

Half-year update of Annual Report from Directors, 8 Dec 2014

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

Notable during this half-year was a major investment in our future: extension of the verandah on the south side of the Rotary auction shed, as well as a new covered area on the north side of the shed.

Strong support for programs that benefit local youth is a hallmark of our club, and was again a highlight of the past six months.

Other highlights included our second helicopter golf ball drop.

A new Facebook page for the club was created, and has proved very popular.

Recognition of club and personal achievement

- **Paul Harris Fellow** Awards for member and Past-president **Peter Lacy** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Rotary, especially for our youth programs; and for partner **Marie Matthews** for her massive contribution to Rotary during Dick's years as a member, not only for our club (13 years), but before that Barraba (over 4 years) and Coffs Harbour (20 years).
- **Rotarian of the Year** award for 2013-2014 to **Glenda Kennedy** for her willing participation in all our events and for her organisation of activities within the club, including the Melbourne cup social, events which promoted cohesion among members.

Major investment in club's future: extensions to auction shed

- The area of the **verandah on the south side** of the auction shed has been doubled, by construction of a major extension. Significant excavation and drainage work formed part of the job.



- A **new covered area** has been added on the north side of the auction shed.
- The benefits of these extensions include: weather-proofing the monthly auction; greatly increased storage and covered display area; and reduction in the amount of furniture moving needed.
- The construction expenditure of \$26,000 represents a major investment in the future of the club. Particular thanks to Terry Booth for organising and coordinating this project.

Providing opportunities and support for local youth ...

- our sixth successful **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)** Day was attended by 86 Year 11 students from Woolgoolga High School on 14 Aug (cost: \$1,365).

- provided \$2,000 of the \$2,550 cost to assist **Caleb Niethe** attend the **National Youth Science Forum**, that runs for 12 days during January 2015 . Acceptance into this highly competitive forum is a rare achievement, and congratulations go to Caleb. He attended a Rotary meeting and thanked the club for its support.
- part-funded a local student to attend the **Honeywell Engineering Summer School** in Sydney on 7–12 Dec [*in progress on the date of this report*]: **Saihaj Arkan** has been accepted into this prestigious and competitive program (\$725). HESS brings together 100 Year 11 students from all over NSW & ACT who are interested in pursuing engineering as a career. 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. The Woolgoolga contingent has been remarkably strong over the past five years, with a total of 10 students out of 500.
- two Woolgoolga High School students competed for the **Rotary Public Speaking Contest** club round. The winner was **Cheyenne Hart**, who also won the Cluster round by default. Her talk focused on the unfairness of stereotyping, pointing out how difficult it is to find a balance that does not involve prejudice and judgement based on unwarranted stereotyping. Cheyenne will compete in the semi-finals in February at Walcha.
- supported **Emma Cahill** and **Bronte Donohue** to help them attend the Future Vet Kids Camp Sydney, 5–9 January 2015 (\$600 towards their \$1039 cost). A third student, **Gemma Hutchinson**, who spoke about this opportunity at our club meeting, will also attend.
- supported three students to go **The Conoco Phillips Science Experience**: **Bayley White**, **Patrick Mullan** (who also competed in the Public Speaking on 27 Oct), and **Clarence Harre**. Each student receives \$70 from the club towards the \$115 cost. Students normally opt for the one at University of New England, Armidale, 13-15 Jan 2015.
- provided **Club Scholarships** to two disadvantaged students to assist with costs (\$400) for attending the Year 7 Camp.
- \$800 was donated towards Getting Out There Day for Year 12 Woolgoolga High students (many of whom helped at the auction, from which a further \$750 donation was made to the school) Getting Out There Day is to prepare Year 12 students for life after school. This year, the program was revamped and held in Woolgoolga C.ex instead of Opal Cove Resort, with markedly improved outcomes, including reduced cost. President Patty Delaney and Past-President Karen Sedgwick attended, and found it very well run and pertinent.
- provided \$100 towards the primary school **Great Debate**. David Fayle attended the debate, held at Mullaway Primary School, and presented the prizes.
- 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.

... and planning a new one

- the inaugural **Science and Engineering Challenge** will be held on 31 Mar 2015, thanks to the initiative of Peter Lacy and a lot of developmental work by his team to organise it. The team includes Phil Dalton, Head Teacher Science at Woolgoolga High School, and involves the program coordinators, the University of Newcastle.

Helping build our local community

- 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.
 - **Northern Beaches Care**
 - **Woolgoolga High School**
 - **Corindi Red Rock Creek Rural Fire Service**
 - **Bishop Druitt College for Cambodian building project**
 - **Woolgoolga Athletics Club**
 - **Sherwood Creek Rural Fire Service**
- donated \$1,000 to the **CanDo Foundation**. The Coffs Coast & Clarence CanDo Cancer Trust supports patients and families attending the North Coast Cancer Institute. Help is typically in the form of payments to creditors: household bills, phone, gas, electricity, insurance etc; sometimes vouchers for food or petrol, or 'quality of life' items may also be provided. At the **CanDo Bowls Day**, the club representative Trish Baker presented \$500 of this to CanDo.
- \$500 was donated towards the **All Nations Church Community Cafe and Christmas Party**.
- the fourth **Volunteers Celebration BBQ**, run by Woolgoolga Rotary and Lions Clubs, was held on Wednesday 3 December. Some of the 70 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 again popular. We have over 120 volunteer groups in the Woolgoolga and Northern Beaches region!
- maintained and updated the **Woolgoolga Heritage Walk website**.
- our previous year's donation of \$1500 to the Woolgoolga and Northern Beaches Chamber of Commerce for **Curryfest** will go toward purchase of a large **marquee** for future events.
- four **iPads** were presented to the **North Coast Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services**, based in Coffs Harbour (funded by our previous year's donation of \$1,756).

Fundraising: the second helicopter golf ball drop & a high tea

- Our second **helicopter golf ball drop** was a great success, raising just over \$4,000 net for our **programs for our local young people**. Almost 1000 numbered balls, sold for \$5 each or 5 for \$20, were dropped from a helicopter, and the five nearest the pin won prizes. First prize was a weekend on a houseboat on the lower Clarence for a weekend, courtesy of G2Y Houseboats. Second closest won a night's accommodation at Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort, plus two flights with Precision Helicopters over Coffs Harbour. Third closest scored a weekend at Big 4 Emerald Beach Holiday Park in a deluxe spa villa. Fourth prize was a family pass to Dolphin Marine Magic, while 5th prize was a Precision helicopter flight over Coffs. A golf **Ambrose** in the morning, and another **raffle**, contributed to the funds raised. Karen Sedgwick again led the golf ball drop team.
- A **high tea** hosted by Echah Wright at Yeranda raised over \$650, from which donations went to the **CanDo Foundation** (\$500 towards our \$1,000 donation) and the **Social Development Centre** orphanage in Nepal (\$156).

... supplemented existing fundraising

- the six **Rotary auctions**, including a plant stall and a Christmas market, raised a total (net of ads) of over \$16,000. Last year's exceptional net auction proceeds were exactly twice this amount.
- **metal recycling** efforts again generated useful extra funds (\$381).
- over \$21,000 has already been raised this year, matching the extraordinary result last year.

International

International work over the half-year focused on helping in Liberia, Vanuatu, Nepal, Cambodia, and South Sudan, and on attacking polio and Ebola:

- \$1,000 from our November auction went towards Rotary work in **Liberia** (West Africa) to contain the **Ebola** Virus Disease epidemic. The Rotary Club of Monrovia thanked us for the contribution, saying: *"We continue our support to awareness campaigns, the provision of buckets and chlorine, supplying educational materials to children for home teaching and the provision of non-contact thermometers to community leaders, schools, prisons and police stations. Recently we have given support to a joint Ministry of Health / ChildFund program that established an "interim care centre" for children who are under observation as they were with their parents in Ebola treatment units. Most recently we have developed several global grants to support orphans, scholarships for nurses."*
- the sixty **Kits for Kids** funded and assembled during the last period arrived at Tanna Island and Mau Mau School near Port Vila, **Vanuatu**. We are grateful for the District 9650 Grant that helped fund the 2014 Kits. Each kit contains a range of useful stationery, enough for ten children for a year.
- \$750 from our October auction went to our helpers, **Bishop Druitt College**, for their building project to help Cambodian families. The Bishop Druitt team is heading *"to Cambodia to build homes for some of the poorest Cambodian families. ... typically saving for 4-5 years in order to reach their dream of 'graduating from poverty', each family has saved and will contribute US\$30 towards the cost of the new house & land package. [Funds raised] pay for the remaining \$1500 per house. We will work side by side with the Cambodians, under their leadership & guidance, giving them the opportunity to teach us valuable life skills (building)."*
- \$500 from the September auction Plant and Produce Stall as well as the proceeds of the Christmas stall (\$200) and \$156 from the Yeranda high tea were donated to support children in the orphanage in Kathmandu, **Nepal**, called the **Social Development Centre** (total \$856). About \$3,370 of support has previously gone to this orphanage directly through the club.
- donated \$200 for the **Hope Road Walk**. A former refugee from South Sudan, Zacharia Machiek, walked from Tweed Heads to Sydney, with Janet Dyne, to raise funds to **build a primary school**, catering principally to the needs of girls, in the village in **South Sudan** where he was born. The walk, completed on 27 July, raised over \$20,000.
- donated \$1,250 to **The Rotary Foundation**. The charitable arm of Rotary, TRF taps into a global network of Rotarians – including Woolgoolga Rotarians – who invest their time, money, and expertise into a truly amazing range of activities. Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, disease and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact. (Last year's grant towards Kits for Kids was already mentioned.)
- donated \$200 to **PolioPlus**, Rotary's flagship international project that is now very close to achieving the incredible aim of eradicating poliomyelitis globally. PolioPlus is under the umbrella of The Rotary Foundation.
- donated books and magazines to Ranfurly Library, to go to disadvantaged Pacific Island communities.

Building international ties

- inbound **Youth Exchange Program** (YEP) student **Yuta Tsuchiya**, from Hokkaido, Japan, continued his year's adventure in Woolgoolga. Yuta has attended many meetings and

auctions, and helped with auction pickups. Yuta stayed 2 days in Armidale with the mother & sister of Bridget Driver, the outbinder currently in Hokkaido, Japan (via Armidale RC). Bridget's mother Wendy Maynard kindly took Yuta to see many sights in and around Armidale during his stay. (YEP-related expenditure totalled \$1888.)

- local student **Bianca McNeill** returned from New Zealand on **short-term YEP Australia-New Zealand Exchange**. Accompanying her was her NZ exchange counterpart **Rian Ferguson**, who spent Term 3 with Bianca's family. They both spoke at a club meeting: Rian entertained us with a talk in Maori, which thankfully she also translated, while Bianca emphasised what an amazing experience she had had in NZ, including 10 days camping near Cape Reinga; a freezing swim at the black sand beach of Port Waikati, Lake Taupo, whitewater rafting. Her favourite aspect was being part of a family of singers in the Maori singing group.
- The **Rotary Friendship Exchange team** visitors from **Poland** visited Woolgoolga on the nights of Sun 16 and Mon 17 November. Four team members, **Michael Jaroslaw Sobczak**, **Agnieszka Sobczak**, **Ewa Wierzchowska** and **Zbigniew Szymanowski** attended our meeting, and Michael and Ewa spoke. With **Edmund Mzyk**, they also attended a get together at Bronwyn and Rod Mackenzie's.
- Club members visited former inbinder exchange students: **George and Sue Smede** attended **Connie Sauer** (2001-02)'s wedding in Germany, and visited **Stefany Roser** (1999-2000) in France, as well their daughter **Joanna Smede's host family** (2000), who in turn visited the Smedes here. President **Patty Delaney and Graeme Smith** visited **Hanni Hafellner** (2007-08) at her parents' farm in Austria, **Laura Hohrein** (2009-10) in Mainz, Germany, "adopted" exchange student **Hella Kern** in Germany, **Elisabeth de Halleux** (2011-12) in Belgium, and **Silvia Rodriguez Muruzabal** (2012-13) in Spain.

Continuing support for Australian Rotary Health

- we also continued our \$50 donation to **Australian Rotary Health** for every guest speaker. 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. Australian Rotary Health is also one-half of the District Governor's Partner (Sue Moran)'s Project, specifically for Parkinson's Disease research.

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

- A new **Facebook page** was created, and since very effectively maintained, by Leslie Casey. <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwoolgoolga>. So far, 116 Facebook users have "liked" the site. During the week to 9 Dec, 709 people accessed the site, 12 of them "liking" the site, and 71 of them being "engaged".
- we continued with our **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
- critical questions for the sustainability of our local community into the future emerged from our "**Dr Who?**" evening, where three prominent doctors turned their minds to the key issues. In each case, the need for the political will to make the hard, long-term planning decisions was highlighted. Two of the speakers, **Drs. Sue Kehrer and John Kramer**, highlighted the difficulty of building local capacity in the health sector, including

recruiting and retaining people with the expertise that we need. Dr Kramer pointed to our ageing workforce, with reduced capacity to service the demands of an ageing population. **Dr Steve Smith** focused on sustaining our coastal environment, and particularly our fragile estuaries.

- our program of interesting **speakers** included 14 external guest speakers (included the three doctors), 2 public speaking contestants, and two speakers from within the club. **DG Greg Moran** spoke about ShelterBox as well as Timor Leste and the malaria eradication program. **Diana Davey** went on Rotary Youth Exchange to western Japan in 1980, and it certainly made a profound difference to her future life. Other topics included fiction writing, kelp forests and ocean temperature, sound recordings of heritage value, water & sanitation engineering, and Ebola.
- other fresh new ideas to keep meetings attractive and enjoyable were “**pot luck photo presentations**” (where members produced an extraordinary variety of images); and “**guess who’s coming to dinner**” (where each member explains who they would like to invite to dinner, from history or still living).
- we continued to produce a high-quality bulletin for each non-auction meeting, the **Woopi Whisper**
- maintained the **Club website** www.woolgoalgarotaryclub.org.au, from which may be downloaded current and past issues of the *Woopi Whisper*
- 16 articles in **The Woolgoalga Advertiser**, 13 with colour images, including five accompanying an article on the helicopter golf ball drop
- two articles in **Focus** (September and October) on the golf ball drop, including October’s half page with two colour photos.
- segments promoting the December auction both on ABC local FM and AM **radio**.
- coverage of some of our press releases on the Coffs Coast **Advocate website**.
- the club has been presented with an elegant **wooden gavel** made by Master Wood Turner **John Ewart** and given to Rod Mackenzie.
- an update of the club’s **three-year Strategic Plan** is in progress.
- from the **Club Assembly** on 29 Sep, the common goals of Rotary clubs (pie diagram) were reviewed, followed by a Strengths /Weaknesses/ Opportunities/ Threats (SWOT) analysis on the club as part of the Strategic Planning process. Then we focused on Membership.
 - Participants were asked to reflect on HOW and WHY they joined Rotary, & the benefits and barriers to being a member. Responses mirrored research conducted by Rotary International which indicated that “community and connection” are most important, as Rotary is “not in peoples’ minds” and that Rotarians cannot often clearly articulate what Rotary does in a brief way to engage potential new members.
 - We all worked in pairs to develop our “Elevator Pitch” (brief 30-second description of Rotary) that we all need to perfect; we agreed that if you cannot explain it to someone in that timeframe that we are likely to miss out on opportunities. Following up with ‘brainstorming’ a list of potential members, we undertook to approach these individuals

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

- our contributions to The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus, the Rotary Club of Monrovia (Ebola), and the Hope Road Walk (Rotary Club of Sydney) have already been mentioned.
- honorary 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

- essential to our fundraising is the **ongoing work** in collecting donated goods to auction, organising them, and disposing of rubbish. The volume of donated goods continues to increase, partly as a result of increasing awareness of Rotary's contribution to the community and the attendant goodwill.
- with extensions to the Rotary shed, major reorganisation of the storage configuration has continued. This has allowed improvements in our ability to run the auctions, and a large reduction in furniture handling. The need to handle rubbish decreased markedly when the compound fence was constructed; the task is still significant, but largely involves selective culling of donated items.
- several members have joined the **Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)**, which was formed in 2007 as a group of Rotarians, recognized by Rotary International, focused on water & sanitation work.

A partial thank you list

- Members

Board members for their devoted work:

Patty Delaney, President and YEP

Leslie Casey, Treasurer and President-nominee; Facebook

Mary Bryant, Secretary

Karen Sedgwick, Director, International Service, Vice President and Immediate Past President

Dick Matthews, Director Auctions

Norm Michener, Director Membership

Peter Lacy, Director Youth Service

Pamela Fayle, Director Club Service

David Fayle, Director Public Relations; Whisper; website; Half-yearly Report
(Community & Vocational Service are being covered ad hoc)

Terry Booth for for organising and coordinating the extensions to the shed.

Echah Wright for obtaining many of the sponsorships and prizes for the Helicopter Golf Ball Drop; for hosting the High Tea at Yeranda; and work on plant and Christmas stalls.

Karen Sedgwick for organising the Helicopter Golf Ball Drop.

Peter Lacy for developing the new Science and Engineering Challenge, and for inspiring excellent participation in other programs.

Norm Michener, Dick Matthews and Terry Booth, for doing the bulk of the auction pickups.

David Fayle for running RYDA.

Rod Mackenzie for organising the visit of the Polish Friendship Exchange Team, including hosting the welcome evening and two of the team; and for part of the time as Sergeant.

Geoff Royal for completing the Treasurer's Report for 2013-14 and organising the audit.

John Arkan did a great job again auctioneering, & helped cater for Volunteers Celebration BBQ.

Leslie Casey for creating and maintaining the Facebook page.

Norm Michener for organising the Volunteers Celebration BBQ.

Trish Baker for running the golf ball drop raffle and obtaining prizes.

Allan Casey as Sergeant for part of the period, and for excellent photography.

Patty Delaney & Graeme Smith and **Pamela & David Fayle** for hosting Yuta Tsuchiya for extended periods.

Peter & Sally Lacy and **Karen Sedgwick & Col Cafferky** for hosting the Polish Friendship Exchange Team.

All the members who have helped at any of the six auctions.

All those who sold tickets and/or helped with the Helicopter Golf Ball Drop.

Honorary member **Rob White** for metal recycling (including pump dismantling), auction assistance and for work on Project Tanna.

Honorary members **Ila Rogers** and **Sel Rogers** for auction work.

- **Others**

Auction

Assisting at the auctions were partners: **Marie Matthews, Elizabeth Phipps, Edith White, Col Cafferky, Graeme Smith,** and **Sue Smede.**

Those helping with auction pickups included

Brian Keeble and **Ric Spiller** (friends of the Micheners from Victoria)

Geoff Huggins

Robert Crotty

Brian Salisbury

Yuta Tsuchiya (YEP student)

All of our hard-working and essential helper teams.

Golf Ball Drop

The Woolgoolga Returned Services Golf Club, Safety Beach, and professional Terry Perfrement are thanked for their assistance and support of the event.

Sponsors and prize donators: G2Y Houseboats, Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort, Precision Helicopters, Big 4 Emerald Beach Holiday Park, Dolphin Marine Magic, Woolgoolga Returned Services Golf Club, Safety Beach; & to the sponsors, including those providing Ambrose and raffle prizes: Woodsey's Bicycle Shop, Woolgoolga Health Club, C.ex, Woolgoolga Jewellers, Woolworths, Park Av., Big W, Park Beach Plaza, United Service Station, Mullaway, Terry Perfrement at the Golf Club, Safety Beach, Allan Casey, Fishermans' Co-Operative, Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga Post Office, nab Woolgoolga, Amcal Pharmacy, Woopi Doo, Woolgoolga Quality Meat Mart, NRMA, Emerald Beach Pizza and Pasta, Rustic Mezedes, Buds Nursery.

RYDA

A big thank you to Woolgoolga High School for its committed support, and to the students and staff. Thank you also to Mike Blewitt's Coffs Coast Isuzu Ute for the Isuzu MU-X, Shane Mackenzie, Nicole Tilley (North Coast Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services), Snr Const Snow, Ashley Gibb (Mission Australia), Wayne Sadlier (North Coast TAFE), Greg Taylor (GMT Driving School), Sue Ridden (Aware Driving), Mark Beard (Mark Beard Automotive), Road Safety Education Limited (who designed this program and provide materials and assistance), Woolgoolga C.ex, the Community Centre, the Seniors Centre, the Woolgoolga Sports Council, NSW Fair Trading and the Coffs Harbour City Council. Thank you also to Scotty Waite of North Coast Heavy Tow, who provided the smashed car, and to Tegan and Steve Ewart, who lent their marquee.

Bus shelter

Tom Pieper donates his time +materials for the ongoing maintenance of the Rotary Bus Shelter.

Auction shed

Tom Pieper (Footprint Electrical) labour donated

Peter Davey

Brad Choice