond.

Please note, we have also committed to further donations to be made, including **\$1,000** for the supply and installation of Peace Poles in local schools, **\$2,000** to support the Umoja Orphanage in Kenya and the replanting of garden beds at Cessnock West Public School

Financial Summary The club continues to operate on a cash basis.

As we approach the end of the financial year, our cash position remains strong. **Total cash at bank as of 30 May 2025 is \$47,141**

- **\$14,580** in the Community Account
- **\$12,314** in the Club Account
- **\$1,964** in the Dream Cricket Account
- **\$18,283** held in a Term Deposit

This financial stability ensures we are well-positioned to continue supporting vital projects and initiatives in the year ahead.

Donations This year, we allocated \$14,368 towards various charitable causes. These contributions support local and international programs that promote health, safety, and well-being.

Support for Education A significant portion of our contributions, totalling \$9,124 was dedicated to education, ensuring students have access to opportunities for growth and excellence: These initiatives aim to foster academic excellence, promote leadership, and provide necessary resources for students.

DONATIONS	\$ 14,368
Rotary International ShelterBox	4,000
Cessnock Volunteer Rescue Assoc	2,000
Rotary International Foundation	1,698
Rotary Men's Health Regional Van	1,218
Rotary International End Polio Now	1,000
Sydney Children's Hospital	1,000
Mountain View Lodge	943
Cancer Council Biggest Morn Tea	850
Cessnock Girl Guides	500
Mark Hughes Foundation	315
Cessnock Community Garden	250
Camp Quality	247
Interact Club	204
Carols Uniting Church	58
BMX opening Insurance CCC	48
Creightons	38

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 4,500
Cessnock City Council Mayoral	2,500
David Clark Cessnock High	1,250
Don Perkins CW Public School	500
Ellalong Public School	250
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT	\$ 4,624
Rotary Program of Enrichment	2,400
Science Eng Challenge	1,000
Awards Mount View High	250
Awards Cessnock High School	250
Effie O'Neil Debate St Phillips School	250
Effie O'Neil Debate Mount View High	250
Bread for Schools	224

Ongoing Programs As at the end of May 2025 \$11,297 was spent on our ongoing community programs, ensuring the continuity of important local initiatives:

- **\$7,568** Free weekly breakfast & lunch for those in need in our community
- **\$2,322** Free weekly sausage sizzle at Cessnock Police Citizens Youth Club
- **\$907** Free weekly Scone Time for those that may feel isolated or are new to the area
- **\$500** towards the Bike Program, supporting the repair and servicing of donated bicycles that are gifted to local families in need. *This program has now concluded.*

These programs provide essential support to young people, social engagement opportunities for seniors, and critical assistance to those in need, reinforcing our commitment to a vibrant and inclusive community.

Grants Received for 2024–2025

A total of **\$9,500** was received in grants for the financial year 2024–2025, allocated as follows:

- **\$7,500** – Feeding the Needy
- **\$1,500** – Support for PCYC
- **\$500** – Bike Program

Conclusion Our total contributions of **\$34,789** reflect our dedication to making a positive impact across various sectors. Through continued community support and financial stewardship, we aim to sustain and expand these initiatives in the coming years.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, members, and partners who have contributed to these efforts. A special thank you to Club Grants and specifically to Cessnock Leagues Club and Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club for their contributions towards our ongoing programs. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many.

Penny McNaughton

Treasurer, Rotary Club of Cessnock



Vicki Steep Events Co Ordinator

Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

As the Events Chair for the Rotary Club of Cessnock, I am pleased to report on our fundraising and event activities over the past year. Our club remains dedicated to raising funds for community initiatives while fostering connection and engagement through well-organised events.

A significant challenge this year was the reduction in our Bunnings BBQ opportunities, with our club being offered only five BBQs, a fraction of what we had previously relied upon. This shortfall in expected revenue required us to diversify our fundraising efforts to continue supporting our projects. To compensate, we successfully hosted a range of fundraising events, including:

High Tea: A sophisticated afternoon that brought together community members for tea, treats, and fundraising to erect Peace Poles at local schools.

Trivia Night: A fun-filled evening that challenged teams while raising vital funds for the Cessnock Volunteer Rescue Heavy Vehicle Fund.

Elegant White Picnic: A stylish outdoor event that strengthened our club's presence while generating much-needed revenue to fund local high school students attending the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN).

Cessnock Air Show Food Stall: A fantastic opportunity to raise funds while serving food to event attendees.

Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix 2025: An exciting and unique event that is held in Cessnock each year.

In addition to our fundraising efforts, we also focused on fellowship and social connection by hosting several memorable gatherings:

A series of social events at Marthaville, providing members and friends with a chance to come together in a relaxed setting.

A picnic at Pokolbin Park, where we enjoyed old-fashioned picnic games and great company in a picturesque location.

Two fantastic outdoor lunches at Rotarian John's property, which were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our ongoing programs have also continued to make a significant impact:

Feeding the Needy: Now in its fourth year, this initiative provides a hot breakfast and a three-course lunch every Wednesday to those in need.

Scone Time: Also in its fourth year, this weekly Friday gathering at Marthaville offers a welcoming environment for those who may be lonely or isolated in the community.

Friday Night Sausage Sizzle at PCYC: This ongoing effort supports PCYC's Unites program, fostering positive community engagement.

Despite the initial challenge of reduced Bunnings BBQs, our club rose to the occasion, demonstrating creativity and dedication in maintaining our fundraising and fellowship efforts. These events and initiatives would not have been possible without the tireless work of our members, our Friends of Rotary, and the support of the wider community. Looking ahead, we will continue to seek new opportunities and build on the success of this year's events. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year a success, your efforts ensure that Cessnock Rotary continues to make a meaningful impact.

George Koncz - Membership Director
Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

I was happy to take over this portfolio and we have managed to pick up a number of new members. The first new member was Samantha Chibanda, followed by Beverley Davis.

Lisa Oswald and Jenna Latter was inducted recently on the same night, but sadly Lisa has resigned due to personal reasons. The Changeover event will be exciting in that we are inducting three new members on the night. Michael Barrett, Michelle and Shane Johnson. Membership has always been a difficult task over the years but this year was quite successful in growing. In addition to our new members we welcomed three new friends of Rotary, Lynette Trevenen, Alison Fennell & Jodie McNaughton.

Recognising the need for flexibility in our modern world, we have introduced a platform to support online meetings. This Initiative ensures greater accessibility for members, allowing

George Koncz Public Relations Director
Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

This year has been a huge success story from our media perspective. Our club has a new Cessnock Rotary Website with lots of information. This allows a platform for anyone who might be interested in looking at our club profile. Our mission statement and current and past projects are listed including Newsletters and Albums showing that we are a fun club, in a photographic format. The website enables requests to be sent to us and encourages engagement

The other huge success is our Facebook page. With regular updates from Penny McNaughton and myself, we are achieving record number of engagements. The stories we post are about all our projects as they happen, plus information about our Sponsors. The photos and story line are engaging a lot of interest from a wide range of groups, since we share them on many other Facebook pages, apart from our own Facebook page.

I'm confident that our growth in membership and ticket sales for our numerous events is a direct result of our media releases.

The Newsletters are also informative with lots of photos, showcasing our many projects. The sponsors are highlighted in every issue and we are very grateful for their ongoing support.

I would like to thank everyone for their willingness to take part in all the photo opportunities, at our various events, which is what makes everyone of these platforms more engaging and interesting.

Annette D'Adams - Youth Director
Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Rotary Club of Cessnock

Cessnock Rotary has been involved in the local PCYC family night for 18 months, providing a sausage sizzle each Friday Evening. It has grown from humble beginnings to a regular crowd, where we can give away 120 sausages each time. The children are often regulars and look forward to the interactions and the sausages. It is a great project providing a source of food to our most vulnerable children in our community.

Interact has been running for approx. 18 months with the support of Cessnock Rotary. Stacy Jacobs who works at Cessnock High School is the driving force behind this successful club.

We've proudly supported students from Cessnock High School to attend RYPEN. Last year, Payton successfully completed a short-term youth exchange to Germany. This year, two students have been accepted into the long-term youth exchange program, Draygan will be heading to Japan, and Sophie to Finland. We wish them all the best for their exchange journeys in 2026. .

We have also supported the Cessnock Mayoral Scholarship Awards since it was started. This year President Helen and George Koncz presented the award to Ebony Cheal.

Now in its 23rd year, the Mayoral Scholarship Program has awarded 277 local students across the Cessnock Local Government Area with a combined total of \$693,000 since it began in 2002. This year, thanks to the generous support of local sponsors, Council awarded 15 scholarships each valued at \$2,500.



Conclusion & Acknowledgements.

Thank You to Our Valued Sponsors

The Rotary Club of Cessnock sincerely thanks our generous sponsors, whose support makes a real difference in our community.

Special thanks to Creightons Funeral Service, The Deck Café Lovedale, and Jurds Real Estate, steadfast sponsors since 2018, and a warm welcome to our newest sponsor, the Railway Hotel.

We especially acknowledge Creightons Funeral Service for supporting our Feeding the Needy, Scone Time programs, and the Elegant White Picnic, and The Deck Café Lovedale for their extra donation this year.

Thanks also to Llynda Nairn, JWN Electrical, Oswald Plumbing, and East Coast Law for your valued support.

We are grateful to Graham Rose and Steve Whitby for their dedication to our bike program.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to Cessnock Leagues Club and Greta Workers Club for your generous grants, and to local businesses who donated prizes for:

- **Trivia Night** (supporting the Cessnock Volunteer Rescue Heavy Vehicle Appeal): Rydges Hunter Valley, Cypress Lakes, Kearsley Hotel, Sports Power Cessnock, Rouge Beauty Therapy, Tamburlaine Wines, Savannah Estate, Lisa McGuigan Wines, Oswald Plumbing, Ivanhoe Wines, and Hunter Valley Chocolate Factory.

Elegant White Picnic (supporting Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment): Moorebank, John Wallace Wines, Calais Estate, Vinden Estate, Honeytree Estate, Blueberry Hill Vineyard, Bimbagen, First Creek Wines, and Château Élan. Special thanks to Cessnock City Council for the lighting upgrades, adding to the evening's elegance.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members, volunteers, and sponsors for their contributions to another successful year. I look forward to another year of growth, service, fellowship, and meaningful contributions to our local and global communities.

Thank you all for standing with us. Penny McNaughton



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Free Meals - Open Hearts - For those in Need



Rotary
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Rotary
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Scone Time at Marthaville Cottage

Friday Mornings between 10am - 12pm



Sponsored by the Greta Workers Club

Friday Night Sausage Sizzle

Rotary
Club of Cessnock



