



by Geoffrey Reid, Bricks on the Border™ Inc. Club Secretary and RLUG Ambassador  
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The name of our LEGO® community is Bricks on the Border™ Inc. or BOBLUG, and as an Australian LEGO club on the border of Victoria and New South Wales, in the twin cities of Albury-Wodonga, we thought it would be a fitting name for our club.

The origins of our LEGO club started in 2015 when like-minded AFOLs found each other at 'Inside the Brick'—a Melbourne based company holding a LEGO exhibition in Albury-Wodonga for the first time. We started with three members who have a passion for building with LEGO and we now have over twenty active members who build in all sorts of LEGO themes. We hold two general LEGO exhibitions at the MYER department store and attend Australia's biggest LEGO exhibition 'Brickvention' in Melbourne each year. We also run several minor LEGO displays at other events in regional Victoria and New South Wales.

Our LEGO club was organising its own major LEGO exhibition 'Brick Muster™' in October 2020 but due to the COVID-19 crisis we had no option but to postpone the event for everyone's safety.

Achieving RLUG status in 2018 gave us a huge lift and sense of pride to be more closely involved with The LEGO Group. As the clubs RLUG Ambassador, I find LAN to be an especially useful tool for keeping up to date with all things LEGO-related which I can then relay to our community members. We are being proactive with other LEGO communities and media to promote the

hobby and engage AFOLs and the viewing public at exhibitions and community meet-ups.

The Bricks on the Border team consists of five committee members, three of whom are founding members and the driving force behind our club. Gus Terry (President) is a keen builder and collector who collaborates on LEGO projects with Matthew Fankhauser (Events Co-ordinator). Their latest MOC is a Medieval Castle which was on display at 'Brickvention' 2020. Geoffrey Reid (Secretary & RLUG Ambassador) is a LEGO custom builder of TV & Movie MOCs as well as a builder of local Albury-Wodonga iconic buildings and



landmarks. Peter Fartuszynski (Vice President) loves building with LEGO Technic, and built a replica of the historic Beechworth Bakery where he works as a pastry chef. And Neil Strachan (Treasurer) is a passionate builder of LEGO train layouts. Many of our other members build and create awesome LEGO MOCs and are immensely proud of their achievements.

Some of the highlights of our club's history would, for me, be going to Brickvention 2020 in Melbourne for the first time. Being in a wheelchair, it has always been a difficult task travelling to other places. While there I displayed my 'MALCOLM' Film MOC which caught the attention of Ryan McNaught (AKA The Brickman), host of LEGO Master Australia. I also got to meet up with other AFOLs and RLUG Ambassadors over the weekend, and it was awesome to see everyone in person for the first time since all

my prior interactions had been online. While at Brickvention I spoke to a gentleman from Fairy Bricks UK who told me about how they donate LEGO sets to children's wards in England and how they wanted to bring this joy to other parts of the world, so I said count us in, and they did just that. With a generous donation of LEGO sets from Fairy Bricks UK, our club presented them to the Albury Base Hospital Paediatric Ward. It was such a good feeling to be able to do this.

The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating effect on our LEGO community, as we have not been able to hold exhibitions and club meetings or attend other events. But being a resilient bunch we have soldiered on and held club meetings online and communicated with other LEGO communities to bolster the morale of all our LEGO friends.

We held a few building competitions online for our members, and even put together a LEGO COVID-19 stimulus package of sets for our members to build during self-isolation. Our main source of funding is through raffles of LEGO sets at our events and sponsorship from local businesses, but for now that revenue stream has dried up and we still have overheads like insurance, government fees and other costs.

Once this crisis is over all our LEGO communities will be back bigger and better than ever in 2021, ready to recommence our LEGO exhibitions and bring joy to the viewing public.

