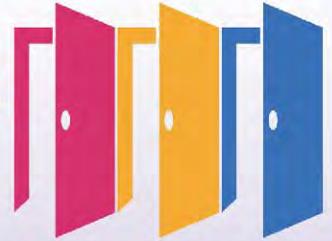




Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Annual Report 2019–2020

for

Changeover



30 years of Rotary Auctions

Club President Pam Stone

District Governor Phil Hafey

Rotary International President Mark Daniel Maloney

1979 - 2019

TAUPOOD

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

BUSH DANCE
Rotary Club of Woolgoolga Inc.
Prepared for Men's mental health

Yeates Hall, Woolgoolga Primary School
Sat 21st Sept. 6 - 10pm
Lion's Club BBQ

Tix \$20 Family \$45 (children under 12)
Available at Woolgoolga PG, NBM& and Bookshops, limited tickets at the door
More info go to Elizabeth 0438 80723



Secretary Patty & President Pam in new polo shirts; induction of newest member Julie Woodwell



(Clockwise from above) Jim Stevens relaxes on the new seat, with Buddha patiently waiting; The Bush Tucker Box is helping wild-life affected by fires in the Orara Valley; Christmas Party at The Black Apple; books from the auction being collected for the new Grafton Jail; sanitary pads produced by the GIFT 4 Change project (Ludhiana, Punjab, India) & sponsored by our club; Pam Stone & Mary Bryant in Ludhiana with project leader Dr Param Saini (right), Madan Lal (left) & Rajinder Kaur, Production Supervisor (2nd left)



Welcome from Club President, Pam Stone

Yet another Rotary year has passed and indeed what a strange and challenging one it has been. As we coasted along seeking new directions and renewed enthusiasm, we slammed into COVID-19 which pretty well derailed us for the last quarter of our year. Not to be totally locked down we, like timid mice, explored technology and had some Zoom board meetings. As we come out of hibernation I hope this time has helped us reflect on why we chose to be Rotarians meeting together.

Much has happened as we have endeavoured to become somewhat more 'project based' and also to become more committed to activities which fit our age and skill set. Whilst in the past we have undertaken huge projects requiring much fund raising and the physical work of our members, we have chosen to do smaller projects in accord with community requests, hence our involvement in the Mullaway school sensory garden project. We hope to be able to continue to respond to local community needs and seek funding to do so.

We are constantly trying to grow our club and hope that our involvement in small community projects could be a means of attracting younger members who as a cohort seem to like joining a group to 'do' a project rather than join to 'keep on keeping on.'

One of the highlights of this Rotary year was our Community Bush Dance. We hosted more than 100 enthusiasts and many folk have asked that this become an annual event. Much of the work for this was undertaken by Echah who has sadly now left our club. Thanks heaps Echah. We hope to have more social events where we can open ourselves to the community to enable them to get to know us, not only as fund raisers but as fun people.

2020 says farewell to the Rotary Auction, which has been such a fixture for Woopi over many years. The auction has been our flagship. Heaps of accolades for Norm Michener and Dick Matthews who have given incredible amounts of time and effort to make the auction the success it has been. The next year will be one where we support Julie Marshall and her Board as they help us to reinvent ourselves, hopefully for the better, becoming involved in tasks more in keeping with the age and interests of our members.

Please enjoy reading our Annual Report so ably put together by David Fayle. In it you can see the wonderful work undertaken by so many.

I wish to thank my Board for their hard work and a special thank you to our faithful Secretary Patty Delaney without whose enthusiasm we would not be what we are today. I wish Kim Thompson a happy Rotary year as she now hands over her Treasurer position after three years in that role. Thanks to each Rotarian who has contributed to the continuation of Woopi Rotary.

May I wish our new President Julie Marshall all my best for her coming year. It is important that we all continue to pull together to keep the Rotary wheel turning smoothly to ensure we serve our community and beyond.

Pam Stone, President 2019/2020

Outgoing / Incoming Office Bearers

Outgoing	Incoming
<p>BOARD</p> <p>President Pam Stone</p> <p>President-nominee Julie Marshall</p> <p>Vice President Geoff Royal</p> <p>Immed. Past President Geoff Royal</p> <p>Secretary Patty Delaney</p> <p>Treasurer Kim Thompson</p> <p>Directors:</p> <p>Auctions Norm Michener</p> <p>Youth Mary Bryant</p> <p>International Service & Rotary Foundation David Fayle</p> <p>YEP Patty Delaney</p> <p>Public Relations Pamela Fayle</p> <p>Community Service Lynda Hagar</p> <p>Club Service Lynda Hagar</p> <p>Vocational Service Pam Stone</p> <p>Membership Pamela Fayle</p>	<p>BOARD</p> <p>President Julie Marshall</p> <p>President-nominee tba</p> <p>Vice President Pam Stone</p> <p>Immed. Past President Pam Stone</p> <p>Secretary Patty Delaney</p> <p>Treasurer Geoff Royal</p> <p>Directors:</p> <p>(Portfolios to be decided)</p> <p>Mary Bryant</p> <p>Lynda Hagar</p> <p>Norm Michener</p> <p>Pamela Fayle</p> <p>David Fayle</p>
<p>POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD:</p> <p>Sergeant shared</p> <p>Corporal</p> <p>Public Officer David Fayle</p> <p>Woopi Whisper Editor Pamela Fayle</p>	<p>POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD:</p> <p>Sergeant tba</p> <p>Corporal tba</p> <p>Public Officer David Fayle</p> <p>Woopi Whisper Editor tba</p>

MEMBERS

Peter Ainsworth	Pamela Fayle AM	Norm Michener
Mary Bryant	Lynda Hagar	Anne Mooney
Leslie Casey	Dennis Houghton (<i>until Mar</i>)	Geoff Royal
Patty Delaney	Peter Lacy	Pam Stone
David Edwards	Rod Mackenzie	Kim Thompson
David Fayle	Julie Marshall	Julie Woodwell
Dennes Fayle	Dick Matthews	Echah Wright (<i>retiring</i>)
		<i>19 total at end of June</i>

HONORARY MEMBERS

John Arkan	Elizabeth Phipps	Karen Sedgwick
Terry Booth	Ila Rogers	Edith White
Ian Fitzgerald	Selwyn Rogers	Robert White
Dennis Houghton (<i>from Mar</i>)		

CHANGEOVER AND END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Monday 22 June 2020 at the Auction Shed

5:00 pm Assemble at auction shed, bringing torch or portable lamp

Celebration of past year, and farewell to Rotary Auction Pam Stone

Presentation to Rotarian of the Year Pam Stone

Induction of incoming President Pam Stone

Induction of incoming Board Julie Marshall

Incoming President's address Julie Marshall



[www.facebook.com/
rotaryclubofwoolgoolga](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwoolgoolga)
www.woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au
www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org
boomerangbagswoolgoolga@gmail.com



2019–2020 REPORT BY PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

The year 2019–2020 was far from a normal year, disrupted first by the enormity of months of devastation from bushfires, then by a tiny virus, both posing extraordinary challenges. The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga, like the rest of the community, has experienced a very different year than we expected.

The club's flagship fundraiser, the Rotary Auction, has reached the point where circumstances forced the difficult decision to shut it down, after 30 years. The pandemic threat of COVID-19 pre-empted the shutdown in mid-March.

An effective response to the bushfire disaster was a significant task this year. Our donations were directed towards assisting people, wildlife and areas affected, and to building the capability to respond more effectively in the future: in firefighting; in effectively dealing with the aftermath of disasters; and more broadly, in dealing with mental health issues; and supporting first responders for the injured and ill.

A highlight of the year for the local community was the bush dance.

Another highlight was celebrating the contributions of those taking pride in what they do in our community. A new seat was unveiled that commemorates two decades of selfless work by Jim Stevens, keeping Woolgoolga clean. Five people had their contributions recognised via nomination for Pride in Work Awards, with three awards conferred.

Fortunately, we were able to run the twelfth Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) day for local year 11 students, just before the COVID-19 lockdown. The planned Science and Engineering Challenge, however, had to be postponed. RYDA was funded by a NSW Government Grant.

Also postponed because of COVID-19 was a community project to install a new sensory garden at Mullaway Public School. The club successfully applied for a District Grant to fund the first stage.

While much of our attention was on local issues, we have not forgotten some important causes overseas. In India, to overcome a very high school-dropout rate among girls reaching menstruation age, we are supporting a project to improve the access to education and prospects of girls in Punjab State. Support also went toward the education of South Sudanese children surviving in a Kenyan refugee camp.



Pam Stone



David Fayle



Mary Bryant



Pamela Fayle



Norm Michener



Patty Delaney

Donations were provided for Rotary's fight against malaria, as well for Rotary's amazing international work through The Rotary Foundation.

New members are the lifeblood of the club, and it was wonderful to have four join us during the year: Julie Marshall, Peter Ainsworth, Julie Woodwell and Anne Mooney.

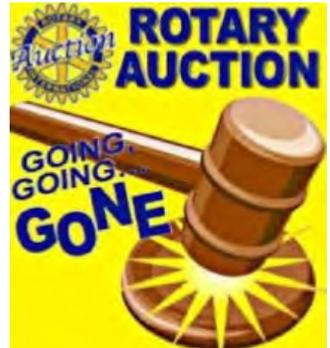
The Rotary Monthly Auction

The monthly auctions of donated items raised the majority of our funds, a total of \$17,149 net of advertisements, due to the efforts of members, Friends of Rotary, and helper groups and others.

Our helper groups were:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sherwood Creek Rural Fire Brigade | Lower Bucca Community Preschool |
| Corindi Red Rock Rural Fire Brigade | Woolgoolga High School |
| Marine Rescue Woolgoolga | Days for Girls, Coffs Harbour Branch |
| Red Cross (assisted by Woolgoolga High School Students) | |
| Woolgoolga Region Community Garden Association | |

However, after 30 amazing years, our Rotary Auction has come to an end, not with a bang but with a whimper, courtesy of COVID-19. Ironically, before the intrusion of the virus, Pamela Fayle had used this graphic to promote the July auction. Little did we expect the meaning of the message to change so dramatically eight months later.



Its demise arose from a combination of factors: a continuing struggle to attract enough buyers, with the changing demographics of the local area; alternative retail sources for cheaply priced items; a deterioration in the average quality of donated goods (factors including increasing use of convenient Buy Swap Sell sites to sell the better items; and the cessation of the Council kerbside bulky household waste collection, funnelling marginal items towards Rotary); and the increasing burden of collecting donated items, given the health and age of club members and difficulty in attracting regular volunteers for pick ups. It was time to bring the auction to a close.



Kim Thompson



Geoff Royal

2019–2020 BOARD



Lynda Hagar



Julie Marshall

ROTARY AUCTION

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga's monthly auctions of donated goods have made a difference in the local community for just over 30 years. The first auction was held in Charter Member David Featherstone's shed in the Woolgoolga Industrial Centre on Saturday 4 November 1989, and except for six occasions when cancellations were necessary because of wet weather, monthly auctions have been conducted continuously since, until March 2020 (Januarys excepted).

Better than a win-win outcome for the community, the auctions could be described as a **win-win-win-win-win!**

A source of inexpensive household items: auctions have helped many locals furnish their homes, assisted young people and new homemakers to set up cheaply, and provided countless bargains.

Major recycler: countless items have been given a second life (or more), and tonnes and tonnes of usable goods have been kept out of landfill for extended times.

Preferred channel for disposing of still-usable items: people wishing to refurbish or downsize had the satisfaction of knowing that their donations were helping their community.



A major fundraiser for Woolgoolga Rotary: for much of the 30 years, the auction has provided the bulk of funds raised by the club, to assist both the local community and a wide range of worthy causes nationally and globally.

Direct and indirect benefits to the local community: for more than ten years, each auction has involved a helper group from the community, effectively providing a way of fundraising for every one of those groups. In addition, the money raised has helped to fund causes, facilities, and groups and individuals in the community. Examples (among many) include the Seniors Centre, the Heritage Walk, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness days, extension programs and exchange opportunities for local students, and much of the club's support for local organisations, totalling around \$880,000.

Woolgoolga Rotary would like to take this opportunity to thank the **donors** and **buyers:** all of those people who have generously donated

used goods to the Rotary Auctions over the years, as well as those who have come along to bid for a bargain.



The Rotary Auction has been an outstandingly effective **fundraiser**, raising a total of approximately **\$748,000** (net of advertising), an average of \$25,000 per year over the three decades. Not many fundraiser projects can boast such a track record. This is undeniably a remarkable performance from a small club with an average annual membership of less than 25, achieved largely as a result of the dedicated efforts and hard work by members and helpers. The other two important factors have been the consistent flow of donations from generous local residents, and the support from the buying public.

As well as benefitting others, the auction has **benefitted the Club** in various ways. It helped to unify the club and provided members with an opportunity to mix and interact, coupled with the satisfaction of helping raise funds, and developing personal networks within the wider community. The auction **showcased Rotary** as an organisation dedicated to helping people both locally and internationally, and demonstrated the role of this Club in that area. Rotarians have received countless expressions of appreciation for the work that Rotary does in the community.

Historical notes

The auctions were held in David Featherstone's shed until 1994; moved to the former Guide Hall February 1994 (where the Seniors Centre was later built); then to the **first Rotary Shed** behind the CWA July 1995. The following year that shed was extended by the addition of a verandah. The shed was largely destroyed by fire on 10 August 2002. Remnants were demolished and cleared by members, and the **replacement** built by local builder Peter Clark in readiness for the auction in February 2003. A perimeter fence was constructed around the shed compound in 2011-12, and in 2014-15 a new covered area was constructed on the north side, and the south verandah was doubled in area. An **auction vehicle** was purchased with help of community donations in May 2013.



The March auction was the last before COVID-19 intruded. However, there is a large stock of donated items remaining at the auction shed, as well as artwork and some other items stored elsewhere, and the possibility of a future clearance sale is under consideration. In June, a huge stock of donated books was given to the new jail east of Grafton, to help fill its bare library shelves.

Bushfire relief measures

The disastrous bushfires that preoccupied us all for more than half of the year posed a challenge: how can a small Rotary Club with limited resources significantly assist with both recovery, and with future preparedness? A similar challenge faces many organisations: how can we make a difference?

Fire victim recovery

The Boomerang Bags team generously donated \$700 to the Taree & MidCoast Bushfires Appeal, Project 41 of RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service). The club matched this donation, to give a total amount of \$1,400 towards financial assistance to those in the MidCoast Area to our south, who lost their homes in the catastrophic bushfires of November 2019.

A donation of \$500 to the Dorrigo Bushfire Appeal (BCU Dorrigo) was aimed at helping families undergoing hardship due to the prolonged and devastating fires in the Dorrigo area.

Scottish Rotarians from North Fife Rotary Club visited our District in 2008 on a Rotary Friendship Exchange. They heard about the fires in Australia and those affecting rural residents near Glenreagh and Nana Glen. Colin Lowe, a Past President and member of North Fife Rotary Club, visited Woolgoolga in January 2020 and saw the fire impact himself. His club then made a donation of \$2,000 to help those victims.

The club has decided to direct one half of that generous donation to Glenreagh



Contact: FAYE NEIL Mobile 0439 190 076 Email: heartstart@glenreagh.org.au

If you are in need of financial assistance for something urgent or have already incurred some costs and would like to get reimbursed, contact Glenreagh HeartStart Inc. We are working with the OVPA who has limited funds available to assist you in meeting your needs. As a token of commitment, anyone directly affected by bushfire who contacts us will be entitled to receive a \$100 gift voucher.

Property Issues

Fencing materials, earthworks hire, sewerage works, tree felling, power poles, small sheds, etc.

Personal & Household Items

Clothing & footwear, vehicle repairs, linen, cooking, heating, refrigeration, etc.

Living Expenses

Phone & power bills, rates, insurances, legal fees, etc.



Hollow log on five ravaged ground
- good wildlife habitat



HeartStart, which is directly helping **people** affected by bushfires. They are also working to set up a multi-purpose community hub **building** that will help coordinate any future responses to similar situations.

The other \$1,000 from North Fife is going to **Tracy Chapman** for her organisations **Hello Orara Valley** and **The Bush Tucker Box**. These projects are helping **wildlife** impacted by the fires. They are providing donated emergency food, habitat hollow logs to locate in burnt out areas, and some animal rescue. Tracy is developing social media sites that will promote these projects, provide educational material and network with diverse and numerous environmental groups locally, across Australia and internationally.

Goods donated for the auction have been made available to those badly affected, and one local couple who lost their home were grateful for items including a dining table.

Future preparedness

Crucial to dealing with bushfires are all the **brigades** of volunteer firefighters in the **Rural Fire Service**. This year, the club has supported these volunteers in two ways. Firstly, the club was invited to collect donations at the Coffs Harbour **Carols by Candlelight** in December. **Mary Bryant, Patty Delaney** and **Dennis Houghton** collected \$907 there, and the club subsequently donated a total of \$1,000 to local brigades at **Moonee, Woolgoolga, Mullaway, Sandy Beach, Country Club, Corindi-Red Rock, Sherwood Creek** and **Solitary (Korora)**. Moonee used their donation, for example, for nine new recruits, providing gear that is not part of the standard issue: RFS embossed T shirts, summer and winter socks, and protective sunglasses.

For a decade, local RFS brigades took turns helping the club run our monthly auctions, taking on a major part of the physical work involved. In return, the **helper brigade** received a donation from the proceeds, usually \$750. This was an effective way of raising money for the brigade, and we would find it very difficult to run an auction without a helper group. This year's helper brigades were listed on page 5.

Challenges to mental well-being

Bushfires and the protracted, insidious drought heightened the growing assault on mental well-being. **Lifeline** is one key organisation at the front line handling this challenge. Our donation of \$1,000 was directed to Lifeline Mid North Coast through this year's District Governor's Partner's Project, to fund the training of Lifeline Counsellors to serve this district (*see also page 20*). Funds raised for this cause came from three events:



- Our **plant stall** at the October auction, which together with a **raffle** raised \$400; the raffle prize was ticket for two at a Coffs Coast Advocate Harbour Club event.

- A \$500 donation from [Curryfest](#), to thank the club for its work at the event in September.
- \$100 raised through a July [Swap Party](#) held by the [CWA](#) with the assistance of Honorary Member [Karen Sedgwick](#).

Saving lives of the injured and sick

In our region, the [Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service](#) provides a vital service in getting the injured and sick prompt medical aid – including victims of bushfires. Our donation of \$800 assists their ongoing effort to raise enough to maintain this vital service for the community.



Dick & Marie Matthews at Bush Dance



The Bush Dance

New President Pam Stone hit the ground running, initiating the Bush Dance in September, which was a great success. As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable night of dancing for around 100 people, to the bush-style music of iconic local band Tallwood, the evening raised money for men's mental health. Grateful thanks to [Woolgoolga Lions Club](#), who joined us, running the barbeque, and to generous donors of prizes for two [raffles](#), as well as our organising team.



Men's mental health

The club topped up the funds raised at the Bush Dance to \$1,000, donated to [Australia Rotary Health](#) for PhD Scholarships for research in the [men's mental health](#) area. This complements the donation to Lifeline already mentioned.

Cancer

The club continued its support for the [CanDo Foundation](#) with a \$500 donation. The Coffs Coast & Clarence CanDo Cancer Trust supports cancer sufferers and families attending the North Coast Cancer Institute, helping ameliorate the financial and emotional pressures on these families.



The Jim Stevens Seat and plaque

For over 20 years, [Jim Stevens](#) and a faithful canine companion have been a familiar site around Woolgoolga, collecting litter almost daily from foothpaths, streets, parks and beaches. This enormous but unheralded contribution to our community has now been recognised, with the installation of a new seat across the road from Bluebottles, including a plaque acknowledging Jim and Buddha's care for our local environment (*photos inner cover*).

The project was initiated by Friend of Rotary [Don Clinch](#), working with [Norm Michener](#) & [Coffs Harbour City Council](#) to make it happen. CWA, Lions Club, C.ex and our Mayor worked together with our club on this project.



Quotes from an interview with Jim Stevens

Q: Does it frustrate you that people are still littering?

JS: *If people drop rubbish in front of me, I never say anything, I just walk over and pick it up. Kids ... ask whether or not I get paid to do it. I say no and tell them that I live here, and it was clean when I arrived. A few minutes later I'll see them putting some rubbish in the bin or in my bag. Doing what I do gives young people something to look to. If anybody is going to do it, it has to be the older people. We had the planet and we didn't do too well so that's why it is the way it is. I'm in tears when I see all of the plastic.*

Q: What keeps you going?

JS: *I've got a reason to do it. This is the frontline. When it gets to the sea it's gone, it's too late. So we have to work here, we have to work in the streets. We've got to look after where we are, that's all you can do.*

Pride in Work awards

Talking about pride in one's community, there are those in our community who, in their everyday workplace, consistently go above and beyond and take great pride in their work. Usually that goes unheralded. Our [Pride in Work](#) awards celebrate the contributions of such people, and to be nominated for the award is a wonderful recognition of the nominee's contribution. Their employers have seen them take an extraordinary amount of pride in the jobs that they do. It makes a huge difference to our lives when people take great pride in their work, no matter what it is.

Congratulations to this year's five nominees: [Kerri Williams](#) and [Bonnie Grant](#) from Woolgoolga Retirement Village, [Melissa Wiankmore](#) and [Nathan Lancaster](#) from Woolworths Supermarket and [Nicholas Carr](#) from Woolgoolga RSL. The



(Left) Pride in Work nominees

(Above) awardee Nathan Lancaster, with President Pam & Tony Ross W&NB Chamber President

Vocational Award to a younger person went to Bonnie Grant, and Pride in Work Awards went to Kerri Williams and Nathan Lancaster, and a large number of people were there to appreciate and recognise their efforts. Organiser, Community Services Director Lyndy Hagar, and members who assisted, are to be congratulated on a successful event, promoting Rotary and ensuring all our nominees felt truly celebrated.

Boomerang Bags (a club project)

Boomerang Bags Woolgoolga continued to make a major contribution to reducing plastic pollution of our local environment. Operating as a club project, the team makes reusable, environmentally friendly carry bags to replace devastating plastic bags. Boomerang Bags Woolgoolga celebrated its 3-year anniversary in March.



As well as existing outlets, Bluebottles and Mother Natures, new organisations have adopted the bags: the Lifehouse Care Shop, Pete’s Place in Coffs Harbour, Banana Benders, Sprout and Grow, and Meals on Wheels. In September the team supplied 120 bags to women golfers for a golf day. A successful stall at the inaugural Coffs Coast Eco Surf Fest Oct 19 was run in collaboration with Seaside Scavenge in October.

The team made a major donation to Rotary’s bushfire appeal (\$700), and also made donations to Days with Girls (a local Woolgoolga initiative, and auction helper), and to the Woolgoolga Region Community Garden. Team members worked with Rotary at our stall at Curryfest in September.

Pitch a Project

In any community, there are inevitably great ideas for improvement that never see the light of day, because there is no platform for them to become known and gather support. This year, our club has taken an innovative approach to tapping such ideas, by inviting applications from the community to “Pitch a Project” to us for potential funding support.

This attracted two worthy applications from among a larger number who expressed interest, and in October those applicants pitched their projects. We

heard a proposal to build a [picnic shelter at Woolgoolga Lake](#) as part of bigger development plans; and a [Mullaway Primary School Parents and Citizens' Association \(P&C\)](#) project to build the first stage of a [sensory playground](#). The winner on the night was the Mullaway School sensory playground project.

Organiser, Secretary Patty Delaney, subsequently put together a successful application for a Rotary District 9650 Grant of \$4,600, in partnership with Mullaway Primary School, to implement a Sensory Garden in the school grounds. Local Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, will add \$15,000 to help complete the project.

The project is in hiatus at the time of writing, delayed by COVID-19 restrictions. Current plans are to commence in July 2020 (Term 3), with the aim of completing Stage 1 before the end of the school year. Some club members intend to pitch in and help with the community working bee.

Other support for the local community

The weekly [Community Cafe](#) run by the Lifehouse Church plays an important role in helping the increasing numbers of underprivileged in our community. The club provided \$500 towards the Community Cafe and its Christmas Party.

For some goods donated to our Auction, an appropriate home is not likely to be found among the usual auction crowd. A donated [tenor horn](#) was presented to the music program at the [William Bayldon Public School](#), Toormina. We want donated instruments to go to people who will value and make good use of them, and where it will make a difference. *(Photo: Louise Wilson, Head of Music, accepting the instrument from David Fayle in front of a recent photo of the student band.)*



Members, partners and Friends of Rotary worked at [Curryfest](#), including on the gate. Club representative [Pamela Fayle](#) continued to play a core role as Chair of the organisation, including securing grants, sponsorships and participants; while the Marketing Report was again done by [David Fayle](#). Curryfest's \$500 thank-you donation to the club *(photo)* went to Lifeline *(see page 10)*.

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)

The [Rotary Youth Driver Awareness \(RYDA\)](#) day on 12 March aimed to address all four aspects of the "safe systems" approach: safer people, safer roads (with behavioural change), and safer speeds; while aware drivers are also likely to maintain safer vehicles. 86 students from Woolgoolga High School attended, a little down on recent years due to a markedly smaller student cohort in

this year's Year 11, plus the looming threat of COVID-19 (which effectively dissuaded any distance education students from attending).

RYDA was successful despite significant hurdles, including the unavailability due to illness of the crash survivor, and three facilitators new to RYDA or to their module, two of whom had to step in with very limited preparation time. We were fortunate to be able to run the event – a week later, and it would probably have had to be cancelled. RYDA benefits everyone in our local community, directly or indirectly, and also wherever the attendees might go in the future.

The club is grateful for a [Community Road Safety Grant](#) of \$2,600 from the NSW Government's Transport for NSW, that funded this year's RYDA. Grateful thanks to those assisting – see page 24.

Planning work for the sixth [Science and Engineering Challenge](#), intended for April, was well advanced when COVID-19 caused its postponement until 6 April 2021. The team, guided by new leader Patty Delaney, built on the very solid foundations laid by their predecessors, and they will be very well placed to deliver the Challenge next year. We thank the organising team for its excellent work, and the generous sponsors for their support of this admirable event – see page 24. The club has put \$500 towards underwriting the event.

The club supported [end-of-year presentation ceremonies](#) (or the equivalent) in six local schools (total of \$1,200). At Woolgoolga High School this supports the Persistent Commitment to Education awards. Rotary members attended many of the ceremonies and presented awards.

We continue to maintain the [Woolgoolga Heritage Walk pamphlets](#) and [website](#).

[International service — Girls' education in Punjab, India](#)

A focus of our international efforts is developing our budding relationship with the area of India from which our local Sikh population originates, Punjab State and specifically Rotary International District 3070 (*see last year's Annual report*). Here, the [Rotary Club of Ludhiana Greater](#) has a marvellous project in progress to improve the [access to education](#) and prospects of female high school students, by counteracting the high drop-out rate of girls from school upon reaching the age of menstruation. The [GIFT 4 Change](#) project, managed by [Dr Param Saini](#), covers three aspects: (1) manufacture and supply of eco-friendly menstrual pads; (2) education about sanitary disposal of pads at home and at school; (3) ensuring there are adequate washing facilities for hygiene. The main focus to date has been on supplying pads. The pads are manufactured cheaply from waste materials, using an ingenious locally developed machine (*photo*); unlike pads obtainable in Australia, these contain no plastic and so disposal is far more friendly to the environment.

From our donation early in this Rotary year of \$2,975 to this project, one half



has so far been spent, manufacturing and distributing a large number of packets of sanitary pads. These packs acknowledge our club's sponsorship (*photo*). Woolgoolga Club's donation helps to advance menstrual hygiene in these areas in which the percentage of girls and women who use sanitary pads is in single digits, mainly due to poverty and their remoteness from any city hospital. In February–March, a major Rotary Medical Mission provided an opportunity to supply 1,000 packs of ten sanitary pads to young girls and women who came to attend the special medical camps set up in underprivileged rural villages southwest of Ludhiana: Dehlon, Pakhowal, Latala, Bassian, Sarabha, Mullanpur, Boparai, Jodhan and Mansuran. Late in May, 6,000 more sanitary pads were supplied on our club's behalf in areas where they were unavailable due to COVID-19 lockdown. The rest of the donation will be used to supply girls in schools that will be adopted under our club's name.

Education for South Sudanese refugee children

Many children from [South Sudan](#), displaced through by civil war, are surviving in a [refugee camp](#) in Kenya, often orphaned or otherwise reliant on others for their survival. Learning facilities are basic, and classes only extend to 8th grade level (*photo*). Every child is underprivileged and struggles as camp conditions make life very difficult. "[Lost Children of Jonglei](#)" Scholarships provides secondary schooling to some of these children, opening the possibility of a future for them, their families and for South Sudan. The scheme was established by guest speaker [Aduk Dau](#), a refugee and survivor of this camp. The club's donation of \$450 contributes towards supporting a student's education in a Kenyan Boarding School.



Rotary's international work

Rotary internationally makes a major difference throughout the world, working and serving via more than 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries and territories. Central to that is Rotary's charitable arm, [The Rotary Foundation](#); our donation amounted to \$50 on behalf of each of our members.



ROTARIANS AGAINST MALARIA (RAM) – AUSTRALIA

For 25 years, the Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) program has striven to support the elimination of malaria within defined target regions. RAM Australia continues to focus on Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and since 2005, Timor Leste. This year, Vanuatu and West Timor (Indonesia) have also asked for RAM's support. As a volunteer-run Australian organisation, RAM forms part of a worldwide Rotary effort against this debilitating disease (the RAM Global Rotary Action Group), working with the governments of partner countries, plus key organisations including the World Health Organization, The Global Fund, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

<http://ram.rawcs.com.au/programs>

<https://ram-global.org/>

Breaking the cycle of infection

Working with governments, RAM supports intervention activities that include the distribution of insecticidal bed nets, residual insecticidal spraying, larvicide in mosquito breeding grounds, environmental work and tools to reduce stagnant water and improve drainage, vital education and training, rapid accurate diagnosis, surveillance, and effective treatment, complemented by support of research (PhD Scholarship, vaccine research).

Long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LLINs)

Together with Indoor Residual Spraying, mosquito nets impregnated with long-lasting insecticide are vital for beating malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. RAM distributes LLIN bed nets within its target countries, as part of strategies tailored to particular regions.

Papua New Guinea

Between 1997 and September 2019, RAM delivered over 11 million bed nets to Papua New Guinea households. Vulnerable target groups include pregnant women, who have received over 1.4 million of these nets. Net distribution in all 22 provinces is on a 3-year cycle. For the first five years of that time, a coordinated, village-by-village strategy, "Adopt A Village," provided a net for every villager, funded by a sponsor, usually a Rotary Club, that had adopted that village. Larger-scale intervention was needed, however, and vital major funding has come from grants from The Global Fund (2005, 2009 & 2012), as well as Rotary Foundation Grants.

A recent drop in global funding, however, prompted focus on the "Chasing Malaria" program in Central Province (which includes Port Moresby). Starting in 2014, the program maps and monitors malaria here, and supply nets to fill gaps where here are indications of a resurgence. The program distributes a net to every positive malaria case. The New Ireland Province is another focus; the malaria burden there is 2.5 times more severe than in the rest of the country. Resurgence of malaria since 2015 presents a major threat, despite the extensive distribution of LLIN bed nets.

Solomon Islands

The future direction of RAM's efforts in Solomon Islands is currently under review. RAM has run the Basic Tools Healthy Villages Program, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, since 2012. Tools are distributed and used to remove mosquito breeding sites. For \$1,750, a village receives bush knives, axes, flat files, spades, mattocks, crow bars, and wheelbarrows. To date, ~160 villages have been supported under this program at a cost to RAM in excess of \$200,000. It has complemented the distribution of nets funded by the Global Fund and the accompanying education sessions.

Timor Leste

RAM has provided 115,000 nets to pregnant mothers since 2006; by 2020, about 90% of children under 5 and pregnant women had received LLIN (bed nets). There has been a dramatic reduction in malaria incidence: from 220 per 1,000 in 2006, to 0.9 per 1,000 in 2013, to 0.007 per 1,000 in 2019. The aim is to have Timor Leste certified malaria-free by 2021 – assisted by work in adjoining parts of Indonesian Timor. This ambitious target has a solid foundation: zero indigenous malaria cases since July 2017; a well-organised National Malaria Control Program with trained staff and community acceptance; high level of government commitment and a stable political climate; diagnostic facilities, test kits and treatment widely available; ongoing training of clinicians and nurses; and effective monitoring of villages.

New focus area: West Timor (Indonesia)

On the island of Timor, Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province shares a border with Timor Leste. NTT has significant hot spots of malaria incidence and therefore can potentially pose an obstacle to Timor Leste being granted malaria free status. A RAM volunteer team visited the border areas of West Timor in February 2020 to assess community needs and how RAM may assist.

New focus area: Vanuatu

Vanuatu's malaria program is at a critical juncture and RAM's involvement is at an early stage. Key to a successful outcome is putting in place effective partnerships, and securing sufficient funding. RAM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health's malaria program, to fund some essential activities to combat malaria. RAM and the New Zealand equivalent of RAWCS, Rotary New Zealand World Community Service, are working together to raise enough funds to underpin an application for a RAM Rotary Foundation Global Grant, "End Malaria in Vanuatu – for Good," with the aim of funding bed nets, medication and indoor residual spraying on a scale sufficient to reach zero malaria incidence.

History: RAM Australia began in 1995, and joined RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) in 1998. Active programs commenced in 1997 and RAM has raised more than \$2 million since 2003 to help support its partner countries.

Combating malaria

Our donation of \$500 to Rotarians Against Malaria



will help in the effort to combat this debilitating disease in our region.

Reconstructive surgery in Asia-Pacific – Interplast

Last Rotary year, too late for the Annual Report, \$500 was donated to Interplast, which sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals to provide life-changing surgery and medical training in 17 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.



Fundraising, grant and donations received

The C.ex Group continued to provide major support to our club in the form of the traditional grant covering the cost of our meeting room at C.ex Woolgoolga, as well as for the use of rooms for RYDA. Our auction vehicle was made possible by C.ex Group's major donation of \$4,000 three years ago. Thank you again C.ex!

The majority of funds raised came from our Rotary auctions of donated goods. This year's total of \$17,149 was of course heavily impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown. Ad hoc sales between auctions augmented the takings significantly.

The Bush Dance raised almost \$1,000, while sales of the Yeates book (*Woolgoolga: History of a Village*) raised \$240; the fifth print run has sold out.

The Plant and Produce stall and raffle at the October auction raised funds for Lifeline (see page 9). Raffle prize donors are thanked later in the report.

Donations included three used for bushfire-related causes: North Fife Rotary's \$2,000, Boomerang Bags' \$700, and \$915 collected at Carols by Candlelight. Two donations went to Lifeline: those from Curryfest and CWA Swap Party.

Not including two grants, funds raised totalled over \$22,600, including:

Fundraiser	Funds
Auctions (monthly; net of ads)	\$17,149
including Plant and produce stall & raffle	\$414
Bush dance (net of Tallowood)	\$998
Donations collected at Carols by Candlelight	\$915
Sales (net) of <i>Woolgoolga: History of a Village</i>	\$240
Curryfest volunteering donation	\$500
CWA Swap Party, donation	\$100
Rotary Club of North Fife, Scotland, donation	\$2,000
Boomerang Bags Group, donation	\$700

Grant funding totalled \$7,200, plus \$500 allocated for Public Relations (p.18):

Grant	Funds
District 9650 Grant (Mullaway PS Sensory Garden)	\$4,600
Community Road Safety Grant (NSW Govt)	\$2,600

Communication and publicity

Auctions were advertised in the [Coffs Coast Advocate](#), which is ceasing print publication in mid-2020. This newspaper also covered the Jim Stevens commemorative seat unveiling (4 Sep 2019).

The [Facebook page](#) continues to be our most effective public relations channel, promoting the club in many ways: www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwoolgoolga. By early June, 726 different Facebook users had “liked” the site, up 46 from one year before. Uses included publicity for our events, projects and support given to the local community, as well as advertisements for selected auction stock.

The club bulletin for each non-auction meeting, the [Woopi Whisper](#), has completed its 32nd year. The [Club website](#), woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au, holds past & current issues of the Woopi Whisper. We also maintained the Heritage Walk website www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org.

Several auctions were advertised on [ABC FM radio](#) and [2AIR-FM](#).

District 9650 granted the club [\\$500 to produce club business cards](#) for public relations promotion.

Rotary Australia and New Zealand Student Exchange tour

A group of 11 [New Zealand students](#) staying in NSW and SA on the short-term [Rotary Australia and New Zealand Student Exchange \(RANZSE\)](#) Program were treated to a great 6-day tour spanning the snowy Blue Mountains and Sydney. The Chaperones were our Youth Exchange Program Director [Patty Delaney](#) and partner [Graeme Smith](#). Opera House, Pylon, Rocks, jet-boating + far more!

Within the club

The club welcomed four new members during the year: Julie Marshall, Peter Ainsworth, Julie Woodwell and Anne Mooney. Changeover night was the start of a career as a Rotarian for both Julie Marshall and Peter Ainsworth.

[Julie Marshall](#)'s commitment upon joining was soon evident, when she joined the Board and put her hand up to become President-elect. A solicitor with Legal Aid NSW, Julie primarily looks after Care and Protection and Family Law matters. Prior to becoming a Lawyer she served as a Detective Sergeant of Police for 22 years. She is a mother of 6, and has 5 grandchildren. Rotary is an ideal vehicle for her passion to help the community.

[Peter Ainsworth](#) is Pastoral Care Pastor of Lifehouse Church (Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga; formerly All Nations Church), and NSW Ambulance Chaplain for Mid North Coast sector. Peter continues to play an important and longstanding role in community welfare, both locally and in Western Kenya, Africa, where the church is involved directly in supporting The Daisy Resource Centre and School. Peter was a Group Monitor at RYDA 2019.

Two weeks later, [Anne Mooney](#) was inducted. Currently a horticultural administrator with Costa Berries, Corindi, Anne was formerly a district

horticulturist and research entomologist with NSW Primary Industries in Central West NSW. She has 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren, and joined Rotary to become an active community member. Anne has joined the Science and Engineering Challenge planning committee, and has been very active in club activities including RYDA and auctions.

We welcomed new member [Julie Woodwell](#) on 30 September. With a career in care for disabled and elderly, she leads a very full life both within the home and in the community. Julie has worked tirelessly at many club activities both before and after induction, including auctions and the Bush Dance.



A social highlight was a well-attended [Christmas party](#) at The Black Apple restaurant, Moonee Beach: excellent food, a trivia competition (won by Leslie Casey) and very tasty homemade plum puddings compliments of organiser [Lynda Hagar](#).

A new design of [club polo shirt](#) made a splash during the year, with “*Talk to Me about Joining Woopi Rotary*” on the back and the new 2019-20 Rotary logo and name on the front (*photos inner front cover*).

Following on from last year’s work to underpin a [business plan](#) for the club, led by [Rod Mackenzie](#), two [Club Assemblies](#) dealt with important but complex issues facing the club, including the imminent demise of our major fundraiser. The club has a long road to travel now in finding new ways of raising funds to benefit our local community and those other causes that we are able to support. The two assemblies began the process of brainstorming, comparing ideas and views, analysing talents, skills and passions, and developing strategies for the way forward. A third assembly had to be indefinitely postponed.

A [committee](#) of three has been formed to recommend how to deal with (a) the donated goods not yet disposed of; and (b) the major assets used to run auctions: the shed itself (which stands on CWA land under a Deed of Licence, redrafted in 2014); the auction vehicle; and the two trailers. Options for the shed are constrained by its lack of toilet facilities, water or sewerage. Serving on the committee are [Norm Michener](#), [Dick Matthews](#) and [Patty Delaney](#).

A new [Club Constitution and Bylaws](#) was developed and lodged, thanks to the work of [Patty Delaney](#), [David Fayle](#), [Julie Marshall](#) and [Lynda Hagar](#).

President [Pam Stone](#) and President-elect [Julie Marshall](#) represented our club at a [Rotary Showcase and Special Meeting](#) in Tamworth on 23 November. Both also attended the [PETS](#) (president-elect training session) for incoming Presidents on 8 March in Port Macquarie. Julie and Secretary [Patty Delaney](#) sat in on the Zoom meeting for the [District Assembly](#) on 3 May with over 90 participants Zooming in for specific training sessions.

In August, we hosted a [Rotary Cluster Meeting](#) at [Woolgoolga Art Gallery](#), catered by members of Woolgoolga Art Group.

Other events at which the club was represented included a SMILE mentoring event at Woolgoolga High in October; a Multipurpose Centre Meeting in November (both Pam Stone); the Lions Youth of the Year Awards (Norm Michener); and the opening of the new Marine Rescue facility on Arrawarra Headland (Pam Stone and Lyndy Hagar). Four members attended a joint morning tea held by Woolgoolga Lions Club, Red Cross, CWA, and the Sikh community, at which modes of assistance for fire victims were canvassed. Pam Stone, Mary Bryant, Patty Delaney, Lynda Hagar and Geoff Royal attended end of year presentation days at local schools.

The visit of the District Governor is always one of the most important meetings of the year. [District Governor Phil Hafey](#) and partner Bronwyn visited the club in August. Phil's focus on each club in the district undertaking one new local project was very much aligned with our own target this year to stimulate greater local community engagement and elicit new local project proposals, with the secondary aims of enhancing our visibility and generating new membership.

[Bronwyn Hafey](#) spoke about Lifeline, the Partner's Project she selected for the year (*page 9*). We were able to respond with news of our commitment to raise funds for the project at our October Auction plant stall.

The guest speaker program was somewhat disrupted by the cancellation of meetings from March until June. Despite that, members enjoyed a rich variety of presentations. The saga of [Aduk Dau's](#) flight from South Sudan to Ethiopia and back through Sudan to Kenya, and losing and then finding her son and husband after many years apart certainly made us all reflect on our good fortune living here. She created the Lost Children of Jonglei scholarships to ensure that South Sudanese children get the opportunity of education and a future (*page 9*). A very appropriate talk heralding October, Rotary's Month of Basic Literacy & Education.

[Barry Butler](#) spoke about his time as an engineer for Concorde supersonic jets, including stress testing of different components, and multiple factors causing the infamous crash of the Concorde at take-off from Paris in 2000. A very different kind of aviation is the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service that has provided a vital capability in our area since 1982. [Jennifer Dowd](#) gave us a great insight into the crew and equipment, types of incident, and the essential fundraising needed to supplement government funding.

[Alastair Milroy](#) brought us up to date on the Woolgoolga Multipurpose Centre project, towards the realisation of which Alastair and his team have made remarkable progress (rewarded on 5 June by a \$10m Federal commitment!)

[Julie Jardine](#) told us about the work of the CanDo Trust (*page 10*). [Stephanie Hackman](#) and [Belinda Newcombe](#) spoke about the work of the Midwifery Group Practice at Coffs Harbour Base Hospital, the plans for significantly improving operations. A set of baby scales donated to the auction was presented to the midwives.



Members David and Pamela Fayle spoke about their 2019 trip to Nova Scotia.

Dennis Houghton retired in March after 17 years' service in three Rotary clubs (Balgowlah, Wee Waa and Woolgoolga), to focus on his work for the State Emergency Service. In 2018 Dennis received a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow award, following his 1996 Paul Harris Fellow awarded by the Rotary Club of Balgowlah. With us, Dennis ran three very successful Science and Engineering Challenges, worked towards improving lifesaving capability (defibrillators and training), and did a large amount of physical work for the auction. He also refurbished Rotary signs and the bus shelter. He frequently helped at other club events (*photo at Carols by Candlelight*). Dennis has accepted Honorary Membership.



Echah Wright will retire at the end of this Rotary year after nearly twelve years' service, including service on the Board in 2016–2017. She has organised plant stalls as well as club social events such as a memorable High Tea, as well as years of substantial funding raised to support for an orphanage in Nepal. The success of the Helicopter Golf Ball Drops owed much to her ability to source sponsors and sell tickets. Echah has been a willing helper at many club events over the years, including auctions, Bush Dance, RYDAs, S&E Challenges, Rotary promotional stalls, Christmas in July, Bowelscan and many more. Sadly, we lose a member, but gain a Friend of Rotary.

Recognition of club and personal achievement

At Changeover 2019, the **Paul Harris Fellow** award was conferred on **Megan Hart**, teacher at Woolgoolga High School and Friend of Rotary. For many years, Megan has played a crucial role in the liaison between Rotary and the school, and ensuring that the vast majority of local students have benefited from at least one of Woolgoolga Rotary's diverse extension programs.



Rotarian of the Year for the previous year (2018–19) was our indefatigable Secretary **Patty Delaney**, without whose contribution in many and varied areas on top of her work as Secretary, the club would be much the poorer. Patty is shown at top right collecting donations at the Coffs Carols by Candlelight 2019, and at left, presenting the baby scales to midwives.

The contributions of volunteers, both members and friends

The next two Sections thank many of the volunteers whose efforts are reflected in this Report. The list is as complete as possible, but inevitably misses some people and contributions. Apologies go to those omitted.

Thank you to members, partners & Friends of Rotary

In this extraordinary year, many members, partners and Friends of Rotary put in sustained effort, often unseen, despite trying circumstances. The key role played by **Directors** is, as always, crucial to the club, and their work is mostly not detailed here. Thank you for their dedicated effort to all the members who have helped at/for any of the 8 auctions; all those who helped with the Bush Dance, RYDA, planning for the Science and Engineering (S&E) Challenge, Curryfest, Boomerang Bags, the unveiling of the Jim Stevens seat, and other activities & events. Also to those who potted up and donated plants, jam and other items for the plant stall. Among **members** warranting a special thank you are (apologies to any omitted):

Patty Delaney: for key role as Secretary, continuing next year; taking over the management of the S&E Challenge; initiating and organising Pitch a Project; successfully securing a District Grant for the winning project; auction work; assistance with Plant and Produce Stall; assistance with RYDA, Bush Dance and Curryfest; RANZSE tour chaperone; collection of Carols donations; representing the club at (Zoom) District Assembly, a Cluster meeting, & a school presentation ceremony; club Facebook page; occupational health and safety work, especially OH&S briefings at auction; Working With Children clearances; work on Bylaws and Constitution; liaising with Woolgoolga Community Gardens.

Pam Stone: President; organising Bush Dance; organising new purple Rotary polo shirts; attending PETS, Rotary Showcase and Cluster meetings; representing the club at SMILE & Multipurpose Centre meetings & Marine Rescue opening; assistance with RYDA and Curryfest; auction work; taking on the Assistant Governor role for our Cluster for the coming year.

Norm Michener: Auction Director. For 3/4 of the year, managing the relentless workload involved, and ensuring that the club did as well as possible from the auctions. For the remaining 3 months, dealing with the premature shutdown, and steering the difficult decisions to end the auction. Achieving the Jim Stevens seat. Assisting at RYDA. Representing club at Lions Youth of the Year.

Kim Thompson: for key role as Treasurer for the third year; auction related work; attending District Assembly; work at Bush Dance and Curryfest; Soap Aid pickup.

Dick Matthews: assisting at monthly auctions; inter-auction sales; major role in auction pick-ups; cleanup and rubbish removal at auction shed; canvassing Pride in Work nominations; assistance with RYDA, Curryfest, and jail book donation.

Julie Marshall: taking on the Presidency for the coming year; attending PETS, Rotary Showcase & the (Zoom) District Assembly; work on Bylaws and Constitution; work at Bush Dance and Curryfest; initiating and achieving the donation of books to jail.

David Fayle: organising and running RYDA; compiling Annual Report; auction pickups and other work; Curryfest Market Research Report and gate; obtaining and acquitting RYDA grant; work on Bylaws and Constitution; assistance with Bush Dance; Yeates book sales; maintaining club website; International Director, Public Officer, Executive Secretary.

Lynda Hagar: organising Pride in Work, including canvassing nominations; organising; inter-auction and auction work; auction pre-sales; 2 Directorships - Community Services and Club Services; work on Bylaws & Constitution; work at Bush Dance and Curryfest; representing the club at a school event and the Marine

Rescue opening; liaising with Woolgoolga Community Gardens.

Pamela Fayle: Woopi Whisper editor; public relations work; Curryfest Chair and co-organiser (Rotary representative on committee); assistance with RYDA and Bush Dance; and for auction work.

Mary Bryant: Youth Director; liaising with Woolgoolga High School; representing the club at school events; assistance with RYDA and Curryfest; collection of Carols donations; and for auction work.

Dennis Houghton: major role in auction pickups; other auction-related work; collection of Carols donations; S&E Challenge organising committee.

Leslie Casey: S&E Challenge organising committee Treasurer & volunteer; managing the club Facebook page; work at Curryfest; and for auction work.

Geoff Royal: Vice-President and Board member; auction work; representing the club at school event.

Anne Mooney: S&E Challenge organising committee; assistance with RYDA and Curryfest;

Echah Wright: for the plant stall; helping organise the Bush Dance; assistance with RYDA; auction work.

Rod Mackenzie: extensive research that provided a sound basis for deciding on bushfire donation recipients; work on club project priorities and business plan; work at Curryfest.

Julie Woodwell: work at auctions and the Bush Dance.

Peter Lacy: auction work.

Peter Ainsworth: auction work.

David Edwards: auction work.

Dennes Fayle: looking after the Rotary artwork for a future art sale stall; presentations to guest speakers.

Friends of Rotary, Partners, and Honorary members:

Rotary Club of North Fife, Scotland: \$2,000 donation for local bushfire victims.

Pre-auction pickups and/or auction day work (including the Plant and Produce Stall): Peter Backman (including using his own vehicle), Alan Michener, Geoff Eggins, John Eggins, Abdu Adem, Chris Edwards, Simon Lowther and Jaide Morrow.

John Arkan: auctioneering (monthly auctions).

Megan Hart: see page 21.

Graeme Smith: RANZSE tour chaperone; auction work.

James Daniels and Allan Bryant: assistance with RYDA.

Rob and Edith White: raffle ticket sales.

Karen Sedgwick: auction work; work at Curryfest; Boomerang Bags; CWA Swap Party.

Don Clinch: work towards Jim Stevens Seat; managing supply of Heritage Walk pamphlets.

Bronwyn Mackenzie: work at Curryfest.

Grateful thanks to

All of our hard-working and essential auction helper teams, and all the kind people donating goods for auctions.

Woolgoolga C.ex and the C.ex Group for a \$1,775 grant as a donation of C.ex Woolgoolga rooms for meetings, as well as for RYDA. They previously donated \$500 towards the Jim Stevens seat project and \$4000 towards the auction vehicle.

Lions Club of Woolgoolga for continuing assistance with the auction rubbish disposal; unprompted reimbursement of tip fees; providing the barbeque at the Bush Dance; & for continuing support of S&E Challenge, including involving other local Lions Clubs.

Bryson Kelly and Woolgoolga Motors for discounted repairs and maintenance on the auction vehicle and trailers.

Phil Cooper at Northern Beaches Panel & Paint: repair of auction vehicle at no charge.

Mark Bibby: auctioneer at an auction.

Raffle prize donors: Dolphin Marine Magic, Bluebottles, Seaview Tavern.

Curryfest and the Woolgoolga & Northern Beaches Chamber of Commerce for \$500 donation.

Boomerang Bags team.

Transport for NSW (NSW Government): \$2,600 grant for RYDA.

Optic Empire: hosting the club website free of charge.

Woolgoolga C.ex Club and Woolgoolga Garden Club for emergency storage.

Sponsors for the Science and Engineering Challenge: principal partner Pacific Complete, The Chief Scientist of NSW, Engineers Australia, Lions Club of Woolgoolga and several other Lions Clubs from the area.

S&E Challenge organising team members: Gordon Letts (Probus), Phil Dalton (WHS), Guy Wright (WHS), Keith Pledger (Lions), Graeme Boulden.

Woolgoolga High School and its students; including for auction help.

RYDA: Woolgoolga Service Centre and Sam Hill for the use of a vehicle.

Megan Hart Elise Bocking, Pilates with Elise

James Daniels George Bullivant, Get Licenced Driver Training

Wayne Hardy Phil Hannaford, Hannafords Driving Academy

Jasmine Liffen Senior Constable Jon Buzza

Subway Woolgoolga Woolgoolga C.ex and General Manager Greg Engel

Sam Hill, Woolgoolga Service Centre Woolgoolga Library

Woolgoolga Community Village Hall Forest Coach Lines

Woolgoolga Sports Council Woolgoolga Shed Coastalworks

Road Safety Education Limited (designed RYDA program; materials & assistance).

Major sponsors were BOC, Toyota Australia, Bridgestone, MTAA Super and Boral.

Megan Hart and helpers personalised the RYDA bags for each participant.

Woolworths Woolgoolga for fruit and drink donations towards RYDA catering.

Sarah Barker for maintaining the Heritage Walk website.

CWA Woolgoolga.

Connecting Up: for discounted laptop computer (purchased during the year).

All other family members and Friends of Rotary who helped throughout the year with activities and events. All our guest speakers.

32 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2020

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga held its Charter dinner on 21 June 1988 at the Woolgoolga Bowling Club. A provisional club had been started earlier that year, under the guidance of the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour. Charter President was Ian Hickey, and two of those charter members remained members 32 years later, in mid-2020: active member Rod Mackenzie and honorary member Ian Fitzgerald. An overview of 32 years of service follows.

Woolgoolga facilities for senior citizens



Woolgoolga Seniors Centre resulted from a project initiated, run and completed by the Club in 5 years (1999–2004) with project management, labour and a direct contribution of over \$100,000 to the \$420,000 Centre. The Seniors Centre (*left*) has served the community now for 16 years. (*See article on page 31*)

Separately, over \$95,000 went to help build the Woolgoolga Retirement Hostel (now **Woolgoolga Retirement Village**), mainly in 1988–1992.



(Above) Retirement Village: turning the first sod; (*far left*) Seniors Centre under construction c2003; (*left*) at official opening, 3 May 2004: (Luke Hartsuyker MP, Dick Matthews, District 9650 Governor John Burkey & Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson; (*upper left*) complete (2009); (*below*) the first auction shed

Other contributions to local community and to youth

Monthly **auctions** of donated goods between 4 Nov 1989 and 7 Mar 2020 raised approximately \$748,000. Apart from raising funds, the auction provided an important resource for local needy and those setting up households, as well as recycling goods. Other volunteer organisations assisted with the auctions and receive a share of the proceeds. A purpose-built auction shed [*photo*] was destroyed in 2002 by fire. Its replacement served from Feb 2003 until the end.



Annual dinner auctions

(1989–2002) raised over \$250,000 and were a highlight for both the club and the local community [*photos p26*]. Annual **fish auctions** often added significantly (*photo*). Many other ways of raising funds have been used.

shows YEP inbounder Peter Hjelmqvist (1992–93) giving blood.



Bowelscan, a screening program for bowel cancer that saves lives, was an important priority for 27 years; after 2017 the Government took on the task. We support [Australian Rotary Health](#) via a \$50 donation for each guest speaker.



[Pride in Work](#) (formerly [Pride of Workmanship](#)) Awards commenced in 1992. The club also established the Woolgoolga Ladies' [Probus Club](#), and founded an [Interact Club](#) at Woolgoolga High School (1988–2003).

In more recent times, the club's focus has shifted further toward local youth. The annual [Science and Engineering Challenge](#) started in 2015. A high-priority annual commitment since 2009 is the [Rotary Youth Driver Awareness \(RYDA\)](#) day for Year 11 students (*photos 2011, 2010*). The club also initiated [Getting Out There Day](#) for Year 12 students in 1998, and often helps fund this. Small [club scholarships](#) were developed to assist students to attend a course or program that will enhance their opportunity to achieve and contribute to their community, especially in leadership or management.



MUNA 2010: delegates listen to Ambassador to the U.N. Gary Quinlan's opening address, Woolgoolga High School

Other youth and leadership programs included [RYLA \(Rotary Youth Leadership Awards\)](#), [RYPEN \(Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment\)](#), [Model United Nations Assembly](#) (club hosted [MUNA](#) in 2010 & 2011), [National Youth Science Forum](#), [Honeywell Engineering Summer School](#), public speaking competition, [Rotary Youth in Agriculture](#), [The Science Experience](#), and [Rymarine](#). [Persistent Commitment to Education Awards](#) for local schools started in 1989.

International service

This summary has so far focused on the club's contribution to the Woolgoolga



Fourth Avenue In Motion (FAIM) work in Bulolo, Papua New Guinea, 1991; local helpers learn on the job, Project Tafea, Tanna, Vanuatu, 2005; Gareth Owen, 2012, and his custom storm shutters, Tanna

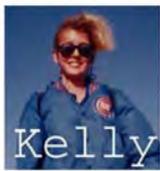
area, but equally strong is the club's international track record, including [Rotary Australia World Community Service \(RAWCS\)](#) activities in [Indonesia](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), the [Solomon Islands](#) and [Vanuatu](#).

Members on [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#) have visited Poland, France, USA, Scotland, Denmark & South Africa, and overseas groups have visited Woolgoolga.

[Disaster relief](#) (including [ShelterBoxes](#), [SkyHydrants](#) and an [Aquabox](#)), [disease prevention](#) (including [End Polio Now](#), malaria and ebola), [water, sanitation & hygiene projects](#); [providing surgery](#); [fighting poverty](#), and helping [orphanages](#) are other examples of international causes supported. For over a decade, we provided stationery resources to Vanuatu children via "Kits for Kids."

Very active in the [Rotary Youth Exchange Program \(YEP\)](#) until recently, the club hosted 25 inbound students from 15 countries, while 27 local outbound students went to 15 countries across the world. In some years the club provided a [scuba diving course](#) for District YEP students. Regrettably, the program became effectively non-viable as it became very difficult to find families willing to host students.

Youth Exchange Program Inbounders





Silvia



Yuta



Anneliese



Matilde



Kate & Meg



Rian & Bianca

Aust-NZ short-term exchange: Kate Bleasdale (NZ D9940)/Meg Booth 1998; Rian Ferguson (NZ D9920)/ Bianca McNeill 2015

Year	Student, Sponsor Club, District, Country
1989-90	Keiichi Tamanoi , Sapporo North, D251, Japan
1990-91	Gesine Teusen , Aurich, D185, Germany
1991-92	Kelly Mathes , Ontonagon/White Springs, D622, Michigan, USA
1992-93	Peter Hjelmqvist , Ljungby-Kungshogen, D2400, Sweden
1994	Fernando Brandao Coelho Vieira , Santos Dumont, D4580, Brazil
1995-96	Reiko Asami , Sagamihara Naka, D2780, Japan
1998	Ramiro Ignacio Gonzalez Casco , Gonnet-La Plata, D4910, Argentina
1999-00	Stefany Roser , Wissembourg, D1680, France
2000-01	Beatrix (Betty) Munz Lagunes , Huatusco, D4190, Mexico
2001-02	Constanze (Connie) Sauer , Ulm, D1930, Germany
2002-03	Jacob Thane , Dianalund-Stenlille-Holberg, D1480, Denmark
2003-04	Kristina Kiener , Uster, D2000, Switzerland
2004-05	Trevor Bills , Vermillion, D5370, Canada
2004-05	Julia Michaux , Namur-Confluent, D2170, Belgium
2005-06	Sinan Turunz , Altunizade, D2420, Turkey
2006-07	Cassandra (Cassie) Ines Alvarez Cazarin , Boca Del Rio, Coasta De Oro, D4190, Mexico
2007-08	Johanna (Hanni) Hafellner , Leoben, D1910, Austria
2008-09	Minami Kadowaki , Sapporo Kita (North), Hokkaido, D 2510, Japan
2009-10	Laura Hohrein , Mainz 50 Nord, D 1860, Germany
2010-11	Stina Katharina Palm , Ljungskile, D2360, Sweden
2011-12	Elisabeth de Halleux , Tournai, D1620, Belgium
2012-13	Silvia Rodríguez Muruzabal , Pamplona, D2202, Spain
2014-15	Yuta Tsuchiya , Yuni, Hokkaido, D2510, Japan
2016-17	Anneliese Schörghuber , Graz-Umgebung Nord, D1910, Austria
2017-18	Matilde Jakobsen , Næstved, D1480, Denmark

Youth Exchange Program Outbounders



Dannielle



Damon



Jarrod



Kate



Nikki



Kirsty



Melina



Alison



Gavan



Libby



Year Student, Host Club, District, Country

1990	Danielle Canakis , Coimbatore, D320, India
1991	Damon Shorter , Achim, D1850, Germany
1992	Jarrold Blewitt , Skagen, D1440, Denmark
1993	Kate Booth , Namur, D2170, Belgium
1994	Nicole (Nikki) Canham , Chitose, D2510, Japan
1995	Kirstine Lumb , Los Hornos, D4910, Argentina
1998	Melina Tsembis , Bayrampasa, D2420, Turkey
1999	Alison Unwin , Conselheiro Lafaiete, D4580, MG, Brazil
2000	Gavan Mackenzie , Antony-Hutte, D1870, Germany
2000	Libby Tsembis , Nakhon Si Thommarat, D3350, Thailand
2000	Joanna Smede , Selestat+Selestat Centre, D1680, France
2002	Lauren Beverly-Jones , Alem Paraiba, D4580, Brazil
2003	Jacqui Lumb , Zurich-Dietikon, D2000, Switzerland
2003	Laura Unwin , Stockholm-Bromma, D2350, Stockholm, Sweden
2004	Sian Duryea , Namur Confluent, D2170, Belgium
2005	Sara Maniatis , Bruxelles Altitude, D2170, Belgium
2006	Riley Dayhew , Boca del Rio, Coasta de Oro, D4190, Mexico
2009	Jessica Janet Portsmouth , Bad Oeynhausen-Minden, D1900, Germany
2009	Ryan Charles Williams , Orizaba Siglo XXI, D4190, Mexico
2010	Brianna Jade Keys , Ålesund, D2280, Norway
2010	Thomas James Podbury , Alingsås, D2360, Sweden
2011	Jaimie Mitchell Hunt , De Sao Caetano Do Sul - Olimpico, D4420, São Paulo, Brazil
2012	Paul Harrison , Concepcion, D4835, Argentina
2012	Rachel Hall , Fåborg, D1460, Denmark
2016	Clarence Harré , Vienna West, D1910, Austria
2016	Mitchell Huthnance , Nyborg, D1460, Denmark
2017	Kiahni Huthnance , Nokia, D1390, Finland



Deputy PM visits Woolgoolga



Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson (center) with Member for Cowper Luke Hartsuyker and member for Rotary last Friday at the Senior Citizen's Centre

The construction of the new Woolgoolga Senior Citizen's Centre has a shining example of the Australian Government working with a local community to realise a positive outcome, the Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson said on Friday.

At the invitation of the Nationals Federal Member for Cowper, Luke Hartsuyker, Mr Anderson met with representatives of the Woolgoolga Rotary Club who have been the driving force behind the centre's construction.

Rotary president Dick Matthews, Dr Charles Phipps, and Errol O'Brien gave Mr Anderson and Mr Hartsuyker a comprehensive tour of the facility during the Deputy PM's visit to the North Coast.

Last year Mr Anderson was responsible for signing off on a \$137,500 Australian Government grant to the Rotary Club which enabled construction of the centre to commence.

Mr Anderson said he was pleased to see the project completed.

"The \$137,000 grant was committed under the Regional Solutions program, which works in partnership with local communities to realise positive outcomes," Mr

Anderson said. "Raising the funds and co-ordinating the construction of a facility such as the Woolgoolga Senior Citizen's Centre takes a lot of patience and commitment."

"Woolgoolga Rotary deserves special recognition but we should not forget all those people and organisations that either donated their time or goods so that the budget of the construction was achievable."

Dr Charles Phipps from woolgoolga rotary said it was good to have the Deputy Prime Minister here.

"I am pleased to have the minister responsible for the funds to view the facility and see what has happened to the funding."

During Mr Anderson's visit to Woolgoolga, Mr Hartsuyker said he had discussed funding for the Pacific Highway with the Minister.

"My position on securing a bypass for Coff's Harbour and Woolgoolga remains clear. I am committed to the ongoing improvements to the Pacific Highway and in particular those parts of the highway where lives are being lost and there is

greatest impact.

"If NSW Roads Minister Carl Scully wants the Commonwealth to consider contributing to future works such as our bypass then Mr Scully needs to put a comprehensive plan on the table."

"At present all that has been achieved in relation to bypasses for Woolgoolga and Coff's Harbour is our local council has decided to ignore the con-

sultation process as outlined by Mr Scully, and Mr Scully has continued to refuse to release any solid details on his preferred option."

"The final say on route selection rests with Mr Scully and therefore, Mr Scully needs to make a decision on where he believes the bypass should go and a justification as to why that route is the State Government's preference."

"Then - and only then - can you expect Canberra to take the State Government seriously."

Mr Hartsuyker said he was genuinely concerned with western bypasses of urban areas.

"Mr Scully demonstrated his opposition to the far western bypasses when he had the opportunity to support a plan to bypass Tugun.

"He refused to support a true western bypass then all the costings and recommendations to Canberra and put the case to secure as their preference."

Mr Hartsuyker said when Mr Scully produced impact studies for a preferred route he would consult with the community.

"If Mr Scully's preference had wide community

support Mr Hartsuyker said he would be in a position to take that recommendation to Canberra and put the case to secure funding."

"No government can make significant funding commitments without all the details in front of them."

"Our community has waited long enough for the information from Mr Scully's department."

"No government can make significant funding commitments without all the details in front of them."

"Our community has waited long enough for the information from Mr Scully's department."

Photo, from left: Charles Phipps (PP), Luke Hartsuyker MP, Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, Dick Matthews (President), Errol O'Brien (PP), Keith Messer (member & Project Manager)

PAST CLUB PRESIDENTS

1988-89	Ian Hickey	1999-00	Selwyn Rogers	2010-11	David Fayle
1989-90	Errol O'Brien	2000-01	Terry Booth	2011-12	Norm Michener
1990-91	Leo Goodfellow	2001-02	Rod Mackenzie	2012-13	Pamela Fayle
1991-92	David Shorter	2002-03	Keith Minhinnett	2013-14	Karen Sedgwick
1992-93	David Featherstone	2003-04	Dick Matthews	2014-15	Patty Delaney
1993-94	Paul Canakis	2004-05	Brian Armstrong	2015-16	Leslie Casey
1994-95	Bill Seyner	2005-06	John Martin	2016-17	Norm Michener
1995-96	Des Saunders	2006-07	Ian Fitzgerald	2017-18	Pamela Fayle
1996-97	Errol O'Brien	2007-08	Charles Phipps	2018-19	Geoff Royal
1997-98	Geoff Rogers	2008-09	Peter Lacy		
1998-99	John Ottaway	2009-10	Geoff Royal		

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

1978	Dennes Fayle (Armidale)	2009	Keith Minhinnett
1989	Charles Phipps (Rose Bay)	2009	Elizabeth Phipps
1993	John Kramer	2010	Geoff Royal
1994	Errol O'Brien	2010	Dick Matthews (sapphire)
1996	Bill Seyner	2010	Sel Rogers (sapphire)
1996	Dennis Houghton (Balgowlah)	2010	Rob White (sapphire D9650)
1997	Ian Fitzgerald	2011	Frank Dean
1998	Stan Alder	2011	Pamela Fayle
1998	Paul Canakis	2012	Rod Mackenzie
1999	John Ottaway	2012	Terry Booth
2000	David Shorter	2012	David Fayle
2000	Leo Goodfellow	2013	Don Clinch
2001	Des Saunders	2013	Norm Michener
2002	Ian Hayes	2014	Marie Matthews
2004	Keith Messer	2014	Peter Lacy
2005	Val O'Brien	2015	Karen Sedgwick
2005	Sel Rogers	2015	Patty Delaney
2006	Ila Rogers	2017	David Fayle (sapphire)
2007	Dick Matthews	2018	Dennis Houghton (sapphire)
2007	Rob White (D9650)	2018	Phil Dalton
2008	Brian Armstrong	2019	Megan Hart



Building verandah of first shed, 1996



Extension of shed verandah, 2014-2015

Donations 2019-2020

Helping build our local community

Via assistance for Rotary's monthly auctions, 8 local groups were able to benefit from donations totalling \$6,000 (see p?).

Lifeline Mid North Coast via District Governor's Partner's Project	\$1,000
Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service	\$800
CanDo Cancer Trust (supports local cancer patients & families)	\$500
Lifehouse Church Community Cafe	\$500
Woolgoolga Rural Fire Brigade	\$200
Moonee Rural Fire Brigade	\$200
Solitary Rural Fire Brigade	\$100
Sandy Beach Rural Fire Brigade	\$100
Country Club Rural Fire Brigade	\$100
Mullaway Rural Fire Brigade	\$100
Corindi Red Rock Rural Fire Brigade	\$100
Sherwood Creek Rural Fire Brigade	\$100

Regional disaster recovery

Dorrigo Bushfire Appeal (BCU)	\$500
Taree & MidCoast Bushfires Appeal (RAWCS) – donation from Boomerang Bags	\$700
Taree & MidCoast Bushfires Appeal (RAWCS) – matching donation	\$700
Glenreagh HeartStart – donation from North Fife Rotary Club, Scotland	\$1,000
Hello Orara Valley and The Bush Tucker Box – donation from North Fife Rotary	\$1,000

Opportunities and support for local youth

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness day (<i>funded by a grant</i>)	\$2,616
Science and Engineering Challenge (<i>postponed</i>)	\$500
Woolgoolga High School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Woolgoolga Public School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Mullaway Public School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Corindi Public School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Sandy Beach Public School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
St Francis Xavier Primary School	\$200

Supporting Australian causes

Australian Rotary Health (towards PhD Research Scholarship, men's mental health)	\$1,000
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and International causes

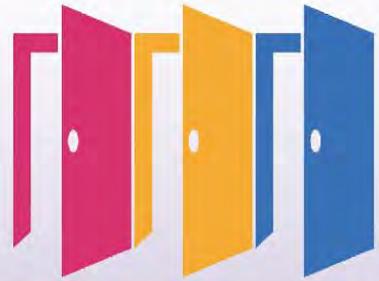
Rotary's worldwide work through The Rotary Foundation	\$1,000
GIFT 4 Change project (Punjab, India via Rotary Club of Ludhiana Greater)	\$2,975
Lost Children of Jonglei scholarships (South Sudanese refugee girls' education)	\$450
Rotarians against Malaria (RAM), via RAWCS	\$500
Interplast (reconstructive surgery in Asia-Pacific; donation in late 2018-19)	\$500

Subtotal	\$18,441
Donations to auction helper groups	\$6,000
TOTAL (including cost of running youth programs)	\$24,441

Pledge for planned Multipurpose Centre for Woolgoolga & Northern Beaches	\$20,000
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2019-2020 theme



2020-2021 theme

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Rotary Motto: *Service above self*