

The Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc
District 9710

Annual Report
2007- 2008

R. I. Theme: "Share Rotary"
www.rotarnet.com.au/canberrawoden

Board members

President : David Fox

Secretary: Keith Avent

Immed. Past President: Ray Newcombe

President Elect : Shukry Sahhar

Treasurer: Noel Hart

Club service: Peter Evans

Community Service: Neale Emanuel

International Service: Bernadette

Cappello

Vocational Service: Shukry Sahhar

Youth Service: Val Bland

Office holders

**Bulletin Editor : John Gray & Bruce
Wyatt**

Sergeant: Ian Excell

**Program Manager: Neale Emanuel &
Piers Booth**

Historian/ Archivist: Keith Avent

Attendance: Phil Ibbotson

Webmaster: Robin Cromer

President's Report: *David Fox*

I have been honoured to have served this year as President for 2007-8. This was the second time I have been club President. It is becoming more difficult to convince people to stand for President. Our incoming President (Shukry Sahhar) is also in for a second term. It is also disappointing to note that we do not have a President-Elect for 2009-2010.

I have been ably supported by Secretary Keith Avent whose many years of Rotary experience and wise advice have contributed to everything we have achieved this year. Noel Hart has been a superb Treasurer and provided the club with all the necessary financial management. I also offer my sincere thanks to Neale, Shukry, Peter, Val, Ray and Bernadette for their unstinting support especially as we had to take many difficult decisions about the club's future.

We had two Raven editors this year; John Gray and Bruce Wyatt. Our Bulletin has continued to set new standards for being informative as well as an enjoyable read. I have often had compliments from other clubs about the consistent quality of the Bulletin.

We also had two members (Piers Booth and Neale Emanuel) undertake the gruelling task of arranging a most interesting weekly speaker program. The club has been privileged to listen to some most outstanding speakers this year.

Ian Excell has been our Sergeant and Trash & Treasure organiser, both of which require an excellent sense of humour. Ian's recent illness required Neale Emanuel to undertake the role of Sergeant for 2 months.

We welcomed District Governor Bernie Rodgers and Liz early in the Rotary year and on several occasions we welcomed Assistant Governor Barry Howe. Barry has also run monthly meetings of his President's group where he provided leadership and encouragement.

The Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program was very successful this year with 47 year 11 students attending from all over Australia for this valuable youth program. Our representatives on the committee (Ros, Neale, Bruce, Gary, Judy and Bernadette) deserve special thanks for their huge efforts and success. Ros deserves our special praise and recognition for her tireless work over many years on the RAIC Committee.

Along with Canberra City Club we again managed the car parking at the Royal Canberra Show and as a consequence of our expertise we now have further parking contracts for other events. Bernadette Cappello managed the event this year and both she and Gary Scott deserve special mention for their “guided democracy” approach to management.

We have continued our practice of providing over \$50 per member in support of **Rotary Foundation**. The general desire of the club to continue with **Paul Harris Fellowships** as recognition of service awards has in general remained dominant. A Paul Harris Fellowship was awarded to Bernadette Cappello in recognition of her outstanding service to her vocation, club and Rotary International. John Widdup was awarded a Sapphire Upgrade to his Paul Harris Fellowship for his outstanding work on the Rotary Bike ride and the successful membership programme. Piers Booth was also awarded a Sapphire upgrade to his PHF for his dedication to the Akah people from northern Thailand including bringing Somchai to Canberra for a much needed operation. Somchai was sponsored through the ROMAC program and hosted by Piers and Maureen for 6 months while he underwent operations on his polio affected foot. Piers has recently returned Somchai to his family in Thailand where he has returned to school but now with the ability to walk properly.

With regard to **membership** we have been pleased to have Norma Donaldson, Jeff Ibbotson and Alec Philip join us.

As usual many people contributed to the smooth management of our Club but special mention must be made of Phil Ibbotson. Phil has been a stalwart of our club for many years and this year has again been the attendance officer a sometimes difficult job especially when members do not apologise.

My main aims this year included:

- **Modernising the club** and particularly the meeting protocols. It was apparent to me that our meeting protocols did not appeal to younger people. As a consequence we have removed the Loyal Toast, Rotary Grace, the National Anthem and the Rotary Toast from the start of every meeting. We still have the above traditions at special meetings such as Change Over Dinners and visits by the DG. etc.
- **Increasing membership** in conjunction with modernising the meetings we needed to attract new members and consequently asked John Widdup to arrange a new members evening based on the Beyond 2000 Program. The meeting was an outstanding success with 3 new members and 2 other people who wish to join.
- **Removing obsolete programs.** Rotary has a problem whereby we undertake programs and events “because we have always done them”. Every program and event must be tested regularly to determine whether it meets its original aims. We decided to discontinue the Trash and Treasure Clean-up program which was replaced by extra Car Parking events.
- **Western Desert Health Project at Kintore** established last year as a 5 year project in conjunction with the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT). We have spent a year planning, proselytising and fund raising and are now ready to start building! Our club has set aside over \$21000 for the project and other clubs such as Hall, Canberra City and Woden Daybreak have offered financial and work party support. A Newcastle Architectural Company (Suter Architects) has prepared Plans and Drawings of the proposed

Blue House alterations. We acknowledge Suters' outstanding community work in providing all professional work for free. The project is now an official RAWCS Project and is the first such project within Australia to be approved. We are now establishing matching grants through the Rotary Foundation.

Club Service: *Peter Evans*

My main activity was attempting to find a suitable venue for Club meetings in advance of the Embassy closing. I visited a number of restaurants and licensed clubs in the local area. Only one club was prepared to offer a venue every week, this being the Yamba Sports Club of the Southern Cross Club. The only other suitable venue I found was the Statesman Hotel. We tried both venues for a trial meeting and decided on Yamba. At a meeting late in the year the membership decided to remain with the Embassy until it closed. As a result I cancelled the arrangement with Yamba.

It will not be easy to find a suitable venue and I recommend the incoming Board make this a priority issue.

Community Service: *Neale Emanuel*

1. **ARHRF** scholarship to Marion Bateup to assist in a Bachelor of Nursing at University of Canberra.
2. **Operation Cleft** individual club members sponsored 21 operations
3. **Working Bee at Greenhills Conference Centre**

International Service: *Bernadette Cappello*

1. Sponsorship of outgoing international exchange student, Alastair Brister Hare.

The club undertook sponsorship of Alastair Brister Hare, a student

of Melrose High School for his International Exchange to Denmark. Alastair departed Australia in January 2008, and from all reports is enjoying his time in Denmark. He is in regular contact with the club and regularly receives the club bulletin.

Sponsorship of Alastair has not cost the club financially, with the exception of his attendance at a couple of club dinners. His interview and approval process was completed at District level prior to our club being approached to sponsor him.

2. Matching Grant Project - Rotary Club of Nasik Road – Cardiac Ambulance

For a project introduced to the club by Dr Bish Mukerjee, a matching grant application (#66965) was submitted together with the Rotary Club of Nasik Road in India for the funding of a Cardiac Ambulance to Jairam Hospital in Nasik Road, Maharashtra, India. The application has been approved and our contribution of \$2300 paid. With the matching grant practices, the total funds available for the project exceed US\$20,000.

An amount of AUD2300 has been allocated from the 2007/08 budget for this project. It is expected that this will be paid upon receipt of notification of project approval from the Rotary Foundation.

We have had a much needed boost to our numbers this year following an effective recruitment drive which saw 3 new members join our ranks. It goes to show that once you start talking about how much our Rotary club is doing (and other clubs worldwide) others feel they would like to be part of an effective organisation.

In true Rotary spirit our three new members Norma Donaldson, Geoff Ibbotson and Alec Philip stepped in and spoke about their respective careers in teaching, law and pharmacy. Shukry spoke briefly about his

change in work as a project director for Brookfield Multiplex.

As a group we managed to go to the movies to see Vantage Point, a fast action movie about the assassination of the US president in Spain. The speed of the movie kept people on the edge of their seats and showed that, no matter what the age of the club or its members, we are still young at heart. We are just glad we don't do it very often and, it was a relief that no one was wearing a pace maker!! We enjoyed a banquet at the Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant in Woden before the show. It was certainly worth doing.

Judy Skelton arranged an evening at her house in Yarralumla for all the members and guests and whilst Neil was happy to keep the bar, others were pleased that Judy had arranged for Sri Lankan food to be brought in.

This year our George Paulus Vocational Service Award was given to Bishop Pat Power for his fine example and leadership over many years to, not only the RC congregations, but also to the people of the ACT and its surrounds.

Piers Booth continued with his involvement with the Children of the Golden Triangle Refuge and arranged for Somchai through ROMAC to be brought to Canberra to undergo surgery on his deformed foot. Thank you Piers and Maureen for opening your house and hearts to make a big difference to Somchai.

Bruce Wyatt was our resident computer expert who lent the club his laptop for guest speakers and managed our audio visual needs.

We recognised Jamie Geedes a salesman from the Good Guys, Fyshwick with an excellence in service award.

Youth Service: *Val Bland*

1. **NYSF** we sponsored Kylie Kirk
2. **RYLA** we sponsored Samuel Nash-Slattery
3. **RYPEN** We sponsored Vanessa Phillips, Victoria Braido and Monica Dominish.
4. **Siemens Science Workshop** We sponsored Joshua Tamm, Richard Blessington, Angela Singh and Maria Shilova.
5. **Christmas Cakes, puddings and Short Bread**
6. **Support towards Fundraising for Tansen hospital in Nepal (\$6345)**
7. **Bruce Drake Community Service Awards** to Neville Tomkins and other Scout leaders.
8. **Dedication Ceremony for ACT Scouts Camp Cottermouth**

Rotary Adventure in Citizenship (RAIC)

Rotary Adventure in Citizenship is a program organised by our Club, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Canberra and the Parliamentary Education Office. The valuable sponsorship of the National Capital Authority over the past eighteen years has been reduced with limited assistance still being offered for 2008. The program has been running from 1990 and will celebrate its twentieth year in 2009.

In August 2007 forty-seven students from all parts of Australia travelled to Canberra to participate in an intensive five day educational program giving them a first hand introduction to The Australian Parliament. Delegates travelled from all states, as well as from Horn Island in the Torres Strait and Katherine NT. Each brought a different outlook about the values of Australian citizenship and throughout the week the interaction between delegates enabled them to appreciate even more, the values and privileges of being an Australian. The program is structured so as to stimulate the delegates to think about Australia as a whole: its political culture, its economy, and its legal system, and to provide them with the opportunity to discuss, at a national level, contemporary issues that will affect their future.

RAIC 2007 was a great success, thanks to the many club members who assisted by hosting and transporting the delegates, and those involved with the running of the program. The Committee is now finalising the program for RAIC 2008. This will be held from 30 August to 6 September and the Club looks forward to welcoming a new group of Year 11 students to our National Capital.

Car Parking (Gary Scott)

For many years the Canberra Woden Rotary Club has raised funds for community activities by managing (for a fee) the Canberra Show parking and “cleaning up” after the Belconnen Rotary Club Sunday Trash & Treasure. During 2008 our Club terminated its contract with the Belconnen Club and extended its fee-for-service parking activities to cover race days at Thoroughbred Park and community activities at EPIC.

These new activities have turned out to be excellent fund raisers and great fellowship outings and the Club often invites other clubs to join in the parking activities.

Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra (John Widdup)

The Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra was staged by the club for the fourth time on Sunday 14 October 2007. We offered bike rides for all ages and abilities including a family fun ride (25 km around the lake) and some really serious challenges (up to 100 km with as many as five hills). A total of 350 people entered the tour this year, almost double the 186 we had when the event was initiated in 2004. Riders were offered great morning teas provided by the Canberra Inner Wheel Club at two locations around the course and a sausage sizzle at the finish.

The total amount collected was \$6521 and the net amount after a donation to Inner Wheel was \$4317 for the club. As usual, we received many complimentary comments from riders and the fifth staging of the event is set down for Sunday 21st September 2008.

Trash and Treasure (Ian Excell)

The club continued to support T&T and found the funding useful. However having enough tow bar vehicles for the roster has proved a difficulty. The Club decided to discontinue our involvement in the Trash and Treasure program after 10 years of service.

Somchai Yaeso (Piers Booth)

From first meeting Somchai, an Akha boy from Northern Thailand, to being able to take him back, with a reconstructed foot has been almost 2 1/2 years, a period of both great frustration, but also elation.

In February 2006, our Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) team working at the Children of the Golden Triangle (CGT) training centre, near Chiang Rai, met Somchai for the first time. As an infant he had been a polio victim, with damage to his left leg. As a result his left leg was shorter than the right. In addition, due to unequal muscle wasting of the lower leg, the ankle joint had become grossly deformed, so the Somchai walked on the toes of the left foot.

Armed with photographs, I approached Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) for help. In December I was back at CGT with another RAWCS team, and this enabled me to get all the forms required by ROMAC completed, including consent from both parents. Meanwhile CGT were able to organise a passport for Somchai.

Normally a child is accompanied by a parent when coming to Australia for treatment. Both Somchai's parents are stateless, making the issuing of both passports and visas impossible. This problem was resolved with my making a further trip to CGT, leaving Australia in late November 2007 as a RAWCS volunteer, having been asked by ROMAC to bring Somchai to Australia, and to act as his guardian. My original intention of staying 2 weeks stretched to 5, as we waited for Somchai's medical visa to be granted. We arrived in Canberra just before Christmas, and saw the surgeon, Dr Paul Minter, early in the New Year.

Somchai's first operation was early in February, and he had a further operation in mid March. Following his operations he had a plaster cast, and became very adapt at getting around on crutches. Somchai discarded his plaster early in May, and started to learn to walk on his reconstructed left ankle and foot. He and I returned to CGT on May 21, to a great welcome. Although the polio has left permanent damage, with muscle weakness and shortening of the left leg, so that Somchai will never have normal function, he is very pleased with the result.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped to make the reconstruction possible. There are too many to name them all, but they must include:

Dr Paul Minter, and his team of anaesthetists and assistants, who gave their services free.

Calvary Private Hospital and all the staff, without charge.

People who helped as interpreters.

ACT Education Department and the English as a Second Language school at Dickson College.

Bryan Mason and the board of ROMAC.

The District 9710 ROMAC committee.

The members of the Rotary Club of Canberra Woden, and in particular those who helped by relieving the burden of caring for Somchai; Bernadette Cappello, John Gray, Ros Osbourne, Des Pain and Bruce Wyatt.

My neighbours.

My wife Maureen, who put up with a lot.

Treasurer's Report: (Noel Hart)

Audited Financial Statements will be presented to members at the AGM in November. This report will summarise our finances to 1 May 2008.

General Account - Balance \$22336

The financial year shows a forecast surplus of about \$1900 of which \$1100 is the balance of Trash and Treasure funds after transferring \$8000 to Project Account. Carry Forward to the new year should be approx. \$24000 depending on the wrap up of T & T operations.

Project Account – Balance \$41380

The following is a summary of the year's financial transactions in Project Account

Brought forward from previous year:		\$23167
Income		
Cycle Tour (net)	\$4317	
Racecourse Parking (net)	\$8640	
Show Parking (net)	\$8531	
Sale of Cakes	\$ 967	
Transfer of T & T from General Account	\$8000	
Interest	\$ 87	
Kintore Raffle etc	\$ 400	<u>\$30942</u>
		\$54109
Expenditure		
Donations		
Club Service - Foundation	\$ 1500	
Community Service	\$ 5884	
International Service	\$ 2200	
Vocational Service	\$ 0	
Youth Service	\$ 3107	\$12691
Bank Charges		<u>\$ 38</u>
Project Account Balance		<u>\$41380</u>
Unexpended budget allocations approved by the Board		
Kintore additional allocation		\$10400
International		\$ 5300
Vocational		\$ 200
Youth		\$ 400
Still to be allocated		\$ 1400
Carried Forward for New Board		<u>\$23680</u>
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$41380</u>

Donations and Sponsorships for 2007/08

<i>Club Service</i>	\$
Rotary Foundation	1,500.00
Total Club Service	1,500.00
<i>Community Service</i>	
ACT Scouts	2,800.00
Children's Emergency Fund	200.00
Community Service Awards	83.88
Open Family	3,000.00
Prostate Foundation	500.00
Total Community Service	6,583.88
<i>International Service</i>	
Nashik Ambulance	2,240.00
Nepal Outpatients Clinic	1,000.00
Refugee Shelters	2,400.00
ROMAC	1,000.00
Rotary Youth Exchange	100.00
Total International Service	6,740.00
<i>Special Projects</i>	
Western Desert Health Project	400.00
Total Special Projects	400.00
<i>Youth Service</i>	
Holder Garnsey Awards	300.00
Murray Darling Youth Sponsor	450.00
RYLA	500.00
RYPEN	780.00
Youth Science	1,077.00
Total Youth Service	3,107.00
Total Donations and Sponsorships	\$17,530.88



End of Annual Report 07/08