



Kiwaniis
GEELONG

Newsletter
Newsletter

Incorporated in Victoria A0004674V

P.O. Box 429, Geelong, Vic 3220



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What's Coming Up

Club Meeting's - July 12 & 26

Editor – Graham Mould



Gregory James Puls and Christine Maria Van der Hoven became Mr and Mrs Puls at a ceremony held in the chapel of Sacred Heart College on Friday 29th April followed by a blessing at the Gateway Church on Saturday 30th. The wedding reception took place in the evening of the 30th. Greg and Chrissie honeymooned for three weeks in Tasmania. Best wishes to them both.

A Bit of History

Queenscliff Seafood Feast

Detail provided by Graeme Munro

Kiwaniis Geelong involvement with the Queenscliff Seafood Feast began in June 2006 when approached by the events founders Bev and Gordon Baker who had decided to abandon it due to the increase in size and its demand on them. Under Kiwanis control it became the largest Seafood Festival in Australia. The 2010 Festival was attended by approximately 7,000 people while being served by 379 volunteers from Kiwanis and other local community groups providing a huge 4,705 hours of labour. Between 2007 and 2010 over \$340,000 was donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The growth of the event was its own downfall with compulsory traffic management regulations together with Energy Safe Victoria and Worksafe requirements leading to massive expenditure and to the event no longer meeting the Royal Children's Hospital acceptable profit to loss ratio therefore losing its endorsement. The ending was regrettable but again proved the Kiwanis Club of Geelong as being able to take on huge events.



What's Happening



The Doll, Teddy and Craft Show we are running on Saturday 18th June in the Masonic Centre, 27 Regent Street Belmont is being well supported with 34 stalls booked, 32 paid for. Street advertising has begun with sponsor Hayeswinckle erecting several signs. The signs on Greater Geelong sites will go up shortly and A4 notices for shop windows also scheduled to be put up in the near future. Member will be called on to set up the hall on Friday evening the 17th and to work on the day with catering and front of house activities.



Safer Driver and Passenger Intervention Project – At the meeting on 10 May Phill Knight presented photographs of student drivers being instructed on the basics of driving a car using the dynamometer he has installed at the Northern Bay school. Funded by the Bendigo Bank student get their learner's certificates heading towards obtaining their full licence. Our previous contact at Vic Roads has now left and Phill is dealing with the new coordinator to tidy up any outstanding issues including audit of costs and payments. There are some problems getting more driving instructors and at this stage Phill has not applied for any further grants.



50 Anniversary celebrations

A grand dinner and celebration was held on Friday April 22nd to recognise the Kiwanis Club of Geelong's 50th anniversary. MC and club Vice President Bob Chapman welcomed District Governor Tony Gunn and Pauline and City of Geelong Councillor Eddy Kontelj and Maria. They along with members past and present enjoyed a great evening of memories. Among the attendees were Past Governors Bob Sitters, Jan Hyde and Louis D'Amore with their partners. Also there were Lt Governor Gael Thompson, Heartkids Chair Angela Randall and Past Lt Governor's Peter Cownley and Ian Randall plus Geelong own two Past Governors Spencer Harding and Graham Mould.

The Kiwanis Club of Geelong was the 14th Organised in Australia following; Melbourne, Sydney, Springvale, Adelaide, Perth, Camberwell, Brisbane, Wollongong, Moorabbin, Chatswood, Floreat Park, Darwin, and Shepparton. Of those first clubs only Moorabbin and Shepparton have along with Geelong held continuous Charters for 50 years, Geelong now being the third oldest club in Australia.

The Kiwanis Club, the first in the Geelong area, officially received its charter on Friday 28 July 1972 having been organised on April 18th. The charter night took the form of a dinner attended by more than 90 members and guests.

Guests included the Mayor of Geelong, Cr. J McGregor-Dowsett, Mr. Glyn Jenkins MLC, Mr. Allen Armitage, Kiwanis Governor elect for Australia, Mr. Ralph Doddrell, Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor for Victoria, and Mr. Bill Lees, the founder of Kiwanis in Australia. The Charter was presented by Kiwanis District Governor of

Australia James Kirk. Local office bearers were: President, Barney Sword; V vice President, Owen Graham and Peter Jackson; Secretary, Brian Price; and Treasurer, Alan White.

The Geelong club was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne and the Kiwanis Club of Elmhurst, Illinois, U.S.A

The first Project consisted of setting up a children's playground at Sparrow Park in West Geelong then the establishment of Noah's Ark Toy Library followed by hand on construction of storage shelves when Noah's Ark got some permanent premises.

The original member's good work continued with provision of wheelchairs for sufferers of Muscular Dystrophy and special tables for Cystic Fibrosis patients. They then purchased a mini bus for the Mission to Seamen to get visiting sailors around the Geelong port. A regular project in those early days that ran for many years was providing \$300 worth of canned food every three months to the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy.

Their major fundraising was each year selling showbags at the Geelong Show. A small metal shed was obtained and set up on one of the main pathways leading to the funfair rides giving exposure to everyone. It proved to be a good annual fundraiser which came with the additional advantage of a great day of fellowship and hilarity when members came together to pack the showbags. After setting up all the stock on trestle tables members would carry a bag up one side and down the other picking up a lolly or toy out of the wholesaler's boxes as they passed. Members were rostered on to sell the showbags throughout the three days of the show. It all came to an end when the Geelong Agricultural Society built a giant showbag hall giving children a huge selection of themed bags rather than the single bag from the Kiwanis shed. But from adversity great things often arise when the club came up with a new project to run an All Ford Day which would display and present awards for every category of Ford vehicles. The AFD proved to be a fantastic event when year over year around 1,200 Ford vehicles arrived in Geelong to be displayed with their site fee and the entrance fees of the public putting valuable cash in the Geelong club's charity account. The show's reputation was such that a trophy would add value to a competitor's vehicle.

Another major fund raiser occurred when the club was approached by founders of a seafood festival to take it over as the demand on them personally had become too much. It raised funds for the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal and was held annually in Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula. Under the guidance of the Geelong club the festival grew massively such that it became the largest Seafood Festival in Australia donating over \$340,000 to the hospital between 2006 and 2010.

Prominent among the many service projects run by the club included funding street signs around the City of Geelong for the Safety House program, setting up and running a Christmas Carols night on the waterfront that is now the major event in the City of Geelong calendar 'Carols by the Bay'. Yearly the club provides \$500 scholarships to 14 schools in the city to assist a student continue their education.

The annual winter food donation known to members as the SPC Food Run assists local and national charities such as the Salvation Army, Uniting Care, St Vincent de Paul, Geelong Food Relief and others provides vital food supplies during the winter period that has seen more than \$300,000 worth of food donated since it began in 1991. Submitted as a Signature Project to the last ASPAC Convention the project was declared winner with the club receiving a handsome trophy.

During Covid19 the club was able to help One Care Geelong in providing food to their emergency food kitchen when they lost of their regular supplies due to lockdown.

The club have never been afraid to get their hands dirty for a good cause and for seven years picked up rubbish during Geelong Waterfront Festival. A project to completely repaint a neighbourhood emergency house was achieved over a weekend with the residents treated to an overnight trip while the painting took place. It would be fair to say that almost as much paint got on the Kiwanis team as went on the walls. A similar project at a centre supporting children with cerebral palsy was far more sedate.

Following a guest speaker in the year 2000 the club embarked on a project to provide individually designed and made seats also for children with cerebral palsy which continues to this day with over 100 seats provided. Made of specialised cardboard the seats prove to be strong and lightweight. Much of the materials used to make the seats have been donated by local companies.

During the course of the celebration night on Friday 22nd April 2022 a presentation of a cheque for \$2,000 was made to Lucy Loco of the Peter Nathan Loco Foundation of Papua New Guinea who was a recent speaker at a club meeting. The donation is to go towards desperately needed toilet facilities in one of the villages in Papua New Guinea.



Lucy Loco with President Peter and with Mary Avasura from the Peter Nathan Loco Foundation PNG displaying the presentation cheque.



A major achievement for the club occurred after only 6 years was when they organised the District Convention in 1970 when 30 clubs were represented. Two further District Conventions have been organised by the club and held in Geelong with the 1998 almost ending in disaster when the fire alarm accidentally went off during the 'Pirates' themed party night and everyone in their fancy dress waited on the Geelong waterfront for the 'all clear' much to the amusement of the passing traffic.

Among the membership over the decades has been five District Governors including Bill Craig, Jim Rae, Graham Mould, Spencer Harding and John Bromilow. John completed two terms. Graham Mould went on to become Secretary/Treasurer of ASPAC before becoming ASPAC Chairman.

With membership always a subject of concern an influx of new members during 2020/21 has seen the club win the Ralph Doddrell Award for new members adds. The new members fully conversant with being in a service club bring with them new ideas, experience together with existing projects so the immediate future looks good for the Kiwanis Club of Geelong.

My mother taught me to respect my elders, *but it's now getting harder for me to find someone older than me.*

Birthdays in July
Lyn Munro



Money can't buy happiness – but it's far more comfortable to cry in a Bentley than on a bicycle



A man asked a genie to make him desirable to his girlfriend.

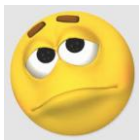
He turned him into a credit card



Alcohol does not solve any problems – but then again neither does milk.



Following an extensive article by Barwon Health Foundation published in the Geelong Advertiser which thanked their many supporters but failed to mention the Geelong Kiwanis Club and the more than \$45,000 donated since 2014 Graeme Munro contacted Danni Flowers from Barwon Health. She offered an apology of sorts and said the item opposite would be placed on the Foundation Facebook page.



COMMUNITY DONOR SPOTLIGHT ☆

The incredible Kiwanis Club of Geelong has donated in excess of \$45,000 to Barwon Health Foundation appeals since 2014.

This group of community service-minded men and women, united in their compassion for the wellbeing of others, is particularly passionate about helping children in our region.

Over the years the Club has been generous supporters of the Special Care Nursery, Children's Ward, Emergency Department, Maternity Day Assessment Unit and most recently, Bendigo Bank House, the new home to McKellar Kids Rehab.

Their significant contribution has funded everything from a defibrillator and humidifier, to breast pumps, bed wetting alarms, examination beds and garden seating (as pictured below).

The Kiwanis Club of Geelong is an example of the community spirit that makes our town so great and we thank them for their ongoing support.



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SO**



The 'Sew & So' team worked on an assortment of things on April 19th and May 3rd & 12th. They worked for 60+ hours making dresses, boys shorts, baby bibs and wall pockets. 240 pockets of hope, 6 laundry bags And 23 baby beanies will be delivered To St John of God Hospital on Fri 13th.

Lower photo of club display window at Vines Road Community Centre



Congratulations

There have been many calls to congratulate the team that put the club's 50th Anniversary celebration together. First Bob and Carmen Chapman for the main planning and organisation. Also for the sponsorship including printing the club history. Graham Mould for writing the history and presenting on the night. To George Welsh, his jokes and poem were exceptional but also the terrific amount of work getting all the memorabilia in place. To Carmen for the table and room decorations and the entertainment, Capri Receptions for the food and service and 'Cool Heat' for the music, Thanks to all.