



# Rotary Club of Elizabeth

The first meeting of the Club was held at the Lyell McEwin Hospital on 3rd October 1966. The Club was chartered 23 November 1966 and a formal presentation of the charter was made by District Governor Fergus Ballantyne on 19 April 1967 at a function in the Octagon Theatre, Elizabeth.

Meeting locations have changed as have meeting nights over the years; we currently meet on Monday nights and our venue is The Grenville Community Hub, Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth.

The Rotary Club of Elizabeth formed the Rotary Clubs of Munno Para, Two Wells and Playford and 3 Probus Clubs.

From 1970 to 2000 the Club both received and sent 24 exchange students to various parts of the world, several club members remain in contact with former students.

Past President Gordon Greig (dec) lead a 9500 GSE (Group Study Exchange) Team to Argentina in 1989 and Rotarian Viv Valladares lead Vocation Training Teams to Vanuatu on two occasions, 2015,2016. The club has regularly participated with inbound and outbound VTeams.

Active in our community, the club has raised funds via Hospital Fetes, Fairs, Music Hall Shows, Jeans Sales, Garage sales and Barbecues and for 24 years held an annual Trailer Raffle. In our early years we formed a local central charitable foundation which has gone on to become United Way in South Australia. Often these activities involve many community volunteers to assist in the presentation or organisation of these activities.

Our many members over the years have contributed to the fabric of community life by their representation in local government, various foundations, youth programs, chambers of commerce, sporting bodies, churches, and more, taking with them the values and ethics of Rotary. These have been reflected in the individual community awards given to members.

Many community programs have included support for the Rotary Lookout, The Mobile Food Coop, Equipment for Freemont Park, Tree Planting, Bird Shelter boxes, painting of Community rooms, kitchen for Food Cooperative, Playford Mens Shed; assistance for victims of Domestic Violence, motor vehicle for disabled person, air-conditioner for emergency accommodation, gas heater for needy family, gopher to enable a student to attend school.

Our youth programs for local youth include prizes for High School debating teams, Primary School Awards, "Kids Matter" – a pilot program for a Mental Health initiative at Elizabeth Parks Schools, Road Safety sessions for year 5 students, grant for playground for OHSC Elizabeth Vale, barbecues and trophies for Football United -breaking down barriers between new arrivals with sport, Munno Para Primary School Stationery, Dictionaries for children, School garden at Elizabeth South Primary School, Wheels in Motion, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness, and sending participants to Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, National Youth Science Forum, The Science Experience.

The members of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth have always actively participated in District 9500 programs often being Chairman of committees and supporting Rotary throughout the district. PP Alun Hughes was District Governor in 2009/2010. Many members have specific expertise and have participated in Rotary volunteer programs in the Pacific Islands, PNG, throughout Asia, India and Africa.

Our current membership totals 30 including honorary members, about one half of our membership is women.

We are a very active group who enjoy our Rotary mixed with social activity; we participate fully in our community and continue to advance Rotary ideals as we pass our 50<sup>th</sup> year.