

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Upon reflection this has been a very happy year for Parkwood Rotary, and for that I am most grateful. We are a very harmonious club with lots of laughter emulating from an assortment of jokes told on Tuesday nights at 'Fiascoes'. This has always set a delightful tone for busy people to get together in fellowship and peace. Worldwide events aside, Parkwood Rotary had a fulfilling and fruitful year.

All members helped throughout the year with whatever tasks were needed. The year began with a bang at the Changeover as it was decided to open Rotary up to the area and invite potential members. Our first meeting for the year hosted close to 300 people and was very successful.

Another large function for us was in August 2002 when we hosted Jonathon Majiyagbe, the World President Elect. Jonathon was a delight to entertain and our thanks go to Brian Knowles who initiated the invitation and worked continually with the committee organising the world conference.

Parkwood once again hosted a very successful fundraiser before the Melbourne Cup - Calcutta. This evening raised funds to help one of our own (Rotary's Surfers Paradise Central Club) Andrew Casabi who lost his legs in the 'Bali Bomb Blast' in October. Andrew has since gone on to be a spokesperson for the Red Cross and Ronald McDonald House. Well done Andrew.

9640 Rotary District Conference this year was small because Brisbane was hosting the International Conference in June which was large. Both were successful with many an international friendship formulating in Brisbane. The opening and closing ceremonies were fantastic, enjoyed by all and a

great credit to the organisers. Again Brian Knowles and Ken Smith must be applauded for their efforts and commitment. Karyn Joyner, one of our newer members, and Bill Pavey manned the House of Friendship Stall promoting the Gold coast and surrounding region. Lisa & Jason Murdoch and John & Kelly Smith hosted fellowship dinners which were enjoyable and fun.

Yola Engler, our Rotary Exchange Student from Germany, has been an absolute delight. Thanks must go to the host families, the Rolles, Murdochs, Bottomleys and Margaret Cressey. We changed schools this year to Coombabah High School and Yola has reported back that she has been very happy there. It certainly is so much more accessible for host parents having the student attend a school in close proximity to all our homes.

Our outbound student Joanne Farage went to France in January and by all accounts is having a marvellous time.

In May I co-hosted the Annual ROMAC Dinner at the Southport RSL Club where we raised over \$35,000.

The Annual Christmas Carols at Harley Park Labrador was fun for all with Carols by Candlelight on the Broadwater and Santa arriving in style.

Our Rotary land in Olsen Ave has had the first charity commence building. The respite home is for handicapped children under the Family Support Service of Southport.

Clean Up Australia Day. This was easy for us this year with over 30 Buddhists offering to clean up the reserve behind the Parkwood Tavern. Together with the Griffith University's Environmental Club and Biggera Waters Catchment Committee, the day was very successful.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner organised by Brian Knowles has once again raised funds for eradicating polio globally as well as bringing all club members together for fellowship. Australian Rotary Clubs have raised, together with the government's contribution, close to \$US 4 million. Well done Rotary.

Thanks must go to Margaret Cressey for being a very able secretary and Klaus Mikschi as Treasurer (or should I thank his wife Susan). Together they have made my year go smoothly!

Best wishes to Mike Bottomley and his incoming board. I'm sure you will continue the fun and fellowship we have all enjoyed this year.

MARGARET GRUMMITT

1 July 2003