

Half-year update of Annual Report from Directors, 9 Dec 2013

The consolidated Annual Report from Directors was provided to members for the Changeover on Monday 17 June 2013. An update for the ensuing half-year follows.

Achievements in the past half-year

The Club celebrated its 25th anniversary, and a section of the Annual Report outlined the club's impressive track record of achievement during that time. The past six months have continued that tradition, and particular highlights being the induction of four new members, and a new fundraising initiative, the helicopter golf ball drop.

Recognition of club and personal achievement

- Presidential Citation for the Club from Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka
- Paul Harris Fellow Awards for member Norm Michener in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Rotary, and for non-member Don Clinch for over 60 years of exceptional service to the local community, and for his role in the Woolgoolga Heritage Walk
- Rotarian of the Year award to Dick Matthews for his continuing contributions to the Club, especially as Auctions Director
- Club stalwarts Sel and Ila Rogers were made Honorary Members

Fundraising: the inaugural helicopter golf ball drop

- Our initial helicopter golf ball drop was a great success, raising \$3,865 net. Numbered balls, sold for \$5 each or 5 for \$20, were dropped from a helicopter, and the three nearest the pin won prizes. The Lions Club won first prize, and thanks to their generosity this will in turn will benefit the Seniors Centre (\$200 towards their trailer) and Northern Beaches Care (\$300 Coles vouchers). The Woolgoolga Returned Services Golf Club, Safety Beach, and professional Terry Perfrement are thanked for their assistance and support of the event.

... supplemented existing fundraising

- six Rotary auctions, with favourable weather conditions (at last!), including a plant stall and a Christmas market, raised an exceptional total (net of ads) of over \$18,000
- strong sales of *Woolgoolga: the History of a Village*, continued, with a further \$1,500 profits banked. The reprint of the iconic book by Neil Yeates, supplemented by new research findings and colour plates, has proven very popular, with less than 28 books remaining out of a combined print run of 370.
- sales of curry powder packs, a souvenir of Woolgoolga, continued, including the new Tandoori mix that was launched on the day of the 125th Anniversary parade and Heritage Walk opening
- metal recycling efforts generated useful extra funds

The Club has again run the important RYDA program ...

- our fifth successful Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day was attended by 79 Year 11 and Year 10 students from Woolgoolga High School on 15 Aug (cost: \$1358)

as well as building our local community via major donations

- \$1500 was donated to help cover the debt resulting from the rain-afflicted Curryfest, as the flagship festival in our community must survive and prosper. Past-president Pamela Fayle continues to play a key role in planning and obtaining funds for the 2014 Curryfest, to be held on 26 April.

- via assistance for monthly auctions, six local groups were able to benefit from donations totalling \$4,500. All six provided excellent help on their day.
 - Red Rock-Corindi Surf Life Saving Club
 - Woolgoolga High School
 - Woolgoolga Public School P&C
 - Northern Beaches Care
 - Woolgoolga Athletics Club
 - Corindi Red Rock Creek Rural Fire Service
- \$500 was donated towards the All Nations Church Community Cafe and Christmas Party

... and support for local youth

- seven Woolgoolga High School students competed for the Rotary Public Speaking Contest club round: Maddison Sadler tackled the topic of Bush Survival, and drew the heartiest laughs with her quirky take. Joshua Partridge argued for regular skin inspection for students, to lower cancer risk. Zac Donald probed the impact of social media on teenagers, and Jackson Mower mentioned cyber-bullying in his campaign-style address. Zac's concerns included "selfies" - self-photographed images loaded onto Facebook (etc), images that may have a profound impact on the person's life, varying from helpful to horrible. Elizabeth Noonan-Prentice argued for a lift in the minimum legal age for alcohol consumption to 21. For something totally different, Chloe Sankey enlightened us about the rules of Quidditch, a game from Harry Potter's wizard world, where contestants fly on broomsticks seeking the balls called snitch, quaffle and bludger. Jessie Gentle was adjudged the winner with her convincing proposition that NSW will win the next State of Origin rugby league series, the argument drawing on the 4-Way Test. It was an evening on which we could delight in the resurgence of public speaking among such a strong group, after a long lean period.
- in the next round, at Dorrigo, Jessie Gentle won through to the semi-finals [to be held in February, Walcha]. In a tight contest, judges were unable to separate Jessie from her Dorrigo opponent Catherine Burley, so a further impromptu round was added, in which Jessie prevailed.
- we provided \$100 towards the primary school Great Debate. A club representative also attended the debate, held at Mullaway Primary School.
- the club part-funded three local students to attend the Honeywell Engineering Summer School in Sydney on 1-6 Dec: Joshua Partridge, Dylan Verhoef and Callon Roach, all from Woolgoolga High School (\$1,420). HESS brings together 100 Year 11 students from all over NSW & ACT who are interested in pursuing engineering as a career, so our contingent is 3% of NSW's for the second year in a row. Throughout the week-long program, students visit 5 universities, and are also taken behind the scenes of some major engineering companies & projects to see engineers at work.
- \$1200 was donated towards Getting Out There Day (30 Aug) for Year 12 Woolgoolga High students (many of whom helped at the auction, from which a further \$750 donation was made to the school)
- provided \$100 to assist Guy Leckenby, a student at Coffs Harbour Senior College, represent Rotary and Australia at the prestigious National Youth Science Forum seminar in Stockholm, Sweden in December
- supported end-of year presentation ceremonies (or the equivalent) in six local schools (total of \$1,200); schools are requested to couple the donation where possible to "blood, sweat and tears" type awards

Internationally, we focused on the underprivileged ...

Efforts over the half-year were devoted to the underprivileged or disaster victims in the Phillipines, the Middle East, Ethiopia, Nepal and Vanuatu:

- purchased a ShelterBox to assist people devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Phillipines (\$1,000). (No box numbers will be assigned for this location-specific effort.)
- donated enough for half a ShelterBox to be deployed to assist those disrupted by the Syrian situation (in Syria itself, plus displaced Syrians in neighbouring countries; this was ShelterBox's first location-specific appeal)
- the fifty Kits for Kids funded and assembled during the last period arrived at Tanna Island and Mau Mau School near Port Vila. An application for a District 9650 Grant has been made, aimed at helping to fund the 2014 Kits.
- our September auction plant and produce stall generated \$579 for the orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal, called the Social Development Centre. Almost \$2,800 of support has previously gone to this orphanage directly through the club, as well as a large amount raised separately via a bush dance organised by Echah and others two years ago.
- proceeds of the Christmas stall (\$250) are intended to assist the children from the Ashley Haven orphanage in Ethiopia, Lalibela, Ethiopia, that we have helped in the past
- donated books and magazines to Ranfurly Library, to go to disadvantaged Pacific Island communities (via Coffs Harbour South Rotary Club)

Member Rob White continued his work for Project Tafea, Tanna, Vanuatu through RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service). This included the organisation of work teams for Vanuatu (including all their logistic arrangements, insurance etc), and collection and transport of donated goods to the Donations-in-Kind storehouse in Wauchope for eventual transport overseas:

- two construction teams to Port Resolution School on the eastern side of Tanna, which helped build the assembly hall, library and kitchen
- one team to work on the school centre, Lenakel, in Tanna
- a container of second-hand sports clothing, medical equipment and books for Vanuatu

... as well as building firmer ties between nations

- inbound YEP student Silvia Rodríguez Muruzabal, from Pamplona, Spain, completed a wonderful year and returned home
- we are sponsoring a student for the short-term YEP Australia-New Zealand Exchange, Bianca McNeill. She will spend Term 2 in NZ with her host sister's family, and the two will return to Bianca's for Term 3 here.

We also supported national causes ...

- increased our donation to Australian Rotary Health for every guest speaker from \$25 to \$50. Australian Rotary Health's major focus is mental health. Cancer is an additional focus. It also provides rural nursing and rural medical scholarships, as well as research grants & PhD scholarships.
- donated \$800 to the two projects of our District Governor's partner Kerry Anderson: [Project 1] ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) which provides medical treatment for children from developing countries in the form of life-saving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country; [Project 2] to assist research into a rare genetic skin disease, causing what is known as "butterfly children"; the condition can be disfiguring and fatal (through Australian Rotary Health)

- Our Hat Day also supported Australian Rotary Health
- donated \$500 towards the Rotary fund to assist victims of the devastating NSW bushfires
- donated \$100 to the Mates4Mates organisation, that provides support to wounded, injured or ill current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel and their families

... and things that enrich the local community

- around 80 people attended the third Woolgoolga Lions and Rotary Clubs Volunteers 2013 Celebration BBQ on Wednesday 4 December (up from 40 in 2011 and 50 in 2012). Some of those who attended are members of more than one voluntary group. The Lions chefs again did a great job on the BBQ. John Arkan's samosas were very popular. The C.ex (Bowling Club) provides an excellent venue and very helpful, friendly staff. We have about 130 volunteer groups in the Woolgoolga and Northern Beaches region!
- organised and part-funded the printing of 5000 brochures for the Woolgoolga Heritage Walk, revised and improved
- maintained and updated the Woolgoolga Heritage Walk website, and added numerous personal recollections and stories

We continued to strive to run an active, attractive & fulfilling club ...

- Thea Eves was inducted at Changeover
- Greg Williams was inducted on 22 July
- Leslie and Allan Casey were inducted on 14 Oct
- all four new members have made strong and important contributions to the club – even before their respective inductions
- Rob White will retire at the end of December 2013 after 11 years of devoted service, assisted by Edith. Of particular note is his contribution to international work, particularly in Tanna, Vanuatu, through RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service), recognised by a Paul Harris Fellow and Sapphire Pin – both awards having been made by District 9650. Rob has accepted the offer of Honorary Membership in retirement.
- regrettably, Kirpal Husna has had to resign. Kirpal's short time in Rotary was unfortunately affected by a serious accident that left him immobile for many months, coupled with several episodes of very destructive weather impacting on his banana crops, plus overseas travel & other commitments. We hope he is able to rejoin at some point in the future.
- in our continuing efforts to remain vibrant, relevant and attractive, we are trialling a new meeting schedule:
 - first Saturday of the month: Rotary auction in lieu of first Monday meeting
 - second Monday of the month: meeting
 - third Monday of the month: only a Board meeting
 - fourth Monday of the month: meeting, usually partners night
 - fifth Monday of a month: social event, outing, vocational visit or meeting
- we continued our program of interesting speakers, with 8 guest speakers, 7 public speaking contestants, and at least 3 club speakers. Topics were diverse and fascinating: for example, the wonders of the universe, the Australian legal system, the effect of food additives and components on behaviour and learning, multifocal lenses, stroke, cancer, the International Fleet Review, New Zealand's South Island, and mental health.
- a popular and thoroughly delightful Melbourne Cup eve event was hosted by members Glenda and Garry Kennedy at their home

- social events included a well-attended social evening at the Rustic Table, including a trivia contest; while our first “fifth Monday” under the new scheme was a pleasant and enjoyable evening at Seaview Tavern. Three members participated in the CanDo charity bowls day.
- the Club team rowed valiantly in the Dragon Boat regatta on Sunday 15 Sep at Mylestom; the team included 6 members, 3 partners and YEP student Rachel Hall, with President Karen Sedgwick sidelined with a rowing injury
- we continued to produce a high-quality bulletin for each non-auction meeting, the *Woopi Whisper*
- maintained the Club website www.woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au, including migration to a new software platform
- 15 articles in *The Woolgoolga Advertiser*, 12 with colour photos, including a double-page spread of 9 photos of RYDA, and two front-page promotions for the helicopter golf ball drop
- one article in *Focus* (October) on the golf ball drop, including colour photo
- interviews both on ABC local FM and AM with President Karen prior to the golf ball drop
- coverage of many of our press releases on the Coffs Coast Advocate website
- from the Club Assembly on 14 Oct, 11 points emerged, and from among those came three priority items:
 1. Interaction with the community is important, including joint works and projects involving others in the community
 2. Identification of a possible major project to focus the club; something of benefit to the local community (community garden? some aspect of the Multipurpose Centre?)
 3. Getting each member involved and doing something they are interested in. There are currently some members who are not very active in the Club, for one reason or another.

... involved in the wider Rotary family ...

- we were able to lift our contribution to The Rotary Foundation to \$1250, or \$50 per member. The work done by TRF and with TRF funding worldwide is truly phenomenal. Closer to home, it is also an investment in our future, as funds contributed now will benefit our Rotary District’s coffers in 3 years’ time.
- as mentioned, member Rob White participated in work for Rotary District RAWCS
- collected and donated books to Coffs Harbour South Rotary for their Bookfest

... underpinned by the contributions of volunteers, both members and friends

- substantial cleaning out and reorganisation of the Rotary shed has continued, and the ability to store large and heavy items on the verandah now that we have a fence has substantially reduced the burden of running auctions. The fence has also vastly reduced the volume of rubbish that we have to dispose of.
- essential to our fundraising is the ongoing work in collecting donated goods to auction, organising them, and disposing of rubbish
- goodwill toward Rotary in the community, and donations of goods for the auction, are continuing to build noticeably as the extent of the club’s contribution to the community becomes ever more widely known