



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**Rotary**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

# **Rotary Club of Woolgoolga**

## **Annual Report 2022–2023**

**for**

## **Changeover**

**Club President Kim Thompson**

**District 9660 Governor Neville Parsons**

**Rotary International President Jennifer Jones**



## Report from Club President, Kim Thompson

*Welcome to our changeover dinner to commemorate our 2022-2023 year and install the Board for 2023-2024.*

*I would like to begin by acknowledging the Gumbaynggirr people, traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connection to the lands and waters.*

*I want to again thank the members of the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga for their ongoing support and guidance.*

*Despite our small numbers, our members continue to provide outcomes, which have directly impacted positively on the lives of many people. Truly an example of service above self, which continues to inspire me.*

*I look forward to welcoming our new members who will bring fresh ideas, and enthusiasm to complement and support the club.*

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

*Kim Thompson, President 2021—2023*

## Office Bearers

<b>BOARD</b> President            Kim Thompson Vice President    Julie Marshall Secretary          Patty Delaney <i>(until Apr)</i> <i>(acting)</i> David Fayle Treasurer          Geoff Royal President-elect    Rod Mackenzie <i>(from Feb)</i> <b>Directors:</b> <b>(Shared) Community, Membership, Public Relations</b> Youth                Mary Bryant International/TRF   David Fayle Club service        Pamela Fayle Norm Michener <i>(until Feb)</i> Dick Matthews <i>(from Feb)</i> David Edwards <i>(from Feb)</i>		<b>BOARD</b> President            Rod Mackenzie Vice President    Kim Thompson Secretary <i>(acting)</i> David Fayle Treasurer          Geoff Royal President-elect    tba <b>Directors:</b> All new members will be offered a position in club management or on committees. Service Projects   Mary Bryant (Youth) Dick Matthews David Edwards Club Administration   Pamela Fayle Public Image        Pamela Fayle The Rotary Foundation   David Fayle <b>POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD:</b> Woopi Whisper Editor   Mary Bryant Compliance        Kim Thompson Mary Bryant Public Officer       David Fayle <b>DISTRICT ROLE</b> The Rotary Foundation Committee, D9660 David Fayle	
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## MEMBERS

Mary Bryant	Pamela Fayle AM	Norm Michener <i>(until Feb)</i>
Patty Delaney <i>(until Apr)</i>	Rod Mackenzie	Geoff Royal
David Edwards	Julie Marshall	Kim Thompson
David Fayle	Dick Matthews	

## HONORARY MEMBERS

John Arkan	Peter Lacy	Karen Sedgwick
Terry Booth	Elizabeth Phipps	Edith White
Ian Fitzgerald	Ila Rogers	Robert White
Dennis Houghton	Selwyn Rogers	

# CHANGEOVER AND END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Monday 26 June 2023 at C.ex Woolgoolga

6:00 pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
6:15 pm	Call to order	MC Pamela Fayle AM
	Acknowledgement of country	President Kim Thompson
	Grace and Toast	MC Pamela Fayle AM
	Introduction of guests; apologies; welcome	President-elect Rod Mackenzie
	Object of Rotary	Mary Bryant
	Four-Way Test	Dick Matthews
6:30 pm	Induction of four new members	President Kim Thompson & Assistant Area Governor Robin Norton of West Kempsey
6:45 pm	DINNER SERVICE	
7:15 pm	Toast to Rotary International	David Fayle
	Response to the toast	AAG Robin Norton
7:30 pm	Overview of Year	Outgoing President Kim Thompson
7:45 pm	Board of Directors Overview	Incoming President Rod Mackenzie
8:00 pm	Closing remarks	MC Pamela Fayle AM



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[boomerangbagswoolgoolga@gmail.com](mailto:boomerangbagswoolgoolga@gmail.com)



## 2022–2023 REPORT BY PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

The heart and soul of the amazing organisation Rotary International is the Rotary Club. For 35 years, our Club has been integral to the heart and soul of Woolgoolga and the Northern Beaches. The last few years have brought challenges to the future viability of the club, and meeting and beating those challenges remains crucial to ensuring that our contribution to our community continues.

Recruiting and retaining people with a desire to devote their effort towards making a difference in the community is fundamental, and tonight the Club is delighted to celebrate the induction of four new Rotarians, each of whom has already demonstrated their willingness and commitment. They are: [Alison Ratliff](#), [Kyle McIntosh](#), [Michelle McIntosh](#), and [Peter McIntosh](#), and we heartily welcome them to the Club and to Rotary International.

Despite the challenges, the club has made a notable difference in our community this year, disproportionately large considering our small number of members.

Two important programs for local youth were run, after a hiatus of one and two years because of Covid: the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) day and the Science and Engineering Challenge.

The Pitch a Project initiative resulted in commitments to support four local projects, including three of the donations mentioned below.

A fifth reprint of *Woolgoolga: the History of a Village* was done, and over three-quarters of the books have been sold.

Donations totalled over \$26,600 (*details on page 20*):

The club donated the long-pledged \$20,000 towards youth-related enhancements to the new Wiigulga Sports Complex, opened in December 2022. At the new venue, we also ran RYDA, the Science and Engineering Challenge, and in June a morning Rotary information session to attract new members.

Local organisations supported by donations were the Corindi Pony Club; Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens, the Woolgoolga Art Gallery, and six local schools.

The Club also supported a new initiative, Power to the Kids, set up to help local



Kim Thompson



David Fayle



Mary Bryant



Julie Marshall



Pamela Fayle



Dick Matthews

primary school children with resilience and mental health wellbeing.

Our sponsorship helped two local students go to the Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) Sheep program at Walcha, and one attend Rymarine locally. We sponsored an award at the instrumental eisteddfod.

The club and other local clubs will also assist the winners of the S&E Challenge, the Coffs Harbour High School team, to compete in the State Finals in August in Sydney.

We continued to collect unwanted smart phones to be repurposed and given to people at risk of domestic violence, through DV Safe Phone.

Boomerang Bags reviewed its role, and concluded that changing the culture of use of disposable plastic bags has been a resounding success, and elected to cease operations. This group operated under the umbrella of our club, and on shutting down, donated remaining funds of over \$1,600 to the club.

Internationally, we made modest donations towards earthquake recovery in Türkiye and Syria, and to provide practical writing desks for children in Africa.

Two club members travelled with the Clarence Valley Orchestra to Norfolk Island on a concert tour to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Island.

## Building our local community

### Enhancing opportunities for local youth

The [Rotary Youth Driver Awareness \(RYDA\)](#) day resumed in March after last year's hiatus due to Covid, for 99 students from Woolgoolga and Dorrigo High Schools. The venue for the five indoor modules was the new Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre, which could almost have been designed to run RYDA. Speed & Stopping was run at the usual track, not far away on the other side of Solitary Islands Way.

We are indebted to our RYDA Facilitators:

- the courageous crash survivor [Fiona Luscombe](#), who came up from Sydney especially for RYDA to share her life-experience with the students;
- [Diana Weekes](#), Community and Safety Officer of the City of Coffs Harbour, who also provided most of the extra materials in students' bags;



Norm Michener



David Edwards



Patty Delaney

### 2022–2023 BOARD

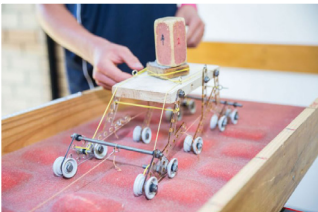


Geoff Royal



Rod Mackenzie

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA): Road Choices (*top*); Science & Engineering Challenge: “Electricity” (*two below*); (*clockwise from under logo*) South Grafton Bridge team: Mars vehicle; bionic hand; teams assembled to watch bridge testing



- [Nicole Holland](#), Workplace Wellbeing Practitioner from Chess Connect in Coffs Harbour;
- [George Bullivant](#), Get Licenced Driver Training, Coffs Harbour;
- [Wayne Hardy](#), of Allied Performance & Learning Solutions;
- Sergeant [Mark Andrews](#) of the NSW Police;
- [James Daniels](#), volunteer member of the NSW SES, assisted by [Jessie Hoskins](#);
- driver [Sam Hill](#), the owner of Woolgoolga Service Centre on River Street, who also provided the vehicle.

[RSE \(Road Safety Education\)](#) Ltd designs the program and provides the materials, and RSE's [Michelle Remy](#) drove up from the Central Coast to assist, bringing Fiona with her. Thank you to [Pamela and David Fayle](#) for hosting them, and to David for organising RYDA. The Club is most grateful to RSE for their grant that covered almost all the Club's nett expenses. We also acknowledge the indirect support of Transport for NSW via their grant to RSE.

Also held at the Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre for the first time was the seventh [Science and Engineering Challenge](#), on 4 April. Eight schools came to the new venue for the day: Dorrigo, Bellingen, South Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Toormina & Woolgoolga High Schools, Clarence Valley Anglican School, and Bishop Druitt College. Challenges included juggling jobs, developing efficient networks (electricity, transport, communications), and building a bionic hand, a Mars vehicle, a bridge and an earthquake proof tower using just rudimentary components. This time, Coffs Harbour High's team prevailed in a close contest, and has been invited to progress to Sydney for the State level of the Challenge in August. The Club will help support their attendance.

Grateful thanks to all of the 34 volunteers who generously gave up their day to help supervise each of the 8 challenge activities.

All seven Challenges have been resounding successes, in no small measure due the organising teams – this year headed by [Patty Delaney](#), with [Mary Bryant](#) as Treasurer, Honorary Member [Dennis Houghton](#), and Sawtell Rotarian [Peter Paff](#) on the team. The other members were [Alison Ratliff](#) (who is joining our Club tonight), science head teacher [Paul McCormack](#), and [Graham Boulden](#).

The Challenges are funded by generous sponsorship from companies and organisations, plus a small contribution from competing schools. Since the previous Challenge, sponsor funds have been boosted by \$5,420, including from sponsorship by:

- [Engineers Australia](#)
- [Clarence Consulting](#)
- [Lions Club of Woolgoolga](#)

This year's event also depended on prior major sponsorship, notably from [Pacific Complete](#). Their generous sponsorship has assured the financial future of the event for some years ahead. The program's value statewide has been recognised with the award of a New South Wales 2022 United Nations Day Honour.

With part-sponsorship totalling \$500 from the Club, two local students went to the [Rotary Youth in Agriculture \(RYAG\) Sheep](#) program at Walcha in February: [Charlie Berry](#) and [Riley Nugent](#). They reported on their experience to an appreciative club meeting. RYAG was attended by 30 students. It was a very hands-on week and involved visiting several farms, one of which had 10,000 sheep and 500 cattle. They were shown and experienced things like artificial insemination of sheep, low-stress strategies for looking after and moving sheep, judging and classing sheep to improve sale prices, sheep sales, and technology used on the farm including tagging, data collection and classifications. They saw sheep dog training and the logistics of livestock transport, which included moving sheep overseas. One of the farms that they visited produces fine wool which is sold into Italy for making high quality suits. Genetic breeding of sheep to suit farming regions was covered. They took part in live sheep appraisal to judge the meat and the fat on the sheep by touch and sight, and visited shearing sheds and saw wool classing, fleece throwing and laser wool testing for fine micron wool. The week finished up with a dinner and a dress up and both students enjoyed it and learnt a lot, and from all reports cannot stop talking about it. They thanked Rotary for helping fund their attendance at RYAG.



[Tayla Walsh](#), also from Woolgoolga High School, was part-sponsored to attend [Rymarine](#) in October (\$400). An initiative of the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour Daybreak, Rymarine aims to familiarise 15 to 17 year old school students with marine science, ocean exploration and marine career options. Various activities around Coffs Harbour included marine science experiments and observations at the National Marine Science Centre, an introduction to scuba diving at the Coffs Harbour Swimming Pool, a visit to the Dolphin Marine

Conservation Park, snorkelling at South West Solitary Island, and a natural and cultural-history tour of Muttonbird Island with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service officers.

Our club sponsored an award at the Coffs Harbour and District Eisteddfod, for The Most Inspired Performance Over 14 Years, won by Marisol Taylor, a violinist.

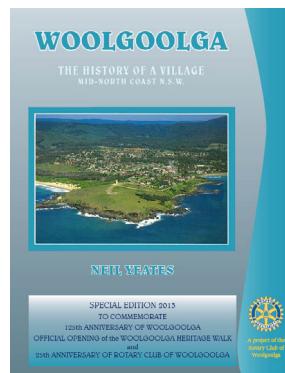
As usual, the club supported end-of-year presentation ceremonies (or the equivalent) in six local schools (total of \$1,200).

Mary Bryant represented the Club at the 10 year anniversary of the SMILE (Support, Mentor, Inspire, Listen, Encourage) program at Woolgoolga High School. This student mentoring program was initiated by a small number of senior students in 2011, and has blossomed and continues to be recognised and valued within and beyond the school. In 2012 it won a prestigious nationwide Safe Schools are Smart Schools Competition.

## Local heritage

Of a new print run of the fourth edition of Neil Yeates' *Woolgoolga: the History of a Village*, 115 copies have been sold of 150, and with the printing costs now recouped, every remaining sale contributes \$30 to the club's funds. This year's nett proceeds are already \$678.

The only comprehensive history of Woolgoolga, the book was out of print for 17 years before our 2013 edition commemorating the Woolgoolga Heritage Walk, the 125th anniversary of the gazettal of Woolgoolga as a village, and the club's own 25th



anniversary. A 17-page Addenda section corrects and extends the original on four significant topics, and includes four pages of colour plates. The 25-year history of our club was also outlined.

Sales were greatly helped by articles in *Woopi News* in April, and we are very grateful for that coverage.

The *Woolgoolga Heritage Walk* has been in place for ten years, and project leader Norm Michener celebrated it with a review. Protracted efforts by several team members finally succeeded in getting one double-sided panel replaced, after it was reportedly damaged or lost after removal by Council for work on the adjoining Beach Reserve. The new replacement looks good, and we hope it will wear as well as the other decade-old panels have.

## Pitch a Project

Pitch A Project, initiated originally by Patty Delaney and Rod Mackenzie, ran again this year. The Club sought expressions of interest for *“community-based projects that may be of local, regional, national, and international benefit. The project may be a special interest or passion project of one or more people, a group or organisation. We are looking for projects that can be small or large, creative, imaginative, cooperative, and practical. The project may be one that would benefit from coming under the respected and successful International, National, District and local Rotary organisation and its history of running and supporting stand alone and joint venture projects.”* We had several submissions which were supported.

**Woolgoolga Community Garden**, which has over 100 members, applied for funds to purchase materials to build more permanent compost bins to replace the 20 existing bins which were deteriorating. We donated \$350 to fund the building of the first new compost bin.

**Corindi Pony Club**, which has over 70 members, applied for funds to purchase a new Zip Electric hot water system for the pony club canteen. The hot water system now allows the pony club to maintain hygiene, wash hands and dishes in hot water and prepare for local support of residents and animals in any natural or man-made disasters. We donated \$500 towards this project.



**Power to the Kids** was established to address mental health and resilience issues in primary school aged children at the four local primary schools. The project came about to meet current general and mental health issues being seen by local medical personnel. The project aims to provide monthly workshops and promote networking with schools, parents, children and the medical profession. We provided \$300 to seed-fund the start-up of this project.



**Choices in Later Life (ChiLL)** is a project that runs 2-hour seminars for over 55s to present topics related to planning for later life and death. Expert speakers discuss and educate on topics such as planning, preparing an advanced care directive, family discussions and practical step-by-step approaches to later life and dying that

meet individual needs. We committed \$300 for future timely assistance with funding workshops, and referred the project on to the other four Rotary clubs in our zone.

**Woolgoolga RSL Sub-Branch World War 1 Memorial Restoration** is a project to restore the Great War Memorial to a public place in the heart of Woolgoolga. An additional proposal is the enhancement and restoration of the Forecourt Memorial at the Digger's Club to commemorate post Second World War (Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam) and post-Cold War – Namibia, Somalia, Rwanda, PNG (Bougainville), East Timor and Solomon Islands conflicts. We have initially provided a letter of support for grant funding applications but the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga, after discussions with the RSL Sub-Branch, will become the lead applicant in the tender process to obtain grant and funding support for the memorials. This will entail ongoing involvement, support, promotion and networking for what we see as a major community project.

In total \$1450 has been committed to these projects which have the potential to contribute ongoing benefits to our local communities.

## Other contributions to the local community



Wiigulga opening, Rotary stall: Sam Hill, Pam Fayle, Carmen Gerrard, Kevin Hogan MP, Mary Bryant, David Fayle, Judith Jackson, & Rod Mackenzie

**Wiigulga Sports Complex and Multipurpose Centre:** The club donated the long-pledged \$20,000 towards youth-related enhancements to the new Wiigulga Sports Complex. This magnificent facility was opened in December 2022, and the Club set up an information stall. At the new Multipurpose Centre, we also ran RYDA, the Science and Engineering Challenge, and in June a Rotary information session to attract new members.

Rotary assisted the **Lions Club of Woolgoolga** to run the second **Woopi Talent Quest**, proceeds of which went to the **CanDo Cancer Trust**, which supports local cancer patients and their families. A big thank you to Lion **June Vickery** (left) and team, and our **Julie Marshall**.





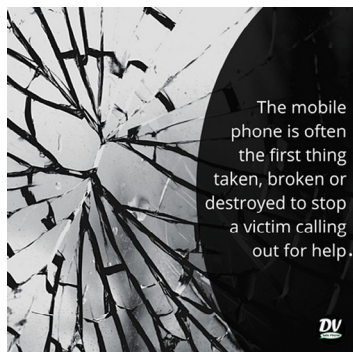
A major project last year provided [Grab and Go Emergency Kits](#) to local households in areas of high risk of flood and/or fire. Some kits remained unallocated, and [Ross and Faye Neill](#) from [Glenreagh Heartstart](#) collected 12 more kits for Glenreagh fire-risk households. The Neills are currently involved in a project with Monash University about bushfire resilience and told our club about this and other initiatives at a meeting.

The [Lillipilli Art & Craft Competition](#), run by [Woolgoolga Art Group](#) in September, was supported by a \$300 donation.

[Pamela Fayle](#) remains the Chair of the [Curryfest](#) Organising Committee, a hardworking and very successful team of three. [David Fayle](#) again compiled the [Curryfest Marketing Report](#), and summarised it for members at a meeting. Curryfest day attracted nearly 12,000 people, and injected at least \$2 million into the local economy, of which visiting spectators staying for Curryfest accounted for \$1.75 million. A record two-thirds of spectators came from outside our local government area, and 11% came from interstate. Visitors who stayed averaged a 5.1-night stay in the local area.

## The Australian community

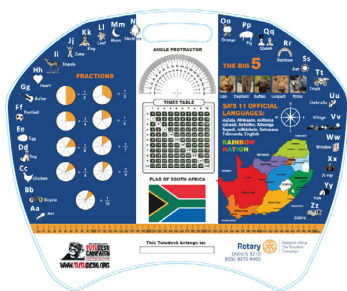
A serious problem in the broader community is [domestic violence](#) (DV). Across Australia 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men have experienced domestic violence since the age of 15. The victim's mobile phone is often the first thing smashed, taken, or monitored by a perpetrator. [DV Safe Phone](#) collects, 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. Our club collects donated phones and sends them to DV Safe Phone for refurbishment, along with \$15 per phone to help with that.



Do you have an unused phone that might be repurposed? If so, please drop it (them) into our Rotary meeting, Woolgoolga Post Office, or Woolgoolga Beach Lotteries, 66 Beach Street.

## International service

Our limited scope for fundraising has constrained international efforts this year – our primary focus being local.



For disadvantaged children in Africa, we donated towards the District Governor's Partner's Project to bring economical and practical writing desks to schools lacking proper infrastructure. Many children in Africa have no access to a classroom desk. The ability to read and write is greatly hampered without access to a desk. The [Tutu Desk for Africa](#) project provides a child with a

simple lapdesk, a unique portable solution, offering a sense of worth, dignity and ownership.

[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. Our modest donation to TRF's Annual Programs Fund of \$400 will help empower Rotarians to realise those solutions.

The TRF also responds to disasters. Türkiye and Syria were struck by a devastating earthquake on 6 February that killed tens of thousands of people, destroyed thousands of homes and other structures, and left people across the region without shelter in bitterly cold winter weather. The Rotary world rapidly responded to this catastrophe with a [Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund](#), to which we made a modest contribution, as every little bit helps. The fund is aiding earthquake relief projects and rebuilding efforts through disaster response grants via Rotary Districts in affected areas. Shelterbox, a Rotary partner, is in Turkey, collaborating closely with Rotary district leaders.

The club subcommittee on [RAM](#) (Rotarians Against Malaria) comprises [Kim Thompson](#), [Mary Bryant](#) and [David Fayle](#). David has accepted an invitation to join [The Rotary Foundation Grants Committee](#) for District 9660 in the coming year.

Two club members found a unique way to help celebrate [Norfolk Island Rotary's 50th Anniversary](#). [David](#) and [Pamela Fayle](#) travelled to Norfolk Island with the Clarence Valley Orchestra to play in a special [50th anniversary concert](#). The concert was the brainchild of Past Secretary of Grafton Midday Rotary, [Greg Butcher](#), who is the founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Clarence Valley Orchestra (CVO). The adventure came to realisation through a year of collaborative work by Greg Butcher and [Jasmine Kiernan](#), Secretary of Norfolk Island Rotary, and her team.



Chartered on 17 May 1973, that club continues to build on an admirable five-decade history of contributing to its small, isolated community – in the Pacific Ocean between New Caledonia and New Zealand, over 1,400 km east of the Clarence Valley/ Coffs Coast and the Rotary Clubs of Grafton Midday (D9640) and Woolgoolga (D9660).

## Fundraising overview

Funds raised totalled over \$14,000, including:

### FUNDRAISER

Nett profit on sales of *Woolgoolga: History of a Village*

Rotary stall at Curryfest

Hat Day for mental health

Boomerang Bags Group, donation

Donation from public

### GRANT

Road Safety Education (RSE) for RYDA

*(including RYDA Support fee, not billed by RSE)*

### OTHER INCOME

Lease of Auction Shed (net of costs)

### TOTAL

### FUNDS

\$ 678

\$ 152

\$ 90

\$ 1,663

\$ 50

\$ 1,485

\$ 10,300

**\$ 14,418**

**Curryfest stall:** At Curryfest on 24 Sep, our Club set up a marquee to promote Rotary in the local community, especially improving visibility and encouraging new members or Friends of Rotary. The raffle and second-hand book sale raised \$152, and among many conversations with festival goers were some expressions of interest in attending one of our club meetings to check us out.



**Hat Day on Melbourne Cup Eve:** We enjoyed a convivial evening at [Norm and Helen Michener's](#) home on Melbourne Cup eve. Their spectacular view was the setting for a night of hilarity, great food, interesting stories, quirky headgear, and racing in miniature. \$90 was raised for mental health, going to [Australian Rotary Health's Lift the Lid](#) program.



**Art by the Sea:** On Easter Saturday, 32 copies of *Woolgoolga: the History of a Village* were sold by [David and Pamela Fayle](#) and [Mirrian Sullivan](#) at Mirrian and Pam's art stall.

## Within the club

The club bulletin for each meeting, the [Woopi Whisper](#), has completed its 35th year; grateful thanks to [Norm Michener](#) and [Mary Bryant](#).



At last year's Changeover, [Dick Matthews](#) was awarded a very special [Service Above Self District Medal](#): the last to be presented in District 9650. (We are now part of the larger District 9660.) The thoroughly deserved medal was presented by Past District Governor [Maurie Stack](#) (right).

Six members of our club, Geoff, Dick, Patty, Norm, the Fayles, plus Helen Michener, attended last year's [Rotary Club of Sawtell Changeover](#). It was a most enjoyable evening.

Our [Christmas party](#) was at a novel venue, the Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens, whose members generously handled the barbequeing for the group. It was a delightful and relaxing occasion, shared with partners and guests [Irina](#) and [John Ferraro](#) and sons [Robert](#) and [Edward](#), and [Carolyn Stokie](#).

## Building a future for the club

Issues impacting the ability of service organisations to attract new members, and retain existing members, dealt with at some length in the previous Annual Report, persisted this year. The challenge of building a future for the club remains.

Inducting four new members tonight is a vital step in reversing the decline of the past few years.

We tried something different for two club meetings – [Saturday breakfast meetings](#) at Taffy's Cafe. The second was blessed with better weather, and provided an opportunity for us to meet and greet [Michelle and Peter McIntosh](#) from Emerald Beach, who are joining us as members tonight together with their son [Kyle](#).

A [morning information session](#) was held at Wiigulga Sports Centre on Friday



Walk team, and celebrated the completion with our wonderful Heritage Day Parade in 2013. Norm then organised the Woolgoolga Heritage Walk website, where there is further historical information on our area. Norm has given commitment to practically every Club activity over his time, and initiated the 'Friends of Rotary' Group, a great asset to the running of our programs and fundraisers. But for Norm, the Volunteers and Carers' BBQs and the Jim Stevens Seat would not have happened. His effort throughout 14 years of auctions was truly staggering: pickups and deliveries, improving and maintaining the auction shed, obtaining an auction vehicle, and even auctioneer. Negotiating a pretty good outcome from shutting down the auction was remarkable. Through all his years of service, Norm has had his wife Helen by his side. Helen has been a great support to both Norm and our Club and we wish them both the very best in their continuing endeavours in the future.



**Patty Delaney** has been one of the backbones of our Club in recent years. Patty has decided to retire from Rotary and spend more time pursuing her other interests, including her creative writing.

Joining in 2007 as our first female member, Patty Delaney showed rare courage from the start in joining the all-male club, a handful of whom could not accept change and left. She has participated in nearly everything the club has done during that 16 years, seemingly accelerating her efforts as time went on; constantly on the Board from very early on until retirement. For most of that time, the Youth Exchange Program was closest to her heart. Patty and her partner Graeme Smith provided their home many times for young people from overseas. Patty has continued her long distance relationship with some of them even to this day.



She has initiated and run many things, such as Christmas in July, Pitch a Project, and the Sensory Garden at Mullaway Primary School; she has run Bowelscan, and the S&E Challenge (Manager for the past two); and played key roles in the Club Facebook page, stalls, social events, helicopter golf ball drops, auction days, DV Safe Phone, and much much more. Including tricky issues such as solving the auction waste disposal issue with Coffs Council, working with children, and occupational health and safety.

Patty was President in 2014–15, and Secretary for the last 7 years, and her



service was honoured with a Paul Harris Fellow awarded in 2015 and a Paul Harris Fellow Sapphire 2021. We wish Patty all the best for the future, and thank her and Graeme for their service.



From top left: Patty Delaney with (from left) Peter & Sue Paff, Clarence Harré, Mitch Huthnance, Pam & David Fayle; Patty with Yuta Tsuchiya; 2015 Paul Harris Fellow; Rotary working party in Tanna, Vanuatu, 2007: Patty & Graeme Smith with Marlies (l) & Terry (2nd from r) Booth and Lyn Martin; Norm Michener (in yellow) with Echah Wright and Dick Matthews measuring, helicopter golf ball drop, 2013



Past President [Julie Marshall](#) retires at the end of June due to the demands of her growing law business. Julie courageously took on the role of President in 2020, not very long into her membership, after we had ceased the auction and lost our major way of raising funds. Her legal expertise came in very handy in developing lease arrangements for the auction shed and for CWA. Her Presidency was notable for building a great cooperative relationship with the Lions Club of Woolgoolga; this has continued since, as the photo on p11 shows. We wish Julie and Brett all the best, and may their business endeavours continue to flourish.

## Alumni news

Our former Rotary exchange student [Clarence Harré](#), pictured above, who spent a year in Austria 7 years ago, finished his electrical engineering degree at University of NSW and moved to Adelaide to start work with the Air Force.

Inbounder [Silvia Rodríguez](#), from Spain, finished her law degree and is working in Madrid. While with us ten years ago, she gained work experience with local solicitor Gordon Abbott.

Outbounder [Mitchell Huthnance](#), also in that photo, who spent 2016 in Denmark, moved from Czechia to Canada, and is working at Lake Louise in Banff National Park.

[Kiahni Huthnance](#), who spent 2017 in Finland, is in her second-last year of an Engineering degree, and has secured a cadetship with Lake Macquarie Council.

2008-2009 inbounder [Minami Kadowaki](#), from Hokkaido, Japan, who endured a very long Covid-forced separation from her New Zealander husband, is happily reunited and they live in Nelson, South Island.

## Vale David Guinness, Charter Member

David Guinness was a charter member of our club and, for a time, ran the Woolgoolga Newsagency. He passed away on 4 July 2022. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

## PAST CLUB PRESIDENTS

1988-89	Ian Hickey	2000-01	Terry Booth	2012-13	Pamela Fayle
1989-90	Errol O'Brien	2001-02	Rod Mackenzie	2013-14	Karen Sedgwick
1990-91	Leo Goodfellow	2002-03	Keith Minhinnett	2014-15	Patty Delaney
1991-92	David Shorter	2003-04	Dick Matthews	2015-16	Leslie Casey
1992-93	David Featherstone	2004-05	Brian Armstrong	2016-17	Norm Michener
1993-94	Paul Canakis	2005-06	John Martin	2017-18	Pamela Fayle
1994-95	Bill Seyner	2006-07	Ian Fitzgerald	2018-19	Geoff Royal
1995-96	Des Saunders	2007-08	Charles Phipps	2019-20	Pam Stone
1996-97	Errol O'Brien	2008-09	Peter Lacy	2020-21	Julie Marshall
1997-98	Geoff Rogers	2009-10	Geoff Royal	2021-22	Kim Thompson
1998-99	John Ottaway	2010-11	David Fayle		
1999-00	Selwyn Rogers	2011-12	Norm Michener		

## 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)

## *Donations 2022-2023*

### *Helping build our local community*

Wiigulga Sports Complex	\$20,000
Corindi Pony Club	\$500
Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens (compost bin; Christmas party)	\$550
Power to the Kids	\$300
DV Safe Phone, for refurbished phones to fight domestic violence	\$225
Heritage Walk pamphlet reprint, share (cost shared with Lions & Chamber)	\$80
Lillipilli Art & Craft Competition, Woolgoolga Art Gallery	\$300

### *Opportunities and support for local youth*

Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) sheep, support for two attendees	\$500
Rymarine, support for attendee	\$400
Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) day (including \$688 not billed by RSE)	\$ 1,660
Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod prize	\$100
Woolgoolga High School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Woolgoolga Public School (end-of-year presentations)	\$200
Mullaway Primary 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, "Lift the Lid" on Mental Illness	\$90
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### *and International causes*

Rotary's worldwide work through The Rotary Foundation	\$400
Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund (The Rotary Foundation)	\$300
Tutu Desks for Africa Project	\$80

**TOTAL (including cost of running RYDA) \$26,685**

### **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE (separate financially)**

Science and Engineering Challenge expenditure \$10,346

Since our inaugural Science and Engineering Challenge in 2015, the accounts for the program have been maintained separately from the Club's other accounts. The Science and Engineering Challenge, an initiative of Rotary and the University of Newcastle, is run locally by a team from Woolgoolga Rotary and other community members and organisations, and funded by generous sponsorship from companies and organisations, plus a small contribution from competing schools. Since the previous Challenge, those funds have been boosted by \$5,420, including school contributions plus sponsorship by:

Engineers Australia  
Clarence Consulting  
Lions Club of Woolgoolga

This year's event also depended on prior major sponsorship, notably from Pacific Complete.





2022-2023 theme



2023-2024 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*