

Salisbury City  
**Rotaract**



**HELP**



Salisbury City  
**Rotaract**

**LEARN**



**ENJOY**

FIND US

## Overview

This time last year, the club voted for me to continue as President for a second term. This 2-year presidential term has been vital in providing us ability for our team to create long-term vision, stability, connection, and continuity – ensuring our future. This work was building upon the foundations of Presidents Chris Mark, Ashlee Evans, Ben Ryder and Joshua Lay but also creating something fresh. Looking back of the last 9 or so months, we have been doing so much. Our focus has been on the diversifying of our club and the re-engaging of current members with a service that fits our busy lifestyles.

June 2019 was a pivotal moment, although part of last year, this moment enabled the success and the changes of 2019/2020 to be born. For those unfamiliar, this was an open and frank discussion about who we were as a club and why we were here. This made some decisions about our club that translated into a new vision and purpose. This conversation was crucial to us be able grow.

These BIG changes have been pushing us forward and helping us to better our overall club culture and member offerings. Flipping the script and changing the way our club ran, the traditions and how we do things; was a scary process. However, I stand here and say our club is better and stronger than ever. We have diversified to meet the needs of our members and community.

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### Key Areas

#### New Structure

Rotaract has an object of Help – Learn – Enjoy. Our members want to serve the community, develop themselves and connect with each other. Our Club and new structure; focus us on providing time-poor youth with an opportunity to serve the community and connect to the world, alongside being able to engage in meaningful professional development – the entire Rotaract Experience. Members join (and stick around) because we have a clear structure on what we offer and celebrate being a welcoming and diverse community.

#### ***Each meeting is themed with either a focus on:***

- Help (Club Projects/Volunteering),
- Learn (Personal/Professional Development), or
- Enjoy (Fellowship/Social).

Our meetings are now two hours long, starting at 6:30 pm. We do all our planning and event preparation during meetings; when we have events on the weekend, we relocate our regular meeting times to be during those events.

We have seen 5 new members be inducted so far this year: Welcome again to Simon, Kayla, Katrina, Lazaras, Chris. F. We have seen the addition also of many regular occurring guests like Martin McClean, Alex Patterson and Mitchell Martinez.

We have started monthly catchup's online to support people engagement (even if they are not attending meetings). This utilises Google Meet. The social atmosphere is becoming embedded into our structure – board games, movies and general all-around good conversation.

#### New Vision, Image & Strategy

We have been on a journey of self-discovery... What does our club look like in 2019-2020 and beyond? What is our purpose? Why are our members here?

Our new, fresh website exhibits how Salisbury City Rotaract Club has a rich history but, at the same time, progressive values that support our members' growth while listening and acting on our/their needs. Browsing through the page, we hope you can now clearly see what we offer to members and what we do for the community. This website also provides us with a new platform where we can engage with our members who are not physically present within meetings through the use of an online discussion forum – Jordan loves it.

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We also have a new vision and a new sense of purpose. We have developed a Strategic Plan to see us through this time of change, covering 2020 through to 2023. Our previous 2017-2020 Strategic Plan proved a success, but our club has now changed greatly since this time. Our new Strategic Plan addresses our new needs and provides us with a flexibility and great opportunity.

### **Professional Development**

We have also focused on making professional development meaningful.  
We have heard and been involved with workshops helping us –

Thanks to the speakers who have volunteered their time.

### **Community Involvement**

We have been involving ourselves in a number of events and projects that support our community and the world. Ensuring we focus on sustainable projects that create an impact and have longevity.

- We ran the United Christmas Lunch in collaboration with the Parafield Gardens Community Club. – through promotion and our present drive. Collecting over 2000\$ of toys for the community who attends and connecting with business and non-for-profit organisations. This was a finalist in the Rotaract Australia Awards 2020 – Sustainable Project Category.
- We supported the Salisbury Business Association through the Salisbury Christmas Parade.
- We have collaborated with the Rotaract Clubs in District 9500 to support the Semaphore Carousels 90th birthday celebration.
- Damien and Liz with Katey Halliday from Adelaide City Rotaract organised our involvement in the Pride March 2019 – which was bigger than 2018 with the involvement of the Rotary Car and DG Jane.
- We have fundraised 600\$AUD for the Best Future Schools, creating impact for the education of albino refugee in the Nakivale Refugee Camp.
- We have support 1 RYLarian for District 9500 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.
- We raised \$1,354 bringing awareness and much needed financial support for equipment for people living with Cerebral Palsy, through STEPTEMBER. Thanks to the hardwork of Emily.
- Maddy also released the Community Ties framework to support us in reaching out to our network and community.

**Also, Clean Up Australian Day is coming up and we have been invited by the Rotary Club of Salisbury to support this coming Sunday. Being held at Cobbler Creek Reserve, 9am – 12pm. Please let me know if you can make it.**

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### *The Future*

Overall, I am tremendously happy with the progress and success of our club over the last 12 to 18 months. If we had continued like we had for 2018-19, I don't think our club would have been in existence and I would probably not be standing as proud and as happy as I am. I would probably have been super stressed and have all my hair turn grey and be balding.

Thank you to you all for embracing my crazy ideas for changes and making them your own. Salisbury City Rotaract Club is truly now; One Club with One Vision – inviting you to come as you are and give what you can.

For us now it is my strong feeling we need to continue down a flexible path and provide a structure and culture that is welcoming and suits the need of our current and future members – moving with the changes in the community and our needs.

We need to build a club where the President and Board are not the only people actioning tasks – where, we are a collaborative network of unlike minds with similar values coming together to create change in the world for the better.

### *Thank You!*

Damien Walker  
President 2018-2020

