

## Vocational Service Report

1. I conducted two seminars for Volunteer Gold Coast under the auspices of my role as Vocational Director for Parkwood Rotary. These seminars " Law and the Volunteer" were attended by about 80 members of various Gold Coast volunteer organisations and mainly concerned the Duty of Care and Insurance issues for Volunteers. Through Judean Wallace, the coordinator from Volunteer GC, I have given advice on various legal issues since the seminars. Judean has also made enquiries to meet with the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to make submissions for changes to legislation affecting volunteers and I have agreed to assist her with this project including preparation of submissions and attendances with the Minister if required. Nothing has come of this yet but I have committed quite a bit of my time to this issue. My commitment to Volunteer GC will extend far beyond my year as Vocational Director and it is my intention to have it included in the programs for the incoming Director.

2. I will be giving a further Seminar/Q & A session for the Reference Group on Ageing Issues on the Gold Coast. This group represent various organisations (about 14) who have volunteers (Veterans Affairs, Department of Families, 60s or better program, Multicultural Communities Council etc) obviously with an accent on the aged. This seminar set down for 24th June 2003 will hopefully alleviate a lot of the concerns these volunteer organisations have in coping with legal issues and in particular with duty of care and insurance matters.

3. In the last half of 2002 I did a mentors course specifically directed to assisting children in Grade 10 who were at risk of leaving school with no career prospects. The course required my attendance at lectures for 3 hours a week over 12 weeks and then a trial for about 6 weeks through Merrimac High School. Belinda Rolle was a coordinator for this course. I am now a fully qualified mentor. This project was a pilot for a larger project to commence this year. Belinda has recently contacted me to continue the project for the rest of the school year at St Michaels which will involve about 2 hours per week during the school year. This project has commenced and I am involved but is again in the pilot phase. This project will extend beyond my year but I am keen to continue and also involve any other club members who are interested. I will be asking Belinda to come along as our guest speaker one night later in the year. Belinda can talk about this project and perhaps about what is being done about Youth Suicide (and how we can help) which was recently mentioned by a club member.

4.. I have also been asked by the Queensland Law Society to involve myself in a new project to lecture on legal and civil matters to Secondary School Students. This is a State wide project. I don't know what my commitment will involve for this project but I intend to pass on the Rotary message and ideals to as many of these students as I can.

5. In October (from memory) we had the CPR night at Hope Island which was not only informative but also introduced us and Rotary to a lot of the residents at Hope Island. I note that the Hope Island Rotary Club has been chartered and perhaps in some small way we contributed to this. I have all the contact info for the incoming director re the CPR program and I would like to see a further CPR night this coming year.

6. There have been visits to club members businesses including the marble business in which Kim and Rob T were involved and the most interesting night at Griffith with Karyn Joyner. Although I had nothing to do with the organisation of these events I personally thought these were great and would like to encourage more in the coming year

I hope this brings the board up to date with my activities for the year.

Yours faithfully

John Smith  
Director Vocational Services 2002/2003