



KEILOR EAST ROTARY NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club 21222 -

Charter granted 10th
August 1983

September 20th, 2021 -
Volume 39 Number 6

Club Motto - "Fun and
fellowship whilst helping
others"

www.keiloreastrotary.org

In this newsletter:

Meeting Reports

Pages 01- 02

Guest Speakers

Pages 03-08

What's On Next

Pages 09-11

Member News

Pages 12-13

September
13th

Peter Abbott, CEO of Puffing Billy.

EXCURSION TRAIN JOURNEY

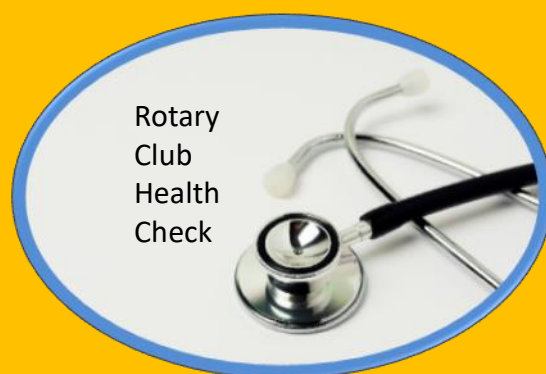


- Travel onboard our iconic open-sided carriages.
- Perfect for;
 - Families
 - Corporates
 - School Groups
 - Free & Independent Travellers
 - Series Groups
- One way journeys are an option for private touring, groups or day tour operators.
- With a variety of journey options, planning a day out to the Dandenong Ranges, Yarra Valley and beyond is easy.
- Charter Trains available



September
20th

Member Feedback Opportunity



Meetings via Zoom – Maintaining Connections

by President Yvonne Osborn

On **Monday 13th September** we were delighted to welcome Peter Abbott, CEO of Puffing Billy Railway, as our Guest Speaker. He spoke about the effects that Covid restrictions have had on visitor numbers to the popular tourist attraction.

On **Monday 20th September** we broke into Breakout Groups to do a Club Health Check, answering five questions, with a view to planning for the next few years.

Our President Changeover event has been pushed forward, for the fourth time, until Monday 29th November. <https://www.trybooking.com/BRZSN>

Meeting Reports September 13th and September 20th, 2021.



President Yvonne Osborn asked for any reports from our Directors before welcoming Guest Speaker, Peter Abbott who is the CEO of Puffing Billy Railway. Report on Page 3 and 4. On September 20th we wore our Football Team Colours and conducted a Club Health Check. Our responses are on Pages 5-8.



Before working on a Strategic Plan for Keilor East Rotary an executive group met to determine what preliminary research we would need to do. A series of 5 questions was put to break out groups at our September 20th Zoom Meeting. Their responses are featured on pages ahead. We welcome further responses to these questions via email keiloreastroty@gmail.com

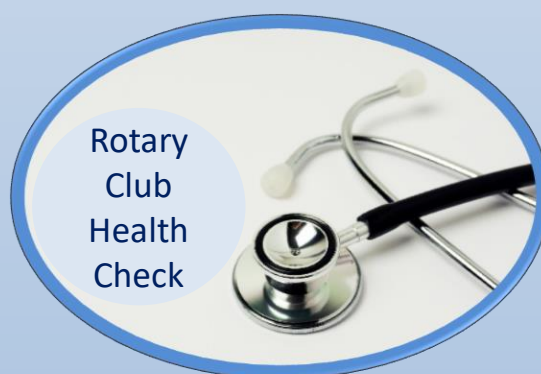
What are the strengths of Keilor East Rotary in terms of service?

What could we improve on in terms of service?

What are the social strengths of Keilor East Rotary?

What could we improve socially?

What are your hopes for Keilor East Rotary?



Community - Gerard Mahoney announced that there is still plenty of wine left for sale.

Social – Ginny Billson – It is hard to plan events with Covid Lockdowns, restrictions etc., but Ginny will consider sending out jokes as we can use laughter to brighten these challenging times.

Youth – District Scholarships are available again this year for Year 12 students. Our contribution would be \$1000. David will take this to the Club Board for consideration at its September 21st Meeting.

Guest Speaker – Peter Abbott - CEO Puffing Billy Railway

Monday 13th September 2021



Peter grew up in the Yarra Valley and from an early age was engaged in the Tourism Industry, having a part time job at a small tourist/fauna park driving a small train around. He was interested in history, and he eventually moved to Warrnambool where he was CEO of the Warrnambool Maritime Museum and helped set up the Maremma dogs to mind the small penguin colony, as seen in the movie Oddball.

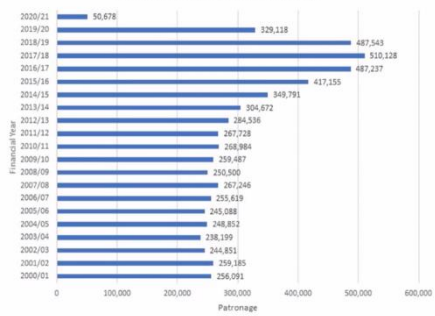
After spending some time developing Bendigo's historic tourist attractions, Peter moved back to the Yarra Valley and began work as CEO of Puffing Billy Railway in early 2021. Covid Lockdowns have closed the attraction for months already this year. It is hoped that it will soon be able to open and will showcase the new \$20 Million dollar Visitor Centre at Lakeside.

IMPACTS COVID

- **Historic Low Visitation COVID Years**
- Previous lowest was 101,000 in 1960's

Year	Train Visitation	Lakeside Visitor Centre
2021-2022	166,558	151,643
2022-2023	200,000	191,000
2023-2024	250,000	238,000
2024-2025	310,000	335,000

Puffing Billy Railway annual patronage



VOLUNTEER GROUPS COVID IMPACTS

All Volunteer Organisations have reported declines in volunteerism since COVID restrictions

Is this just a phase? Or permanent?

42.1% Of Victorians Volunteer - \$58b Estimated Value (Volunteering Victoria Report 2020)

Post 2nd Wave COVID shutdown - Volunteering has declined on average 25% - 30% (depending on the sector surveyed) - Sporting Clubs, Heritage Groups, PBR Included.

Volunteer Demographic - changes per organisation. PBR has 3 stages of volunteering

Different Skills and Interests - Cant assume previous recruitment will work

Regulation - unfortunately this is part of life (for good reasons)

COVID Vaccine Mandates - Challenge to Enforce



Sitting On the Sills - Returns 3rd September??

EXCURSION TRAIN JOURNEY



- Travel onboard our iconic open-sided carriages.

- Perfect for:
 - Families
 - Corporates
 - School Groups
 - Free & Independent Travellers
 - Series Groups

- One way journeys are an option for private touring, groups or day tour operators.

- With a variety of journey options, planning a day out to the Dandenong Ranges, Yarra Valley and beyond is easy.

- Charter Trains available

From September 3rd, 2021 "Sitting on the Sills" is legal again. This allows passengers to dangle their legs as they ride the train as it winds on the narrow-gauge tracks through the hills. The narrow gauge was necessary to allow the train to have the flexibility to negotiate the curves needed in the terrain. Lockdowns during September have meant that this is yet to happen.

Guest Speaker – Peter Abbott – CEO Puffing Billy Railway

Monday 13th September 2021

Two years ago, Puffing Billy Railway had 510,000 visitors. This year it has had only 50,000 so far due to Covid restrictions.

The railway began in 1900 between Upper Ferntree Gully and Gembrook. It was made with a narrow gauge (3ft 6ins) to negotiate the hills and bends. In the 1960s the railway was about to shut but it was rescued and changed to a tourist train by the Puffing Billy Preservation Society in the early 1960s.

The tourist train has 250 volunteers in a core group and 90 to 100 staff. These include cleaners, drivers, passenger guides and maintenance workers.

The Railway has been rebuilt over many years. It includes excursion trains, a luncheon train and private carriages with picnic hampers.

“Sitting on the Sills”. - This began in 1902. It was suspended in 1998 when a bus ran into the side of the train. A safety inquiry has been held and from September 3, 2021, it will be allowed once more.

Government grants of \$20 million have enabled the building of the Lakeside Visitor Centre. This has been a large and welcome investment and will double the capacity of the railway. It will open with great fanfare when Covid restrictions lift.

Another innovation during Peter’s administration has been the Train of Lights. It operates with bridges lit and the train illuminated. It is a Garrett train which was found in South Africa and can haul heavier weights.

Puffing Billy operates 364 days per year. It employs engineers, food and beverage staff, occupational health and safety staff and track crew. It takes 16 carriages, each with 30 passengers. Depending on the load two engines may be used. The engines were built at the Newport Workshops. Most are from the 14A fleet.

A train driver takes between 18 months and two years to train. There are 35 volunteer drivers. In-house training and safe operating tickets are required.

Diesel engines are used for track work or during bushfire seasons.

Newcastle coal is used as it is of higher quality. Sand is sometimes required to be added to the tracks to allow the train to grip the rails better.

One of the new ideas Peter has introduced is Bike Hire in conjunction with a Puffing Billy Train ride.

Keilor East Rotarians asked Peter many questions including –

Are opportunities available for children in necessitous circumstances to experience Puffing Billy? - Subsidies are available through the Education officer.

Is there a move away from Coal? - The appeal of Puffing Billy is that it is steam driven so it is unlikely that this will happen.

With steep tracks, is slippage likely? - Yes, sand is sometimes required. After breaks in usage it takes two weeks to prepare the tracks for safe use



Paul Perrottet sent us these great photo memories of a 2015 dining experience on Puffing Billy with his wife Alison (above) and on another occasion (right), when he underwent some signal “training”.



Photo from the Puffing Billy Railway [website](#).

Keilor East Rotary - Club Health Check

In order to develop a Strategic Plan for Keilor East Rotary we took the opportunity to undertake a "Health Check" to gauge member feedback. We formed breakout groups and focused on the health of our Service and our Social activities.

The feedback was recorded and because not all members were able to join us on the night, we encourage anyone with comments to make to email them to keiloreastrotary@gmail.com

Deb Sloggett's group

What are the strengths of Keilor East Rotary in terms of service?

Diverse range of services

Diversity in member, growing with new people and the ideas that come with this

Active in what we do

Partner with others to get a better result like days for girls, Essendon Rotary club, MVC Council

Members willing to participate in programs

Members have an opportunity to talk about programs about what we do

Service projects – beehives,

Strong bulletin

Good speakers

Good at attracting members (some of us). Talk about what it means being a Rotarian



What could we improve on in terms of service?

Need to show off our projects better to members

? improve diversity for our membership

Gateway Rotaract- do we still have communication or partnering?



What are the social strengths of Keilor East Rotary?

People still come to meetings even with zoom

Highlight that we are welcoming and accept all.

We connect with a diverse range of people

Venue at the RSL is a great place to have our meetings for food and drink requirements

Our club is conducive for people to have a voice

What could we improve socially?

We need to meet so we can be motivated with our projects

More innovative, creative meetings maybe meeting with other groups i.e., friends of Moonee Valley, business owners, council

Interactive sessions good fun nights and can involve all and be helpful with our wellbeing

Have diversity/ a mix in meetings. Take us out of our comfort zones

Invite people to activities

What are your hopes for Keilor East Rotary?

Get back into all our great work, start again

Maintain inclusive and friendly culture

Promote ourselves through media, website, Facebook, Rotary.org



Keilor East Rotary - Club Health Check

In order to develop a Strategic Plan for Keilor East Rotary we took the opportunity to undertake a "Health Check" to gauge member feedback. We formed breakout groups and focused on the health of our Service and our Social activities.

The feedback was recorded and because not all members were able to join us on the night, we encourage anyone with comments to make to email them to keiloreastrotary@gmail.com

Helen Penna's Group

What are the strengths of Keilor East Rotary in terms of service?

- Well of experience and knowledge
- Diversity of projects club is involved in
- Community projects and activities
- Interact club at St Albans
- Support of international projects and ROMAC
- Supporting environment initiative



What could we improve on in terms of service?

- More recognition and advertising of what we achieve
- Consulting and building relationship with service clubs and council

What are the social strengths of Keilor East Rotary?

- Fellowship and welcoming, weekends away together
- Find a way to do things
- Steele creek planting – mixing with people outside the club (platypus search)
- Care Bear to look after club members

What could we improve socially?

- Get back face to face

What are your hopes for Keilor East Rotary?

- Getting back in touch with members who haven't come onto zoom and maintain their membership
- Encourage diversity in membership, ethnicity or age



Keilor East Rotary - Club Health Check

In order to develop a Strategic Plan for Keilor East Rotary we took the opportunity to undertake a "Health Check" to gauge member feedback. We formed breakout groups and focused on the health of our Service and our Social activities.

The feedback was recorded and because not all members were able to join us on the night, we encourage anyone with comments to make to email them to keiloreastrotary@gmail.com

Michael Donnelly's Group

What are the strengths of Keilor East Rotary in terms of our service?

- Variety of with champions for each
- All come together to work with most projects
- Big club
- Male and females
- A wider range of ages
- Keilor East Rotary actually has functioning committees



What could we improve on in terms of our service?

- More young people including more Rotaract
- Not as involved with Probus Clubs (four) established KE Rotary e.g., monthly Newsletter
- Website does not show what the service activities of the club
- No longer have a five-year plan
- Partnerships- environmental
- Review of past successes

What are the social strengths of Keilor East Rotary?

- Culture of acknowledgement, encouragement and recognition
- Very, very welcoming
- Weekends away

What could we improve socially?

- Review of past successes
- Progressive dinner on Zoom with RC Essendon North
- Sometimes we struggle
- Same people who continually put up their hands
- More contribution in projects and social activities
- Weekends away with partners



Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting.

What are your hopes for Keilor East Rotary?

- Another marquee fundraising project
- Greater PR projection of our image into our community
- Establish a Sales Team e.g., project as recruitment opportunities
- Greater retention of new members / exit interviews
- Alumni party

Keilor East Rotary - Club Health Check

In order to develop a Strategic Plan for Keilor East Rotary we took the opportunity to undertake a "Health Check" to gauge member feedback. We formed breakout groups and focused on the health of our Service and our Social activities.

The feedback was recorded and because not all members were able to join us on the night, we encourage anyone with comments to make to email them to keiloreastrotary@gmail.com

Yvonne Osborn's Group

What are the strengths of Keilor East Rotary in terms of service?

- Our Club's history of projects, large and small. Great to have Community Bank Sponsorship and work with other Clubs e.g., Essendon Rotary for the Art Show and Bendigo South Rotary for the Camp Getaway Weekend.
- Many members are willing to help but a core of volunteers for BBQs etc.
- Many members eager to continue to meet via Zoom shows commitment

What could we improve on in terms of service?

- We could try to ensure our members are going to remain onboard when we come out of Lockdown by keeping a sense of connectedness – Newsletter, Friday Funnies, check in phone calls, catch ups where possible
- A big new idea came from Paul Perrottet – It was that of helping our members first, and then broaden our reach to assist other people in the community to add their Vaccination Certificate to their mobile phone. We should explore how best to do this as it is going to be essential to have at the ready over the next few months

What are the social strengths of Keilor East Rotary?

- Friendship – we care about each other, check on welfare e.g., Care Bear Marianne
- Fellowship – we enjoy each other's company so attend Camp Getaway, Restaurant Nights, Weekends away etc.
- We warmly welcome visitors and stay connected

What could we improve socially?

- Repeat some of our successful social events from the past but also try new ones when restrictions lift
- Involve partners and families
- Try to think of activities which can still be done online via Zoom e.g., Trivia, Progressive Dinner

What are your hopes for Keilor East Rotary?

- That we maintain and increase our membership and retain our strengths
- That we attract a variety of members, diverse and inclusive of age, occupation, and ethnicity from across the Community

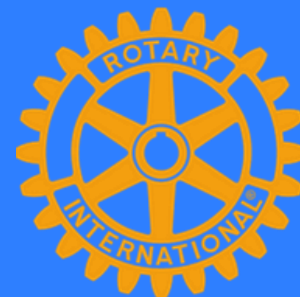


[Zoom Activity Ideas](#)

**Next Keilor East Rotary Meeting - Monday 27th
September via Zoom 6.45pm - 8.00pm**

Meeting ID : 514 079 0305 Password RCKE2020

Guest Speaker Nhien Dinh (former Gateway Rotaractor)



I heard Nhien speak three years ago, and I found her presentation very useful.

I would thoroughly recommend that we encourage everyone, but particularly those in the workforce e.g., Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbours, Kids to join us at the link above.

Nhien will focus on the use of LinkedIn in career development.

Yvonne Osborn



When Covid Restrictions allow we meet at Keilor East RSL every Monday. We arrive from 6.00pm and order our meals by 6.30. Our Guest Speaker is introduced at 7.00pm.



We welcome your suggestions for future Guest Speakers. Email Program Director [Annie Webb.](mailto:Annie.Webb@keiloreastrotary.com.au)

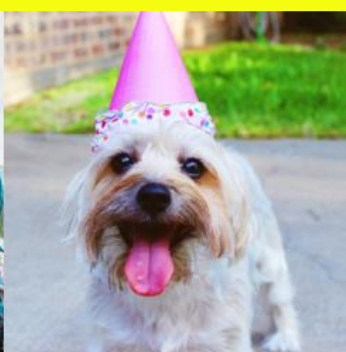
UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Club President Changeover has been pushed forward **again** and will now be held on Monday 29th November at the Starlight Room, Taylors Lakes Hotel (Covid Restrictions permitting). Dress - Smart Casual. Please advise any special dietary requirements when you are making your booking.

**Same
Information -
- New Flyer**



UPCOMING EVENTS



HAT DAY
10TH OCTOBER 2021

MORE THAN EVER WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



1 in 5 Australians suffer a mental illness every year

100% of proceeds will go towards funding vital mental health research

REGISTER FOR HAT DAY:

WWW.LIFTTHELIDONMENTALILLNESS.COM.AU/HAT-DAY

We will wear hats to our October 4th Zoom Meeting - Donations can be made to our Club Bank Account - BSB 633 000 - Rotary Club of Keilor East Account No: 1173 10292 with the reference Hat Day.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE - Updated 21st September 2021 Annie Webb Organiser

NOTE - ALL EVENTS ARE COVID PENDING - ALL DATES TBC

Date	Day	Speaker / Event Title	Date of Notification	Organiser
MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB MONTH				
BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH				
21-Sep-21	Tues	BOARD MEETING 8pm	(E 12/7/)	Yvonne
27-Sep-21	Mond	VOCATIONAL NIGHT -NIEN DINH (& Richard Mason -TBC)	(Tex 18/9)E 20/9	Annie /Yvonne
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH				
3-Oct-21	Sund	CLOCKS FORWARD AT 2AM (DAYLIGHT SAVING)		
4-Oct-21	Mond	NAME BEHIND THE BADGE - TONY THOMAS / HAT DAY (MENTAL HEALTH)	(tex & E 21/9)	Annie (20/9 YO)
11-Oct-21	Mond	HUMAN TRAFFICKING - CLAIRE GRIFFIN	(17/7)	Annie
18-Oct-21	Mond	DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT (Partner's Night)	(ph 22/6 / 3/8)	Yvonne
19-Oct-21	Tues	BOARD MEETING		Yvonne
25-Oct-21	Mond	GREENFLEET - Planting Trees and Koala Conservation	TBC	
27-Oct-21	Wed	DAYS FOR GIRLS Sew In Day		Marianne
FOUNDATION MONTH				
1-Nov-21	Mond	CUP EVE PROGRESSIVE DINNER via Zoom		Ginny
2-Nov-21	Tues	MELBOURNE CUP		
6-Nov-21	Sat	Bunnings BBQ - Taylors Lakes -TBC	(Ph 24/6 BR) (E 23/7 GM)	Barb Rafter/Gerard
8-Nov-21	Mond			
15-Nov-21	Mond	Foundation Presentation - Murray Verso	(E 3/8)	Annie/John R
16-Nov-21	Tues	BOARD MEETING	(E 12/7/)	Yvonne
22-Nov-21	Mond	KEILOR RSL WELFARE - JOHN JOHNSON - TBC / AGM	(Ph 22/7 YO)PH 3/9)	Annie
24-Nov-21	Wed	DAYS FOR GIRLS Sew In Day		Marianne
29-Nov-21	Mond	PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER - & 5 Presentations at TAYLORS LAKES HOTEL	(E 20/8) (ph 20/9)	Yvonne
PREVENTION DISEASE & PREVENTION MONTH				
5-Dec-21	Sund	Bunnings BBQ - Taylors Lakes -TBC	(Ph 24/6 BR) (E 23/7 GM)	Barb Rafter/Gerard

Club Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

September 4: Ken Allan
September 7: Khaled Ebrahim
September 13: Deborah Akers
September 17: Annie Webb
September 18: Pamela Vandenharn
September 20: Deb Bergbauer
September 21: Colin Akers
September 21: Bruce Cameron
September 22: Laraine Barnes
September 22: Kim Nguyen
September 22: Helen Penna
September 23: Greg Osborn
September 25: Terry Badenhope
September 26: Janet McMartin
October 8: Lloyd Lancaster
October 10: Marianne Potgieter
October 14: Tina Ballos
October 15: Ian Wright
October 18: Dawn Watson
October 22: David Dippie



Wedding Anniversaries

September 4: Khaled & Emma Ebrahim
September 7: John & Marjorie Youings
September 9: Paul & Alison Perrottet.
September 21: Raj & Jeselee Vytilingam
September 22: Sam and Silvana Dinatale
October 3: Howe and Lyn Tan
October 20: Barbara and John Rafter



Rotary Anniversaries

September 3: Gerard Mahoney 2012
September 5: Mark Tognon 2016
September 7: Tina Ballos 2015
September 19: Joel Hewish 2016
September 30: Phil O'Brien 2002
October 15: Chris Rundell 2012
October 21: Minh Nguyen 2002
October 26: Alex Billson 2015



MEMBER NEWS



Annie Webb celebrated her 70th Birthday on September 17th. Despite the Lockdown restrictions, Annie had a wonderful day, receiving eight bunches of flowers and many gifts. She met with her dog walking friends in the park and received dozens of phone calls and messages. Happy 70th Birthday from your Keilor East Rotary Family Annie.



A message from Annie Webb -
I just had a lovely catch up with our MVAS judge, Ben Winspear and his dog Toby. He too will be glad when this lockdown is over.



Greg Osborn celebrated his September Birthday with a picnic in a park. He was 71 on September 23rd. Happy Birthday Greg. Grandchildren are Joshua 5 and Sammy 3.