

ANNUAL REPORT



Rotary Club of West Wollongong Inc.

New South Wales Australia

(Chartered 23 March 1964)

Rotary International District 9675



2023-2024

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?



TOGETHER, WE
FIGHT HUNGER

Hunger hides in every community. That's why Rotary clubs support programs to provide healthy food and develop sustainable solutions to food insecurity. Fighting hunger to build stronger communities — that's what people of action do. Learn more at Rotary.org.



BOARD & TEAM STRUCTURE 2023-2024

Club President Phil Peckman	Immediate PP Patrick Roberts OAM Ken Potter Jim Christensen Bob Armessen OAM	Club Bulletin Editor Michael Crowley
Treasurer Noel Watt		Club Auditor Albert Cachia
Club Secretary Dr Kerrie Hayes-Williams	Club President Elect Rose Pope	
Director Club Administration Barry Stevens	Director Community Service and Revenue Milan Stanojevic	Director Membership & Public Relations Rose Pope
Team Members Bulletin Michael Crowley Angela Capri Club Constitution & By-Laws Bob Armessen OAM Attendance Noel Watt Member record Noel Watt Welfare Anne Christensen Venue Arrangement Marilyn Phillips Risk Assessments Barry Stevens	Projects Charles Hotel BBQ's Revenue Budget Rotary Park Warrawong PS Graffiti Removal Ride4Rotary Pride of Workmanship Citizenship Ceremony NSW & ACT Community Service Awards Melbourne Cup Lunch Red Shield Appeal Dolly Parton Imagination Library Illawarra Director Enviromental Projects Dr Helen Hasan Bee Project	Team Members Speakers Bob Armessen OAM Rose Pope Sergeant Barry Stevens John Erickson Ken Potter Patrick Roberts OAM Di North OAM Dennis Simpson Ray Lee New Member Mentoring Bob Armessen OAM Jim Christensen John Erickson Social Events Bob Armessen OAM Michael Crowley Helen Hasan Jim Christensen Arthur Booth OAM Webpage Facebook Instagram Branding Media -Radio Newspaper Jim Christensen John Erickson Helen Hasan
Director Rotary Foundation & New Generations Ken Potter		
Team Members TRF and Centurion Jim Christensen ARH and UOW Scholarships Michael Crowley Polio Plus Di North OAM Interplast Di North OAM Rotary District & Global Grants Di North OAM Peace Pole Dennis Simpson Bob Armessen OAM Donation Tins Jim Christensen Dennis Simpson RYPEN Ken Potter RYLA) Marilyn Phillips RYDA) NYSF)		



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
Gordon R. McNally

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 9675
Tonia Barnes

ASSISTANT GOVERNOR 9675
Northern Illawarra
Margaret Uitterlinden

CLUB PRESIDENT
Phil Peckman

Club website: <http://www.rotarynews.info/club4445>
District Website: <https://www.rotarydistrict9675.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westwollongongrotary/>
E-mail: 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 | - Rose Pope |
| Committee of the Association (COTA) | - |

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report, for me, is somewhat of a reflection of the past year and the first thought that comes to mind is the support and encouragement I have been offered from members and friends and their partners. I thank you all as it truly has been a privilege to be President of our Rotary Club. I am astounded by not only how quickly this year has gone by but, more importantly, what we have all achieved throughout the year.

I need to thank the Board of Directors, who took on club officer and director positions when asked without hesitation and have actively engaged in their respective portfolios and made this year such an enjoyable and successful one for all members and friends of our Club.

Each of the Directors and Club Officers will provide detail of their respective portfolios in this Annual Report and rather than repeat that detail here I would like to highlight some of the significant happenings that have occurred.

A 'Year of Change' comes to mind. Some of the things that always seemed to be a 'given' were proven not to be so.

Our main storage facility 'Capsules' at Port Kembla Hospital was, in a phone call, no longer available to us causing a few sleepless nights for some pondering 'what will we do now.' In typical Club fashion, we rallied, cleaning out things we had not used in years and provided new homes for the things we needed to keep. Thank you to the group of people who helped in the clean-up and transport of items to the dump or their new homes. Special thanks to Milan and Ken for storing the bulkier items.

The weekly Friday Night Meat Raffle at The Charles Hotel changed to a monthly Wednesday Night Meat Raffle in January. There was some concern for how this would affect our fund-raising ability, but it did provide the opportunity for a Club Social Night at The Charles each month. Whilst looking promising initially, patronage at The Charles on Wednesday's has dwindled prompting a change to monthly Saturday afternoon Meat Raffles from July onwards.

Bunnings' BBQs were boosted at the beginning of the year, initially trialling Friday BBQ's and then moving to fortnightly Monday BBQs at Kembla Grange. This frequency proved a little difficult to maintain and so the move to four weekly BBQ's and 3-4 weekend BBQs per year in February seems to provide a good fit for our Club. The traditional BBQ fund-raising events of Comic Gong and MS Gong Ride were unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather.

Changes aside, we have continued to support many community projects, programs, events and fund-raising activities throughout the year such as:

- Paws4aCause
- Ride4Rotary
- Rotary Park (Gwynneville)
- Adopt-a-Tree
- Towradgi Surf Life Saving
- Imagination Library Illawarra
- Wesley Mission Christmas Lunch
- Shelter Bags – Vinnies
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Anti-slavery Commissioner Presentation
- ARH PhD Research Scholarship
- ARH Indigenous Health Scholarship
- UOW John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship
- RCWW Scholars Presentation Night
- Numerous Guest Speakers
- Hosting the DG's Visit to Illawarra Clubs
- Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)
- Rotary Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)
- Science & Engineering Challenge
- Rotary Clubs of The Illawarra Race Day
- EscaBags
- Barstool Brothers
- Red Shield Appeal
- Interplast
- Rotary District T.O.E. Probe purchase
- Domestic Violence Walk
- Aussie Books for Zimbabwe
- Green Connect Animal Testing Kits
- SYFS Christmas Gifts

ACHIEVING MILESTONES AND SETTING NEW GOALS

It really is an impressive list and every member of our club should be proud of what we have achieved this year. It is amazing what a Club like ours is capable of – well done!

The Annual Report, produced each year, is a tremendously important document as it collectively provides a history of our Club, our members, and our achievements. I extend a heartfelt thank you from all Club members to Yvonne and Pat Roberts who put many hours into the production of this report every year. Similarly, the weekly Club Bulletin provides a more detailed history each & every week and I extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Crowley for his amazing effort throughout the year.

Finally, to all members of the Club, thank you for the support you have provided, no matter the extent, to the Club and all the activities we have undertaken throughout the year. I continue to be amazed by the generosity and selflessness of our members. I wish Rose Pope, our next President, and the incoming Board every success in the year ahead, knowing you will have the full support of our members, continuing to make the Rotary Club of West Wollongong a fun and productive place to be.

Thank you all for a fantastic year.

Pres. Phil Peckman - President 2023-2024

GUIDING OUR PATH

CLUB ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Special thanks need to be given from the start to my well-oiled team, who allow me to present my 'nothing to report' report to each board meeting. The smooth running of the Club is down to the dedication and skills of these team-members (sorry Wesfarmers).

Bulletin – Michael Crowley:

The Club's Bulletin is designed to keep members/friends and other interested parties up-to-date with our Club's activities; however, it also represent a snapshot of our President's messages, meeting minutes, program of events, Club rosters and high level details of the executive at Club, District and Rotary International levels. The document contains important links to our website, Facebook page, Instagram address, postal address and other significant information. Also, we often highlight activities/events involving District and other Club events.

There are other relevant aspects to our Bulletin that often get overlooked; firstly, from a historical perspective we retain a week by week record of our activities that will one day form the basis of our Club's history (e.g. the foundation for historical publications at our 75th and perhaps later our 100th anniversary). Our Bulletins were the primary source of information when the late PP Barry Blundell produced our Club's history from inception in 1964 to our 40th year in 2004. Similarly, PP John Erickson undertook the same exercise and developed an extension of our history in a colourful publication that spanned our Club's past from 2004 to 2014 for our 50th anniversary celebrations. Both of these

publications were brilliant pieces of work that reflect part of Wollongong's history; hard copies of which are stored within Wollongong Library.

Secondly, as the Bulletin is readily available from our website, it allows fellow Rotarians, potential members and other interested parties to visualise how our Club and meetings operate. In a similar vein, having editions of our Annual Report available on the Club's website serves a comparable purpose.

Welfare – Anne Christensen:

Anne follows up on all members' welfare and reports to the Club each week and ensures that, where appropriate, members and family receive a card, flowers and visits.

Compliance – Bob Armessen OAM:

Annual Summary of Financial Affairs: This report for the 2023-24 year is to be submitted to NSW Fair Trading after the Club's financial report is accepted by members at the next AGM. Working With Children:- All necessary registrations are up to date. Charitable Fundraising Authority:- The Club's authority is current with renewal due 28th July 2025.

Attendance/Venue arrangements - Noel Watt:

Noel continues to follow up on our Club members' attendance and liaise with our venues. Noel also keeps our members directory up-to-date.



Risk Assessments

A major upgrade of our procedures and risks with BBQs was undertaken (I have to acknowledge the assistance of Milan) with documents in place covering the various aspects that needed to be highlighted and brought to the attention of our volunteers (Members and helpers).

PP Barry Stevens - Director 2023-2024



**EFFICIENT CLUB MANAGEMENT:
KEY TO ACHIEVING GOALS**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is currently twenty six active members, seven friends of Rotary and seven Honorary members.

We've been very fortunate to gain two new members in Annette Lavender and Narelle McCann who are supporting our events, volunteering their time and ideas, as well as recently giving us a guided tour of their new workplace laboratory. It was definitely an impressive and educational event followed by dinner together which is always enjoyable due to the strong friendships which exist in our Club.

Equally fortunate was Mal Bracken transferring to our club to be closer to his new home. He has brought with him a wealth of Rotary experience having now been a member for 40 years.

As I write this, we have an application for membership. It is anticipated that Dr Kevin Wanambiro will be inducted at our Changeover Night. We also have two expressions of interest in joining our Club.

These have arisen as a result of the talk by our NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner Dr James Cockayne, which was open to the public, and also our Citizenship Ceremony, both of which show-cased Rotary and our Club.



The many projects and events we organise, the number of charities we support and the high level of participation and fellowship, are all indicative of our strong membership base.

PE Rose Pope - Director 2023-2024



PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

As with every year, we have had extensive public exposure. This occurs every time we hold a barbeque, every week at our raffles, at presentations to charities, at events open to the public such as the Paws4aCause Day, the Race Day, the Modern Slavery talk by NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner Dr James Cockayne, our Citizenship Night and our programs for Youth.

Such events have helped our profile and reached potential new members. President Phil has played a large part in the success we've achieved in all areas. His business like organisational and presentation skills yet still friendly and warm manner, makes every occasion a success.

Jim is doing a great job with Facebook and we've posted on Instagram from time to time.

Di North has done an exceptional job each year with promoting the Paws4aCause Day with not only flyers distributed throughout the area, but also with interviews on our local radio. Sadly, the event this year was postponed until July due to flooding of the grounds.



SHAPING OUR IMAGE

Each year we strive to help the public know more about Rotary and all that we achieve here and overseas.

PE Rose Pope - Director 2023-2024



COMMUNITY SERVICE REVENUE REPORT

It was a year that promised more than it delivered.

"Simmo" (AKA Dennis Simpson), like Old Man River, just kept rolling along generating revenue week in, week out. We did a bit of tweaking with a move to Wednesday night but, like the Trial of the Trumpster, the jury is still out.

Last year saw us move from once per fortnight to once every four weeks at Bunnings Kembla Grange resulting in an estimated gross loss of approximately \$16,250 (or USD \$10,822.42). We also got rained-out on the MS Gong Ride forfeiting approximately \$8,000 gross (or USD \$5,327.16) and a similar amount for when ComicGong was swept away in the torrents of rain. All-in-all, we are down approximately a gross of \$32,250 (USD \$21,469.50). The main reason for losing half our Mondays at Bunnings is that the Club is losing the capacity to run events.

What does the future look like? We need to continue to try to forge a stronger mutually beneficial relationship with our beneficiaries i.e. to receive funding, they need to help us generate our income. To this end, Rose Pope has worked assiduously to move this along (two steps forward and one step backward leaving a net movement of ... progress). Well, done to "A Rose by any other name would still smell as sweet" and hopefully we can continue to build upon this beachhead.

We need new members and (recently we have had some success. Undoubtedly, the soon-to-be unveiled, and long awaited,

pilot might be helpful. We will continue to partner with Corrimal club, where appropriate although, we have tried (so far) twice and we have been washed out twice. Right now, we are 0 from 2 in this but we will keep trying.

Now onto the GGs. A good earner last year and, hopefully, a good earner this year (notwithstanding an anti-gambling splinter group from one of our sister clubs). Again, we need to think carefully about who are the beneficiaries of this event so that we can leverage their assistance in raising revenue.

Now onto costs. A brief precis follows: Soft drinks – prices have stabilised at 2022/23 levels with typical prices being Coke 93c/can; Pepsi 84c/can (Maz please take note); other soft drinks at 76c/can; and water at 42c/bottle (no prize for guessing our best margin!). Snags – the cost of meat is marching inexorably higher. We have suffered a 10.02% rise in this year and who knows where (or if?) it will end. Bread – sadly this was the biggest price increase of the lot as we saw 22.60% increase this year.

Now, it needs to be noted that the two wash-outs will affect our on-costs for the year as we would normally be able to charge more per item than the fixed prices at Bunnings. Unfortunately, and as they say in the contemporary classics, "it is what it is".



Milan Stanojevic - Director 2023-2024

I need to wholeheartedly thank that small band of members who, when they can, put their hands up to help raise money. The Club, and our beneficiaries, are forever grateful.



BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES



ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

REPORT

This is the first year our club has had a dedicated Director for the Environment, although we have been actively engaged in environmental initiatives for some time. Our ongoing involvement in the Adopt-a-Tree program and the provision of native bee hives to local schools, ensuring safety for children as native bees do not sting, are highlighted in last year's Annual Report.

Additionally, we continue to maintain "Arthur's Park," located behind our Rotary sign on Throsby Drive in Gwynneville, and support the Living Classroom Program (permaculture) within the Warrawong Community of Schools.

This year, we have strengthened our partnership with Green Connect by assisting at their Op Shop and visiting their farm in Warrawong. We hosted speakers from the Green Connect farm at two of our meetings and visited the farm on two occasions to observe their impactful work and explore how our Club can contribute.

We have funded a new microscope and testing kit for the farm, providing a cost-effective and efficient solution for worm testing of their animals.



Looking ahead, we aim to collaborate with other Illawarra clubs on new environmental projects.

PP Dr. Helen Hasan - Director 2023-2024



ROTARY FOUNDATION/ INTERNATIONAL REPORT

September saw the completion of a toilet block project for a school in Kathmandu. Our Club successfully applied for a District Grant to partner with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu to enable the construction of the toilet block.

Members are reminded that, to obtain District Grants the Club or Club members need to have donated to our own Rotary Foundation and that half of that money comes back to us as grants, three years in the future. The current arrangement has worked well for many years, and we have successfully applied for funding of, not only toilet blocks but RYDA funding and funds for the "Imagination Library Illawarra", to mention just a few.

As an ongoing project, the Club applied for an Interplast Surgical Mission, to be funded by the "Paws4aCause" dog show project which is "waiting in the wings" for suitable weather and scheduled for 14 July. This is a project which can involve all Club members, showcases Rotary and provides funds for a very worthwhile international project and has been accepted by the community.

Very recently, at the time of writing, the Club held another successful Citizenship Night, where thirteen new citizens joined us for a meal and the Lord Mayor conducted the official ceremony for

their "citizenship journey." This ceremony is becoming a highlight of our yearly events calendar and may present an opportunity for new membership to our Club.

PP Ken Potter
Director 2023-2024



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

KATHMANDU SCHOOL TOILETS, INTERPLAST MISSION,
AND WELCOMING NEW CITIZENS

REPAIRING BODIES AND REBUILDING LIVES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION



Interplast™





NEW GENERATIONS REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Youth Portfolio has been relatively busy this year. The Club's involvement in the RYDA Program (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) continues to have a vital influence on Year 10 and 11 students from our local area, and this year some students travelled up from Nowra to take part in the program on 23 and 24 May. Of course, RYDA is an internationally operated program, which our Club has been involved with for over 20 years (in one form or another, once known as U-Turn the Wheel). The program was also operated last year on 1 September, 17 October and 24 October, for a total number of students exceeding six hundred. The program provides strategies for youth to "speak up" when their peers exhibit risky behaviour and gives lessons for all their driving lives.

Fiona Seymour was the Club's candidate for NYSF (National Youth Science Forum). Fiona had excellent academic achievements, and the program gave her a taste of what working in a science-based industry would be like. Fiona reported back to the Club on 24 January, and we will be following her progress with much interest.

The Club has once again been involved in the RYLA Program (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), and this year we supported a sponsored scholar to attend the program. Nicole Russo had shown qualities which suggested she would make an excellent RYLA candidate while completing her RCWW/UOW John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship, and Nicole attended the RYLA Program in early January, reporting back to the Club on 24 January about both programs.

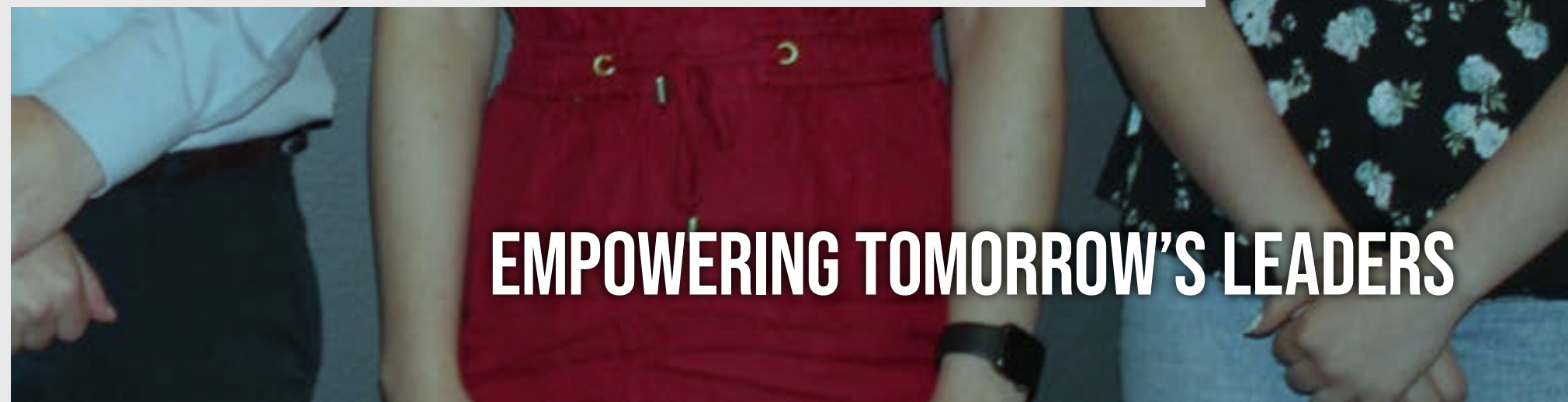
Mitchell St. Clair-Glover was the Club's ARH (Australian Rotary Health) PhD Research Scholar carrying out research into innovative 3D printed skin and has presented at conferences about his research. Mitchell's scholarship with the Club has finished, though we continue to watch his progress with much pride.

Maddy Lawson was the Club's Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholar for 2023. Maddy has completed her first year of a Master of Public Health degree at UOW (University of Wollongong) and is currently working with NSW Health on infectious diseases.



With these four capable young people goes the future of the human race, and we, as a Club, can be justifiably proud of their progress so far and our small part in promoting their efforts.

PP Ken Potter - Director 2023-2024



EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Our fund-raising has enabled the following summary of our donations for the Financial Year 2023 to 2024. The Charity Account still holds the funds from the closure of the Baby Capsule Project; the use of these funds is presently being considered and we hope to have a determination in the new Rotary year. 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 Raffle	\$ 29,500
Barbeques	\$ 23,600
Charles Hotel Donation	\$ 2,000
District Grant Kiribati	\$ 2,000
Collection Tins	\$ 1,245
Centurion	\$ 800

Expenditure International

Polio+ & Rotary Foundation	\$ 6,800
Interplast Australia & NZ	\$ 4,000
Books for Zimbabwe	\$ 500

Community Service and Youth Programs

ARH/RCWW 60th Anniversary PhDS Scholarship	\$ 12,000
Southern Youth & Family Services	\$ 7,500
Green Connect	\$ 7,288
Supported Accommodation & Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra (SAHSSI)	\$ 6,500
UOW/RCWW John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship	\$ 3,000
ARH Indigenous Scholarship	\$ 2,500
NYSF (Amy Seymore)	\$ 1,425
Towradgi SLSC	\$ 1,400
Citizenship Ceremony	\$ 1,234
Wesley Mission (Food for Needy)	\$ 1,200
Imagination Library Illawarra	\$ 1,100
RYLA	\$ 800
Shelter Bags (Vinnies)	\$ 720
District 9675: Contribution for T.O.E. Probe	\$ 500



I would like to congratulate 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 2023-2024



SECURING OUR FUTURE

DONATIONS

2023-2024

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST WOLLONGONG GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS



SAHSSI

(SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION & HOMELESSNESS
SERVICES SHOALHAVEN ILLAWARRA)

SAHSSI and the Rotary Club of West Wollongong have formed a new partnership. This reciprocal partnership aims to raise awareness about homelessness, and domestic and family violence through SAHSSI's representation at events alongside our Club. The Rotary Club of West Wollongong participated in SAHSSI projects, such as assembling flat pack furniture for their temporary accommodation. Over the past year, our Club has been fundraising on SAHSSI's behalf and were able to present a generous donation to furnish three of their 'Safe Places' apartments.



SYFS

(SOUTHERN YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES)

Southern Youth and Family Services (SYFS) is an Organisation that has the main purpose of supporting and caring for children, young people, adults, and families who are disadvantaged, including those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness and their families. This work provides supported accommodation, community social housing, counselling, mediation, support, and the delivery of a range of programs to improve the life situation of children, young people, adults, and families.

DONATIONS 2023-2024

DONATIONS

2023-2024

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST WOLLONGONG GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS



GREEN CONNECT

Green Connect makes a positive impact through its business activities by employing young people and former refugees, providing them with supportive workplaces. The organisation focuses on growing sustainable food, reducing waste through Zero Waste Services and an innovative Op Shop, and fostering community connections to combat social isolation. Green Connect operates as a sustainable business, with over 80% of expenses covered by income from trade.



ESCABAGS

Escabags is a charity organisation dedicated to supporting victims fleeing domestic and family abuse. They distribute escape bags containing essential items to help individuals and families during their urgent escape from abusive situations, providing immediate relief and support.

DONATIONS 2023-2024



DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Rotary Club of West Wollongong has made significant contributions to various causes from July 2023 to May 2024. These include:

- ▶ ARH/RCWW 60th Anniversary PhD Research Scholarship
- ▶ Student support for the Science Engineering Challenge
- ▶ NYSF Amy Seymore
- ▶ RYLA
- ▶ Polio+ Train Ride Fundraiser
- ▶ Domestic Violence Walk
- ▶ SYFS Christmas Gifts
- ▶ Wesley Mission Christmas Food
- ▶ Interplast
- ▶ Green Connect Animal Test Kit
- ▶ Shelter Bags (Vinnies)
- ▶ Books for Zimbabwe
- ▶ District 9675: Contribution for T.O.E. Probe
- ▶ Anti-slavery Presentation
- ▶ Towradgi SLSC
- ▶ Citizenship Ceremony

These donations reflect the Club's commitment to education, youth, health, social services, and community support both locally and internationally.



CHARITY RACE DAY

ROTARY CLUBS OF THE ILLAWARRA



The Rotary Clubs of the Illawarra hosted a Charity Race Day at Kembla Grange Racecourse to support women and children escaping domestic violence and to address men's mental health issues. Funds raised from this event benefits Escabags (\$8500), which provides essential items to victims fleeing

domestic abuse, and the Barstool Brothers (\$8500), a group dedicated to supporting male mental health.

This event highlights the our Club's commitment to these important social issues and aims to make a meaningful impact in the community.



CITIZENSHIP NIGHT

Citizenship Night, hosted by our Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM, was an enjoyable night. It was a night filled with joy and unity as we celebrated the induction of 13 new citizens representing 10 different countries. This diverse group exemplified the multicultural spirit of our community, highlighting the rich tapestry of cultures and backgrounds that make our city so vibrant. The Lord Mayor’s inspiring words emphasised the importance of inclusion and the shared values that bind us together as one community. It was a memorable evening that highlighted the beauty of our diversity and the strength of our unity.

To further welcome our citizens, P.P. Ken Potter read his poem “What Citizenship Means to Me”.

The poem reflects on the resilient and adaptable nature of Australians, particularly farmers, as they navigate the unpredictable and often harsh climate of the country. It starts with a description of the cyclical weather patterns, highlighting the extremes of tropical rains and dry spells. Despite the challenges, the poem celebrates the spirit of perseverance and hope, emphasising that the Australian way of life involves patience and a laid-back attitude.

It addresses new citizens, encouraging them to embrace the unique Australian lifestyle while retaining their own cultural values. The poem underscores the concept of “waiting” and taking things slowly, which is intrinsic to the Australian ethos.

The narrative also touches on the vast and varied landscape of Australia, from deserts to coastal shores, and the profound impact it has on those who live there. It welcomes new citizens, suggesting that they too will be shaped by this timeless and ancient land. The use of colloquialisms and references to Australian culture and history adds depth, illustrating the nation’s identity.

Overall, the poem celebrates the Australian spirit of resilience, adaptation, and the blend of old and new cultural influences, inviting new citizens to join in and contribute to this vibrant tapestry.

This was our 28th Citizenship Night. It was also a poignant occasion as it was the last time our Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM will officiate at our ceremony. We extend our thanks for his years of dedicated service and leadership and wish him all the best for the future.

PDG Patrick Roberts OAM
Convenor

Lord Mayor
Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM and
Aya ALWAHIDI - Syrian Arab Republic



Lord Mayor
Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM and
Naje Salem Ali ALMABROUK - Libya



CITIZENSHIP CANDIDATES



- Fakhriya Hassoon Kadhim AL-RIKABI - Iraq
- Naje Salem Ali ALMABROUK - Libya
- Aya ALWAHIDI - Syrian Arab Republic
- Holly Danell BENSTEAD - USA
- Emily Catriona BRINE - New Zealand
- James GILOGLEY - Scotland
- JAGROOP SINGH - India

- Ebru OZDOGAN YILMAZ - Türkiye
- Prakruthi SURESH - India
- Hong An THAI - Vietnam
- Hong Hung THAI - Vietnam
- Kevin Were WANAMBIRO - Kenya
- Atara Noelle Nduku Nekoye WANAMBIRO - Kenya



P.P. Ken Potter - Our own Poet Lauraete

Lord Mayor
Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM and
Kevin Were WANAMBIRO - Kenya



CHARLES HOTEL

REPORT



The fundraising at The Charles Hotel has been progressing steadily throughout the year, again providing our Rotary Club with much-needed funds to underpin our generous support of the various charities and programs we are involved with.

The Thursday Joker Raffles have suffered a little because of a downturn in hotel patronage, but it still is a great earner for our Club. (the income can be seen in our Treasurer's report.)

The Friday Meat Raffles also suffered because the Hotel shifted us away from weekly Fridays to once per month on the second Wednesday. (income in Treasurer's report).

Our Club decided to treat that Wednesday as a social evening for our members and friends and partners, which was an enjoyable experience for everyone, and on one occasion we held one of our meetings there.

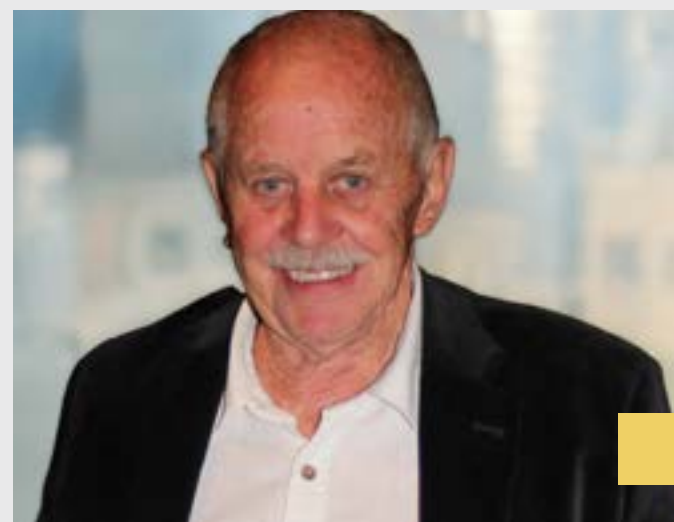
Negotiations are ongoing to secure a more suitable day and time to resume meat raffles.

Our Rotary Club is also the beneficiary of the Saturday afternoon BBQs conducted in the beer garden of the Hotel; sausage sandwiches are provided by the hotel and prepared by Lisa. Some of our members take the opportunity to catch up with friends and sample the great bangers on offer.

We are extremely thankful for the support from the wonderful patrons of the hotel over many years, they are a great group of people, and they love what we do.

Irrespective of the reduction in income we are forever grateful to the Management and Staff of The Charles Hotel for the chance to conduct our fundraising; they are great supporters of our Club. Thank you.

And lastly, I must thank all the loyal members who turn up each week to sell the tickets and mix with the patrons.



Rotarians gather at the Charles Hotel for special fundraising events aimed at supporting local charities. Demonstrating their unwavering commitment to service, members take on various roles, from organising and hosting, all to ensure the event's success. Through their dedication and collaborative efforts, the Rotarians are able to raise significant funds that make a meaningful impact on the community, underscoring their mission of making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.

Dennis Simpson - Co-ordinator



ROTARY PARK (AKA ARTHURS'S PARK)

REPORT



A brief history lesson for those who have joined us recently, as well as for those interested in a memory jog.

Sometime around 1985 a much younger Arthur Booth (at that stage a member of our club since 1966 and still a valued member) suggested our Club approach Wollongong City Council for approval to plant trees on public land in Throsby Drive Wollongong.

The result of Arthur's foresight is the mini forest there today. Fast-forward to Sept. 2020 and the now not-so-young Arthur suggested we again approach Council for approval to plant native vegetation under, and around, these trees.

Approval was readily given as this was in line with Council's "Greening the City" program, and an on-going association between our Club, Council's Parks and Gardens department, and Wollongong Botanic Garden was in place.

Mulching was commenced in Jan. 2021 followed by first planting the following April. It was then that the Club's labourers were reminded that plants need water.

For a long time, members and friends then loaded vehicles with water containers of all sizes and helped the little darlings to survive. As these plants took hold, and grew thirstier during a long dry period, Council assisted by

bringing large water tankers on site.

Over the last couple of years there have been a number of very social, and productive days on site weeding, re-planting, removing rubbish, and cleaning up after a few destructive storms.

There will soon be another such day organised to not only do regular maintenance, but to create a pathway through the garden.

A matter which is hopefully being addressed by Council is the re-placement of the stolen park bench that was bolted to a concrete slab at the eastern end of the park.



Rotarians rolled up their sleeves and came together to clean up Rotary Park. With a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and community service, members dedicated their time and energy to beautify the park, ensuring it remains a welcoming and vibrant space for everyone to enjoy. From picking up litter to planting new greenery, their hard work and collaboration exemplify the Rotary spirit of service above self. This initiative not only enhances the Park's aesthetic appeal but also fosters a sense of community pride and responsibility.

Bob Armessen OAM - Co-ordinator



ROTARIANS AT WORK:
BEAUTIFYING ROTARY PARK AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

ARH HAT DAY FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Australian Rotary Health's Mental Health Day, also known as Hat Day, is an annual event focused on raising awareness and funds for mental health research.

On this special day, the Rotary Club of West Wollongong enthusiastically participated by donning an array of hats, showcasing their support for mental health initiatives. The event not only brought attention to critical mental health issues but also helped raise funds for research into mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

By participating in Hat Day, the West Wollongong Rotary Club contributed to reducing stigma and fostering a more supportive and informed community.



Supporting healthier minds, bodies and communities through research awareness and education.





FIT FOR LIFE PROGRAM



FITFORLIFE is an early intervention program designed to engage youth aged 10 to 17 who are at risk of poor choices and anti-social behaviour.

Through physical fitness, nutrition and social engagement, **FitForLife** aims to improve overall wellbeing as well as prevent and divert youth from offending behaviours.

The West Wollongong Rotary Club is committed to supporting the Bulli PCYC **FitForLife** program by regularly providing breakfasts. This initiative helps ensure participants start their day with a nutritious meal, promoting both physical well-being and community engagement.

PCYC's Gina Holland and our own Rita Giampieri and Di Reid



Activities enjoyed by our local youth at PCYC Wollongong



Dot Hennessy, Rose Pope and Bob Hennessy making breakfast



NSW & ACT COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

JUDGING NSW & ACT 2023 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Rose Pope, Annette Vawser (Director & COO, Awards Australia) and Rita Giampieri attending Awards Gala Night

The Community Achievement Awards started in 2002 as the Regional Achievement and Community Awards, and the program is designed to encourage, acknowledge, and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout regional and rural NSW & ACT. These awards aim to recognise their success and achievements, which contribute to making regional NSW & ACT a better place.

The team comprising of Rose Pope, Di North, Ray Lee, Helen Hasan, Michael Crowley, Rita Giampieri and Patrick Roberts, once again provided judging for the awards. The team decided the finalists. The winner was subsequently determined by a panel which included Patrick Roberts as expert judge.





AWARDS

2023-2024



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.

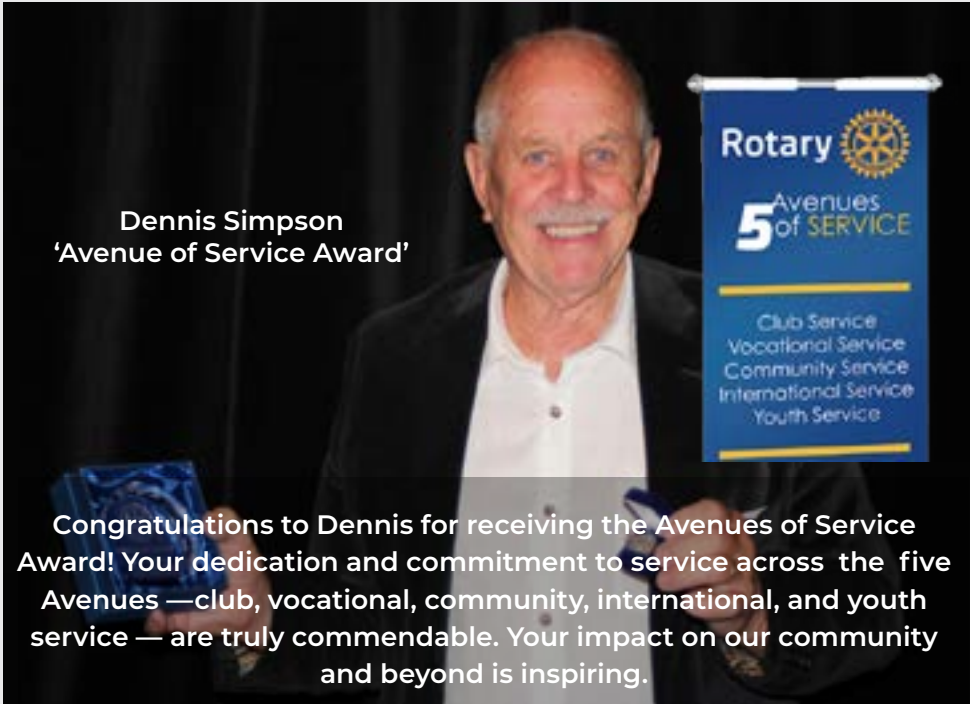


Congratulations to Noel for his distinguished recognition and for the invaluable contributions he has made to our Club and community.



Congratulations to Milan for his distinguished recognition and for the invaluable contributions he has made to our Club and community.

AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARD



Dennis Simpson
'Avenue of Service Award'

Congratulations to Dennis for receiving the Avenues of Service Award! Your dedication and commitment to service across the five Avenues —club, vocational, community, international, and youth service — are truly commendable. Your impact on our community and beyond is inspiring.

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		
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	John Harper PHF
PP Kim Hockings PHF	Bob Ridley PHF
PP Michael Campbell PHF	
Adelle Chaplin PHF	
PDS PAG PP Jessie Blundell PHF+	

GUEST SPEAKERS



DR JAMES COCKAYNE
NSW ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

"It's Healthy to Fight Modern Slavery"

Dr James Cockayne met with our members, friends, partners, Rotarians from other clubs and guests at The Builders Club. The visit aimed to strengthen collaboration in the fight against modern slavery and exploitation, particularly in safeguarding the rights of those most vulnerable.



DR ANDREW BEZZINA

"The Lost Hobbit of New Zealand"

Andrew described in wonderful detail his 26 year old son Alexander's run along the 3,047km Te Arora Trail from south to north... the length of NZ. Both father and son are Lord of the Rings 'tragics'. Alexander ran the Trail to raise money for a program to save the birds of NZ that, historically, are unable to fly and are being decimated by introduced predators. Andrew volunteered to be part of the support team and found out he was "the" support team.



DR PHILLIP LAIRD OAM

"We need more trains & faster trains to get us on our way!"

Dr Laird outlined the history and big picture needs to improve existing and build new rail infrastructure to support both the population growth and expansive city boundaries of Sydney and regional NSW areas.



NIKIYA LOVE

"Awareness, treatment and support for those with Leukaemia "

Nikiya told of her personal and inspiring story of surviving blood cancer. She outlined her treatment regime (including her stem cell transplant process), current blood cancer and blood product facts and statistics, family and community involvement in respect to fundraising and her passion for raising awareness of the organisations that help patients like her.

ENGAGING AND INFORMATIVE GUEST SPEAKERS

WEEKLY PROGRAM JULY 2023-JUNE 2024			
5 July-23	Club Meeting	3-Jan-24	No Meeting
12-July-23	Greenhill Aged Care Figtree Services - Dina Makdasy (Admissions)	10-Jan-24	No Meeting.
19-July-23	Club Meeting	17-Jan-24	Board Meeting 1st MEETING FOR 2024
26-July-23	Dog and Mounted Police Command - Sergeant Lateisha Lomas, Constable Joshua Murfitt and Police dogs, Murray & Lotus.	24-Jan-24	UPDATES FROM OUR THREE SPONSORED SCHOLARS – - Mitchell St Clair-Glover - Nicole Russo - Maddy Lawson
2-Aug-23	"Fun stories about Denmark" Christian Andreassen	31-Jan-24	Club Meeting
9-Aug-23	"We need more trains and faster trains to get us on our way"- Dr Philip Laird OAM	7-Feb-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard! Member story – PDG Di North OAM
16-Aug-23	Club Meeting followed by Board Meeting	14-Feb-24	Social evening at The Charles Hotel from 5.00 PM to support the MEGA MEAT RAFFLE
23-Aug-23	"The Lost Hobbit of New Zealand" – Dr Andrew Bezzina	21-Feb-24	Induction of two new members: Annette Lavender & Narelle McCann
30-Aug-23	SOCIAL DINNER EVENING. Pai-Tong Thai Restaurant	28-Feb-24	Monthly pre-meeting drinks. Club Meeting and Board Meeting
6-Sept-23	"Our Club's 2023 ARH Indigenous Scholar" – Madeleine Lawson	6-Mar-24	Nikiya Love – Awareness, treatment and support for those with Leukaemia
13-Sept-23	'Welcome to our Club and the story of Mal Bracken	13-Mar-24	Social evening at The Charles Hotel from 5.00 PM to support the MEGA MEAT RAFFLE
20-Sept-23	Club Meeting followed by Board Meeting	20-Mar-24	An update on Jarred Dyer, who we helped with his trip to France as a participant in the 2023 Virtus Global Games... the elite multi-sports event for athletes with an intellectual impairment
27-Sept-23	Stuart Creal, Director of Science Space Centre UOW	27-Mar-24	Pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard! Club Business- 6.15 to 7.15pm Board Meeting
4-Oct-23	District Governor Tonia Barnes' visit Combined meeting of northern Illawarra clubs at Centro CBD	3-Apr-24	Mal Bracken – "My Rotary Life"
11-Oct-23	St Vincent de Paul – "Vinnies - History and current programs!" -Kelly McCrohon and Leanore Sorbello	10-Apr-24	Tonight's meeting is a social evening at The Charles Hotel from 5.00 PM to support the MEGA MEAT RAFFLE
18-Oct-23	Zone 8 Regionalisation - Club Community Group Preferences: discussing and voting on aspects of Regionalisation	17-Apr-24	Guest Speaker: Carol Hicklenton... Environmental Protection: "Fighting Fear about the Future: Re-focus close to home"
25-Oct-23	Lift the Lid on Mental Illness Celebrating Hat Day	24-Apr-24	No Meeting
1-Nov-23	Mel Gray OAM (2023) - Environmental Citizen of the Year (Blacktown Council)	1-May-24	Green Connect Managers Emily Henderson and Annie Burbrook . Update on Green Connect's activities.
8-Nov-23	Jaroslav Duma – Ukraine Ambassador... "Ukraine"	8-May-24	Tonight's meeting is at The Charles Hotel following the MEGA MEAT RAFFLE,
15-Nov-23	Club Meeting followed by Board Meeting	15-May-24	Club Meeting followed by Board Meeting
22-Nov-23	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)	22-May-24	Citizenship Night at The Builders Club
29-Nov-23	Member Story - Albert Cachia	29-May-24	Club Business including CLUB ASSEMBLY
6-Dec-23	Stacy Jane – Founder & CEO of Escabags	5-Jun-24	The Gut Foundation: Roy Wakelin-King
13-Dec-23	Club Christmas Party	12-Jun-24	Tonight's meeting is at The Charles Hotel following the MEGA MEAT RAFFLE
20-Dec-23	No Meeting	19-Jun-24	On-site visit to the new state-of-the-art Southern.IML Pathology Laboratory in Coniston
27-Dec-23	No Meeting	26-Jun-24	Club Changeover

CURRENT MEMBERS



Bob Armessen OAM

PP PHF ++
(June (Sam))
Strata Management
Inducted 1 Jan 1994



Arthur Booth OAM

PP PHF+ RUBY
RI "4 Avenues of Service"
Citation 2015-16
(Carole PHF)
Screenprinting/Signwriting
Inducted 1 June 1966



Mal Bracken

PP PHF +
(Thelma)
Superannuation
Consultant
Inducted 13 Sept 2023
(Epping) 1 Jan 1994



Jim Christensen

PAG PP PHF+++
RI "4 Avenues of Service"
Citation (Menai) 2007-08
(Anne PHF+)
Marketing & Sales
Inducted 1 Dec 1996 (Menai)
Inducted 21 May 2008 WW



Janet Crakanthorp

(Brett)
Heavy Vehicle Haulage
Management
Inducted 31 March 2021



Michael Crowley

PP PHF++++
(Krys)
Financial Planning
Inducted 12 Nov 2003



Albert Cachia

PP PHF
Accountancy, Chartered
Inducted 1 May 1992



Angela Capri

PHF++
(Sal)
Strata Services
Inducted 14 May 2008
Resigned in 2019 after 11 yrs
of service. Rejoined 08 Jul
2020



Anne Christensen

PHF +
(Jim PAG PP PHF+++)
Hospital Services, Midwifery
Inducted 15 Feb 1997



John Erickson

PP PHF+
'Member of the Rotary
Alumni'
(Coral)
Education Travel
Inducted 14 Oct 2009



Rita Giampieri

(Roberto)
Language Teacher
Inducted 16 Dec 2020



Dr. Helen Hasan

PP PHF+
Information Technology
Inducted 19 Oct 2011

CURRENT MEMBERS



CURRENT MEMBERS



Dr. Kerrie Hayes-Williams

PHF PP
Education Psychology
Inducted 2 July 2009



Annette Lavender

(Narelle)
Liaison Manager
Specialist Services
Inducted 21 Feb 2024



Ray Lee

PHF PP
(Jane)
Chemical Manufacturing
Inducted 5 Mar 2014



Marilyn Phillips

PP PHF++++
(Peter)
Hospital Services, Nursing
Inducted 15 Nov 1999



Rose Pope

PP PHF PE
Secondary Education
Inducted 16 May 2012



Ken Potter

PP PHF+
(Jean)
Frozen Food, Retail
Inducted 30 June 2000



Narelle McCann

(Annette)
Business Development &
Patient Services Manager
Inducted 21 Feb 2024



Di North OAM

PDG, PDS PP PHF 3 rubies
(David OAM)
Oncology Pharmacy
Inducted 15 Feb 2017



Phil Peckman

(Eduardo)
Electrical Engineering
Inducted 16 Dec 2020



Patrick Roberts OAM

PDG PP PHF++
RI "Service Above Self"
Award 2016-2017
(Yvonne PHF)
Banking, Area Management
Inducted 1 June 1994



Dennis Simpson

PP PHF++++
RI "Avenues of Service
Award"
(Lynne)
Hotel Management
Inducted 11 July 2007



Barry Stevens

PP PHF
(Nikki)
Computer Programming
Inducted 30 Nov 2011

CURRENT MEMBERS

CURRENT MEMBERS



Milan Stanojevic

PHF
HR Management
Inducted 6 May 2015



Noel Watt

PP PHF++
Credit Unions
Inducted 1 Jan 1978



Di Reid

Inducted 31 Mar 2021



Eduardo Tover

(Phil)
Inducted 6 July 2022

FRIENDS OF ROTARY



Our friends of Rotary are a great group of volunteers, who give their time freely to help and support the work of Rotary Club of West Wollongong. For personal reasons they cannot commit for being Rotarians but share the same principals of helping others.



Tom O'Toole PHF
(Christine)
Inducted 3 Jun 2015



Mark Felton
Inducted 6 July 2022



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



Adelle Chaplin PHF
Honorary Member 2021



Michael Campbell PHF
Past Resident 1992-1993
Honorary Member 2022

HONORARY MEMBERS



Patrica DiMarco
Inducted 16 Dec 2020



Tim Koppel PHF+
(Debbie)
Inducted 13 Jan 2009
Honorary Member 2019
Now friend 2022



Ros Yeomans
(Paul)
Inducted 31 Mar 2021



John Harper PHF
Honorary Member 2012



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



Kim Hockings PHF
Past Resident 1992-1993
Honorary Member 2013



Bob Ridley PHF
Honorary Member 2011

VALE

Honorary member & Past President Marcel Benson, PHF++ 1934 - 2023



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marcel Benson on Monday, August 28, 2023, after a long illness. Marcel was a distinguished member of our Rotary Club, serving with dedication and unwavering commitment for 47 years with 100% attendance until his resignation due to ill health in 2019. Following his resignation, Marcel was appointed an Honorary Member, recognising his devoted contribution to Rotary, our Club, and the communities we serve.

Marcel was inducted into our Club in August 1972 and fulfilled many roles throughout his membership. He served as Club President during the 1978-1979 Rotary year and held various positions as an active Director on the Club's Board on several occasions. Additionally, Marcel was involved in numerous Club committees, always contributing to the smooth running and well-being of the Club. His Club industry classification was 'Electricity Service Distribution.'

He tirelessly served in all avenues of service. Marcel was instrumental in sourcing quality guest speakers for our meetings in the latter years of his membership and was fondly remembered for his remarkable luck in the weekly wine raffle. Marcel's significant contributions to Rotary were acknowledged with the Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition on two occasions, honoring his commitment to our Club and his community, both locally and overseas.

Marcel's legacy of service, dedication, and community spirit will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Robert John Champion 1939 -2023

Rob Champion, a dedicated Rotarian classified in Pharmacy, passed away on the 15 February 2023, leaving behind a legacy of service and commitment to his community. Rob was inducted into Rotary in 1972 during the 1972-1973 Rotary year.

In the 1975-76 year, Rob played a significant role in aiding the Wollongong Branch of Crippled Children, highlighting his early dedication to community service. His leadership qualities were evident when he served as the Community Service Director during John Chaplin's presidency in 1979-80 and again during Barry Blundell's presidency in 1989-1990. Rob, along with his wife Deirdre, embraced the spirit of Rotary's Youth Exchange program by hosting a Youth Exchange student in 1986-87.

Their commitment to fostering international understanding was further highlighted when the club supported their daughter Sophie's exchange to Denmark in 1987. In 1992-1993, Rob took on the role of Vocational Service Director during Mike Campbell's presidency, and he attended the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne that same year, further demonstrating his commitment to Rotary's vocational ideals. Rob's dedication to Rotary was recognised during Albert Cachia's presidency in 1998-1999, when he and seven others were honoured for achieving 25 years of service, despite Rob reaching this milestone in 1997. His contributions to the Club and the broader community will be remembered and cherished.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

The Rotary Club of West Wollongong values fun and friendships, regularly organising social outings such as dinners and other gatherings. These events provide members with opportunities to build camaraderie, strengthen bonds, and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Through these social activities, the Club fosters a strong sense of community and mutual support among its members.





THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST WOLLONGONG'S 2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE BUILDERS CLUB WAS A FUN-FILLED NIGHT. MRS CLAUS AND ELF MADE A SPECIAL APPEARANCE, BEARING GIFTS FOR EVERYONE. THE FOOD WAS EXCELLENT, ADDING TO THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE AND ENSURING A MEMORABLE CELEBRATION FOR ALL ATTENDEES.

