



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary



IMAGINE
ROTARY

Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Annual Report 2021–2022

for

Changeover

Club President Kim Thompson

District Governor David Mayne

Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta

Report from Club President, Kim Thompson

Welcome to our changeover or rollover dinner to commemorate our 2021-2022 year and install our board for 2022-2023.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today, the Gumbaynggirr people. I would like to pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. I would like to acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

As a first time president and relatively recent member of Rotary, I would have been lost without the enormous support and guidance of the wonderful Woolgooga Rotary members, for which I express my deep gratitude.

Despite yet another year of COVID restrictions and the associated uncertainty and cancellation of events, our members have achieved incredible results, which have directly impacted positively on the lives of many people. Truly an example of service above self, led by a core group who continue to amaze me with their energy and enthusiasm and genuine care for humanity.

Thank you to all the organisations and friends of Rotary for their continued support.

Kim Thompson, President 2021/2022 and ongoing

Office Bearers

BOARD

President Kim Thompson

Vice President Julie Marshall

Secretary Patty Delaney

Treasurer Geoff Royal

Directors:

Norm Michener

Mary Bryant

David Fayle

Pamela Fayle

Pam Stone *(on leave since February)*

Julie Woodwell *(until Nov)*

POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD:

Assistant Governor D9650 Cluster 1
Pam Stone *(until February)*

Public Officer David Fayle

Woopi Whisper Editor Norm Michener
assisted by Mary Bryant

Rotarians Against Malaria Grants Committee (national)
David Fayle

MEMBERS

Peter Ainsworth

Mary Bryant

Patty Delaney

David Edwards

David Fayle

Dennes Fayle *(to Honorary in Jan)*

Pamela Fayle AM

Rod Mackenzie

Julie Marshall

Dick Matthews

Norm Michener

Geoff Royal

Pam Stone

Kim Thompson

Julie Woodwell *(until Nov)*

HONORARY MEMBERS

John Arkan

Terry Booth

Ian Fitzgerald

Dennes Fayle *(Jan-Apr, deceased)*

Dennis Houghton

Peter Lacy

Elizabeth Phipps

Ila Rogers

Selwyn Rogers

Karen Sedgwick

Edith White

Robert White

CHANGEOVER AND END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Monday 20 June 2022 at Seaview Tavern

6:00 pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
6:15 pm	Call to order	MC Pamela Fayle AM
	Acknowledgement to country	President Kim Thompson
	Grace and Toast	MC Pamela Fayle AM
	Introduction of guests; apologies; welcome	Norm Michener
	Object of Rotary	Mary Bryant
	Four-Way Test	Patty Delaney
6:30 pm	DINNER SERVICE	
7:00 pm	Toast to Rotary International	David Fayle
	Response to the toast	PDG Maurie Stack
7:15 pm	Overview of Year	President Kim Thompson
7:30 pm	Dessert served; Tea and coffee	
7:45 pm	Board of Directors 'Rollover' Overview	President Kim Thompson
8:00 pm	Closing remarks and National Anthem	MC Pamela Fayle AM



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www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org
boomerangbagswoolgoolga@gmail.com



2021–2022 REPORT BY PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

2021–2022 was a year of challenge that constrained what we could achieve, and brought us to the point where the future viability of the club is in doubt.

Despite the challenges, the club has continued to make a significant difference in our community, with donations totalling over \$24,000 (*details on page 22*):

To help the community cope with the results of disaster and pandemic, we have provided disaster-preparedness kits as backpacks – Grab and Go Emergency Evacuation Kits – to local households in flood- and fire-prone locations, and funded a major electrical upgrade of Corindi-Woolgoolga SES (State Emergency Service)’s station to ensure its continued operation during grid power outages.

Essential supplies were provided to affected students at Ballina High School to replace school materials destroyed by the disastrous floods. A \$2,000 donation also went to the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond’s Flood Crisis Fundraiser, for four \$500 vouchers to assist flood-devastated families in the Richmond River area with essential purchases at local businesses.

Also, of \$1,128 donated to the Rotary RAWCS Flood Appeal, Boomerang Bags contributed \$500. This group operates under the umbrella of our club. They also donated a further \$400 towards training crisis support personnel, via our club to Lifeline North Coast.

The club is trying to improve the dire situation of the homeless in our local area, by supplying 50 special Fire Retardant Polar Fleece sleeping bags, 7 two-person tents and 20 tarpaulins via three appropriate organisations.

We also contributed to a project of the Walcha Rotary club that delivers support packs to foster children in need.

We have recently commenced a new project to collect unwanted smart phones to be repurposed and given to people at risk of domestic violence.

The excellence of the work of four local people was recognised and celebrated by the conferring of Pride of Workmanship Awards.

Mullaway Primary School children now have a new purified chilled water dispenser thanks to our support.

With our assistance, the Sewing Room was able to obtain a grant from the Mary Jane Foundation, which has allowed them to flourish and boost their



Kim Thompson



David Fayle



Mary Bryant



Pamela Faye



Julie Woodwell

wonderful contribution to the community.

Assistance was provided to high school student Quinn Watson to participate in the National Youth Science Forum.

Internationally, the club provided a small donation to help support of Ukrainian refugees, via The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

We also donated to The Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary, to support their global efforts to tackle poverty, illiteracy, disease (especially polio and malaria) and malnutrition.

The club continued its membership of RAM Global (Rotarians Against Malaria Global), which coordinates Rotary’s fight against malaria in many parts of the world where the disease is endemic. As well, the club donated \$1,000 towards the RAM Malaria Elimination Project in the island of Timor.

In South Africa, we assisted the Disadvantaged School for Deaf in Durban with a donation. We also donated to Operation Cleft, a unique Rotary project that provides free cleft-palate repair surgery for underprivileged children in Bangladesh.

Nationally, the club supported Australian Rotary Health, which includes a major focus on mental health.



Fundraising overview

Funds raised totalled over \$13,000, including:

FUNDRAISER	FUNDS
Stall at polling booth 4 December	\$ 665
Donations from the public	\$ 200
Hat Day for Lift the Lid	\$ 95
Boomerang Bags Group, donations	\$ 900
Woolgoolga Art Group, donation Mullaway PS water dispenser	\$ 200
GRANT	
Rotary District Grant for the homeless, including flood victims	\$ 4,000
OTHER INCOME	
Lease of Auction Shed (net of costs)	\$ 7,300
TOTAL	\$ 13,360
GRANT RECEIVED IN PREVIOUS YEAR, EXPENDED THIS YEAR	
NAB Foundation Grant for Emergency Preparedness Project	\$ 9,163

A serious local outbreak of Covid-19 omicron caused the cancellation of both the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) day and the Science and



Norm Michener



Patty Delaney

2021–2022 BOARD



Geoff Royal



Julie Marshall

Engineering Challenge, scheduled for March and April, respectively. Health problems including Covid and changes in the availability of meeting venues also disrupted our meeting schedule and attendance.

Building our local community

Disaster preparedness and recovery was again a major focus this year.

Thanks to grant funding obtained from the NAB Foundation, we were able to purchase 40 [Grab and Go Emergency Evacuation Kits](#) for households within



the flood plain of the Corindi River, or in local areas of high risk of bushfires. The contents, listed on the facing page, include a radio, torch and device-charging port that do not depend on grid electricity or batteries. Windproof and waterproof matches; survival and space blankets; folding stove; and emergency light sticks are just some of the other items. The photo shows a pack being loaded at Survival Supplies Australia (SSA), who design and supply the kits.

Households were given a 4-person or 2-person backpack kit, as appropriate. The backpacks have

ample space for copies of important documents, memory sticks and other small items that would be devastating to lose and difficult to replace.

The same grant also allowed us to fund a major [electrical upgrade of the Corindi-Woolgoolga SES station](#), and with a new generator, the SES can now continue to operate despite an outage in the electrical grid. The photo shows the electrical work in progress. Well done [Pamela Fayle](#) for initiating these projects, and applying for and acquitting the \$9,163 grant.

The 2022 [floods](#) particularly affected the Northern Rivers, and students at [Ballina High School](#) were among those affected.



Contents of Grab and Go Emergency Evacuation Kits
from Survival Supplies Australia (SSA)

1 - Backpack

- 2 - SSA Emergency Glow Light Stick 12Hr
 - 1 - Mora Basic 511 Knife in Maroon
 - 1 - 30mtr Paracord 550 OD Green (strong, versatile)
 - 1 - Leather Gloves
 - 1 - Basic medical kit including bag, plasters, cold pack, gauzes, tweezers, tape, wipes & bandage
 - 2 - Aquatabs Water Purification Tablets (1 Strip of 10)
 - 12 - Surgical Mask 3 Layer
 - 4 - SSA Emergency Mylar Thermal Space Blanket
 - 4 - Adult Emergency Poncho Yellow
 - 4 - Pair of Hand Warmers
 - 1 - UCO brand Survival Matches
 - 1 - Star Flash Floating Signal Mirror 2 x 3" & Lanyard
 - 1 - SSA Emergency Whistle
 - 1 - Solar Hand Crank Radio + Torch with phone charging port
 - 1 - Emergency Folding Stove
 - 1 - SSA All Weather Emergency Survival Blanket
- Space for copies of documents, memory sticks etc



(Top) Dennis Houghton (SES and Rotary Honorary Member) thankyou presentation at club meeting; (above & both left) Corindi Community Group event, presentation of kits; (below) Presentation of first kit to local family by Pamela Fayle.





Essential supplies to the value of \$1,372 were provided, to replace [school-related materials](#) destroyed by the disastrous floods. This was possible only because of the initiative and efforts of [Patty Delaney](#) (*photo*) and family members [Graeme Smith](#) and [Averil Waites](#).

A \$2,000 donation also went to the [Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond's Flood Crisis Fundraiser](#), for four \$500 vouchers to assist flood-devastated families in the Richmond River area to make essential purchases at local businesses. Several club members plan to attend a project function at Broadwater in the last week of June.

An additional \$1,128 went towards helping flood victims, via the [Rotary RAWCS Flood Appeal](#). The [Boomerang Bags](#) group provided \$500 of this. Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) is a Rotary channel for assisting disadvantaged communities and individuals through humanitarian aid projects.

A \$4,000 Rotary District 9650 Grant, obtained originally for a project that is stalled indefinitely, was redirected to an urgent problem in our region: [homelessness](#). \$2,000 was used for the four vouchers for flood victims. The rest was used to attempt to improve the dire situation of the homeless in our local area: 50 special Fire Retardant Polar Fleece [sleeping bags](#), seven [2-person tents](#), and 20 [tarpaulins](#), to be distributed by three front-line organisations: [Pete's Place](#) in Coffs Harbour (*photo*), and [Lifeshouse Church](#) and [St Vincent de Paul](#) in Woolgoolga.



We also contributed \$250 to a project of the [Walcha Rotary](#) club that delivers [support packs](#) to help children going into [emergency foster care](#).

Another serious problem in the community is [domestic violence](#) (DV). Across Australia 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men have experienced domestic violence since the age of 15. The victim's mobile phone is often the first thing smashed,



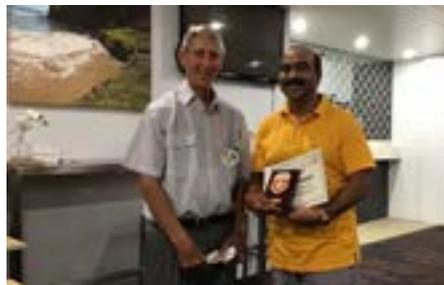
taken, or monitored by a perpetrator. DV Safe Phone collects, repurposes and gifts mobile phones to victims of domestic violence through registered charities, safe houses and authorities serving this vulnerable community. The Safe Phones are then provided as part of an individual's 'safe' or 'escape' plan' offering a lifeline to call for help when it is needed most. After recently linking with this group, our club has collected the first batch of donated phones and sent 15 to DV Safe Phone for refurbishment.



The Boomerang Bags group raised \$400 for Lifeline North Coast, enough to train one front-line crisis support volunteer.

Pride of Workmanship Awards

Four workers nominated by community members, each demonstrated their dedication, their commitment, their work ethic, their leadership and teamwork, their kindness, understanding and support for others. These things often go without praise, so it gave our Club great pleasure to acknowledge all of them with Pride of Workmanship Awards, to let them know that people in the wider community have noticed their efforts and the care they take with their work.



AWARDEE Pauline Cowie NOMINATOR Dr. Wah Wah Htut

CITATION Pauline has been a very reliable member of our team, kind hearted and a lovely personality. She leads the reception team, teaches new staff and willingly shares her experience with her juniors. Dr Wah says that when starting here Pauline, as a local, provided important understanding of the community and local issues.

ADDITIONAL NOMINATOR Arthur Hein

CITATION Pauline has been working as medical receptionist for many decades. She is a very committed and responsible person, willing to learn new things and adapt to change. She has proven age is just a number, mindset and work attitude are the most important.

AWARDEE Dr Palani Kuppusamy NOMINATOR Jasmine Liffen

CITATION Dr. Palani has not only kept Woolgoolga Medical Centre running but has taken great pride in continuing the legacy of the late Dr. More. Everyone in Woolgoolga knows he was a hard act to follow, but Dr Palani has not only done that, but done it well and beyond that earned a place in the community in their own right.



AWARDEE Gai Newman NOMINATOR Di Woods

CITATION Gai Newman has supported most of our community's most vulnerable people for well over the past 15 years. She has held numerous roles with Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre, ensuring everyone is always welcomed with an open-door approach. She has gone above and beyond to mentor and support well over 100 volunteers fostering not only skills but also a passion for working with an array of community members. Gai has advocated at every point for those who are often not heard or who feel they do not have a voice. For example, she was one of the founding members of Voice-Up, a self-help support group for people who are survivors of child sexual abuse.

AWARDEE Amandeep Bhumipal NOMINATOR Sasha Andrews

CITATION Amandeep is a new graduate Registered Nurse employed at our Retirement Village. She is eager, extremely capable, kind hearted and takes great pride in her work. She has taken the initiative to expand her knowledge and skills by undertaking further education above what is required. She has a positive happy attitude towards everything that she undertakes. Her time management is of the highest standard and every interaction with our residents is one of respect, kindness and diligence. Amandeep will go above and beyond and always with a smile that rubs off on those around her. Amandeep is loved by management, staff, residents and those that come in contact with her. She is the consummate nurse.

Special thanks goes to [Dick Matthews](#) for initiating and organising this important project.



Pitch a Project: Water dispenser at Mullaway Primary School

Mullaway Primary School children can now refill their water bottles using a new filtered chilled water dispenser, thanks to a project “pitched” to us by the 11-year-old School Captain of Mullaway Primary School, [Beau Watson-Sinclair](#), in a Pitch a Project session at Woolgoolga Art Gallery. Beau explained that since the advent of Covid, the traditional bubblers are off limits due to hygiene requirements. [Woolgoolga Art Group](#) was so impressed by Beau’s pitch that they donated \$200 via us towards this \$1,700 project.



The majority of the club's additional \$1,000 donation was raised through a large stall near the school's polling booth on 4 December, the Coffs Harbour Council election day. Of this, the [Sewing Room](#) group contributed approximately \$300. The school's P&C contributed the balance to fund the project.



The stall offered a wide of donated items, including plants, hand-made furniture, planter

box and garden features, sewn and knitted items, chutneys, jams, marmalades, Christmas decorations and gifts, artwork, books and much more, plenty of it snapped up by the public there to vote. Special thanks to the [Sewing Room](#) group and the [Woolgoolga Shed](#) for their donations, and to the many members and Friends of Rotary who pitched in and helped.

[Pitch a Project: Sewing Room group](#)



At the same Pitch a Project function, Julie Pearce told the audience about the [Sewing Room](#) group that was set up to help people in the community come together to share their enjoyment of socialising with others, while working on either an individual or shared project. At that time the group had about 13 members, and they were in need of sewing machines and a cupboard, as well as assistance in paying the rent for premises large enough to work in safely during this time of Covid, while expanding in numbers.

As well as making a small donation, our club assisted them to secure a \$4,000 grant from the [Mary Jane Foundation](#), which has allowed them to flourish and expand to 19, which importantly includes people recently arriving in the area, including from overseas, who might otherwise be socially isolated. They have purchased 3 new sewing machines, 2 storage cupboards, 3 LED portable lamps and plentiful sewing supplies, and plan to buy an overlocker. Relevant insurance is covered through Rotary, and support from [Red Cross](#) has also been important.

As well as their extensive contribution to our fundraising stall, already mentioned, they are making winter blankets for Woolgoolga Retirement Village, Pete's Place and Help for the Homeless; made 70-80 Bags for the Red Cross Project for Grafton school children; made a number of trauma teddies for Red Cross; made 20 tiny beanies for the Miracle Babies Foundation for

premature babies; are making hospital drainage bags for the Hornsby hospital surgical ward and local hospitals where they are required; and donated a variety of items for the local View Club for their stall at the Seniors Centre.

100 years of Rotary Art Competition

The club organised an art competition to celebrate 100 years of Rotary, at the Woolgoolga Art Gallery. At the evening launch of the successful exhibition, the prize winners were announced:

1st Prize: **Leslie Casey**. Judge **Terese Lee-Winsler**'s comment: "Very comprehensive well executed piece of textile art design (*left*) that symbolises the many facets of Rotary and all it represents. The applique, painting, embroidery and machine stitching is encompassed in a design that interacts with the viewer whilst imparting a significant message. This is a unique example of interactive art work embodying the message of Rotary for the viewer to explore. An accomplished piece of public art." A former member of our club, Leslie no doubt drew on her wealth of experience for inspiration.

2nd Prize: **Marie Matthews**, for her beautiful watercolour of water flowing through a young girl's



entitled “Water is Life”.

Two other art works were given commendations: Marie Matthews’ Rotary Wheel painting showing the work of Rotary all over the world; and Sue Trefz’s striking sketch of clasped hands.

At that function, we also heard the “pitches” of the three groups who had responded to our invitation to local groups to “Pitch a Project”. All three projects were deemed worthy of our support – two of them were covered in pages 11 and 12. The third project, pitched by Keelan Birch, (who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program last year), was aimed at initiating a Parkrun course involving Woolgoolga Beach and the proposed Whale Trail on the headland, remains in limbo due a lack of consensus on the placement of the whale trail.

A special thank you from our club to the Woolgoolga Art Group team who catered the evening and helped make the opening night such a success. Thanks to the Judge Terese Lee-Winsler, who gave comprehensive feedback to all the people who submitted their art. Congratulations to Norm Michener for initiating and organising this successful event.

The Lillipilli Art & Craft Competition, run by Woolgoolga Art Group in Nov/Dec 2021, was supported by a \$300 donation made in the previous year.

Enhancing opportunities for local youth

The club assisted local student Quinn Watson to participate in the National Youth Science Forum (\$900 towards the \$1,900 cost). Normally a residential program, the 10-day-long NYSF was held via the internet this year. Designed to encourage young people in their passion for science, NYSF gives Year 12 students a broader understanding of the diverse career and study options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Later, Quinn impressed everyone at our club meeting with his presentation: enthusiastic and very comprehensive. No doubt he will make an outstanding civil engineer!

(Quinn at right, with Norm Michener).



As usual, the club supported end-of-year presentation ceremonies (or the equivalent) in six local schools (total of \$1,200). At Woolgoolga High School Georga Gonzalez was presented with the Rotary Commitment to Education Award by our representative David Fayle.

The annual Coffs Harbour and District Eisteddfod provides a great opportunity for performers across various genres – especially young students – to showcase their abilities as well as develop their networks and identify further opportunities. Our \$100 sponsored the Inspired Performance award made to

Tilly Howard for the iconic slow movement of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto.



Wiigulga Sports Complex - club pledge

The club has a longstanding pledge of \$20,000 towards youth-related aspects of the new [Wiigulga Sports Complex](#), under construction on the northern fringe of Woolgoolga. Our club was invited to a very special visit to the site in early June. [Patty Delaney](#) and [David Fayle](#) were most impressed with progress. The front entrance is nicely designed and will have iconic artwork. The multipurpose rooms (*below*) are very flexibly configured and will attract a wide variety of use. The main hall is immense, and has a large stage, with



disabled access and a Green Room. Drop-down basketball hoops & a huge central curtain are already in place. Among many other features is a large commercial kitchen, which organisations are already eagerly queuing to use.

The separate amenities block, the new sporting fields with LED lighting, drainage and irrigation, cricket nets, and the site of the pump track and other

community-funded facilities were also shown. Not so visible was the large investment in ensuring sustainability and minimising operating cost, with solar electricity, insulation, and water recycling.



The invitees represented local organisations that have pledged funding totalling \$187,000 for enhancements to this magnificent project. As well as our \$20,000 pledge, other sponsors are: both Guru Nanak and 1st Sikh temples; Woolgoolga Lions; Woolgoolga Garden Club; Woolgoolga Red Cross; Woolgoolga RSL (Diggers) Club; Woolgoolga and Northern Beaches Chamber of Commerce; Woodsey's Wheels; Woolgoolga Performing Arts Studio; Costa Group; and Seaview Tavern.

The core project has been well funded by all three levels of government, and our community is very grateful to them, to those delivering the project, and of course to [Alastair Milroy](#) and his committee for the amazing work they continue to do to bring the Wiiugulga Sports Complex to fruition. If all goes well, community use will be possible starting in the last few months of this year.

International service

[The Rotary Foundation](#), the charitable arm of Rotary, supports a truly amazing range of activities across the globe: tackling poverty, illiteracy, disease (especially polio and malaria) and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave lasting impact. TRF taps into a global network of Rotarians – including Woolgoolga Rotarians – who invest their time, money, and expertise into countless projects, both international and local - including the Homeless and Flood Victims project funded by TRF via the District Grant. Our modest donation to TRF's Annual Programs Fund of \$500 will help empower Rotarians to realise those solutions.



The club continued its [membership of RAM Global](#) (Rotarians Against Malaria Global), the recently formed global organisation that coordinates Rotary's fight against malaria in many parts of the world where the disease is endemic.



Our club's RAM Subcommittee comprises [Kim Thompson](#), [Mary Bryant](#) and [David Fayle](#). David is also on the national RAM Grants Committee.



[Rotarians Against Malaria](#) has a strategy to rid the whole island of [Timor](#) of this debilitating and life-threatening disease. The two arms of Rotary's strategy cover both nations that share the island:

1. Timor Leste: having achieved malaria-free status, continuing to ensure malaria stays away from the contiguous 12 municipalities; and eliminating it from the isolated part, Oecusse-Ambeno.
2. West Timor and other parts of Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province. West Timor is also making great progress towards malaria elimination, with 3 of 5 Districts very close to malaria-free. Unless malaria is also eliminated from West Timor, there is an ever-present risk of reintroduction of malaria to Timor Leste.

Essential to progressing the [Timor-Leste & NTT Malaria Elimination Project](#) was a Scoping Study, which had US\$40K funding from the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance, but was US\$16K short of the funds needed.

Our club donated A\$1,000 toward this Scoping Study, which comprises four work-streams, operating in (1) Timor Leste; (2) West Timor; (3) Sumba Island, a hotspot (NTT); and (4) islands of the Lesser Sunda group from Flores to Ador (NTT). The focus is on collection of data to underpin targeting of subsequent work, a vital part part of the community assessment process essential for securing Rotary Foundation and other grant funding.

Our donation went via RAM to the [Rotary Club of Kupang Central](#) in West Timor, a tried and true project partner. The good news is that [Malaria Partners International](#), underpinned by the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), will match our donation, so it will become A\$2,000.

In South Africa, we assisted the [Disadvantaged School for Deaf](#) in Durban with a donation. The original contacts that resulted in this ongoing relationship were established by [Rod Mackenzie](#) during a [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#) visit to that area back in 2011. This wonderful program continues to establish friendships throughout the Rotary world when Covid permits.

[Operation Cleft](#), a unique Rotary



project that provides free cleft-palate repair surgery for underprivileged children in Bangladesh, received \$250.

Ukrainian refugees fleeing the catastrophic Russian invasion are dealing with challenges on a massive scale. [The Rotary Foundation](#) in March and April devoted all donations to the [Disaster Response Fund](#) toward providing humanitarian aid to regions that are supporting [Ukrainian refugees or other victims of the war](#). Our modest \$200 helped TRF raise more than \$15 million in contributions that provided people with essential items such as water, food, shelter, medicine, and clothing.

Within the club

The club bulletin for each meeting, the [Woopi Whisper](#), has completed its 34th year; grateful thanks to [Norm Michener](#), assisted by [Mary Bryant](#).



A memorable social highlight was a well-attended [Christmas party](#) at the home of [Julie and Brett Marshall](#), who provided a fantastic venue: warm, colourful and exciting. Christmas trivia and present unwrap/pass on activity were winners. Hosts and attendees helped cater, and the spread was spectacular. Many of those attending visited the photography studio on the back verandah.





Another memorable social event raised funds for mental health research — our [Hat Day](#) event in October was held at the home of [Norm and Helen Michener](#), from which a donation of \$95 went to [Australian Rotary Health](#) for [mental health research](#), to which was added a further \$500.

Crunch time for the club

Service and volunteer organisations, and clubs of many kinds, throughout Australia, are grappling with low membership that threatens their viability. Society has changed, with the ever-increasing pace of life and immediacy of communication encroaching on work-life balance, with people increasingly time-poor. Particularly for young families, pressures and demands have been exacerbated by Covid, the housing crisis and skyrocketing cost of living. Often, both parents must maintain working careers.

Belonging to a club that holds regular meetings has become an unattractive proposition for such working people, for whom it can undermine precious family time. In former generations, such people formed the heart of community service clubs such as Rotary.

For a variety of reasons, many retirees are reluctant to fill the gap. Some are burnt out after a stressful working life. Others, faced with an increasingly overwhelming range of options as to how to occupy their time, may experience choice paralysis, and choose nothing at all. This can erode well-being. Many community-minded retirees, potentially excellent Rotarians, find themselves primarily focused on other choices.

As our local community has consistently shown, many young adults are very positively disposed towards community service, and typically will willingly pitch in and help for a worthwhile cause with a definite timeframe. Some find themselves fully involved in essential community organisations, such as SES, Marine Rescue, Rural Fire Service, Surf Lifesaving or sports clubs. Becoming a permanent member of a Rotary club is not an attractive addition to such a lifestyle.

It has been obvious for some time that, in its present predicament, the club is unlikely to survive for much longer, and that it needs a change of direction and influx of new people with fresh ideas, energy, enthusiasm, and a vision of how Rotary can prosper in Woolgoolga.

This will be the challenge for the coming months.

Norm, Secretary Patty Delaney and President [Kim Thompson](#) formed a [Membership Drive subcommittee](#) to explore new strategies to restore our club membership to a viable level. Early decisions were to target boosting membership rather than forming a Satellite Club; and reaffirming that attracting new members to our club requires us to be involved in a community project with wide appeal. The projects and causes supported this year reflect that policy.

[Pamela Fayle](#) updated the recruitment flyer she developed some years ago and a batch was printed. A range of other strategies, including Patty's marketing event at the Plantations retirement development, approaches to target groups through a variety of channels, flyer drops, press releases etc have had little impact so far.

[Dick Matthews](#) has written several excellent articles covering the history of our club, to use in the membership drive.

[Vale Loris Pigani, Charter Member](#)

Loris Pigani, who passed away in August, had an accountancy business in Woolgoolga for many years, and was a charter member of our club, Active until the end of 2002, then Honorary for three more years.

[Vale Dennes Fayle 1925–2022](#)



Dennes Fayle's 76½ years in service clubs ended on Anzac Day 2022, as an Honorary Member. As a 20-year-old, Dennes joined Apex in 1945 and had just on 20 years of very happy membership, serving as Club President, Zone President, a National Councillor and was honored with Life Membership in 1965. He joined the Rotary Club of Armidale in Nov 1965, and was an Active Member of Rotary for 56 years, until the end of 2021. Most of that was in Armidale, before

moving to Woolgoolga in mid-2015. Dennes was Club President in 1981-82, and received a Paul Harris Fellow award in 1978. Woolgoolga Rotarians miss his unique style of thanking guests and presenting a certificate of our donation to Australian Rotary Health on their behalf.

Dennes' Rotary badges were exhibited at our Rotary Art competition.

Rotary is a strong tradition in the family. Den was the father of two Rotarians: David (Woolgoolga) and Michael (Sawtell), and father-in-law



of Pamela (Woolgoolga). His father Dalrymple Disney Harris Fayle, uncle Richard Harris Fayle and brother Dal Frederick Harris Fayle were all District Governors in predecessors of our District, D9650.

At Dennes' funeral service in Coffs Harbour, Rotarians formed a guard of honour at the end as the curtains closed on Dennes' coffin. Many of his Armidale Rotary colleagues were at the Armidale celebration of his life the following day, and there were even Apex colleagues at both events.

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	2019-20	Pam Stone
1998-99	John Ottaway	2009-10	Geoff Royal	2020-21	Julie Marshall

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

1978	Dennes Fayle (Armidale)	2009	Elizabeth Phipps
1989	Charles Phipps (Rose Bay)	2010	Geoff Royal
1993	John Kramer	2010	Dick Matthews (sapphire)
1994	Errol O'Brien	2010	Sel Rogers (sapphire)
1996	Bill Seyner	2010	Rob White (sapphire D9650)
1996	Dennis Houghton (Balgowlah)	2011	Frank Dean
1997	Ian Fitzgerald	2011	Pamela Fayle
1998	Stan Alder	2012	Rod Mackenzie
1998	Paul Canakis	2012	Terry Booth
1999	John Ottaway	2012	David Fayle
2000	David Shorter	2013	Don Clinch
2000	Leo Goodfellow	2013	Norm Michener
2001	Des Saunders	2014	Marie Matthews
2002	Ian Hayes	2014	Peter Lacy
2004	Keith Messer	2015	Karen Sedgwick
2005	Val O'Brien	2015	Patty Delaney
2005	Sel Rogers	2017	David Fayle (sapphire)
2006	Ila Rogers	2018	Dennis Houghton (sapphire)
2007	Dick Matthews	2018	Phil Dalton
2007	Rob White (D9650)	2019	Megan Hart
2008	Brian Armstrong	2021	Patty Delaney (sapphire)
2009	Keith Minhinnett	2021	Norm Michener (sapphire)



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

2021-2022 theme



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

2022-2023 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*