

# **Parkwood Rotary Club**

## **President's Report 2001-2002**

A warm welcome to all those attending our Changeover dinner tonight, its great to have you here to share this important evening, I trust you will enjoy the fellowship and fun. A particular welcome to PDG Paul Gillett and Donna, representing the DG Neil Maxwell and Dell.

As this Rotary year comes to a close and another year begins, it is a good thing to be able to reflect back over the last 12 months and consider our achievements and as always the things that, perhaps, we could have done a little better. The year certainly began with a fair degree of challenges, several of our long serving members including two former club presidents, two previous board members and several other members resigned, all with in the first few months. To the credit of our Members every one "chipped in and did their bit", as a result, it was said "Parkwood is one of the friendliest clubs on the coast". The harmony and friendship exhibited amongst the members resulted in a very positive example and it was not long before our membership started to grow back to previous numbers. It is good to report that we now have 27 members in the club with several prospective members for the new Rotary year.

Without exception, our members are to be congratulated for the fine example they have set at our club meetings and for the effort given in the various avenues of service during the year. My thanks go to each. Achievements are reported by the Club Directors in their summaries on the following pages.

My special thanks to Mark Kent ( Secretary), Mike Bottomley (Treasurer), Rob Trenerry (Sergeant at Arms), Doug Thomas, Ken Alderton (Bulletin Editors), Gary Cummins, (Duty Roster) Kim Myers (Guest Speaker Coordinator) Bill Pavey (the *best* Web Master), PDG Ken Smith (Attendance Officer). All have given countless hours of their time to assist in the smooth running of the club. Our year has been one of consolidation both for our membership numbers and financially. I am pleased to report the Club is in a sound financial position.

For the 9640 Rotary District Conference held in Goondiwindi, nine Parkwood Club members and their partners attended. The keynote speakers were inspiring and all who attended learnt a little more about the

impact Rotary has on our world. For the Rotarians who missed the raffle, prizes were “a dressed sheep” - complete with hat, lipstick, scarf and tu-tu (alive, but surely sedated!!) and a further “Chicken Dinner” comprising a kilo bag of wheat ! Those country cousins sure have a funny sense of humour.

Some of the most memorable activities of our Rotary Year were:

- Parkwood Club support of ROMAC. (Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children) The East Timor lad Augusto who required life saving bowel surgery at Allamanda Hospital. He and his mother Anna were hosted by Mike and Kay Bottomley and family and we thank them for their outstanding generosity and extra special effort .
- Parkwood Club supports the Youth Exchange Program, Inbound exchange Christina Haefliger from Switzerland enjoyed the hospitality of our club for the year.
- Outbound student Louisa Rebgetz is presently in Sweden for a year.
- Parkwood Club is also host to an Ambassadorial Scholar , Kathryn Baney from Longview Texas. Katie is studying at Bond University .
- Special thanks to Barbara and Don Watkins for their dedication and many years of service to the Youth Exchange program.
- Hands on club projects have always been good fun and very beneficial to the community. This year was no exception - notably Carols by Candlelight on the Broadwater, commencement of the Dyslexia Foundation-Community Service Building on Olsen Ave, Labrador Scout Hall Pergola, assistance in the construction of a boat shelter for Coomera Watersports Rowing Club, “Clean up Australia Day” project, and the Bowel Scan program.
- Thanks goes to PDG Brian Knowles for organizing the comings and goings of the “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” from which the proceeds go to eradicating Polio throughout the world. Parkwood Club has raised in excess of \$10,000 to the Polio Plus Program through this single WIN / WIN enjoyable activity.

**With the support of Parkwood Club Members this year has been successful. I personally thank you. President Elect Margaret, thanks for your support and I wish you and the Incoming Board as much support for greater success.**

**President David Rolle**