



# ***Fit and Forty!***

## ***A Club Celebration***

*Saturday, 30 May 2009*

***Forty Years of Service  
and Fellowship***

*by*

***The Rotary Club of  
Woden***

**1969 to 2009**





*A view of the Woden Valley - 2008*

*with the Town Centre and Service Trades area dominant,  
surrounded by suburbs camouflaged with trees and the Brindibellias as a backdrop.*



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**Acknowledgements:**

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**This “Fit and Forty” Anniversary Booklet** was compiled by the Club’s History Committee comprising PP Keith Avent, Ken Goard, and PP Des Pain. The Committee would appreciate photos of activities and projects not shown in this booklet but which could be used in future publications. Readers who wish further information about the Club are invited to visit our weekly “Ravens” held at the National Library, and other booklets “Twenty Years of Service”, Souvenir Edition of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary Dinner, and “35 of the Best”. The latter is available on the Club’s website shown below.

**Club Address:** PO Box 637, Woden ACT 2606

*The Club’s Website is a source for a range of information on the Club, including the weekly Ravens and the 35 year booklet:*

*<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/woden>*

*Dinner Meetings held each Wednesday, 6.00 for 6.15pm at Federal Golf Club.*

**Note:** *The Club changed its name from Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden to Rotary Club of Woden in 2008.*

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Rotary International Theme  
2008-2009



## FOREWORD

**F**orty years in the life of a Rotary Club is a significant achievement – even more so when you recognise that this club has not just sat on its laurels but rather continued to evolve and grow. This is evident from decisions to change its name, move to a new meeting venue, gather new membership and launch into exciting pioneer projects.

My Rotary roots are grounded in Woden Club, and I am delighted that now I continue my association as an Honorary Member. Janet too holds fond memories of her years with the Club and especially her year as President. Our joint experiences gave us the confidence to fulfil the roles associated with District Governor in 2000-01 and presently as Director of Zones 7 & 8 on the Board of Rotary International. These honours are a reflection of the quality of the Club and fine attributes of its members.

As I serve on the Board I like to keep reminding my fellow Directors to ensure they make every decision with the welfare of clubs in mind. Everything worthwhile that happens in Rotary starts with the club. All of us need to remember the vital role we serve as Rotarians in our communities, our nation and the world. It came home to me in a comment from a survivor of the Marysville fire: “I never thought much about what Red Cross, Lions or Rotary do – but I sure do now!”.

Congratulations one and all as Woden celebrates its 40th birthday. Janet and I look forward to continuing our association with this great club.



Director 2008-10 Zones 7& 8  
(Australia, New Zealand, Philippines and SW Pacific)

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 2008 - 2009 CLUB PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

**T**onight we celebrate two memorable occasions, the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Canberra Woden Rotary Club and our first year as the Woden Rotary Club. We have many memories as a club with a wide variety of Service projects, functions, dinners, venues, celebrations, people and friends to remember. As you flip through the pages of this booklet we hope some of these moments will bring the events and people back to mind and bring a smile to your face.

Unfortunately some of our friends and colleagues are no longer with us but their contributions in service, fun and fellowship will remain. Our founding President George Paulus seemed to motivate people into action whilst others worked quietly in the background. (Which personality type would you fit into?) Allan Doery was one of those people who felt comfortable working in the background and was good at supporting and encouraging others. Allan was the Rotarian who invited me and others to join the club. Colin McLear and his time as Sergeant elevated broccoli to new heights with regular fines on Keith Gould for serving up this ubiquitous vegetable upon his dinner tray at the Woden Valley Hospital. Howard Liu telling some interesting yarns and our mini MG club members building dreams out of old relics. Ian Excell's courage in overcoming a protracted infection following surgery certainly motivated me, and others to look on the positives of life.

Some of our projects have gone unnoticed except to the actual recipients. We should never underestimate the impact that a small donation makes to a person's life or for that matter a family's need when they are down or just need financial help. Others projects such as RAIC, Bredbo Driver Reviver, Children of the Golden Triangle, Shelter and the refurbishment of the age care facility at Kintore into a dialysis centre have become widely recognised as ROTARY in Action. We feel proud to have initiated these projects and to have had a real impact on the lives of many people.

Major projects bring with them a major sense of achievement for our own members. Unfortunately the number of projects we can tackle as a small club are limited. However the last two years has seen a turn around in our clubs numbers and we are now growing again. Sometimes it is hard to deny a request to undertake a door knock for an appeal or to provide help to cook at a BBQ, but that's Rotary. We are neither a servant of the poor, nor a servant of the rich. We do what we can, where we see fit in our

a servant of the rich. We do what we can, where we see fit in our broad community. You will find out a little more about our major projects in the latter sections of this publication.

Some activities we do routinely and we don't make a big fuss about them. RYLA, RYPEN, GST exchanges, NYSE, MUNA have all had a big impact on the lives of young people in our district. It is simply a job well done - just get on with it!

Finally what keeps us coming back is the fellowship of sharing an evening with like minded friends. Fond friendships have developed and some chatty tables at the far end of the room still keep our sergeant busy. I hope you enjoy the evening, the opportunity to renew old friendships and to share the many memories we have created together.

Shukry Sahhar  
President  
Woden Rotary Club.

## OUR FIRST 35 YEARS A ROUNDUP

Our booklet for the 35<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2004 gave summaries of the reports of each Club President up till that time. In the present booklet, the individual Presidents' reports will be limited to those since 2004.

However, a roam through the older records serves to remind one of the quite remarkable things we achieved from 1969 to 2004. It would be impossible to tell of everything we have done, so the following notes simply give some selected highlights (and a very few lowlights). We apologise if something dear to your heart doesn't get a mention!

### *STEP BY STEP*

In our early years, we provided the organising committee for the 1972 District Conference in Canberra, with the redoubtable George Paulus as organising secretary flying around the District to promote it. (Yes, even George needed an aircraft to do that.)

We sponsored the establishment of Rotary Club of Canberra South, chartered in June 1973.

In 1982-83 we became an incorporated organisation under the ACT legislation.

In 1993, we adopted a Mission Statement and Implementation Strategy which appear elsewhere in this booklet.

In 2001 we again organised the District Conference, this time in Bateman's Bay, with our Past President John Lawrence as District 9710 Governor.

### *WORKING IN AND WITH THE COMMUNITY*

Our work in and with the community has been a mixture of working on projects, fund raising and donations.

The prize for the "Big Bucks" donation in the past goes to our gift of \$25,000 in 1989-91 to help Open Family establish in the ACT, and especially to train its field workers. We also painted Cana House, which they ran as a residential centre. However, this will be eclipsed by our input to the 5-year Western Desert Health Project, started in 2006, for which the Club has already set aside over \$30,000.

The prize for the messiest project could go to what was called the Floriade Fiasco, when we undertook the digging and cleaning of the bulbs from Floriade in very wet, mucky conditions in 1995. Funny, the project didn't resurface the next year.

Or maybe the "messiest" gong could go to the cleanup of an elderly gent's flat, as one of the projects to help people in difficulties under our "Handy Help" program in the mid 1980s. The term "culture shock" comes to mind.

Arguably the award for the best fun project would go to the Chicken Wheel that we ran for a number of years in the early 1970s at the annual Koomarri Fete. The unchallenged boss was our "Chilla" Brown, who undertook the job with vigour and panache.

A major project combining community service and fundraising over the period to mid 2004 has been ticket sales at the gate for the Royal Canberra Show, starting in 1982, and then changing over to car parking in 1993. Obviously we do it well: the demand for our parking services is growing!

Another long-term project was the weekly clean-up at Belconnen Rotary's Trash & Treasure market at Jamison Centre – a practical exercise in humility which we have now handed over to other Clubs.

Not a fund-raiser, but the Bredbo Driver Reviver centre that we organised each winter from 1996 for about a decade was clearly an excellent community service, judging by the improvement in road safety on the Monaro Highway,

not to mention the laudatory comments. The NSW Government recognised our work with a Community Service Award in 1998-99.

A quiet little money-spinner has been the cash collected from our Wishing Well at Canberra Hospital, initiated by Dr Frank Long in the early 1990s. At first this went to artworks for the then new site of the Hospital, and more recently has been used for small projects for the comfort and enjoyment of patients and their visitors.

### *THE YOUNG ONES*

Our Club set up a new Board portfolio in 1984-85 to provide a point of focus for our activities with and for young people, and this practice has since become widespread in Rotary.

This Club has a proud record of helping, sponsoring and providing awards to young people in a very wide range of activities, including personal development programs, overseas exchanges and assistance in the development of facilities and support groups. There are over 100 young people we could name individually, and many more have benefitted through the organisations involved. The support goes to the full spectrum, from high achievers to young people in difficulties.

Over the long term since the inception of Rotary Adventure in Citizenship in 1989, we have been centrally involved, with Canberra Rotary Club, in organising this annual seminar to help young people from around Australia understand the nation's governmental system. We look forward to its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday later in 2009.

An example of our involvement with young people was with Project Saul in 1998-99 at its Wee Jasper site for kids at risk; we provided both help and funds.

Another earlier example was the people from Koomarri whom we ferried home after their Wednesday evening cooking lessons. We carried this out from 1977 for nearly 20 years. By the time we finished, Koomarri as an organisation had long since forgotten that we did it!

We sponsored a Rotaract Club for the Woden Valley, which was chartered in 1973. Unfortunately it foundered, like several other local Rotaract Clubs, and there is now only one such Club in Canberra.

## *LOOKING OVERSEAS*

In 1986-87, RI ran a major drive for funds for Polio Plus, and we met our commitment with a donation of \$15,000, since supplemented with other donations. In 2008 we gave another \$AU1,500 for the current round to finally eliminate polio from the world. This went to the Polio Challenge, in which Bill Gates offered to match Rotary funds up to \$US100 million over 3 years.

In addition to extensive funding support of RI's world-wide activities, we have taken part in some very significant projects at the coal face.

In 1993-4 a group of members travelled to Papitali in PNG to help build a school under the auspices of FAIM (Fourth Avenue in Motion).

Since 2000, we have been deeply involved on the ground in the development of a dormitory, kitchen and other facilities at the Mai Suai school for the Akha hill tribes in Northern Thailand. The aim is to assist children in this group to achieve an education not otherwise available to them, and so help them to move into the mainstream community. It is good to see that this initiative is going ahead in leaps and bounds. An outcome of this project was Somchai Yaeso's sojourn in Australia last year for polio surgery.

## *TALKING IT UP, WRITING IT DOWN*

We need to talk to one another and to the community about what we are and what we do.

First of all, we have had our weekly Bulletin, *The Raven*, since the beginnings of the Club (see separate item). It is top-class, and has won District awards. Since 1996, we have been arranging binding of sets for each year, including Ravens back to 1969, and putting them into the public arena by depositing copies with the National Library. Since 2004, we have also been depositing copies with the ACT Heritage Library, and they also undertook to archive our Club records from inception.

Arnold Osborne gave a series of talks about Rotary, and in 1990-91 he gathered these as a book "Rotary Ways", which was published by the Club.

The Club Website was initiated by John Lawrence in the early 1990s, and has since gone from strength to strength under Robin Cromer's management. It gets plenty of use by outsiders who want to know about us.

In 2002-03, Des Pain undertook the preparation of a promotional pamphlet about the Club, which has been updated annually since.

### *FUN AND FELLOWSHIP*

For a start, we have a good name for fellowship and good fun, and the Sergeant's session has been known to leave us rolling in the aisles.

Apart from our "normal" Club meetings, though, we have had fellowship and fun of all sorts: partners' nights, contacts with Inner Wheel, workplace visits, social occasions, contacts with other Rotary Clubs, Lions and others, and so on. We used to have golf days and cricket matches, but these have largely slipped off the agenda. (Who said "But you can't have too much golf"?)

### *MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC*

A long-term contact has been Don Whitbread. Particularly through John Gray, we worked with Don and the Woden Valley Youth Choir in two Concerts for Peace, in 1982-83 and 1986-87, which yielded funds for several projects. Later again we had a Recital for Disadvantaged Youth, involving Don and the choir, with Stephen Ibbotson as soloist. See "Honorary Members" for more information.

At various times we have enjoyed a number of choral groups, often with Pixie Gray in the middle of it all.

Let's not talk too much about our own singing - but the songs we have sung at social occasions have been, well, fun. Probably the partners helped.

### *POSTSCRIPT*

Some favourite memories:

- Our most famous son: John Lawrence, who joined the Club in 1988, and has since shown his dedication to Rotary as our President, District 9710 Governor and now a member of the RI Board.
- Grumpiest vote of thanks - by Hans Zwillenberg: "I didn't understand a word you said, but I thoroughly enjoyed your talk".
- Our version of "Three coins in the fountain": "Two coins in the light fitting", when the Sergeant's heads and tails toss went astray.

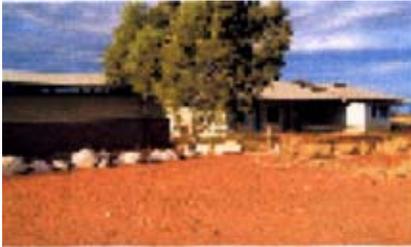
- What a hoot! The party performance by Dal Lister (by far the tallest bloke in the Club) playing Cinderella, and Jim Leedman (the shortest) the Fairy Queen.
- A competition in the very early days of the Club between three overweight members, to find who would lose the most weight. There were regular weighings and a prize, but who won and what the prize was are lost in the mists of time.
- Introductions and thanks rivalling the speakers: Take your pick of Des Henderson-Kelly or Phil Ibbotson.
- Corniest promotion for best cause: Past President Jon Cassell presenting everyone with a circular piece of cardboard with “TUIT” written on it. Ever the man for action, his line was a dig about the need to “get around to it”.
- Return of the wanderer: Our dinner gong disappearing in the 1970s, and turning up in a second-hand shop in Sydney over 20 years later.
- Biggest drink bill left by a speaker: A famous leader of the union movement and politician who shall be unnamed.
- Our visitor from the most distant place: an Icelander. Well, RI has spread over most of the world in its century of growth.

# ROTARY WESTERN DESERT HEALTH PROJECT NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Preface

In 2006, David Fox, as International Service Director, proposed that the Club should consider changing from its previous focus towards a major project, having the following characteristics:

- Multi year timescale
- Involvement of all club members
- Community acclaim
- Involvement of concerned community
- Large scale financial commitment.



*Existing Building*



*Proposed completed Facility*

This was enthusiastically adopted by the Club, and after much consideration, the Rotary Western Desert Health Project was born. As of March 2009, the project has:

- Received Board approval
- Received Club approval
- Received Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (WDNWPT) Board approval
- Is an approved Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) Project
- Woden Rotary has donated \$30,000
- Suters Architects have undertaken all plans for free
- Marline have completed all Engineering drawings for free
- Northrop have completed all external engineering drawings for free
- NT Government Departments have approved all plans
- Commonwealth Government Agencies have approved the plans
- Commonwealth Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FCHSIA) has granted \$140,000
- Site visit undertaken
- First work party undertaken

## Background

The Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal

Corporation Inc (WDNWPT) is an Aboriginal Corporation under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976 and is a registered not-for-profit organisation. The membership of the organisation is open to all adult Aboriginal people (*Yanangu*) living permanently in the Haasts Bluff Land Trust and Kiwirrkurra Community in the Western Desert Region of Central Australia. The WDNWPT Governing Committee is made up of 12 *Yanangu* members who are drawn evenly from the area of its membership. Despite being geographically dispersed, *Yanangu* maintain strong links through kin, language and extended family networks, alongside shared rights incountry. Currently WDNWPT patients are drawn from a diverse range of Western Desert communities including Mt Liebig, Hermannsburg, Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Mt Liebig, Walungurru (Kintore), Docker River and Nyirrpi in the Northern Territory and Kiwirrkurra, Tjukurla, Blackstone and Warakurna in Western Australia. The membership of this WDNWPT client group is determined by the *Yanangu* Governing Committee and is based on family relationships.

### **Summary of Proposed Project**

WDNWPT is working with the Rotary Club of Woden in developing a Renal Dialysis Health Unit at Kintore in the Northern Territory. This is a direct response to the critical and expanding problem of the dislocation of senior *Yanangu* community members who, after being diagnosed with end stage renal disease, are taken to Alice Springs for life-long dialysis treatment many hundreds of kilometres from family, community and traditional country.

The impacts of this dislocation are devastating at a personal and community level with significant disruption to cultural practices and the passing on of knowledge to those “coming up behind”. The consequences are all the more critical in a region where Aboriginal people who had lived a nomadic and traditional life into the very recent past, were brought into centralised settlements through government assimilation policies and after a long struggle, only gained the capacity to return to traditional country in the early 1980’s. Remarkably, a number of *Yanangu* from the patient group walked in from the desert and had their first contact with Europeans as children and young adults.

The reactions of patients to the most recent wave of dislocation through end stage kidney disease clearly highlight the passionate desire of *Yanangu* to return to their home communities for extended visits in order to fulfil their cultural obligations and to pass on their considerable cultural knowledge and experience to their kin. It is only in the context of traditional country and the relationship with place that these cultural practices become meaningful, and the Western Desert languages can be fully used, and hence maintained. Across all social registers WDNWPT has successfully established Central Australia’s first renal dialysis clinic in a remote community, 550km from Alice Springs, and regularly returns patients there for extended visits.

However, for those who previously lived in other communities throughout the region, there is no opportunity for returning home for trips longer than one or two nights. Indeed, there are many Yanangu patients who have not been home since the commencement of renal dialysis treatment and have no prospect of ever returning.

A new renal dialysis unit will be able to quickly start returning people to these communities and enable the fulfilment of this project's primary objective which is to reengage these significant community members with extended family (walytja), traditional Country (ngurra), and culture through Dreaming stories (tjukurrpa), songs and ceremonies (tulku) and painting.

The Dialysis Health facility will be constructed in a pre-existing building (the Blue House) and will include bedrooms, kitchen, laundry, offices as well as the dialysis unit and medical store rooms. All plans and drawings have been completed by Suters Architects free of charge. Rotary Clubs will provide all labour (in the form of work parties) to convert the Blue House into a Dialysis Health Unit.

WDNWPT came into being through the unique auction of four collaborative community Yanangu paintings depicting traditional Dreaming stories from the Western Desert. The significance and cultural value of these paintings was reflected in the AUS \$1 million raised at auction in 2000. The initiative and self-determination demonstrated in raising these funds has garnered the organisation considerable support and given us a strong foundation for negotiating additional operating funds from government and ensuring the sustainability of all of our project initiatives. There are two additional objectives to this project. The first is educational and aimed at providing culturally appropriate information in language to remote community members regarding renal health and preventative options including regular checkups, healthy lifestyle and medication. WDNWPT's experience in the remote dialysis clinic also tells us that the presence of dialysis machines and patients in the community is one of the most powerful educational tools at our disposal.

The other objective is to use the new dialysis unit, as a regional prototype, to encourage and inform similar initiatives for other remote or rural contexts without renal facilities and demonstrate the tangible cultural benefits of returning senior aboriginal people to their traditional lands, communities and culture. The new renal dialysis unit will be a highly visible and symbolic project that will reinforce the strong public awareness and media campaign that WDNWPT has developed over the last seven years. This third objective extends beyond the Kintore region and recognises that chronic renal failure is a problem that is threatening diminishing indigenous communities in other remote regions around Australia and

beyond, where lifestyle has rapidly changed, accompanied by poverty and a lack of resources.

WDNWPT has previously systematically evaluated all aspects of service delivery and will continue to do so with this initiative to ensure the project's tangible benefits are measured and can be utilised by other indigenous organisations.

The governing role of the indigenous Committee will ensure ongoing indigenous control and input to the project and guarantees that this project remains firmly an indigenous initiative responding in a flexible way to Yanangu expressed needs and desires.

However, having finally achieved this return to country, a new crisis has emerged in the last decade for *Yanangu* in the form of chronic diseases such as kidney failure, diabetes, heart disease, etc., with evidence of a correlation between kidney deterioration and childhood malnutrition, skin disease and low birth weight. While kidney disease is an escalating problem in indigenous communities across Australia (and indeed, overseas), *Yanangu* from the remote and vast region of the Western Desert in Central Australia endure the highest rates of kidney disease in the country at up to 30 times the national figure.

Until recently, those suffering from end-stage renal failure had no choice but to move hundreds of kilometres away from their home communities for treatment at the Renal Dialysis Unit (RDU) in Alice Springs (the largest single dialysis complex in the Southern Hemisphere). Typically, an individual becomes increasingly ill in their community, often reluctant to leave, and is then abruptly evacuated to Alice Springs Hospital. They then receive a diagnosis of end-stage renal failure and are placed on haemodialysis via a dialysis machine for five-hourly treatments on alternate days for life. Until 2001, all *Yanangu* received institutional haemodialysis by default within the RDU. This, the most expensive renal replacement therapy option, required patients to live permanently in Alice Springs, with limited options for suitable available shelter not only for them but also for any accompanying family and carers in indigenous town camps or hostels.

Members of the Woden Rotary Club can be proud that soon a Dialysis Centre will be operational in Kintore. We have risen above the ordinary, defied the naysayers, stepped well outside our comfort zone and as a consequence our brothers and sisters, indeed our fellow Australians, will have a life saving facility in Kintore.



*Julia, Neale and Shukry  
already at work in Kintore*

## YEARLY REPORTS - 2004 to 2009

Year THIRTY SIX      2004-05      President   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 greatly assisted by PP Rex Hunt, Secretary and PE John Widdup and all members of the Board.



Our members have a great sense of satisfaction in our involvement with the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Canberra. This project has the potential to make a significant contribution to aboriginal health and to the reconciliation process. The initial work by members assisted by the Master Builders Association, is to be celebrated by a plaque on site. Thanks for the design and supervision efforts provided by PP John Gray and Gerald Brennan of the MBA .

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.

At our Club Assembly we looked at membership and discussed the cost of Rotary membership. Outgoings to District, RI and Rotary Down Under continue to increase, as do dinner costs. 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 a growing problem of equity of effort due to a declining number of members with towbar-fitted vehicles.

The Scenic Bike Ride was a great success and will grow in importance for the future of the Club. Involvement of the Inner Wheel Club of Canberra-Woden in the provision of refreshment was much appreciated by both parties.

Show Parking 2005 was the most successful ever. notwithstanding 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 Club owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Gary Scott and all members and the Inner Wheel for their efforts.

Under the watchful eye of Bruce Hall, Driver Reviver 2004 was again very successfully managed.

There are many others who work in and behind the scenes to keep the Club rolling. Those who manage our web site, liaison with the Embassy and attendance, the program of speakers; social gatherings, the keeping of

the books, maintenance of records, the preparation by the sergeant and the setting out of rosters.

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.

We particularly recognise the personal contribution by Piers Booth for the Children of the Golden Triangle and other humanitarian projects which have been an inspiration to all members of the Club.

Paul Harris Fellowships. Four will have been presented this year, one with a Sapphire Upgrade.

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, co-operative, friendly and welcoming.

Finally, may I offer our incoming President, John Widdup, and his team every good wish for an enjoyable and successful year.

Year THIRTY SEVEN    2005/06    President    John Widdup

It has been an honour and pleasure to have served the great Rotary Club of Canberra Woden as President for 2005-06. We had a good year thanks to all Club members and particularly to all Board members and Club officers. In particular I thank our secretary John Gray and Immediate Past President Peter Evans.

District Governor Noel Trevaskis acted as a guide and mentor for my time as President and Burnie Rodgers was the Assistant District Governor. I wish the incoming President Ray Newcombe and his Board members and Club officers a successful and enjoyable year.



Membership: Declining membership over recent years is a concern for the Club as it is for the District. The objective for 2005-2006 was to retain existing members and to find, bring in and retain new members. However, the end result was a loss of five and a gain of one. During the year, we endeavoured to increase membership using the District’s Towards 2000 approach to attract potential members.

Awards: The George Paulus Award for Community Service was given to the Community Care Branch of the St John Ambulance Australia (ACT).

Vocational Service Awards to Canberra Institute of Technology, and the Restaurant@CIT. A Community Service Award was given to Woden Community Service.

Each year the Club presents two awards to students from Canberra College, the Stuart Garnsey and Arthur Holder Awards. Each student received a certificate and a book voucher for \$100.

A Paul Harris Fellow Award was given to long standing member P.P. Peter Evans in recognition of his service to Rotary and the Community.

Fund raising activities: The Club continued to do the cleanup after the Belconnen Trash and Treasure event each Sunday throughout the year (including on New Years day). We must thank Ian Excell for ensuring that two members were rostered for each week. Our major fund raising activity was managing the parking for the Canberra Show in February 2006 and was a great success operationally and financially. The Club is indebted to Gary Scott and his team for their efforts in organising and managing the activity.

As a fund raising activity in April 2006, club members managed the parking at EPIC (Exhibition Park in Canberra) for an evening event by the 'Crusty Demons' and parked some 3,000 cars in three hours.

The Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra was staged by the Club for the second year in October as a fund raising activity. Involvement of the Inner Wheel Club of Canberra-Woden in providing refreshments was much appreciated by participants and our Club. The Club has decided to run the event in future years.

We had a 'Care Meal' organised by Piers and Maureen Booth with the profits of \$425 being donated to Care Australia. Money deposited in the Wishing Well at the Canberra Hospital is managed by the Club for the benefit of the Hospital. Funds were also raised from the sale of Christmas cakes etc..

Other Activities: During the 37th Inner Wheel Conference that was held in Canberra in October 2005, Rotarians and their partners visiting the conference were invited to attend a special Club meeting and some 80 people came.

The Club assisted the Rotary Health Safari 2005 when it visited Canberra in November 2005. A number of Club members also attended the ARHRF Centennial Dinner held in conjunction with the visit of the Safari.

The Club is desirous of making a significant contribution to improvement in aboriginal health and to the whole reconciliation process. Last year, the Club, in conjunction with some apprentices provided by the Master Builders Association, refurbished a courtyard garden at the premises of the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Narrabundah. Since that work, an

aboriginal artist painted murals on walls prepared by the Club.

The major project for International Service for the year was a RAWCS Team with 36 members who went to the Children of the Golden Triangle Training Centre in Northern Thailand. RAIC (Rotary Adventure in Citizenship) was run again in 2005. This year our Club is taking the leading role under the direction of Bruce Wyatt. The Club continued to manage the Driver Reviver 'stop, revive and survive' refreshment station at Bredbo.

Youth protection and anti-harassment are becoming important issues within Rotary and Rotary District 9710 developed guidelines during the year which the Club is adopting internally.

Donations made by the Club: Some were substantial e.g Rotary Foundation - \$3,000, ARHRF - \$3,000 Shelterbox Down Under - \$1,200, Inner Wheel Club of Canberra Woden \$1550, Children of the Golden Triangle - \$7,000 and there were numerous other smaller amounts.

Year THIRTY EIGHT      2006/07      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.

We are particularly indebted to Des Pain for his editing of the Raven. This has continued to set new standards for being informative. We honour Des Pain's fifty years membership of Rotary. Shukry Sahhar has arranged a most interesting weekly after-dinner program also being our Vocational Service Director.

With regard to new activities, our major project with the indigenous of the Western Desert based on Kintore has started and will continue for the next five years, initiated by David Fox, President Elect and International Director. 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 voluntary community catalyst to provide Kintore and the nearby NT, WA and SA communities with facilities for dialysis, health education and prevention measures. This involves progressive help from other Rotary Clubs, from the community and from Government.

Also new is the club support for two aboriginal health scholarships via the Australian Rotary health Research Fund for two students attending Canberra Universities.

Our twin relationship with Canberra Club in the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program was very successfully overseen this year looking after



47 Year 11 students, a program of such value to our youth in developing leadership in Australian citizenship and by sponsoring two Indigenous students.

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 built up the public relationship image with Rotary, so 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). Two students, one of whom has an indigenous background attended RYPEN

We have continued our support of Rotary Foundation. The general desire of the club was to continue with Paul Harris Fellowships and two such Awards have been made this year

Keith Avent has provided a list of Rotary Family members from the club archives and we have sent the Raven with requests to consider attending our functions when appropriate every three months or so.

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 these issues in relation to elite athletes.

We honour our Past President John Lawrence OAM who has become a Director of Rotary International for 2008-2010 representing Zones 7 and 8 which include Australia.

Year THIRTY NINE      2007/08      President - David Fox

I have been honoured to have served this second year as President for 2007-8. Our incoming President, Shukry Sahhar is also in for a second term.

I have been ably supported by Secretary Keith Avent and Treasurer Noel Hart whose many years of Rotary experience and wise advice have contributed to everything we have achieved this year. I also offer my sincere thanks to Board members, the Raven editors, and those who have arranged the programs through the year.



The Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program RAIC was very successful this year with 47 year 11 students attending from all over Australia for this valuable youth program.

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..

We have continued our practice of providing over \$50 per member in support of Rotary Foundation with Three Paul Harris Fellowships awarded with two sapphire upgrades.

With regard to Membership we have been pleased to have Norma Donaldson, Jeff Ibbotson and Alec Philip join us and then spoke about their respective careers in teaching, law and pharmacy.

My main aims this past year included:

- Modernising the club and particularly the meeting protocols. Membership increase following an evening for new members based on the Beyond 2000 Program.
- We decided to discontinue the Trash and Treasure Clean-up program too few tow-bars - terminated at the end of June 2008
- 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 buildings.

Community Service included awarding an ARHRF scholarship, an Excellence in Service Award, Bruce Drake Community Service Awards and attending a Working Bee at Greenhills Conference Centre. This year our George Paulus Vocational Service Award was given to Bishop Pat Power for his fine example and leadership to the people of the ACT and its surrounds

International Service: Sponsorship of outgoing international exchange student, Alastair Brister Hare of Melrose High School to Denmark: Matching

Grant Project with the Rotary Club of Nasik Road funding of a Cardiac Ambulance to Jairam Hospital in Nasik Road, Maharashtra, India.

Rotary Adventure in Citizenship (RAIC) is a program organised by our Club, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Canberra and the Parliamentary Education Office. The program has been running since 1990 and will celebrate its twentieth year in 2009.

Car Parking: This new activity have turned out to be an excellent fund raiser.

Youth Service: for NYSF we sponsored Kylie Kirk: RYLA Samuel Nash-Slattery: RYPEN Vanessa Phillips, Victoria Braido and Monica Dominish: and three for the Siemens Science Workshop.

Then there were Christmas Cakes, puddings and Short Bread, fundraising banquets for Tansen hospital in Nepal and also the Dedication Ceremony for ACT Scouts Camp.

Club members experienced two social events, a banquet at the Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant in Woden followed by a visit to the movies to see Vantage Point, and an informal dinner at a member's house in Yarralumla for all the members and guests.

ROMAC: From first meeting Somchai, an Akha boy from Northern Thailand, to being able to take him back, with a reconstructed foot has been almost a 2 1/2 years, a period of both great frustration, but also elation which the members shared with Piers Booth. Somchai was able to return home with modest disability and some smattering of English.

Year FORTY 2008/2009 President Shukry Sahhar

This has been an historic year for our club. We have, after some years, finally changed our name to the Rotary club of Woden. We have also had to change venues. The Embassy Hotel, after many years of being our home, was scheduled to be demolished so that new residential apartments could be built on the site. Trying to find a new home proved difficult as many venues did not want the permanent commitment or booking on a specific evening. Finally we have adopted the Federal Golf Club as our new home. As you enjoy your dinner and look out over the view of the golf course you will agree -we have made a good choice.



Over the years we have had many great members and like me we are all getting older. As a result we have been sharing jobs to make it easier for everyone. Some wish to travel and many who are very busy at work are still able to be involved in the club's activities. David Fox has been a great sergeant with Neale Emanuel and Gary Scott as deputies. Norma Donaldson, Lynne Svanosio and Bernadette Cappello share the role of attendance chairman and Bob Harvey helps with setting up and clearing up after the meeting. Neale and Phil Ibbotson have shared the task of getting good informative speakers. Robin Cromer and John Gray have shared the role of Raven editors and kept us informed by producing great copies of the Raven. Keith Avent stepped in as temporary secretary for David Fox and has continued on this year. He has been a great secretary and with Noel Hart as treasurer over many years, my task has been made so much easier.

President elect Ros Osbourne has worked tirelessly with RAIC and with Neale Emanuel made this program a great success. Ros is attuned to the needs of members and her support of the members is greatly appreciated. Gary Scott and John Widdup have been the leaders of our fund raising activities by negotiating our fees for car parking at the Royal Canberra Show and at Thoroughbred Park. John Widdup has also led the team for our Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra bike ride. This year we have decided to share our PR activities with the new Gungahlin club to make this a bigger and better event. John has also taken over from David Fox as our membership manager.

We have eight enthusiastic new members who bring a wealth of talent to the club. Norma Donaldson, Jeff Ibbotson, Lyn Svanosio, Lukas Strohmayer, Christine Bell, Annemarie Rider, Robyn Singleton, Alec Phillips. We awarded Irene Thomson honorary membership of our club for her many years of service to us at the Embassy motel.

David has continued to direct the Kintore project in the western desert and with Lukas they have managed to get some excellent publicity for the project. Two major work teams have been sent out to the site to convert an old aged care facility into a dialysis unit. The project has received a major grant from the government and our district has helped in providing funds and support to seek a matching grant. Unfortunately following the world- wide financial crises RI has asked us to resubmit our proposal on the first of July to enable them to ensure funds are available in the next financial year.

So as a club we are again growing and our members are enthusiastic about the service and the projects we are undertaking. We have continued to support the Rotary Foundation, RYPEN, RYLA NYSE, overseas student exchanges, and provided funds and support to our broader community.

*The full texts of the above Presidents' Reports are available on the Club Web-site where reports of individual directors are also available.*



**An Aerial View of the Heart of the Woden Community 2008**  
showing the Woden Town Centre and Service Trades area (top), Canberra Hospital (bottom),  
and the suburbs of Swinger Hill (left) and Hughes (right)

## MISSION STATEMENT

**WODEN ROTARY CLUB** is a group associated in fellowship to achieve the maximum development of the service ethic. The practical manifestation of this will be in assistance to:

- (1) a carefully selected range of projects involving youth and community services targeted primarily to the Woden Valley, and
- (2) World Understanding and Peace through other selected Rotary projects.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Mission Statement will be implemented by the following measures:

**Fellowship:** Careful and continuing attention to the weekly meetings so that they are a source of pleasure and of information to members, ensuring the retention and motivation of present members and the recruitment of new members.

**Service:** All projects should be carefully selected to be of a size which the Club can readily manage and of a limited duration.

- **Fund raising:** Significant low risk ventures which have an element of fellowship, and which give an opportunity to involve other groups, thus widening the recognition in the community of our service above self.
- **Local projects:** Should be visible to the community and where possible involve the recipients actively. They should be an opportunity for fellowship for members.
- **National and international projects:** Developed by this Club or selected from projects proposed by others in Rotary.

## MEETING PLACES

The Club first met at the Statesman Hotel/Motel, Curtin. However it wasn't long before the room provided for the meetings was found to be unsatisfactory. This was because of the thin nature of the folding walls surrounding the meeting room and the consequent noise from outside and the lack of privacy.



We moved late in 1969 to the relatively new Deakin Inn in Kent Street, Deakin (now demolished), and generally appreciated the ambience as a warm and private meeting place.

The Embassy Motel in Deakin became available in 1972. This venue had two private, comfortable rooms available, one upstairs where we usually met, and another on the lower ground floor. The Club has appreciated our relationship with the Embassy management and staff over a very long period. Irene in particular has looked



after us and our culinary needs for over 24 years. We have had only two brief moves from the Embassy since 1972, one to the Italo-Australian Club in Forrest in 1985-86 and the other to the Croatia Deakin Soccer Club for several months in 2000-01 while the Embassy was being refurbished.

Unfortunately for us, the Embassy has recently been sold for residential development, so after a long period of searching for a satisfactory alternative, we moved to our present meeting place at the Federal Golf Club in January 2009.



## THE RAVEN

The Raven continues to be an important mouthpiece for our Club, recording our activities and the details of each meeting. It is polished weekly in colour in two-sheet A5 format with text and photos. Various members volunteer to make notes at the meetings, which are then included with other news and notes by the Editors. It is emailed to members with some copies available at the meeting, and is also available on a long-term basis on the Club's Website.

Editors over the past 5 years have been Noel Hart, Bruce Wyatt, Des Pain, Bernadette Capello, John Gray and Robin Cromer. The yearly mastheads for the Raven over the 5 years, including each RI President's theme for the year, are presented here.



Rotary Club of  
Canberra Woden Inc  
District 9710  
Weekly Bulletin, Vol 37 2004/2005



No. 10 Wednesday 8 September 2004

The  Raven

*The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.*

*No 3 Vol 38 Wednesday 20th July 2005*

The Weekly Bulletin of the Canberra-Woden Rotary Club Inc.



# *The Raven*

No 2 Vol 39 Wednesday 5th July 2006

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.



# *The Raven*

No 2 Vol 40 Wednesday 4 July 2007

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# THE RAVEN

NUMBER 3 - VOLUME 41 - 16 JULY 2008

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## SPONSORSHIPS and AWARDS

*We make awards and grant sponsorships to individuals and groups in the community for a wide range of reasons. The awards are for recognition of service to the community and high standards of performance. The sponsorships are to assist people in their personal development, and most of these go to young people. The following list indicates what has been done in this way over the last five years.*

### 1. SPONSORSHIPS

**ARHRF SCHOLARSHIP:** Scholarship under the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund is for an indigenous student to undertake a 3-year Bachelor of Nursing course at University of Canberra - Marion Bateup started her course in 2007.

**MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly):** To help students understand how the United Nations Assembly operates. Edward McGinnis, Michael Tolhurst and Jack Jones (Aug 2008).

**NYSF (National Youth Science Forum):**  
Ramana Kumar (Jan 2005), Kylie Kirk (Jan 2008), Zaiga Thomann (Jan 2009).

**RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment):** To help mid-secondary students in self-realisation and development.

Syreena Mills (2004), Dale Roots (2005), Daniel McCann (early 2006), Alexandria Avent (2006).

Clementine Pickwick and Tamara Kevill (Dec 2006).

Vanessa Phillips, Victoria Braido and Monica Dominish (2008).

**SIEMENS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE:** Joshua Tamm, Richard Blessington, Angela Singh, Moren Shilova (Oct 2007), Nina Bokil (Oct 2008).

**YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM** (International Youth Exchange):

An international program to assist higher secondary students to live for a year in another country and to be “junior ambassadors” for their nation.

Alastair Hare (2008 to Denmark), Jessica McConnell (2009 to Switzerland).

**RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards): To help potential leaders at higher secondary level to develop their potential.

Samuel Nash Slattery (Jan 2008), Ross Dyson (2009).

**MURRAY-DARLING SCHOOL OF FRESHWATER RESEARCH:** To provide students with an understanding of Australia’s main inland river system and its problems. Kate Mitchell (Apr 2008).

## 2. AWARDS

**BRUCE DRAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:**

Graham Robertson and Elizabeth Harding (Dec 2004), Stasia Dabrowski (mid 2006), Dylis Connell-Hunt (Dec 2006), Neville Tomkins, Associated District Scout Leaders and the Scout Movement in Australia (2007), Chris Redmond, Woden Community Service Inc (2006).

**GEORGE PAULUS VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD :**

Linda Shepley and Sandra Cusack (2004), Peter Veenker, CIT Restaurant, Reid (2006), The Australian War Memorial (Jan 2007), Bishop Pat Power (Oct 2007), Mary Damassis (Dec 2008), Ricky Salaysay (Dec 2008).

**EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARDS:** These were set up to give recognition to people who render exceptional service in retail and service fields. Sarah Flanagan of Domayne, Fyshwick (Apr 2006), Irene Thomson of the Embassy Motel (Dec 2006), Jamie Geedes of The Good Guys, Fyshwick (Sept 2008), Anthony Costello (Jan 2009), Xtreme Bean Cafe (Feb 2009).

ARTHUR HOLDER AWARD: For Canberra College Year 12 students who have demonstrated obvious personal development and have made a substantial contribution to College life.

John Milto (Dec 2004), Korri Chaivannacoop (Dec 2005), Danielle Sweeney (Dec 2006), Andrew Szabo (Dec 2007), Sam Maxted (Dec 2008).

STUART GARNSEY AWARD: For Canberra College Year 12 students who have demonstrated obvious personal development and have made a substantial contribution to College life. Alix-Maree Kuzma (2004), Melinda Noble (Dec 2005), Eliza Hopkins (2006), Lachlan Caunt (Dec 2007), Emily Rushton (Dec 2008).

#### APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES FOR SOMCHAI'S SURGERY:

Awarded to those involved in Somchai Yaeso's Polio surgery worded "Certificate of Appreciation". Two presentations to Dr Paul Minter and The Calvary Private Hospital team (2008).

#### GIFT IN APPRECIATION:

Maureen Booth for her involvement with Piers Booth in the care of Somchai throughout his sojourn in Canberra, in association with the Paul Harris Sapphire Award to Piers (2008).

WESTERN DESERT HEALTH PROJECT CERTIFICATES: To thank the following firms in Newcastle who gave support to the project:

Suters Architects, Northrop Consulting Engineers, Marline Consulting Engineers, Stuart Bell of Frosts, Chris Velovski and Jason Dimmock of Enterprise Drafting Company and Charles Martin (2008/09)



**The Charter Presentation Meeting**  
 (The Charter was signed on 29th May 1969)  
 The Charter Presentation Meeting of the  
 Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden  
 was held  
 at the Deakin Inn  
 in the presence of the  
 District 270 Rotary International Roland Bigg  
 on  
 Saturday, 14th June 1969



*George Paulus  
 Charter President*

Extension Aide: Keith Grainger  
 Sponsor Club: Canberra East (President, Alan Bennett)  
 Governor's Rep: Alf Gillespie,  
 Territory: Relinquished by Rotary Club of Canberra

**Charter Members of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden  
 29th May 1969**

ARMSTRONG V R (Vic)	Education Administration
CLEVERLY R C A (Tony)	Timber Distribution
COOPER R J (Bob)	Concrete Technical Advisory Service
DODDRELL E G (Ted)	Govt Serv Super - Funds Investments
FLAHERTY M (Max)	Garage Service
GARNSEY S K (Stuart)	Educ Secondary Govt Schools
GREENE W J (Bill)	Commercial Publishing
HAMILTON B J (Bernie)	Insurance Life
JACKSON R E (Ron)	Concrete Ready Mix Supplies
KENNEDY R D (Ron)	Insurance General
KETTLE RK (Ralph)	Dentistry - Government
LETTY W T (Trevor)	Computing and Automathn - Systems Mgt
MALLETT D T (Tom)	Education Primary Schools
MOORE P J (Phil)	Oil Industry Administration
MORRITT R V (Ray)	Public Defence - Sea Aviation
MULLINS A T (Alan)	Motor Tyres Wholesaler
MUNNS E (Ernest)	Architecture
McAULEY J H (Jim)	Medical Practitioner
OGDEN A W (Aub)	Finance Banking - Trading
PAULUS G V (George)	Steel Distributing and Wholesaling
PHELPS I (Ian)	Auto Spare Parts - Retailing
THOMSON B G (Brian)	Drug Retailing
TUNBRIDGE N J V (John)	Asbestos Products Distribution

## 2008-09 BOARD

President	Shukry Sahhar	(Engineering: Airports)
Immed. Past President	David Fox	(Information Technology)
President-Elect	Ros Osbourne	(Education: Special)
Secretary	Keith Avent	(Biological Science Management)
Treasurer	Noel Hart	(Construction Claims Consultancy)
Directors	Bernadette Cappello	(Pharmacy)
	Norma Donaldson	(Education: Geographer)
	Neale Emanuel	(Management Consultancy)
	Gary Scott	(Technology: Education and Consultancy)
	John Widdup	(Civil Engineering: Private Practice)

## MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

LIST OF MEMBERS from 2004 to 2009

\* *Left the Club during the past 5 years\**

# *Died*

Keith Avent (Biological Research Management)

\*Juliet Badu-Tiwaa (Aged Care)

Ajit Banerjee (Postal Service)

\*Pamela Best (Occupational Health & Safety)

Carlo Binutti (Building Construction: Commercial)

\*Val Bland (Accountancy: Government)

Piers Booth (Medical Practice: Anaesthesia)

Bernadette Cappello (Pharmacy)

\*Jacki Cauchi (Public Accountancy)

Robin Cromer (Forestry Research)

#Murray Crowe (Life Insurance) - to Honorary

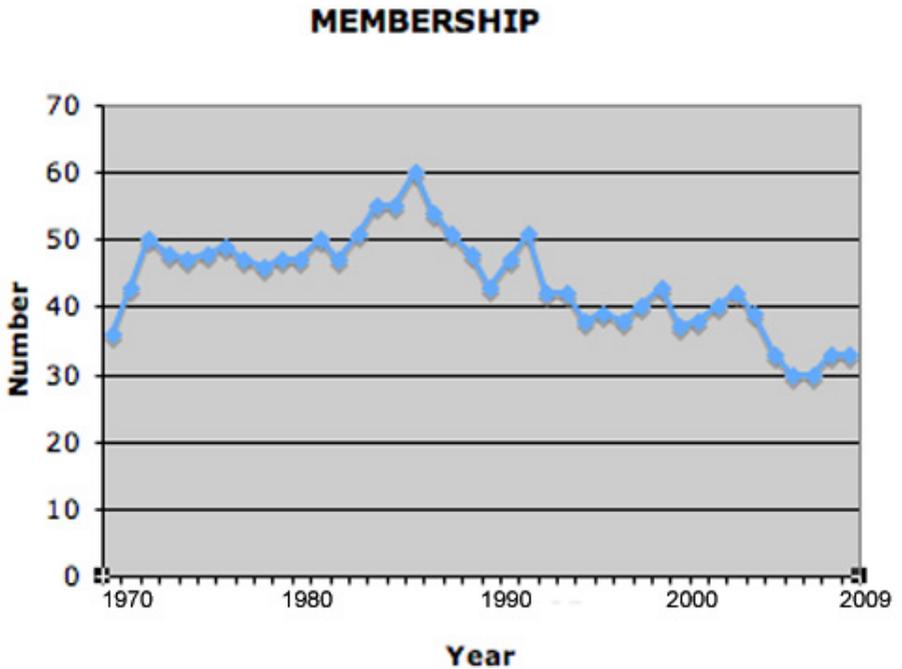
\*Tom Davies (Communications Consultant)

Norma Donaldson (Education: Geographer)

\*Bob Ellison (Accountancy Business Advice)  
Neale Emanuel (Management Consultancy)  
Peter Evans (Defence: Academic)  
Ian Excell (Computer Software)  
\*Randall Falkiner (Forestry: Environmental Chemistry)  
\*Alan Ford (Public Service Education Policy)  
David Fox (Information Technology)  
Ken Goard (Medicine: Radiology)  
\*Jim Grainger (Dentistry: Private Practice)  
John Gray (Environmental Design)  
\*Bruce Hall (Quantity Surveyor)  
Noel Hart (Construction Claims Consultant:Private Practice)  
Bob Harvie (Optometry)  
Des Henderson-Kelly (Management Services: Private Practice)  
\*Rex Hunt (Religion: Uniting Church)(to Honorary)  
Jeff Ibbotson (Government: Legal)  
Phil Ibbotson (Education: Tertiary)  
\*Frank Macklin (Banking)  
Bish Mukerjee (Medicine: Gynaecology)  
Lynette Svanosio (Environmental Science)  
Ray Newcombe (Medical Research)  
Ros Osbourne (Education: Special)  
Des Pain (Urban Development)  
Alec Philip (Pharmacy: Community)  
Shukry Sahhar (Engineering: Airports)  
Gary Scott (Technology: Education & Consultancy)  
\*Frank Sheldon (Pallet Manufacture)  
Robyn Singleton - (Education - Mathematics)  
Judy Skelton (Property Investment)  
Wolfgang-Lukas Strohmayer (Diplomatic Service)  
\*Ai Lin Tan (Medicine: Surgical Trainee)  
Lynette Svanosio (Environmental Science)  
Eric Taylor (Acoustics)  
John Widdup (Civil Engineering: Private Practice)  
Bruce Wyatt (Geophysics)

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP 1969 TO 2009

The graph below shows how membership numbers have changed over the 40 years, peaking in the mid 1980s, since when they have generally declined – as is the case with many other established Clubs. We are now back to about the same numbers as when we started, but are striving to regrow. Membership stands at 34 at the time of going to the printer with several potential members in the wings.



## HONORARY MEMBERS 2004-09

**H**onorary Members are elected by the Club as persons who have Exemplified the ideals of Rotary in their lives. Our Club has had the following Honorary Members during the past five years.

**1997 onwards: Don Whitbread OAM** was the founder in 1969 (with wife Barbara) of the Woden Valley Youth Choir, with whom we have worked on many occasions. Proposed by this Club, he was a member of the District Group Study Exchange team to USA in 1973, and in 1984 received a District Award for Vocational Excellence. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow by the District in 1996 in recognition of his work in fostering friendly relations between peoples through his work in music. In his professional career, Don worked in the NCDC, the Commonwealth Public Service, and also in private business, organising international tours by musical groups. He has been active in a range of community organisations. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1980 and was Canberra Citizen of the Year in 1997.



**2002-2005: Jon Stanhope** has been a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly since 1998 and Chief Minister since 2001. He graduated in law at ANU, and before entering politics worked as a legal officer and a member of the Senior Executive Service in various Commonwealth Departments and with several Commonwealth politicians. He has also been active in a number of community organisations ranging over civil liberties, racial respect, hospice care, conservation, gun control, and young people's and sporting activities.



**2004 onwards: Frank Macklin** is a former member of our Club and was a longtime Attendance Officer. Frank left the Club in 2004 due to health problems, and was shortly afterwards made an honorary member. His career had been in banking, and he was a keen ham radio operator.



**2006: Murray Crowe** had the distinction of being our longest-serving Rotarian, with some 47 years of service in Yass and Woden Rotary Clubs. He had been bulletin editor and sergeant-at-arms. He resigned due to ill health in 2006, and was then made an honorary member. He was one-time President of the Yass Chamber of Commerce, a Foundation member of the Burrinjuck National Park Trust, and a Life Member of the Yass Golf Club. For many years he

headed up a family retail business at Yass and Burrunjuck, and later worked in Canberra as a business manager and in AMP. He and his family also had a pastoral property from 1980 on.

**2008 onwards: Rex Hunt** was a member of this Club from 2000 to 2008 and our President in 2003-04. Earlier he was a member of Wendouree Rotary Club (1972-76), and also served in Apex at Club, District and national level. He has worked in several commercial firms. However, with university and theological college studies, followed by postgraduate qualifications in communication management and social ecology/religious communication, he has since 1972 been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and Uniting Church. A progressive theologian and social ecologist, he is an Associate of the Westar Institute (a think tank in bible literacy based in California), and founder of The Network of Biblical Storytellers Australia and the Centre for Progressive Religious Thought, Canberra. He ceased active membership of our Club in 2008 in preparation for retirement and a move north, and was then made an honorary member.



**2008 onwards: Irene Thomson** is best known to us as the lady who has cared for us with cheerfulness and grace at our dinners at the Embassy Motel for over 20 years. Irene was born in Scotland, and came via Britain and South Africa to Canberra in 1983 with her husband Bert, a naval architect, and three sons. She has long been involved in solo and choral singing, and indeed has sung for us on a number of occasions. She has also been active in Church activities, the Women's Relief Society, school canteen management, and even coaching (along with Bert) in school soccer.

**2009 onwards: John Lawrence** joined our Club in 1988, and was our President in 1992-3. In 2000-01 he was District 9710 Governor. He moved to Brisbane in 2003. He has pursued an active leadership role in Rotary, and developed a number of initiatives in Australia and beyond; in particular we are closely familiar with his work in establishing what is now a large village school for children in Thailand's Akhai hill tribe area. John was elected RI Director for Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines for 2008-10. He and his wife Janet are both multiple Paul Harris Fellows and charter members of the Foundation Bequest Society. He is the recipient of a "Service Above Self" Award. In his professional career, John was initially an engineer, and moved later to the computer industry in consultancy and marketing roles. He is also committed to service to the Anglican Church.



## PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

- 1978 Shirley Granger - posthumous award in memory of Harry Granger;  
1979 Bill Green  
1980 (No nominations)  
1981 George Paulus  
1982 Bruce Drake  
1983 Jon Cassell  
1984 Brian Darke  
1985 Ron Osbourne  
1986 Allan Doery  
1987 Phil Ibbotson  
Des Pain  
1988 Keith Avent  
1989 Tony Cleverly  
Roger Wilson  
1990 Les Powell  
1991 Helen Drake (Inner Wheel)  
John Gray  
Arnold Osborne  
1992 Frank Macklin  
Alistair Christie  
1993 Des Henderson-Kelly  
Jim Grainger  
1994 Carlo Binutti  
John Wright  
1995 Eric Taylor  
John Kellow  
1996 Don Whitbread (District 9710 award for services through music)  
1997 Nola Daley  
John Lawrence  
1998 Ros Osbourne  
Ken Goard  
Janet Lawrence  
1999 Gary Scott  
Murray Crowe

- 2000 Ross Howard (sponsored by John Lawrence)  
Cathy Neuhaus [(management of Project Saul in conjunction with  
Steve Neuhaus [ACT Police)
- 2001 Noel Hart  
Shukri Sahhar  
Geoff Clark (assistance in RAIC - jointly with Canberra Rotary)
- 2002 Phil Ibbotson -- Sapphire Upgrade.  
Piers Booth  
David Fox  
Robin Cromer  
John Lawrence --Triple Sapphire Upgrade
- 2003 Chris Nunn (assistance to students at the RAIC - coach at the  
AIS and previously coached (disabled athletes)  
Jacki Cauchi  
Neale Emanuel  
Janet Lawrence --Triple Sapphire Upgrade
- 2004 Douglas Melver (Community Service and Mental Health)
- 2005 Pamela Best  
Ros Osbourne -- Sapphire Upgrade  
Bruce Hall  
Rex Hunt  
Ian Excell
- 2006 Peter Evans
- 2007 Bob Harvie  
John Widdup
- 2008 John Widdup -- Sapphire Upgrade  
Piers Booth -- Sapphire Upgrade  
Bernadette Cappello

## WODEN INNER WHEEL CLUB

Seventy six years ago the wives of Rotarians in the UK, who helped their husbands with their Rotary work found they did not get the fellowship their husbands did, so they formed themselves into a club so they could meet and befriend their husbands friends wives. Thus Inner Wheel was born.

Canberra Woden wives were no exception. With our charter in 1969, by February 1970 wives of our Club formed the Canberra Woden Inner Wheel Club. They were chartered in May with Shirley Cleverly as President.

They maintain a close association with this Club. As well as supporting us as individual wives, they provide invaluable assistance with our outreach, providing sandwiches for the members supervising parking at the Canberra Show and again at the Annual family bike ride to organize a morning tea stop with a wider range of refreshments. They assist with RAIC and Rotary supports them with things like their National 37th Australian Inner Wheel Conference held in Canberra in 2005.



*Providing refreshments for the  
Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour*

Inner Wheel has been expanded to cover all the women folk of Rotarians: wives, sisters, mothers, relations. They welcome new members. Canberra Woden Inner Wheel wish the Woden Rotary Club a prosperous time of fellowship and growth in the years ahead.



*View of Woden Valley - 1974*

