

## **Woden Rotary Club 2018-19**

### **President's report by Valmai Burns**

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of Woden Rotary Club during this the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the club was chartered. The members and the Board make the club a success and I am grateful for the way they have supported me and the events we have organised throughout this Rotary year. Every member of Woden Rotary Club has contributed in some way to the accomplishments and successes we have enjoyed this year.

I have been ably supported by Secretary John Widdup and Treasurer Lyn Svanosio. I would like to acknowledge that their significant experience and wise advice has helped result in this successful year.

We continue to hold our weekly **meetings** at the Irish Club, in Weston and we also have held a variety of **social events**. We supported Woden Daybreak's fundraiser for Mercy Ships at Daana, Curtin and we recently enjoyed dinner at a Nepalese restaurant in Manuka after which we viewed the film Summer in the Forrest in support of L'Arche. The President's barbecue was held on a pleasant summer evening at our home in Mawson in January.

Lyn has organized a variety of informative guest speakers for our meetings throughout the year. We have had some special and fun meetings including our "Hat Night" where we raised funds for the Rotary Mental Health initiative. Sergeants Shukry Sahhar, Neale Emanuel and Stephen Pratt have kept us informed of National Days and extracted our "small change" with interesting fines sessions.

Our major fund - raising efforts came from parking at Thoroughbred Park, and thank you to John Burns who organized the events. The 5 Peaks Bike Ride was very successful due to the great efforts of our organisers Jeff Ibbotson and John Widdup. A significant upgrade has occurred on our barbecue trailer which looks fabulous now with its new paintwork.

We have welcomed **new members** this year in Di Shogren and Heather Dyne as well as Nadira Pardo who transferred into our club from Tasmania. Additionally, Ros Osbourne reactivated her membership and has been a driving force behind the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and a fountain of knowledge for the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program. **Unfortunately**, we **lost Ed Klim** who has transferred to the Blue Mountains and we wish him well in his new club and surrounds with his wife Karen. Club members were saddened to hear of **Dr. Gary Scotts passing**. He died in Sydney after a long battle with cancer. Gary who was an Honorary Member of our club, made an enormous contribution to Woden Rotary Club after joining in 1986.

We have aimed to **raise community awareness** of rotary during this year. This has been achieved by shopping center stalls, a presence at the Volunteers Expo and at the District Rotary Floriade promotion and providing a barbecue at the opening of Blundell's Cottage.

We have been very supportive of **youth programs** during this year.

We endorsed 3 students to attend the **National Youth Science Forum** in January. The students have all attended meetings and shared their experiences with our members. We were delighted to hear that Sam Hill has been chosen to go to London in the near future. I would like to also acknowledge the efforts and commitment **of Deb Whitfield as the District Chair of NYSF**. I know you spend a lot of time on this task but I also know you enjoy it and find it most rewarding.

We have an **exchange student** overseas in Norway at present.

We sponsored a Deakin High student in the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) a weekend residential designed program to develop skills that will assist students in life.

Our involvement with Canberra Rotary has resulted in another successful year with **The Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program**. This year the program was earlier because of the timing of the budget but the committee met the challenge and organized a successful program for Year 11 students from all over Australia under the guidance of John Burns as Chair. I would like to thank **Anne Kennedy** for her long- standing commitment to this program in her role with the Education Unit at Parliament House.

The **connections we have with other rotary clubs** are an important part of what makes our club. We continued to assist **Canberra East** with the gnomes at Floriade and **Woden Daybreak** assisted us with the new parking venture we took on with the Night Markets at Thoroughbred Park. **The Inner Wheel Club of Belconnen**, has a strong connection with us and they have a long-standing commitment to providing refreshments for participants in the bike ride, the pink lamingtons and other delicacies are keenly sought by all riders!

We have **developed connections and partnerships with numerous organizations** over the years. In our local community we have had an ongoing connection since 1991 with **L'Arche** which will benefit from the funds raised at our birthday celebrations. In recent months we have had a very successful working bee at the "Gledden Street" property and we have provided a stove and dishwasher to the residents. We will be providing further assistance and resources. **A significant factor relating to our relationship with L'Arche is that it is a project which is of value to our local community**. It has also meant that club members can have "hands on" involvement and the recipients can also be involved with us.

**A true example of service above self which is beneficial to the residents and L'Arche community.**

**The connections we make as members of Rotary are valued, the friendships and fellowship we share within our club, and with members of other clubs are important.**

We frequently build upon these and this year Woden Rotary Club has built on a relationship with Coolamon Club where we had a combined effort to help a drought affected community. We donated money to be spent in local stores in Broken Hill and Hay and this was given to the families when students who are educated through The School of the Air attended a mini school in these centers.

**Awards given during this Rotary year include,**

**The Club gave**

**Excellence in Service award to:**

- **Lisa Andonoras** the Events Manager at the Hellenic Club, Woden.
- **Josh Devenny** a staff member at the Irish Club.
- **Anne Kennedy** the staff member from the Education Unit at Parliament House who has worked with Woden and Canberra Club to make RAIC the successful program it has been over the last 10 years.

**George Poulos Award to:**

- Canberra Yacht Club, Steve Hart, General Manager

**Community Service Award to:**

- Leanne King and Ainslee Football Group

**We have distributed a significant amount of funds this year**, and those who have benefited have included:

- **L'Arche**, installed a dish washer and stove and funds for other resources and updating of the shed, \$5000 plus
- **Rotary Mental Health from our Hat Day Activity**, \$500
- **Seven Women Donation**, \$500
- **Coolamon Joint Project** with DDAK, "School of the Air", \$2000
- **RI Foundation and End Polio**, \$4000

- **Relay for Life**, \$250
- **Inner Wheel Donation**, \$1000
- **Circus Quirkus**, \$300
- **Operation Cleft**, \$900
- **Rotary Health**, \$5000
- **Shelter Box**, \$4,000
- **Canberra Irish Club**, \$2200

A number of members are responsible for our communication within the club. John Widdup and John Burns are our Raven Editors. Lyn Svanasio, John Widdup and Jeff Ibbotson who maintain our website pages and Facebook pages.

I want to acknowledge the support and assistance my husband John has given me throughout this year whenever, thanks.

I am also thankful to have had a strong team working with me this year and I would like to thank the board and introduce the outgoing board to you for one last time for this year.

The 2018 / 2019 board was President Elect, Debora Whitfield, Secretary, John Widdup, Treasurer – Lyn Svanasio, Immediate Past President and International and Foundation – Jeff Ibbotson, Club Service and Admin - John Burns, Community – Shukry Sahhar, New Generations and Public Officer – Stephen Pratt, Membership and Public Relations – Viola Kalokerinos. This board have all contributed to Woden Rotary being “ the inspiration” in our community.

### **Presentations at Woden Changeover:**

#### **Rotary Health**

Chris Edwards

Donation from proceeds of our 5 Peaks Bike Ride

- Proceeds from our Bike Ride have been allocated towards this cause because our members wanted to support this program which supports healthier minds, bodies and communities through research, awareness and education.
- It was good to have a recipient of an education grant as a guest speaker recently.

#### **Inner Wheel**

##### **Catering for our 5 Peaks Bike Ride**

Donation and costs

Ros Osbourne

- Adds a unique element to the ongoing success of this great ride around Canberra.

#### **L’Arche**

Gledden Street house, Tarlie

- Money for projects that have been identified
- Importance of a positive relationship between our club and the residents

#### **Anne Kennedy**

Parliamentary Education Office

10 years of excellent service to Rotary Adventure in Citizenship

- Liaises with the committee effectively
- Well organised and engaging for the students
- Responsible for the success of the program

#### **Irish Club**

Automatic External Defibrillator (EAD)

Paul and the President of the Irish Club

- Appreciate what the club does for us in regards to having our meetings here
- Story of a need when someone had a medical emergency and as a result we want to present the club with this Defibrillator

### **Paul Harris Fellows**

Woden Rotary Club recognises individuals who have made an outstanding commitment to our club or the community as Paul Harris Fellows.

#### ***Roslyn Osbourne - PHF+7 (Ruby Two Level Pin)***

- Service Work, Parking guru in the members area, Volunteers Day
- 50 Years Celebration research and contacting people
- Rotary Adventure in Citizenship, minute secretary, knowledge, total commitment

#### ***Lynette Svanosio – PHF+2 (Sapphire Two Level Pin)***

- Treasurer, but so much more.
- Service work, Gledden Street, skip and hands on, parking,
- Commitment to anything and everything we get involved with as a club.
- Organisation for all our events. Typing and printing for example the Silent Auction, The Birthday Party Menus and tonight.
- Guest Speakers and Programs.