

# 2006-2007

## John Krakowiak

The most popular film in 2006 was The Departed (a crime, drama, thriller) with Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, and Jack Nicholson. The most popular song was Bad Day by Daniel Powter.

In 2006, John Krakowiak became the next President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. The youngest son of two European refugees, John undertook to Lead the Way (Rotary International Theme for the year).



President John felt if the Club were to attract new, younger members, the Club had to embrace change. Consequently, he immediately undertook several changes. For example, the Chairperson for the day was invited to conduct the meeting, not the Sergeant. This was not obviously a popular decision, but it did ensure newer members of the Club had an opportunity to lead the Club meeting. Likewise, the acknowledgement of our Indigenous heritage was also encouraged if members felt this was important to do. This was not embraced by many members, but since then some Presidents have undertaken to do it weekly.

President John and the Board felt a website was essential for the Club. Consequently, a website was established and ended up being awarded the best website in the District. The Board also undertook to introduce polo tops and caps, with the Club's logo on, for the members to wear at working bees.



Noel Hobley designed a fresh look Fossicker which captivated the interest of its readers. Noel added colour photos, member profiles and interesting articles. Member contributions for the latest look Fossicker increased during the year.



President John looked at other opportunities to involve all members of the Club. John was keen to find ways members could contribute more at Meetings. For example, members were invited to provide a five-minute talk of their role in the Club.

Furthermore, long term members (and new members) were invited to sit where the President sat to be able to talk to all those on the head table. Also, members were invited up to say a few words about the current International Week or Day the world is celebrating (for example: International Women's Day or Refugee Day). Furthermore, adding their own experiences.

If nothing else, the changes at meetings reflected President John wanted to try everything possible to attract new members and acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by present members.

Towards the end of President John's year, member Margaret O'Rourke led a Culture Task Force to look at how our Club is perceived by others; consequently, what steps can be undertaken by the Club to change the image many people may have about our Club.

President John continued to look for other ways which might attract new members to join the Club. For instance, innovative community projects that newer members may wish to participate in.

For example, President John introduced The Apprenticeship Drive to assist employing disengaged youth to undertake a trade. The State Government provided \$150,000 to fund the program. Two members, Margot Spalding and Ray Paulsen employed two of the twenty young participants. Despite only two members being able to assist, all the youth were found employment.



The proceeds of the Art Show, which Brian McMahon had coordinated brilliantly once again, were donated to Community Health Bendigo to trial a new health check program. Member Kaye Graves developed the project. The project turned out to be so successful, it went on to be a national program. Kayes hard work was recognised with the Ray Downey award (see pic below).



President John was able to start a History Project that involved suitable Work for the Dole participants to be involved in digitising the history of the Rotary Club. It took 2 years to digitise the whole 82 years.

The participants then digitised the History of the Kangaroo Flat Rotary Club and all the documents associated with the Youth Camp over the years.

History articles were then written about each year of our history. Also, articles detailing the history of the Art Show, Carols, and our work in Samoa. Hence, members were able to read about how the Club has embraced change over the years.

### **The Ray Downey Award**

President John and the Board introduced a new award to be awarded during the year. The Ray Downey Award acknowledges a Club member of five years or less, for outstanding Service Above Self, presented by the family of the late Ray Downey, or the President.

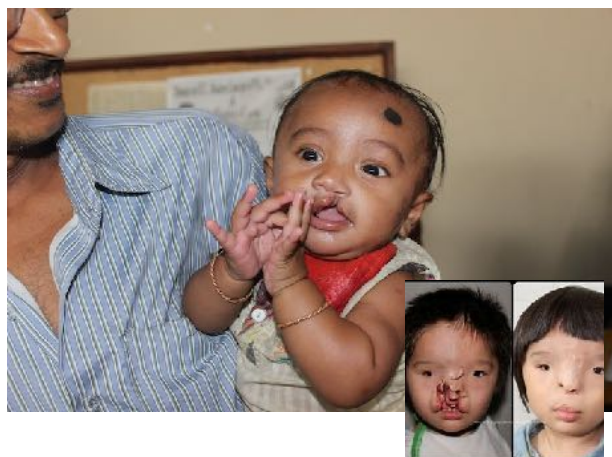


Bryan McMahon, Kevin Reilly, and Bill Gray threw the Club a challenge to purchase forty wheelchairs for children with a disability overseas.

Members purchased over seventy wheelchairs to be donated for children living in developing countries whose families could not afford to purchase a wheelchair.



President John contributed most of the Club funds to the Community Health Project trial, Operation Cleft, the Wheelchair Foundation and Lifeline. Having witnessed first-hand the program in Bangladesh, he could not think of a more worthwhile overseas project than Operation Cleft.






**Rotary Apprenticeship Drive**

**Are you aged 15-25 and looking for an Apprenticeship?**

If you answered yes to the above question you need to apply for the Rotary Apprenticeship drive.

**How does the program work?**

The program will consist of the following:

- 3 weeks of pre employment training
- 4 weeks of work experience with employers interested in employing an apprentice
- Apprenticeship possibilities at the completion of work experience

Rotary and CVGT are looking for up to 13 young people to enter the Rotary Apprenticeship drive. For more information and to receive an application form and information brochure please contact Adam Hargreaves on 5449-1300.

*This program is funded by the Department for Victorian Communities and is part of the State Governments Workforce Participation Partnerships program.*

Rotary Club of Bendigo

**CLUB CULTURE TASK FORCE – Report to Board.**

1. Acting on the Board's Terms of Reference, we adopted a two stage assessment process

(i) *Task Force observations.* While small in number (four - 2 female, 2 male), we considered our representation and experience allowed us to make objective observations.

(ii) *Selective survey.* About 14 members were asked for their views of our Club's culture. A smaller number was asked about the meeting format.

Comments from Past President John: ***“Not much I would like to add to what you have written, just that leadership, in my mind, has nothing to do with being the most popular Rotary President for example. It is about doing what is right in the circumstances.”***