

Rotary



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Rotary Club of Woolgoolga Annual Report 2024–2025 for Changeover



Club President Rod Mackenzie

District 9660 Governor Bruce George

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick

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	2022-23	Kim Thompson
1999-00	Selwyn Rogers	2011-12	Norm Michener	2023-24	Rod Mackenzie

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

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

Welcome from Club President, Rod Mackenzie

Welcome to our Changeover Dinner which celebrates our 2024-2025 Rotary year and installs the Board for 2025-2026.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Gumbaynggir 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 people and their ongoing cultures and connection to the lands and waters.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga for their fellowship, support, advice and involvement over the past two years. Thanks too, to the partners and friends of our members, friends of Rotary, Honorary Rotarians and the organisations we have worked with for your ongoing support.

President's Report 2024-25

Can I just say that being here tonight at our Changeover dinner and looking back at the past year gives me great satisfaction, not just personally but because of our fantastic members who are responsible for it all. Our Club is still here, and we are doing good things and running major projects for our community. It all looked a bit shaky back a couple of years ago but a revitalisation with new members and the stability of existing members has the Club back on a sound footing. We have 16 members with another new member in the wings, and everyone is contributing ideas and effort. The other thing about our Club is that it is friendly, flexible, entertaining and full of smart and experienced members. Our life and work experiences are extensive, and these add to our diversity and creativity. There is healthy discussion and solutions to problems, differing opinions and personalities are sorted in a positive and supportive manner. We all have other demands outside of Rotary and balancing those and still being a very valuable member of our Club is commendable. Our members still make such positive contributions to our Club despite other hobbies, membership of other organisations, travel, health issues, grandchildren and other interests which is greatly appreciated. Our increased visibility across our community stands out. Our new marquee which sets up for our Pop Up stall at the Marine Rescue Markets every month, local business awareness and support particularly with their generous donations to our market raffles, the hundreds of people who have purchased our raffle tickets at the markets and who make complimentary remarks about Rotary, our new Rotary shirts and caps, the record nominations for our Pride of Workmanship Awards and our media coverage in local publications and social media. Our Annual Report will expand in more detail on our projects and achievements.

A couple of goals I had last year have not been met but we will continue to work on them to add a couple of new members, increase our fundraising and keep up our work for the community. Thank you so much to the Board and our members for your support and fellowship, you should be proud of what you have done and the impact you have made. I look forward to the 2025-26 year with you.

Rod Mackenzie, President 2024-2025

Office Bearers

BOARD 2024-2025	BOARD 2025-2026
President Rod Mackenzie	President Rod Mackenzie
Vice President Kim Thompson	Vice President Kim Thompson
Secretary David Fayle	Secretary David Fayle
Treasurer Geoff Royal	Treasurer Geoff Royal
President-elect tba	President-elect tba
Assistant Secretary Alison Ratliff	Assistant Secretary Alison Ratliff
Directors:	Directors:
(Shared) Community, Public Relations	Services David Edwards
Youth Mary Bryant	Assistant Services Bob Breen
International tba	Youth Mary Bryant
Club service Pamela Fayle	Club service Pamela Fayle
Services David Edwards	Public Relations Pamela Fayle
Memorials project Bob Breen	The Rotary Foundation David Fayle
The Rotary Foundation David Fayle	International tba

POSITIONS NOT ON BOARD (continuing):	
Membership	Christopher Chayko
Woopi Whisper Editor	Mary Bryant
Youth Exchange Program Counsellor	Bronwyn Mackenzie
Public Officer	David Fayle
Child Protection Officer	Kim Thompson
Compliance	Kim Thompson, Mary Bryant
COMMITTEES (2024-2025 and 2025-2026):	
Pop Up Vintage Shop	Bronwyn Mackenzie, Michelle McIntosh, Peter McIntosh, Kyle McIntosh, Jenny Witcombe
Memorials Project	Christopher Chayko, Bob Breen
S&E Challenge	Mary Bryant, Peter McIntosh, Patty Delaney (Honorary Member), Dennis Houghton (Honorary Member), Peter Lacy
DV Safe Phone	David Fayle, Alison Ratliff, Kim Thompson
The Rotary Foundation Grants Committee for District 9660	David Fayle

MEMBERS

Mary Bryant	Peter Lacy	Peter McIntosh
Bob Breen OAM	Bronwyn Mackenzie	Alison Ratliff
Christopher Chayko	Rod Mackenzie	Geoff Royal
David Edwards	Kyle McIntosh	Kim Thompson
David Fayle	Michelle McIntosh	Jenny Witcombe
Pamela Fayle AM		

HONORARY MEMBERS

John Arkan	Patty Delaney	Ila Rogers (<i>Deceased 4 Feb 25</i>)
Terry Booth	Dennis Houghton	Selwyn Rogers (<i>Dec. 3 Mar 25</i>)

CHANGEOVER AND END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Monday 23 June 2024 at C.ex Woolgoolga

6:00 pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
6:15 pm	Call to order	MC Pamela Fayle
	Acknowledgement of country	PP Kim Thompson
	Introduction of guests; apologies; welcome	Bronwyn Mackenzie
	Object of Rotary	Geoff Royal
	Four-Way Test	Peter McIntosh
6:30 pm	DINNER SERVICE	
7:00 pm	Toast to Rotary International	Peter Lacy
	Response to the toast	PDG David Mayne
	Rotary Community Leader Zone 4	Richie Goddard
7:20pm	District Governor Awards	PDG David Mayne
7:40 pm	Overview of the Year	Outgoing President Rod Mackenzie
7:45 pm	Board of Directors Overview	Interim President Rod Mackenzie
8:00 pm	Closing remarks	MC Pamela Fayle



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www.woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au
www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

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2024–2025 REPORT BY PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

2024–2025 consolidated the foundation built during our previous year of resurgence. Our nine recent members continued to make major contributions to the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga's activities during the year. Their enthusiasm and fresh ideas have helped the club once again achieve benefits for the community well in excess of expectations for a relatively small club.

The highlight of our community service calendar was the Coffs Coast Science and Engineering Challenge, held on 8 Apr 2025. 240 students from 8 high schools competed in the Challenge. Coffs Harbour High School prevailed, and in fact performed well enough to qualify for the State Finals in Newcastle at the end of August 2025.

Another important project, continuing from last year, was a series of Pop-up Clothing Stalls, coupled with raffles. These significantly boosted the Club's coffers, despite numerous setbacks due to rainy weather.

Another of our flagship projects, the DV Safe Phone initiative aims to provide covert phones to those at risk of domestic violence. Our Rotary District Grant funded collection boxes in 14 locations in our Rotary District and D9640 to our north, engaging new Rotary Club, Rotoract and business partners in collecting donated phones for refurbishment and distribution through front-line organisations.

Significant progress was made by our partner, the Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch, towards both war memorial projects, one to restore and suitably place the former World War I Memorial, and the second to upgrade the existing War Memorial at the Diggers Club to reflect operations and peacekeeping since 1946.

Local organisations supported by donations were the Woolgoolga Branch of Red Cross; Woolgoolga Art Gallery; Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary; the Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod; and six local schools. The Sandy Beach Breakfast Club, providing a morning meal for students from struggling households, was supported by volunteer work by two members, plus donations of food and equipment.

Our club proudly sponsored Aliyah Knight on her Rotary Youth Exchange year to Brazil. This remarkable young woman from Coffs Harbour High School, with aspirations to study law, is developing into a fine ambassador for Australia and our club.

A Club Scholarship will help a disadvantaged Woolgoolga High student attend



Kim Thompson



David Fayle



David Edwards



Bob Breen



Alison Ratliff

the Year 10 School Camp at Jindabyne, avoiding the stigma of exclusion. We also helped two local students attend the Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) Sheep program, and another go to the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), as well as a former NYSF participant attend an NYSF- related summit.

Through Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited (RAWCS), our club obtained four \$500 debit cards intended for drought relief, then distributed these through the NSW Financial Counsellor in Grafton to local farming families affected by drought.

Funds from Boomerang Bags (donated when they ceased operation) helped provide special credit cards for the homeless through St Vincent de Paul's marvellous scheme (\$2,000).

The club funded major improvements (doors and windows) to the Rotary shed.

Building our local community

Enhancing opportunities for local youth: Science and Engineering Challenge

Our ninth Coffs Coast Science and Engineering Challenge, held on 8 Apr 2025 at Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre, involved eight high schools: Maclean (first-timers), Grafton, South Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Toormina, Orara and Woolgoolga High Schools, and Bishop Druitt College. This year's challenges were: Fish Traps, Ecohabitat, Job Juggle, Flight, Wind Turbine, ElectraCity, Confounding Communications, and Bridge.

Coffs Harbour High prevailed in a close contest, and in June the Science and Engineering Challenge organisers based at the University of Newcastle gave them the exciting news that they had qualified for the State Finals in Newcastle at the end of August 2025. Our club, together with sponsors and Sawtell and Coffs Harbour Daybreak Rotary Clubs, will help cover the cost.

Congratulation and thanks to the organising committee, chaired by Peter Paff (Sawtell Rotary, *report on p9*), with Mary Bryant* (Treasurer), Patty Delaney* (Volunteer Coordinator), Peter McIntosh* (Secretary), Mark Spencer (Coffs Harbour Daybreak Rotary), Woolgoolga High's Head of Science Paul McCormack, Graham Boulden (retired Engineer), Dennis Houghton* (retired school principal), Greg Williams (logistics) and Peter Lacy*. **Woolgoolga Rotary Active and Honorary Members.*



Pamela Fayle



Mary Bryant

2024–2025 BOARD



Geoff Royal



Rod Mackenzie

Science & Engineering Challenge: (clockwise from above logo) Fish Traps; Wind Turbine (2); Bridge; ElectraCity; Flight; Job Juggle.



2025 SPONSORS OF COFFS COAST SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Ferrovia Gamuda Joint Venture	\$7,500 *
Engineers Australia	\$1,500
Clarence Consulting	\$500
Locale Consulting	\$1000
University of Newcastle (discount due to sponsorship)	\$2000
Wiigulga Sports Complex (discount)	\$500

* plus \$2,500 to the winning team if they are invited to compete in the State final

Science and Engineering Challenge Report

The 2025 Coffs Coast Science and Engineering Challenge went off very smoothly. Due in no small part to a lot of work from a dedicated team of people that met from November right through till after the event. We owe the committee a debt of gratitude for their attention to detail and their commitment to the program.

This year we saw 99 boys and 117 girls take part, supported by around 50 volunteers, including 10 from the Coffs Harbour Bypass project. Many of the volunteers saddle up year after year, and some have been there every year of the event.

The good news received last week is that Coffs Harbour High has, for the second time, qualified for the State Finals to be held in Newcastle, later in the year. We are now looking at ways to support them in their fundraising to get 32 students there and back. Ferrovia Gamuda Joint Venture's extra \$2,500 will cover almost half, for which the school and Challenge Committee are very grateful.

The Wiigulga Centre continues to be an outstanding venue and the staff are exceptional. The support we receive from Woolgoolga High School is also the reason the event runs so smoothly. The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga, our parent body, continues its support and we are ever grateful.

The University of Newcastle are so good to work with, and their staff go out of their way to ensure the smooth running of the event. We look forward to the next Challenge on 31 Mar 2026.

Once again, the dinner on the night before the Challenge was well attended, with around 60 people attending at Seaview Tavern, and Tom Patterson from the Coffs Harbour Bypass Team giving a great presentation.

The atmosphere on the day of the challenge is outstanding, and people genuinely enjoy the interactions with, and the joy of, the students. This year we asked that the accompanying teachers be in the room, and this also added to the students feeling really supported.

All in all, a very rewarding day and an important part for this area's Rotary Clubs' commitment to the youth of the area.

Peter Paff, Chair, 23 Jun 2025 [Rotary Club of Sawtell]

The event partnered with major sponsor Ferrovial Gamuda JV (the Coffs Harbour Bypass Team) for the second consecutive year. The function on Challenge Eve included a fascinating presentation by Tom Patterson, a civil and structural engineer working on the Bypass.



Youth Exchange Program

Youth Exchange Program (YEP) outbounder Aliyah Knight is currently half-way through her Rotary Youth Exchange year to Brazil. Placed in Marília, Rotary District 6510, São Paulo, Aliyah is, after some initial challenges, adapting well to a new school system and is rapidly mastering the necessary Portuguese language skills. She participated in a memorable 6-day YEP trip to Rio de Janeiro, visiting iconic landmarks including Christ the Redeemer statue (*photo*), Sugarloaf Mountain, Copacabana Beach, and Ipanema Beach, and experienced Carnival. Aliyah's favourite day included the beach at Paraty and a beach churrasco barbecue.

The Youth Exchange Program builds lasting international friendships, and our Club has a long history of involvement in the program. Bronwyn Mackenzie is serving as Aliyah's home-based counsellor throughout the program, drawing on extensive experience from hosting students from Brazil, Mexico, France, Germany, Japan, and Finland.



Other support for local youth

Coming from a financially disadvantaged household can often lead to students being excluded from the enriching and life-changing experiences available to

their classmates. The club is delighted to have made a difference by awarding a Club Scholarship of \$350 toward one student's participation in the Year 10 School Camp at Jindabyne (in partnership with Woolgoolga High School Principal and their Wellbeing Team).

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a summer school program for Year 11 students who are heading into Year 12 and wishing to explore careers in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) area. They are also given training in public speaking. We provided \$500 towards Ava Wilson's attendance. Former attendee and current volunteer for the 2025 NYSF, Emelia Naumov (a local resident studying at the Coffs Marine Science Centre and pursuing a career in Science Communication and Microbial Ecology) was given \$200 towards attending a STEM Summit in Canberra in Aug 2024, involving networking opportunities, career expos, workshops, and seminars with prominent scientists. There, Emelia donated her artwork, inspired by her fascination for microbial ecology, for the art auction fundraiser at the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner for the National Youth Science Forum, raising funds for the next generation of NYSF Scholarships.



Our sponsorship helped two local students go to the Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) Sheep program at Walcha.

The Club has supported the 2025 Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod with a \$100 donation to the choir section.

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

Combatting domestic violence

Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence



During domestic violence, a mobile phone is often one of the first items to be thrown, broken or stolen by the perpetrator, leaving the victim cut off from the outside world. With no way to call emergency services or helplines for assistance.

For people at risk of domestic violence, usually women or children, a

mobile phone unknown to the perpetrator can mean rescue, safety, life and health, instead of the devastation of mental or physical injury, imprisonment, or death. Through partner front-line organisations, DV Safe Phone provides phones loaded and ready to use, to people at risk throughout Australia.

The club's District Grant (ultimately funded by The Rotary Foundation), now in its second year, aims to fill gaps in the catchment zone within our Rotary District (D9660) for collection of donated mobile phones, to send to DV Safe Phone; as well as part-fund their refurbishment for distribution to people at risk of domestic violence.

The most recent grant-funded collection boxes have been placed in five local hotels: Toormina Hotel, Sawtell Hotel, Moonee Beach Hotel, Coffs Harbour Hotel, and Seaview Tavern. Coffs City Rotary negotiated placement of the first four and monitor them.



(above) new DV Phone collection box: Coffs City Rotary President Bob Carle with Peter Skinner, General Manager, Toormina Hotel; 25 phones + an iPad had already been collected here in 2 weeks
(left) Alison Ratliff & Rod Mackenzie with another batch of donated phones to send

We previously funded boxes managed by

- Wee Waa Rotaract (road trip through 5 States and NT)
- Narrabri Rotary (at Narrabri, Boggabri and Wee Waa)
- Belmont Rotary
- Morisset Rotary
- Port Macquarie Sunrise Rotary
- Byron Bay Rotary (D9640)
- Wellington Rotary

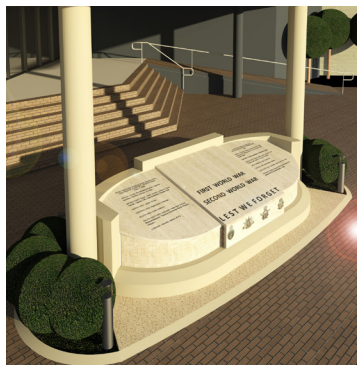
DV Safe Phone repairs collected phones and distributes them free and ready to use to domestic violence survivors, through 460 domestic violence and law enforcement agencies, safe houses and hospitals Australia-wide. There are currently 1,174 phone drop locations across Australia where you can donate your phone. 13,412 Australian DV victims have so far been supported with a DV Safe Phone. Over 37,500 phones have been donated since DV Safe Phone began, and phones that are not suitable for refurbishment are used for parts and/or recycled through MobileMuster.

The Committee working on the project comprises Alison Ratliff, Kim Thompson and David Fayle.

Northern Beaches Memorials Project

The Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch, in partnership with our Club, is undertaking the Northern Beaches Memorials Project aimed at restoring the original Great War Memorial to a public place in Woolgoolga, as well upgrading the War Memorial at the Diggers Club to reflect operations and peacekeeping since 1946.

After World War I, the Woolgoolga community was able to erect the original Great War Memorial in 1923, following four years of diligent fundraising. It was dismantled in 1999, with its marble name-plaques from both world wars being reused on the current memorial outside the Diggers Club. The Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch Committee, after lengthy community engagement and consultation since the Covid lock-downs, has established that there is overwhelming community support for the reinstatement of the Great War Memorial, with World War II addition, and the Group believes the ideal location to be 'facing the dawn' at the Woolgoolga Beach Reserve, as shown in the artist's impression. Member Christopher Chayko is heading this project.



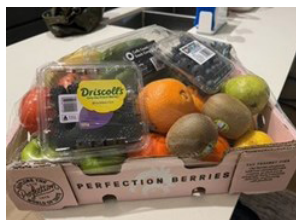
The upgrade to the Memorial at the Diggers Club will proceed, with Diggers Club owner the Wyong Leagues Group about to go to tender for a \$2.9m redevelopment of the entrance to the Club, which will incorporate the new memorial design. Member Bob Breen is heading RSL sub-Branch involvement in this project. The Great War Memorial title and name plaques from the

existing Diggers Club Memorial will be stored with the other components of the Great War Memorial awaiting its reinstallation. After demolition of the current Diggers memorial, the modernised community-endorsed memorial will be erected in the same place, surrounded by the redeveloped entrance area.

Fundraising and recycling

Pop-up Clothing Stalls

For virtually the whole existence of the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga, a major focus has been on recycling of used goods coupled with fundraising – especially through the monthly Auctions that we ran until 2020. That tradition has continued during the past two years in an innovative way, via monthly Pop-up Clothing Stalls, coupled with lucrative raffles. Despite this year's exceptionally rainy weather, resulting in numerous cancellations, these raised \$2,014 nett, as well as proudly advertising our Club via our new Rotary marquee, and covering the site fees that help market organiser Marine Rescue.



The raffle prizes were donated by businesses and Club members, and we are very grateful for their generosity. Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary donated 7 vouchers for a family of four to visit, raffled during the past two years. Other generous local business donors this year included Phoonies Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (Beach Street; *box of fresh goodies photo*), Woolgoolga's Finest Butchery, Woolgoolga Body Works, Ground Earth, La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, Thai on Market Restaurant & Bar, XS Surf,



"There is a special way of folding this."
"I think we fold it this way."
"Then we turn it this way."
"OK – we'd better try the instructions."
Finally we all gave up and threw it in the car.

Your Home Styled by Lynzel, That Beach Shop, Siren By Brooke George, A Taste of Aloha, Mitre 10, Mogul Beer, Cellarbrations Bottle Shop, and Woolworths.

These Pop-up shops continued to be important fundraisers for the club, and they could not have happened without the consistent and devoted efforts of the core team: Bronwyn Mackenzie, Michelle McIntosh, Peter McIntosh, Kyle McIntosh, Jenny Witcombe and Rod Mackenzie, assisted by other members occasionally - one of whom, who shall remain nameless, ruined the portable dressing room trying to fold it away (sorry!).

Service above self by five stalwarts was suitably recognised by District Governor's Awards at our 2025 Changeover, presented by the DG's representative, Past District Governor David Mayne. These went to Jenny Witcombe, Kyle McIntosh, Peter McIntosh, Michelle McIntosh and Bronwyn Mackenzie.



District Governor's Awards presented at Changeover 2025: recipients (foreground) Peter McIntosh; left to right: Bronwyn Mackenzie, Michelle McIntosh, Kyle McIntosh, and Jenny Witcombe. (Far left) Rotary Community Leader Zone 4 Richie Goddard; (2nd from right) Past District Governor David Mayne; and President Rod Mackenzie

From the proceeds of pop-up stalls, donations totalling \$600 were made to the Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary, in part as thanks for the family vouchers they donated to us to raffle.

The latest donation will support a rescued turtle, Little Turner, a green sea turtle rescued at Woolgoolga back beach by National Parks and Wildlife with a boat strike eye injury. He was rescued near the little tern nesting area during the season on 4 Dec 2024. The photo shows Little Turner checking out strange land-based creatures Tiga Cross, Manager of the Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary, between Rod and Bronwyn Mackenzie.



Fundraising overview*

Pop-up Retro Clothing Stalls (net)	\$2,014
Sales of Yeates book	\$30
RAWCS coupons for drought-impacted families	\$2,000
Previous donation from Boomerang Bags on closure	\$1,663
Interest (term deposit retained interest)	\$665
TOTAL	\$6,372

* Note that this Table does not include income from the lease payments made by Home + Yard, tenant of the Rotary Shed. About one-fifth of that (\$2,500) goes to CWA (Country Women's Association), which owns the land the Rotary shed stands on by Deed of Licence. The remainder ensures the viability of the club through difficult fundraising times, and enables us to maintain and improve the shed itself.

Donations and volunteer work

The year's donations totalling \$11,508 are listed at the end of this report. Some have already been mentioned.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF), 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. The TRF also responds to disasters, and has a focus on Peace that has become even more important recently with escalating conflict. The apt theme for the Rotary Year about to start is "Unite for Good". 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 donations to TRF's Annual Programs Fund totalling \$1,360 will help empower Rotarians to realise those solutions.

Our donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa goes toward their project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls in State Schools and adult nappies for old-age homes. This pilot project aims to roll out the program to at least 20 schools and 10 old age homes in and around Durban. The contact with this club originated from Rotary Friendship Exchange visits in both directions, involving Bronwyn and Rod Mackenzie.

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. For each guest speaker during the year, \$50 is donated on the speaker's behalf.

In the local area, though Rotary Australia World Community



Service Limited (RAWCS), our club obtained four \$500 debit cards intended for drought relief, then distributed these through the NSW Financial Counsellor in Grafton to local farming families affected by drought.

Homelessness remains a serious problem in our local area. A \$2,000 donation to help local homeless was made in the form of special credit cards handed out to those struggling to make do. Issued by the St Vincent de Paul Society, these cards exclude expenditure on cigarettes and alcohol.

The bulk of that donation came from the \$1,663 donated by Boomerang Bags upon cessation of operations, now appropriately allocated. The amount was increased to \$2000 with funds raised from raffles and clothing sales from the Rotary Pop-Up Shop.

Members Kyle and Peter McIntosh regularly volunteer at Sandy Beach Public School Breakfast Club, which ensures that children from struggling homes can eat well on school mornings. Our club also purchased toasters for that club.

Club members Christopher Chayko and Bob Breen, as key members of the Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch, once again did a fine job organising excellent ceremonies for 2024 Remembrance Day and 2025 ANZAC Day. Members carried the club banner in the ANZAC Day march. At the Main Service that followed, Michelle McIntosh laid the Rotary wreath.

The day after ANZAC Day, the “Allies at War” concert at Wiilgulga Sports Complex celebrated the 110th ANZAC Anniversary and 80th anniversary of Australia’s WWII involvement, featuring the Clarence Valley Orchestra including our members Pam and David Fayle, and MC Christopher Chayko. With orchestra; choir; guest singers; air force, navy and army cadets; pipe band; VIPs; and a large audience, including two WWII veterans, there were over 600 people there to commemorate these anniversaries.



Other local donations were to Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens (a thank you to them for allowing us to celebrate our Christmas party there); to the Woolgoolga Branch of Red Cross, and two to the Woolgoolga Art Group for their flagship art competition, the Woolgoolga Art Prize (formerly called the Lillipilli Art Prize) for both 2024 and 2025.

David Fayle remains a member of The Rotary Foundation Grants Committee

for District 9660.

Pamela Fayle remains the Chair of the Curryfest Organising Committee, a hardworking and very successful team of three.

President Rod Mackenzie participated throughout the year in meetings of Rotary Presidents of our local clubs, to exchange ideas and information, canvass support, and explore joint projects. The involvement of Sawtell and Coffs Harbour Daybreak Rotary in the Science and Engineering Challenge, and the link with Coffs City Rotary on the DV Safe Phone project, were indicative of ongoing cooperation among local clubs.

Also in 2024–2025

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 9 Dec 2024, at Woopi Gardens, combined with our Christmas Party. The meeting addressed board nominations for the incoming year, though the position of President for 2025-2026 remained to be filled.

Significant improvements have been made to our Auction shed, renovated with good quality second-hand double doors and windows by the lessee Jason Farr, Home + Yard. This helps him keep his furniture and items for sale out of the weather, and provides a more attractive entrance and access. Jason and a builder friend were able to get a lot of it installed before a major rain/flooding event. The money we are spending on these improvements will enhance the value of this asset for our club.



Our club hosted Stephanie Roser-Latt in 2000 as a Rotary Exchange Student from France. How fitting to see her now become a Rotarian in her home country, in the Rotary Club of Wissembourg l'outre Forêt, in northern Alsace near the German border. A few of our members would remember Stef and her vibrant contributions to Woolgoolga Rotary. She thinks she is the youngest member of her club. La Magie (magic) du Rotary!

Valete

This year we mourned the loss of four notable people connected to our club:

Ila Rogers

An Honorary Member of our club since mid-2013, Ila Rogers had already been a dedicated worker for our club since her husband Sel joined in 1994. In the latter years of the monthly auction, Ila was a stalwart of the Rotary shed. Her exemplary service was recognised with a Paul Harris Fellow award in 2006. Ila passed away 4 Feb 2025.

Selwyn Rogers (Sel)

Our Honorary Member Sel Rogers passed away 3 Mar 2025, just one month after his beloved wife Ila's passing. He joined our club 1 Aug 1994, and after 19 years of exceptional service, including as President in 1999-2000, became an Honorary Member in mid-2013. The club recognised his service with two Paul Harris Fellow awards, the first in 2005, and the rare Sapphire in 2010.

Robert White (Rob)

Rob White joined the club at the start of 2003, and after 16 years of dedicated work, became an Honorary Member in April 2016 (to Oct 2023). His focus was on the work of RAWCS, and in particular, on improving the lot of the people of the volcanic island of Tanna, Vanuatu. He served in various capacities at District level, and it was our District that awarded him not just one, but two Paul Harris Fellow awards, the first in 2007, and the Sapphire in 2010.

Brian Armstrong

On 1 Nov 1989, the Principal of Woolgoolga High School, Brian Armstrong, joined our club, and was a notable contributor to our club until transferring to Coffs Harbour Daybreak Rotary 21 Jun 2010. He was President in 2004-2005, and received a Paul Harris Fellow award in 2008.

The profound contributions of all four to our club and community will be remembered with gratitude and respect.



Ila Rogers helping assemble Kits for Kids, for Vanuatu schoolchildren, 2010, with Dick and Marie Matthews

Sel Rogers
auctioneer,
Fish Auction
2015



Rob White
awarding
building
helper,
Tanna 2005

Donations 2024-2025

Helping build our local community

St Vincent de Paul Society for local families in need	\$2,000
Vouchers for 4 local farming families affected by drought	\$2,000
Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary	\$600
Red Cross, Woolgoolga Branch	\$100
Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens (Christmas party)	\$200
Woolgoolga Art Prize, Woolgoolga Art Gallery, 2024 and 2025	\$500
Toasters for Sandy Beach Breakfast Club	\$98

Opportunities and support for local youth

Support for Ava Wilson's participation in National Youth Science Forum	\$500
Support for Emelia Naumov's participation in STEM Summit	\$200
Club Scholarship toward student's participation in Year 10 School Camp	\$350
Support for 2 students' attendance at Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) Sheep	\$200
Blazer for YEP outbinder Aliyah Knight	\$250
Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod 2025 prize (choir)	\$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

Counteracting domestic violence

Purchase of DV phone collection boxes and backboards	\$1,259
Postage of collected phones to DV Safe Phone	\$41

Supporting Australian and international causes

Rotary's worldwide work through The Rotary Foundation	\$1,360
Australian Rotary Health	\$250
Operation Cleft (facial surgery for surgery for Bangladeshi children)	\$100
Hygiene project in South Africa, Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside	\$200

TOTAL **\$11,508**

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE (separate financially)

Science and Engineering Challenge expenditure **\$9,574**

Income for this year's event comfortably covered the expenditure, with a surplus of \$5,020. 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 Woolgoolga Rotary and the University of Newcastle, is run locally by a team from Woolgoolga, Sawtell and Coffs Harbour City Rotary and other community members, and funded by generous sponsorship from companies and organisations, plus a small contribution from competing schools.



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

2024-2025 theme

2025-2026 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*