



UNITE FOR GOOD

ROTARY CLUB OF LILYDALE INC.

Annual Report 2025-2026

President:	Cheryl Mackay
Secretary:	Arun Marappan
Treasurer:	Judith Shiel
President Elect:	Arun Marappan
President Nominee:	

Rotary International President: Francesco Arezzo of Italy

District 9815 Governor:	Peter Behm
Community Leader 9815-4	Gus Rozycki



PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

CHERYL MACKAY

Annual President report – Cheryl Mackay 30/6/2026

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 12 months. While there were certainly some health challenges that I would gladly have changed, the friendships, connections, and experiences that Rotary has provided are things I would not change for the world.

I would like to sincerely thank every member for helping to make my year as President so enjoyable. Your support, encouragement, and willingness to contribute have been invaluable, and I am truly grateful.

For a small club, we have had a remarkable year. Looking back, it is amazing to see just how much we have achieved together. Throughout the year we have dedicated countless hours to serving our community, strengthening local partnerships, and supporting a wide range of projects and initiatives.

Family Violence Forum

On the 8th October Our Club conducted a Family Violence Forum, at Japara House in Kilsyth. It was attended by many other Rotary Groups, members of the public and community leaders. Helped by the Bendigo Bank of Mooroolbark it was the result of nearly a year's planning,

Projects and fundraisers of the year

- Celebrating the Rotary Club of Lilydale's 60th Anniversary
- Hosting our Fundraiser Hypnotherapist Night
- Participating in the Container Deposit Scheme
- Christmas Gift Wrapping at Lilydale Marketplace
- Supporting the IPU Project, providing Care Packs for the Maroondah Mental Health Unit
- Supporting and promoting the "It's Time" Raffle
- Conducting the Lilydale Craft & Produce Market
- Bunnings BBQ fundraisers
- BBQ support for Yarra Ranges Council's Repower Day
- Anzac Day Sausage Sizzle for Lilydale RSL
- High Tea for Blazeaid.

Together, these activities raised an impressive \$22,000.00 after expenses.

Our Major Club Project - Wishing Tree Gift Giving Appeal

Our major Christmas project, while not a fundraiser, continues to be one of the most rewarding activities undertaken by our club. It provides a valuable service to many families doing it tough during the festive season and gives countless children and young people the opportunity to receive Christmas presents and experience some joy at a very special time of year.

Primary School Speech Contest

I would also like to acknowledge the success of our Primary School Speech Contest, which continues to help young people build confidence and develop their public speaking skills.

PSSC was held at Mount Evelyn Christian School, on 20 August 2025, with 10 students competing and the first 2 winners competed in the district finals on December 11th and Joshua was awarded 2nd over all.

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness

In addition, our support of programs that assist young people in preparing to gain their driver's licenses has made a meaningful difference within our community.

November 2025 sponsored Lilydale Heights Secondary College \$1,000.00

June 2026 Sponsored Mount Lilydale Mercy College. \$1,000.00

Rotary Lilydale also supported RYDA with the purchase of new Trailer for use on Days they are attending programs, by a donation of \$2,000 along with the 7 other clubs who support RYDA for signage on the trailer

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

*ONE applicant via Bridge Builders in Lilydale, **Hailey Karl**, to participated in RYLA from 14-19 July 2025 at CYC Adventure Resort Phillip Island. RYLA focuses on personal development, leadership, and teamwork through a mixture of outdoor practical activities and in-classroom theory activities.*

School Awards.

Presentation of awards and monetary gifts to four local secondary schools. Teachers and schools select deserving recipients, supporting students who show initiative in community service and citizenship. Monetary value was \$200.00 each award.

04/12/2025	Lilydale Heights Richard Selway attended
05/12/2025	Mooroolbark College Des and Judith Shiel attended Year 7 & 8, Year 9 & 10
10/12/2025	Yarra Hills Secondary College Barb Lawrence and Simon Tirschett Attended. Recipient: Chelsea Doubaras
12/12 /2025	MLMC Arun attended

• Donations in Kind Inc.

During the year we have made numerous visits to deliver various items including school supplies, and some medical supplies.

- *Attending the opening day in March, with past RI President Jennifer Jones. attending*
- *And participating in DIK Inc. Meetings club representative Des Shiel attending.*

• RORPS, (Rotary Overseas Recycling of Playgrounds)

In April members of Nunawading, Lilydale and Wandin assisted in loading a container with previously harvested playgrounds and sent overseas Samoa

A special thank you must go to my Board members. Your commitment, support, and willingness to step in whenever needed have been greatly appreciated. I am particularly grateful for the time and understanding you provided while I recovered from major surgery in September, and for the support shown during Colin's recent cancer journey.

Serving as President has been both an honour and a privilege. I am proud of what we have achieved together and thankful for the friendships and memories created along the way.

I look forward to supporting Arun during his year as President in 2026–2027 and wish him every success as he leads our club into another exciting year of service above self.

Thank you all for a wonderful year.

Cheryl Mackay President 2025-2026 Rotary Club of Lilydale

2025-2026 Board Members.



(left to right)

FOUNDATION Marg Battle
SECRETARY – Arun Marappan.
YOUTH – Simon Tirchett
ENVIRO MEMBERSHIP –Madalyn Parlet (Absent from photo)

TREASURER –Judith Shiel
PRESIDENT- Cheryl Mackay (& Community).
VICE PRESIDENT – Des Shiel & **MEMBERSHIP**.

TREASURER- Report

Judith Shiel

I am now into my sixth year as the Treasurer for the Rotary Club of Lilydale, and I continued to learn more and passing the reigns over to Cheryl Mackay next year. As requested by Arun Marappan. While we had the Market I had the responsibilities of Stallholder Coordinator. This included distributing market invitations, collecting stallholder fees at the events, and depositing gate proceeds using the CBA banking system.

We also continued using the Square for credit card payments at the Market from stallholders, and Rotary BBQ, using a Square QR code for donations at the gate, and the Square continued to be used. QR codes for donations were also created for market and Christmas Wrapping donations.

Below is a table summarising Donations / Disbursements etc. this financial year 2025-2026.

Donations Paid.

Secondary School Awards 3 school x 200	\$600.00
PSSC – speech contest	\$536.30
Lilydale Heights College _ SIRC food drive for Holy Fools	\$300.00
RYDA Road Safety Education Total: 2 schools	\$2,000.00
RYDA Trailer – Contribution for purchase	\$2,000.00
RYLA July 25 and June 26 (2 participants)	\$3,300.00
The Rotary Foundation Lilydale 18372AF	\$2,584.00
Australian Rotary Health donation in lieu of fee and Lift the lid Hat Day	\$190.00
Australian Rotary Health (ARH) (speaker)	\$1,000.00
ROMAC _ books donations thru sale of books \$130.00	\$200.00
Polio Plus	\$1,525.00
Holy Fools Felix house	\$1,000.00
POLICE LIGHTING- total \$5,132.20	\$3,104.20
Grant received \$2,028.00	
Blaze Aid Inc Donation for Blaze Aid LONGWOOD	\$2,000.00
Rotary Club Sorrento State School Relief	\$ 500.00
Rotary Australia Rel disaster aid	\$1,000.00
BlazeAid Inc High Tea Fundraiser	
Raised \$4,655.00 less expenses \$2,047.75 = \$2,607.25	\$2,500.00

Total Donations Paid **\$24,339.50**

ROTARY COMMITMENTS PAID.

District 9815	\$2,088.00
RI Dues	\$2,462.27
RDU Subscription Magazine	\$695.74
Donations in Kind Inc. (DIK Inc) annual contribution	\$3,500.00

Total Rotary Commitments Paid. **\$8,746.01**

FINANCIAL REPORTS- PROFIT AND LOSS

Profit and Loss report.
ROTARY CLUB OF LILYDALE Inc
P.O. BOX 127
LILYDALE VIC 3140
0423558833
01 Jul 2025 - 30 Jun 2026

4-0000	Income	TOTAL
4-1000	ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT	\$8,240.43
4-3000	FELLOWSHIP INCOME	\$2,770.00
4-4000	SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$7,737.35
4-6000	FUND RAISING PROJECTS- FRP	\$28,084.22
	Total Income	\$46,832.00
	Gross Profit	\$46,832.00
6-0000	Expenses	
6-1000	ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT	\$12,895.79
6-2050	FELLOWSHIP EXPENSE	\$1,896.00
6-2400	SERVICE EXPENSES	\$1,129.38
6-2500	FOUNDATION	\$4,109.00
6-2510	YOUTH	\$8,736.30
6-3000	COMMUNITY	\$15,627.20
6-4000	INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS	\$200.00
6-6000	FUND RAISING PROJECTS	\$7,944.17
	Total Expenses	\$52,537.84
	Operating Profit	\$-5,705.84
8-0000	Other Income	-10.00
	Net Profit	\$-5,715.84

FINANCIAL REPORTS- BALANCE SHEET
**Balance sheet report
ROTARY CLUB OF LILYDALE Inc.**

P.O. BOX 127 LILYDALE VIC 3140

At 30 Jun 2026

		Total
1-0000	Assets	
1-1000	Current Assets	11,987.73
1-1155	Float- Market & BBQ	300.00
1-1200	Term Deposit	25,000.00
1-6000	Provisions - Refer Liabilities	10.00
1-6010	Prepayments	3,500.00
	Total Assets	40,797.73
2-0000	Liabilities	
2-3000	Contingent/Provisional Liability	10.00
	Total Liabilities	10.00
	Net Assets	40,787.73
3-0000	Equity	
3-7000	Retained Earnings	46,503.57
3-8000	Current Year Earnings	-5,715.84
3-8300	Subsidiary Accounts	0.00
	Total Equity	40,787.73

CLUB ADMINISTRATION- ALMONER – VALE

Vale Hans Witlox

Nellie Witlox, informed us of Hans passing after a long illness, August 21st, 2025

Hans Witlox joined Rotary Oct 1st, 1993 (Rotary Data Base) and joined the club July 24th 2007 and resigned in May 2020, due to ill health.

Funeral was held September 2nd, 2026

Vale Catherine

Daughter of Tim and Lynette Hewitt passed away 1st September 2025, after suffering from breast cancer for many years. *Our thoughts are with the Hewitt family wishing them hope in the midst of sorrow.*

Vale:- John Charles Turner

28/11/1936 - 10/01/2026

John was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a dedicated Rotarian, a CFA volunteer, and spent his career as an electrician. John was a member of the Rotary Club of Doncaster and later of Alexander. He also contributed to the East Timor Roofing project organized by the Doncaster, Melbourne, and Lilydale Rotary Clubs. Following his relocation to Acheron, he held the position of chairman of the CFA for several years and earned considerable respect.

Most of all he was a Larikin at heart.

The Chapel overflowed with Family and friends celebrating the life of John Charles Turner. on Wednesday 21st at Federation Chapel, Lilydale Memorial Park, after the service A guard of honour led by Fire truck from CFA Lilydale and the guard of honour by CFA members Acheron, Rotarians, Family and friends.

Vale Tim Hewitt

Born November 26, 1936,

Died June 28, 2026

Induction: 18/01/1994

Honorary: 25/5/2021

Paul Harris Fellow +1 Sapphire Jan 2002



Tim gave generously to his community through local and international projects for more than 31 years. In 2021, he was warmly offered and accepted honorary membership of the Rotary Club of Lilydale.

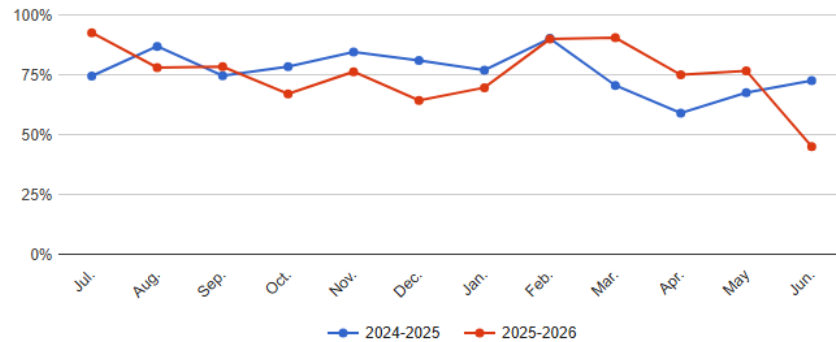
Tim was a director of East Timor Roofing Co. and proudly played a key role in delivering a truck from Lilydale to Baucau, East Timor.

A devoted Rotarian, Tim was known for his generosity, kindness, and unwavering support of Rotary projects. He took great joy in sharing his carefully grown tomato plants and, each year, brought smiles to many as the resident Santa at the Lilydale Craft and Produce Market.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

ATTENDANCE OFFICER: Judith Shiel

Attendance History Report



The attendance officer used Club Runner to record attendance, and the attendance rate was 73%. With several guests each meeting.

Bulletin: Editor Judith Shiel

The Bulletin contains updates from the President including meetings, a calendar of events, and news from Members, District, and RI. It is distributed bi-monthly to Members, the District Governor, Assistant Governor, and Friends of Rotary via our website and ClubRunner.

CLUB HISTORIAN: Helen Darvell

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK: Judith Shiel. 2025-2026

The handbook was produced by Judith, and printed by Sigma Sign and Display, sponsored by Bendigo Community Bank. Mount Evelyn

WEBMASTER: -
[Rotary Club of Lilydale](#)

ClubRunner used extensively to update calendar events and stories.



FOUNDATION

Police Lighting Project:-

Discussions with Victoria Police confirmed a clear operational need that had already been identified within the division. Police representatives indicated that support from the Rotary of Lilydale would significantly enhance their capacity to respond effectively to serious incidents. The nominated project, namely 'Safety Lights', focused on the provision of site-specific portable safety lighting units to support police response to critical and fatal traffic collisions across both rural and urban areas. At present, police frequently rely on assistance from the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and State Emergency Service (SES) to provide adequate scene lighting.

The introduction of dedicated safety lighting units as part of police equipment will reduce reliance on volunteer organisations, thereby limiting their exposure to prolonged incident scenes and road trauma. Equipping supervisory police vehicles with these lighting systems will enable faster, more efficient scene management while reducing the number of personnel required. Overall, the provision of purpose-designed safety lighting will strengthen the capacity of local police to manage critical incidents effectively, improving operational efficiency and delivering clear benefits to community safety.

(a Foundation Grant was obtained, and Rotary Lilydale paid the balance of the Lighting equipment)

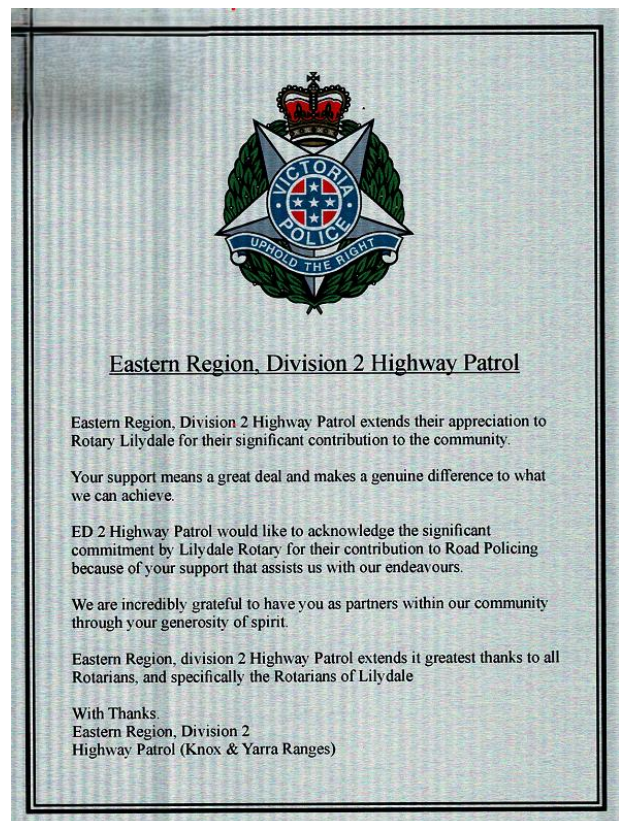
Marg Battle

Foundation Chair

ROTARY CLUB LILYDALE

Addendum to Printing.

On 13th October, 2026 at Club Meeting Brendan De Schwartz, presented the club with an appreciation plaque.



CLUB MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Date	Speaker/ meeting	Organisation & EVENTS
Jul 8	Club Meeting	Service meeting / York on Lilydale
Jul 12th	District Changeover	Pakenham Racecourse: DG Byron passing over to DG Behm
Jul 22, 2025	Sue Shaw	Days for Girls Australia
Aug 10	60th Anniversary	Eastwood Golf Club
Aug 12	Club Meeting	Service meeting @ York on Lilydale
Aug 20, 2025	PSSC	MECS Mount Evelyn Christian School
Aug 26, 2025	Peter Los	Seniors Hope @ York on Lilydale
Sep 09, 2025	Huy Nguyen-	With Wings Aviation Scholarship Program @York on Lilydale
Sep 23, 2025	Lillie and Nick	Feed One Feed All @York on Lilydale
Oct 8, 2025	DV FORUM	Japara house supporting Bendigo Bank.
Oct 14, 2025	Michelle and Steve	Lilydale Community Youth Club @York on Lilydale
Oct 28, 2025	1st & 3 rd Placed Students	Speeches from the Primary School Speech Competition heat @York on Lilydale
Nov 11, 2025	Discussion	Rotary Lilydale @York on Lilydale
Nov 25, 2025	Marg Battle	Rotarian Behind the Badge @York on Lilydale
Dec 9, 2025	Club Christmas party	Hosts President Cheryl and Colin Mackay The Basin
Jan 13, 2026	Fellowship dinner	The Sporting Globe, Chirnside Park
Jan 27, 2026	General/ planning	Vocational month. & discussion @ The Sporting Globe
Feb 10, 2026	Naqaib Sarwa	Amnesty International @ The Sporting Globe
Feb 24, 2026	Thank you.	Wishing Tree Thankyou Night @ The Sporting Globe
Mar 10, 2026	Rebecca Carter & Rochelle Price	Shop 16 Mooroolbark Community Connect and community café @ The Sporting Globe
Mar 13-15,2026	HOBART	Rotary District conference (9815 & 9830) Grand chancellor Hobart
Mar 24, 2026	General / Planning	Club Meeting Special General Meeting @ The Sporting Globe
Mar 31, 2026	Croquet Challenge	RC Wandin and RC Lilydale & friends
Apr 14, 2026	General/ Planning	RSL Lilydale
April 25th	RSL Lilydale	Anzac Day Service and RSL breakfast – Service
Apr 28, 2026	Pat Armstrong	COMBINED MEETING, RC, LILYDALE, WANDIN AND UPPER YARRA @ The Sporting Globe
May 12, 2026	General	Members Activities night @RSL Lilydale
May 26, 2026	Anastasia and Ella	Lilydale Heights SIRC representatives @RSL Lilydale
May 29th 5:45 – 8:00	District 9815 Awards night	Presidents, RCLs, District Leadership Awards Night ROC Football Club 20 Starling Rd Officer, Victoria 3809
June 23rd 6:30 - 8:00	Club Changeover	RSL Lilydale, Anderson Street
July 4th 5:00 – 11:00	District Change over	Cardinia Cultural Centre 40 Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham

Guest Speakers at Club Meetings Pictorial



Sue Shaw, Days for Girls Aust.
July 22 2025



Peter Los- Seniors Hope.
Aug 26 2025



Huy Nguyen, With Wings Aviation Scholarship program
Sep 9 2025



Sep 23, 2025, Lillie and Nick,
Feed One Feed All @York on Lilydale



Oct 14, 2025 Michelle and Steve





Aug 20, 2025 the Primary School Speech Contest was held at Mount Evelyn Christian School the 3 Winners presented their speeches at the Club Meeting Oct 28th 2025.



Myriam Butler - Member behind the Badge - Nov 25th 2025



0, 2026.



Shop 16 Mooroolbark Community Connect and community café

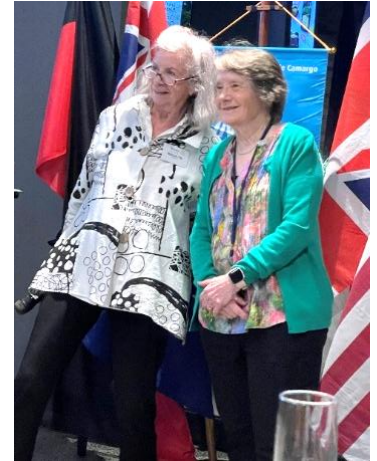


April 28th 2026
COMBINED MEETING WITH RC WANDIN,
UPPER YARRA. & HEALESVILLE,

Pat Armstong, District 9815 Environment Chair.

Highlighting that Environment is one of 7
Rotary areas of Focus

Madalyn thanks Pat, for the interesting talk.



(Pictured Left) **Debbie Shaw** from **Candlebark Nursery** Mooroolbark, talked about their community based not for profit Nursery. Also caring and conserving the environment.

(Picture Right) **RC Wandin President Peter**, spoke of their Achievements and projects, Namely the Wandin Car Show which fundraises for The Children Hospital. In collaboration with CFA RC Upper Yarra. A large donation was presented to Children Hospital Auxiliary.
RC Upper Yarra Paul Coleman
(no picture) spoke their club and community efforts.



May 26, 2026 Anastasia and Ella, Lilydale Heights SIRC representatives, Talked about the activities that SIRC Have managed. Also Marg Battle Presented Anastasia a thank you certificate for helping with the high tea function .

The Club Meetings were held over three venues during the year firstly at York on Lilydale, then we trialled The Sporting Globe, Chirnside Park. and later part of the year. At RSL :Lilydale. The latter two venues were at no cost to the club, but purchase a meal at The Sporting Globe. After a few meetings, the board decided to meet at the RSL Lilydale. And forfeit the meal. Or bring nibbles.



June 23rd, 2026, Changeover was held at RSL, Anderson Street Lilydale. with Distinguished guest, Bridget Vallence MP, Shia Smart PDG, Gus Rozyski, RGC leader & wife , Honorary members, Ian & Helen Darvell Lynn and Evan Whelan Ann Wheeler. and members and their partners.

Community Projects - Summary

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES. Summary

- WISHING TREE PROJECT - Christmas Gifts for kids in Foster/Kinship Care December
- COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
 - Christmas Gift Wrapping @Lilydale Market Place.
 - Anzac Day & RSL Breakfast BBQ
 - IPU Care Packs.
 - Lilydale Street Party
- FUNDRAISING
 - LCPM incl BBQ at market
 - Bunnings BBQ at Market
 - IT TIME RAFFLE proceeds go to IPU Project
 - Hypnotist evening.
 - High Tea function.

FOUNDATION

- Contribution to the Annual Foundation Giving
- **Grant received for Police Lighting Project.**

INTERNATIONAL

- RORPS, decommissioning playgrounds for Rotary Overseas Recycled playgrounds project (RORPS)
- DIK Donations and Deliveries

ENVIROMENTAL.

- Recycling Playgrounds RORPS
- Rugs for Wheelchair for Kids
- Cash for Cans

Wheelchairs For Kids

Members and Friends of Rotary continue to make colourful and comfy rugs and soft toys which are collected and taken to Perth with travelling members.

For every wheelchair gifted to a child in impoverished and under-resourced communities in both Australia and around the globe, a knee rug and knitted toy is also provided.



Community Fundraiser.

MONTHLY CRAFT AND PRODUCE MARKET

Report Des Shiel Manager

The Market committee, Co-ordinators, Andrew Ermel, Arun Marappan and Des Shiel - Chair.

And Treasurer Judith Shiel

Operating from the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre Car Park. **3** markets were held. November, February & March. October market cancelled due to weather. No market in December but a stall at the LTAG Melba street Festival. Funds were donated by LTAG and we held a raffle. And the March Market was held in conjunction with an open Day at the Lilydale Bowling Club.

An average of 20 stallholders, and 12 volunteers supported by Friends of Rotary, welcomed 270 patrons over the 3 markets held.

Annual report: - Total for the Year. 2025-2026

Gross Takings Stallholders	\$3,135.00
Gate donations	\$ 959.90
Books	\$ 130.80
BBQ	\$ 592.30
Grant received DSS grant	\$1,500.00
donation from LTAG	\$1,500.00
Bike Raffle Dec Street Stall	\$820.00

TOTAL INCOME \$8,638.00

less Expenses

Misc	\$277.73
Refund Stall	\$ 55.00
Venue hire YRC	\$903.76
Waste	\$119.53
BBQ	\$343.83
Total Expenses	\$1,699.35

Total profit 2025-26 \$6,938.65 LCPM

Des Shiel, Market Manager,

Treasurer Judith Shiel.

Funds Raised 2026-2027 (Adjusted)

	Income	Expenses	Fundraised
60TH ANNIVERSARY	2,774.50	1,686.10	1,088.40
Fundraiser Hypnotherapist_ Night	3,640.00	2,540.00	1,100.00
Can Deposit Scheme	949.70	47.90	901.80
Christmas Wrapping Lilydale	1,263.60	0.00	1,263.60
High Tea Mother's day Donation made to Blaze Aid.	4,655.00	2,047.75	2,607.25
IPU CARE PACKS Proceeds It time Raffle	930.32	208.02	722.30
<i>Clarification the above monies Raised have directly raised for a cause etc</i>			\$7,683.35
The following have been adjusted for EOY journal entries			
Lilydale Craft & Produce Market	8,638.00	1,699.05	6,938.95
Bunnings - BBQ	9,204.50	2,015.47	7,189.03
BBQ & E_B Repower	567.00	206.83	360.17
Total of LCPM & BBQ's only	18,409.50	3,921.65	\$14,488.15

Community Projects _ Christmas Wishing Tree Project 2025

Christmas joy returns for its fifth year Lauch 27/10/2025



The Rotary Club of Lilydale is preparing for its fifth year of their Wishing Tree Project, an initiative that brings joy and support to families in the Yarra Ranges during the Christmas season.

Full article in Star Mail. [Christmas joy returns for its fifth year](#) by Shamsiya Hussainpoor.

Report:

Businesses involved: The initiative began with 14 businesses and has grown to more than 30 across Lilydale and surrounding suburbs, with more continuing to join. Aaron Violi MP and Bridget Vallance MP are also supporting the appeal by hosting collection boxes in their offices.

Monies received from My Cause and gift cards and cash donations. A total of \$1,185.00 was raised.

Gifts donated to a few thousand donated gifts were distributed to:- Anchor, Lilydale Proactive Police [including their Domestic Violence Room], Police have also distributed gifts to numerous people/places e.g. homeless in local motel - awaiting full list], Anglicare, Oonah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Boordawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Centre, Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service Inc, Safe Steps, Table 16, Alissa Gielmunda - Community Engagement and Inclusion Worker, Mental Health and Wellbeing - Yarra Ranges.

Article publish 15/12/2025

[Gifts abound for the fifth Wishing Tree appeal](#) By Mikayla van Loon



Distribution of gifts to Anchor, Anglicare, Oonah Aboriginal, health Community. Boordawan, Dandenong Ranges, Safe Steps. plus more.



Distribution Policing Unit Lilydale, and Gift cards presented to Lilydale Proactive Police by President Cheryl Mackay.



Community Projects cont'd

A wonderful Wishing Tree effort celebrated 25-02-2026



The Wishing Tree Appeal thank-you night was held at The Sporting Globe in Chirnside Park, where attending businesses were recognised and thanked for their support.

full report can be found in Star Mail. 25-02-2026 [“a wonderful Wishing tree effort”](#) By Callum Ludwig

DV forum

Domestic Violence Community Forum in partnership with Community Bank Mooroolbark Bendigo Bank and Vic police.

On Wednesday October 8th 2025

Arun Marappan reports “Last night we had our Domestic and Family Violence Forum in partnership with [Community Bank Mooroolbark](#) and [Japara Neighbourhood House Inc.](#) It was great to see 50 people in the room listening to people with lived experience and agencies in the East who support victims and families. We had Cassie from the Family Violence Department for the Hills from Vic Pol, Rachel from [Yarra Ranges Shire Council](#), Anita and Jack from [Eastern Community Legal Centre](#) and Wendy from [Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre](#) educate us about all the available services and support. Thank you to all the Volunteers from [Rotary Club of Lilydale](#) and [Lilydale CFA Fire Brigade](#) for the amazing food last night as well. It was a real community event!!!



COMMUNITY PROJECTS cont'd

Membership stands and information stands.

- October 25 Mount Evelyn Street Party.
- December at LTAG Melba Street Festival.
- December at Lilydale Market place Christmas Wrapping.
- March 2026 Repower expo. At Yarra Ranges shire offices.
- And several BBQ conducted. During the year.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS working together with other entities

Anzac Day Dawn



Service and Gunfire BBQ at Lilydale RSL

25 April 2026

Now in its fourth year, Rotary Lilydale members had an early start to cook the sausages for the gunfire breakfast after the dawn service.

President Cheryl Mackay and members Andrew Ermel and Judith Shiel represented the Club and laid the wreath.

All proceeds from the BBQ were donated to Lilydale RSL.

*Anzac Day
Dawn Service
2026*



PIC•COLLAGE



*Anzac Day
Dawn breakfast
2026*



PIC•COLLAGE

YOUTH

Des Shiel

Youth Chair Simon, Richard Selway,

Primary School Speech Competition

PSSC was held at **Mount Evelyn Christian School**, on 20 August 2025, with 10 students competing from five schools, **Montrose Primary, Mount Evelyn Christian School, Lilydale Primary, Bimbadeen Heights Primary, and St Patrick's Catholic Primary** participating. Two students in Grade 6 and/or Grade 5 from each school wrote and delivered a three-minute speech choosing from a range of set topics. Judged by three local Toastmasters members, there were many family members and school representatives supporting the students in attendance.

the first 2 winners competed in the district finals on December 11th and Joshua was awarded 2nd overall.

Mt Evelyn Community Bank continues to sponsor the contest. the first, second and third places students received a generous book voucher and all students participating received a certificate.

This project is very popular with Rotary Lilydale members and the schools alike, with many parents commenting on the difference in the confidence level of their child after participating in the competition.



1st Joshua MECS 2nd Gabriella Bimbadeen Height PS 3rd Tahlia Montrose PS

PIC•COLLAGE

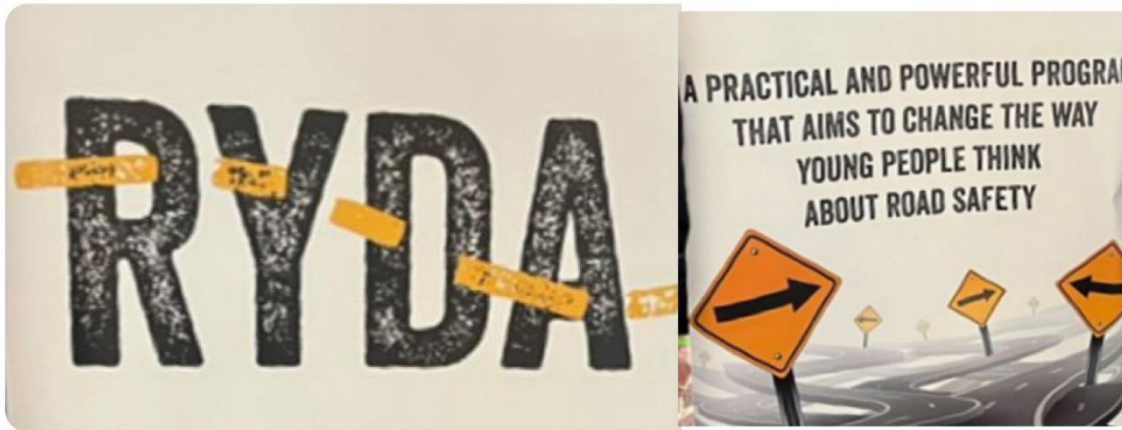


Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)

Members from Rotary Club of Lilydale again supported this very worthwhile road safety education program held for Year 10 – Year 12 students from local secondary schools. RYDA is a partnership which supports teachers on the journey as they provide their students with the tools and understanding they need to see themselves as active, responsible road citizens.

Our members lead the students between workshop sessions, reducing the teacher absences from the schools and the overall costs to the program providers. Rotary Club of Lilydale also made generous donations to Lilydale Heights Secondary College and Mount Lilydale Mercy College which resulted in a reduction of the out-of-pocket expenses for their parents. As the program is delivered at Lilydale Campus of Box Hill TAFE, our members also attend on days when schools outside our locality participate, such as Carey Baptist Grammar and Yarra Valley Grammar.

And in 2026, Rotary Lilydale donated to RYDA with other clubs to produce a Trailer used at the sessions.



YOUTH Cont'd

Secondary School Awards

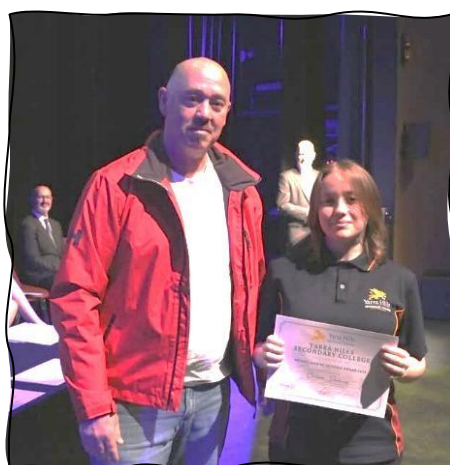
Members from Rotary Club of Lilydale attended the end of year school award ceremonies at Yarra Hills Secondary College, Lilydale Heights Secondary College, Mount Lilydale Mercy College and Mooroolbark Secondary College to present a gift card and certificate to students nominated by the teachers as demonstrating Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self"

School	2025 Date & Time	Rotary Members to attend
Lilydale Heights College	Thurs 4th December	Richard Selway
Mooroolbark Secondary College	Fri 5th December	Des Shiel and Judith Shiel
Yarra Hills Secondary College	Wed 10th December	Barb Lawrence & Simon Turchett
Mount Lilydale Mercy College	Fri 12 th December	Arun Marappan

Disclaimer: No photos or names from Lilydale Heights, no names from Mooroolbark Secondary College, And no photos from Mount Lilydale Mercy college.



Mooroolbark Secondary College, Service Above self-awards Year 8, and Year 10, no names and no photos of yr 7 & 9



YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE, CHELSEA, Presented by Simon Turchett

MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE

RECIPIENTS OF Rotary Club of Lilydale Awards.

CITIZENSHIP	ECHO	Yr 9
COMMUNITY	SAMUEL	YR 11,
SEVICE	KATHERINE	YR 12.

YOUTH CONT'D - SIRC

SIRC grew significantly between July 2025 and June 2026 through school and community service. The past twelve months have been an exceptional period of growth, leadership development, and community impact for the Student Interact Representative Council (SIRC) at Lilydale Heights College. Spanning the latter half of 2025 and the first half of 2026, the student leaders from Years 7 to 10—alongside the School Captains—have truly embodied the Rotary ideal of "Service Above Self."

Through consistent weekly collaboration, the SIRC has successfully bridged school-based wellbeing initiatives with broader local community outreach.

- **Summary:** The Student Interact Representative Council (SIRC) experienced a period of growth, leadership development, and community impact across late 2025 and early 2026, embodying the motto "Service Above Self."
- **Mental Health & Beyond Blue Fundraiser:** SIRC spearheaded a youth mental health awareness campaign, running a successful campus-wide "Blue" Casual Clothes Day that raised significant funds and fostered open dialogue.
- **SIRC Breakfast Club Expansion:** The council managed and ran the Breakfast Club every Tuesday and Thursday morning out of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC), serving free breakfast to improve student engagement and wellbeing.
- **Local Community Outreach:** Representatives partnered with local food drives in Melba Park to set up, serve warm meals, and engage with community members experiencing hardship.
Support Holy fools SIRC, collected food and water and presented to Holy Fools at Felix house July 2026
- **Leadership Transition:** Incoming office-bearers participated in handovers and planning sessions to prepare the council for the 2026 academic year.



Ella SiRC Capt. And Anatasia attended the club meeting presenting their projects for the year.

MEMBERSHIP: Honorary Memberships

In November 2025, **Patrick Hartley**, who joined Rotary in December 1986, was made an honorary member. Celebrating his continued support for 40 years.

In June 2026, Roger Meridew was granted honorary membership after 26 years of Rotary service. He joined Rotary on 2 May 2000 and has been a generous financial supporter.

We sadly farewelled

Barb Lawrence joined Rotary on 22 November 2022 and became a Paul Harris Fellow in June 2024. She resigned in December 2025. We thank Barb for her valued contributions and support across many areas of the club.

Jenni Labrum Joined Rotary December 2024 and resigned June 2026 thank you Jenni for supporting Rotary Lilydale with your volunteer hours.

There are 3 members who have taken Leave of Absence due to personal circumstances.



District 9815 Club Excellence Award

The Club attended the District Award night and our Club. Presidents, RCLs, District Leadership Awards Night held at ROC Football Club Officer. **May 29th** Thank you to all the members who helped the club achieve Silver this is your Award. Arun, Cheryl Des And Judith Attended the night



Club 60th Anniversary

The Rotary Club of Lilydale marked its **60th anniversary on Sunday 10 August** with a celebratory lunch at Eastwood Golf Club.

Guests ranged from current, past, and Honorary members to community supporters, District representatives, and visiting Rotarians from neighbouring clubs. They lingered over the memorabilia displays, each item a carefully preserved snapshot of the club's six-decade history, lovingly maintained by the dedicated historian Helen Darvell. Focusing on the last 10 years, President Cheryl Mackay and Vice President Des Shiel highlighted the Club's major local and international community achievements—including raising more than \$300,000 through the hard work of dedicated members and volunteers.

Adding a light-hearted touch, the afternoon featured a lively President's Panel, where three past presidents engaged the audience with their responses to a series of questions, moderated by past president Arun Marappan. The panel was invited to reflect on their time as president, sharing their proudest moments and the ways Rotary had shaped their personal and professional lives. When asked which tradition he was glad the club had left behind, Ian Darvell replied, "the exclusion of women," a response that drew warm appreciation from the audience.

During the delicious lunch, guests enjoyed one of Margaret Battle's entertaining and comprehensive slide shows, filled with photos of club members hard at work on community projects or sharing good times at numerous social events.

True to Rotary tradition, funds were also raised through the sale of raffle tickets, with most prizes generously donated by current members and local businesses.

The celebrations ended on a sweet note, with the current president presenting a special cake to the past presidents of the last decade — a delicious memento that proved an irresistible take-home treat for all guests.

Newspaper links.

[Lilydale Rotary Celebrates 60 Years of Service](#) published 14/08/2025



The local bunny rabbits were intrigue as to what all the fuss was about

PIC•COLLAGE

Member Recognitions - Appreciation Certificates

The Casey Community Awards are presented by Aaron Violi MP Federal Member for Casey

2025 Casey Community award 8th November 2025 was presented to Des Shiel

Rotary Lilydale's very hard worker and dedicated volunteer was

recognised and

awarded the Casey

Volunteer &

Community Awards

presented by [Aaron](#)

[Violi MP](#)

"Congratulations to all the well-deserved recipients. And thank you all for what you do for our community."



2026 Casey Community Awards 30th May 2026 was presented to Judith Shiel and Marg Battle.



Judith Shiel Receiving her award.

Marg Battle received her certificate later unable to attend due to previous engagement



Paul Harris Fellowship Awards



Debra Ong

was bestowed with a PHF at the Changeover 23/06/2026. Debra was inducted July 2026, Joined Rotary, in June 2025, but with her commitment with Blaze Aid wasn't able to attend until July Meeting. In February 2026 Debra had volunteered with Blaize Aid. And has been co-Ordinator at the Longwood camp. From that time onwards.

INTERNATIONAL RORPS AND DIK.

DIK OPEN DAY,

DIK Open Day March 24th attended by (left to right) Rotarians Judith, Past RI President Jenifer Jones, President Cheryl and Des. meet with Past RI President Jenifer Jones.



Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds

Instead of becoming land fill, redundant playgrounds are dismantled by Rotarians, then shipped via DIK and rebuilt by Rotarians in countries where children do not typically have access to playgrounds.

During the year we continued to support the RORP Programme where possible. Pictured are Rotarians and friend packing dismantled playground at Kilsyth, and sending overseas to Samoa.



FUNDRAISER & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS- PICTORIAL

Fundraiser:- Hypnotist night.

Date: Friday 14th November. Time: 6:30 – 10:00 Venue: Eastwood Golf Club, Theme: Breathe & Believe !

We went ahead with Bizarre Gazzard's Hypnotist Comedy Night because, although ticket sales were low, we calculated that we could cover our costs. What an amazing night Friday the 14th turned out to be! Judging by the comments, everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, and several people have asked us to hold it again next year. We had hoped simply to break even and have a fun night, but instead we made a profit of \$700.00.



Christmas 2025 held at President Cheryl, & Colin Mackay home , 10th December 2025, 16 family and members came together to celebrate Christmas. lots of fun and chatter.



FUNDRAISER & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS- PICTORIAL

High Tea function for Blaize aid.

A major fundraising function to raise money for Blaize aid was held at St Patrick's Community Hall in Lilydale, with Raffles and donated clothing for sale. Madalyn performed miracles in the kitchen, and many members and family members volunteer to set up the hall and serving on the day.



Overall Financial Summary

- Total income raised: \$3,655.00
- Less total expenses: \$1,547.75
- **Calculated net funds raised: \$2,107.25**
- **Rounded figure recorded: \$2,108.00**

High Tea attendance 58 paid guest, with catering for 57.

Pledged Support

The Rotary Club of Dingley Village has pledged \$500.00.

Volunteers

Friday — 9 volunteers

Madalyn, Cheryl, Des, Judith, Isabella, Don Shiel, Colin, Jenni L. and Andrew.

Saturday — 12 volunteers

Madalyn, Cheryl, Colin, Des, Ann W., Marg Battle, Ann Killian, Judith, Don, Isabella and Jenni L. **Lilydale Heights**

Secondary College — 3

volunteers Reid White, Anastasia Lizza and Ari Marappan.

Volunteer summary: 12 individuals and 3 school-aged volunteers.



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS- Cont'd

Croquet Challenge March 31 At Lilydale Croquet Club



Croquet challenge 2026



We had an excellent turnout on this evening, and the event proceeded smoothly. This session served as a practice run, as the second set of games following pizza consisted of teams composed of members from the same club. Lilydale secured victory in two out of three club-versus-club matches and will retain the trophy.

A \$210 donation was made to the Croquet Club from event proceeds: 21 guests (\$420) minus pizzas (\$210). Guests from Rotary Clubs of Wandin and friends of Lilydale

District Events & Fellowship -

DISTRICT 9815

CONVENTION March 2026

The in District 9815 convention was held Tasmania Grand Chancellor, Five members and their partners represented RC Lilydale touring around Tasmania and attending Conference



*District
conference 2026
Friday evening.*



Rotary Club of Lilydale CHANGEOVER. 23rd June

Thankyou RSL LILYDALE for your support and venue and your bar team very much appreciated.

And to TastyAz for scrumptious main meal. And Chez for sweets. And it was good to see old members new members and dignitaries' family and friends. And a very surprised [Debra Ong](#) a PHF was bestowed upon her for all her hard work with BlaizeAid at the Longwood camp



A cheque was presented to Deb Ong Rotary Lilydale donation to BlaizeAid
And a PHF Was awarded to Debra for all her hard work at camp.



Rotary Lilydale board for 2026-2027

[Arun Marappan, President](#) Marg Battle Foundation Cheryl Mackay, Vice President, Community Treasurer. Judith Shiel, secretary Co- Treasurer, Des Shiel, Youth, DIK Representative, Fundraiser. Madalyn Parlet, Enviro and Membership (no Photo). [Youth fundraiser](#)

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Arnold ^	Charles	PHF	Dec-83	Marven	Kevin F	PHF	Nov-93
Bail	Gordon	PHF+1	Oct-88	McCarthy^	Bryan	PHF	Jun-13
Bennett	William	PHF	Mar-89	McDonald	Philip W	PHF	Aug-88
Blackburn^	Rodney	PHF	Nov-96	McDonald	Helen R	PHF+1	Jun-15
Bray	Michael	PHF	Jan-95	McDonald^	Barry F	PHF+1	Aug-95
Castles^	Ellis C	PHF	Jun-88	McKee	Lawrie	PHF	Sep-98
Chuck	Sharon	PHF	Jun-18	Merridew #	Roger	PHF+8	Jun-06
Clappison	Harley	PHF	Aug-95	Mitchell	Ken	PHF	Jun-98
Condon	Patricia	PHF	Jun 20	Monks	Dave	PHF	May-19
Cruickshank	Owen J	PHF	Nov-96	Moser ^	Stanley P	PHF	Mar-89
Darvell	Helen	PHF+1	Jun-12	O'Connor^	Anthony	PHF	Jan-95
Darvell #H	Ian A	PHF+1	Aug-03	Ong	Debra	PHF	Jun 2026
Dean	Colin E	PHF	May-94	Parlet	William	PHF	May-19
Dight	Noel F	PHF	Aug-95	Parlet #	Madalyn	PHF+4	May-19
Donovan^	Ray	PHF	May-10	Pullyblank ^	Doug	PHF	Mar-89
Downie	Donald J	PHF+1	May-90	Ratcliffe	Bernard	PHF+1	Dec-83
Eddy	John	PHF	Jun-06	Ratcliffe	Bess	PHF	Nov-93
Ellis	Delwyn	PHF	Jun-18	Reed	Kenneth	PHF	Nov-94
Ermel	Andrew	PHF	Oct-22#	Roberts	Keith W	PHF	Aug-96
Foster	Kenneth	PHF	Mar-89	Sank	Margi	PHF	Jun-14
Frost	Brian	PHF	Jun-16	Sawyer^	James A	PHF	Oct-88
Gavin	Michael	PHF	Jun-10	Scott	Nancy	PHF	Nov-93
Haines	Ron	PHF	Jun-17	Selway Scott^	Kenneth	PHF	May-86
Hanrahan	Ivan N	PHF	Nov-96	Selway	Jenny	PHF+1	Jun-14
Hardy	Margaret	PHF+1	May-88	Selway	Richard	PHF	May-22
Hardy^	William	PHF+2	Jan-73	Shiel #	Des A	PHF+2	Jun-17
Hartley	Renate	PHF	Jul-01	Shiel #	Judith A	PHF+2	Jun-21
Hartley #H	Patrick	PHF+3	Dec-96	Smart ^	Jean	PHF	Sep-92
Henkes	John K	PHF	Aug-95	Smart	Walter	PHF	Sep-92
Herry #H	Phillip	PHF	Jun-99	Taylor ^	Martin	PHF	Aug-96
Hester	William	PHF	Aug-78	Thomson	James D	PHF	Jul-91
Hewitt #H	Tim ^	PHF+2	May-21	Tucker ^	Romany	PHF	Jun-19
Hill ^	Jenny	PHF	Jun-10	van Horick	Anne	PHF	Jun-22
Jochetz ^	David	PHF	Jun-11	van Horick	Gerry	PHF	Jun-22
Johnston	Robin	PHF	Jan-02	Walter^	Peter	PHF+1	Mar-89
Kellett	Rhonda	PHF	Jun-13	Webber	Neil J	PHF	Oct-88
Klaaysen ^	Peter	PHF	Jun-12	Watts	Bruce D	PHF	Aug-92
Lawrence	Barb	PHF	Jun-24	Welsh	Geoff K	PHF+1	Sep-09
Law	David W	PHF	Aug-02	Wheeler ^	Ian R	PHF	Aug-02
Lester	Jenny	PHF	Jun-15	Wheeler #H	Ann	PHF+4	Nov-10
Lester ^	Neville L	PHF+2	Jun-98	Whelan #H	Lynn	PHF+6	Mar-01
Loosley	Peter G	PHF	Jun-97	Witlox ^	Hans	PHF	Jun-03
Loosley ^	Helen	PHF	Jul-07	Wooton	Raymond	PHF	Mar-89
Young	Michael	PHF	Jun-13				

+1 = # of Sapphire

^ have gone to higher service

#Current Member RC Lilydale

PRESIDENTS - ROTARY CLUB of LILYDALE

1965-66	Ray Wooton (Charter Pres)	1996-97	Patrick Hartley #
1966-67	Peter Robinson	1997-98	Philip Herry
1967-68	Clive Winnett	1998-99	Peter Loosley
1968-69	William "Dr Bill" Hardy^	1999-00	Ken Mitchell
1969-70	Ken Scott^	2000-01	Robin Johnston
1970-71	Harry Davey	2001-02	Ian Wheeler^
1971-72	Ellis "Snow" Castles^	2002-03	Ian Darvell
1972-73	William Hester	2003-04	Barbara van Ernst
1973-74	Stan Moser	2004-05	Robert Miller
1974-75	Ken Jenkin	2005-06	David Law
1975-76	Doug Brauninger	2006-07	Geoff Welsh
1976-77	Neil Webber	2007-08	Peter Klaaysen^
1977-78	Charles Arnold^	2008-09	Ann Wheeler #H
1978-79	Gordon Bail	2009-10	Ann Wheeler #H
1979-80	Barry Johnson	2010-11	Rhonda Kellett
1980-81	Bernie Ratcliffe	2011-12	Michael Young
1981-82	Gerald Hall	2012-13	Margi Sank
1982-83	Colin Dean	2013-14	Helen McDonald
1983-84	Mike Bray	2014-15	Steve Black
1984-85	William Bennett	2015-16	Bryan McCarthy^
1985-86	Peter Walter ^	2016-17	Delwyn Ellis
1986-87	Jim Sawyer^	2017-18	Bill Parlet
1987-88	Jim Thompson	2018-19	Ron Haines
1988-89	Tony O'Connor^	2019-20	Ann Wheeler #H
1989-90	Noel Dight	2020-21	Madalyn Parlet #
1990-91	Ken Foster	2021	Chris Hoskin^
1991-92	John Henkes	2022	Ian Darvell &
1992-93	Barry McDonald^	2022	Madalyn Parlet #
1993-94	Harley Clappison	2022-23	Jenny Selway
1994-95	Keith Roberts	2023-24	Arun Marappan#
1995-96	Rod Blackburn^	2024-25	Des Shiel #
		2025-26	Cheryl Mackay #

PRESIDENTS - ROTARY CLUB of CHIRNSIDE PARK 1994-2014

1994-95	John O'Donoghue (Charter President)		
1994-95	Ron Dickson^	2004-05	Ian Cumming^
1995-96	Ron Dickson^	2005-06	Ian Pollock^
1996-97	Sue Millar	2006-07	Judy Eastwood
1997-98	Peter Malin	2007-08	Faye Hendrickson
1998-99	Paul Martin	2008-09	Philip Batchelor
1999-00	Laurie Prentice	2009-10	Paul Martin
2000-01	Wayne Rethus^	2010-11	Gael Traa
2001-02	Stephen Bode	2011-12	Bryan McCarthy^
2002-03	Anna Janiak	2012-13	Bryan McCarthy^
2003-04	Robyn Pearson	2013-14	Allan Tierney

The Rotary Club of Lilydale had Sponsored Rotary Club of Chirnside Park 1994 – 2014.

ROTARY CLUB of LILYDALE INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Patrick Hartley Honorary	9/12/1986	Andrew Ermel	11/12/2018
Philip Herry-Honorary	20/09/1988	Stefanie Kruger	22/10/2019
Tim Hewitt -Honorary	18/01/1994	David Rivadillo (Corp)	10/12/2019
Lynn Whelan- Honorary	29/10/1994	Arun Marappan	23/11/2021
Ian Darvell-Honorary	6/06/1997	Margaret Battle	24/05/2022
Roger Merridew-Honorary	2/05/2000	Pam Badawy (<i>leave of Absence</i>)	22/08/2023
Ann Wheeler-Honorary	1/03/2005	Simon Tirschett(<i>Leave of Absence</i>)	21/03/2025
Ann Killian	21/10/2008	Debra Ong { <i>leave of Absence</i> }	06/04/2025
Cheryl Mackay	15/10/2013	Richard Selway (Transfer)	27/06/2025
Madalyn Parlet	25/03/2014		
Des Shiel	14/10/2014	Total Members June 2025	14
Judith Shiel	13/02/2018	Honorary	7
		@30/6/2025	21

Paresh Solanki

July 2026

<https://www.rotarylilydale.org.au/>

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Children's House
of Early Learning



Printing of Handbooks and signs Sigma signs <https://sigmasd.com.au/>



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Bridget VALLENCE MP

State Member for Evelyn

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