



***The Rotary Club of
Canberra-Woden Inc
District 9710***

Annual Report 2006-2007

R. I. Theme: "Lead the Way"

www.rotar.net.com.au/canberrawoden

Board members

President : Ray Newcombe
Secretary: John Gray
Immed. Past President: John Widdup
President Elect : David Fox
Treasurer: Noel Hart
Club service: Tom Davies
Community Service: Val Bland
International Service: David Fox
Vocational Service: Shukry Sahhar
Youth Service: Ajit Banerjee

Office holders

Bulletin Editor : Des Pain
Sergeant: Rex Hunt
Program Manager: Shukry Sahhar
Historian/ Archivist: Keith Avent
Attendance: Ros Osbourne
Webmaster: Robin Cromer

President's Report: *President Ray Newcombe*

I have been honoured to have served this year as President for 2006-7. Time and circumstance precluded my fulfilling this role earlier and I have found it most rewarding to have such strong support from the great people who are the members of this Club.

John Gray has been a model secretary and his experience and wise advice has supported all we have achieved. Noel Hart has been a most assiduous Treasurer and provided the club with all the necessary financial management.

We are particularly indebted to Des Pain for his editing of the Raven. He has continued to set new standards for being informative and to the point. Des has been assisted by a small committee and feels it is time for another member to carry on. We honour Des Pain's fifty years membership of Rotary.

Shukry Sahhar has arranged a most interesting weekly after dinner program as well as supporting Helen in her capacity as District Chair, Inner Wheel and being our Vocational Service Director. Thank you Shukry for this fine contribution.

John Widdup as Past President and Rex Hunt as sergeant have also played special roles. In particular, I wish to thank Rex for his constant support, for steering the management of meetings at times when I could not be present and for his essential good humour which so distinguishes a sergeant.

With regard to new activities not ever done previously, **our major project with the indigenous of the Western Desert based on Kintore** has started and will continue for the next five years. David Fox, President Elect and International Director has initiated this. Our role is fully accepted by the aboriginal community and we aim to help them to keep their families well and together despite the ravages of kidney disease and other problems. We are a catalyst to getting things done from the voluntary community support point of view and aim to provide organizational and logistic support to achieve improvement both at Kintore and the nearby NT, WA and SA communities for dialysis and for health education and prevention measures. This involves progressive help from other Rotary Clubs, from the community and from Government. It is not so much what to do but how to get it done in a way the indigenous citizens will accept and want.

Also new is the club support for **two aboriginal health scholarships** via the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund for two students attending Canberra Universities. The Rotary Club of Canberra Woden is the first Canberra Club to sponsor this program.

In August we welcomed District Governor Mick Newling and Lori and on several occasions the encouragement of Assistant Governor Barry Howe. Both have provided exemplary and enthusiastic help and we have felt more directly involved with district administration than ever before. This has had a positive effect on our contributions to the wider Rotary scene.

Our Past President John Lawrence OAM has become a Director of Rotary International for 2008-2010 representing zones 7 and 8 which includes Australia, New Zealand, western Pacific and the Phillipines.

Our **twin relationship** with **Canberra Club** in the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program was very successfully overseen this year by our quiet achiever, Bruce Wyatt. Not only did we together as two clubs look after 47 year 11 students for this youth program of such value to our youth in developing leadership in Australian citizenship, but in particular this club in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Darwin sponsored two Indigenous students for the first time .

We also twinned with the **Canberra City** in the important activity of managing the car parking at the Royal Canberra Show. This has yielded good funding to support our projects, has provided direct mentoring and experience in community voluntary work for several students from Canberra Grammar School, has built up the public relationship image with Rotary and has provided opportunity for the two clubs to meet together. Special thanks to Gary Scott for master minding all this and to the total involvement of our membership.

We nominated two students from Canberra College to participate in the **Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)**. Also for the first time in over a decade we provided sponsorship for one to participate in **Young Aborigines Rotary Enrichment Program (YARN)**. Also on the local youth front, Ajit Bannerjee arranged for two students, one of which has an indigenous background, to attend RYPEN and we have been glad to hear them speak of their experience and present them with their certificates.

We have continued our practice of providing over \$50 per member in support of **Rotary Foundation**. Our intention to make all individual members of the club contributors at the centurion level was thwarted by the rules. The general desire of the club to continue with **Paul Harris Fellowships** as recognition of service awards has in general remained dominant. We think this Australian view of the PHF level of contribution to the Foundation ought to be encouraged more widely within Rotary International – not the reverse.

Paul Harris Fellowships have been awarded to John Widdup and Bob Harvie in recognition of their service to their vocations, club and Rotary International.

With regard to **membership** we have been pleased to have Judy Skelton and Juliet Badu-Tiwa join us. Our longstanding member, Murray Crowe passed on to higher service on July. PHF Bruce Hall has transferred to the Rotary Club of Sawtell.

Keith Avent has provided a list of **Rotary Family** members from the club archives and we intend sending the Raven every three months or so with special requests to consider attending our functions when appropriate. This has not yet resulted in any of these associated and friends specifically joining or re-joining but continued catching up with them remains an important fellowship activity.

Previously we have held a **mental health awareness** seminar. This year we arranged with the Rotary Club of Weston Creek to welcome, on behalf of ARHRF, at Parliament House the bicycle riders for the Sunrise Foundation which particularly looks after the issues in relation to elite athletes.

Ray Newcombe, President, 2006-7

Indigenous Health: President–Elect David Fox

This year the Club has built on its foundation work in aboriginal health under Past Presidents Rex Hunt, Peter Evans and John Widdup. It will be recalled that the Club developed a relationship with **Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Centre** at Narrabundah. This included the refurbishment of a courtyard used by patients and we provided Leah Hoolihan with a \$500 scholarship to successfully achieve qualifications as a Dental Assistant.

Continuing the education theme we have this year provided \$5,000 for two Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) **Indigenous Health Scholarships**. To date, one student has been offered one. Indigenous students can be awarded scholarships after their first year studying in a health related course at a tertiary educational establishment after they can prove that they can cope with study at that level. This initiative has been managed by Val Bland.

In addition David Fox has laid the foundations of a much larger five year initiative with the **Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT)** in the Northern Territory)

David Fox has initiated and progressed this major Central Australia project for the people of the Western Desert. It is intended to involve many clubs in the District and in Rotary Australia as it develops. It is expected to become designated as an internal FAIM project. It is so important that Australia be seen to have good and sensitive governance in the desert country which is so remote. It is also important that the indigenous have self determination, self esteem can earn a decent living, have nurture and education and healthy food and housing.

The **Kintore NT centered community** is a model. We are part of the solution to showing other indigenous communities what can be achieved. On a wider perspective we also need to have other countries recognize we have done what we can to take what amounts to most of this continent out of the undeveloped third world, and into best possible and sustainable circumstances for our citizens living there.

Our Major Project is defined by the following characteristics:

1. Multi year timescale (five years) to 2012.
2. Involvement of all club members
3. Community acclaim
4. Involvement of concerned community
5. Large scale financial commitment.

The outcomes of a major project would include:

1. Betterment of the lives of the involved community
2. Raising the profile of Rotary
3. Increasing membership of our Club.

There is a common theme with several elements to which we could point as encompassing most of our current activity. In every level of government and community activity worldwide there is a common thread of the importance of education and health.

The club might consider the major focus is to combine the two as an initiative in health improvement by education.

In the past this club has contributed to Southeast Asian , Pacific and even African help in the building of schools, and water quality projects – especially recently for the children of the Golden Triangle. We have helped our local hospitals and health services for the community including the local indigenous health service. We have provided shelter facilities for disaster victims and community education in matters such as mental health. Support of special education for incapacitated children, disability services such as TADACT and Pegasus, prevention of road accidents by the Driver Reviver program and crucial support for Open Family in its early stages are also some of this Club's achievements.

As a result of these considerations the Club resolved unanimously to develop a major project for the indigenous people.

Major Project Development - WDNWPT Kintore Project.

By pure coincidence David works with Raj Rathagavan who had recently returned from Kintore where he had made a digital film of the remarkable people of the Western Desert and their fight to obtain medical services particularly Kidney Dialysis services.

A presentation to the Club about the prospect of undertaking a project with the Western Desert people was unanimously accepted by the Club members. After much correspondence with Sarah Browne, the manager of the dialysis service we determined that were 5 major areas where we could assist over the next 5 years. Sarah and Marlene (an Aboriginal Health worker from Kintore) came through Canberra to attend a Medical Conference and presentation to Commonwealth Bureaucrats. Sarah and Marlene were able to attend two Rotary events, a BBQ at David's house and a business session at Shukry's house on the following day.

During the BBQ, Sarah and Marlene presented two incredible paintings to the Club done by Yukultji Napangati and Josephine Nangala. These paintings are a gift of the heart from the people of the Western Desert to our Club. We are seeking advice from the National Gallery of Australia as to the best method of storage and display to ensure that the paintings are preserved.

The business session was very useful in that club members were able to listen and understand the difficulties people of the Western Desert face in their daily lives. All club members who attended were moved by the story that Marlene and Sarah portrayed. As a consequence of meeting Sarah and Marlene, the Club recommitted itself to working with the people of the Western Desert. The Club sent a letter outlining its support to the Chair of the WDNWPT Aboriginal Corporation, Mr Bundi Rowe. We now have plans of the Blue House in Kintore and will soon start the redevelopment process to enable further Dialysis equipment to be housed in suitable accommodation.

Other clubs in the district and beyond will be progressively included in this project as it evolves.

Club Service: *Tom Davies*

Tom Davies has been most attentive to club matters until his important work in defence tele-communications forced his recent withdrawal from the Club.

Ros Osbourne has done a wonderful job of coordination with the **Embassy Motel** as well as being attendance officer. We have moved to a one course meal for most meetings to contain costs. This is in line with several other Canberra clubs.

Des Pain, a member of Rotary for over fifty years, has been **Raven** Editor in Chief assisted by others but regularly seeing we had a club bulletin of high standard. It is good to see every edition is available on the web, thanks to Robin Cromer.

Shukry Sahhar convened the **speaker program**. Apart from visiting speakers, one of the most valuable club activities is to include our own members or former members in the after dinner speaker program. This year this list has included Tom Davies, Jackie Cauchi, John Widdup, David Fox, Ian Excell, Ray Newcombe and Jim Grainger. Rex Hunt gave us a most memorable Christmas message

The club was very pleased to learn that Peter Evans was elevated to Knighthood in the Order of St John.

Several members had unexpected bereavements and illnesses during the year and the club response was appropriate and we hope a comfort and assistance to those involved.

The Christmas Party was attended by Rotary Family connections and by our Inner Wheel Club members. We are very lucky to have such an active Inner Wheel Club and the help with sustenance at the **Show Parking** and the **Cycle Tour of Canberra** and at other times is much valued. We hope it provides substantial help with the Cord Blood Project, the drought appeal and other Inner Wheel projects.

Judy Skelton kindly hosted at her home Yarralumla the first meeting in January since the Presidents home was drought affected. This was thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

Community Service: *Val Bland*

We have provided some support for the **Childrens Fund** and the **District Drought Appeal**.

At the official opening of the John Louttit Rotary Hall on 24 September 2006, Val Bland accepted a certificate on behalf of our Club in recognition of its support for the development of the Greenhills Centre and provision of the John Louttit Rotary Hall (JLRH). Speakers were Ken Jarvis, Chairman of the Greenhills Camp and Conference Centre; Mick Newling, District Governor, Barry Howe, Convenor of the JLRH; Harold Small, Hon. Executive Officer; and Bernie Rogers, DGE. The unveiling was conducted by DG Mick Newling and PDG Anne Louttit. The new hall is named after John Louttit, a Rotarian who died in 2004. Anne Louttit said her husband would have been very proud. "He would have loved it. He worked very hard for Rotary and for this complex". Our Club

has provided support to the Greenhills Centre and is recognized for a Bronze Sponsorship (\$2,000) towards the building of the new hall. The Greenhills Centre is a facility of the Uniting Church in the Canberra region which provides a place for learning, nurturing and community for church, youth, and other community groups within a Christian environment. Rotary members built the original hall in 1964. Most of the original Centre was destroyed in the 18th January 2003 bushfires.

A Working Bee was held at the Greenhills Centre on 18 November 2006. A group of Rotarians spread mulch from the burnt trees around the surrounds of the new hall. A barbeque followed the morning's work.

Members sold many **Christmas cakes and puddings** again this year.

The **Bruce Drake Award** honours the memory of Bruce Drake, Past President of our Club, whose consideration and courtesy towards others and involvement in community affairs, set an outstanding example of service to us all. On 20 December 2006, Val Bland introduced Dylis McConnell-Hunt and President Ray presented the Bruce Drake Community Award to Dylis for her work with Pegasus in a volunteer capacity for five years. During this time she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to Pegasus and the riders it caters for. She is a qualified coach and quickly became an integral part of the Pegasus team soon after arriving in Canberra. **Pegasus** is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides equestrian activities for people with disabilities.

International Service: *David Fox, Piers Booth and Val Bland*

The first activity involving International Service was to access the Rotary programme "**Donations In Kind**". Piers Booth was able to locate a Dentists Chair from a local Dentist who was refurbishing his surgery. Because of the weight and hence transport costs, we determined that the Donations in Kind programme in Sydney (rather than Brisbane) would be the better choice for our gift. Using a local transport company that had proven well priced and reliable during my APEX career, we managed to have the chair loaded and transported to Sydney. The chair was to be sent to PNG to an area with great need.

This year we supported the **Model United Nations Assembly** held at Old Parliament House from the 18th to 20 August. We chose 2 local year 11 students from Canberra College, Sarah Tanasi and Lachlan Caunt and their counsellor Joanna Perks a teacher from the College. The team chose South Africa as the country they would represent at the Assembly. Unfortunately the South African High Commission were less than helpful with support or material assistance. The team counsellor and students were able to overcome these obstacles and provide valuable input into the Assembly. Our team highly valued their experience and recommended that other students took part in the event next year.

The Club continues to support the **Children of the Golden Triangle project** (see separate report) and **ROMAC** (see separate report) as well as making extra donations to the **ShelterBox** appeal after further disasters in the South Pacific.

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) Report - Children of the Golden Triangle (CGT) Training Centre, Thailand - 2 to 17 December 2006.

Val Bland and Piers Booth, in a team of 17, representing five Rotary Clubs (Canberra-Woden, Jerrabomberra, Goulburn, Canberra, and a club from Newcastle) plus non-Rotarians, were volunteers at the CGT Training Centre for 500 Akha Children. The Centre is managed by David and Asa Stevenson who have dedicated and devoted their lives to educating these children, saving them from the sex trade and subsequent death from AIDS in their 20s.

Concrete and tiles were laid in the dining area (approx. 25 x 10 metres). Other tasks included painting the end wall of the dining area, helping lay the blocks for the new kitchen (being constructed by the Canadians), concreting the passage way between the dining area and the new kitchen, and landscaping three small garden beds.

We are very encouraged by the continuing development of the Centre, and it is very heartening to see 10 children attending High School, with another 19 due to start in May 2007. This includes Val's sponsored girl (after successful negotiations) agreeing to go to High School. Due to the increased cost of sending the children to High School, Rotary Clubs around the world are being asked to provide funds for a matching grant, which, if approved by Rotary International, will provide funds for scholarships to enable the children to go to High School.

David and Asa also make the experience interesting for the volunteers, with various activities. They took the group to an Akha village where we sat on the wooden floor in a house and the Akha family boiled the kettle on a small fire to serve us with green tea, pawpaw, and fresh and dried bananas. Visits were arranged to Chiang-Rai (50 minute drive) to dine at a Thai restaurant and shop at the night markets and to the Opium Museum at Chiang-Sean at the northern tip of Thailand where you overlook the Mekong and can see Laos, Myanmar and Thailand at the Golden Triangle. Akha children were taken on each trip to enjoy new experiences, including a ride on elephants through the village, around the hills and down the river. The children were provided with ice-creams, a new experience for many of the children. Other visits included the trenches at the Myanmar border and the Royal Gardens.

Life for the children starts at the Centre at 5.20am with the children singing songs in the Akha language, and various chores before breakfast and school. At night they sing again at 7.45pm, before lights out at 8.30pm. The singing is beautiful. The children are so happy and love to cuddle you. One night, some children danced traditional dances for us in their Akha costumes and the nights that are not followed by school, they watch DVDs.

As a result of a visit of a RAWCS team, early in 2006, to the Children of the Golden Triangle Training Centre in Northern Thailand, Somchai, a boy of 13 was identified as in need of surgical treatment. Somchai has a shortened leg, due to polio, and in addition his ankle has been badly damaged due to an accident. **Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)** has been approached, to see if he can be brought to Canberra for surgical treatment by a local surgeon, who with Calvary Private Hospital have agreed to treat him at no cost. It is anticipated that he will arrive in Canberra either in the latter part of this year or early in 2008. Somchai will probably be in Canberra for 3 months, and when not in hospital will need to be home hosted.

Vocational Service: *Shukry Sahhar*

We had a very busy year this year with running and manning the **Driver Reviver** centre at the **Bredbo Community Hall**. It was a little sad that this was the last year that the club will organise and run the project. The RTA had indicated it would no longer support the club and the volunteers by paying for the driver to drive to Bredbo to provide the service. We can be very proud of the work we did at Bredbo and whilst we cannot say we saved lives we can say that while we were running the service there were no accidents during our watch and the number of accidents were significantly reduced. We hope it remains that way.

We organised a great night out in September. Our Guest speaker was Andrew Pike of Ronin Films operating out of the **Electric Shadows**. Andrew briefed us on the popularity of the electric shadows theatre and the changes that have taken place and the niche electric shadows has tried to service. We enjoyed a banquet dinner at the Chairman Yip Restaurant before seeing the movie **THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY** – a story of the Irish Republican movement in the 1930s. It was moderately violent and confronting, and definitely left wing and anti-British – but a brilliantly made film.

Andrew also enabled the club members to go behind the scenes to inspect the projectors and to be briefed on the **historic aspects of Electric Shadows** theatre before it closed.

Australian War Memorial – George Paulus Award . The George Paulus Award is our clubs highest award and it is presented to people or organisations that have made a major contribution to our society. This year the award was presented to the Australian War memorial for its commemorative walk project. This project has given many servicemen and women the opportunity to reunite in Canberra and have a plaque dedicated and placed along the path from the car park to the entrance. It gives visitors the chance to reflect on the many contributions and sacrifices others have made in the service of their country. The award was received by Major General Steve Gower, Director of the War Memorial. Major General Gower was also our guest speaker on the night and indicated how pleased he and the AWM was to receive the award.

Sarah Flannigan, a Domayne salesperson, received an **Excellence in Service Award**.

Youth Service: *Ajit Banerjee and Bruce Wyatt*

In Youth Service, this year we sponsored two Year 11 students - Clementine Pickwick and Tamara Kevill from Telopea School for **RYPEN** leadership course. This course was held at Kianinny Resort near Bega between 1st Dec and 3rd Dec 2006. The students attended our Rotary meeting on 9th May to let us know how useful the seminar was. President Ray presented the girls with a certificate of appreciation and a RYPEN T-shirt.

In January, at Llewellyn Hall, we presented the **Arthur Holder Award** for excellence in Personal Development to Danielle Sweeney from Canberra College, and the **Stuart Garnsey Award** was given to Eliza Hopkins for excellence in Academic and Community work, also from Canberra College.

For **RYLA**, this year we sponsored Anna Cruzer, **Ambassadorial Scholar** from Switzerland, she spent a week in Murrumbatemem.

For **Youth Science Forum** at the ANU, we sponsored two students but unfortunately all the delegate positions were filled earlier. Nevertheless the Club attended the NYSF dinner and participated in home hosting.

Rotary Adventure in Citizenship (RAIC)

(Bruce Wyatt, RAIC Chairman 2006)

Our Club again worked with the Rotary Club of Canberra to organize RAIC during August 2006. This is a joint activity between our two Clubs in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and the Parliamentary Education Office.

Each year since 1990, RAIC has bought about 50 Year 11 students from all over Australia to visit Canberra for an intensive five day educational program that gives the students a first hand introduction to government in Australia.

Adventure in Citizenship 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. At the end of the program, the delegates have an increased awareness of their responsibilities as citizens, the values and privileges of being Australian, and the role of Canberra as the national capital of Australia.

In 2006, Canberra-Woden cooperated with two Darwin Rotary Clubs to sponsor two indigenous students from Maningrida in Northern Territory's Arnhem Land. Highlights of the 2006 program included the cultural interchanges between Janita and Sylvan and the other delegates and the supervising adults.

The program was a great success, thanks to the many club members who assisted by hosting delegates and with the running of the program.

Finance and Fund Raising: Noel Hart, John Widdup, Ian Excell, Gary Scott

Show Parking (Gary Scott)

This was a very well organized activity (Gary Scott, chief project manager) again this year with a substantial contribution to the project funding as noted in then Treasurer's report. Every member of the club participated along with Canberra City club members. This year we were particularly glad to have the assistance of several students from the Canberra Grammar School and to be able to give them some experience of voluntary community work. Inner Wheel members saw the workers were amply provisioned.

Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra (convened by John Widdup)

Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra was staged for the third time on Sunday 15 October 2007. The Tour this year, offered bike rides for all ages and abilities - family fun and serious challenges - and some 250 participated including those looking for a challenge, those out for a family fun ride, a couple of 70 year olds, mother and daughter teams and a one-legged bicyclist.

The 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 provided by the Rotary Club of Tuggeranong.

The rides offered on signed bitumen roads and cycle paths were:

1. Family Ride around the lake: 25 km (easy)
2. Circumnavigate Lake Burley Griffin: 30-48 km (easy+)
3. Lake and Rural Tour: 50-74 km (medium+)
4. Canberra hills and views tour (five peaks): 77-100 km (hard)

Five peaks were available to be ridden or bypassed - Mt Pleasant - 80 m; Mt Ainslie 220 m; Black Mt

Many encouraging feedbacks were received. The ride netted \$1650 for the Club. The event will be staged again on 14 October 2007. Further details at www.rotanet.com.au/canberrawoden

Trash and Treasure (organized by Ian Excell)

The club has continued to support this and found the funding useful. However having enough tow bar vehicles for the roster has proved a difficulty. Other problems include commercial influences of government policy and health issues which may influence a contract for next year. Ian has done a great job of keeping it all together.

Treasurers Report: (Noel Hart)

Statements of Receipts and Payments for both the General Account and the Project Account for the period 1 July 2006 to 11 May 2007 show balances of the two bank accounts are as follows:

	Current	July 2006
General Account	\$19095.09	\$15715.01
Project Account	\$22854.13	\$13206.68

\$10000 of the Project Account balance will be retained against The Western Desert Project.

The Service One Hospital Account for the Wishing Well has a balance of approximately \$1000.

Income sources include Show parking, the Cycle ride, Trash and Treasure clean up, sale of cakes and activities such as fines and raffles.

Donations have been made to Greenhills, MUNA, YARN, RAIC, RYLA, RYPEN, refugee shelters, special Olympics. Rotary Foundation and AHRHRF have been principal foci for our contributions and funds are allocated for the development of the major project at Kintore.

The audited accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.