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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

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| BOARD 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> Directors: (Shared) Community, Membership, Public Relations 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> | | BOARD President Rod Mackenzie Vice President Kim Thompson Secretary <i>(acting)</i> David Fayle Treasurer Geoff Royal President-elect tba Directors: 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 POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD: Woopi Whisper Editor Mary Bryant Compliance Kim Thompson Mary Bryant Public Officer David Fayle DISTRICT ROLE The Rotary Foundation Committee, D9660 David Fayle | |
|--|--|--|--|

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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www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org
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

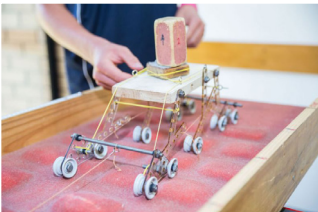
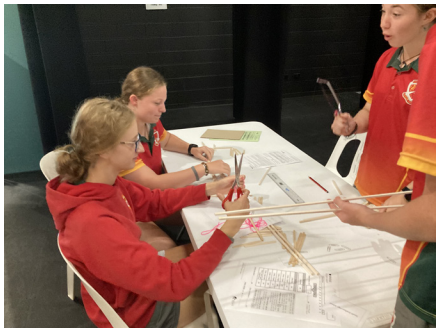


Geoff Royal



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.

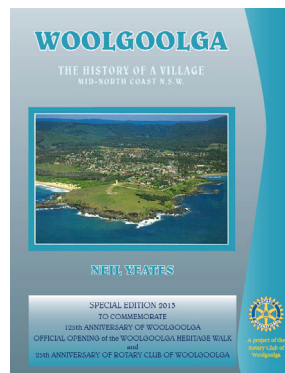
As usual, the club supported end-of-year presentation ceremonies (or the equivalent) in six local schools (total of \$1,200).

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

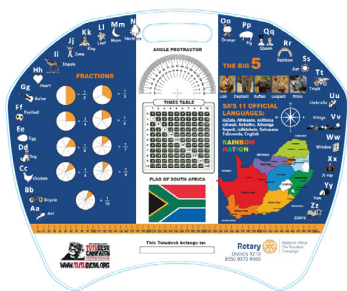
A serious problem in the broader community is [domestic violence](#) (DV). Across Australia 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men have experienced domestic violence since the age of 15. The victim's mobile phone is often the first thing smashed, taken, or monitored by a perpetrator. [DV Safe Phone](#) collects, 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.



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[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



23 June at 7am to give an overview of Rotary and promote membership. Light refreshments were served. Marketing of this event was via press (see below), Facebook, our Website, social and mainstream media, emails, face to face and other invitations.

Building on the work last year of six members, **Pam Fayle** wrote an excellent article for the November issue of *Woopi News*, and one week before our June morning information session, *Coffs Coast News of the Area* ran a half-page splash promoting the event, compiled by **Rod Mackenzie**. The club is grateful to both for their timely publications.

Woolgoolga Rotary Club Faces Uncertain Future

Like many volunteer organisations, Woolgoolga's local Rotary Club faces an extremely shaky and uncertain future. Changes to work/lifestyle balances have been reducing volunteer numbers in most communities for years and Covid has added to that trend. Remaining members of our local club need more help to continue to serve the community. Since its inception in 1988, the club has initiated and provided substantial funding for many of the community's current facilities. Much of it was raised through the monthly auctions of used household goods, which supported many other volunteer groups in the community, as well as providing an environmental

benefit by keeping things out of landfill. A shrinking and ageing club could no longer sustain the physical effort involved in the popular auctions. The club has raised well in excess of \$1 MILLION over the years, and those funds, as well as members' time and efforts, have helped build the Woolgoolga Retirement Village, the Woolgoolga netball courts, 'Yeates Hall', the Bus Shelter on Mulligan Islands Way, the kids' water features at the Woolgoolga Senior Centre and the Heritage Walk. The Club has also been a strong supporter of local youth education programs, including annual student prizes for local schools, small individual

student scholarships, yearly youth leadership courses, assistance for participation by students in career training opportunities, preparation for life after school and international student exchange opportunities. A long-term member, Dick Matthews says, "Personally, as a passionate Rotarian for the past 47 years, I would be disappointed and saddened if the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga was to 'fold up'. However, I see this as the inevitable outcome, unless prospective new members come forth and volunteer to join the Club". Anyone interested in joining Rotary should contact Norm (0418 484 812) or Patty (0467 072 909), or



Woolgoolga Rotary hosts club info session

By Andrew FERRIS

THE local Rotary Club of Woolgoolga held a public information session on Tuesday night to provide an overview of the club's history, current activities and future plans. The session was held at the Woolgoolga Retirement Village and was attended by a large number of community members. The club's president, Dick Matthews, welcomed the guests and outlined the club's commitment to service and community development. He also discussed the club's financial situation and the challenges it faces in maintaining its facilities and programs. The session was a success and provided a valuable opportunity for the community to learn more about the club and its work.



Regrettably, three members have decided to retire during the last quarter.

Norm Michener has decided to leave the club as he concentrates on the other important areas of his life. He has always given generously of his time to various worthwhile community organisations, while juggling the time spent with family. We are very grateful to have had Norm as part of our Club for the many years he has given "Service above Self". Norm has truly followed this motto in his untiring service to our many projects over the years since he began in 2006. Norm served on the Board for most of his membership years, taking on the role of President 2011-2012 and 2016-2017, Secretary 2013-2014, and also serving director roles in Youth Service, Membership, and Community Service.

Norm was presented the Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2013 and the Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2021 for his outstanding contribution to the club and the community. As mentioned earlier, Norm led the Woolgoolga Heritage

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 |
|--|------|

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*