



The Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.

District 9710



**Annual Report
July 2004—June 2005**

The scenic cycling tour of Canberra



A Canberra Woden Rotary Project

FRESH WATER
• SHELTER BOX \$1100.00

AWARDS

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD \$31.90
HOLDER STURT AWARD \$200.00(GIFT
CHQ)

Rotary 4 way test

“Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”



Treasurer's Report
Ajit Banerjee

This year was another successful year for the Rotary. Major fund raising events like Show Parking had another excellent performance, yielding a profit around \$12,000.

This Year \$12,000 was raised through Trash and Treasure, an increase of 12%. Another \$1000.00 was raised by way of the wishing well, Selling Christmas cakes and Donations from the Driver Re-iver.

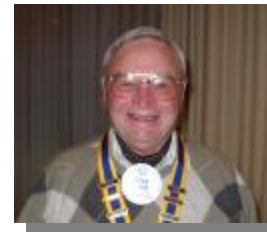
The major beneficiaries from these fund raising activities were: -

DONATIONS

- FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION \$1000.00
- CANCER COUNCIL \$1000.00
- PEGASUS SCHOOL FOR DISABLE \$1000.00
- BARNADOS \$ 500.00
- DIABETES AUSTRALIA \$1000.00
- MENTAL ILLNESS (ARHRF) \$1000.00
- GALLILEE \$1000.00
- SOUTH CARE HELICOPTER \$1000.00
- SALVATION ARMY \$1000.00
- BESLAN SCHOOL CHILDREN \$ 100.00
- WODEN SCHOOL \$ 250.00
- LEGACY \$ 100.00
- MARYMEAD \$1500.00

SPONSERSHIP

- ABORIGINAL HEALTH CENTRE \$1889.47
- RAIC \$1250.00
- RYSF (RAMANA KUMAR) \$1650.00
- MENTAL ILLNESS FORUM \$ 500.00
- RYPEN \$ 200.00
- RESEARCH ON MURRAY DARLINGS\$ 200.00



Presidents Report
Peter Evans

Let me say at the outset that I felt greatly honoured to be elected as president of our Club for a second time. As you know, I had very little preparation for the year but was greatly assisted by PP Rex Hunt, Secretary and PE John Widdup and all members of the Board. I also enjoyed a high level of co-operation, support and encouragement from the membership in general for which I have been most grateful.

I must admit to a great sense of personal satisfaction in seeing our involvement with the Winnunga Nimmitjyah Aboriginal Health Service get off the ground. I firmly believe that this project has the potential to make a significant contribution to improvement in aboriginal health and to the whole reconciliation process. Our initial work in co-operation with the Master Builders Association was most successful and will be marked by a plaque to be mounted at the Health Service building in due course. Many members assisted with this first phase of involvement and I congratulate them on a job well done. I would particularly like to mention the design and supervision effort provided by PP John Gray and that of Gerald Brennan of the MBA for marshalling the muscle.



The garden is but the first stage and there is much to be done. PP Rex Hunt has already done much to determine a way ahead and he has agreed to be the Point of Contact between the Club and the Service for the next few years. I also would like to acknowledge the undertaking given by incoming President John Widdup and incoming PE Ray Newcombe to support the project through the next two years at least.

Declining membership has been a cause for concern for the Club for many years. With the agreement of the Board, I approached the President of Canberra-East early in the Club year to discuss the possibility of merging. At first glance this seemed to be an attractive proposition for both clubs as both were experiencing increasing average age, difficulties with recruiting and retention of members with the attendant problems in meeting on-going project commitments.

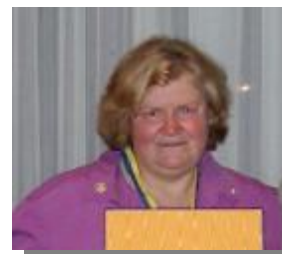
The possible merger was given long and thoughtful consideration helped immensely by an excellent paper produced by Keith Avent. As the year progressed, enthusiasm for the merger cooled and, in the end, both clubs decided to maintain the status quo.

The membership target for 2004-2005 was set at three new members. I regret to say that we missed this with a loss of five and a gain of two. In effect we missed the target by six.

With regard to membership, I firmly believe we should apply careful scrutiny to those we invite to membership. We must be sure that those we accept will do nothing to detract from the reputation that Rotarians enjoy. We must also be sure that prospective members understand the commitment necessary to fully partake of the life of the Club. With regard to the later, Frank Maklin's efforts to attend whenever possible are noteworthy.

At the last Club Assembly of the 2004-2005 year we looked at membership again and discussed, inter-alia, the increasing costs of Rotary membership. Outgoings to District, RI and Rotary Down Under continue to increase, as do dinner costs. Dinner, drinks and fines probably cost \$25 per meeting or approximately \$1250 per year. Fees add \$240 and attendance at District events can easily add another few hundreds per year. I believe we must be mindful of the drain on the incomes of older members on fixed incomes and do what we can to contain costs.

The Trash and Treasure Clean-up commitment was critically examined on a number of occasions. There is no doubt that this project generates substantial funds that can quite legally be used to aug-



**International service
Pamela Best**

The club continues to support the children of the Golden Triangle Refuge in Thailand. Piers Booth has returned to the orphanage and has provided much needed medical assistance and also continued with physical building works.

Piers also arranged for David and Asser to visit and talk to our club and others in the district about the ongoing need and support required at the refuge. Other members have made private contributions to assist the orphanage. Piers has suggested the club sponsor a child at the refuge as part of our ongoing commitment to the work we have already completed. The new board has agreed to support the refuge and will consider the various options. Our matching grant with the club of Chaing Mai has sadly not progressed very far. The rotary club of Chaing Mai has had more than 5 matching grant projects on the go and our project has not proceeded. Emails to Pradit have gone unanswered. Whilst it would be nice to have ours committed it may be simpler to simply donate the cash to the orphanage.



VOCATIONAL SERVICE Shukry Sahhar

This year vocational service undertook several activities to highlight the experience and skills within the club. We also recognised the contribution of others in the community as they showed service above self.

We had two presentations by members this year. Bruce Wyatt an expert geophysicist highlighted the role of the geoscientist in today's world. Bruce took the club through the time warp of geoscience and showed the club how the earth and rocks viewed over time can have very different characteristics to what we perceive today. Rocks can vary from being brittle or flow like plastic over time and he cleverly showed this very different behaviour by the use of silly plastic. Bruce has a wide experience in computer data bases and in solving problems through computer techniques. Piers Booth spoke to the club about his ongoing support of the Akka children in the hill tribes of Thailand. Piers has been back to the orphanage several times and helped the children and staff with medical advice and further building works. Piers is hoping to arrange a FAIM team to return in January 2006. So if you missed out last time talk to piers about joining the next trip.

This year we presented the George Paulus Award to two tireless workers who have led the Girls/Boys Brigade in Canberra over the past 20 years. It is so easy to help out once, but to commit to such an important need for such a long period, certainly required recognition. We congratulate Elizabeth Harding and Grahame Robertson on their hard work and their George Paulus Award.

ment the General Account and so allow some subsidization of club running expenses. However, there are many who would prefer not to be involved and many who feel that this project is a disincentive to attracting new members. There is a growing problem of equity of effort due to a declining number of members with towbar fitted vehicles. Consensus has led us to continue with the project but I feel it will continue to challenge the Club.

The Scenic Bike Ride, championed by Secretary and President Elect John Widdup was a great success and, I believe, will grow in importance for the future of the Club. Involvement of the Inner Wheel Club of Canberra-Woden was much appreciated by both parties. Their assistance in providing food and drink to the participants helped us to stage a great event and our donation to them was a major boost to their fund raising.

Show Parking 2005 was the most successful ever. Notwithstanding difficulties caused by the clash between the Black Opal and the Show, parking was efficiently managed and a remarkably accuracy in balancing tickets and monies collected was achieved. The new administrative arrangements put in place were most successful and a credit to David Fox. The Club owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Gary Scott and his team for their efforts. Effectively every member of the Club contributed to the success of Show Parking and once again the assistance of the Inner Wheel of Canberra-Woden was greatly appreciated.

Under the watchful eye of Bruce Hall, Driver Reviver 2004 was again very successfully managed. By the time this report goes to press, the new season will have started and I have no doubt will be most successful.

Your Club Directors have worked hard this last year and, on your behalf and mine, I thank them and their deputies. In the main our aims have been achieved; we have made significant disbursements in cash and kind to many worthy causes and we have celebrated Rotary. Their individual reports follow later in this document.

There are many others who work in and behind the scenes to keep the Club rolling. There is always a danger in naming names as all members of the Club have contributed in one way or another. However, I must mention Noel Hart for the Raven; Robin Cromer for our web site; Phil Ibbotson for his work as liaison with the Embassy and attendance supremo; Piers Booth for the programme of speakers; Director of Parties Pamela Best; Jacki Cauchi and Ajit Banerjee for keeping the books; Keith Avent for his maintenance of records and his sage advice; Allan Ford for his assistance in setting-up for the Sergeant; and Ian Excell for his work as Sergeant, T&T rostering and visual image manager. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts made by Des Henderson-Kelly that enable Murray Crowe to continue to participate in the activities of the Club.

Irene, Mary and others of the Embassy staff continue to provide us with good meals, good service and I thank them for that. Apart from anything else, Irene continues to lift our performance of the National Anthem!

It would be most remiss of me not to mention the leadership provided during the year by our Governor, Bob Greeney. Bob and his team did a tremendous job for which I offer hearty congratulations. I would also like to thank Assistant Governor Michael Pedler for his interest and assistance throughout the year.

Piers Booth continues to keep the Children of the Golden Triangle clearly before our eyes. His personal contribution to this and other humanitarian projects has been an inspiration to all members of the Club. I hope that we will be able to mount a team to work in Thailand next year to build on what has already been achieved.

We had the great pleasure during the year of celebrating the wedding of our highly respected member Ros Osbourne to a long time friend of this Club, John Joslin. We all wish them long life and happiness.

One of the great pleasures afforded to Club Presidents is to be able

Canberra College Year 12 Graduation.

The Club has actively supported a variety of Rotary Youth Programs. One of our members, Ai Lin Tan was a counsellor at the RYPEN, the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment held at Tathra last November and the Club selected and sponsored a student from Marist College, Dale Roots. Two students were nominated for NYSF, the National Youth Science Forum, and one, Ramana Kumar, from Canberra Grammar School, was successful. Members of the Club acted as hosts for the NYSF delegates.



Two student from Canberra Girls Grammar School, Diana Hemmingway and Jemina Fort, were sponsored to attend MUNA, the Model United Nations Assembly. The club combined with the Rotary Club of Canberra East to sponsor Melissa Olin from Canberra Girls Grammar School to attend the Rotary Murray Darling School of Freshwater Research in April 2005. This project is organised by the Rotary Club of Albury in conjunction with the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre.

In May, Frances Rivera, President of the Rotaract Club of Canberra will be a guest speaker at the Club.

Thank you to all members who took an active interest in the youth program this year



Youth Director's Report
Ros Osbourne

The Club has been active in the past year supporting youth activities.

During the year the Club organised another successful Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program. Congratulations to Bruce Hall for his leadership ensuring a challenging program for the forty seven delegates from all states of Australia who attended. This program is successful due to the generous sponsorship of the National Capital Authority and the Parliamentary Education Office. Its success also depends on the generosity of the Rotarians of our own Club and the Rotary Club of Canberra in hosting the delegates. The Club paid half sponsorship for one delegate, Syreeta Mills, an indigenous student from Thursday Island who moved to Cairns during the selection process and therefore lost her Club sponsorship.

A new initiative was the link established with The Woden School at Deakin. In November the Club held their regular meeting at The Woden School and were hosted by the school's hospitality students. An excellent meal was served and the students gained valuable work experience while members of our Club learned more of the abilities of the students at this school. Thank you to Acting Principal, Hazel Hoskisson, who organised the evening. A cheque was sent to the school to subsidise the Year 10 Graduation Dinner so that every student would be able to attend.

The George Paulus Awards for 2004 were presented to two ancillary staff members from the Woden School. Sandra Cusack and Linda Shepley have been active over a period of thirteen years arranging for students with disabilities to participate in community and elite sporting activities.

The Arthur Holder Award and the Stuart Garnsey awards were presented to John Milton and to Alix-Maree Kuzma respectively at The

to recognize the contributions made by members of the Club and the community by the award of Paul Harris Fellowships. This year the Board has authorized me to present four. Three have already been awarded; Rex Hunt and Bruce Hall as Fellows and Ros Osbourne with a Sapphire Upgrade. I will announce a fourth at Change-over and this report can be amended at a later date.

The Club continues to be a happy one and a popular venue for "make-ups". I think it important that we keep this in mind and be proud of it. In my view, clubs take on a personality over the years and ours has become known as being quietly effective, caring, cooperative, friendly and welcoming. Notwithstanding our falling membership, I am immensely proud to have been President of this great club.

Finally, may I wish the incoming District Governor, Noel Trevasakis, and his team and our incoming President, John Widdup, and his team every good wish for an enjoyable and successful year.

**Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden
Annual Report 2004-2005
Addendum**



Immediate Past President - Rex Hunt

I have always reckoned that the job of the 'past president' is one of support and encouragement, and when required, a listening ear - to and for the current president. I appreciated that about Robin Cromer during my presidential year. I hope President Peter has felt the same about my role this year.

At the request of President Peter I have accepted the continuing role of club contact with the Winnunuga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service. Indeed the club has now agreed to establish a Centenary Project with the Health Service, to be called the Rotary Centennial Project, Achievement Award.

Guidelines for the project have been drawn up and they state: "Rotary's broad aim is to provide financial support for people to undertake education or training activities, or empowering people to work towards such activity".

A budgeted amount for the project is \$2,000 per year, continuous, commencing 2005-2006 Rotary year. However, President Peter has requested a donation of \$500 go this Rotary year to commence the project.

Australia wide community organisations including, Fred hollows Foundation, Pegasus riding School, Barnardo's, Cancer Council of the Act, Diabetes, Rotary Health Research, Mary Mead, Camp Quality and TADACT along with a number of other organisations.

The Bruce Drake Community Award was awarded to Elizabethh Harding for services to Girls' Brigade and Grahame Robertson for services to Boys' Brigade

In looking back over last years program a number of projects were not realised including, assistance to St Andrews Retirement Village, Handyhelp and assistance at the proposed stroke ward at the Canberra Hospital.

Future areas of community service for consideration by the club include the Woden Special School, Marymead and Galilee.





**Community Service
Bruce Hall**

In 2004/2005 club year the members of the Canberra Woden Rotary Club were again active in serving the local community through a number of projects and events.

The major initiative for the club this year was the involvement of the club with the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service at Narrabundah, ACT. Club members undertook the landscaping works of an existing external courtyard at the health service building. The work was carried out in partnership with the staff of the health centre and other ACT organisations and is expected to be completed by June this year. It is proposed that the clubs involvement in Winnunga Nimmityjah health facility be ongoing over the coming years. It was also proposed that this project become a Rotary Centennial Project.

This Project was initiated by club President Peter Evans and will be coordinated in the future years by past President Rex Hunt.

Other areas of club community service included the collection of proceeds from the wishing well for projects to benefit of patients and their visitors to the Canberra Hospital, delivery of Christmas hampers donated by the Smith Family, sale of Rotary Christmas cakes and puddings to club members.

The Driver Reviver program was again coordinated by the club with other Canberra Rotary clubs assisting with the manning of the facility at Bredbo, NSW during the ski season. This year saw the distribution of travelling allowance from the RTA to volunteers for expenses in travelling to and from Canberra.

Again the Cooma Council is impacting on the program through its requirements in the use of the community hall at Bredbo.

A portion of club funds were distributed to a number of local and

A further feature of the project is that in June each year, suitably designed Certificates of Achievements will be presented to the successful participants in the Project, by the Club.

The establishment of this project is a significant event in the life of Canberra Woden. It combines the current professional skills of Club members, offers encouragement to other, as well as grants us the privilege of sharing in some community work with the Health Service. Such an event was the Community barbecue held just a week ago.

Congratulations President Peter on a fine job done as President. The club is indebted to you. We have 'celebrated Rotary'.

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