

ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN INC

◆◆◆ *PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2008-09* ◆◆◆

What a fantastic year we have had! Firstly we made up our minds to change our name. We agreed on Woden, and with Keith Avent leading the charge we did it.

We were on notice that our venue the Embassy Motel was to be demolished and we had to find a new home so, rather than waiting till the last moment, we looked at a number of alternatives, and with Ajit Banerjee's magical touch we made it. The Federal Golf Club has been fantastic - what a venue it has turned out to be.

After 10 years of Trash and Treasure, we needed to secure a new revenue stream. Through Gary Scott, with the bit between his teeth, we became the preferred parking experts for Thoroughbred Park. Pat yourselves on the back: we have made more money out of parking than cleaning up rubbish. No mean feat.

Ros Osbourne and Neale Emanuel organised RAIC, and what a great success it was. I was recovering from surgery that week and was glad that David Fox stepped in to represent the Club and me.

John Widdup, Robin Cromer and Noel Hart worked hard to make the cycle ride a great success, and this year with the help of the Gungahlin Rotary doing the marketing we hope it will be even bigger.

We have grown the Club. Haven't we been lucky to have Lukas Strohmayer, Lyn Svanosio, Christine Bell, Robyn Singleton and Annemarie Driver as new members?

Sharing jobs and including new members in our activities have been crucial to our momentum and growth. Some examples are John Gray, Robin Cromer and Bruce Wyatt, preparing our Raven each week. Bernadette Cappello, Norma Donaldson, Lyn Svanosio, Ros Osbourne and Alec Philip looking after our attendance and collecting monies. Phil Ibbotson and Neale Emanuel sharing the task of getting our guest speakers each week.

David Fox, Neale Emanuel, Ian Excell and Gary Scott have been great Sergeants over the year and have kept us entertained and happily poorer through their fines sessions.

We celebrated the Club's 40th Anniversary and our first as the Woden Rotary Club. Des Pain, Ken Goard and Keith Avent worked hard to prepare the anniversary booklet and Ian Excell the slide show of our members. Didn't we look young then!! Judy Skelton provided all the decorations and the floral arrangements for the night, which lifted the tone of the evening. Ros, Lyn and Jonathan Benyei helped set up the room.

Bish Mukerjee, working with Nasik Road Rotary, was successful in getting a matching grant for a Cardiac Ambulance in India, and this year the ambulance was put into service with the Rotary badge featured prominently on it. Well-done, Bish.

David Fox set up our major project in Australia at Kintore to convert an abandoned aged care building into a dialysis unit, and it is under RAWCS sponsorship. He undertook the promotion of the project and has spent many hours on air and at other Clubs doing just that. We have had two work parties go there and already we can see a major difference. Thank you to John and Julia Widdup, Neale Emanuel, Lucinda Lang, Lukas and Natalie Strohmayer (accompanied by their children), Bernadette Cappello, Margaret Ellis and especially my wife Helen. Not only did Helen work on the project, she also kept us all well fed throughout the day.

Through the leadership of Ros Osbourne we have also started a new project of re-tagging books in the ACT Library system. The intrepid bookworms are not only raising funds but also enjoying new sections of the library that you normally don't visit.

As a Club we recognised the significant contributions of three of our members by upgrading their Paul Harris Fellowships to sapphire pin status. These were David Fox, Noel Hart and Keith Avent. Congratulations to all three for their tireless efforts over many years and in particular this Rotary year.

And we had good times at other venues: Judy Skelton's home, the workplace meeting at Robson Environmental organised by Lyn Svanosio (special thanks to John Robson for allowing us to visit and for his great presentation), and we even got to go to the movies. Just don't let me pick the movie next time!

Financially we are in great shape, our numbers have grown and more people are set to join our vibrant Club. We can all be proud of our achievements over the year. Thank you all for allowing me the privilege of being your President over the last 12 months.

To Ros Osbourne and the new Board, I am sure you will continue with the growth of the Club and with our major projects. Enjoy the journey. I look forward to your 2009 -10 Rotary year.

Shukry Sahhar
President
Rotary Club of Woden
2008-09