ANNUAL REPORT

Rotary Club of
West Wollongong Inc.
New South Wales Australia
(Chartered 23 March 1964)
Rotary International District 9675

2024-2025

Rotary's Vision Statement:

Together, we see a world
where people unite and take action to create
lasting change – across the globe, in our
communities, and in ourselves.

The four way test of things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

BOARD & TEAM STRUCTURE 2024-2025

Club President
Rose Pope

Treasurer
Noel Watt

Club Secretary
Dr Kerrie Hayes-Williams

Immediate PP
Phil Peckman

Club President Elect
Phil Peckman

Club Bulletin Editor
Michael Crowley

Club Auditor
Albert Cachia

Director Club Administration Barry Stevens

	Team Members
Bulletin	Michael Crowley, Kate Thomas, Phil Peckman
Club Constitution & By-Laws	Bob Armessen OAM
Attendance	Noel Watt
Member records	Noel Watt
Welfare	Anne Christensen
Venue Arrangement	Noel Watt
Risk Assessments	Barry Stevens

Director Rotary Foundation & New Generations Ken Potter

	Team Members
TRF and Centurion	Ken Potter
ARH and UOW Scholarships	Michael Crowley
End Polio	Phil Peckman, Rose Pope
Rotary District & Global Grants	Dr Helen Hasan
Donation Tins	Jim Christensen
RYPEN) RYLA) RYDA) NYSF)	Ken Potter, Marilyn Phillips

Director Community Service and Revenue Milan Stanojevic

Projects	Team Members
Charles Hotel	Dennis Simpson
BBQ's	Milan Stanojevic
PCYC Fit For Life	Ray Lee
Revenue Budget	Phil Peckman
Rotary Park	Arthur Booth OAM, Bob Armessen OAM
Ride4Rotary	Noel Watt
Pride of Workmanship	Jim Christensen
Citizenship Ceremony	Marilyn Phillips, Patrick Roberts OAM
7 News NSW & ACT Community Achievement Awards	Patrick Roberts OAM
Red Shield Appeal	Di North OAM
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Illawarra	Tom O'Toole, Rita Giampieri

Director Environmental Projects Dr Helen Hasan

Bee Project	John Erickson, Dr Helen Hasan, Ray Lee
Rotary Park	Arthur Booth OAM, Bob Armessen OAM
Green Connect Farm	Dr Helen Hasan, Rose Pope

Director Membership & Public Relations Phil Peckman

	Team Members
Speakers	Michael Crowley, John Erickson, Dr Kerrie-Hayes Williams
Sergeant	Barry Stevens, John Erickson, Ken Potter, Patrick Roberts OAM, Dennis Simpson, Ray Lee
New Member Mentoring	Rose Pope
Social Events	Bob Armessen OAM, Annette Lavender
Webpage	Phil Peckman, Helen Hasan
Facebook	Jim Christensen
Instagram	Dr Helen Hasan
Branding	Phil Peckman
Media -Radio Newspaper	Phil Peckman

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
Stephanie A. Urchick

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 9675

PDG Warwick Richardson
1/7/24 - 31/10/24

PDG Sue Hayward
1/11/24 - 28/2/25

PDG Tonia Barnes
1/3/25 - 30/6/25

RCL - Regional Community Leader
Margaret Uitterlinden

CLUB PRESIDENT
Rose Pope

Club website: http://westwollongongrotary.org.au
District Website: https://www.rotarydistrict9675.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/westwollongongrotary
mailto:westwollongongrotary@gmail.com
Instagram: www.instagram.com/rotary_club_of_west_wollongong/

Postal Address: PO Box 5040, WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Members on District and Northern Illawarra Committees

Australia Day	**- Milan Stanojevic**
Imagination Library	**- Tom O'Toole, Rita Giampieri**
RYDA	**- Ken Potter, Marilyn Phillips**
Ride4Rotary	**- Noel Watt**

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

In Rotary, each year is different. Each year clubs have different **events** and **donation requests**. For **61 years** the **Rotary Club of West Wollongong** has successfully helped **innumerable needy individuals and communities locally** and **internationally**. This all happens because we are **like-minded people**, volunteering our services and **enjoying the process**. This is possible because we are a **team** built on **genuine friendship, mutual care,** and a shared commitment to our **broader community**.

I'm pleased to report that the **West Wollongong Rotary Club** has enjoyed another **productive and enjoyable year**. Our **weekly meetings** continue to be a highlight—offering **lively discussion, laughter, serious business** and **excellent guest speakers**. We have continued to support many **community projects, programs, events** and **fundraising activities** throughout the year. The list of achievements is extensive, as you will read in more detail in all the following reports. So instead, I'll just offer a **summary**—because it's truly too hard to single anyone out. **Every member has played a valued role** in our success, whether through **hands-on help, social connection, financial support**, or simply **showing up to our weekly meetings with enthusiasm**.

Combined Illawarra Rotary Club Events:

- Ride4Rotary supporting Southern Youth and Family Services (SYFS)
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- The Science and Engineering Challenge
- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)
- Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Rotary Clubs of the Illawarra Race Day supporting Escabags and Women Illawarra

Rotary Club of West Wollongong
Local donations and scholarships:

- Australian Rotary Health (ARH) PhD Research Scholarship
- ARH Indigenous Health Scholarship
- University of Wollongong (UOW) John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship
- Supported Accommodation Homelessness Services Shoalhaven and Illawarra (SAHSSI)
- Green Connect Farm Ltd
- Southern Youth and Family Services (SYFS)
- Our Community Project, Port Kembla – Social Circus
- The Queensland Floods
- The Illawarra Wig Library Inc.
- Woonona Anglicare Aged Care Sensory Garden project
- Towradgi Surf Club

International donations:

- The Rotary Foundation and the End Polio Now Program
- Wheels of Aid Ukraine
- The Vanuatu Earthquake

We sponsored:

- The Illawarra Excellence in Vocational Education & Training (VET) Awards 2024
- The Citizenship Awards in 4 local High Schools and 10 Primary Schools

We participated in:

- The judging of the 7News Community Achievement Awards
- The Red Shield Appeal

Our special Club events were:

- Citizenship Ceremony with MP Alison Byrnes, Lord Mayor Cr Tania Brown and 13 conferees
- Pride of Workmanship Awards with six very deserving recipients
- Peace Oration with speaker, Dr Glenn Kolomeitz
- Rotary Club of West Wollongong (RCWW) ARH & UOW Scholars' Presentation Night

A TOUCH OF MAGIC:

LEADING WITH HEART, SERVING WITH PURPOSE

Despite our busy calendar, we still made time for **fun and fellowship**. We continued our involvement with **Rotary Park (Arthur's Park)**, enjoyed **social dinners**, and had a terrific evening of **Barefoot Bowls**. Our **raffle nights at The Charles Hotel** moved to Friday evenings, which has brought members together regularly in a **more social setting**.

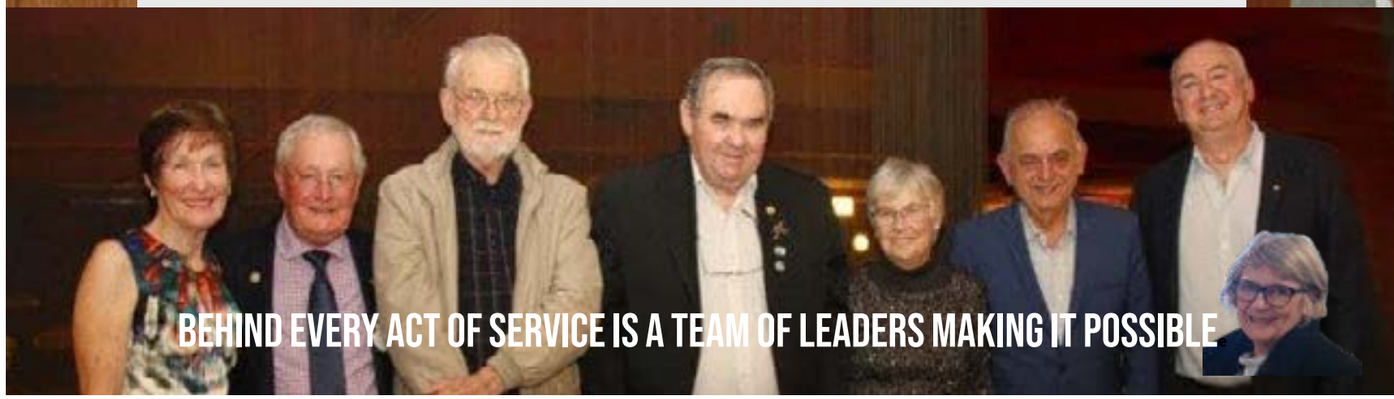
I extend **heartfelt thanks** to my **Board of Directors,** every **Club member and partner**, and our valued **Friends of Rotary**.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge:

- **PP Noel Watt**, who is stepping down from the Board after an exceptional total of **10 years** as **Treasurer**.
- **PP Helen Hasan**, concluding **10 years** of dedicated Board service as a **Director**.
- **PP Michael Crowley**, who has produced our **weekly bulletin** with **dedication and excellence** for 10 years.
- **PP Ken Potter**, who, in his remarkable **25 years** of Rotary service, has spent **16 years** on the Board — and is still going strong!

As I close, I warmly wish **PE Phil Peckman**, his **incoming Board**, and all **current and future members every success for 2025-2026.**

Pres. Rose Pope - President 2024–2025



CLUB ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Special thanks must go to my **capable and well-oiled team**, whose behind-the-scenes dedication often allows me to present a '***nothing to report***' update at board meetings. Their **reliability** and **skill** ensure the smooth running of our Club — and for that, I'm sincerely grateful.

Bulletin Editor – Michael Crowley (until late February 2025):
Towards the end of my second year as President in 2015, I took over the reins of **Bulletin Editor** from **Jim Christensen**, continuing the great work done by him and others before him. After **10 years at the helm,** I felt it was time to hand over the privilege of preparing the Bulletin to our **very capable and conscientious member, Kate Thomas.**

Over the years I've endeavoured to ensure the **Bulletin's content** has been **informative, accurate** (though minor discrepancies sometimes crept in), full of **photos** (where appropriate) along with the inclusion of a bit of **levity**—especially during COVID lockdowns. The aim was always to make it **appealing to a wide audience.**

Our Club's **Bulletin** is prepared and distributed **weekly** to **members, honorary members, friends** and **external contacts**. Its main purpose is to share **important Club information**, while also reflecting our **activities and sense of camaraderie**. In this way, it doubles as a **quasi-marketing tool** for **potential members and supporters**.

Importantly, the **Bulletin** has **historical significance**. These editions may one day support **future milestone publications**, complementing our **40th and 50th anniversary books** — and perhaps even a **75th or 100th edition!** So to all our **weekly scribes** and our **President,** your efforts are not in vain.

In **March this year, Kate** eagerly took over the helm, guiding the transition to a **new format within ClubRunner** — a platform our members agreed to adopt in **2024**.

While **ClubRunner** offers many advantages, particularly for **record keeping**, its **Bulletin module** offers **less flexibility**. Adapting to the new format will take some time, and **tweaks** will undoubtedly continue as members become more familiar with the platform.

Special thanks to **PE & PP Phil Peckman** and **PP Helen Hasan** for their **substantial support** during the transition to **ClubRunner**, and for helping ensure the **Bulletin** was prepared and shared in a **timely manner**.

Welfare – Anne Christensen:
The Club Welfare Officer, Anne, has remained **attentive to the wellbeing of our members** and their families. **Flowers** and **thoughtful cards** have been sent during times of **illness** or **bereavement**. Where possible, the Club has also been **represented at funerals** — a quiet yet meaningful gesture of **support and respect.**

Compliance – Bob Armessen, OAM:

- **Annual Summary of Financial Affairs**: Lodged with **Fair Trading** on **3 December 2024**. The next submission is due after the financials are approved by members at the upcoming **AGM**.
- **Insurance:** We hold a **Certificate of Currency** confirming cover for the **2024–2025 financial year**.
- **Register of Incorporated Association**:
  All required documents — including our **Certificate of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws** — are **up to date** and held on file.
- **ACNC & Charitable Fundraising Authority**: Last approved for a **three-year period** expiring **28 July 2025**. Renewal documentation has been submitted and is awaiting approval.
- **Working with Children**: **Up-to-date records** are maintained as advised by members.

Attendance/Venue Arrangements– Noel Watt:
Noel Watt continues to **remind members** of weekly attendance requirements and communicates **expected numbers to Centro**. He also maintains the **Club's membership directory**, ensuring it remains **accurate and up to date.**

https://site.clubrunner.ca/Page/rotary

In summary, the smooth functioning of our Club is thanks to the combined efforts of many. I thank everyone involved for their commitment, attention to detail, and quiet efficiency throughout the year.

PP Barry Stevens - Director 2024–2025

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Club Membership currently sits at **29 active members, six Friends of Rotary and five Honorary members.** During the year we **increased our active membership by three.**

Duncan Rutherford

Ros Yeoman became a **full member** of the club in **November 2024**, having previously been a **Friend** of our Club for many years. **Ros and husband Paul** have actively supported our Club over the years, helping out at **fundraising events, Club functions and social gatherings**. **Ros will take on the role of Club Treasurer for 2025/26**, a responsibility I am confident she will **embrace wholeheartedly**.

Duncan Rutherford joined our Club in **July 2024**, transferring from the **Rotary Club of Kembla**. I know Duncan is keen to do more within the Club once his work situation settles down and he is based in **Wollongong**. We look forward to seeing more of Duncan in the coming year.

Kate Thomas joined our Club in **November 2024**, after re-locating to **Wollongong. Kate** is a former member of both **Kiama and Berry Rotary Clubs** and has certainly made her presence felt since arriving at our Club with active involvement in **Club fundraising, events, meetings** and **social activities**. We look forward to **Kate's continued enthusiasm.**

I'd like to also claim **Dr Kevin Wanambiro** in my year: however, **Kevin** joined us on **26 June 2024**. Kevin has become a **wonderful member** of our Club participating in **meetings** and **social events**, and also becoming a **proud Dad** during the year. No wonder he's been a little busy.

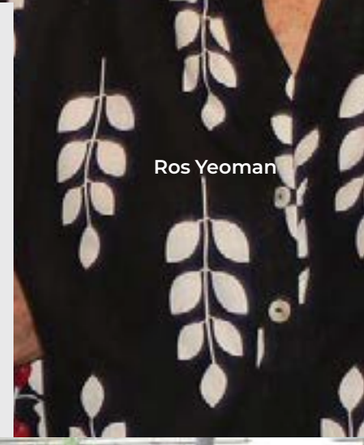
We were deeply saddened by the **passing of Honorary member John Harper** and **Friend of Rotary Mark Felton** early this year. **John** was an **active member** of our Club from **2002 until 2012**, and was granted **Honorary membership** upon his departure. **Mark** became a **Friend of Rotary in 2020** and was a familiar and valued presence at our **fundraising efforts, special occasions**, and **social gatherings**. They will both be **sadly missed.**

Thanks to our **public-facing events** throughout the year, we've attracted **interest from several potential new members.** We're hopeful this will lead to fresh **faces joining our Club** in the coming year.

Kate Thomas

When you look back over the year that was, I am always surprised at the amount we manage to achieve throughout the year which speaks volumes about how amazing our Club membership is.

PE Phil Peckman - Director 2024–2025


Ros Yeoman

A YEAR MARKED BY MEMBERSHIP GROWTH, ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT, AND RESPECTFUL TRIBUTE

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Throughout the past year, our Club has delivered a wide range of events that have significantly enhanced our visibility and reinforced **Rotary's presence in the community**. Each event not only promotes the work we do but also reflects our values and the positive impact we make.

Signature events included:

- **Community BBQs**
- **Meat Raffles**
- **Jag the Joker Raffle**
- **Charity Race Day**
- **Pride of Workmanship Awards**
- **Citizenship Night**
- **Peace Oration**
- **Rotary Youth Programs**

Unfortunately, **Paws4aCause** was unable to proceed this year due to competing commitments. We hope to see it return to the calendar next year.

These events have supported both **membership growth** and **increased public awareness** of our Club's role. This success is due to the leadership of **President Rose** and the dedication of our **Board and members.**

Digital Presence

We've continued to strengthen our **social media engagement**, with **Instagram** and **Facebook** used to promote events and share Club news. Special thanks go to **Jim Christensen** for managing our **Facebook page** and ensuring regular, engaging content.

Branding & Promotion

A **new Club banner** was designed and purchased to enhance our presence at events. In addition, the **donation of a trailer to Green Connect Farm** now proudly displays our **Rotary signage**, promoting both organisations throughout the region.

ClubRunner and Website Development

ClubRunner has seen increased adoption this year, providing a central platform for **club management, member records, document storage**, and — most importantly — our **public website**. We are working toward launching the **updated Club Website by 30 June**, further improving our **communication and visibility**.

SHINING BRIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY:

A YEAR OF IMPACT, ENGAGEMENT & GROWTH

Rotary's public image is built not just on what we do, but how we share it. I'm excited to see how we can continue to grow our impact in the year ahead.

PE Phil Peckman - Director 2024–2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

Another excellent year of **Rotary fundraising opportunities** with a few difficulties created by changes to both our **major fundraising activities**: the **Charles Hotel Raffles** and our various **barbeques**. The results of our **successful fund-raising** can be seen in the **income estimates** below.

Our **fundraising** has enabled the following **summary of our donations** for the **Financial Year 2024-2025**. It is not possible to produce an **audited set of accounts** for the current year as this report is prepared prior to **June 30**. An **audited financial report** will be tabled at our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in **November**.

Charity Account
Income

Charles Hotel Raffles	$ 25,500
Barbeques	$ 18,200
Charles Hotel Donation	$ 2,000
District Grant Green Connect Trailer	$ 2,880
Collection Tins	$ 800
Centurion Club	$ 400
Vanuatu Earthquake Member donation	$ 300

Expenditure International

Wheels of Aid for Ukraine	$ 3,000
Rotary Foundation	$ 2,500
Polio+	$ 1,500
Vanuatu Earthquake	$ 1,300

Community Service and Youth Programs

ARH/RCWW PhD Scholarship	$ 12,000	Pride of Workmanship	$ 1,662
Southern Youth & Family Services	$ 6,000	Learning VET (Vocational Education & Training) Awards	$ 1,100
Green Connect Farm	$ 6,000	Illawarra Race Day	$ 1,100
Supported Accommodation & Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra (SAHSSI)	$ 6,000	Towradgi SLSC	$ 1,080
Our Community Project (Port Kembla) - Social Circus	$ 6,000	High School and Primary School Citizenship Awards	$ 800
Green Connect Farm Trailer	$ 5,448	Citizenship Ceremony	$ 800
UOW/RCWW John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship	$ 3,000	RYLA	$ 800
ARH Indigenous Scholarship	$ 2,500	NYSF	$ 500
Flood Emergency QLD	$ 2,500	Sensory Garden	$ 500
Imagination Library	$ 2,200	Peace Oration Presentation	$ 500
The Illawarra Wig Library	$ 2,000		

I would like to congratulate the Club members and friends for their exceptional efforts raising funds and all the generous members of the community who have made donations that have enabled us to help our many worthwhile causes.

PP Noel Watt - Treasurer 2024–2025

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND REVENUE REPORT

BARBEQUES

From a **barbeque perspective** it was a **mixed year**. We are **building the Monday barbeques** at **Kembla Grange Bunnings** to a point where we nearly **broke $1,700** for a **non public holiday Monday**. So it has become a **good earner**. **Filling the roster** though is a **continual and increasing challenge**. I'd like to **thank the regular members** and **Kerrie Spicer** for their **consistent support and efforts** each month. Without them, our **fundraising** would be **significantly diminished**.

Sadly, the **Comic Gong BBQ** was **moved elsewhere** this year and the **MS Gong** wasn't as **profitable** as previous years. However, despite this, **barbeques** are still our **second major fundraiser** and there's always **next year!**

Jim's Tins

We mustn't forget the **contribution** that **Jim's Tins** make to **revenue**. For years, **Jim Christensen** has **deposited charity collection tins** in various locations and just this year has **brought in over $700**. A **great initiative** from a **resourceful member**.

Di Reid, Phil Peckman and John Erickson

Milan Stanojevic
Director 2024–2025

Charles Hotel
Jag the Joker

Dennis Simpson
Co-ordinator – Charles Hotel

CHARLES HOTEL

Our other **major fundraiser** is at the **Charles Hotel Fairy Meadow**. The **Charles** has held a **barbeque for us every Saturday** and we can't thank the Charles enough for the **ongoing support**. **Dennis and members** run a **raffle** there every **Thursday and Friday**. They are our **backbone** and provide a **constant, steady source of revenue**. A **sincere thank you** goes to the **Hotel and the patrons**. **Well done Dennis and the teams** which consist of **members and Friend, Di Reid**, plus all **members and partners** who have come along to **support our Club and these raffles**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND REVENUE REPORT

RIDE4ROTARY

A Combined Illawarra Clubs and Ride Wollongong Event

Ride4Rotary 2025 was held on Sunday **18 May 2025** at **Wollongong Harbour**. It is part of the **Wollongong Festival of Cycling** with all funds raised going to **Southern Youth and Family Services**.
Despite the **very cold and windy day**, the event was a **huge success**. **Total funds raised** were in excess of **$50,000**. Every $1 raised will help **Southern Youth and Family Services** support and care for **vulnerable and homeless young people**, and those at risk of **disadvantage and homelessness.**

A **heartfelt thank you** to:

- **Noel and my family** who braved the weather and **rode alongside me** on the day:
- Those who **participated virtually:** and
- Everyone who **generously sponsored our riders**.

Your support makes all the difference.

Illawarra's Rotary Clubs
Ride4Rotary

President Rose Pope

Treasurer and PP Noel Watt

Representatives from Escabags and Women Illawarra

Winner best Dressed Male – Eduardo Tover with Jim Christensen

CHARITY RACE DAY

The Rotary Clubs of the Illawarra once again joined forces to host the annual **Charity Race Day at Kembla Grange Racecourse** on **14 September**, raising vital funds to **support women and children escaping domestic violence.**
Our Club extends its sincere thanks to **Phil Peckman** for his **outstanding contribution** — not only as our **representative** on the **organising committee** but also as a **driving force** behind the event's **continued success**.

Proceeds from the day were directed to two worthy organisations:

- **Escabags**, which provides **essential emergency items for individuals fleeing domestic abuse ($9,100)**
- **Women Illawarra**, offering a **range of domestic and family violence support services for women ($9,100)**

This event highlights our **ongoing commitment** to **addressing critical social issues** and **making a meaningful impact** in our **community**. And, of course, it also offers a great opportunity for **Rotarians and guests** to enjoy a fun and **uplifting day together!**

The **2025 Charity Race Day** will be held on Saturday, **13 September**.

Organising committee – L to R Phil Peckman, Debbie Petreski (RC ofWollongong), Bernadette McNamara (RC of Dapto) and Sharyn Mackenzie (RC of Fairy Meadow).

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND REVENUE REPORT

PCYC POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS NSW
FITFORLIFE
Proudly supported by the New South Wales Police Force

FITFORLIFE Program is designed to **support young people** by promoting **physical fitness, nutritional education**, and **social engagement**. The **primary goal** of the program for young people aged **10 -16 years**, is to foster **positive lifestyle habits** and enhance **overall confidence**. It also aims to establish **positive relationships** between young people and their **local police**, further promoting **community engagement**. **Rotary's role** is to help **prepare and serve breakfast each Thursday morning from 7 to 8am** before the students are **taken to school**.

Thanks go to **Ray Lee**, who **organises and oversees** the roster which includes **10 of our members** and members of **3 other local Rotary Clubs.**

Team Rose Pope & Rita Giampieri at the PCYC's 'Fit for Life' breakfast program in 'The Snakepit'

Activities enjoyed by our local youth at PCYC Wollongong

Di North OAM making breakfast

Pres. Rose Pope and Rita Giampieri

JUDGING 7NEWS NSW & ACT 2024 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Community Achievement Awards, first launched in **2002** as the **Regional Achievement and Community Awards**, were created to **inspire, recognise,** and **celebrate** the **outstanding contributions** of **individuals, communities**, and **businesses** across **regional and rural New South Wales and the ACT**. These awards honour the **passion, dedication**, and **achievements** of those who help make our **regions stronger, more vibrant**, and truly **exceptional places to live**.

We are proud to acknowledge the **incredible work** of this year's **judging team**: **President Rose Pope, Rita Giampieri, Annette Lavender, Mal Bracken and Patrick Roberts OAM.** Their **thoughtful and dedicated efforts** in selecting the **finalists** were **instrumental to the success** of the program.

The **winner** was chosen by a final panel of **esteemed judges**, with **Patrick Roberts OAM** once again **lending his expertise** as part of this **important decision-making process**.

We **celebrate all who were nominated**. Your **commitment continues to uplift and inspire communities across NSW and the ACT.**

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Celebrating Regional Communities

ROTARY FOUNDATION/ INTERNATIONAL REPORT

The Club has remained actively engaged **in international and Foundation initiatives** throughout the year, continuing its strong commitment to **global impact** and **humanitarian service**.

A report was received regarding the **Interplast surgical program** to **Tarawa, Kiribati**, which took place from **16 to 25 June 2024**. Although the mission occurred during the previous Rotary year, the report was submitted this year. Funding for the project was made possible through proceeds from the **Paws4aCause** dog show, combined with a **District Grant**. The program was conducted at **Tungaru Central Hospital** and provided **life-changing treatment** for patients, as well as **professional development opportunities** for local medical staff.

Notable outcomes included:

- **111 training opportunities**
- **20 surgeries**
- **15 allied health treatments**
- **Primary patients:** 8 children aged 1–5 years
- **Additional patients:** 14 adults aged 19–45 years
- **Only 17% of patients were female**

A **livestock transport trailer** for **Green Connect Farm** has been delivered; funded through a combination of **Club funds** and a **District Grant**, totalling **$5,000.**

In **October**, the Club once again supported the **Polio Train initiative**, contributing $1,500. This donation is matched **two-for-one** by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,** amplifying our impact on Rotary's **global fight against polio.**

Our annual **Peace Oration** was held on **26 March** and featured **Dr Glenn Kolomeitz** speaking on the topic *"**Taming the Bear: Peace in Ukraine — At What Price**?"* Now a key event on our calendar, the **Peace Oration** continues to be well-attended by both members and the public, promoting awareness of Rotary's **peacebuilding work** locally and internationally.

Our **annual Citizenship Ceremony** was held on **11 June**, marking nearly **30 years** of Club involvement in this important initiative. This year, approximately **13 new citizens** were formally welcomed in a ceremony presided over by the **Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Tania Brown**. The event was also attended by the **Member for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes MP**, along with other local dignitaries, friends, and Club members. It was a **proud and meaningful occasion**, celebrating the **newest members** of our Australian community.

International Toasts remain a regular feature of our **weekly meetings**, with rostered members researching and presenting insights about **Rotary Clubs around the world.**

Many of our **international and Foundation projects** depend on **District Grants**. These grants are only made possible through donations to **The Rotary Foundation** — with funds donated three years prior enabling clubs to access **matched funding**. It is therefore vital that we continue our contributions to **The Rotary Foundation** to ensure ongoing project viability.

PP Ken Potter - Director 2024-2025

Interplast®
Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives in the Asia Pacific region

CHANGING LIVES IN TARAWA: SURGERY, SKILLS, AND HOPE DELIVERED

RIDING THE RAILS TO ERADICATE POLIO

A JOURNEY OF HEALING WITH INTERPLAST

NEW GENERATIONS REPORT

Science and Engineering Challenge

The first activity of the year took place on **1 and 2 August 2024** — the **Science and Engineering Challenge** at the **University of Wollongong**. The event was supported by many **Illawarra Rotary clubs** and presented eight engineering-based challenges for student teams, with up to **32 students** competing from each school.

Smith's Hill High School won the **local competition**, then the **NSW State Title** and went on to represent the state in the **National Titles in Townsville, Queensland**. The costs for transport and accommodation were considerable. **Our Club contributed $500** to assist, joining other Rotary clubs, local businesses and individuals. Thanks to this combined support, **Smith's Hill participated — and won the National Title**. A prestigious and proud moment for the school and all involved. We look forward to assisting again in **August 2025** as **Smith's Hill defends their title.**

Rotary Youth and Driver Awareness Program (RYDA)

RYDA is a vital youth education program held at **Kembla Grange Racecourse**, with six rotating sessions throughout the day and up to **180 students per day**.

RYDA session dates this year:

- **9 September 2024**
- **21 & 22 October 2024**
- **22 & 23 May 2025**

This is a combined project of **the Illawarra Rotary clubs**, with **our Club leading operations and funding coordination**. We are grateful for ongoing support from the **IMB Community Foundation**, which **granted us $10,000 this year**. We are currently applying for an additional **$6,000**.

Students learned:

- **How to speak up in peer-pressure situations**
- **How emotions impact driving**
- **How to avoid distractions**
- **Tyre safety (pressure and tread wear)**

These are **life-long safety strategies** and I'm proud of **our Club's ongoing role** in this meaningful program.

School Citizenship Awards

Continuing a project from the former **Kembla Rotary Club**, our members attend end-of-year school assemblies to present:

- **Citizenship Awards;** and
- **Cash Prizes** to deserving students.

This initiative builds **direct engagement with young people** and promotes awareness of **Rotary programs and values.**

University Scholarships and Youth Science Support

This year marks **20 years** of our Club's financial support for University of Wollongong students.

On **4th December 2024**, we heard from:

- **Thanapon Deekaikam** – *60th Anniversary PhD Research Scholarship*
  Topic: "Building Benchtop Models of Human Mechanosensory Neurons"
- **Maddy Lawson** – *Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholarship*
  Focus: Communicable disease prevention in Indigenous communities

In **2018**, the Club established the **Rotary Club of West Wollongong John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship**, in honour of our late member, **John Chaplin OAM**.

This year's recipient is:

- **Nicholas Fantham** – *Honours student in Medical Biotechnology*, a **Dean's Scholar**.

He presented his research on **antibiotic-resistant microbes** and received a certificate from **Kaitlyn Lieschke**, granddaughter of the late **John Chaplin OAM**.

Kaitlyn was herself supported by Rotary to attend the **National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)** during school and now pursues a **career in science**.

NYSF and RYLA

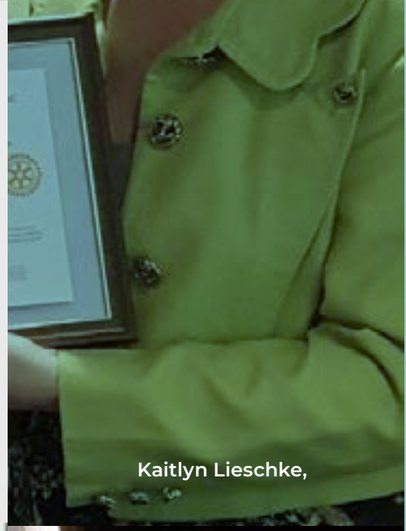
This year, we jointly funded **Lily Thompson** (with the **Rotary Club of Fairy Meadow**) to attend the **National Youth Science Forum**, after we were unable to find a candidate from our own Club.

We also sponsored **Cerentha Jaatinen** to attend the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** in **January**. She reported back to the Club on **5 March**.

RYLA has invited **Cerentha** to return next year as a **group leader** and she has **enthusiastically accepted**.

It has been a full and rewarding year for the New Generations portfolio. I extend my sincere thanks to all who contributed their time, support, and effort to ensure the success of these important youth programs.

PP Ken Potter - Director 2024–2025


Kaitlyn Lieschke,

Cerentha Jaatinen

Thanapon Deekaikam

Madeleine Lawson

ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS REPORT

At **West Wollongong Rotary**, we believe real environmental change grows from strong community roots. This belief drives our Club's commitment to **hands-on projects** that support **sustainability**, **biodiversity**, and **community partnerships**.

Green Connect Partnership

One of our major community partners is **Green Connect Farm.** It is a **local not-for-profit social enterprise** which runs an **award-winning sustainable permaculture farm** in **Warrawong** and provides **Ethical Labour Hire** and **Zero Waste Services** to progressive businesses, organisations and councils. They provide training and employment opportunities to people who need it the most, in work that **cleans up, benefits and protects the environment**. It has now also become its own entity as **Green Connect Farm Ltd.**

This year we funded the purchase of a **special purpose trailer** for the farm to enable the transportation of animals and other challenging items, eliminating the recurring cost of trailer hire. To help defray the cost, we successfully obtained a **District Grant** for the project. We titled the project ***"A suitable transport solution for a local community farm"*.** The District later gave us some **additional funds** which we are using to provide a **tarpaulin** and also a **sign on the trailer**, publicising **West Wollongong Rotary's** contribution.

We originally also donated **18 Honey Bee Hives**. Two hives were lost this year due to natural attrition. Fortunately, the losses were not caused by the **Varroa mite,** and the **Department of Primary Industries (DPI)** has recently inspected and cleared the remaining 16 hives.

Club members have visited the farm to observe **Green Connect's impactful work** and the Club has hosted **speakers from the Green Connect Farm** at two of our meetings. A **Green Connect volunteer** has also regularly helped us out on **barbeques**.

In April, **President Rose** and I attended the **Green Connect Farm Celebration and Fundraiser** on **Saturday, 6 April.** We heard the history of the farm from Green Connect's managers, **Robert Servine** and **Emily Henderson** and about its wider impact from special guests **MP Alison Byrnes, MP Paul Scully, and Cr Deidre Stuart and Cr Jess Whittaker** from **Wollongong City Council.**

Rotary Park - Arthur's Park

Rotary Park, affectionately known as **Arthur's Park,** continues to be maintained by **West Wollongong Rotarians and Friends** under the supervision of **Bob Armesson OAM**. Despite heavy rain this year, Bob managed to organise **clean up mornings** in **August** and **April**. We had a good roll up of happy helpers each time. The highlight of working bees at the park are **morning teas with Rita Giampieri's delicious cake and coffee.**

Native Bees in Schools

We have had **mixed success** with the **hives of native bees** that we purchased last year and set up in local schools. We are hoping to **split the surviving hives** and repopulate ones that succumbed to the elements. Those placed at **Warrawong PS, Green Connect** and **Greenhouse Park** are fortunately **thriving**.

Collaborating Across the Illawarra

Environment is one of **Rotary's areas of focus** that enjoys **cooperation between the clubs of the Illawarra**. Some members have participated in **The Rotary Club of Environment & Habitat** and also attended the **GreenFest Sustainability Expo** held at **Corrimal High School on Sunday, 13 April** organised by the **Rotary Club of Corrimal**. Unfortunately we weren't able to assist in the **Adopt a Tree Program** organised by **PDG Barry Antees** but we'll hopefully be able to support it again next year.

A **bi-monthly Zoom meeting**, attended by representatives from various clubs, discusses and organises **joint activities**. In addition to **joint environmental events**, our Club has participated in the **Walk against Domestic Violence**. This year's event, scheduled for **March in Kiama**, was postponed to **29 November** and will be held in **Wollongong.**

From trailers and bee hives to schoolyard ecosystems and regional partnerships, West Wollongong Rotary remains deeply committed to sustainable, grassroots action. Through these projects, we aim not only to protect the environment but to empower the community that depends on it.

PP Dr. Helen Hasan - Director 2024–2025

Special purpose trailer for transportation of animals and other challenging items

CITIZENSHIP NIGHT

The Rotary Club of West Wollongong hosted its 2025 Citizenship Ceremony on **11 June**, and the event was a **resounding success**.

We were honoured to welcome the **Member for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes MP,** and the **Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Cr Tania Brown**, as our official guests who conducted the ceremony. On the night, we celebrated the **conferral of Australian citizenship on 13 new citizens**, representing **seven different countries.**

Each **conferee was warmly hosted by a member of our Club,** and I extend my sincere thanks to those members for their **generous support and hospitality**.

Our **Club President, Rose Pope**, warmly welcomed **all guests**, setting the tone for an evening of **celebration and community spirit.**

The success of the evening was due in large part to the **dedication and teamwork** of many of our Club members.

Special thanks go to:

- **Marilyn Phillips** – Liaised with our new citizens and coordinated member roles
- **Phil Peckman & Eduardo** – Managed venue negotiations, arranged seating, and ensured smooth setup. Phil also gave an engaging talk on “What is Rotary?”
- **Michael Crowley** – Delivered the invocation and also served as **photographer**, capturing the evening’s memorable moments
- **Dr Kevin Wanambiro** - His heartfelt words touched everyone present and beautifully captured the spirit of the occasion
- **John Erickson** – Served as **Master of Ceremonies** for the **Rotary Meeting** and assisted with registration
- **Anne Christensen** & **Janet Crakanthorp** – Warmly welcomed and guided candidates and guests upon arrival
- **Patrick Roberts** – Secured approvals from the **Department of Home Affairs** and the **Lord Mayor** to conduct the **Citizenship Ceremony**, managed all **official correspondence**, and served as **Master of Ceremonies** for **Citizenship Ceremony**

It was truly a **team effort** that showcased Rotary’s commitment to **service, inclusiveness, and community engagement.**

PDG Patrick Roberts OAM – Convener

Anita Paim De Guarnieri and
Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown

Jean Gold and Anna Luschilin

CITIZENSHIP CANDIDATES

DARWI - Myanmar
Anita PAIM DE GUARNIERI - Brazil
Daniel Adrian van GEMERT - Belgium
Aaron Russell WEEKES – New Zealand
Sami Sam ELEKANA – New Zealand
Sammie Drea ELEKANA – New Zealand
Ashley Paremoko Te Ariki TIANANGA - New Zealand
Hagen SCHULTE IN DEN BAEUMEN - Germany
Bengt SWYTER - Germany
Jonne SWYTER - Germany
Ragna Cordula SWYTER - Germany
Jean GOLD - Israel
Anna LUSCHILIN - Russian Federation

Dr Kevin Wanambiro

Member for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes MP, Hagen Schulte in Den Baeumen, Bengt,Jonne and Ragna Swyter, Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

The Pride of Workmanship Awards Program is a **nationally endorsed Rotary initiative**, proudly established in **1976**. It provides a meaningful platform for managers and business leaders to acknowledge **outstanding employees**—celebrating **dedication, skill,** and **excellence** in the workplace. Guided by the program's motto, "**Do it once, do it well**," participating organisations honour individuals whose contributions make a difference not only within their businesses but also in the wider community.

The program celebrates one of society's most invaluable qualities: **genuine pride in personal achievement**. It fosters stronger **employer-employee relationships** and promotes a spirit of **teamwork, professionalism**, and c**ommunity recognition**.

Our **February Pride of Workmanship** evening was an **outstanding success**—a joyful celebration of six **remarkable individuals**. The high regard in which each awardee is held was reflected in the strong attendance of **family, friends,** and **colleagues**, all gathered to show their support.

Each recipient was presented with a **commemorative trophy**, acknowledging their **exceptional service** and **dedication**.

This year's recipients were:

- **Greg Jones** – *Volunteer Military Advocate*
- **Sue Happ** – *Volunteer Chef, St Vincent de Paul Society*
- **John Ruperto** – *Volunteer Farm Hand, Green Connect*
- **Cindy Blaney** – *Sales Assistant, Passion in Fruit*
- **Luka O'Shea** – *Apprentice Chef, CentroCBD*
- **Stephen Honeysett** – *Volunteer Handyman, The Verge*

We extend our sincere thanks to **Jim Christensen** for his **meticulous planning** and **coordination**, which ensured the evening ran seamlessly. Special appreciation also goes to **Phil Peckman** for managing the **program printing** and **seating arrangements**. And as always, **John Erickson** brought **warmth and professionalism** to his role as **Master of Ceremonies**, adding the perfect touch to a truly memorable celebration.

As we reflect on the success of this year's event, we are reminded of the importance of recognising the quiet achievers among us—those who go above and beyond without seeking the spotlight. We encourage our members and the wider community to consider nominations for next year's awards, so we can continue to celebrate and honour those who truly take pride in their work.

PP Jim Christensen – Convener

EXCELLENCE THAT INSPIRES US ALL

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DO MORE THAN THEIR JOB—THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ARH HAT DAY

FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Each year, **Australian Rotary Health** (ARH) hosts **Mental Health Day,** commonly known as **Hat Day**, to raise both **awareness** and **vital funds** for **mental health research**. This important initiative focuses on improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illnesses such as **depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder**—conditions that impact millions of Australians every year.

In 2025, the **Rotary Club of West Wollongong** once again demonstrated its commitment to **community well-being** by enthusiastically participating in **Hat Day**. Club members embraced the spirit of the event by wearing a **colourful and creative assortment of hats** during their weekly meeting, turning heads and sparking **conversations about the importance of mental health.**

We were especially delighted to welcome **Stephen and Judith Humphreys** to our meeting. As **Chair of the Board of Australian Rotary Health, Past District Governor Stephen Humphreys** provided an **engaging and informative presentation** on the outstanding work being undertaken by **ARH**. He spoke with **passion and urgency** about the **growing and dire need** for continued **mental health initiatives**, particularly in light of increasing rates of mental illness across Australia. His **timely update** was both enlightening and deeply gratifying for our Club members—especially as the **West Wollongong Rotary Club sponsors ARH PhD and Indigenous Health Scholars**, whose work contributes directly to advancing **mental health understanding and general health care**.

More than just a **fun dress-up occasion**, **Hat Day** served as a **meaningful platform** for the Club to help **break down the stigma** surrounding mental illness. Through their participation, members helped **raise funds** that directly support **evidence-based mental health research** funded by **Australian Rotary Health**—one of the **largest non-government funders of mental health research** in the country.

By joining this **national movement**, the **West Wollongong Rotary Club** not only **raised awareness** but also reinforced its **dedication to creating a more supportive, informed, and compassionate community**. Their involvement is a powerful reminder that even **small, symbolic gestures**—like wearing a hat—can have a **significant impact** when paired with **purpose and collective action**.

LIFT THE LID on mental illness

Australian Rotary Health

Shaping Healthier Futures: Research-Driven Solutions for Mind, Body and Community

AWARDS 2024-2025

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Congratulations to Dr Kerrie Hayes-Williams, Rose Pope, and Ken Potter on their PHF Sapphire Recognitions. A distinguished honour that reflects their exceptional service and invaluable contributions to our Club and wider community.

40 YEARS OF ROTARY SERVICE

Congratulations to Mal Bracken, on 40 years of dedicated service to Rotary! Your journey began with the Epping Rotary Club in 1984, continued with the Kiama Club from 1999, and most recently, we were honoured to welcome you to the West Wollongong Club in 2024. Your long-standing commitment reflects the true spirit of Rotary — service above self.

30 YEARS OF ROTARY SERVICE

Congratulations to Bob Armessen OAM and Patrick Roberts OAM on reaching an incredible milestone of 30 years of dedicated service. Their commitment, leadership and tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the success and impact of our Club.

25 YEARS OF ROTARY SERVICE

Congratulations to Marilyn Phillips on reaching the remarkable milestone of 25 years of Rotary service! Your unwavering commitment, generosity, and dedication to the values of Rotary have made a lasting impact on both our Club and the wider community. Thank you for your many years of service above self — it is truly inspiring.

PHF DOUBLE RUBY

Arthur Booth OAM was proudly awarded a Double Ruby Paul Harris Fellow pin, recognising 58 years of extraordinary service. Celebrated for his 100% attendance at his 50-year milestone, Arthur has shown unwavering commitment to Rotary. Arthur's generosity — both in his financial support and his tireless personal involvement — has been truly exceptional throughout his Rotary journey.

HONOUR ROLL

PAST PRESIDENTS

Charter 1964	Elwyn Mackay	1988-1989	Ian Bowmaker	2011-2012	Netty Broekman
1965-1966	Alan Reid	1989-1990	Barry Blundell	2012-2013	Marilyn Phillips
1966-1967	Jack Poel	1990-1991	Goolam Ganey	2013-2014	Michael Crowley
1967	Neville Trotter	1991-1992	Brian Davis	2014-2015	Michael Crowley
1968	Elwyn Mackay	1992-1993	Michael Campbell	2015-2016	Dr. Kerrie Hayes-Williams
1968-1969	Bill Shoobert	1993-1994	Bill Whitting	2016-2017	Jim Christensen
1969-1970	Ron King	1994-1995	Darryl Pearce	2017-2018	Jessica Gnata
1970-1971	Roger Kee	1995-1996	Michael Mitchell	2018-2019	Helen Hasan
1971-1972	Doug Gorrell	1996-1997	Arthur Booth	2019-2020	Ray Lee
1972-1973	Allan Hoy	1997-1998	Ross Willmot	2020-2021	Rose Pope
1973-1974	Vic Evans	1998	Arthur Booth OAM	2021-Apr 22	Joanne Glaser
1974-1975	Hubert Burrows	1998-1999	Albert Cachia	Apr 2022-Jun 22	Patrick Roberts OAM
1975-1976	Bill Fancourt	1999-2000	Patrick Roberts OAM	Jul 2022-Sep 22	Patrick Roberts OAM
1976-1977	Mike Calway	2000-2001	Jessie Blundell	Oct 2022-Dec 22	Ken Potter
1977-1978	Ken Barnes	2001-2002	John Bown	Jan 2023-Mar 22	Jim Christensen
1978-1979	Marcel Benson	2002-2003	Noel Watt	Apr 2023-Jun 23	Bob Armessen OAM
1979-1980	John Chaplin OAM	2003-2004	Kim Hockings	2023-2024	Phil Peckman
1980-1981	George Reynolds	2004-2005	John Crakanthorp	2024-2025	Rose Pope
1981-1982	Tudor Mackay	2005-2006	Jason Hedley		
1982-1983	Harvey Chesterfield- Evans	2006	Greg Hart		
1983-1984	Hilton King	2006-2007	John Crakanthorp		
1984-1985	John Aldridge	2007-2008	Ken Potter		
1985-1986	Brian Hedley	2008-2009	Bruce Inglis		
1986-1987	Ron Pedersen	2009-2010	Bruce Inglis		
1987-1988	Neil Preston	2010-2011	Jim Christensen		

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

2005-2006	Patrick Roberts OAM
2008	Patrick Roberts OAM
2019-2020	Di North OAM

DISTRICT SECRETARY

John Chaplin OAM 1984-1985

Jessie Blundell 2005-2006

Di North OAM 2016-2017

HONORARY MEMBERS

PP Bruce Inglis PHF

PP Michael Campbell PHF

Bob Ridley PHF

PDS PAG PP Jessie Blundell PHF+

PP Kim Hockings PHF

GUEST SPEAKERS

KIRSTEN NIXON

"Taking the first step... of becoming a writer!"

Kirsten Nixon, a registered nurse turned author, fulfilled her lifelong dream of writing by publishing her debut book Voices of Entrepreneurial Women in 2021. Inspired by friends and family who had started small businesses, she captured the stories of 17 local women who overcame challenges to build successful ventures. The book celebrates their resilience and offers practical advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.

DR GLENN KOLOMEITZ

"Taming the Bear: Peace in Ukraine at What Price?"

Dr Glenn Kolomeitz is an international law consultant and defence analyst who has advised Ukraine's International Legion and investigated Russian targeting for a London-based intelligence firm, including risk assessments for shipping insurers. A former RAAF targeting officer, Army legal officer, and defence policy adviser, he has taught intelligence and international criminal law, and his PhD focused on command responsibility for war crimes in Afghanistan.

GLEN SAVILLE

Glen Saville made a lasting impact on the Illawarra region and Australian basketball. After winning silver at the 1995 FIBA Under-19 World Championships, he joined the Illawarra Hawks and became one of the NBL's all-time greats, playing a record 527 games for the club. A five-time team MVP (Most valuable player) and eight-time All-NBL selection, he led the Hawks to their first—and NSW's only—NBL championship in 2001. Saville also represented Australia at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. His jersey was retired by the Hawks, and his induction into the BNSW Hall of Fame honours his remarkable legacy.

STUART BARNES

Stuart was General Manager of WIN Stadium and WIN Entertainment Centre from 1997 to 2016, following 15 years with Sydney City Council, including as Manager of Sydney Town Hall. His varied career has included roles as a teacher, DJ, and cruise ship entertainment officer. He holds a Teacher's Diploma, a Graduate Diploma in Public Administration, and is one of only 14 Australians certified as a Facilities Executive. Stuart has served on several local boards and committees and remains active as a venue and event management consultant. He is proud to call Wollongong home.

ENGAGING AND INFORMATIVE GUEST SPEAKERS

WEEKLY PROGRAM JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

3-July-24	"Life behind the scenes of a District Governor!"– Patrick Roberts	1-Jan-25	No Meeting
10-July-24	'Deceased Estate War Stories' Michael Naughtin, Lawyer	8-Jan-25	No Meeting.
17-July-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Business – Board Meeting	15-Jan-25	Club Business
24-July-24	The life of Dr Kevin Wanambiro (our newest member)	22-Jan-25	Polio Plus update – Director Ken Potter. Club Business - Board Meeting
31-July-24	SOCIAL EVENING @ THE GERMAN CLUB	29-Jan-25	Barefoot Bowls Social Evening
7-Aug-24	Club Business – Phil Peckman: Outcome of discussions with our area club leaders	5-Feb-25	Club Assembly
14-Aug-24	Speaker: Stuart Barnes – Events & Venues Consultant	12-Feb-25	Pride of Workmanship. Partners Night.
21-Aug-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Business – Board Meeting	19-Feb-25	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Business – Board Meeting
28-Aug-24	Guest Speaker - Duncan Rutherford, our newest member.	26-Feb-25	Rachel & Assunta Young "A fulfilling life with Downs Syndrome"
4-Sept-24	Illawarra Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service – Nicolle Richards	5-Mar-25	Cerentha Jaatinen My Experience at RYLA
11-Sept-24	Imagination Library Illawarra Rita Giampieri	12-Mar-25	Nicholas Fantham UOW/RCWW John Chaplin Memorial Scholar
18-Sept-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Business – Board Meeting	19-Mar-25	No meeting
25-Sept-24	Club Assembly	26-Mar-25	Peace Oration: Dr Glenn Kolomeitz "Taming the Bear: Peace in Ukraine at What Price?"
2-Oct-24	"Travelling Australia" – Stephen Swan	2-Apr-25	Club Business
9-Oct-24	Australian Rotary Health (ARH) Hat Day Guest Speaker– PDG & Chair of ARH Board Stephen Humphreys	9-Apr-25	Kate Thomas & Ros Yeoman Members' Talks
16-Oct-24	DG Warwick Richardson– Combined Clubs	16-Apr-25	Pre-meeting drinks, Short Meeting – Board Meeting
23-Oct-24	Q & A with Glen Saville: Olympian, former professional basketball player and now firefighter with NSW Fire & Rescue	23-Apr-25	Robert Specogna The Music & Entertainment Industry
30-Oct-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Business – Board Meeting	30-Apr-25	Social Evening – Steelers Club
6-Nov-24	"The Benefits of Electrifying Our Homes" Denise & Peter Aubourg, Greg Knight	7-May-25	Kirsten Nixon "Taking the first step... of becoming a writer!"
13-Nov-24	Entertainment by Sargeant Barry Stevens	14-May-25	Moray Ralph – Our Community Project (Port Kembla) & Associated Programs
20-Nov-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard. Club Meeting – Board Meeting	21-May-25	Club Meeting – Pre meeting-drinks. ClubRunner training Phil Peckman – Board Meeting
27-Nov-24	Annual General Meeting	28-May-25	Barbara Dent (Retired Marriage Celebrant) Humorous Stories from a Retired Marriage Celebrant
4-Dec-24	ARH Indigenous Scholar – Madeleine Lawson and ARH PhD Scholar – Thanapon Deekaikam	4-Jun-25	Club Business
11-Dec-24	Club Christmas Party	11-Jun-25	Citizenship Night at The Builders Club
18-Dec-24	No meeting	18-Jun-25	Pre-meeting drinks Club Business – Board Meeting
25-Dec-24	No Meeting	25-Jun-25	Changeover Dinner

CURRENT MEMBERS

Bob Armessen OAM

PP PHF ++
(June (Sam))
Strata Management

Inducted 1 Jan 1994

Arthur Booth OAM

PP PHF+ RUBYx2
(Carole PHF)
Screenprinting/Signwriting

RI "4 Avenues of Service"
Citation 2015–16

Inducted 1 June 1966

Mal Bracken

PP PHF +
(Thelma)
Superannuation
Consultant

RC of Epping 1984–1999
RC of Kiama 1999–2023

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
1 Jan 2024

Albert Cachia

PP PHF +

Accountancy, Chartered

Inducted 1 May 1992

Anne Christensen

PHF +
(Jim PAG PP PHF+++)

Hospital Services, Midwifery

Inducted 15 Feb 1997

Jim Christensen

PAG PP PHF+++
(Anne PHF+)

Marketing & Sales
RC of Menai 1996–2008
RI "4 Avenues of Service"
Citation (Menai) 2007–08

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
1 May 2008

CURRENT MEMBERS

Janet Crakanthorp

(Brett)
Heavy Vehicle Haulage
Management
Inducted 31 March 2021

Michael Crowley

PP PHF++++
(Krys)

Financial Planning

Inducted 12 Nov 2003

John Erickson

PP PHF+
(Coral)

Education Travel

Charter member
RC of Wollongong Central
1984–2007

'Member of the Rotary Alumni'

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
14 Oct 2009

Rita Giampieri

(Roberto)

Language Teacher

Inducted 16 Dec 2020

Dr. Helen Hasan

PP PHF+

Information Technology

Inducted 19 Oct 2011

Dr. Kerrie Hayes-Williams

PP PHF+

Education Psychology

Inducted 2 July 2009

CURRENT MEMBERS

Annette Lavender

(Narelle)

Liaison Manager
Specialist Services

Inducted 21 Feb 2024

Ray Lee

PHF PP
(Jane)
Chemical Manufacturing
Join date 1 Jul 2007
RC of Grimsby St. James UK
Member (2007–2014)

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
5 Mar 2014

Narelle McCann

(Annette)

Business Development &
Patient Services Manager

Inducted 21 Feb 2024

Rose Pope

PP PHF+

Secondary Education

Inducted 16 May 2012

Ken Potter

PP PHF++
(Jean)

Frozen Food, Retail

Inducted 30 June 2000

Patrick Roberts OAM

PDG PP PHF++
(Yvonne PHF)
Banking, Area Management
RI "Service Above Self"
Award 2016–2017

Inducted 1 June 1994

Di North OAM

PDG, PDS PP PHF 3 rubies
(David OAM)

Oncology Pharmacy

RC of Illawarra Sunrise
2008–2017
Inducted RC of West Wollongong
15 Feb 2017

Phil Peckman

PP PE
(Eduardo)

Electrical Engineering

Inducted 16 Dec 2020

Marilyn Phillips

PP PHF++++
(Peter)

Hospital Services, Nursing

Inducted 15 Nov 1999

Duncan Rutherford

PP PHF
(Rhonda)

RC of Kembla 2012–2024

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
19 July 2024

Dennis Simpson

PP PHF++++
(Lynne)
Hotel Management
RC of Wollongong Central
1986–2007
RI "Avenues of Service Award"
Inducted RC of West Wollongong
11 July 2007

Barry Stevens

PP PHF
(Nikki)
Computer Programming
RC of Wollongong Central
1995–2007

Inducted RC of West Wollongong
30 Nov 2011

CURRENT MEMBERS

Milan Stanojevic

PHF
HR Management
Inducted 6 May 2015

Kate Thomas

RC of Kiama 2018–2019
RC of Kings Cross 2021–2021
Inducted RC of West Wollongong
5 Feb 2025

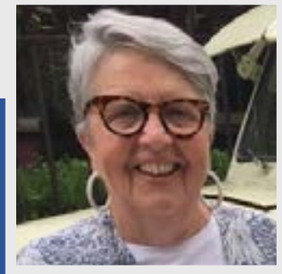
Dr. Kevin Wanambiro

(Dalpine)
Radiologist
Inducted 26 Jun 2024

FRIENDS OF ROTARY

Tim Koppel

PHF+
(Debbie)
Member 2009–2019
Friend 2019



Di Reid

Inducted 31 Mar 2021

Eduardo Tover

(Phil)
Inducted 6 July 2022

HONORARY MEMBERS

Noel Watt

PP PHF++
(Gaye)
Credit Unions
Inducted 1 Jan 1978

Ros Yeoman

(Paul)
Financial
Friend of Rotary 2021–2024
Inducted RC of West Wollongong
4 Nov 2024

FRIENDS OF ROTARY

Patrica DiMarco
Member 2020-2021
Friend of Rotary 2021

Tom O'Toole PHF
(Christine)
Member 2015-2020
Friend of Rotary 2020

Yvonne Walker

Member 2014-2017
Friend of Rotary 2017

Jessie Blundell PHF+
PAG PDS PP 2000–2001
Honorary Member 2021

Michael Campbell PHF
Past President 1992–1993
Honorary Member 2022

Bruce Inglis PHF
Past President 2008–2009
2009–2010
Honorary Member 2022

Kim Hockings PHF
Past President
2003–2004
Honorary Member 2013

Bob Ridley PHF
Honorary Member 2011

VALE

Honorary member
John Douglas Harper
17 February 1937 – 26 April 2025

John transferred from Adelaide to the Rotary Club of West Wollongong in 2006. He remained an active and dedicated member until his retirement in 2012, bringing with him many years of Rotary service.

During his time with our Club, John made a significant contribution, particularly through his leadership as Chair of the Membership Committee. His thoughtful ideas, encouragement and steadfast support were instrumental in strengthening our recruitment efforts and fostering club growth.

John also offered valuable assistance to the Sergeants Committee and was a committed supporter of the BowelScan project, reflecting his broader dedication to community health and service.

To his wife Sue and their family, we extend our deepest and most sincere condolences.

Honorary member Adele Chaplin
25 October 1933 – 27 November 2024

Kathleen Adele Chaplin (known to all as Adelle) passed away peacefully on 27 November at the age of 91. She was the beloved wife of the late John Chaplin OAM, with whom she shared a life of love, travel, and mutual respect.

Adele was a devoted supporter of the West Wollongong Rotary Club, known for her sharp mind, humour, and warmth. A passionate reader and lively conversationalist, she remained deeply engaged with the Club and her community, even in her later years.

She is survived by five stepchildren and eight grandchildren, who will cherish her legacy of kindness, curiosity, and love. Adele will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Friend of Rotary Mark Felton
30 May 1957 - 14 April 2025

Mark Felton studied history at the University of Sydney and completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Wollongong. A lifelong resident of Wollongong, he was known for his kindness, gentle nature, and sharp intellect. Mark worked with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES), where his wit and warmth left a lasting impression. He had a deep love for old films, musicals, classical music and theatre.

In 2022, he became a valued “Friend of Rotary” at the West Wollongong Rotary Club, generously supporting its activities. Mark’s humour, thoughtfulness and quiet generosity will be greatly missed.

Bernardus "Ben" Broekman
24 June 1931 - 30 April 2025

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ben Broekman, beloved husband of our past President, Netty Broekman.

Netty was a devoted member of the West Wollongong Rotary Club for 20 years. She served as President in 2011 and as a Director for six years, offering dedicated service and leadership throughout her time with us.

Ben was a wonderful support not only to Netty but also to our Rotary club. His quiet presence, encouragement, and involvement were appreciated by all who knew him.

Ben and Netty moved to Melbourne four years ago to be closer to their family, but they have remained close in our thoughts and hearts. Ben will be remembered with warmth and gratitude.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Netty and her family.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

At the Rotary Club of West Wollongong, **service is at our core** — but so is **having fun** along the way. We believe that **strong bonds**, **shared laughter**, and **good company** are just as important as the projects we take on. That’s why we regularly organise social outings — from **casual catch-ups** and **club dinners** to **festive celebrations** that bring joy and connection to all who attend. These events aren’t just calendar fillers; they’re opportunities to **deepen friendships**, **create lasting memories**, and turn fellow Rotarians into **lifelong friends.** It’s this spirit of camaraderie that keeps our Club **vibrant, welcoming, and full of heart**.

In addition to the fellowship shared at every weekly meeting, **several highlights** stood out over the past year:

- **August**: ***Bob Armessen*** *organised a delightful evening at the* ***German Club****, where members enjoyed sampling* **traditional foods** *in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere.*
- **December:** *brought plenty of fun and festive cheer at our* ***Christmas Party****.* ***Santa*** *made an appearance complete with his trusty elf! — and we were honoured to be joined by then* ***District Governor, PDG Sue Hayward.***
- **January:** *saw a* ***competitive*** *(and very enjoyable) evening of* ***Barefoot Bowls at Wiso’s****, thanks to* ***Annette’s*** *suggestion and coordination. A* ***welcome drink and dinner*** *rounded out the night.*
- **Apri**l: *members, partners and friends gathered for dinner at the* ***Steelers Club*** *— a great night despite* ***Annette*** *and* ***Narelle*** *sadly missing out due to* ***COVID***
- **Every third meeting** *includes popular* ***pre-meeting courtyard drinks****, giving members the chance to* ***relax, reconnect****, and* ***catch up*** *on each other’s news.*

Fellowship and **friendship** continue to be a **defining strength** of our Club — enriching our **Rotary experience** and reminding us of the j**oy found in simply spending time together.**

Season of giving, a night of joy
West Wollongong Rotary's 2024 Christmas celebration

The Rotary Club of West Wollongong's 2024 Christmas Party at the Builders Club was a heartwarming evening filled with festive spirits and laughter. Santa and his mischievous elf made a special appearance bearing gifts, the food was exceptional and the room buzzed with joy and camaraderie.

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of a letter of congratulations to Past President Marilyn Phillips from Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, recognising Marilyn's 25 years of dedicated Rotary service.