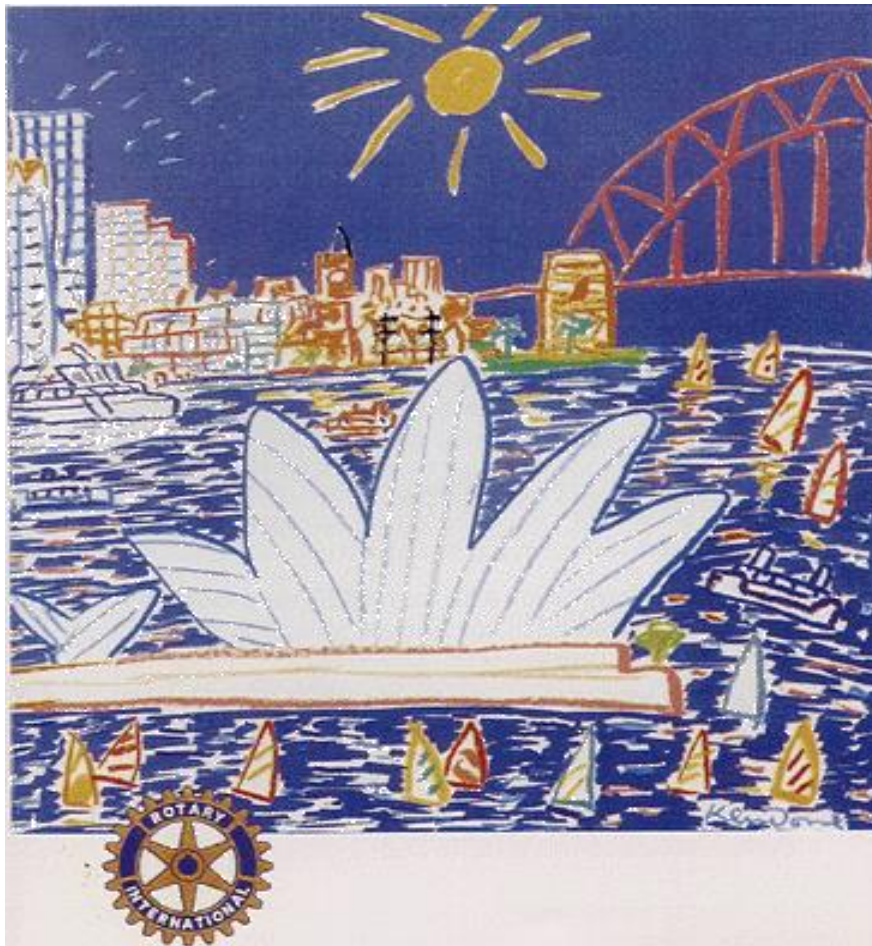


"THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS"

1988 - 2013

ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY COVE



Club 25551, District 9750

www.sydneycoverotary.com

PO Box R654, Royal Exchange, NSW 1225

We meet Fridays at 7.30am, Aboard Captain Cook Cruises, Eastern Pontoon, Circular Quay.

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ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY COVE STORY

ABOUT US

We are a Rotary club with a global image formed in Australia's Bicentennial year, and which meets in a unique location - undoubtedly the best Rotary venue in the world in the spectacular surroundings of Circular Quay where this country began its modern history.

We are a Club of distinctive spirit and quality which has the potential to drive a new perspective on Rotary.

We have delivered many projects, we have a signature event in the form of the Regatta and we have significant financial strength in the form of the Benevolent Fund.

Compared with some other Rotary clubs we are more irreverent, less bound to traditions and much more prepared to evolve and change. We have a preparedness to change – move traditions, recognise programs that have run their course and add new ones.

We lead the way in embracing the role of women in Rotary - from our first female member in 1989 we have had 4 female Presidents and, today, 25 per cent of our Club is our female members.

Always seeking to serve our ever-changing community.

We held our 25th anniversary at the Changeover function in 2013. The then president, Maurice York gave a speech outlining the achievements of the last 25 years. That speech is available on ClubRunner.

In this document are the reports on each of the years. Please read them as they tell a wonderful story of service above self.

FORMATION

On March 15, 1988, the members of the Rotary Club of Sydney voted to seek the approval of Rotary International to form a new club to be known as the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

Approval was duly given and, following preparatory work by the Extension Committee, an inaugural meeting of prospective members was held on June 1.

At this meeting, it was agreed that a subsequent meeting be held aboard the MV John Cadman II moored at the eastern pontoon, Circular Quay, at 7.30am Friday June 10.

And so, the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove was formed in the very birthplace of the Australian nation in its 200th year.

The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove was granted its Charter by Rotary International on Thursday June 23, 1988 and a celebratory dinner was held on Thursday August 11 at the Hotel Intercontinental Sydney, where 45 members were inducted into Rotary by the Governor of District 975 (now 9750).

OUR VENUE

We meet on board a Captain Cook Cruiser at Eastern Pontoon, Circular Quay, Sydney on Friday mornings at 7:30 am.

We like to think that we have the best venue of any Rotary Club in the world. Our view of the beautiful harbour, framed by the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge is breathtaking, especially in the early morning at the time of our meetings.

OUR MEETINGS

To build our culture, we engage our members through projects, a great speaker program and a fun meeting culture.

We dropped a formal Grace but continued the Anthem – because we have members who can really sing!

OUR FELLOWSHIP

We socialise together - casino nights on the harbour plus a fine tradition of what we call Boardroom Bash. We have liberalised the definition over the years. Examples include a whisky tasting event, but there was also a pub poetry night, a Bridge climb, Rocks walks, Debates, Calcuttas and visits to member's workplaces including the magistrate's court.

To be politically correct we have dropped 'Secretary's day' but we have our family Christmas cruise which is always a highlight.

SOME SAD TIMES

We have had our share of sad moments as well, with the passing of several Past Presidents, several members and wives of members, even a child of a member. These were sad occasions, but we came together and comforted each other and continue to do so.

SOME HAPPY TIMES

On a lighter note, we are probably the only club in the world have featured in our member directory an equine member – Paul Tuck's Newton's Rings, classification Fundraiser Extraordinaire.

We have had romance with a couple of Club weddings, a shipboard romance involving two Club members in 2008.

OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have special relationship with a number of organisations, who are our partners in serving the community.

The Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Captain Cook Cruises

Russel Cunningham, (RLC)

Vinnies Night Patrol

Max Employment

Deliottes

And, of course, the Spouses, Partners, Children and friends of our members.

OUR OWN CHILDREN

In 1997 we sponsored the RC Darling Harbour.

ABOUT SYDNEY COVE

When Captain Arthur Phillip realised that Botany Bay was unsuitable for settlement on his arrival there in January 1788 he explored Port Jackson which James Cook had sailed past 18 years before.

Finding a cove with ample fresh water – the Tank Stream – and an excellent anchorage, he chose it as the site of the new colony and named it after Lord Sydney, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The tents of the guards and convicts around its shores gradually gave way to permanent buildings. Campbell's Wharf (1803), Macquarie's commissariat and King's Wharf (1812) providing berths for a small but thriving port.

Semi-Circular Quay, as it was first known, was completed in 1837. By the 1870s clippers were loading from the wool stores at its Eastern end. When Circular Quay Station with the Cahill Expressway above was built in the 1950s, the Cove became Sydney's main road, rail and ferry interchange.

In recent years Sydney Cove has been opened up again to the people, with rebuilt wharves, a spacious promenade to the Opera House and the remodelled Overseas Passenger Terminal.

Sydney Cove is the jewel of Australia's greatest city.

ABOUT ROTARY

THE HISTROY OF ROTARY

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread and, within a decade, clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921 Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later. As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

By 1925 Rotary had grown to 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members. The organization's distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers, and a host of other luminaries to its ranks - among them author Thomas Mann, diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, and composer Jean Sibelius.

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

Rotary's main objective is service - in the community, in the workplace, and around the globe. The 1.2 million Rotarians who make up more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in nearly every country in the world share a dedication to the ideal of Service Above Self.

Rotary clubs are open to people of all cultures and ethnicities and are not affiliated with any political or religious organizations.

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life; and

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

MISSION

The mission of Rotary International, a worldwide association of Rotary clubs, is to provide service to others, to promote high ethical standards and to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

THE 4-WAY TEST

In 1932 Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created the 4-Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?

- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

In 2001-02 Rotary International began developing a strategic plan to guide the organization as it entered its second century of service. In June 2007, the Board of Directors approved the RI Strategic Plan 2007-10 which identified seven priorities:

- Eradicate polio
- Advance the internal and external recognition and public image of Rotary.
- Increase Rotary's capacity to provide service to others.
- Expand membership globally in both numbers and quality.
- Emphasize Rotary's unique vocational service commitment.
- Optimize the use and development of leadership talents within RI.
- Fully implement the strategic planning process to ensure continuity and consistency throughout the organization.

As it's past 2010, replace "Moving toward ..." with, from one of the sites, and noting the 25 year thread:

Polio

After 25 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions. Reaching the ultimate goal of a polio-free world presents ongoing challenges, not the least of which is a hundreds of millions dollar funding gap. Of course, Rotary alone can't fill this gap, but continued Rotarian advocacy for government support can help enormously. As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

"If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we will eradicate polio." Bill Gates.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORTS

Set out in this section are all the presidential reports. They are typically 'as presented' at the changeover and are largely unedited to present the character and nature of the time and circumstance in which they were written.

YEAR 1 - 1988-89: PRESIDENT PETER WATT

Your Life

By the sixth meeting on 8 July 1988 there were 50 charter members although by Charter night, 11 August 1988, held at the Intercontinental Hotel, 40 members of a total of 45 were present and duly inducted by District Governor, John Crowe. The actual charter document hadn't arrived from Rotary International for charter night and was finally presented to the Club on 7 October 1988.

The first guest speaker was A.H. (Mick) Spire C.B.E., past British Consul General in Sydney and Executive Director of Australia - British Chamber of Commerce.

The first committee up and running was the International Committee led by Mike Costello.

The first winner of raffle by members was Stefan Bokaemper and the first raffle won by a guest was David Scarlett on 5 August. Raffle prizes at the beginning were bottles of Scotch and Joe Oost (Club Services) had the job of obtaining the bottles. It was said that hardened liquor retailers were taking, with a pinch of salt, Joe's explanation that he gives it away. Wine was substituted for Scotch in November.

The first birthday to be celebrated was Peter Lanham, 29 July.

Austin Green announced that the Club was the first in the world to meet on a floating venue.

The first new members (2) were inducted on 14 October and the third group inducted included David Scarlett (28 October). Of the 45 charter members, 14 remained members 10 years on and 9 remained members 20 years on.

The painting of Sydney Harbour by Ken Done was accepted by the club as a cover design for the Club bulletin in September and after design work organised by Sean Barrett the new cover was first produced on 4 November. At the end of the first year the Club membership had grown to 67. Ross Gregg was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship at the Changeover Dinner.

Some recollections by Peter Watt from 1988, our inaugural year:

"There are decided benefits in being involved with the commencement of a new Rotary Club. It is all about the freedom of establishing benchmarks, precedents and club spirit.

The first board of directors included myself, Graham Lightfoot, Peter Lanham, Michael Costello and Bill Little with Dick Bradley, Joe Oost, Bill Fairbanks and Richard Nicholls. Only two of us had had previous Rotary experience which was useful in providing a limited understanding of the various and necessary procedures. The fact that most members were new to Rotary gave the Club a wonderful freedom to "do things as we saw them". Sometimes I got into hot water with the District Office for not following procedures. I recall inviting a guest speaker to the meeting at which our then, District Governor was visiting us.

I also recall a frown from senior Rotarians for multiple induction ceremonies; a kind of production line approach. Mind you, we were determined to build the strength of the Club in numbers as well as Rotary Service and we actually achieved a net increase of 22 members and ended the year twice our original charter size!

What I suppose was the most rewarding aspect of our first year, 1988, was the fact that the Club developed a distinctive spirit and quality which has become the envy of many Rotary Clubs. The fact that we were formed in the Bicentennial year, and met where this country began its modern history, and it was Friday for breakfast

on the harbour certainly helped. But it was the people who got caught up in the spirit of Rotary which made our Club so successful. We took on projects which other experienced clubs would have hesitated at. And we succeeded. All in all, it was for me a special year in my life. I found new friends which developed into closer friendships and I look back with great satisfaction to a period which I believe laid a good foundation upon which has been built this truly great Sydney institution."

YEAR 2 - 1989-90: PRESIDENT GRAHAM LIGHTFOOT

Enjoy Rotary

"The Club got away to a great start under our inaugural President Peter Watt and my job in year two was to keep the momentum going and to build on the range of Club activities started and to open up new areas of service. The task was a little daunting to someone who had been inducted into Rotary one year and President the next, but lack of experience was compensated by a good measure of enthusiasm for the task ahead.

The main objectives set at the beginning of the year were

- to be a well organised and ACTIVE Club
- to be a friendly and CARING Club
- to enjoy Rotary and have fun while achieving the above.

We were active and we were caring. In year two we got ourselves out and involved in such things as:-

- clean up Australia Day
- the Biathlon event
- organising committee of District 975 Conference
- sponsoring of 1st Exchange Student Shelley Freeman to Austria and the acceptance of Maki Umeni from Japan
- a lead role in the first Operation Livewire in NSW where we provided no less than 25 Mentors to budding young entrepreneurs
- establishment of a Sister Club relationship with Port Nicholson NZ
- the bringing to fruition of the provision of Exercise Equipment in the Rocks area
- a trip on the Harbour for kids from the Far West Home
- Children's Playground at Millers Point as a memorial to Robert Hartley, a Charter member
- District Conference where 1st prize was won in Musical Performance by Graham Lightfoot, Robert Opiat, Kerin Muir-McKarey, Alan Green and wife, Peter Lanham and wife, Trevor Haworth and wife
- gifts of a mobile phone, blankets, wet weather gear, urns and other gear to Operation Outreach of the Salvation Army
- financial commitment to Camp Quality which gives camping experiences to kids with cancer.

This is by no means a complete list but it does emphasise that the objectives set at the beginning of the year were met.

In year two the question of women in Rotary was first raised at Club level and the vote taken by our Club, August 1989, was unanimous in the affirmative. The first female member of Sydney Cove, Jane Roennfeldt, born and raised in Virginia USA, Director of Marketing in Ritz Carlton Hotel, was admitted in November 1989.

I handed over to Peter Lanham at the changeover dinner at the Inter-Continental Hotel on 29 June 1990 and assumed the role as Immediate Past President.

In an outstanding performance to avoid my responsibilities as Immediate Past President I carefully positioned myself in Kuwait on the very day that Saddam Hussein invaded that tiny and largely defenceless country. My attendance record over the ensuing three and a half months left a lot to be desired! Strangely the Iraqi regime

did not believe Rotary attendance obligations were sufficient reason for my early release. I therefore spent an uncomfortable two months in Kuwait and six weeks in Baghdad wondering if my membership was in jeopardy!

The care and concern of Rotary during this time of trauma for both myself and my family was never in doubt. This was evident at Club level under Peter Lanham, at District level, and even International level. I well recall being met in Jordan on the day of my release from Baghdad by Australian Embassy officials who said they had been inundated for information on my welfare from Rotary International's area representative. Yes, Rotary cares.

During the year we celebrated our first wedding, Vice President Peter Lanham to marry Amanda Keller was announced in March 1990. We celebrated our 100th meeting on 18 May 1990 which was attended by District Governor Peter Foley, President of Sydney Rotary at Inauguration Peter Golding and eight members of Sydney Club Extension Committee including Chairman Ross Gregg.

After 15 months the weekly dues increased from \$15 to \$17 in September 1989 when the membership was 70 with a 69% attendance."

YEAR 3 - 1990-91: PRESIDENT PETER LANHAM

Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm

"At the commencement of my year I foreshadowed three goals for the year ahead:

- We would consolidate the achievements of the Club's first two Presidents who had put in place a wonderful platform to build upon
We would mature further in our learning on how to raise fund and how to identify more community projects needing our help
- We would have a year of fun

All three goals were achieved through the following ways:

Membership:

- Immediate Past President Graham Lightfoot became a hostage in the Gulf crisis. He was remembered in our prayers at the start of every meeting until his welcome return.
- We inducted our first Honorary Members:
- His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AO (at the time he was Governor of New South Wales) and - Peter Golding, Past President of Sydney Club and the driving force in the establishment of the Sydney Cove Club.
- We awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to our Charter President, Peter Watt.

Exchange Students:

- We had our first full-time exchange student stay with us - Maki Umene from Japan. A delightful young lady who provided us with some considerable challenges and rapid learning on the management of exchange programs.
- Maki was followed by Gesine Rommel - a lovely person who benefited from our learning experience with Maki and who's behaviour convinced many members that the program was well worth supporting.
- Outgoing we were lucky to have two outstanding representatives, Natalie Yan (daughter of Kwok Yan) and Vanda Blainey.

Guest Speakers:

From the charter of our Club we were blessed with an outstanding program of guest speakers. This rapidly became a "tradition" of our young club and this year was no exception. Some of the more prominent were the

late Jim Sweeney, Fred Hilmer, Nancy Bird Walton, Terry Sheahan, Lawrence Freedman, John Menadue, Mark Braithwaite and Honorary Member Peter Sinclair. Boardroom Bashes:

After a slow start, these gathered momentum with a spectacular visit to the roof of the Gateway Building led by Peter Watt - the architect - and hosted by David Scarlett - the new tenant. This was followed by a visit to 2CH radio station hosted by member Joe Oost, a visit to the Ritz Carlton hosted by member Jane Roennfeldt and a visit to "The Story of Sydney" hosted by guest speaker Olivia Nelson.

Community Activities:

- We provided support for the International Food and Wine Fair held in The Rocks and the 2CH Triathlon day.
- This was our second year of involvement/co-ordination of Operation Livewire.
- We dedicated the Robert Hartley Memorial Park, located at Clyne Reserve, Milsons Point.
- This also was our second year of involvement with Clean Up Australia Day.
- We became involved with the Rotary Tree Planting program at the Fort Street Primary School on Observatory Hill.
- We provided assistance and material support to the renovating of "The Station" centre for homeless youth and also bought them a video player. We provided funds to the Natawa Church in Fiji to help with their restoration following severe cyclone damage.
- We negotiated with District Governor Don Grattan (Nigel's old man) that our Club would play a major role in the event surrounding the Harbour Tunnel Opening.

Club Activities:

- We incorporated the Club.
- We started having a "family day" breakfast meeting.
- We were visited by our twin club Port Nicholson, New Zealand.
- We had our first "gambling cruise" which was our first effort to raise "big funds". We raised nearly \$4,000 and were pretty pleased with our efforts. (This just demonstrates how much our Club has since grown!).
- We had a weekly Brain Teaser as part of the fun, as well as a "Saying for the Week" to close each Friday meeting.

And we finished the year with a BANG. My closing speech on changeover night "Stop the World" and at this point a waitress at the Inter Continental dropped a tray of crockery with an almighty crash. Even I could not have choreographed this occurrence more accurately and hilariously."

YEAR 4 - 1991-92: PRESIDENT ROBERT OPIAT

Look beyond Yourself

A few of Robert's memories -

- Gladly passing over plastic bags full of visitors' banners.
- Sadly passing over the Ken Done painting and the beautiful Japanese doll.
- Presiding at a Friday meeting when two guest speakers arrived and on another day when the speaker didn't arrive.

Activities during the year: -

- The friendly invasion of 23 Rotarians from our sister club - Nagoya - Mieto, Japan who presented the Club with a Japanese doll.
- Planning for the Sydney Harbour Tunnel Walk to be held at the opening in August, where 65 of our members agreed to be marshals.

- Presenting a mini-van to Sydney City Mission, Youth Crisis Centre in Kings Cross.
- Constructing a "Trees for Survival" shade house at Fort Street School.
- Harbour Clean Up Day at Mrs Macquarie's Chair.
- Mobility 2000 presented with \$5,000 to help develop an all terrain wheelchair.
- A successful Casino Cruise on Sydney Harbour."

YEAR 5 - 1992-93: PRESIDENT DAVID SCARLETT

Real Happiness is Helping Others



"Firstly, it seems both so long ago and only yesterday. It was an honour and a privilege and a pleasure to serve as President for that year. It is hard to nail down one outstanding thing that characterised my year.

If I had to it would be the incredibly generous and unstinting support which I had from all members of the Club. The big event of the year was the opening of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel. There were two things that went with this. The first was our very own function of the Harbour Tunnel Ball which was a stunningly successful occasion both financially and socially.

The next activity was the Tunnel Walk (30/8/92).

Sydney Cove and a number of other clubs came together to sell tickets and more importantly to marshal those many, many thousands of people who walked through the tunnel before it was opened to traffic. It was a day of enormous harmony and goodwill. There was an absolute outpouring of smiles and laughter and a real feeling of friendship in the air. It seems odd that a piece of civil engineering engendered such feelings but it certainly was a great day and the Sydney Coves were there making it happen. Something we did not know before, but we discovered subsequently, was that the International Olympic Committee was using this as a test to see how well Sydney could handle a major event with huge numbers like this as part of selection process for the Olympics in Sydney in the year 2000. We came through with flying colours! The tunnel walk was a great day which was much enjoyed and is something which, I am sure all of those who participated in, will remember forever.

Apart from that it is hard to nail down specific items.

There were some real highlights from the point of view of Rotary. For the first time the Rotary International convention was held in Australia and we were very proud that our Club had representatives in Melbourne for that convention.

The wheelchair project of Mobility 2000 was awarded the first prize by the Australian Inventors Association.

We had a delightful incoming exchange student, Gesine Rommel and a great representative of Australia in our outgoing exchange student, Natalie Yan.

In my year John Snelson was looking after the program and we had some great speakers of whom four in particular stand out, Graham Murphy from the Sydney Dance Company, Professor Fred Hilmer, Robert Gotliebson and John Bell the great Shakespearean actor.

1992/93 was the year we started the Rocks Christmas Party and got behind Wheelchair Tennis.

One of my proudest achievements, if it was mine and not the Club's, was to involve ourselves more deeply with the Trees for Survival project. I really enjoyed being there to represent the Club at the opening of the shade house at the Glenmore Road Public School.

Another highlight was the first garden party at Government House on 21 March 1993. We had already invited His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair to become an honorary member. When I was introduced to him he asked how he could help and I told him we would like to come and play in his backyard. He was gracious and welcoming and the garden parties that followed at Government House and the enormous support that Peter

and Shirley gave to the Club, and continue to give, were a big part of the "buzz" I got out of the privilege of being President in 1992/93."

YEAR 6 - 1993-94: PRESIDENT DANIEL GAUCHAT

Do what you believe in

"The experience of being Club President in the 1993-94 Rotary year was very positive.

Everyone elected to this office will be able to relate to the mixed emotions of pride, determination and apprehension felt when first taking on this special task. After overcoming the initial concerns, one needs to apply one's own style of leadership and develop a clear direction regarding the role a Rotary Club can play in its community.

The way we achieved what we did was to use the very considerable talents available within the Club - a special strength of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

Amongst the highlights during the year, I would mention:

- Announcement of the venue for the Olympic Games 2000 at 4am (EST) 24 September 1993. Trevor Haworth made available the "Hawkesbury Explorer" and members and visitors, totalling 120 dined and partied on board from 7pm the previous night, retiring (some) for a few hours sleep with the boat moored at Farm Cove, before rising at 3am to witness the overwhelming excitement of hearing Sydney named as venue for the Olympic Games in the year 2000. The boat then docked at Man 'O' War steps at 7am for our normal Friday meeting.
- Assisting as marshals at the Australia Day International Wheelchair Race and also at the Wheelchair World Tennis Championships.
- Due to our nautical venue the Sergeant at Arms, performed by Ann Fletcher, was renamed Chief Petty Officer.
- Sydney Cove Rotary Foundation was established to receive donations for charitable purposes.
- King George V Centre Christmas Party was supported by our Club supplying Santa Clause (Ross) and presents for the kids.
- The "Board Room Bash" was introduced as a regular feature.
- A great line-up of speakers including former NSW Governor Peter Sinclair, Bob Joss, John Phillips and father Chris Riley. And then there was the one who did not show up at all and the other one we had to "uninvite" at the last minute.
- The financially and socially successful "Jazz in the Gardens" event at Government House. The major beneficiary was the Fred Hollows Foundation.
- Witnessing a shipboard romance culminating in the first intra-Club member marriage for the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove. That Ann Fletcher again!
- Making Ken Done an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

After three Rotary Clubs in Thailand, Indonesia and Australia, I reluctantly resigned in early 1997 due to travel and professional commitments. I'm still young enough to make a comeback one day."

YEAR 7 - 1994-95: PRESIDENT BRYCE WAUCHOPE

Be a Friend



"The 7th year of Sydney Cove Rotary Club commenced with the theme "Be A Friend". The International Presidential message introduced the theme for the year with the following introduction: -

"The English Poet John Donne wrote: No man is an island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. Each of us is called to contribute, to act as an

individual and to help develop our community but, how do we lead hearts, foster a spirit of belonging and open opportunities for others to make more of their lives? My answer is a simple challenge of courage and character: BE A FRIEND".

What a challenge and what a solution on re-reading the record of the year's proceedings it brought back some wonderful memories and experiences shared in friendship during the year. Following Daniel Gauchat was a hard act to follow, never the less I had a wonderful team to help me through the year.

A host of committees with their respective Chairmen were the back bone and provided the contribution to the many and diverse interests pursued by the Club during the year.

Exchange Students, Asa Lindburg and Rachel Hickey who visited France; what wonderful experiences they respectively had in Australia and France, so vital communicating such experiences, for exchange international relationships, in a world where being a friend is vital to hearing and understanding.

The year contained a lot of "humour" typical of the Sydney Cove Rotary Club. I recall the great difficulty Andy Buttfield and I had in locating each Friday the Club banners for exchanging with our overseas visitors. I think we did find them once or twice and I look at one example of the many contributions of humour: "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it, and swing".

In summary, a wonderful experience and a very successful year enjoyed by all members and embracing with panache the theme BE A FRIEND."

YEAR 8 - 1995-96: PRESIDENT DAVID BRAWN

Act with Integrity, Serve with Love, Work for Peace



"I had decided that in my year we would endeavour to achieve something under as many Rotary headings as possible. We were active during the year and worked under the following headings: Youth Exchange, RYLA, RYPEN, GSE, Ambassadorial Scholar, Wheelchair Tennis, Wheelchair Sports, Australia Day Wheelchair Race, Sausage Sizzle, Sydney Hospital, Cleanup Australia Day, assisted in the Charter of Rotary Club Sydney CBD, FAIM, R/I Matching Grants, etc. and we co-hosted the District Conference.

We funded Mobility 2000's research on an 'Intelligent caliper'. We took up Howard Davies' proposal that we provide equipment and staff training for the Red Cross School for Handicapped Children in Honiara. We brought two staff members of that hospital to the Spastic Centre for one week's training and we pledged \$5,000 to a re-equipment program that became \$20,000 by virtue of it being matched with a \$5,000 donation in Honiara and then attracting a \$10,000 R/I matching grant.

I had heard of a Rotary fund raising initiative in Auckland New Zealand which was the Air New Zealand Rotary Regatta staged in Auckland Harbour. The New Zealand Rotary Club concerned very kindly gave us their business plan and Peter Dally, Bill Pringle, Craig Beaver and Bruce Morrow conducted a feasibility study on conducting such an event on Sydney Harbour. Bill Pringle produced a budget that looked 'bullish' in the extreme but was remarkably prophetic as the final result was almost to the \$. Thus encouraged we decided to have the inaugural Yacht race and Michael Maher was approached to chair the committee. Peter Dally as sailing master of Middle Harbour Yacht Club approached the Club and secured their support and we decided to support the Rotary Tri District Rotary Wing at the New Children's Hospital. An enormous amount of work was done by the committee, in particular by Michael Maher and Peter Dally and we raised \$75,000 for the New Children's Hospital which resulted in a four-bed ward being named The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove Ward. At our Christmas 1995 meeting we made Tony Shaw of Middle Harbour Yacht Club an honorary member of our club and named Michael Maher, Peter Dally and Tony Shaw as Paul Harris Fellows. I had been named as a Paul Harris Fellow at a September meeting following a generous donation to the Rotary Foundation by a club member.

We fielded our first team to a Rotary overseas project and I led R Bruce, A Buttfield, A Jaffray and M Maher to Papua New Guinea where we built a shelter shed at the airport attached to the Kokoda Memorial Hospital that was built by Rotary with money given by the Commonwealth Government to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific. We were accompanied by A Davidson, an employee of Tom Gervay, and A Krust. Both these men were builders and came to supervise and to direct our efforts. We completed to lock up stage, to the stage where we ran out of materials, the waiting room at the Kokoda Airport.

During the year we ran the last Government House Party. The event in 1995 was largely organised by Niels Warren and 700+ people attended despite the cloud over the exclusivity of such events due to changes proposed to public accessibility by the new Government.

We were heavily involved in Youth Exchange and we sent Alyson Kosterman to France, Andrew Ward-Harvey to Germany plus we organised Preben Warren to Brazil through another Rotary Club. We hosted Joost Cremer from Germany, Fernanda Guetter from Brazil and Yutaka Kaneuchi from Japan.

We saw Chris Cotman elected as a city council alderman and subsequently received his resignation as Vice President. President Elect Geoff Appleton stepped back to Vice President due to pressure of work and John Westmacott was 'drafted' into the position of President Elect.

We established the record of 49.3 seconds for an Annual General Meeting. At the District Changeover we were honoured with The Best Bulletin of the Year Award. Congratulations to Editor Chris Telford, Robert Bruce and John Szangolies.

And the Club received Certificates of Appreciation from the District Governor and the Club was awarded a Presidential Citation by the Rotary International President for its efforts under most Rotary Service headings.

That award would not have been possible without the tremendous support that I had from the whole Club."

YEAR 9 - 1996-97: PRESIDENT JOHN WESTMACOTT

Build the Future with Action and Vision

"Well, we did a few things, worked hard for the cause, gave generously, had some fun, misbehaved as Rotarians, and finished the year with a grand spectacular. And there I was, President of the best Rotary Club in 1975 for that great year.

I must admit the Presidency came upon me with frightening rapidity. In March 1996 I was wondering if anyone would want me on a committee and by July I was wearing the chain of office. It was a steep learning curve but having David "Mr Rotary" Brawn as mentor and tutor gave me great comfort.

It was also David who didn't step aside exhausted as most past Presidents are wont to do but went on during the year to be the founding father of the Rotary Club of Sydney CBD. I always felt that this was a bold initiative of his as most of our previous Presidents had rejected the advances of District Governors to do something along those lines. I was also among the initial doubters and am pleased to eat humble pie now that the Club has been such a success. I don't think the concerns that it would affect our Club were met in anyway.

The year also saw us without a Garden Party as a fund raiser but with the spectacular success of the Second Yacht Race. Again, we were the envy of the Rotary firmament with record funds raised, thanks to the huge efforts of Michael Maher and his team of Peter Dally and Honorary Member Tony Shaw. This allowed us to not only meet all our commitments to the New Children's Hospital and the Leo and Jenny Foundation but to put aside a decent sum (\$25,000) to the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove Foundation. For some years the Club has sought a solid financial footing and I hope that future years and future members will assist the Club to build this fund.

Of course, we didn't only raise money from the Regatta. We raised it from the initial golf day, so well organised at Pymble by Peter Melville, from the sausage sizzle at Sydney Hospital and the Casino Cruise. If anyone had

captured and published Sergeant Rob Taggart's limericks we would have also made a fortune out of those, so well thought out and so pointed were they. He did well on the fines nevertheless.

And we stuffed up as well. In our enthusiasm for a good time we succeeded in arranging a week-end for members in the Hunter Valley on the same week-end as the District Conference. Now, normally this wouldn't unduly concern us as fun should take precedence over form however we were not to know that District Governor Graham Jones had staked his whole year's success on a large roll up from Sydney Coves at the conference. It was necessary for me to hold his telephone call some 2 feet (600cm) from my ear for twenty minutes before I could say a word. As it turned out both the Hunter Valley and the Conference were a great success.

And finally, it was left to the genius of Chris Telford and the organising skills of Mark Gallagher (our Rogers and Hammerstein) to put together the Grand Finale on Changeover night. I knew we needed some variety for the evening and I couldn't have picked two better members to arrange it. And they, in turn, picked a great cast of performing members. And did they perform.

The rest is history."

YEAR 10 - 1997-98: PRESIDENT GUY GLENNY

Show Rotary Cares



"The 1997/98 year marks a decade since the chartering of the Club, and a significant milestone in the Club's History. To mark this occasion, it was decided to sponsor a new Club. We identified the rapidly growing western precinct, adjacent Darling Harbour, as the location that we could most benefit from a new club.

In pursuing this venture we were fortunate to gain the support of the Rotary Club of Sydney and the Rotary Club of Sydney CBD. Past President David Brawn was appointed District Governor's special representative, to co-ordinate the project. The first interest meeting was held at the Novotel in Pyrmont in November 1997, and subsequent meetings at Forum, the Grace Hotel in York Street, where the Charter dinner was held on 4 April 1998.

John Snelson, who had previously been a member of Sydney Cove became the first president of the new Club, which chartered with 34 members. David Brawn deserves great credit for the success of the venture, and for personally introducing quite a number of new members.

Club Services:

Fund raising - Bill Little chaired the Fund-raising committee this year. The major fund raising event, as in the two previous years, was the Corporate Yacht race held at Middle Harbour. Andrew Jaffray did a marvellous job chairing the organising committee, and succeeded in attracting over 50 yachts. The race, held at the end of November, took place in overcast conditions with strong winds. Nearly \$100,000 was raised, of which \$60,000 was donated to the Randwick Children's Hospital, and \$10,000 to the Leo and Jenny Cancer Foundation. The remainder was set aside to fund other Club events.

The other major fund raising event was the Corporate Golf Day, organised by Bill Little. The game was held at Pymble Golf Club and was very well attended, with a good selection of prize holes for longest drive, closest to the pin and such like. In the evening, there was a dinner followed by an auction of various wines and corporate gifts. The day raised some \$19,000, which was well in excess of expectations. Michael Maher proved his skills as an auctioneer, and Thelma Wansley as barrel girl.

Membership - The Club finished the year with 89 members, the same number as at the beginning, with ten leaving and ten being inducted. Peter Lanham headed the membership committee with Bill Fairbanks

monitoring attendance. Alistair Gray was a particularly sad loss for the Club, being President Elect and a very dedicated Rotarian. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship on leaving.

Fellowship - Peter Welch headed the fellowship committee and organised some memorable events. On Australia Day we continued the tradition of the Australia Day cruise. The highlights of the day were the Ferry race and the start of the tall ships race, which included vessels from all over the world. We also has a good variety of boardroom bashes. The final fellowship event of the year was a whisky tasting at Hunt & Hunt offices at the hospitality of David Scarlett, attended by the British Consular General, Phillip Morrice.

Program - David Scarlett provided a wonderful range of speakers for the year. The most memorable was a play put on by some street kids, which really highlighted the problems of homeless kids to all members in a most vivid way.

District Conference - The District Conference was held at Sutherland civic centre under the chairmanship of District Governor Jack Dalton. Thelma Wansley orchestrated attendance of the "Coves", and achieved a superb turnout of some 20 members.

Olympics Committee - In view of the proximity of the Olympics, it was decided to set up a special committee to consider the Club's possible involvement. Paul Ward-Harvey chaired the committee and held a Club Assembly in September.

Community Service:

Key projects during the year included the following:

Working day at Stepping Stone House - Stepping Stone house is a hostel for young people in their late teens, who have left home. Rotarian Max Connery is a director of the house and arranged for 15 club members to spend half a day clearing the garden and painting inside.

King George V Christmas Party - This year's Christmas party was the normal gathering around Father Christmas (this year played by Ross Moody), where all the children were given Christmas presents brought by members of the Club.

Kite Flying at Observatory Park - This was a great day for families living around the Rocks, and was co-sponsored by Rotary and the Sydney City Council. The Rotarians were very much in evidence from the smart new Rotary tee-shirts they were wearing, which was also an initiative of the committee. There were a range of activities including the Kite Flying funded by corporate sponsorship of the various kites.

Wheelchair Race - As part of the Club's active Australia Day, members were once again marshalls for the wheelchair race from Circular Quay and around Millers Point. After the race a great many Coves either moved on to the harbour cruise, or manned the hot dog stand in Macquarie Street in support of Sydney Hospital.

Wheelchair Tennis - In continuation of the Club's support for Wheelchair tennis, members assisted in the four-day event at White City in January.

International Service:

The International Service Committee was chaired by Giancarlo Scala.

FAIM trip to Auki - Alistair Gray led the team for two weeks to the Solomon Islands, Auki with Howard and Liz Davies as core members, and Peter Melville and President Guy alternating for one week each. The main purpose of the trip was to undertake some maintenance work at the hospital in Auki.

Aid to the Solomans - Subsequent to the FAIM trip, it was decided that the Club should fund some items required in the Auki hospital. Giancarlo was provided with a list of items and at the time of writing, they are being sourced for dispatch. In addition to this main project, the Club responded to a major fire at one of the villages in Auki by sending clothes.

Vocational Service:

The Vocational Service Committee was chaired by Graham Firth.

Telephone Training - This project was initiated by Gary Price to assist staff from local businesses in basic phone answering techniques.

Artworks - This was a very ambitious project initiated by Ed Ackman in Past President John Westmacott's year. The objective was to promote and display artworks by emerging artists to assist them in getting a start in the highly competitive art market. The paintings were hung in the lobby of Grosvenor Place for a week, culminating in a soiree attended by around 300 people. The Minister for the Arts Bob Devis opened the event, which was also attended by John Doyle, alias Rampaging Roy Slaven.

Operation Livewire - The Club has now become a regular supporter of Livewire even though we do not organise it any more. Tom Sheehan and Ann Fletcher-Nicholls are still on the committee and around 15 Coves acted as mentors.

Youth Service:

The Youth Service Committee was chaired by Greg Prowse.

Youth Exchange - This year we were fortunate to have a terrific Danish girl called Anne Ovesen visit the Club. Anne was a regular attendee of Club meetings and always came along to key events. On the outgoing side, Katie Gray returned from Germany in January just as her family were leaving for Fiji. However she had just enough time to give the Club a farewell speech. Also in January, we farewelled Katrina Bolton, who also went to Europe.

Sail Training - One of the great events of the year was the Sail Training on the Svanen. Organised by Bruce Morrow, around 20 disadvantaged children went to sea for a week to learn to sail and work as a team. Unfortunately, around half the team went wild on the first night and had to be disembarked. However the remainder had a good time and greatly benefited by their experience. It also taught the Club a few lessons about running this type of event.

Run for your Life - One of the first events of the year was the 'Run for your Life' fun run in aid of youth suicide organised by Greg Prowse. The event involved a fun run around Centennial Park, with each runner being sponsored, and the proceeds going to youth suicide.

Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund was finalised in Past President Bryce Wauchope's year to provide a capital base, from which the Club could use the interest to fund regular projects. At the beginning of the year the fund stood at \$32,000, and by the end had more than doubled to \$70,000, through Bill Little's and Peter Melville's fund raising efforts. At Past President John Westmacott's suggestion, the board agreed to place \$60,000 with a Funds Manager to increase the return, and Don Middleton set up an appropriate investment plan. The remaining \$10,000 was left in the bank as a float."

YEAR 11 - 1998-99: PRESIDENT ANN FLETCHER-NICHOLLS

Follow your Rotary Dream

Notes from the Changeover dinner 1999:

President Ann said the year had been rewarding and enjoyable and she was delighted the way members had so freely given of their time and their support to the Club.

Her objective at the beginning of the year was to ensure Rotary was relevant in the next millennium and this was achieved.

Key issues:

The environment, youth unemployment and the launch of Project Apple with special thanks to Beulah Warren and Max Connery.

The continued support for the Children's Hospital.

On the International side, the excellent work done in the Solomon Islands where without doubt the hospital has the best kitchen in the Pacific basin thanks to Niels Warren.

Giancarlo and his team bringing to fruition the IT program in the Rocks.

The support for the MCA was another project completed.

Club Services kept us functioning.

A special commendation must go to Don Middleton and his team for the success in raising \$120,000 from the Regatta ... and to Bruce Nicholls and his team on the success of the Golf day.

Ann acknowledged the support of her two Vice Presidents, Paul and Michael, who made the job of running the Club that much easier, and the support of Denzil Byrne who took over the Treasurer's role and John McKernan as Secretary.

Ann thanked husband Bruce for his total support during the year.

YEAR 12 - 1999-00: PRESIDENT PAUL WARD-HARVEY

Consistency, Credibility, Continuity



"We celebrate our Club's twelfth anniversary, after an interesting year of successes and disappointments.

Disappointments in that we lost some of our valued and respected members. Also, that we were unable to pursue our international services programme in the Solomon Islands. However, we have been joined by an outstanding array of new members during the course of the year, who are already actively involved in the life of the Club, and we have numerous other activities absorbing members' efforts.

Whilst our Friday venue and programme remains much the same, it is quite clear that our fame and reputation has been increasing worldwide. Breakfast on Sydney Harbour with "the Coves" and an interesting guest speaker, is an internationally renowned activity.

I have been most fortunate to have the support of an enthusiastic, perceptive and humorous Board of Directors. My Sergeant-at-Arms/Chief Petty Officer, the laid back low profile Kevin Dallas, and his substitutes from time to time have maintained good order and conduct in our meetings. It has been a pleasure to work with President Elect Michael Maher; Vice President Greg Prowse; Board Members and Committee Chairmen Andrew Jaffray, Paul Tuck, Beulah Warren, Fiona Lavan, James Garbett; our Secretary John McKernan and Treasurer John Henderson. All of whom have been dedicated to their tasks and responsive to every demand.

I extend thanks to our guest speakers, the management and staff of Captain Cook Cruises and each and every member. The major programmes during the course of the year have engaged members' enthusiasm and interest.

Club Services: Our "engine room" committee, which provides the administration and fundraising aspects of the Club, has worked assiduously throughout this year under the stewardship of Andrew Jaffray.

- 1999 Regatta - David Scarlett, Bill Little, Peter Dally, Bob Bruce and Gerri Evans, and numerous others achieved another outstanding success in generating over \$110,000. The majority of this money went to the Sydney Children's Hospital, and a smaller proportion to Leo & Jenny Foundation and our numerous other charitable purposes.

- 2000 Regatta - Notwithstanding the success of last year's Regatta, the organisers have produced a New Business Plan with a substantially increased target for this year. Gerri Evans, Bill Little, Tony Smith, Bob Bruce and an enthusiastic support team have already conducted a well-publicised launch by Major General Peter Cosgrove. An administrative assistant has been engaged, a website is established, sponsorship teams and yacht teams have been established. Upon availability of the brochures, those teams will be progressing into the market place on behalf of our worthwhile beneficiaries.
- Golf Day - Graham Lightfoot and a team of helpers conducted a most successful Golf Day at Killara Golf Club netting approximately \$17,000. Those funds have been allocated to Chesalon Homes, Camp Quality and other Club activities.
- Bulletin - Eva Sandler, Maurice York and Phil Edmonds are to be congratulated for maintaining a weekly production of the Bulletin, which is always informative and humorous. It is a vital communication tool of our Club. Further, the Bulletin is now circulated by e-mail so that all members obtain a copy whether or not present at a meeting.
- Programme - Gary Price has worked throughout the year as programme co-ordinator. A more productive, affable and flexible member one could not hope to unearth. Always able to fit in speakers at short notice and to diplomatically re-shuffle other speakers. He was strongly supported by his secretary Joan, without whose help probably his affability would have been less apparent.
- Banner Display - John Elvy completed a practical and impressive banner display of our previous international visitors, which now appears behind the welcome desk on Fridays. A potentially exciting alternate display could soon appear on the internet.
- Ladies visitors' badges - What might seem a small, but otherwise very significant service made available to visiting ladies, has been introduced to simplify display of their visitor's cards at meetings.
- Wishing Wells - Aesthetic judgment by bureaucrats, renovations to Wharf No 6, and periodic vandalism has temporarily rendered our Wishing Wells inactive. A good source of income for the Club over the years has been virtually ruled out this year.

Community Service: Under the generous guidance of Paul Tuck, this committee was able to find many worthwhile causes for our support.

- Sydney Children's Hospital received: \$60,000 with which to purchase 60 infusion pumps for children throughout the Hospital, \$4,500 to enable two speech pathologists to attend with a medical team to Nepal to carry out cleft palate operations
- Stepping Stone House received \$8,000, being the second instalment of our original commitment to Operation Apple, A trial programme on prevention of youth homelessness.
- Leo & Jenny Foundation received \$10,000 for research into Leukemia and Cancer.

Further funds were made available for various purposes to:

- Chesalon Homes
- King George V Community Committee - Christmas party, Christmas gifts and several contributions towards activities
- Youth Learn to Drive training course

Numerous other donations and physical contributions including:

- 20 second hand computers to Fort Street School.
- Sister Gemma language books and training material.
- Dishwasher gift to Darling House Retirement Home
- Physical Assistance on Rail Ride Programme
- Ongoing Paralympics ticket promotion Programme

Vocational Service: Deftly guided by Beulah Warren, this committee lent a personal touch to Club activities.

- Operation Livewire - some 30 Club members acting as mentors to young enthusiastic people preparing businessplans for their desired businesses provided continuing support. Once again the Club was successful in Gerri Evans being mentor to the New South Wales winner - as you might have guessed it - a fashion designer.
- Club Counselling - The Committee has established a Club Counselling facility amongst members for members, especially those who may be in between jobs.
- The Rocks Chamber of Commerce - Internet Computer Coaching - the Club funded and promoted amongst small business people in the Rocks area (our geographic area of influence) an educational programme on the Internet which was extremely well received and I understand that the current repetition of that programme is overbooked.
- Joint project funding of art education programme for Fort Street Primary School children in conjunction with Museum of Contemporary Art.

International Service: Confronted with considerable implementation difficulties, Fiona Lavan steered a successful course for the year.

- Ambassadorial Scholars - We have been privileged to host two Ambassadorial Scholars from USA, namely Jill Harmon and Brad Johnstone.
- GSE - We hosted a team from Kent, and sent out a team to Kent this year. By coincidence both teams consisted entirely of young women.
- Solomon Islands - We were able to ship a container full of equipment which had been acquired with great care and dedication by members, and cleaned down and repaired where necessary, to the Solomon Islands for their use. It apparently arrived safely and without any interference. However, our long term major programme in the Solomon Islands unfortunately did not come to fruition, due to the instability in that country. As things currently stand it looks as if we will not be able to pursue our desired programme for a number of years. This is most distressing as the country and the people are in even greater need of assistance now as a result of the current turmoil. An alternative recipient of our assistance is under consideration.

Youth Service: James Garbett ensured that local youth did not stray from the straight and narrow, by providing many activities. Every year the Youth Committee has approximately 12 worthwhile programmes available for young people nominated by the Club. I commend every one of those programmes. They are directed towards different categories of youth within our society. This year was a great success.

- We have outstanding graduates from the RYLA and RYPEN programmes who have addressed us in meeting, and carry forth into the rest of their lives, the experiences which they have encountered as a result of our sponsorship.
- Exchange Students - One year's life experience overseas has been encountered by Laura Kennedy who returned from France, Tim Ward-Harvey who returned from Germany, and our inbound students - Eva Webemdorfer (Austria), Magnus Myren (Sweden) and Andi Mueri (Switzerland) (half way there). Additionally, we have sponsored Anne Bradley who is currently in Austria and Jenny Ward who is currently in Germany.
- An impressive display board, donated to the Club by last year's outgoing students Jule and Bjarke has been adapted to include all of our previous exchange students and is on display at each meeting.
- SS "Svanen" Sailing Ship - One of our major developmental activities for the local youth is the four-day participatory activity as crew on board SS Svanen off the coast of Sydney. Well received

throughout youth sectors, and with participants selected by the Sydney City Council Youth workers at KGV, this is a most worthwhile activity.

District Involvement: More and more members are serving on district and multi-district committees. PP David Brawn will not only be Chairman of the District Youth Committee but also be a District Governor's Assistant this year. Fiona Lavan will be Chairperson of the District Group Study Exchange Committee. Thelma Wansley, Peter Meares, Gary Price, John Rowe, Greg Prowse and others including myself will be involved in Rotary District activities close to our hearts.

Conclusion: I would like to extend special thanks to all of our members. The partners at Deloitte for use of their meeting facilities and all of the management and staff associated with Captain Cook Cruises. Thanks too to our sponsors and supporters in our Regatta and Golf Day and especially spouses and partners of our Members. There are many members of the Club who have given the Club special support and me in special ways, especially when the need for support was essential. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to both John McKernan, as Secretary of our Club this year and John Henderson as Treasurer.

Personal Conclusions: The most outstanding feature of our Club is the enthusiasm and unstinting generosity of members who provide their time and skills for the benefit of others. Sometimes the pressures of circumstances, the demands made by others and the continuing obligations which members have to their livelihood and families can cause some stresses and disappointments. I hope that members and their families do not feel resentful or disappointed in circumstances where they or others cannot perform to the level which they might expect of themselves as a result of these other demands and stresses. I have found that there are always other members who can step into the breach during these difficult times. I make this comment particularly in regard to the Regatta, which is being run by a very active team which is setting extremely high goals for itself. I also make this comment in regard to the outstanding contribution made by exchange student host families.

At a time in our society when the emphasis is on self-centredness, we must appreciate the selflessness of one another.

After four years on the Club Board, I thought I would be launched into the vacuum of a feather duster and have more time on my hands for the pursuit of my own interests. But no doubt the other Club feather dusters will know this to be an unjustified expectation, as there is always a surfeit of tasks to be performed in the Club and District activities.

I wish to extend special thanks to my wife Margaret who has had a very testing year but throughout all of it, she was always 'there'.

I extend my best wishes to Michael, and the incoming Board. We await the Olympics, Paralympics, Federation and the "real" new millennium, with enthusiasm.

May we all have a happy, healthy and peaceful year - with fond memories and affection from Paul and Margaret Ward-Harvey."

YEAR 13 - 2000-01: PRESIDENT MICHAEL MAHER

Create Awareness, Take Action



"We have just completed the Club's thirteenth year. It was the millennium year for the world, a great Olympic year for Australia, and one in which our Club participated fully.

The big events of the year were the Olympics and Paralympics, the refuelled Regatta, which in turn fuels our other activities, the co-hosting of the District Conference, the Golf Day, the Solomon Island project, and the Internet Cafe for Street kids.

At the start of the year I set out an objective that we should only undertake projects and endeavours which would involve us all in a little bit of fun, and, speaking for myself, I have thoroughly enjoyed the year and enjoyed a whole cart load of fun. I hope you have too.

I'd like to record the support of the Board and other Committee leaders. I sometimes hear of other Rotary Clubs that are torn by dissent and the like – we are blessed here in having a harmonious group and, I believe, an enviable spirit. This I inherited, and hope have been able to grow a little. Compared with some other Rotary clubs we are more irreverent, more bold, more sharing in our goals and aspirations. This spirit is the evolution of many years, and to be cherished.

As well as the "big" events of the year, all the other ones which go on year after year - all the youth programs, including Sail Training, the Xmas Party, the Rocks liaison and assistance - have been carried out by our teams in their usual competent fashion, with some hitting new highs.

We also threw our cabin doors open, and increased the ceiling on our membership from 90 to 120, and with a net growth over the year, have started the climb to the new ceiling. We finished the year just short of 100.

Personally I was delighted at the response I received to the idea of hearing more from our own members at the breakfast Grace, a word of yore which to me means "thanks". We had serious thanks, light-hearted thanks, religious thanks, Latin thanks, Hebrew thanks, spiritual thanks, the Rotary thanks, moving thanks, and even inappropriate thanks - but all through the year we had a grace that came from the hearts of our members.

The singing of the extended National Anthem, led again by a depth of talent from the membership, added another uplifting emotion to my Fridays.

At Board level we were also able to document some principles that have in fact been in our minds I am sure for some time, but not necessarily articulated. For example, the sort of major projects we should undertake: they should be community initiated, involve us in a hands on way, be assured of being useful to the community after we have left, and our financial assistance should be reserved for projects that meet these criteria. And this financial assistance should be leveraged with contributions from other sources if at all possible. In other words we should husband our limited resources for these types of endeavours, multiply them if possible, and not be seen as a source of handout. The Internet Café and the Solomons were fine examples of this type of project.

Again at Board level we have changed the mix of fertiliser for our Benevolent Fund. In the past the fund manager had been instructed to invest it like the widow's mite. With unanimous Board approval we have invested for growth, with the invested part of the fund (there is always a remainder in cash) being invested by Credit Suisse in international equities and domestic equities – both of which are traditionally high performers but with higher volatility. Not being a club of widows who need the cash flow tomorrow, we can afford to take a ten year view, and have done so.

I think there is also a realization in the Club that the Regatta is the engine that drives the funding for all our other projects, and for planting new seeds in the Benevolent fund. This year the fund has had an increase of \$33,000 from the Regatta surplus and now stands at an unaudited figure of \$124,000.

Although our financial results for the year are still subject to audit, the unaudited figures show:

- the business side of the Club generated \$91,000 in subscriptions and breakfast receipts, and we spent some \$90,000 in District dues, breakfast costs, postage and general expenses, an appropriate result and
- the project side of the Club received \$52,000 from the Regatta, \$6,000 from the Golf day and \$5,000 from Chief Petty Officer's fines, a total of \$63,000, allowing the following expenditure on our projects:
 - Community \$17,000
 - International \$25,000
 - Youth \$18,000

- Vocational \$3,000

Our 3 “flag charities” also benefited from the Regatta and the Golf day in the amount of \$129,000 ie:

- Sydney Children’s Hospital \$70,000
- Child Flight \$50,000
- Chesalon Homes \$9,000

In the early days of my year, I was impressed by, and commented that, “the Club runs itself”. And in many respects it does – what this means is that there is a team of dedicated persons who know what to do, in particular what they have to do, and quietly (sometimes) go about doing it. To all of the many who contributed, a special word of thanks.

To the Past President Paul Ward-Harvey and the President Elect Greg Prowse, special thanks. I have been ably advised and assisted by these two gentlemen.

The Board has been lively, probing, fearless and cohesive. Greg Prowse, Andrew Jaffray, John Henderson, Graham Firth, John McKernan, Fiona Lavan, Beulah Warren, Tom Gervay, Michael Austin and Gerri Evans were the ones on whom the real work of the Club rested, and they all came up trumps.

But apart from Boards and the like, a club is its members. May I thank all members most sincerely for your input to a great year.

Club Services: As usual John McKernan acquitted his role in Club Services with no fuss and 100% reliability.

Program: For a second year Gary Price has provided the Club with an enormous variety of speakers. He is to be congratulated for his efforts as the demand for finding a speaker on a weekly basis never allows the Program Manager any opportunity to relax. There was a proposal to have more frequent Job Talks. This did not eventuate as we would have liked. It is important to provide this opportunity on a scheduled basis say every 6 weeks or so. I encourage Guy Glenny to attempt to achieve this ratio.

Fellowship: Once again we have continued the Board Room Bash concept on a quarterly basis. They continue to be popular with the membership. Frequency is an issue. In 1999/2000 they were on a monthly basis; a compromise perhaps in the future of bimonthly if of course the hosts can be found. My thanks to Robert Opiat for taking this responsibility in 2000/2001. The last Fellowship activity for the year is the Change-over Dinner. Thelma Wansley has the task well in hand I am sure that this years will be as memorable as past dinners.

Bulletin: Eva Sandler has produced an excellent Bulletin each week through some trials and tribulations. Eva is to be congratulated for the work she does in this area. It is demanding and frequently produced with minimum support from the membership. The decision to e-mail it to the membership was important even if on occasions it fails to make it for a variety of technical reasons.

District Conference: The conference committee took many hours of hard labour by Thelma Wansley, John Rowe, Andrew Jaffray and John McKernan. The end result made it worthwhile as the Conference was an outstanding success. I thank those members for their support. At the other end the support from the membership was outstanding, registrations were at record levels and volunteers to help set up and run the Conference were also at record levels. The Club can be proud of its efforts in being responsible for an outstanding event. John King was an eminent MC.

Golf Day: Graham Lightfoot and his team again ran an excellent day. The golf was good, the dinner following provided great fellowship and the auction raised money for the Club and for the nominated charity the Chesalon Homes. The funds raised will be split on a 60/ 40 basis with 60% going to the home.

General: Some areas of activity seem to straddle Directors responsibilities. One of these is the Web Site. Maurice York has done an excellent job in getting the site up and maintaining it. The Club can be genuinely proud of its success in this area as it has become a valuable tool in not only the basic Club data but in supporting the District Conference and Regatta. Another area is the Attendance Roster. Bill Fairbanks has

undertaken this task over many years. He does so with absolute reliability including reminder calls and finding replacements. Thanks Bill.

Membership: Rob Taggart and his team had an excellent year, which saw our club attract some very fine new talent - folk who are already contributing in fine form. Finishing up at just under 100 members, we had a good net growth for the year. Chief Petty Officer: A vintage year for Kirby Grattan, who extracted the fines from the crew with consummate ease.

District: A vote of thanks to the Club Members who served on District Committees: Greg Prowse, Tom Gervay, Gary Price, David Brawn, Fiona Lavan, Paul Ward-Harvey, Graham Firth and John Lee.

Venue: Thank you Admiral Haworth and crew. The kindness to the club of the Captain Cook organisation is acknowledged with sincere thanks.

International Service Committee: Fiona Lavan has filled the International Committee Chair role for two years now. When she started there was a deal of 'old stuff' that needed to be sorted out in terms of Rotary bureaucracy, essential if funds were to be leveraged for further projects. She fixed this in record time and set the foundations of a two year plan for the Solomons Project that eventually climaxed the year.

Dadapu Memorial Clinic, village of Ngarione, Choiseul Island, Solomon Islands: This project to assist with the building of a Clinic involved 6 months of planning following the postponement of the originally planned project: The Rotary School for the Disabled in Malaita. With ethnic tensions making a visit to Malaita unsafe, as well as difficulty securing the rights to freehold land through the auspices of the Red Cross, it was decided in late November to postpone this project and assist Dr John Kure in completing the construction of the Ngarione Clinic on the island of Choiseul. The clinic was well advanced thanks to funding from the Canadian High Commission and the donation of land from John Kure's father. However, they had run out of money to complete the project, and needed the assistance of volunteers and skilled labourers.

It was planned that we would apply for a Matching Grant in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Gizo, who immediately gave their indicative approval but later delayed formal approval until too late to apply for RI funding. With hindsight, this was fortunate as Gizo Club was later suspended by RI for non-payment of dues. We were fortunate however to receive US\$3,750 from District 9750 funds associated with the Water Aid program which assisted greatly in the purchase of water and sewerage tanks etc for the project.

A team of 15 including 9 Rotarians, led by Niels Warren, went to Choiseul Island in the Solomons over a 3 week period.

Choiseul is an island about 160 Km long and 30 Km wide at the northern end of the Solomon Islands group. The population is about 20,000. There are no roads on Choiseul and very little "development".

Movement from the airstrip and provincial centre at Choiseul Bay to Ngarione involves a two hour open sea trip in a fisherman's outboard-powered canoe.

The project was completed with literally flying colours and officially handed over by the people of Ngarione Village to the Choiseul Provincial Health Service on Thursday 31 May, 2001.

This partnership with the people of Ngarione has been the most ambitious overseas project undertaken by the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove. The manner in which the project was conducted is a credit to the Club and to those who participated in it in both the planning and the implementation - a huge success overall.

Group Study Exchange with District 9320, South Africa: Once again, the Club actively participated in GSE although, with the exception of John & Judith McKernan who stepped in at short notice, we did not home host this year. However, the Club took the team on Bridge Climb (now a tradition), to a Super 12 Rugby match and also paid for a meal or two. We got in the true spirit of GSE when we all performed the Gumboot dance instead of the National Anthem at our club meeting on 20 April. It should also be noted that PP Peter Lanham was team leader for the District 9750 team to South Africa which departed on April 21, and we also sponsored one of the team members, Peter Sharp. We look forward to having them both as guest speakers in due course.

Ambassadorial Scholars: We farewelled Brad Johnstone earlier in the year following his 10 months in Sydney. Graham Firth acted as Brad's councillor.

World Vision: We decided to continue to support this worthy cause and were allocated a new child, 6 year old Marius Champo from Zambia. We look forward to regular updates on Marius.

Vocational Service Committee: Beulah Warren chaired this Committee which met at the beginning of the year and endorsed the goals of:

- Further raising the awareness of members of our Club to ethical standards in the workplace;
- Increasing the opportunity for employment of young people in our District;
- Developing a service to the membership which explores vocational options, and prepares members for vocational employment changes, and
- Continuing to work with business's in the Rocks district.

To meet these goals:

- Mr Dick Warburton was invited to speak to the Club on ethics in business and the challenge of wearing different hats.
- Graham Firth recruited members of the Club to mentor young people for the Livewire program. More mentors than required volunteered.
- Efforts were made by members of the Committee to have Job Talks occur every 6 weeks at the Friday morning meetings. Job Talks did not occur as frequently as intended.
- Members of the Committee were available to other members of the Club to discuss employment and job satisfaction issues. This service has not been formalised as yet.
- At the instigation of Ed Ackman, the Committee agreed to support the Salvation Army Oasis Program to the amount of \$5,000, to help establish an Internet Cafe at the Streetlevel Cafe in Crown Street. Congratulations go to Ed Ackman who successfully obtained donations in kind of computers, printers, workstations, hardware and software, an ISDN link and much more, to the value of \$60-80,000. The Internet Cafe was launched on Wednesday, June 13th.

Community Service Committee: Michael Austin chaired this committee which aspired to the ideology of "Creating Awareness and Taking Action" both within and outside our local "Rocks" community. Some solid work has been done, by members of this committee, to reinforce our ongoing community programme and to set new initiatives in place.

Highlights from our year include:

- Another successful children's party, this time catering for 100 at the King George V Centre;
- Provision of wiring at Fort Street School for the computers we provided last year; and more dictionaries for the Migrant English Classes project;
- Provision of play equipment for the new "Mums and Toddlers" group at the KGV; and
- A fire door at Darling House (seniors), to enable ongoing accreditation and Sister Gemma's play lunches for children of poor families.

Again, we were able to provide \$8000 to Stepping Stone House for their counselling of the young and vulnerable and, more recently, came to their rescue when the water heater needed replacement.

Our new project this year has been in helping schizophrenia research. We recognised that this disease affects more than one in ten people and is a significant cause of anti-social behaviour, leading to family break-ups, unemployability and homelessness. Research to date has been minimal and our keynote speaker, Don McDonald, left a lasting impression on the club in April. Dr Ed Butterworth has published an awareness piece in "Woman's Day" and the Club gave some research equipment for use

at the University of New South Wales. We hope to follow the progress of their scientists and to encourage further research.

For next year, some good work has already been done by Peter J Nilson, involving Winston Reinboth, to initiate a hospitality industry training programme for local young unemployed adults. You will hear more about this over the next few months.

Youth Service Committee: A strong committee, chaired by Tom Gervay, set out to achieve the majority of activities suggested by District at start of the year. With appropriate funding from the Club most of the objectives have been achieved with good outcomes. Key members of the committee have importantly agreed to continue their activities for the coming 12 months to capitalise on the work to date and ensure an outstanding 2001-2002.

Highlights of 2000-2001 include:

- Paul Nemeth supported by Lynette Bailey established a partnership with Sydney Boys and Sydney Girls High Schools to support students with Rotary Activities. Likewise Max Connery ensured that Stepping Stone House students also participated when applicable.
- Bruce Hill has been a highly successful Councillor for our exchange students Audrey Mohr and Audrey Maurer and will continue his role with our incoming student Ita Wolfram. He was supported by Denzil Byrne and Tony Smith and by host families which included the Opiats, Westmacotts and the Jaffrays.
- Sail Training under the direction of Maurice York and with the assistance of Tony Smith and Phil Edmunds provided opportunity for 18 youths from the Rocks area and Stepping Stone House to raise self-confidence and esteem on a 5 day cruise on the Svanen. This programme while undoubtedly successful is to be re-evaluated for cost benefit.
- Tony Thorp and Phil Edmunds coordinated the selection of the two Sydney Cove participants to RYLA this year and passed on two other outstanding candidates to represent other clubs.

The committee also selected and sent students to:

- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF),
- RYPEN,
- Siemens' Summer Seminar, Science School,
- Rotary Adventure in Citizenship,
- Honeywell Engineering Summer Science School and
- the Model United Nations Assembly MUNA.

The Committee had a good time and all operations were within budget.

The coming year will see each of the above activities expanded to cement the new relationships and to work with the Vocation Committee to provide wider opportunities for youth.

Regatta Committee: Gerri Evans shared with us a vision of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove owning the highest profile and most prestigious charity boating event on Sydney Harbour which came together as a result of a consolidated year comprising of a large number of Coves to bring this event together. The key objective of putting twelve months energy behind this program was to involve the whole of the club to raise sufficient funds to foster other key functions of the Club.

Almost everyone in the Club had a role in the final few weeks. The team that was part of the full year's preparation, led by Gerri Evans, included Paul Ward-Harvey, Bill Little, Robert Bruce, Tony Smith and Michael Maher. Special thanks to our administrative assistant Jane Stranger, and the corporates who supported us. It is great to report that Alan Amodeo, Chairman of Child Flight, and who secured the naming sponsor for us, has become a member of the Club.

The November 2000 Regatta resulted in a record \$200,000 net profit. 60% of these funds was distributed between the two beneficiaries, namely The Sydney Children's Hospital and Child Flight. The event on the day co-ordinated yachts at the CYCA, motor cruisers from RMYCPP, The Captain Cook Cruiser, a small contingent of skiffs and two helicopters. The concept of involving a variety of different craft will be extended in the 2001 Regatta.

District 9750 Conference in March was an ideal opportunity to showcase our event to other clubs in the district and at the same time present the 'payback' of becoming a sales channel by securing corporate sponsors for our event. A proposal has been completed and an activity program planned to attend other clubs' meetings to follow up on this presentation commencing on 18 June.

The 2001 Regatta concept has been broadened in an attempt to link the 'Sydney Hobart' psychic to ensure our event remains different from our three main competitors. The planning for the 2001 Regatta has taken into consideration broadening the corporate supporters and sales support from Sydney Children's Hospital. We have also attended to ideas to attract media attention. Our goal is \$400,000 gross for 16 November 2001. This amount can be achieved if we secure a naming sponsor and grow both the number of yachts and cruisers available and the level of the size of the craft relative to the package price secured.

With now just four months before the event the focus is on securing the naming sponsor and completing the marketing material."

YEAR 14 - 2001-02: PRESIDENT GREG PROWSE

Mankind is our Business



"Coves, during the past year we have seen the best of times and the worst of times. None of us will ever forget the events of September 11 and the subsequent repercussions throughout the world. Nor will I ever forget the wonderful year that I have had in serving you all as President of this Club. It has truly been the very best of times.

Our Club in its 14th year has continued with the traditions and culture that have been laid down by our Past Presidents and their management teams. I pay tribute to our past leaders who have laid the foundations of this great Club. It has been a real pleasure to undertake my role this past year because of the tremendous support given to me by not only the Board but also many other Coves who have always said yes and worked behind the scenes, doing whatever is asked of them, never seeking recognition, just providing service above self. I am honoured to serve Rotary in the company of such Rotarians.

I would like to summarise the fantastic achievements of our Club during the past year, not only to acknowledge the sterling efforts of club members, and there is always the possibility of omitting someone, but also for the benefit of our many newer club members who may not be aware of the full extent of our Club's activities.

Board:

Our Board members have been an excellent team to work with and have provided strong support to me throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with them. The Board comprised:

Andrew Jaffray (President Elect), John McKernan (Vice President), Rob Taggart (Club Services), Graham Firth (Secretary) John Henderson (Treasurer) Tom Gervay (Youth) Eva Sandler (International) Peter Meares (Vocational) Michael Austin (Community) Gerri Evans (Regatta)

Unfortunately, Andrew moved to Orange and was unable to take over the presidency for the next year and Gerri moved to Brisbane during the year.

Secretary: Graham Firth in his second year kept the paperwork flowing and very capably made my job that much easier. Thank you, Graham.

Treasurer: John Henderson in his usual quiet mannered style kept the Club on an even financial keel throughout the year. This was his third year as Treasurer and it is an onerous task to be available every week on the front desk, missing out on fellowship and usually half the meeting. John both you and your able assistant, Michael Blake, are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Club Services:

Club Services, the operational side of our Club ran like a well-oiled machine under the leadership of Rob Taggart. He also chaired the membership committee which presented a steady flow of enthusiastic new members who in their short time with the Club made significant contributions. In some cases their youth and in others their prior Rotary experience will I am sure provide the future strength and leadership of our Club.

I am extremely proud to have inducted into our Club Peter Roberts, Alan Strudwick, Richard Deane, Marie O'Halloran, Simon Knight, Geoff Appleton, Dominic Williams, Karen Vickers, Derek White, Martin Clowes, Meg Campbell-Dowling, Michael Lowe, Walter Hodgetts, David Godkin, Kelvin Campbell and Doug Potter. It was pleasing to have Walter and Geoff rejoin the club following career moves back to Sydney.

On a rather sad note we bid farewell to Peter Clarke, Giancarlo Scala, Kirby Grattan, Andrew Jaffray and Gerri Evans, who through career changes were forced to move away from Sydney. They made significant contributions to the Club and will be sorely missed.

Fellowship activities were very capably coordinated by Cecilia White who really demonstrated an artistic flair in providing Coves and guests with some memorable Board Room Bashes. A Rocks walking tour, art at the Opiats and a different style of art in Waterloo were hardly what our traditional bashes have been in the past. Well done Cecilia.

Inspired by Michael Costello, the informal gathering at Rossini's after our Friday morning meetings has proven to be very popular and an ideal avenue for committee meetings and fellowship. A great opportunity for the President to catch up.

The bulletin, the lifeblood of the club, was produced without fuss each week by Philip Edmonds (editor) and for part of the year by Krista Elliott and the remainder by Eva Sandler (publisher). The bulletin continued to be of a very high standard and always provided a good read each Friday. Thanks to our team for a job well done and thanks also to the many Coves who contributed content during the year.

Our programme director, Guy Glenny, with the capable support of Tony Smith, gave us a fabulous speakers' programme this year. It was varied, entertaining and informative. The highlight of our Friday mornings. A President's worst nightmare is not having a speaker turn up. However this did not happen although I was worried once or twice. It was pleasing to take on board the suggestion from club members that they wanted to hear more Coves speak. In fact by years' end Coves were guest speakers at over 25% of meetings. This certainly contributed to the overall quality and success of the programme as we all know that Coves usually are top quality speakers. Thanks for a great year Guy and Tony.

Our Chief Petty Officers for the year were Peter Clarke for the first few months, until he unfortunately had to return to Perth and for the remainder of the year, Tony Smith. They both created with their ready wit and fun atmosphere at our weekly meetings. Certainly a hard act to follow. My special thanks to Tony who was great company at the head table as well as being my minder, particularly when it came to raffle time.

The Duty Roster was, for the twelfth year to my knowledge, again very capably organised by Bill Fairbanks, our unsung hero who ensured that for every week, Coves were on board to meet and greet club members and guests. It is this friendly welcome that sets the tone to our meetings. Bill, your continuing commitment to this task and your added focus this year on the Matthew Flinders re-enactment voyage, have made a big contribution to Rotary this year.

For the benefit of the IT challenged a website is not a spider's home. Our website which has been set up and maintained by Maurice York can be viewed at www.sydneycoverotary.com. Thank you Maurice for keeping our club abreast of the IT revolution and facilitating internal as well as external communication.

Captain Trevor Haworth has provided us with undoubtedly the best Rotary venue in the world. The Captain Cook Cruises together with the outstanding friendly service of the crew has been a key driver in the establishment and maintenance of the culture of our Club. Thank you so much Trevor and all crew members.

District Matters:

The District Conference in Canberra was attended by a number of Coves and partners thanks to the persistent efforts of Thelma Wansley who has been the driving force in the Club for this event for many years. It was very pleasing to witness the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow to Thelma at the District Conference in recognition of her service to Rotary, in particular the conference. Congratulations Thelma you are a tireless worker for Rotary.

Our Club has a reputation for not supporting the District yet a large number of Coves have during the year been very involved in district committees as well as contributing to our own Club activities. I thank the following Coves for their valuable work which is seldom fully appreciated by our Club:

David Brawn-Chairman, Youth & Young Adult Committee, Assistant Governor Group A, Youth Exchange Committee; Geoff Charters-incoming Chairman Livewire Committee; Roger Cherry-National Youth Science Forum; Phillip Edmonds-Linga Longa Project; Graham Firth-Chairman Livewire Committee; Tom Gervay-Chairman National Youth Science Forum; Alistair Gray-Chairman Hope For The Children Committee, mentor to Botany and Maroubra Clubs; Peter Lanham-Group Study Exchange; Fiona Lavan-Chairperson Group Study Exchange Committee; John Lee-Secretary Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; Gary Price-Chairman Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; Alan Strudwick-Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; Paul Ward-Harvey-Assistant Governor Group B (part Year), Secretary Youth Exchange Committee, Chairman National Engineering Summer School; Dominic Williams-Model United Nations Assembly; and I was also the Chairman of the Rotaract Committee.

There are undoubtedly other Coves who have contributed to district matters and I apologise for omitting an acknowledgement of their contribution.

Fund Raising:

The regatta was our major fundraising event for the year and raised \$118,000 of which \$60,000 was donated to the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick and \$10,000 to Childflight. This fantastic achievement could not have been possible without the many hours of work undertaken by our Regatta Director, Gerri Evans and by Bill Little and Bob Bruce who co-ordinated the sponsors and yachts. It was pleasing to see a large number of Coves involved in the organisation and running of the event this year. In recognition of her efforts over three years, Gerri was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow prior to her relocation to Brisbane. On behalf of all the Club service committees I sincerely thank all those who contributed to the success of the regatta, for without the funds raised we would not be able to participate in our many community projects.

Our golf day at Killara which was again very capably organised by Graham Lightfoot and his team raised almost \$18,000. It was a fabulous day. Thanks must go to Bob Bruce for his major contributions in sponsorship from McWilliams and auction prizes, together with all other Coves who participated on the day. Chris Cotman, a former club member once again ran the auction and did a tremendous job in extracting the last dollars from guests. Thank you Chris.

The ABAC conference was a once off fundraising opportunity where we assisted in the administration. Total funds raised should exceed \$12,000. Cecilia White did a great job in co-ordinating rotaractor and Coves involvement which was supported by very positive feedback from delegates. It was pleasing to see the tremendous response by Coves, particularly some of our newer members, in volunteering for this project. Well done Cecilia.

Community Service:

Michael Austin in his second year as chairman has continued to build our relationship with the Rocks community and to identify its needs. The rocks walking tour fellowship night was an eye opener to the Coves who attended as it provided a real insight into the work which has been undertaken by our committee over the years.

- Continued liaison with the Rocks community
- Children's Christmas party for Rocks residents
- Providing a cooking stove to the Abraham Mott Centre and working with the Vocational Committee on an internet facility at the centre.
- Refurbishment of a bathroom at Stepping Stone House
- Funding a counselling service at Stepping Stone House
- Providing a specialised computer to NISAD for schizophrenia research
- Clothing and toys for the bushfire emergency relief.

Committee members are to be congratulated for their very active service to our local community.

Youth:

Tom Gervay in his second year as chairman, maintained our strong involvement in youth projects. The committee was very active and paid considerable attention to evaluating the quality and benefits of the many programs. Special thanks must go to Ita's host families, the Bradleys, Amodeos, Middletons and the Ward-Harveys. Without their support we could not participate in the exchange programme.

- Our outgoing overseas student is Jacob Stott
- Our incoming students were Emma Nagy and Ita Wolfram who impressed every Cove with her charming personality. She will be sorely missed from our meetings when she returns to Austria on 29th June.
- Ongoing liaison with Sydney Boys and Sydney Girls High schools has provided candidates for many youth programs as well as two very entertaining debates against the Coves.
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment - our Club with support from rotaractors virtually ran the program this year. Our two sponsored students gained much from their attendance.
- National Youth Science Forum - we sent three students to the forum and have nominated four for selection to the forthcoming forum. Coves have volunteered for the interview process.
- Sail Training program is being evaluated.
- DAVS (Drugs Alcohol and Violence) - a donation of \$400 was made to the district committee.
- T-shirts supplied to KGV Centre for their basketball challenge.
- Three young people sponsored to Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference.

International:

Eva Sandler took on the challenge of leading the committee in the year after a major project in the Solomons and also taking on the bulletin publishing half way through the year. It was a difficult year in trying to establish contacts in the Solomons to determine local needs in a very political environment with a very depressed economy and lack of infrastructure. Progress is being made in exploring opportunities and we should be able to recommence assistance to this region in the next year.

- Research was undertaken on a potential timber business to assist people in the Solomons.
- Funds will be set aside from the ABAC project to provide assistance to Australian Doctors International in providing health facilities in the Fly River area of Papua New Guinea.
- The committee is in process of organising medical equipment for the above project.
- Home hosting and support was provided to the visiting Group Study Exchange team from New Jersey.

- We continue to support a child through the World Vision program
- Provision of counselling support to our ambassadorial scholar-Katrin Bollander

A frustrating year for the committee in that we were not able to do any hands-on projects. Eva, thank you for your hard work.

Vocational:

Peter Meares accepted the leadership of this committee at the eleventh hour and in his usual efficient manner promoted a number of initiatives ie

- Provision of an internet facility at the Abraham Mott Centre is currently being put together by Ed Ackman which follows on from a similar larger exercise for the Salvation Army last year. Well done Ed.
- Breakfast session on a business ethics hypothetical presented by club members.
- Job talks presented by a number of Coves throughout the year.
- Guest speaker on Globalisation and Business Ethics.
- Investigation of a business management program for nonprofit organisations. Peter, thank you for your support and efforts through the year.

Conclusion:

I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of leading our Club during the past year. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with all club members in fulfilling our rotary goals. It will be year that I will never forget thanks to your support and encouragement.

My very best wishes to John McKernan and his incoming Board, our Club is in excellent hands and will I am sure continue to be the best club that one could ever hope to join.

Farewell"

YEAR 15 - 2002-03: PRESIDENT JOHN MCKERNAN

Sow the Seeds of Love



"Friends, It is my pleasure to report to the Club on behalf of the Board for the Rotary year 2002/2003.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for the last year. The Club is a great one; in fact quite unique amongst Rotary clubs throughout the world. In its short 15 years it has established itself as a vibrant, happy, exciting place to be every Friday morning. You can never be quite sure what you will experience - laughter, knowledge, fellowship and occasionally sadness. Whether it is music by talented young people, job talks or the highest profile speaker the meeting is an enjoyable experience. I sincerely hope the members feel that this has been the case in this Rotary year.

In last year's report Greg Prowse referred to the best of times and the worst of times. Regrettably nothing has changed in the last year. We have endured the tragedy of the Bali bombing with the loss of many Australian lives, the Iraq war and, although no Australian lives were lost, there were losses amongst the other coalition forces. More importantly a lot of innocent Iraq citizens lost their lives in this unfortunate war. The world remains an unhappy place.

In May our past President and Paul Harris Fellow Peter Lanham passed away. Peter made an enormous contribution to the Club as the 3rd President and subsequently in many roles within the Club. Peter will be missed and our thoughts and prayers have been with his family.

Another passing caused the Club members much sadness. The second son of John & Jill Henderson passed away very suddenly when in apparent perfect health. Our love and prayers went to both John & Jill at this time. Many members of the Club have assisted the family in overcoming this very personal tragedy.

The support of all Coves over the last year has made my task so much easier. All members of the Board have contributed to the success of the Club's activities over the year. I am grateful to their magnificent efforts. They have given service above self to ensure the achievements of this great Club in the Rotary world and in the community at large are in fact achieved. The following reports by individual Directors will highlight the Club's successes.

BOARD:

The Board has worked well as a team. I have enjoyed the privilege of working with them to achieve the successes we have had. The Board comprised:

Rob Taggart (President Elect), Graham Firth (Vice President), Geoff Appleton (Club Services), Maurice York (Secretary), John Henderson (Treasurer), Paul Nemeth (Youth), Beulah Warren (International), John Lee (Vocational), Cecilia White, Suzanne Campbell (Community)

Graham Firth resigned from the Board in May for personal reasons. He remains a member of the Club but is on Leave of Absence till the end of the year. With regret I accepted the resignation of Cecilia when a career move took her to Newcastle. We all wish her well both professionally and personally.

Secretary: Maurice York commenced his 2 year term as Secretary. He has kept the paper work flowing, the minutes well recorded and made it easier for me. Thank you Maurice.

Treasurer: What can I say John except a job very well done. 4 years is a long time to hold a job in Rotary. Your smiling face is there every Friday giving us all a warm welcome to the meeting. You miss a lot of the meeting each week while the books are balanced and the head count completed. I hope in the next Rotary year you will enjoy all the meeting, the fellowship and perhaps be able to arrive a little later. John - a job well done - you deserve a break. Thank you personally for your support and loyalty.

Chief Petty Officer: My thanks go to Geoff Charters and to his assistants Simon Knight & Tony Smith for the role they have played at Friday meetings. The money they raise during the fines session makes a significant contribution to the funds we have available to complete our project work.

REGATTA UPDATE - PRESIDENT ELECT, ROB TAGGART: Rob provided valuable input into the review process for future Regattas. This was needed as both Bill Little and Bob Bruce expressed a desire to step back just a little after many years of outstanding work on the event. Both do remain involved as they feel the Regatta is very much part of them. This contribution is acknowledged with gratitude by the Club.

Fund Raising: The Club sponsors 2 major fund raising events each year - the Regatta on Sydney Harbour and the Golf Day at the Killara Golf Club. We are very grateful to the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and to the Killara Golf Club for their support in our endeavours.

The funds raised support a number of activities. The major beneficiary is the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick. The 2nd beneficiary this year was Child Flight. Support has also gone to the Chesalon Homes run by Anglicare. Funds raised by the Regatta and Golf Day are not used by the Club for the purposes of the day to day running of the Club. 60% of the funds raised go to the beneficiaries. The remaining 40% goes to support charitable activities nominated by the members. We as a Club support activities all over Sydney as well as overseas. The International Committee report details the work done in Gizo in the Solomon Islands. A group from our Club was joined by a group from the Tamworth Rotary Club to undertake this important work. For the first time the Club agreed that we would give 2.5% of our 40% to the Rotary Foundation. Paul Harris Fellowships, if given would be over and above that 2.5%.

CLUB SERVICES - DIRECTOR GEOFF APPLETON: With births (Karen Vickers), marriages (Fiona Lavan), and the passing of Peter Lanham and Greg Henderson, this year has been a roller coaster of emotions, but has clearly

demonstrated the closeness and the family spirit of Sydney Cove. It is a privilege to be a member. Whilst individuals are correctly mentioned below, most of our Club are actively (often quietly) involved in our work.

GOLF: Andy Buttfield had no hesitation in taking on this task. He gathered some support and co-ordinated an excellent day that raised a net \$12,721. This is the largest single contributor to our funds apart from the Regatta, and was a very commendable effort, particularly in the current climate.

MEMBERSHIP: We have inducted 8 new members this Rotary year and 3 have been approved by the Board:

- Megan Gervay, Classification: Art Consultancy, Proposer: Tom Gervay.
- Martin Whittaker, Classification: Building Construction, Proposer: David Brawn
- Bruce Christie, Classification: Financial Planning (Additional Active), Proposer: Denzil Byrne

We lost a few members this year as always, but Newcastle gained our Cecilia White, and Adelaide gained Peter Hilson and Michael Blake.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Members were asked which "Leading Australians" that had spoken to our Club over the years were still top of mind. Eleven people were cited: Bob Carr, Tim Fisher, Sir David Martin, Sid Londish, John Morrison, Graeme Murphy, Peter Sinclair, Ken Done, General Peter Cosgrove, Trevor Haworth and Nick Greiner. This list serves to encourage others to speak and to recognise the good work of Rotary and particularly Sydney Cove.

ATTENDANCE & ROSTER: Bill Fairbanks continues to provide a service that ensures the smooth running of the Club meetings. We do not take this work for granted. It is very much appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP: Meg Campbell-Dowling has orchestrated a wonderful program this year. Cocktail parties from David Scarlett, then Doug Potter (Air New Zealand), over 40 people attending the Magistrates Court courtesy of James Garbett, the Pub Poetry night featuring Bruce Hill and John King, a Bridge Climb, the Rocks Walk with Michael Austin, Debates and MUNA. Congratulations Meg.

PROGRAM: Guy Glennly has continued to ensure we always have a good speaker, and we have enjoyed some excellent job talks too.

BULLETIN: Eva Sandler dedicated a lot of time to delivering a full and interesting publication each week. To her, we all owe a vote of thanks.

EDUCATION: Thanks also to Phil Edmonds who has provided information to members old and new regarding Rotary projects and history.

CHANGE-OVER DINNER (27 June): Suzanne Campbell has accepted the co-ordination role. Lea Rushton and Troy Nicholson are collecting names and money each Friday.

YOUTH REPORT - DIRECTOR PAUL NEMETH: On taking up the position of Director of Youth last year with little experience, Paul's approach to the position was to:

- Review all programs of the previous year as to our ongoing commitment
- Review the programs in light of cost vs results
- Investigate any other programs which would be worth adding to our youth committee
- Investigate the diversity with which our funds are distributed.

Reviewed changes:

- Initial findings were that the 4 day sailing program of \$11,000 was vastly over-priced for the value it gave to the participants and we subsequently dropped the program.
- The Youth Student exchange was reviewed and was deleted from this year's program.
- Special youth projects, which were "under wraps", did not eventuate and those monies have been saved.

Programs which we have supported this year and have found to be extremely worthwhile are:

- RYPEN & RYLA
- National Youth Science Forum
- Pan Pacific Music Forum

The above four programs can be supported with confidence and have proved to be extremely relevant.

Investigations into alternative programs have not been easy. There are obviously an enormous amount of programs that seem valid but have question marks hanging over them. With this in mind, we have approached the two schools that should be used as our pool for drawing youth and we are meeting with Sydney Boys High School Careers Activity Master to discuss a permanent relationship, with a dual focus:

1. To set up a source where by the youth of SBHS will raise money for charity, but will use Rotary to channel that money through to organisations that we mutually agree upon and where we may add one dollar for every three raised to support that fund raising; and.
2. To provide the Rotary SBHS annual Award, to be presented to one or more students who have actively supported the Rotary principles of raising money for the benefit of the community. Once this plan is completed it will be taken to Sydney Girls High School for a similar program.

We believe more should be done with Rotartact and it is our hope next year, to put in place a program that encourages them to carry out analysis and make proposals to us, proposals we can either support physically or financially.

The Youth Exchange program has been resurrected for next year with one student accepted into the Club. I repeat my point that, I think that the cost vs the success of these exchange students is difficult to justify, however, out of respect for those members who want to give this another try, we have agreed to support the program.

We have not used the complete budget allocated to us this year, but would suggest that we continue the learning process of how and where to spend the money wisely.

DISTRICT MATTERS: The Club makes a significant contribution to District activities. As President I attended most of the President's meetings. Rob Taggart & John Lee assisted in my absence. Thank you.

We were criticised in the past for lack of support, I now believe this has been well and truly rectified. Coves assist at all levels in District affairs. There has been a willingness to assist and make a genuine contribution. This has been the case this year and I am sure will continue in to the future. Thank you to all those members who give up their time to do this and who, on many occasions, travel long distances to do so.

INTERNATIONAL - DIRECTOR BEULAH WARREN: From the first meeting of the International Committee in July the goal has been to mount a successful aid project in a country of need. The committee elected Simon Knight to be the project leader and asked all members to put forward proposals.

The six to eight proposals were assessed on a number of criteria - the most significant being:

- Was the project requested by local people and deemed to be essential;
- Would carrying out the project involve local people;
- Was the project one in which members of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove could have direct involvement, working alongside local people;
- Was the situation safe; and
- Would the Rotarians have time for fun.

The outcome was that the Provincial Hospital at Gizo in the Solomon Islands met all the criteria. In November Simon Knight was sent on a reconnaissance mission to determine the feasibility of working on projects suggested by the Hospital staff and supported by the local Rotary Club. We were also informed that the Rotary Club of Tamworth had sent a team to Gizo the year before and Dr. Les Rae of Rotary Club of Tamworth was keen to have a team from Tamworth accompany the Sydney Cove team. Simon returned with a comprehensive report, which covered not only the priority projects but also details of accommodation, eating establishments,

communication and recreational opportunities. Planning continued into 2003 with countless emails between Simon, Danny and Diva (Gizo) and Les Rae of Tamworth.

The priority items from the Hospital Staff were:

- to have the incinerator functioning,
- to have the maternity wing completed and functioning,
- to replace the women's ablution block.

The International Committee met regularly at the office of John Hastings, to ensure planning progressed smoothly. Meetings were held with Les Rae from Tamworth in Sydney and Tamworth. Strategic planning for the work to be done, for member's safety and health, and command structure was discussed and documented. A total of 22 volunteers committed themselves to the project, 17 RCSC members with relatives and friends and 5 RCT members and friends.

At the time of writing, the Team have already moved the Incinerator and repaired it. It is functioning but not to total satisfaction as yet. The walls of the maternity wing are being lined and the old ablution block has been partly demolished and cleaned thoroughly. New work is now completed. The Team found the water refreshing, so swimming was great for relaxation. The Club was fully briefed at the meeting on May 30. Congratulations on a job well done. Special thanks go to Simon Knight for his efforts as Team Leader. The time he gave to the project was very generous.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE - DIRECTOR JOHN LEE:

Establishment of two Bootup Internet Cafes: With the strong support of Ed Ackman, the VSC planned, organised and implemented the design and construction of two Internet cafes at the Rocks and Pyrmont. The Cafes' are designed for young people without access to computers, as well as older people who wish to maintain cheap but effective contact with their children and friends.

There were significant donations from suppliers, again organised by Ed Ackman, to provide computers (Apple and Dell), fit out of workstations, carpeting and painting.

The opening of the Centres, by the now Lord Mayor, Lucy Turnbull. at The Abraham Mott Centre was well attended, with good support from the Sydney City Council and our Club.

Considering future cafes - other areas in the Rocks are being researched. Dell Computers have donated 10 PC computers this week. These are machines that have been used at Dell themselves, only months old, well specified and in excellent order.

Fort Street Primary School: We discussed the provision of web site development support and other computing matters with the Principal, in conjunction with Community Services Committee. We are currently looking at how the computer needs of the school are being met, with specific reference to the provision of printers. It was noted that any equipment that required consumables, printers etc, should be compatible with the Government tender list - so that the School can get supplies through the Government sources.

Four Way Test - innovative approach: Following recent years where we have used guest speakers and hypotheticals to bring out the elements of the Four Way Test, we are currently developing an interactive presentation in which we will conduct an "Options" event. (Like the wine options game where people get to select from a range of possible answers, and then progress when selecting the correct answer). We intend to amend this so that it would work on a table consensus approach, involving all table members in discussion. In the end there would one table as a "winner" and donated wine would be the prize. We are currently seeking an appropriate date for the event at a Club Breakfast.

Live Wire Program: The Live Wire program for 2002/3 saw 12 mentors from our Club and two of our mentored participants reaching the final five. We had one of these come second. The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove has been the major participant in terms of numbers of Mentors and Committee support since its inception and has the largest number of mentors from any Club.

In the coming year it is planned to devote some time to the explanation of the program and how mentors are involved in an endeavour to get newer Club members involved.

Job Talks: A key feature of the Rotary year is the ongoing provision of "Job talks" from Coves. The VSC negotiated a number of breakfasts, which would feature talks from Club Members - again a very successful program that saw presentations by Members of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests. This needs to be encouraged on a more regular basis.

Ethics - Guest Speaker: To highlight the importance of ethics in the business world, a guest speaker, James Green, State President, Australian Institute of Company Directors, spoke on issues currently impacting on Directors.

Rocks Return To Work Support: A "brainstorming session" was organised with Sydney Council Community workers in the Rocks and other areas, to develop a "kit" for Community Workers to assist people, especially women, who wish to return to the workforce. Following the "brainstorming session", and kit development, it is planned to develop training for Community Workers.

The issue of offering individual mentoring to young people identified by the Abraham Mott Centre will be pursued, as a vocational services matter, in coordination with the Youth Committee.

Abraham Mott - Sponsorship of a Graphics Trainee: A request was received from the Abraham Mott Community Centre to support a young person to undertake a State Government training course designed for graffiti artists. The scheme, established through the State Attorney Generals Department, is designed to train young people seen to have talent as artists, currently expressed through graffiti work, to undergo a one week training course after which they would return to the

Community Centres, and work with other young people to constructively channel their talents and enthusiasm to productive and community acceptable art works.

The Abraham Mott was given \$300 to replace the part time income for the person selected, a 20 year old male that lives apart from his family and supports himself by two part-time jobs, including one as a barman.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - DIRECTORS CECILIA WHITE, SUZANNE CAMPBELL: Through the keen participation of committee members, in particular Michael Austin, Community Services led a number of important initiatives in the year including:

KGV Recreation Centre (previously King George V Centre) – Xmas Party: was supported in particular by the efforts of Trevor Haworth. Guy Glenny made an excellent Father Christmas on a rather warm summer's evening! Thanks Guy.

KGV Recreation Centre – Art Classes: were supported through the donation of 10 painting easels for use at the Centre.

Darling House Aged Care Association Inc.: was supported through the donation of \$1,000 for the purchase of another fire door as part of the continuous upgrade of facilities.

Sister Gemma – Migrant Education: was supported through the donation of \$1,000.

Stepping Stone House: was supported with a donation of \$10,000. The efforts of many volunteer workers assisted in maintaining the property and its surrounds. Paul Tuck, Beulah Warren and Michael Austin provided expert services in the support of Stepping Stone House.

National Institute of Schizophrenia and Associated Disorders (NISAD): was supported through the donation of \$2,500 which will be used to purchase software to support ongoing research.

Fort Street Public School: our Club has a long-standing relationship with the school having funded computing equipment and media for their media room. This year support has also included assistance with the establishment of a school website.

Chamber of Commerce: is keen to work co-operatively with Rotary in addressing the needs of the local community and in doing so to avoid duplication of effort. This year we have participated in biannual Chamber of Commerce meetings.

Abraham Mott Centre: the major project at the centre in the year was the establishment of a Boot Up Internet Cafe. Initially progressed by the Vocational Services Committee the leveraging of this facility to provide services to a broader audience (e.g. Plus 55's and preschool) and the development of specific youth programs is currently being planned for 2003-2004 by Community Services.

In addition to all the above Michael Austin led a very successful Boardroom Bash Walking Tour of the Rocks area in the year and provided valuable support to both Directors.

CONCLUSION: I have enjoyed my year as President of the Club. To work with members who come from all walks of life broadens the experiences you gain from being an active Rotarian. We have a great Club, it is the members that make it so. I will certainly take many very happy memories into the "feather duster world" and look forward to being an active member of the Club in the years to come.

I wish Rob Taggart and his team all the best for his year as President of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove."

YEAR 16 - 2003-04: PRESIDENT ROB TAGGART

Lend a Hand



"Rotary International's theme for the year asked Clubs to seek a balanced program in furthering the Objects of Rotary by Lending a Hand:-

To the Family of Rotary, within our own Club. to our Vocations, to our Community, to our World

In reviewing the Club's projects and operations against these necessarily general global Rotary criteria, Sydney Cove has had a good year. But as you know, Sydney Cove frequently sets higher expectations of itself. With humility, I believe that the Club has excelled on the bases above and on many other fronts, reinforcing its strong and vibrant basis and continuing its good works in many communities.

In the report following, I will attempt to summarise the major works of Sydney Cove's Committees and operations, although I know that such a summary can never do full justice to the all the good people and the service they have given.

2003 / 2004 was built on the foundations laid by my 15 Presidential predecessors, their Boards and our cumulative Membership. They have passed custody of one of the most vibrant and interesting organisations with which one could be associated; approximately 100 Members, around two thirds of whom with their visitors meet weekly, all leaders in their own way.

Uniquely in my experience, the collective Member talent works in wonderfully co-operative ways, complementing each other not competing as is more commonly experienced when large numbers of successful people interact. An egalitarian forum where everyone is equal and individual contribution is respected and welcomed. A group where the natural ebbs and flows of Member capacity and willingness to give service are taken up and filled by another equally talented but different Member when required.

As service clubs globally face declining membership and in some cases commensurate relevance, how is it that Sydney Cove has gone against this trend and given increasing service to its communities? There are many factors, but I believe that if there was one common denominator, it would be that we have fun together while pursuing our community service interests through the vehicle of Rotary. It is the essence of our culture to take our community service works seriously, but ourselves somewhat less so. This is something special in organisations and we should continue to nurture it consciously.

I hope you have found the year rewarding and have enjoyed the fellowship that is at the heart of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

THE BOARD:

The Board has chartered the overall direction of the Club with balance, focus and commitment. It was fortunate to be able to conduct its monthly meetings at the professional suites of Deloitte, which provided a wonderful location for its important deliberations. In the apparent nature of our world these days, the Board underwent its own partial metamorphosis as, properly, Directors gave priority to their vocations when appropriate. That willing and capable successors were available to step into Club leadership roles when the incumbents' needs required, is testimony to the depth and quality of Sydney Cove Membership.

President Elect: Geoff Appleton served as PE for the second time, having been transferred internationally before his previously expected Presidency. He has provided strong, quiet support this year and brings a great depth of Rotary, professional experience and personal qualities that equip him well to become the next President.

Secretary: Maurice York completed a second highly efficient and effective term as Secretary. This service was all the more commendable given his vocational challenges during the year and the Club shared his delight in making a successful transition.

Treasurer: David Hart brought an actuary's perspective to this vital and demanding function. He gathered a team of assistants for weekly desk duties and took a strategic view of the Clubs finances which helped many of us better understand the nuances of accounting.

Club Services: Alistair Gray had hoped to redirect some of his energies back to Sydney Cove after his sustained support of many District matters, but unfortunately these demands and work-associated travel meant that we didn't see as much of him as we'd like. Meg Campbell-Dowling stepped into the Directors role and continued the momentum of this vital operational role.

Community Services: Suzanne Campbell, having assumed the Director's role early, headed a highly effective Committee with a broad range of community projects continued, extended and initiated. Vocational demands late in the year saw her anoint Lea Rushton who continued the excellent programs.

International: Beulah Warren headed a fully engaged Committee, fresh from the significant contributions in the Solomon's Islands. Political and social instability meant that the planned projects were deferred although some limited works were undertaken and the Club committed to working at a higher level to assist in the country's desperately needed reconstruction.

Youth: Paul Nemeth continued leading the Club's strong commitment to our future leaders. The Committee identified many outstanding candidates to participate in the highly regarded and well established Rotary programs and commenced thinking about the need to offer similar opportunities to some less-privileged young people.

Vocational Services: John Lee headed this Committee with thorough professionalism. He delivered a balanced program of intra-Club speakers, an interactive business ethics meeting, leading management speakers and continued leading support for mentors within Operation Livewire. As John's commitments took him away from the Club in the latter part of the year Elizabeth Livingstone assumed the Directorship and took the opportunity to establish early plans for the new year.

I thank the expanded and dynamic Board for their excellent contribution to the Club overall and for effective leadership of Committees and key operational functions. I have greatly enjoyed working with each Member and value the support given to me.

CLUB SERVICES:

David Brawn assumed responsibility for Membership during the year and drove a result that placed Sydney Cove at the forefront of District outcomes. It was a pleasure to introduce 15 new and returning Members;

Linda Knight, John Snelson, Vic Davies, Kerry Marshall, Lucinda Callie, Claudia Challen, Kirby Grattan, Norm Hilton, Ingrid Orth, Denis Smith, Leanne Allen, Ian Cameron, Kate Morison, Jean Leviol and David Murray. Members at large look forward to serving with you.

Sadly, the Rotary year commenced without Peter Lanham, Charter Member and Club President in 1990-1991, who died during the previous year. He is remembered with affection and for his significant and humorous contribution to the Club and wider Rotary world. We also farewelled some Members whose circumstances took them away from the Club and thank them for their service. They were Walter Hodgetts, Doug Potter, Julie Storr, Alan Strudwick, Malcolm Webber and John Lee. The Club finished the year with 104 Members, up from 97 at the beginning.

The Club appointed 3 Honorary Members; Past President Graham Lightfoot who resigned due to Shirley's health needs; Mrs Muriel Dawes the long-term and primary individual benefactor of the Regatta who died in May 2004 and Mr John Messenger, Commodore of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, hosts of the Regatta. All have provided outstanding practical support to the Club and its works and it is appropriate to recognise them in this way.

Past Presidents agreed to establish a "Friends of Sydney Cove" group to support the efforts of current Club Members. A steering committee Chaired by Graham Lightfoot has commenced preliminary work and more details will emerge in the coming year.

Club stalwart John Lee was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition for exceptional service to Sydney Cove and its Members in Rotary, professional and personal dimensions.

Whilst most Members give service generously without seeking personal recognition, I believe that the Club should look to any appropriate avenue to recognise exceptional service, which contemporaneously promotes Rotary and its works.

Eva Sandler / Gerber's Bulletin service pressed on into a fifth year at its established professional standard. The Bulletin is a vital organ of the Club and requires journalistic skills, production knowledge and a significant weekly commitment to a deadline. Eva has carried all these functions with distinction and others such as John Lee, Tony Smith, Meg Gervay, Niels Warren and Martin Whittaker gained some insight to the demands when providing back-up during the year following her surgery and recuperation period. Perhaps its time for a Bulletin Committee to share this important load more widely.

Club Fellowship enhanced its recent tradition of innovative, informative and interesting social events under the Club's Psychology Master, Meg Campbell-Dowling. Boardroom Bashes continued with frequency and fascinating diversity including; acting classes at Fort Street School; City-to-Surf competitors preceded by an inspirational, theatrical, fun, fund-raising Calcutta conducted by Past President John Westmacott; tall ship sailing aboard Windeward Bound courtesy of Bill Fairbanks and Captain Sarah Parry; a return visit to Gary Price's Materialised; an appropriate BYO at beneficiary Stepping Stone House; a return to Costello's of Australia jointly hosted by Michael and Jamie; a harbourside release of John Morrisons' latest CD at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron courtesy of Andrew McIntyre; an informative function at the Sydney Children's Hospital; a quality wine tasting courtesy of McWilliams at Nikki Hoad's splendid workplace and perhaps appropriately as a finale, an insight to the family behind Captain Cook Cruises who are integral to Sydney Cove.

Speakers Program was again directed by Guy Glenny who paraded an impressive variety of quality speakers including Members job talks. With 15 new Members, we enjoyed gaining an insight to many vocations and some updates on those whose work has evolved or changed over time. Arguably, we should routinely schedule all Members for job talks so that everyone has a common and contemporary view of others' vocations and a sound acquaintance as a basis for service. We also heard from politicians; our Charter President Peter Watt; Ambassadorial Scholars; Maria Essen our Exchange Student; the visiting GSE team; members of the Maybanke Centre community centre at Pyrmont which houses our 3rd internet café; prominent journalists and business leaders; were runners-up in a debate with Sydney Boys High; held an interactive business ethics program;

witnessed a state-of-the-art photographic display by Regatta brochure supporter Russell Cunningham; hosted a recognition and early recommitment breakfast for Regatta sponsors; shared an eucumenical program within our Christmas cruise meeting and rejoiced in an inspirational and profitable aforementioned City-to-Surf Calcutta conducted by John Westmacott.

Marie O'Halloran put her stamp on the Sergeant-at-Arms role in a most emphatic and highly entertaining style. Her self-effacement and self-professed blue-collar, eastern suburbs convent preparation invited a wonderful sense of engagement which was roundly taken up by Members. Who will ever forget her metamorphosis from disinterested party ahead of the Rugby World Cup (played on a rugby court) to a hooker between two props, one of distinguished lineage although playing out of position and the other more suited physically to the front row but of doubtful rugby heritage? And the imagination behind Bandaged Bear day with Bill Little apparently blind more than once in a day. Or the Danish Royal wedding and Apple Donut? 100% performance from an absolute goddess.

COMMUNITY:

Suzanne Campbell led her Committee to a flying start with an early beginning and a huge commitment of time to our community projects. Within the Club's immediate geographic footprint these included computer refurbishment and website redevelopment at Fort Street School; palliative care at Aged Care facility Darling House; financial support of Sister Gemma's migrant education classes in the Rocks; financial support, children's presents and Member involvement for the 10th year at the KGV Christmas Party, a command performance by Santa Claus Guy Glenny; leveraging the 2nd internet café at Abraham Mott Centre for a Youth Task Force with Bovis Lend Lease, City of Sydney, Rocks Chamber of Commerce, Millers Point Residents Group, TAFE NSW and the NSW Police Department.

The broadly supported community-based mentoring program run from the Mott Centre in the Rocks is of itself very worthwhile and will be further enhanced as plans for a major community event develop. We also note with sadness the passing of Shirley Ball a magnificent leader of the Rocks, Millers and Dawes Point communities over several decades and through Michael Austin, are working to posthumously recognise her work by publishing her manuscript in the coming year.

The Committee and wider Club continued its broad support of and engagement with Stepping Stone House at several levels. This included the Clubs' equal second largest financial contribution to a beneficiary, with Members contributing to the design, planning, installation and equipping of a modern kitchen. Members also participated energetically with Rotaractors in a working bee and hold Board positions to continue this vital work. A fine example of Rotary's network and skills also emerged with the Committee instrumental in producing a compelling video showcasing Stepping Stone House's work with young people at risk. This was complemented by some of the past and present residents' courageous and moving visit to the Club to launch the video and share their stories.

Ed Ackman's commitment to providing internet cafes for needy communities continued passionately and saw the official opening of the 3rd site at the City of Sydney premises, Maybank Centre in Pyrmont. At the District Conference, the Club also offered assistance to other Clubs who might leverage Ed's expertise in providing cafes in other locations. The Club has recently committed to its 4th site at Woolloomooloo.

NISAD, the National Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders also benefitted from Sydney Cove support through financial contributions at District and Club level. From the latter, we were able assist in the purchase of computing equipment.

A final measure of the effectiveness of this Committee was demonstrated when Suzanne's vocational commitments required her to step aside in favour of a well-prepared successor, Lea Rushton. Lea already has her Committee operating well and another strong year is expected.

INTERNATIONAL:

The Committee started the year flush with the success of the 2003 visit to the Solomon's where for the 3rd year significant practical work was undertaken in building medical infrastructure in Honiara and Gizo. Plans were developed for another large-scale Club visit to complete an additional ablution block at Gizo Hospital but unfortunately, political, social and hospital staffing changes brought major uncertainty to the project and reluctantly, the planned visit for first half 2004 could not proceed.

Despite the Committee's natural disappointment and that of Club Members who had hoped to participate, the International Committee had another strong year under Beulah Warren's leadership and through new Member and Solomon's veteran Denis Smith, did carry out a smaller scale but vital visit in which a replacement alternator and specialist battery were purchased, shipped and installed.

The volatile environment and Member's concerns switched thoughts to assistance at a higher level where a range of interested parties determined to convene a "Wings of Change" conference in an attempt to assist Islanders in rebuilding a robust political, administrative and social structure. Paul Ward-Harvey and Simon Knight have been invited to attend and will do so to represent the Club.

Consequent upon previous visits to the Solomon Islands, a need for medical basic supplies was identified and through the good offices of Gary and Robyn Price, these were progressively collected, stored and safely transferred to their much needed destination.

Casual member of the Committee Ed Ackman introduced an unplanned opportunity to send much needed scientific calculators to Malawi in South Eastern Africa. Friends contributed generously for the funding and the Club was pleased to support this effort to ensure an effective outcome for all parties.

Capitalising on the proximity of the World Rugby Cup to the Club's world class Regatta in November, Michael Costello and Niels Warren were instrumental in producing a brochure announcing the Regatta and inviting visitors to Sydney to participate. The brochure was distributed by hotel concierges.

The Committee also actively supported the choice of Hoc Mai, The Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation as a named beneficiary of the 2004 Regatta.

YOUTH:

Having assumed Youth Committee leadership early in his Membership, Paul Nemeth's second year heading the Committee was characterised by active participation in a wide range of established Rotary programs. Prominent among these was the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) which seeks to develop and recognise 14-17 year olds to broaden their horizons and lift aspirations through a residential weekend seminar. Club Members Gary Price (District Chair) and John Lee (District Secretary) were active in conducting the program and promoting it at the District Assembly and Presidents' Meeting.

The Committee selected and sent outstanding students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) which is targetted at 18-25 year olds to equip them for current and future leadership roles. It encourages and develops specific practical leadership and social skills to apply in their respective communities following the one week residential program. The program clearly has immediate effects, with one candidate reporting back about his intention to change careers as a consequence.

Students were also selected and sent to the National Youth Science Forum in which some of Australia's best Year 11 science students participate over the summer vacation. The program stimulates students through input from acknowledged experts and encourages them to explore possible career paths and personal development.

MUNA, the Model United Nations Assembly, was supported through sending a school team to debate matters of political and social concern on behalf of their adopted country. The rich program builds bridges of peace and understanding and is increasingly important with geopolitical unrest.

To complete the Rotary program set, 2 students were sent to the Pan Pacific Music Conference and subsequently came to a Club meeting to demonstrate some of the new skills they'd acquired. Both the

Conference and playing on board a boat were new experiences and the Club was given a standing offer of musical assistance as a measure of appreciation. The Youth Committee led the Club's efforts to perpetuate the memory of Greg Henderson, son of John and Jill, by establishing the Greg Henderson Music Scholarship which also sent a talented young musician to the Conference and mounted a plaque at his former school, Barker College.

Maria Essen from Finland was an outstanding Youth Exchange student who participated broadly and maximised her experience and those that shared parts of it with her. The Club greatly appreciates the commitment of host families to facilitating this experience.

More broadly, the Club and Rotary throughout Australian Districts are undertaking a strategic review of the program into which Paul Ward-Harvey and David Brawn in their District roles will have significant input.

I was delighted to see the Club's first indigenous Australian sponsored student in a Rotary program and equally, encouraged that the Committee is thinking of ways in which disadvantaged youth might participate; perhaps the respective internet cafes are a source of possible candidates.

VOCATIONAL:

Led by the ubiquitous John Lee, the Committee which recognises the basis of one's Membership in Rotary had an excellent year. The Job Talks of new and established Members remain a highlight in the Club and with the healthy intake, we were treated to an almost monthly Member insight delight.

Geoff Charters spearheaded the Club's leading role in providing Mentors to the Rotary Operation Livewire program where young people compete on the basis of the plan for their new business idea. This practical service showcases Rotary and provides practical vocational input to aspirational young people. Many oblique benefits emerge in the candidates who came to visit and report on their experience, including an introduction to Rotaract for some.

Prominent Australian Institute of Company Directors' executive Jamie Green addressed the Club on the topical issue of corporate governance, addressing the key issues succinctly and proposing scenario solutions.

John Lee also led the Club in a fascinating and interactive business ethics meeting. Presented ostensibly as a hypothetical situation, the session comprehensively engaged Members in an environmental threat scenario which assumed an all-too-real feel and generated much follow-on discussion.

By exceptional personal example, John supported many Club Members who were challenged by vocational and / or personal transition. Drawing on an encyclopaedic base of knowledge and skills, an unheralded but vital measure of support was provided to many Members at their time of heightened need. As corporate changes continue with apparently escalating pace, they potentially threaten the traditional Rotary constituency and, arguably, Clubs should anticipate this and resource Vocational Committees appropriately going forward. As John's interests drew him in other directions, Elizabeth Livingstone assumed the Vocational Directorship and is actively planning to continue the Committee's momentum.

Throughout the year, many Coves used their vocational skills to assist individual Members and broader Club projects. The latter included providing and resourcing the Regatta office per favour of John Lee and John Pegg at St Leonards and support for the Fort Street School, Abraham Mott Centre and internet cafes in helping those seeking to commence or return to work.

Rotary membership is founded on one's vocation which when combined with service, tend to pervade all areas of Club activity. So it was this year at Sydney Cove.

FUND RAISING:

REGATTA: The Club conducted its 9th Regatta in November and clearly achieved its best ever outcome with net proceeds in excess of \$200,000. This exceptional result was largely the product of Herculean efforts by 3 key Members and great support from a diverse team of many others. Whilst the three Members to whom I refer prefer not to be separately recognised, it is important that the work of Bill Little, Bob Bruce and John Lee

be placed on this Club record. Based on respect for their wishes, I simply acknowledge that they brilliantly led and executed the total Regatta event. Cumulative proceeds now approach \$1,200,000.

The wider Regatta team in 2003 included the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) and staff, yacht and cruiser donors and their skippers / crews, corporate sponsors, the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Captain Cook Cruises, NSW Water Police, Raffle King John Hopper, donors-in-kind, Russell Cunningham who produces the brochure, Telstra Child Flight helicopter, television camera, still photographers, caterers, sponsors guests, Lord Mayor Lucy Turnbull as celebrity starter and Sydney Cove Members. (Apologies if I've overlooked anyone.)

More than any other single Sydney Cove activity, it is the Regatta that defines our Club in the wider community and it is the dominant fund-raising vehicle. This great current strength cannot however be taken for granted and as undertaken this year, a comprehensive review by the Club should be conducted annually. The review should encompass a conscious decision of all key stakeholders about continuation, key people to head the major functions of sponsors, yacht and cruiser support, central administration and host venue liaison, a critical assessment of all related operations and a decision on current year beneficiaries. Feedback from all participants should be actively sought and assimilated.

I'm delighted that Bill and Bob have agreed to continue their roles for the 2004 Regatta, that the CYCA through its Commodore John Messenger has agreed to conduct the regatta and host the after-function and that Simon Knight and I will help with administrative and operational matters. This is the Regatta "tight five" Committee.

The Regatta Office has had many locations over the years and in an attempt to gain some more stability and continuity for this vital function, we have agreed with the Rotary Club of Sydney to use their permanent CBD Club Office as this years' base. Simon Knight will run a shadow facility at his home office.

As a result, the Club presented cheques for \$120,000 to Sydney Children's Hospital and \$10,000 to Telstra Child Flight being the named beneficiaries.

GOLF DAY & CHARITY AUCTION: Andy Buttfeld and John King led the Club to its most successful result to date. Held again at the Killara Golf Club, in excess of \$20,000 was raised and it was appropriate that Andy presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Alzheimers's Australia (NSW) during June. Apart from spearheading our efforts with John King, Andy was surprised and moved to recognise a former colleague featured in the moving Alzheimer's video shown during the event.

Both the golf and auction contributed well to the overall result and designating the event as the official Club meeting boosted attendance at the Dinner as well. McWilliams Wines and Kone continued their proud record of participation and sponsorship support of the golf day and other Club activities. 101 playing golfers, up from 72 last year, almost filled the course to capacity and Andy and I have begun thinking about how we might continue this growth in coming years.

For many Members, the highlight of the evening was the performance of Auctioneer John Westmacott - the epitome of service above self. During a sustained and brilliantly entertaining auction, he teased out winning bids, occasionally to the mild surprise of

those against whom the successful bid was recorded. All this in the best of humour and good spirits in the interest of a very worthwhile cause.

DISTRICT 9750 and BEYOND:

The Club continued its strong support of District with a participation in a wide range of activities and programs. Members actively involved at the District level were; David Brawn (Chair District Youth and Membership Committees), Gary Price and John Lee (Chair and Secretary respectively of Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment), Fiona Lavan (Chair Group Study Exchange), Tom Gervay (Chair National Youth Science Forum), John Henderson (Treasurer Youth Exchange), Paul Ward-Harvey (Assistant District Governor), John McKernan and Elizabeth Livingstone (Conference Committee), Greg Prowse (Chair Rotaract), James Garbett (Linga Longa Committee) and Robert Lee (Siemens Science Experience Committee). Apologies for any omissions.

John McKernan headed the Club's organising support team of 7 Members at the District Conference, which ensured that the larger delegate contingent enjoyed a rich and stimulating program. At the Conference Business Session, the Club unsuccessfully proposed an electronic delivery option for Rotary Down Under with savings to be directed to the Rotary Foundation. It made a plenary session platform presentation which proposed that Clubs selectively share their fund raising and project activities, using current Sydney Cove examples.

The Club submitted and had published articles within Rotary Down Under, most prominently the Sydney Cove and wider national Rotary participation in the re-enactment of Matthew Flinders circumnavigation of Australia. Even international visitors to the Club were sufficiently inspired by the experience to submit articles for publication.

Incoming Office Bearers and Members in their District roles represented the Club well at District Assembly which augurs well for the next tranche of Club Leaders.

Michael Costello attended the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan and joined the Club in the experience by ringing the Sergeant-at-Arms during a meeting.

Paul Nemeth and Thelma Wansley financially and practically supported Sydney City Rotaract at their Changeovers and Bowls Day. Members participated in a range of activities including guest speaker roles, debating, lawn bowls, weekend tours, working bees and themed dinners. It was a credit to the Club that Leanne Allen chose Sydney Cove when she moved on from her distinguished service in Rotaract.

FAREWELL: The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove has completed an excellent year. At the heart of this is the quality and diverse contribution of Members. It is financially and organisationally strong to continue its commitment to give service to its communities.

I wish incoming President Geoff Appleton, his Board and Members every success in the year ahead.

Every year since joining Rotary in 1987, I have heard the President's of my Clubs thank Members for the opportunity to serve as President. I now have a deep understanding of how rich and rewarding an experience it is. Thank you. I have loved being President of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove."

PS the Club was awarded the Athol Johnston Club Achievement Cup and an RI Presidential Citation.

YEAR 17 - 2004-05: PRESIDENT GEOFF APPLETON

Celebrate Rotary



In trying to understand what is so special about our Club, quite naturally your thoughts go to the people, the Coves. There is however another key element and that is the location, the venue and the environment.

We have long recognized the generosity of Trevor Haworth and his family business Captain Cook Cruises. Our home is very much the John Cadman, and it would be quite different if we were to meet elsewhere. Whilst the make-up of the crew continues to vary a little over time, the very consistency of excellent service and the will to entertain our sometimes quirky demands are a testimony to the management of the company. Many of us have had the opportunity to meet other members of Trevor's family, and in many ways we feel a part of that family.

We have adopted the Rocks as our territory, and over time we have found much to do there. We are fortunate to have 2 members that operate their businesses in the Rocks, and there is opportunity to further engage with the people that live and work in the area. Fabian Marsden is a member of the Sydney City Council and has assisted in developing our links in the Rocks. Marie O'Halloran, whilst perhaps more famous for her theatrical talents, is also a vital link to the community. It was Marie that recommended Trevor, the "Garbo", for a Pride of Workmanship Award this year. Drummer Bob Cameron now has an apartment in the new wharf development, and hopefully we will find new members there.

Thanks also go to Roger Cherry for his work in highlighting each of the 48 plaques that form the Writers Walk, a major feature in the pavement around the Quay. This was a very interesting series of Bulletin articles.

PRODUCT

The product of all our efforts through the year is best viewed through the 3 major committees that spend our income, but firstly it is important to once again recognize that the single source of income is our Regatta. It is important that our heroes of this event, Bill Little and Bob Bruce are supported in any way we are able. Bill has handed the Regatta Director's role to Rob Taggart, who is already developing hero status. In round figures, think of a quarter of a million dollars of which this year we donated about \$150,000 to Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, Hoc Mai Medical Foundation, Sunshine Homes, Stepping Stone House, Rotary Foundation and Alzheimer's. \$50,000 went to the Benevolent Fund and the rest to our Club funds. So how did we spend that other \$50,000?

NB These figures are greatly rounded to simplify the summary!

YOUTH Director Roger Cherry:

Whilst we decided not to host an exchange student this year, it was an absolute delight that we were able to play host to Max Leo during the early part of his stay. We can thank many people for that, but Chris Telford in particular. Roger and his committee have had a very busy year with MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly), NYSF (National Youth Science Forum), RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment), RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) and the Pan Pacific Music Camp/Greg Henderson Music Scholarship. Who could also forget Neha Prasad recommended by Barnardo's to sail on the Windward Bound to Hobart.

COMMUNITY Director Lea Rushton:

Our emphasis on the Rocks has fostered strong links to the Fort Street School, Darling House, Sister Gemma and in particular her work with migrants, Abraham Mott Centre, King George Fifth (KGV) Recreation Centre as well as our ongoing commitment to Stepping Stone House and the ever-increasing number of Boot Up Cafes. Some new ideas have also been developed during the year, and we will no doubt see some of these emerging in the year ahead.

INTERNATIONAL Director Simon Knight:

By far our largest commitment has been on the Solomom Islands. Apart from the construction of the male ablution block at Gizo Hospital this year, we can thank Denis Smith for ongoing support to the generator and incinerator. Even more exciting is a breakthrough in our "High Cut" initiative designed to use more "brains than brawn", with a link to the George Institute through our Ambassadorial scholars. This could turn out to be the most significant event of the year, as we try to move toward a medical initiative similar to Hoc Mai in Vietnam, but with a focus on the Solomon Islands. World Vision, Spectacles for Nepal, Ranfurly Library and Gillian Dowell's work on the Mercy Ship to Benin complete the picture.

PEOPLE

Well here I go, at the risk of omitting some great works, I think I am naming about half of our members in this report, so if you are in the other half, I apologise. The beauty of Rotary is that it asks you to give as much as you can, when you can. This means that there is never any expectation of an individual, and a recognition that vocational and family commitments must take preference, and that over time, all Rotarians give a lot. I should start with our Vocational Services Director, Liz Livingstone, who recently secured a speech therapy student at Sydney University for a scholarship under the ARHRF (Aust. Rotary Health Research Foundation).

MUSIC

Even before Max Leo joined, we have had a musical strength. On the professional side we have the dulcet tones of John Morrison whose CD has a regular place in my car, Ron Smart who is responsible for the Collaroy Music Camp when he is not conducting choirs overseas, and Michael Austin, that old Rocker from the 60s. Michael has done a lot in the background this year, and played host to Sister Gemma at Government House

during the Centennial Awards. I have already mentioned Marie Apostrophe and Bob Cameron (how does he stay so clean when he works in a coalmine?). And then there is Ed Ackman whose musical enthusiasm is well recorded, as is his overwhelming success with the Internet Cafes. Opera buffs include John Hastings and Ring Cycle Roger.

GOLF

When I mentioned income, I spoke only of the Regatta, which dwarfs all other income. However the Golf Day is the second key day on our calendar and without Andy Buttfield and Graham Lightfoot this would not have happened. Other golfers that came forward were Bruce Christie and Michael Maher and we look to others in the Club to help strengthen this event next year. It is a day and/or evening for everyone's diary.

DISTRICT

We recently recognized David Brawn and Paul Hyphen. I continue to discover other Coves that are busy at District level. Thelma Wansley and Greg Prowse on the Conference, Gary Price on RYPEN and Tom Gervay on NYSF. Talking of Tom, did you realize that he has ripped \$6000 out of peoples' pockets this!ok, he had some excellent help, but \$6k !

OFFICIALS

Our excellent bulletin names the full list of officials that have kept our Club running this year. Our new Bulletin Editor Pam Cassidy has taken up the task with enthusiasm, and allowed Eva Gerber a well earned rest. There are 5 Office bearers, 6 Directors/Committee Chairs, and 11 Committees within Club Services. Some of these people go on year after year. Now who have I forgotten and how do I bring them into this report?

PERSONAL

When I joined the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam in 1976, I could never have thought that I would one day be President of Sydney Cove. I have been the 17th President of our Club. 10 of my predecessors are active members and 2 are honorary members. We have 20 Paul Harris Fellows and 10 of our charter members are still very active. We have 3 couples: the Gervays, the Warrens and the Knights. All 6 members are at the heart of the club and have been a great support to my year.

Whilst I have found that being President has taken a lot of my time, it has been made easy because of the work done by the Board, the Committees and the membership generally. It has sometimes been hard to keep up with all that is going on. One of the greatest pleasures has been the induction of 10 new members. We have once again attracted excellent people to be Rotarians in our Club and welcome to them again. One of the most difficult periods was in the passing of John Westmacott. I owe a great debt to David Brawn and to Rob Taggart who spoke at the Memorial Service on my behalf, as I felt that I could not rely on my composure.

At the beginning of the year I resolved to focus on evolution rather than revolution, as we embraced small changes to a well-run and successful business. It was Michael Maher who warned me to be prepared for an emotional experience, and to maintain the lack of reverence which is at the core of our humour. We may do great things, but we come to breakfast to have fun.

At the end of the year, it was Ed Ackman who quite humbly said that he had got a lot more out of the Club than he had put in. I could identify with that comment for myself and my Presidency. I must thank Maurice York who steps down as Secretary this year, whilst David Hart has accepted another year as Treasurer. Meg Campbell, Greg Prowse, John King. I keep thinking of people I should mention.

I think the ramblings of this report, perhaps somewhat unorthodox, serve to show that it is time that I passed over the reins to Suzanne Campbell. Michael Maher's comments are still valid and there are two areas worthy of further mention.

The first relates to young Rotarians that will secure our future. The Ambassadorial Scholars, Youth Programs including Youth Exchange and the development of closer links to Rotaract Clubs are worthy of our time and effort.

The second relates to the size and potential use of the Benevolent Fund that was discussed at length during the year. I believe that the Fund will continue to grow until someone finds a reason to use some of those funds, and is able to garner support from the majority. In our Club, it just takes one person to be passionate and to convince a few other members, and quickly we rise to the occasion.

So good luck and thanks."

YEAR 18 - 2005-06: PRESIDENT SUZANNE CAMPBELL

Service Above Self



"The past year has been an exciting, encouraging and inspiring one. A year when we sought to further demonstrate that Rotary provides a means for ordinary people to do extraordinary things within a global network of community volunteers; to show leadership in our business and professional lives in our provision of humanitarian service; to encourage high ethical standards; and to contribute to goodwill and peace in the world.

That the year has been one of great success is attributable in no small part to the calibre and commitment of the Members of my Board - Fiona Lavan, Simon Knight, David Hart, Derek White, Meg Campbell-Dowling, Lea Rushton, Elizabeth Livingstone, and Roger Cherry.

The implementation of the new Constitution and Bylaws and new Club Structure particularly reflect on the stellar efforts of Derek, David, Fiona and Simon. These efforts have been supported by Club members who have taken up newly created roles in the Benevolent Fund and Investment Committee including Robert Bruce, Michael Maher, Peter Meares, John Snelson and David Hart.

Once again the Regatta was the chief source of funds for our Club raising a net \$160,000, which underpinned the various projects and activities undertaken during the year. The Regatta team was led by Robert Taggart and included Bill Little, Robert Bruce, Lucinda Callie, Claudia Challen and many others. Chief beneficiaries of the Regatta included:

- Sydney Children's Hospital;
- Sunshine Homes;
- Hoc Mai;
- Stepping Stone House; and
- The Rotary Foundation.

Similarly, the Golf Day provided a superior combination of fellowship and fund raising. The Golf Day team was led by Bruce Christie and included Geoff Appleton, Graham Lightfoot, John King and Michael Maher; and it raised a net \$15,000. The chief beneficiary of the Golf Day was the Baniyala Project.

The Baniyala Project, led by Andy Buttfeld, has been established within the International Committee to leverage its Solomons' experience. This project will build education facilities and provide health and employment opportunities for the Baniyala community near Gove, in the Northern Territory, and is supported by Robert Lee, Kerry Marshall, John Hastings, Margaret Silink and Kirby Grattan. And in a first, the project is to receive seed funding of \$120,000 from the Macquarie Foundation. Mentioning the Baniyala project reminds me to acknowledge the Gadigal people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to the elders, both past and present, of the Eora nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginals present.

The breadth of **Youth Activities** led by Roger Cherry and organised by many members of his committee including Rob Campbell, Warren Moss, Peter Welch and Vic Davies demonstrated once again our commitment to both youth and Rotary programs. These covered:

- NYSF (National Youth Science Forum) and our sponsorship of Samantha Sundercombe to Russia;

- RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) with two recent participants;
- RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award), again with two participants;
- MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) for which we sponsored Sydney Boys' High and although they did not reach the top three, nevertheless benefited greatly from the experience;
- Pan Pacific Music Camps (started by Ron Smart 30 years ago) where we sponsored four candidates this year. And in turn they delighted us with a short concert of their music; and
- Our initiative in writing a brochure to be used to publicise Rotary activities to youth has been endorsed by District as a significant contribution and will be published early next year as "Building Bridges to Youth".

Community Service led by Lea Rushton and involving Michael Lowe, Peter Roberts, Dominic Williams and others progressed projects in the local community including:

- Darling House where we have provided ongoing support through both outreach barbeques and a donation of \$1,500 for this financial year. Special mention to Linda Knight and Megan and Tom Gervay for their time and barbeque-ing talents;
- Abraham Mott Centre where we have provided ongoing support through the purchase of outdoor furniture to go with the barbeque Rotary donated last year;
- KGV Christmas Party where we continue to provide overall community support through the giving of gifts and funding of party catering and activities. Special mention to Linda and Simon Knight for opening their home for the gift-wrapping party and to Guy Glenny who continues to be an outstanding Santa. Many thanks to the entire Club which embraced the last-minute change of gift giving procedure and made it a resounding success with their generous support;
- Stepping Stone House continues to provide a stable environment for homeless youth to complete their schooling. Max Connery is ably supported by Paul Tuck and many others who regularly attend the working bees at SSH;
- Family Picnic in Centennial Park. Many thanks to Monika Amann for organisation of this event; and
- Preliminary planning for several Boot-Up Internet Cafes by Krista Elliott.

The Vocational Committee led by Elizabeth Livingstone with the active support of Tom Gervay, Barry Mahoney, Philip Edmonds, Greg Prowse, Maurice York, Paul Ward-Harvey, John Hodge, Deborah Homewood and others placed the Pride of Workmanship awards squarely on our calendar with 16 recipients recognised at a Club meeting. This underscored the importance of vocational service as an integral part of Rotary, at the heart of maintaining business standards and ethics and the promotion of vocational excellence. The Vocational Committee, and Peter Riordan in particular, also introduced us to Keona Wilson, our Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) Scholarship recipient, and we were awestruck by her bravery, boldness and tenacity.

The International Committee led by Simon Knight has provided:

- Ongoing support for our Ambassadorial scholars Alex Martiniuk and Heather Millar, who have been mentored by Robert Lee;
- A mentoring program in the Solomons, led by Paul Ward-Harvey, Geoff Appleton and Niels Warren;
- Continuing support for the Gizo hospital on electrical matters through Denis Smith; and
- Leadership for the District's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program to Argentina, led by Bruce Hill, with two of the four team members nominated by our Club.

Club Services led by Meg Campbell-Dowling covered the broadest needs of our Club. Communication within the Club was supported by the Bulletin Committee led by Pam Cassidy and David Goodliffe and supported by Meg Gervay and Bruce Hill. The team rose to the challenge of topical, relevant and regular communications for all Club members including member profiles, so the new and not so new could share a broader understanding of the talent and diversity of our membership. And they have moved to deliver the bulletin through our new website. The website itself is the result of the efforts of Derek White.

Club Meetings took their shape and character through the efforts and contributions of many:

- Bill Fairbanks through his continuing management of the duty roster;
- John Snelson as Chief Petty Officer and those who stepped into his pirates hat when he was not available due to work commitments in India including Kirby Grattan and Rufus Wolfson;
- Niels Warren and his encouragement of us all to provide a meaningful grace;
- John Morrison by leading us in the National Anthem and on those rare occasions when he was not available Ron Smart who happily stepped into his shoes;
- Guy Glenn's management of our speakers' program, bringing to our meetings week after week excellent speakers from many walks of life who followed a broad theme of our position within the international community of Rotary and within our own community; and
- Trevor Haworth's continuing support of our Club and the fine efforts of his team including Captain Terry and Cruise Director Dave.

Speakers this year included:

- Kevin McLintock from McWilliams Wines on plastic stoppers and other matters;
- Ruth Balant on driving Volvos in Western Australia and our vexed relationship with the Timor Sea region;
- Jack Beetson on kids at risk, both Aboriginal and white;
- Bruce Baird on the challenges of federal government;
- Grant Harris on the filming of the Rotary International Convention;
- Michael Whelan from the Aquinist Centre on issues related to the community and Christmas;
- Moi Dibden and Fatima Amr on the challenge of living and working in the Muslim community in Australia;
- Beulah Warren on bringing up baby;
- Pru Goward on the nature and challenge of work;
- Nesan Kistan who gave an inspiring address on leading a purposeful life; and
- Thelma Wansley on her life in Rotary.

And we could hear it all with our new PA system which was the brain child of Michael Austin.

In addition to our regular Club meetings, Fellowship Activities represented the breadth of interest of our members and included:

- Car Boot Sales, Goons Night and Sydney Children's Hospital tour organised by Linda Knight;
- Inaugural Monday Lunches each month organised by Michael Costello; and
- Participation in the Rotary Race Day organised by Thelma Wansley.

And mentioning racing I must also add a word for our only equine member, Newton's Rings, and his faithful friend Paul Tuck.

Membership has been maintained at 104 members though the efforts of the Membership Committee led by David Brawn and including Richard Marshall. Belonging to a Rotary Club gives men and woman an enjoyable and organized way to make a contribution to their community. By using their skills and expertise globally, members also enhance their professional networks, career development, and cross-cultural understanding. Rotary clubs are non-religious, non-political, and open to every race, culture and creed. Members represent a cross section of local business and professional leaders. Our new members demonstrate this point and include Cordula Hohnen-Behrens, Jackie Charlton, Mark Hancock, Margaret Silink, John Hodge, Rufus Wolfson, Christine Saunders, Brian Wesson, Maree Gleeson, Gavin Weston and Howard Davy. All have joined our Club with a strong conviction that membership offers them the opportunity to give "Service above Self". Through the year a number of members including Leanne

Allen, Julia Hubbard, Paul Nemeth, Ed Ackman, Peter Dally, Gillian Dowell, Graham Firth, Nikki Hoad, John Hopper, John Leviol, Bruce Morrow, Robert Opiat and Les Chaplin have left the Club for various professional and personal reasons; we wish them all well in their new endeavours. Membership has been expanded to include Friends of Sydney Cove which is also to be managed by the Membership Committee.

And we continued to support the activities of both Rotaract and the District. Greg Prowse ensured we participated with Rotaract in their fund raising and fun, including:

- Bowls;
- Belly Dancing; and
- Debating at the CBD club.

At District level we were well represented by David Brawn, Paul Ward-Harvey, Greg Prowse, and by Gary Price who applied his efforts to RYPEN. And members contributed to the success of the District Assembly and District Conference with strong attendance.

Finally, during the year we were privileged to recognise four members with Paul Harris Fellowships:

- Tom Gervay;
- Gary Price;
- Ron Smart; and
- Michael Costello.

All in all 2005/6 has been very successful and I am delighted with the shape of the Club as I pass control to Fiona. Challenges remain for Fiona and her Board in the coming year as they commence to operate under the new club leadership structure, seek to identify new sources of funds, and develop the operating model with the Benevolent Fund, but I am confident that she and her Board will report many successes this time next year.

I want to thank you all for the honour of leading you over the past year as you have applied your talents and time as volunteers to worthy projects and as we have explored and applied our theme for the year 'Service above Self'."

YEAR 19 - 2006-07: PRESIDENT FIONA LAVAN

Lead the Way



"It's a daunting task to put together a report such as this for a Club that is as active as ours. The danger is that you may forget to mention something or recognize the efforts of an individual. I have endeavoured to cover everything but my sincere apologies if this is the case.

The last 12 months have been exciting, rewarding and, at times, more than a little daunting. This year's theme was "Lead the Way" – a challenging theme in itself, and thanks to the reputation of Sydney Cove that has been created by my predecessors, one that was particularly hard to live up to. However, the Board started the year by implementing the new leadership plan and by undertaking the first of two strategic planning sessions that we committed to do. This set the pace for the rest of the year and created a new, more corporate-like format in which to operate. Members of the Board liaised with the new Trustees of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove Benevolent Fund to establish a sound working relationship and one which has the Club's best interests solidly in mind. Thanks to the Trustees, Bob Bruce, Michael Maher and Peter Meares for their efforts.

THE BOARD: The year has been filled with challenges that have been made easier with the support and dedication of my board. They have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition under the new leadership plan and have assisted and guided me when it was needed. I have greatly enjoyed working with each of them. The make-up of the Board was:-

Simon Knight, President Elect & Vice President

Simon provided excellent support this year, particularly in the introduction of the new leadership plan.

Derek White, Secretary & Administration Director

This was Derek's second term as Secretary, but his role was expanded under the new structure to include many aspects of the old Club Services function. Derek has worked tirelessly to keep your President on track and the Board functioning effectively. He has also worked closely with David Goodliffe on developing our website and has enlisted the services of John Henderson & John Hodge to his Administration team.

Maurice York, Treasurer

Maurice returned to the Board this year as Treasurer, having previously performed the function of Secretary. He provided timely advice on all matters financial and worked effectively with the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund and the Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund. He gathered a team of skilled assistants for weekly desk duties, particularly Michael Lowe and Kerry Marshall.

Roger Cherry, Foundation & Fundraising Director

This is a new role under the revised structure and Roger took it on with gusto. He has increased the awareness of Coves of the function of the Rotary Foundation and encouraged the Board to support the Foundation to its maximum ability, this year contributing \$15,000. On the Fundraising side, he has been working to develop new sources of income for the Club and has been successful, along with Ron Smart, in developing a fledgling relationship with the Steve Waugh Foundation for a major fundraiser in September 2008. The ideas continue to flow!

John McKernan, Membership Director

A Club Director dedicated to Membership has been an imperative part of the new leadership plan. John has performed this role with enthusiasm and dedication, particularly enlisting the support of Richard Marshall on the recruitment and PR side of Membership, and Ron Smart & Niels Warren on the Pastoral side. Meg Campbell-Dowling has also worked to enhance member profiles, and the whole team has been involved in new member mentoring and retention plans.

Greg Prowse, Service Projects Director

Under the new structure, all Service committees have reported into Greg. This has included International, Vocational, Community and Youth Committees, with involvement also in Baniyala. At first glance, this would appear to be too large a role for just one person. However, Greg has interacted with and supported the Committee Chairs in their endeavours and given the benefit of many years' Rotary service and knowledge. The Chairs themselves have taken full responsibility for the running of their committees and reported through Greg to the Board. A job well done all round.

Lea Rushton/Tony Smith, Public Relations Director

Lea Rushton took on the role of PR Director under the new structure and developed a small committee to look at ways of promoting Rotary, and Sydney Cove in particular, to a broader audience. Lea's heavy workload and associated travel commitments enforced an 'early retirement' and Tony Smith stepped into the breach earlier this year.

Suzanne Campbell, Past President

Suzanne's work schedule meant that we didn't see as much of her this year as we would have liked. However, she was always available for sage advice.

Tom Gervay, President Nominee

Tom re-joined the Board, this time as President Nominee, at the beginning of this calendar year.

Club Projects

Youth: The Youth Committee led by Ingrid Orth was involved in the National Youth Science Forum; Rotary Youth Leadership Awards; Rotary Youth Project of Enrichment; and Model United Nations Assembly. Ingrid has been assisted during the year by Rob Campbell, Warren Moss and Peter Welch and other members of the committee. Preparations have also been underway for our incoming Exchange Student, Giulia Polvara who will join us mid-July from Italy. Due to work commitments, Ingrid is unable to continue in this role in 2007-08 and Peter Welch has agreed to take over. Thank you Ingrid for your contribution this year.

Community Service: The Community Services Committee led by Krista Elliott ran the Christmas Party at the King George V Centre in the Rocks in conjunction with Fort Street Public School. It supported Sister Gemma's literacy program; assessed the bathroom renovation at Stepping Stone House; contributed \$2000 to Greening Australia; and provided the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove Citizenship Award to the Fort Street Public School. Thanks to an initiative developed by past member Ed Ackman, it also enabled the establishment of two Boot Up Internet Cafes – one in Auburn in Western Sydney and one in SavuSavu, Fiji.

International: The International Committee led by Robert Lee worked with Kerry Kennedy of the Rotary Club of Gizo to identify a suitable FAIM project for 2008; investigated post tsunami activities in the Solomon Islands; provided Bridge climb tickets for this year's Group Study Exchange Team from Sweden; and ensured a close and continuing relationship with our former Ambassadorial Scholar, Alex Martiniuk. Regular working bees at Ranfurly Library also featured on the agenda. Following the tsunami in the Solomons, two ShelterBoxes were funded, one by the club and one by past member Ed Ackman.

Vocational: The Vocational Committee led by Tom Gervay organised the 4-way Test hypothetical which was expertly delivered by Peter Riordan and David Scarlett earlier this year. They also managed the Pride of Workmanship awards which saw 14 very worthy recipients of this award honoured at our second last meeting for the year - thanks to Alistair Gray. Vocational Job Talks by Club members were scheduled by Denzil Byrne, and vocational bulletin entries organised on a regular basis. Meg Campbell-Dowling has agreed to take over this role in 2007-08 as Tom takes up his duties as President Elect.

Baniyala: The Baniyala project steamed ahead thanks to the dedication of Andy Buttfeld and Robert Bradshaw. The Art Workshop and Women's Home Management Centre were officially opened by Northern Territory Administrator Ted Egan on 2 May. The overall objective of the Club's involvement has been to bring living standards of the people of Baniyala to mainstream Australian levels. This requires moving from welfare to real income earning and that in turn requires immediate reforms of education, health and household management to prevent the loss of another generation to the iniquities of welfare. The project has had significant in-kind support from Pacific National and Freightlink Rail transport and subsidized freight by Perkins Shipping from Darwin to Gove. Sincere thanks also to David Fox from Norton White who undertook to set up the Indigenous Benevolent Fund on a pro bono basis.

Our Club provided materials, project management and construction training, through Andy and Robert, and 23 Baniyala lads were involved in on-the-job construction training. This was phase one of a continuing project, which was funded by the Macquarie Bank Foundation. Funding of \$200,000 for phase 2 has just been secured by Andy from the Northern Territory Government for the construction of a Teacher's house, a further development in the commitment to reform education. Congratulations to Andy and Robert on an outstanding job.

Climate Change: Roger Cherry took on the role of Inaugural Director of Climate Change, to add to his Board role as Foundation & Fundraising Director. He has provided numerous guest speakers; organised a viewing of "The Inconvenient Truth"; conducted a survey of the Club's carbon footprint; and, along with Niels Warren, advised us as individuals on some of the small things we can do in our own homes to lower our own footprint.

Club Activities

The **Boardroom Bash** calendar was expertly led by Linda Knight and Pam Cassidy. During the year we learnt to cook chilli crabs at the Sydney Seafood Cooking School; saw the fruits of our labour at the Sydney Children's

Hospital; dined at *The Apprentice*, an initiative of TAFE; enjoyed Baubles & Bubbles at Costello's hosted by Michael & Jamie; attended bashes at The Asia Partnership hosted by Richard Marshall and at Captain Cook Cruises hosted by Trevor & Jackie; walked the Bridge for its 75th Birthday; and attended a Whisky Tasting hosted by Bob Cameron at Centennial Coal's offices.

We've also had the Rotary-Rotaract Great Debate where we were enthusiastically represented by Deb Homewood who I'm sure will now be a permanent fixture in the Rotary team!

The **Monthly Inaugural Fellowship Lunches**, now numbering 24, have been a great success with a core of approximately 10 members in regular attendance at the NSW Sports Club. Thanks to the Inaugural Director of Romance & Fellowship Lunches, Michael Costello, for organising both the lunches and the interesting array of discussion topics such as 'How I met my partner'; 'My first job'; 'My school days'; and 'My 21st Birthday'.....

Meetings

The **Speakers' Program** has again been efficiently run by Guy Glenney and we have been privileged to hear some outstanding speakers including Rick Kohler, the Canadian Consul General; Tim Hornibrook from Macquarie Bank; Keith Suter, on International Affairs; Sarina Bratton from Orion Cruises; Wendy McCarthy on the Power of Education; Peter Coates from Xstrata on Climate Change; Ursula King on changes in the travel industry; Shan Ali on Peace and Freedom from Poverty; Jeff Gambin from Just Enough Faith; Professor Bernard Stewart, on Medical Research; and Martin Silink on Diabetes and the UN. And who could forget young Michelle, the brain injury student of Pam Cassidy, who courageously relayed the story of her horrific car accident and her long road to recovery?

Of course, we've also been fortunate to have a number of our own members address us during the year, including Deb Homewood; Derek White; Bob Cameron; Roger Cherry & Ron Smart with travellers' tales; Andy Buttfield & Robert Bradshaw (twice on Baniyala); Peter Riordan; Roger Cherry & Niels Warren on climate change; and David Pasipanodya & Vicki Murphy. Added to this were a number of speakers associated with Rotary including Ambassadorial Scholars; the Swedish Group Study Exchange Team; and Ray Patteson, District Governor.

The *not so gentle* **Chief Petty Officer**, Rob Campbell, extracted through fair means or foul, vast sums of money from Coves over the year. He was also diligent in keeping your President on time and always had a tale or two at the top table – Thanks Rob! Acting CPOs Tony Smith; Michael Maher; Rob Taggart and 'The Pink Spot' aka Meg Campbell-Dowling also assisted during the year.

The **Bulletin** underwent somewhat of a transformation early in the year. The decision to send it electronically, with only a few hard copies for guests each week caused something of a revolt! A compromise has now been reached after much deliberation by the Bulletin and Vocational Committees. Particular thanks go to Bruce Hill for his editorial support during the year, David Goodliffe for his management of the bulletin, Pam Cassidy and Meg Gervay.

Grace has been expertly provided or organised by Niels Warren and our now world famous Sydney Cove Choir, led by Ron Smart, is in great demand following several wonderful *a Capella* renditions of Grace during the last year. Thanks to our choir members including Michael Austin, John Morrison, Niels, Ron and Paul Ward-Harvey.

Our **Anthem** master, John Morrison, has provided an 'on this day' preamble each week and has closed the meeting with either one verse or two of Advance Australia Fair. On the rare occasion that he hasn't been available, Ron Smart has filled his shoes.

The **Duty Roster** is a labour of love for our own Bill Fairbanks. Thanks once again Bill for your efforts.

We have been privileged to call **Captain Cook Cruises** our home again this year. This is such a special venue; one which is ingrained in the Club's identity and contributes enormously to us being the greatest Rotary Club in the World. Thanks to Trevor, Geraldine and Jackie, for your continued support. Special thanks also to our

regular crew, Captain Terry, Eddie & Dave (Cruise Directors), Magne (Engineer), Dmitri, Surya & Jacek (Waiters/ Deckhands), and Jims & Yannick (Kitchen).

Fundraising Activities

The 12th Annual Rotary Charity Regatta: This year's regatta was held on Friday 17 November 2006 at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. Since its inception, the Regatta has raised over \$2,000,000 for worthy causes. This year's beneficiaries included the Sydney Children's Hospital, which received \$80,000 for vital anaesthesia equipment for their MRI suite; and the Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home and the Hoc Mai Foundation who received \$10,000 each. We were joined for the event by Governor General Michael Jeffrey and Mrs Jeffrey, and they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

This event was a success once again due to the fantastic efforts of our regatta stalwarts Bill Little and Bob Bruce, along with Regatta Director, Rob Taggart. We were also assisted on the day by a small army of Coves, partners and friends; Rotaractors; McWilliams Wines; Sydney Water Police; Svanen Charters; Captain Cook Cruises; Qantas Airways; Russell Cunningham; and many more.

Rotary Charity Golf Day: The Annual Golf Day was held on 8 March at Killara Golf Course and was run with enthusiasm by Bruce Christie and his team, including Alistair Gray and past member Graham Lightfoot. Auctioneer Michael Maher extracted exorbitant amounts of money from Coves and guests, some of whom weren't even present, during the auction which was co-ordinated by James Garbett. A total of approx \$14,000 was raised on the day, and a cheque for \$8,000 was subsequently presented to the Vascular Birthmarks Committee of the Sydney Children's Hospital.

MGSM Leadership Breakfast: The MGSM Leadership Breakfast was held at the Four Seasons Hotel on Thursday 7 June and attended by some 250 corporate and community leaders. The beneficiary of this event was the Xanana Vocational Education Trust which aims to provide a sustainable vocational education system in Timor Leste. Keynote presentations from His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Sir William Deane and General Peter Cosgrove were a highlight of the event which was MC'd by Major General Mike Smith, Chief Executive of Austcare. Sir William, General Cosgrove and Major General Smith all have an immense sense of the despair and uncertainty that currently exists in Timor Leste and provided both gravitas and thought provoking commentary on the morning. The net result of the event is still to be determined however we expect to present the Trust with a cheque for approx \$20,000 shortly.

Presidential Privileges: As President, I have had the privilege of awarding Paul Harris Fellows to Bill Little, Guy Glenny, Geraldine Haworth, Rob Taggart, Max Connery and, at Changeover, Robert Cameron and Michael Lowe. Each has contributed to the success of Sydney Cove and Rotary in general in their own special way.

I have also been proud to induct a number of new members including Robert Bradshaw, Ian Cureton, Gillian Dowell, John Flower, Liz Gordon, Jill Henderson, Stuart Hetherington, Vicki Murphy, David Pasipanodya, and most recently Joy Evans.

Unfortunately, we have also lost a few members this year, mostly due to work commitments. They include Kirby Grattan, Fabian Marsden, Don Middleton, Marie O'Halloran, Kate Morison, John Rowe, Chris Telford, Cecilia White, Maree Gleeson and Geoff Appleton. I'm pleased however that many have remained as official "Friends of Sydney Cove"; a true testament to the enjoyment and satisfaction they have had as a member of the Sydney Cove family in the past.

Honorary members who confirmed their desire to continue in this capacity included Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair; founding father Peter Golding, Past President of the Rotary Club of Sydney; Ken Done AM; Past President Peter Watt; Past President Graham Lightfoot; John Messenger, former Commodore of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia; and Alexandra Martiniuk, our former Ambassadorial Scholar.

The year ended on a high note with the visit of Rotary International President Bill Boyd and Lorna to our club on Friday 1 June. At this meeting, Bill presented to Andy Buttfeld the Service Above Self Award, one of the highest awards in Rotary. Andy was nominated by members of the Board early last year for his work at

Baniyala, and his nomination was one of 147 selected globally from over 4,500 applications. Of course, Baniyala is a team effort and I know Andy will proudly share this recognition with not only Robert Bradshaw, but also the 23 local lads who assisted in the construction of the building, and all those along the way who contributed to the success of the project. Well done Andy!

It has been a privilege and an honour to lead the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove and I would like to thank each one of you for your support and guidance over the last 12 months. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Fritz who has put up with me through the 'testy' moments. I hope you will agree that we have achieved our goals, while enjoying fellowship and fun, by 'leading the way'."

YEAR 20 - 2007-08: PRESIDENT SIMON KNIGHT

Rotary Shares



"It is with pleasure that I present the President's report for the year. At the outset I would like to state that I have quite intentionally left out individual members' names, except to record office bearers for the year and recipients of special awards. It is impossible for the President of a very active Club of more than one hundred members to be aware of all the individual efforts made over a year. I do not wish to offend by either failing to recognise a significant effort that has escaped my attention or by attributing a significant effort to the wrong member, nor do I wish to name those whose efforts I am aware of but who might prefer that their contributions remain anonymous. The community sees our service as coming from the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, or from "Rotary". That is how I wish this report to read.

At the start of this Rotary year we stated some aspirations. We wanted to increase our membership especially by recruiting younger members. We wanted to get closer to our local community in the Rocks and around Circular Quay and we wanted to raise our nautical image. There was also the Rotary International theme of "Rotary Shares" to give us guidance and inspiration.

Our Membership team organised a visit and talk from our Regional Membership Coordinator Jenny Coburn, and the membership drive at the Ken Done Cocktail Evening. We have slightly increased our membership; however our average age has remained at about 60 and that is with the recruitment of some excellent young members well below that age. So we haven't exactly had a big win on this one although the members we have gained, all fourteen of them, young and not quite so young, have added energy to the Club so we can claim to have gained quality if not quantity. We have also maintained contact with past members who are no longer able to meet attendance requirements through our Friends of Sydney Cove. They have been an active and supportive group over the year.

We have enjoyed a number of projects with our local community, including our regular engagement with Darling House with visits and barbecues, the Christmas Party at the King George V Centre, activities at Fort Street School with donations of money for musical instruments and prizes for the logo competition, the marshalling at the Australia Day Wheelchair Race around the Rocks and given our sponsorship and support to the Millers Point Festival Committee.

On the nautical side we had our safety message from the skipper which acted as a nice reminder that we were indeed afloat and hopefully enhanced the experience for our visitors. Then we called our Sergeant our Master at Arms. By the tone of the Master's humour we certainly managed to get some flavour of the lower decks. There were times when the officers of the watch were seen to blush!

Being a member of a Rotary Club is all about fellowship and service. We had some memorable fellowship events with some, like the Melbourne Cup evening and Newton's Rings' birthday bash, turning into great fund raisers. We had whisky tasting, walks along the coast, kayaking, a lunch and tour of the MS Amsterdam, a behind the scenes at the Sydney Theatre Company and a film viewing.

The two sides to serving are fund raising and project spending / sponsorship. We have recognised the importance of fund raising by creating a committee to manage our efforts in a coordinated and effective way. Our major fund raiser for the year was as usual the Rotary Regatta on Sydney Harbour in partnership with the CYCA. This year was one of the biggest and most successful regattas to date, in no small way due to our new partnership with the Starlight Foundation which brought in extra sponsors. The Golf Day with its auction is our second largest fund raising event and this year, thanks to a really outstanding effort, we again did very well. Another significant fund raiser is the product of the efforts of the investment committee for the Benevolent Fund, which receives tax deductible donations. Even though this has been a difficult year for investors the fund showed some healthy growth.

We also received funds from the Macquarie Group Foundation; these were deposited into our Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund for use on the Baniyala Project. This fund was established this year following significant input from a number of members and pro bono work from a member's law firm. And let us not forget the funds raised by our Master at Arms each Friday as we have been mercilessly fined by that nautical lady.

Following a desire expressed at our Club assembly we have also created a brand new fund raiser, the Sounds of Sydney 08 in partnership with the Steve Waugh Foundation. This will be a jazz concert featuring James Morrison and Friends and will be held in September at the Star Theatre, Star City.

Over the year we raised a total of nearly \$170,000 from a gross turn over in the region of \$250,000, a very significant sum especially when you consider the size of our Club membership. This doesn't of course include the donations in kind and the time and the efforts of members.

The funds we raise can be passed on to our named beneficiaries or used in Club projects. Our named beneficiaries this year have included The Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick, Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home, Starlight Children's Foundation, Stepping

Stone House, Hoc Mai and our own Rotary Foundation. This year for the first time we will ask members to make an individual donation directly to the Rotary Foundation at the same time as renewing membership.

For some time the Club has specified that the projects we get involved in have to have a "hands on" component from members. This means that we do not end up being a fund raiser for projects that are outside our control and might thus be seen as not "Rotary" by our donors.

Other Club projects this year have included working with an indigenous community in Baniyala in East Arnhem Land. This has received a lot of favourable comment and recognition from people involved in assisting remote area communities to become self sustaining. This is a novel experiment in social engineering and may well become the blue print for many future engagements with remote indigenous communities.

Our International Committee has been quiet this year with no major project but it played an active role in supporting the Baniyala Project as well as donating material to the Vila Hospital in Vanuatu, supporting a Boot up Cafe in Savusavu, Fiji, the Kits for Kids project in the Solomon Islands, business skills mentoring for friends in Honiara and supporting Ranfurly Library and ShelterBox. From the Vocational Committee we had the Pride of Workmanship Awards with a great turn out, including awards for the building team in Baniyala.

Our Youth Committee organised two teams at the Model United Nations Assembly, four attendees for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and three attendees in the RYPEN program. We took an active part in establishing Street Soccer in Sydney for homeless youth. We hosted an inbound Youth Exchange student Giulia Polvara and sponsored an outgoing student Mercedes Ruehl and assisted the Youth Exchange program generally. We also continued our significant support of the National Youth Science Forum.

In addition to the projects mentioned above the Community Committee built and commissioned a Boot-Up Internet Cafe at Lidcombe and assisted with the Buddy Walk in support of Downs Syndrome NSW.

To keep all this running smoothly and on an even keel the Board, our officers' mess, has provided us with strategic direction. They have supported the Committee Chairs and stepped into the breach when needed. The Board:

Secretary & Admin. Director: Derek White, Treasurer: Maurice York, Past President: Fiona Lavan, President Elect: Tom Gervay, Foundation Director: Roger Cherry, Membership Director: John McKernan, Projects Director: Greg Prowse, PR Director: John King

The Committee Chairs:

Community: Krista Elliott, International: Robert Lee, Vocational: Meg Campbell-Dowling, Youth: Kerry Marshall, Membership: Jill Henderson, Fundraising: Niels Warren PR: John King,

We also have a crew keeping everything ship shape by manning the front desk, meeting and greeting, ensuring the PA system is operational, providing a bottle of wine for the raffle, arranging for grace to be given and the National Anthem to be sung. We have others writing, editing and taking photos to keep us informed through our Bulletin and ClubRunner web site. The web site has been a great success especially with its ability to send emails to all Coves and friends. Our Friday speakers have been excellent, at times inspirational.

Within our Rotary District we are also very active especially on the youth committees; Coves have a long standing record of service in this area which is being continued by some of our newest members who have taken up Chairmanship roles this year. My greater involvement with District this year has opened my eyes to the number of Coves working there; it's quite surprising where they pop up.

We have recognised the outstanding efforts of the following members and friends through a Paul Harris Fellowship award:

- Alan Strudwick for District Service
- Russell Cunningham for Regatta support
- Robert Bradshaw for work in support of Baniyala
- John Bulman for work in support of Baniyala
- Tom Gervay for District Service (sapphire pin)
- Derek White for Service to Club Administration
- Maurice York for Service to Club Administration

For twenty years since the Club was chartered we have been hosted by our most gracious sponsor, Captain Cook Cruises. By offering us a cruise boat to meet on, officers to greet us and uniformed staff to serve us they have defined our very character as a nautical Club. We offer our most sincere thanks to the family, officers and crew.

Thank you Coves for your support and help during the year."

YEAR 21 - 2008-09: PRESIDENT TOM GERVAY

Make Dreams Real



"Thank you for the privilege of being President of this outstanding Rotary Club for the past year and for the honour of your enthusiasm and support. As with Simon & Linda before us it is easier to be President when your wife (Mrs President) is also actively involved in the Club - thanks Meg.

Our Club comprises a diverse and energetic group of men and women who give 'service above self'. Importantly you are a dynamic, interesting and 'fun' group of people who also happen to be very effective and efficient. I think it is important that we are effective and efficient.

This 21st year of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove was a continuation of the Club's many long-established programs, and a few new ones - the ship had and still has the momentum.

As my swansong as President, it gives me great pleasure to both celebrate and thank each one of you for your contribution to the success of the Club. How do I measure success? I think primarily by the enjoyment and satisfaction we each get out of our own involvement with the Club's activities and by our associations with other Coves. We get this enjoyment while knowing that we also collectively do some 'social good'. I know personally I could greatly - "feel the love".

I thus again thank each of you for making 2008-2009 a success and for your enthusiasm.

We are also getting larger and younger and this year Fiona & David Gawel gave us our first 100% Club baby, Max, with both parents current Club members. This is a first for us and perhaps for the District.

This year, in addition to continuing with all the established Club activities and projects, we also specifically reinforced our support for our more recent projects such as Baniyala (Andy Buttfield & Robert Bradshaw), the Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund (Derek White, Simon Knight & Maurice York) and Street Soccer (Denis Smith & Roger Cherry). We produced our first 'Sounds of Sydney' musical fundraiser (Roger Cherry, Ron Smart & John Morrison), and we instigated 'Wrap with Love', as our newest project (Meg Gervay, Deb Watson, Robert Grimm & Bruce Hill).

I apologise in advance for the names I have overlooked, but the Coves who led our diverse activities this year included:

DIRECTORS (Deputy/Assistants)

- President: Tom Gervay,
- Secretary & Admin. Director: John Hodge
- Treasurer: John Henderson (Michael Lowe)
- Past President: Simon Knight
- President Elect: Gary Price
- Foundation Director & V.P: Roger Cherry (Niels Warren)
- Membership Director: Beulah Warren,
- Fiona Lavan (Jill Henderson)
- Projects Director: Robert Lee (Greg Prowse)
- P.R. Director: John King (Alistair Gray)

CLUB MANAGEMENT

- Master at Arms: David Scarlett (Jackie Charlton)
- Club Benevolent Fund: Robert Bruce (Michael Maher, Peter Meares, Rob Taggart)
- BF Investment Committee: Michael Maher (Peter Meares, Robert Cameron)
- Fellowship Co-ordinator: Pam Cassidy (Linda Knight)
- Website Administrator: Derek White (Maurice York)
- Bulletin Editor: David Goodliffe (Bruce Hill, John Walker, Meg Gervay, Linda Knight)
- Speaker Program: Guy Glenny
- Club Meeting Roster: Bill Fairbanks
- Club Meeting Tech. Services: Michael Austin, Stuart Cook
- Grace Organiser: John Hodge (Ron Smart)
- District Conference: Simon Knight, Thelma Wansley
- Anthem & Historical Events Organiser: John Morrison (Ron Smart)
- Director of Romance & Inaugural Lunches: Michael Costello
- Outdoor Activities / Walks: Alex Martiniuk (Simon Knight)
- Insurance Advisors: David Scarlett (Stuart Hetherington)
- Archivist: Peter Welch
- Thoroughbred Advisor: Paul Tuck

- Change Over Team: John Morrison (Thelma Wansley, John King, Meg Gervay)
- Photographer: Catalin Anastase (Linda Knight)

CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLUB PROJECTS DIRECTOR: Robert Lee (Greg Prowse)

VOCATIONAL: Meg Campbell-Dowling (Joy Evans)

- Pride of Workmanship - Joy Evans, Robert Cameron
- Four-Way Test - Peter Riordan, David Scarlett
- Rotaract - Greg Prowse, Suzanne Campbell
- Vocational Bulletin Entries - John Roydhouse
- Vocation Club Speakers (Job Talks) - Peter Earnshaw, Guy Glenny
- Aboriginal Liaison - Geoff Charters

YOUTH: Dominic Williams (Meg Gervay)

- NYSF - Rob Campbell, Ian Cureton
- RYLA - Stuart Cook, Amanda Coghlan
- RYPEN - Fiona Gawel, Warren Moss
- MUNA - Dominic Williams, Kerry Marshall
- Youth Exchange - Paul Ward-Harvey, Guy Glenny
- Greg Henderson Memorial Jazz Scholarship - John & Jill Henderson

COMMUNITY: Bruce Hill (David Scarlett)

- King George V Xmas Party - Guy Glenny, Cordula Hohnen-Behrens, Amanda Coghlan
- King George V Mural - Michael Austin
- Stepping Stone House - Max Connery, Jill Henderson
- Boot-Up Cafes - Michael Maher, Bruce Hill, Dominic Williams
- Rocks Liaison & Miller St Festival - Paul Ward-Harvey, Greg Prowse
- Street Soccer - Denis Smith, Roger Cherry
- Fort St Primary School - Paul Ward-Harvey, Greg Prowse, Simon Knight
- Darling House- Deborah Homewood
- Rocks Walks - David Scarlett, Paul Ward-Harvey, Michael Austin
- Wheelchair Sports Race- David Scarlett, Peter Welch, Derek White
- Buddy Walk- Greg Prowse
- Wrap with Love- Meg Gervay, Deb Watson, Robert Grimm, Bruce Hill

INTERNATIONAL: John Hastings (Alan Tait)

- Solomon Islands General - Michael Austin, Beulah Warren, Greg Prowse, Denis Smith
- Solomon Islands Mentoring- Michael Austin, Paul Ward-Harvey
- Solomon Islands Health - Alex Martiniuk
- Kits for Kids - Michael Austin
- Shelter Box - Alan Tait
- GSE - Fiona Lavan, Phil Edmonds
- Ranfurly - David Brawn, Rufus Wolfson
- Spectacles & Stamps- Rufus Wolfson
- Ambassadorial Scholars- Susanne Campbell, Stuart Hetherington
- St Jude School, Tanzania - Fiona Lavan

INDIGENOUS: Kerry Marshall

- Baniyala - Andy Buttfield, Robert Bradshaw

- Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund - Simon Knight, Derek White, Maurice York
- Dot.Com.Mob. - Derek White, John Henderson

The Report from our Projects Director, Robert Lee, follows:

The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove supports Service Projects actively through 5 Committees - Community, International, Vocational, Youth and Indigenous - covering a total of over 30 projects. The activities were:

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chairman Bruce Hill

During 2008-09 the Community Service Committee carried out the following activities:

- King George V Recreation Centre Christmas Party: Amanda Coghlan, assisted by Father Christmas (aka Guy Glenn) organized a very successful Christmas Party for the kids from The Rocks area. Gifts were provided for all the kids - a hundred or so in total.
- Boot-Up Internet Cafés: A 4-computer package is being installed in the MYST's (Mountains Youth Services Team) Winmalee facility, near Springwood, Blue Mountains, and should be ready by late June or early July. David Hart, an ex-Cove, conceived the idea and the location and put together several Blue Mountains clubs to get the project going. Another installation is being investigated for July in Foster House, a Salvation Army home in the city.
- Rocks Walk: Paul Ward-Harvey, David Scarlett and Michael Austin are planning a walk in October 09.
- Assistance with ideas for KGV mural: Michael Austin has been canvassing ideas for this project.
- Stepping Stone House: Significant assistance has been given to this facility, which was the beneficiary of the Golf Day.
- Wheelchair Race, Australia Day: David Scarlett + Peter Welch + Derek White successfully managed this again this year.
- Homeless Street Soccer: Denis Smith has kept our involvement at a high level, and has plans for further support with a banner and payment for washing uniforms. The international tournament in Melbourne was successful and created a lot of interest in the game. Eduardo Correa has been appointed coach; he addressed a club meeting in June outlining plans for the coming year.
- Fort St Primary School: Paul Ward-Harvey has arranged with the principal for a three year program of support for transport to school camps, at an annual cost of \$3,000.
- Rocks Liaison & Miller Street Festival: the Club provided funding for the inaugural Miller Street Festival – a major community activity involving all local bodies, schools, etc.
- Wrap with Love: our newest project is to assist the nationwide Wraps with Love Committee by organizing the collection and distribution of hand knitted squares which are sewn into blankets for distribution to the under-privileged worldwide. We are managing the input of over 80 Rotary Clubs nationwide.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chairman John Hastings

From the outset, the main focus of the International Committee has been the Solomon Islands. The initial current effort was to locate a suitable local school for our ongoing support and proposed projects. This is going forward and it is now expected a team from Sydney Cove will be in the Solomons in April.

In the meantime, a major Health project involving Coves in Sydney and in the Solomons is now in place. Coves are to be involved in evaluating the connection between St Vincent's Hospital and the Solomon Islands including aspects of public help, clinical care and telemedicine. Teams are now being formed to assist in undertaking the study in Sydney, with the opportunity to travel to the Solomons late September this year.

Meanwhile, the school project will involve a team in a hands-on effort to help in the schools project in April next year when possibly members of both this and the telemedicine team, may be able to come together in support of their respective projects.

The Club was also active in distribution of the very successful Kits for Kids project distributing educational material to school children in the Solomons and contributing to funding for a second container to Oro Province to help restock schools following a devastating cyclone in the area.

We funded the provision of 2 ShelterBoxes for use in emergency aid overseas.

The Club hosted an incoming Ambassadorial Scholar from the USA during the year and hosted a GSE team from Brazil this year and are now co-ordinating an outbound team to Northern India.

Ranfurly continues to be a key Club activity with up to 6 Coves helping David Brawn and Rufus Wolfson sort books for distribution to the South Pacific.

The opportunities for fellowship and service as a member of this Committee can be very satisfying and new members are encouraged to contribute.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Meg Campbell-Dowling

The Vocational Services Committee ran the following projects in 2008-09:

- Pride of Workmanship - Award breakfast was held on 12 June 2009. Joy Evans was instrumental in ensuring the success of this project. Joy worked tirelessly to ensure nominations were received. Interviews were conducted by Joy and several other Club members. Nine worthy recipients received the Award. In the coming year, it is hoped to expand this program into workplaces within our Rotary area.
- Rotary 4-Way Test - was held on 27 February 2009 and successfully conducted by David Scarlett.
- Vocational Club Speakers - 'Job Talks' by Club members was organised by Peter Earnshaw liaising with Guy Glenny.
- Vocational Bulletin Entries - John Roydhouse prepared a quiz with questions for us to learn more about the members of our club. John updated the list of questions in the past year.
- Rotaract - assisting young people to enjoy the benefits of Rotary activities.

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chairman Dominic Williams

RYLA - Stuart Cook

This year's RYLA was an amazing affair, with the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove sending four participants - Anika Patel, Martin Hills, Edward Mylomas and Carolin Behrens. The RYLA program this year was as outstanding and possibly surpassing previous years with 82 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 residing at Stanwell Tops for a week of training and adventure on 17-24 January 2009. Our own youthful and witty Deborah Homewood participated as an outstanding motivational and thought-provoking speaker. To quote just one of this year's participants verbatim, "it was such a great week! I met so many new people and really found new direction in my life and what goals I now want to achieve." RYLA continues to be an amazing program for young adults and we look forward to seeing the next group of tomorrow's leaders going through the program.

NYSF - Ian Cureton

In January 2009 the Club sponsored 3 students to National Youth Science Forum. We also recently interviewed 4 students for NYSF for next year. The 4 students have been successful in moving forward to the next step in District interviews (under Robert Campbell). They are all of exceptional talent and we look forward to seeing how they go with competing for the limited spaces against other students from the District.

RYPEN - Fiona Gawel

RYPEN 2009 was held from Friday 1st to Sunday the 3rd May 2009 at the beautiful Port Hacking Conference Centre, Deer Park within the Royal National Park. This year we saw record numbers of participants, 92 in total, and a committed Rotaract mentoring team from three separate Sydney districts. The participants were

sponsored by 39 Clubs from our District, another record. Also breaking records was the Saturday dinner with almost 60 additional Rotarians and family joining the participants and supporting this program.

Following on from the very successful program run by Gary Price over the past many years it was my privilege to take over the reins as RYPEN District chair. This year the RC of Sydney Cove sponsored 5 participants, a fantastic effort. All five applicants were interviewed by myself as the RYPEN Coordinator for the RC of Sydney Cove. All five young men represented our club and themselves admirably on camp, and I am assured they had a wonderful time. Our RYPEN 2009 participants were:

- Jack Little
- Max Cunningham
- Alex Mirkovic
- Hedley Eccleston
- Will Lavan

Our Guest presenters this year included Dr Michael O'Flynn M.D. an Emergency Medicine Doctor who shared his very unconventional twenty year journey to becoming a Doctor, and the motivational factors in his life, including being injured as a child, that led him on his still continuing journey. Also presenting was our own previous member, Krista Elliott from 'The Image Coach' whose advice to all participants was well received.

As Gary Price would say, "RYPEN really does change lives" and there was one particular girl on camp for which I know this statement rang true. RYPEN's symbol is the apple and our motto is "RYPEN – The first bite of the Rotary apple". I believe this to be true and hopefully we will see many of our RYPEN participants join us on future Rotary Programs. The RC of Sydney Cove can be proud of its 2009 participants. It is such a small investment with such a wonderful outcome.

MUNA - Dominic Williams

Our District MUNA took place at the Nan Tiem Temple in Wollongong on Saturday 16 May 2009. Sydney Cove sent 3 teams including two Exchange Student Teams and a team from SCEGGS, Darlinghurst. This provides great cross-fertilisation, and exposure for a very appropriate age group of school students.

The SCEGGS team will also be attending the Annual National MUNA in Old Parliament House, Canberra on 15-16 August.

This year our Club made a significant contribution to MUNA internationally by sponsoring the distribution of the MUNA HANDBOOK in conjunction with the National MUNA Committee and Australia Post to each of the 529 Rotary Districts worldwide to encourage them to take up MUNA.

Our Club also supported Sibella Matthews who was chosen to attend the Harvard MUNA with 3000 delegates from across the world. The major highlights were visits to the UN& UNICEF in New York. Sibella last year established a Schools Junior Public Speaking Competition attended by over 100 students from 35 schools in NSW.

YOUTH EXCHANGE - Paul Ward-Harvey

During 2008-2009 the Club hosted Ilona Vaateri from Finland who proved to be an outstanding exchange student and who has just returned to her homeland. The Club is also sponsoring John Ruehl who is currently in France.

We are hosting a French girl Estelle Arnault and a German boy for 2009-2010. Estelle is hosted exclusively by our Club whilst the German boy is a jointly hosted student with other Clubs in the District. Additionally, we recently sponsored Fraser Perry and Joe McDonogh who will be going to Finland and Brazil respectively in January 2010.

We continue to have a vast array of young people participating in this dynamic life changing youth programme crossing international and cultural boundaries. Youth Exchange recently celebrated its 50th anniversary in Australia.

The Greg Henderson Memorial Jazz Scholarship is awarded annually to a Year 11 student selected by the Music Department Staff of Barker College, Hornsby, where Greg was a student from Year 5. This scholarship enables the winner to attend a residential Jazz Camp in January of the student's Year 12.

INDIGENOUS SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chairman Kerry Marshall

The main emphasis of the committee has been on the establishment and operation of the Indigenous Baniyala Project in the far north of Australia.

To date a school building with associated amenities has been initiated and managed by members of the committee. This ambitious project has required considerable time money and effort. It has been achieved mainly through the efforts of Andy Buttfield and Robert Bradshaw who have worked tirelessly on the project both in Sydney and on site. Other members of the committee have travelled to the site at their own expense to obtain a firsthand appreciation of the project.

The physical structure has now been completed and steps have been taken to fit out the school and obtain the necessary requisites and teaching staff. Approaches have been made to the Northern Territory Christian Schools Association to take on the task of supervising the education and running of the school. This will be done in accordance with the Northern Territory Education Department. To date our approaches have been favourably met.

The local Baniyala Community will be required to contribute towards the education development of the project.

It is anticipated that \$100,000 per annum will be required initially to run the school. An Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund has been established to help finance this project.

A further project being considered is The Australian Indigenous Mentoring Program and we are working with the dot.com mob to roll out web based education in Northern Australia.

The major supporter to date has been Macquarie Bank. Applications will be made to seek funds from Government and/or other institutions to assist the Committee's undertakings.

The Committee is fortunate in having a dedicated and enthusiastic membership who possess the necessary talents to create and maintain the Baniyala Project.

MEMBERSHIP: Directors Fiona Lavan, Beulah Warren

Chairperson: Jill Henderson

This year we increased our membership by 14, courtesy primarily of Jill Henderson and David Brawn. The Report from our Membership Director, Fiona Lavan, follows:

New Members:

- 9 nominated by existing members
- 4 chose the RCSC after visiting other clubs and researching our website
- 1 transfer

Common threads among applicants attracted to RCSC were:

- Time of meeting, breakfast meeting is the preferred option
- Location of Meeting
- Variety of activities offered
- Large membership drawn from different locations within Greater Sydney = wide variety of personalities and skills
- Less formal club

Procedure for membership has been slowly formalised. We are still working to improve this. Several senior members have been invited to interview prospective members alongside members of the committee.

The mentor program developed and overseen by Suzanne Campbell and Ruth Thompson has been introduced to ease new members' first year of membership.

An interesting observation by one GenY guest of a current member is that there is a lot of formality involved in the meetings and guests do not get adequate exposure to our information on current club projects. There is therefore no real 'hook' for those wanting to get immediately involved. An action plan will be developed and implemented to address this in the coming year.

Thanks to Jill Henderson for an outstanding job this year. The club is thriving and our induction and retention rates the highest they have ever been.

FOUNDATION & FUNDRAISING: Director Roger Cherry

Chairperson: **Niels Warren**

- a) General - Niels Warren
- b) Regatta - Bill Little, Bob Bruce
- c) Golf Day - Peter Roberts, Bruce Christie, James Garbett
- d) 'Sounds of Sydney' - Ron Smart, Roger Cherry, Richard Marshall

The Report from our Foundation & Fundraising Director, Roger Cherry, follows:

RI Foundation:

The Rotary International Foundation has been well supported during this Rotary year by both the Club and Coves individually. It is the Rotary International Foundation that funds our major international programs.

The Club donated US\$100 per member, as well as a special one-off donation to the Rotary Polio-Plus campaign aimed at matching the substantial donations from Bill and Melissa Gates. A number of Coves have also made personal contributions to this very worthy Rotary charity that supports amongst many other activities, ambassadorial scholars and Group Study Exchanges.

It is hoped that this level of support may be maintained or indeed increased, since the work of the Rotary Foundation is important and wide reaching on a global basis.

Fundraising:

Our three fundraising events provide our Club with funds necessary to undertake our current and our potential new projects and to support the Rotary Foundation and any other special requests that we receive.

The Club had a very good year fundraising with a new event the "Sounds of Sydney 08" being added to our very successful Regatta and Golf Day.

This inaugural music event pioneered by Ron Smart and Roger Cherry was held at Star City in September 2008 and was a great jazz evening featuring James Morrison and friends together with the Kirrawee High School Big Band. It raised \$41,000 with the major beneficiary being The Steve Waugh Foundation.

"Sounds of Sydney 09" has as its theme the "Best of Broadway" and will be held August 16th 2009 at Angel Place, and will be another spectacular evening.

This year the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove Regatta held at the CYC raised \$90,000 for the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. The organisation was led by Bill Little and Bob Bruce with their usual dedication and efficiency and with the help of many able assistants produced a most enjoyable day and outstanding result, considering the economic climate.

The Golf Day held at Killara Golf Club and organised this year by Peter Roberts and his assistants was another good fundraiser achieving a net result of \$15,000 with the major beneficiary this year being Stepping Stone House.

DISTRICT LEVEL (covering over 50 Rotary Clubs): Sydney Cove continued to punch 'above our weight' by providing over 20 District leaders who assisted DG Barney Koo. They include:

- ADG - Simon Knight
- DG Rep.- David Brawn
- Aid to DG & DGE - Stuart Cook
- Youth Exchange- Paul Ward Harvey, Jill Henderson, Meg Campbell-Dowling, Stuart Cook,
- Amanda Coghlan
- RYPEN - Fiona and David Gawel
- NYSF- Robert Campbell
- Rotary Foundation- Suzanne Campbell
- GSE - Simon Knight, Fiona Lavan
- District Conference - Thelma Wansley, Simon Knight
- Treasury - John Henderson
- Child Protection - Beulah Warren
- MUNA - Dominic Williams
- Rotary Alumni - Fiona Lavan
- District Training- Simon Knight
- Membership Development & Extension - David Brawn
- RSTYE- Cordula Hohnen-Behrens
- RYLA- Stuart Cook
- Ranfurly Library- David Brawn, Rufus Wolfson
- District Website - Derek White, Stuart Cook
- Polio Plus - Linda Knight
- Indigenous Alliance Projects - Derek White
- District Changeover Entertainment - John Morrison

Thank you specifically to the Board of the Club, particularly John Henderson as Treasurer and John Hodge as Secretary who got into the city early each month on Wednesday mornings to contribute behind the scenes and facilitate all the events that 'just happen'. I would also like to thank the outstanding and consistent input of those who make each of the weekly meetings "just happen":

- Our Sergeant - David Scarlett
- Our Bulletin Editor- David Goodliffe
- Our Tech.Services Organiser - Michael Austin
- Speaker Program Organiser- Guy Glenny
- Club Roster Co-ordinator - Bill Fairbanks
- Anthem Leader & Historical Events Enlightener - John Morrison

I am sure you will keep up the great work in 2009-2010 and provide Gary with the same enthusiastic support you each provided to me.

Meg and I thank you again, and let's continue an enjoyable Rotary future ... Go Gary Go!"

YEAR 22 - 2009-10: PRESIDENT GARY PRICE

The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands



"2009-10 was a truly momentous year for the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove!

In a year when much of the world was suffering from what has been said to be one of the most difficult years since the Great Depression, Sydney Cove was able to maintain its iconic programs, and prosper!

Despite all the financial conditions our Club won the District 9750 “Club of the Year Award” together with the International Service and Literacy awards.

To capture the ‘feel and detail’ of the year, my report for 2009-10 comprises 2 parts:

- The first sets out the report we submitted to District that led to the awards;
- The second fleshes out the activities of our Service Committees that show what an amazing, industrious Club we actually are, and why we deserved the awards!

Our submission to District required reporting in an array of categories the headings of which are in bold text:

Co-operation with other Rotary organizations:

- Probably our best example is the Solomon Islands RAWCS program where we collaborated with a number of District 9600 clubs in Queensland and the Solomon Islands. We also had participation from Kings Cross and Sydney Clubs in zone A.
- Hosting of 2010 National Street Soccer Finals involved Zone A Clubs and Rotaract Clubs.
- See also “Wrap with Love” working with clubs from around NSW.
- Co-operation with non-Rotary organizations:
- The Miller’s Point Partnership and The George Institute are our Headline associations:

Our Miller’s Point Partnership is such that we have a member of our Club, Eva Gerber, on their management committee.

The George Institute: we have both financially and physically participated in the research and implementation of an E-Medicine pilot program. This is made doubly interesting as a former Sydney Cove Ambassadorial Scholar, Alex Martiniuk, is heading the program for The George Institute.

See also our Regatta to raise funds for the Randwick Children’s Hospital making us one of their primary sponsors.

Funds employed per capita: \$US100 per member to Rotary Foundation.

Membership increase:

Here we have fallen short of our projections, not in terms of planned recruitment but by loss of members for numerous and diverse reasons. What we lack in number growth we have gained in youthful, energetic, gender balanced, vocationally diverse members. What we lack in number gain we have offset with energy!

New initiatives:

- Homeless Street Soccer is our 2010 ‘baby’. To have that developed to where it is really changing lives is excellent in such a short time, but to be hosting the National Finals in July is amazing.
- Another ‘child’ and still in its infancy, we have launched a Relocation Program to get alongside newcomer families to Sydney in an endeavour to integrate into our society more successfully.

Marketing & Public Relations:

- Our best coverage for RCSC is the Wrap with Love Program conducted in collaboration with ABC Radio and Rotary Clubs across NSW - it achieved first class publicity for Rotary, and it provides ongoing broad community involvement!
- We have generated publicity for Rotary through our active participation in the Australia Day Wheelchair Race around the Rocks, Homeless Street Soccer, the provision of Internet Cafes for the Salvation Army and local communities and the Sydney Cove Children’s Hospital Regatta.

We are currently developing a new approach to Public Relations in an endeavour to raise the Club’s profile and enhance our marketing and PR, as well as membership growth, fundraising and brand identification in our area.

Support for the Rotary Charities:

- The Rotary Foundation has again been supported financially (\$US100 per member).
- ShelterBox and PolioPlus were also major focuses this year.

Thinking big:

- The Sydney Cove Annual Charity Regatta is bigger than Ben Hur and getting bigger. This annual event I understand is the 2nd largest of its kind in Australia (charity regatta), and we are assisting local and international Rotary Clubs to stage similar events in their own turf.
- Our Solomon Islands project would have to be a contender for big thinking.

Community Service Projects:

Where to start? Wrap with Love, Wheelchair Race, KGV Christmas Party, Boot Up Cafés, Sydney Children's Hospital, Stepping Stone House and SOLAS (a fund set up to assist the sailing fraternity in times of tragedy).

International Service Projects:

Solomon Islands, RAWCS, Kits 4 Kids, E-Medicine, ShelterBox and Ranfurly.

Vocational Service Projects:

Each year we conduct a Pride of Workmanship program.

Youth Service Projects:

- RYPEN, RYLA, MUNA, NYSF, Youth Exchange and Ambassadorial Scholarship with strong involvement at District Leadership level in most of these programs.
- GSE to India with RCSC providing the team leader, and two team members plus District Leadership.

Service Committee Reports

Overview

The Service Committees combined had a very successful and productive year, ably led by committed and enthusiastic chairs. The focus and drive of the chairs was inspirational and a real credit to the Club and to Rotary as a whole.

Youth (Chair Dominic Williams)

The Youth committee had a great year under the very able leadership of Dominic Williams. The Club and Board wishes to thank Dominic for his hard work and immersion in the youth projects. The Next Generations committee is being handed over to Fiona Gawel for the year 2010 - 2011.

Our Committee has been very active in their diverse and interesting activities during 2009/2010. I would like to thank those on my Committee who have worked so diligently in their respective tasks on which I am pleased to report as follows:

1. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - Allan Blake took over from Stuart Cook and did an excellent job. This year's RYLA took place at the Stanwell Tops from 16 to 23 January 2010. RYLA is a leadership training program for young people aged 19-30. RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth, and aims to provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders. Our Club sent three participants who benefited greatly from their participation. The three awardees were Ben Charlton, Zoe Kelly and Michelle Chan who later gave an inspiring powerpoint presentation to the Club.

2. National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) - Rob Campbell chaired NYSF with help from Ian Cureton. In January 2010 the Club sponsored 3 students to NYSF at a cost of \$1500 each. The three students gave an enthusiastic presentation to the Club on 19 March. NYSF is a prestigious program dedicated to exposing year eleven students who are thinking about a career in science and engineering and related disciplines to major scientific institutions and researchers, so that they may make more informed choices for their future endeavours. They are also given training in time management, interview skills and public speaking. The Forum is fully residential and takes place during January in Canberra. All activities are supervised by Rotarians.

3. Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) - Fiona Gawel chaired RYPEN which was held from 30 April to 2 May 2010. RCSC sponsored 5 participants aged 14-16. Fiona took over the RYPEN District chair from Gary Price and ran an excellent camp. Fiona is helped by Karen Inman and Alex Allwood. RYPEN aims to provide young people with the opportunity to develop their leadership potential, alongside their peers in a supportive environment. RYPEN encourages awardees to explore their ideas in problem solving and assist them in forming their own values and moral standards. RYPEN builds confidence and develops skills to cope in a range of situations. RYPEN is also about having fun and broadening the cultural, social and academic horizons of participants.

4. Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) - Our District MUNA took place at the Nan Tiem Temple on Saturday 15 May 2010 chaired by Suzanne Campbell. We sent 4 teams including two Exchange Student Teams and two teams from SCEGGS, Darlinghurst. The SCEGGS team will also attend the annual National MUNA in Old Parliament House, Canberra on 15-16 August

5. Youth Exchange - Paul Ward-Harvey together with Cordula Hohnen-Behrens assisted by Amanda Coghlan, Mark Sheppard and Ethan Drozd have championed two wonderful exchange programs in our Club. Cordula has looked after the exchange with four students from New Zealand here for three months since Easter who returned to NZ with their four exchangees for three months there.

In the longer twelve-month exchange we are currently hosting Estelle Arnault from France and Max Dorneman from Germany whose host family is Peter and Karin Riordan. Additionally we sponsored Fraser Perry and Joe McDonogh who are currently in

Finland and Brazil respectively for twelve months. The Club has selected two outbound students to leave January 2011 with 1 inbound student arriving July 2010; and we propose hosting 2 inbound students from July 2011.

RCSC and RC of Sydney will co-operate in hosting 3 students arriving July 2010, and that they will be hosted by the families of outbound students within the more central metropolitan area for convenience of host families and schools. More emphasis will be placed upon the sponsoring families hosting the inbound students in order to minimise the pressure upon Rotarians and Rotary families.

The Board also approved a request from SCEGGS for support for a student in Year 11 (Pamela Vacropoulos) who has been accepted into the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament.

6. Greg Henderson Award - The winner this year was Robert Milledge from Barker College. This Award sponsors a student each year from Barker College to a Jazz Camp to honour the memory of Greg Henderson the son of John and Jill Henderson.

Vocational (Chairman John Hodge)

The Vocational committee had a slow start to the year, due to work pressures on the various committee members. The team led some activity and ran a successful Pride of Workmanship Award through the leadership of Joy Evans. The committee was reorganized in November and has ensured a series of Job Talks by members. The team have started planning a number of activities in Vocational Services and it is expected that these will bear fruit during the 2010 – 2011 year.

International (Chairman Michael Austin)

1. Working Party to the Solomon's - a new clinic, identical to the one that we built with the Queensland clubs in March and April 2010, is to be constructed on the island of Simbo. The project will be led by D9600 RAWCS Chairman, Trevor Taylor and will have two working parties from 1st-14th and 14th-28th November 2010. So far, we have no volunteers from our Club. A further team will be needed in April of 2011 to undertake some "finishing-off" work on both Ngari and Simbo projects. Michael Austin and Trevor Taylor are working on the materials list for shipping to the island late in October.

2. Canada Fund Grant - a proposal submitted to the Canadian Government by our Chairman has been successful and we shall soon be receiving these funds. These will mainly be used for renewing a tank and water supply at Ngari that was destroyed in the 2007 earthquake, together with providing a solar electrical power supply for the Ngari clinic. The grant is equivalent to Sol\$140,000, paid in Canadian dollars. We expect to be receiving around Aus\$20,000, the larger part to be deposited in our Club account (for Australian purchases), the remainder to the RAWCS account, held with the ANZ in Gizo (for local purchases and services).

3. Peace Student - the selected candidate is Ms Wendy Johns. It is expected that she will undertake a 6 week induction course in Bangkok before commencing next year.

4. Literacy - the Kits 4 Kids cartons were being held at Ranfurly whilst suitable and cost effective transport could be arranged for dispatch to the Solomons, probably ex Brisbane.

The "Toys for Boys" suggestion will be carried over into next year and be developed by the committee; the Rotary Club of Norah Head are working on a similar type program.

5. Health - Alex Martiniuk has circulated a paper on funding for Solomon Island health projects.

6. Disaster Relief - ShelterBox contribution to remain a wait and see until the matter of the UK/Australian preferred supply was resolved.

7. Poverty - it was felt that we should direct our efforts to poverty through our literacy work.

The idea of micro-loans to "kick-start" and encourage poverty reducing enterprises will be investigated.

Community (Chair Meg Gervay)

1. Homeless Street Soccer - this ongoing project is well supported within the club with weekly involvement at practice sessions of players from within the CBD at King George V Centre. In July 2010 our Club will be helping to host the Homeless Street Soccer Nationals to be held at Darling Harbour as part of Soccer World Cup celebrations. The Rotary Clubs of Kings Cross and Darling Harbour, as well as members of Sydney City Rotaract and staff from The George Institute will also be involved.

2. 'Vinnies' Night Patrol - is a new project underway which will involve volunteer Rotarians setting up a roster one night a month to serve food to the homeless at three CBD locations.

3. Boot-Up Café - number 10 was installed this year at Foster House Darlinghurst, run by Salvation Army for homeless and marginalized men, and has pride of place in the foyer of the facility. Club members are investigating potential new sites as well as examining the ongoing viability of the Cafes installed to date.

4. Millers Point Partnership - which offers mentoring to youth in the area, now has a representative from the Club on its committee. This is a relatively new initiative and will offer an excellent opportunity for Rotary to be involved in the Rocks community.

5. Wrap with Love - is an excellent inter-District project where our Club coordinates contact with Rotary communities across the State to assist with pick up of community knitting and delivery to the Wrap with Love warehouse in Alexandria, for distribution across the world. There are around 80 Clubs involved for the second year with support from local trucking companies and all the freighting costs have been donated so this is a simple and effective community project.

6. Fort Street Public School - our Club continues to support the local school and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with the new Principal.

7. KGV Christmas Party - the annual children's Christmas party is well supported by the Club with gifts donated by all members, a very jolly Father Christmas supplied and the Homeless Street Soccer Team included in the party.

8. Stepping Stone House - the Club remained actively involved with Stepping Stone House, organizing working bees when requested and supporting Max Connery when required.

Indigenous (Chair Deb Watson)

The Indigenous Service Committee had a busy year establishing contact with Indigenous groups and identifying areas of potential within the community. Towards the end of the year a decision was taken to “re-group” and review the Club involvement in Baniyala for the coming year.

1. Baniyala - the Baniyala Project achieved some exciting milestones with the completion of the community building, which is used by a number of groups. Rob and Andy continued their intense effort and their involvement has seen some positive results in the field of capacity building and literacy improvement. Support for the studies in relation to the formation of Baniyala as an independent school continued.

2. Tranby College - the committee has established contact with Tranby College and is discussing how the Club might assist the development of programs and initiatives with the college to advance Aboriginal capacity building.

I feel enormously privileged to have presided over this wonderful, effective team of extremely generous people.”

YEAR 23 - 2010-11: PRESIDENT ROBERT LEE

Building Communities, Bridging Continents



One of the real highlights of this year has been increased opportunities to work with, and appreciate even more, the involvement of the members of our Club. I continue to be in awe of the time and effort that so many Coves put into the broad range of projects in which we participate.

The Team was President Robert Lee, President Elect and Vice President - Deb Homewood, Past President - Gary Price, Secretary - Peter Riordan; Assistant Secretary - John Walker, Treasurer - Robert Campbell, Assistant Treasurer Sandeep Shastri, Club Administration - Eva Gerber, Foundation & Fundraising - Michael Maher, Membership - Fiona Lavan, Public Relations - Richard Marshall, Service Projects - Geoff Charters & Deb Watson.

Report from the President

ROTARIANS ARE VOLUNTEERS providing us with opportunities to serve, to share fellowship and to have fun.

Highlights this year have included:

- Working with the homeless (Street Soccer and the Vinnies Night Patrol) and exploring ways to provide appropriate shelter;
- The support of the Leadership Advisory Group (Past Presidents Greg Prowse, John McKernan, Rob Taggart, Suzanne Campbell, Fiona Lavan, Tom Gervay, Gary Price);
- The conscientious endeavours of this year’s Board;
- Continuing strong RCSC District representation, particularly Suzanne Campbell (DG David Brawn’s wife and outstanding success this year as District Rotary Foundation Chair) and Paul Ward-Harvey (District New Generations Chair).
- Outstanding attendance at the District Assembly and at the District Conference;
- Public Relations research – Club’s website revamp;
- Pride of Workmanship Awards;
- Increased revenues from the Regatta and the Golf Day; the “Noughties” campaign for PolioPlus (Gary Price & Alex Allwood) raised about \$14,000. The Club also donated to:
- The Children’s Hospital (\$91,000);
- SOLAS (CYC fund to assist the sailing fraternity in times of tragedy) (\$15,000);
- ShelterBox (\$3,000);
- District 9750 Disaster Relief Appeals (Flood - \$13,500, Christchurch \$10,500);

- Ranfurly \$1,000;
- Regatta, CYC, Friday November 12th, 2010 - The Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick (principal beneficiary) - donation directed to their Diabetes Service and in particular the Insulin Pumps Programme. This year's donation takes our Club's total donations to the Hospital over the past 14 years to nearly \$1.2m;
- Golf Day, Avondale GC, Wednesday March 9th, 2011;
- Inspirational Women's Dinner, Four Seasons Hotel, Thursday March 10th, 2011;
- Visit by Rotary International President Ray Klinginsmith and Zone Representative Stuart Heal, Friday March 11th, 2011;
- Sydney Wheelchair and International Triathlon Races;
- Rotary Foundation (\$US100 per member) plus 17 contributors to the Centurion Fund;
- Awards of Paul Harris Fellowships – John McKernan, Alex Martiniuk, John Punch, Meg Gervay, Tom Gervay and Peter Riordan;
- District Club Builder Award – PP David Brawn, presented by RI President Ray Klinginsmith;
- Visits by District Governor David Brawn;
- Youth Exchange – Marta Nogara (from Italy), Chihiro Aoki (from Japan), Tom Ruehl (to Brazil) and Marsha Sudar (to France);
- Kits4Kids Project and the King George V Christmas Party;
- Ranfurly (David Brawn, assisted by Rufus Wolfson and other Rotarians & friends);
- The smooth running of our weekly meetings has been assured through the tireless work of David Goodliffe (Bulletin), Guy Glenny (Speakers), Eva Gerber (Roster), John Walker (Sergeant at Arms) and John Morrison (Anthem Coordinator).

During the year, we were greatly saddened by the untimely deaths of PP Robert Opiat, James Garbett and Peter Ruehl (husband of Jenni Hewett, father of Mercedes, John & Tom).

Appreciation:

- PP Paul Ward-Harvey – mentor & friend;
- Immediate PP Gary Price – invaluable assistance and unerring support;
- Rob Taggart – his outstanding work as we considered the Club's involvement with the Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund;
- Retiring Board Members – Gary Price, Richard Marshall & Peter Riordan;
- Coves – for your enthusiastic participation and support throughout the year.

I wish Deb Homewood well for an exciting and, at times, challenging but undoubtedly rewarding year. One of the real strengths of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove lies in the calibre of its members, their preparedness to be involved and their very evident desire to support. I have this past year been so often impressed by our Club's capacity to provide Service above Self.

I look forward to sitting back down at the stern of the boat each Friday and to continuing to enjoy the warm fellowship that our Club provides.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President.

Report from the SECRETARY

The role of Secretary in 2010-11 became a little clearer, following the previous year's on-the-job training. Perhaps a third year would see everything fall into place, with a more proactive approach to assisting the President and fellow Coves. However, it is trite to say that life is not a dress rehearsal. I have been greatly assisted by President Robert's calm and methodical approach to running the Club, to Assistant Secretary John's huge shouldering of the many tasks assigned to him, and to Administration Director Eva's valuable contribution in taking charge of the "nuts and bolts" issues of Club Administration.

Being part of the Governance Committee proved to be a rewarding experience in understanding various issues concerning the operation of the Club's Benevolent Fund. Whilst the issues gave rise to differing points of view, it is to be hoped that the Club and its members continue to uphold its, and their, charitable work with proper concern for those people presently in difficult circumstances.

One area that needs more attention in the coming year is the need to satisfy the Child Protection and Privacy requirements of Rotary International.

My best wishes to incoming Secretary Meg, and continuing Assistant Secretary John, for a wonderful 2011-12.

Report from TREASURER:

There were increased revenues from the Regatta and Golf Day; the "Noughties" campaign for the PolioPlus (Gary Price & Alex Allwood) raised about \$14,000. We donated to the Children's Hospital (\$91,000), SOLAS (\$15,000), ShelterBox (\$3,000) and District 9750 Disaster Appeals (Flood - \$13,500, Christchurch \$10,500) and Ranfurly \$1,000.

Report from CLUB ADMINISTRATION:

- Weekly Meeting Treasurer Michael Lowe
- Sergeant at Arms John Walker
- Speakers Guy Glenny
- Anthem Organiser John Morrison
- Events Organiser Alison Barnes
- Insurance Advisors David Scarlett & Stuart Hetherington
- Archivist Peter Welch
- Governance Committee Michael Maher, Peter Riordan, Eva Gerber, Fiona Lavan, Derek White, Rob Taggart, Robert Bruce & Maurice York
- Award Nomination Committee Fiona Lavan, Paul Ward-Harvey, Rob Taggart & Bill Little
- Certificates for 100% Attendance were presented to David Brawn, Paul Ward-Harvey, Suzanne Campbell, Rufus Wolfson, Denis Smith & David Goodliffe.

FOUNDATION & FUNDRAISING:

- Foundation Chairman Phillip Biggs & Alex Allwood
- Centurion Club John McKernan
- Grants Officer Tom Gervay
- Publicity Officer Alex Allwood & Karol Binkowski
- Benevolent Fund Robert Bruce, Maurice York, Peter Meares & Rob Taggart
- Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund Rob Taggart, Geoff Charters, Sandeep Shastri & Derek White
- Investment Committee Peter Meares, Robert Cameron & Michael Maher
- Golf Day Chairman Peter Roberts
- Sounds of Sydney Chairman John McKernan & John d h
- Regatta Chairman Bill Little & Robert Bruce

Governance: The Governance Committee recommended that we have new safeguards in the Bylaws, and we have developed a more liberal regime of distributing money from the Benevolent Fund. The Club's Manual of Procedure has been started and is on its way to being a useful document.

Foundation: A Foundation Committee was established for the first time. The PolioPlus objective (\$5,000) was exceeded. The Centurion drive has had some success and 17 members (Bob Bruce, Bob Cameron, Rob Campbell, Bruce Christie, Eva Gerber, Alistair Gray, Robert Grimm, Trevor Haworth, Deb Homewood, Robert Lee, Michael Maher, Peter Meares, John McKernan, Gary Price, Greg Prowse, Peter Riordan & Thelma

Wansley) contributed. We have had better publicity on the Foundation than I can recall in the past. Alex Allwood has breathed real life into this area. We hope to appoint a new Chair shortly.

Regatta: A fabulous success. Sydney Children's Hospital and SOLAS and the Club all benefitted, as did the Benevolent Fund and thus our future. In the order of \$200,000 was raised. Concerns remain about succession, as they have for the last twelve years. Bill and Bob to be commended as usual. The Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick is our principal beneficiary and they receive at least half the funds raised. This year the donation was directed to their Diabetes Service and in particular the Insulin Pumps Programme. These pumps automatically dispense the required insulin dosage as necessary and thereby eliminate the need for injections. Given that a child diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 1 will otherwise need some 22,000 injections by age 16, these pumps will make an enormous difference to the lives of the children and their families. This year's donation takes our Club's total donations to the Hospital over the past 14 years to nearly \$1.2m.

Golf Day: Second time at Avondale and another great success. Raised just under \$10,000 for the Club and should gain strength and momentum. Peter Roberts is gaining experience and confidence.

Sounds of Sydney: John McKernan led various discussions on the Sounds of Sydney and it was decided that the Sounds of Sydney would not be held as an event in 2010-2011. John Walker has taken on the role as Chairman.

Benevolent Fund: The Benevolent Fund Committee (Robert Bruce, Maurice York, Peter Meares & Rob Taggart) provided excellent guidance and the Investment Committee (Peter Meares, Robert Cameron & Michael Maher) continue to work harmoniously and, apparently, successfully. They have diverse backgrounds, and diverse personal outlooks, the blending and alloying of which seems to produce a tempered result.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership numbers dropped considerably this year, despite the positive endeavours of the Membership Committee Chairman, Kerry Blight. This was a disappointment but the effects of the Global Financial Crisis hit some members hard. The good news is that the new website is doing a great job of attracting new potential members. New members (Caroline New, Stanley Lee, Eva Fera and Vanessa Woodley) have joined us and we are delighted to have former Cove, John Snelson, returning to the fold.

Rotary International also recently approved our participation in a Corporate Member pilot programme. Coves can be assured that we will tread carefully with this concept and adapt it to suit our particular requirements and standards of membership.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Team

Public Relations - Alex Allwood, Bulletin Editor - David Goodliffe, Media Liaison - Jennifer Hewett, Multimedia Presentations - Ethan Drozd & Catalin Anastase, Website Content - David Goodliffe & Bruce Hill, Website Admin - John Walker

Communications Goals & Results Achieved:

1. Build a better web site - one that more effectively conveys our Club's unique interests, characteristics and achievements, particularly to non-Rotarians and potential members or supporters. In addition to the site design and functionality, new content needed to be added, including text, images and video content. Our goal was to have at least part of the new web site up and operating by the end of 2010.

Results: A new web site was created for the Club and launched towards the end of 2010. The web site was researched and built by external professionals retained by the Club (Damon Birrell and Pierre Kuhn). The results were extremely positive and the project came in under budget, thanks to expert input from Alex Allwood, Jennifer Hewett, Bruce Hill and with input from others, including Derek White, Maurice York, et al. Further enhancements are needed to showcase the Club's projects and to ensure the content is current and topical.

2. Document & information storage - a possible spin-off from the website development work may be the opportunity to review the Club's:

- Information storage systems – to better store/access documents, archives, storage and access to Club resources like management information, reports, emails, images, film, sound recordings.
- E-commerce – to process payments online.

Results: No work achieved on the Club's information storage resources, but this may not be necessary as most documents are stored online through ClubRunner. E-commerce functionality is being developed and will be incorporated into the Club's new website during June/July 2011.

3. Bulletin & information exchange (outside of meetings) – review and update (with full member consultation) the way we currently send information to members, friends and supporters (plus community groups, local government, schools, charitable partners & others), including use of new media and communications channels, like skype conf calls, YouTube, Facebook.

Results: Further work needed to realise this role - probably by an external PR agency, under a pro bono agreement. The incoming PR Director will take on this goal. The Club's new website does incorporate new social media channels, like Facebook and Twitter.

4. Communications team – ensure our Club's communications team works smoothly and is well resourced. Our goal is to meet regularly to review Club projects and activities so we can provide communications support.

Results: Our Bulletin communications team was effective in supporting the Club's project activity; David Goodliffe and Bruce Hill worked consistently over the year to bring timely and accurate weekly information to Club Members through our Bulletin. Alex

Allwood provided strategic and tactical PR advice for key projects including the Inspirational Women's Dinner, the Triathlon event we supported and recent Telethon coverage.

5. Overall, our main aim will be to support the Club President and our Committees: Membership, Youth, International, Foundation & Fundraising, Community and Vocational by helping to:

- Amplify & focus the positive messages about the Club and its achievements and activities - to internal and external audiences.
- Communicate our unique strengths, consistently and effectively – to internal and external audiences.
- Target new/more stakeholders (members, supporters and beneficiaries).
- Be proactive with our communication: focus on Club achievements, but also communicate about issues.

Results: Some of this has been accomplished through the development of more sophisticated proactive messages via the web site, but more is needed to achieve the ideals listed here.

6. Succession – ensure we have a suitable candidate to take over the PR Director's role for 2011/2012.

Results: Alex Allwood (who joined as Member in 2010) is a Communications industry professional and will take over the PR Director role in 2011/2012.

7. Communications Goals –for the next 4 years

- Start to prepare for RI's Convention in Sydney in 2014.
- Support any new initiatives being planned by Club members.

Results: Alex Allwood will lead preparation for these longer-term communications goals during 2011/2012.

Report for SERVICE PROJECTS:

Team: Community Service Committee (Meg Gervay), King George V Christmas Party - Meg Gervay & Guy Glenny, Stepping Stone House - Max Connery, Boot-Up Cafes - Bruce Hill, Rocks Liaison - Paul Ward-Harvey, Street Soccer - Denis Smith & Peter Meares, Fort Street Primary School - Meg Gervay, Wrap with Love - Meg Gervay, Rocks Walk - David Scarlett, Wheelchair Race - Peter Welch, Buddy Walk - Greg Prowse, Vinnies Night Patrol- Tom Gervay, Miller's Point Partnership Programme - Eva Gerber

- King George V Recreation Centre Children's Christmas Party - we provided Father Christmas (Guy Glenny) once again and gifts for all students of Fort Street Primary School and Street Soccer members funded by club members.
- Boot up Internet Cafés - we are looking at upgrading Oasis Café, Surry Hills and also considering a collaboration with Rotary Club of Gwydir (Moree) for another Bootup café. Bruce Hill and Stanley Lee provided invaluable assistance with audits of cafes and quotes for replacement equipment.
- Wheelchair Race, Australia Day 2011 - volunteers led by Peter Welch.
- Sydney Triathlon event - Peter Welch organised a team of Club volunteers over two days and raised more than \$3,000 for the club funds.
- Homeless Street Soccer - well managed by Denis Smith who gives the club regular updates and calls for volunteers as needed for the weekly practices. Denis was also responsible for coordinating all Rotary volunteers for the second Annual Street Soccer Nationals held in Darling Harbour in May/June.
- Wrap with Love - 80 Rotary Clubs across the State were involved in 2010 in the delivery of community knitting to the Wrap with Love warehouse. The outcome was 34,000 warm wraps despatched across the world. Meg Gervay was ably assisted by her team of Bill Little, Margaret Silink, Fiona Lavan, Denzil Byrne, Robert Grimm and David Brawn in contacting the Clubs.
- Inspirational Women's Dinner - a NSW Rotary multi-district event led by D9750 and SCRC committee members, Meg Gervay, Fiona Lavan and Alison Barnes. 490 guests enjoyed a fabulous night at Four Seasons Hotel to celebrate awards to inspirational women from every district in the State.
- Vinnies Night Patrol - Tom Gervay organises a monthly 6 hour volunteering programme which involves making sandwiches and distributing them with tea and coffee at four CBD stops. Tom has 25 Rotarians and friends on the list of volunteers.
- Stepping Stone House - the club continues to support Max Connery with this project.
- United Way Common Cause project - we are looking at affordable housing / volunteering for the less fortunate people of our city.

Indigenous Service Committee (Deb Watson & Jeremy Wright)

- Reorganisation of the Baniyala Project and the Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund (ICBF) under the Chairmanship of Rob Taggart.

2011 marked the formal end of the Club's 6 year involvement with its Indigenous Community Benevolent Fund. With the Club's support, the Fund resolved to continue operations independently, whilst retaining its strong historical link and membership overlap. Having been established under the auspices of the Club and with approval from Rotary International, the Fund boasts an enviable record of accomplishment for one of our many disadvantaged indigenous communities – Baniyala in East Arnhem Land. These include the building of an Arts Centre, Women's Centre and a 3 bedroom house, establishing a visiting dental service and gaining approval to convert an ineffective Learning Centre to a School with attendant teachers' accommodation.

It became clear however that the objects of the Fund were growing away from those of Rotary and potentially could do so increasingly going forward, so separation was a logical outcome. Further, the financial requirement of prospective Fund projects was beyond the capacity of the Club's Indigenous Service Committee.

The ICBF continues its wonderful work independently with some Club members and new members external to Rotary. Whilst the Club's formal involvement has ended, we should reflect proudly on this period of the

initiative – in particular, the leadership and commitment of Andy Buttfield and Robert Bradshaw as members representing this Club and we wish them well in their work.

- Developed networks and investigated a number of potential projects - this involved meetings with Aboriginal Affairs, Clontarf Foundation, Many Rivers, and the National Centre for Aboriginal Excellence.
- Organised a speaker for the club on the topic of Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country.
- Beginnings of a joint venture within the District for Indigenous support.

International Service Committee (Michael Austin & Ted McKeown)

Solomon Islands Projects - Tom Gervay, Solomon Islands E-health - Alex Martiniuk, Solomon Islands Electrical - Denis Smith, Kits4Kids/Toys4Boys Michael Austin, Shelter Box & Disaster Relief Alan Tait (secretary), Group Study Exchange - Fiona Lavan, Ranfurly Book Shipments - David Brawn, Water and Sanitation - Rufus Wolfson & Robert Grimm, Poverty - Thelma Warnsley, Ambassadorial Scholars - Suzanne Campbell, PolioPlus - Suzanne Campbell, Peace Student - Greg Prowse & Fiona Lavan

- Health - E-health project into Solomon Islands on hold, but included in budget for 2011/2012.
- *"Where There is No Doctor"* books - purchased and sent to Kenya. Further copies (also one copy of *Where There is No Doctor for Women*) to be taken to the Solomons in October 2011.
- Solomon Islands - planning well advanced, including visits to Trevor Taylor, DGE District 9600 on Sunshine Coast to coordinate Solomons trip October 2011. Power generation capability - this is one focus of our planned visit to the Solomons in October 2011 – clinic and schools applications. Education - the other focus of our planned visit to the Solomons (4 schools to be assisted).
- Literacy - Kits4Kids school items sent to the Solomons.
- Water and Sanitation - under review.
- Poverty - micro-finance possibilities under review.
- Disaster Relief - three ShelterBoxes purchased.
- Ranfurly Library - regular working bees sorting books, under leadership of David Brawn, assisted by Rufus Wolfson.

New Generations Committee (Fiona Gawel)

- Model United Nations (MUNA) - we sponsored three teams to MUNA – two teams from SCEGGS Darlinghurst and one team comprising Inbound Exchange Students – thanks to Paul Ward-Harvey, also District New Generations Chairman, for organising.
- National Youth Science Forum - we sponsored two students to National Youth Science Forum – thanks to Rob Campbell, also District Chair for the NYSF Program.
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) - unfortunately our two students selected for RYLA were unable to participate withdrawing at the last moment.
- Rotary Programme of Enrichment (RYPEN) - we sponsored three students to RYPEN – Fiona Gawel also District Chair for this Program.
- Rotary Youth Exchange - we hosted two inbound Exchange Students (Marta Nogara, Italy, (counsellor, Jenni Hewett) and Aoki Chihiro, Japan (counsellor, Margaret Silink). We sponsored two outbound Exchange Students, Tom Ruehl (Brazil) and Marsha Sudar (France).
- Ambassadorial Scholars - the Club continued its positive involvement in the Ambassadorial Scholars programme, this year Matthias Koehler, Germany.
- Rotaract - the Club continued to support the enthusiastic leadership of the Rotaract Club of Sydney, as well as the new Rotaract Club of Eastern Suburbs.

Vocational Service Committee (John Hodge)

Pride of Workmanship Awards - Joy Evans, Four Way Test - Phillip Biggs, Rotaract - Margaret Silink, Vocational Speakers - Charles Mooney, Relocation Support Project Rob Taggart

- 2010 Pride of Workmanship Awards to:
 - **Deb Tully** (General Manager, nominated by Gary Price)
 - **Terence Steddy** (Master Mariner, nominated by Trevor Haworth)
 - **(Joe) Trieu Khung Truong** (Owner/Manager of IGA Outlet, nominated by Rufus Wolfson)
 - **Christos Panayi** (Team Leader, Examinations and Technology, Board of Studies, nominated by Margaret Silink & Kerry Blight)
 - **Joy Hofman** (Manager - Real Estate, nominated by Suzanne Campbell & DG David Brawn)
 - **Neil Robertson** (Campaign Manager – Fundraising, Multiple Sclerosis, nominated by Jeremy Wright & Charles Mooney)
 - **Pasquale Rubbo** (Hotel Commissionaire, Four Seasons Hotel, nominated by John King)
 - **Maria Ali** (Health Research Management, George Institute, nominated by Alex Martiniuk)
 - **Caitlin Hyde** (Police Officer – Detective, nominated by Suzanne Campbell)
 - **Emma Van Meurs** (Public Servant - project officer, nominated by Derek White).
- Rotary 4 way test Club activity (ethics debate).
- Vocational Club speakers - job talks by various Club members have always been inspirational and well received throughout the year.

YEAR 24 - 2011-12: PRESIDENT DEB HOMEWOOD

Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Changeover Dinner Address: June 22nd 2012

"District Governor Elect Bill Salter and his wife Christine, our fantastic Exchange Students Jakob and Helene, Coves, friends and family ...

Well here we are 12 months on, another Changeover dinner, a new team, a year to reflect. I note that this appears to be our largest turn out at a Changeover dinner in recent years; we have even been graced with the presence of Bill Little. I am wondering if this is because a rather large section of the Club wishes to ensure that Maurice does not run away and, horror of horrors, I have to be endured for 12 more months.

Fear not, we have been slipping Maurice little happy pills for the past few months so he is ready, willing and able to fulfil his duties as el Presidente. All that is left for me to do is report on what exactly we have been doing for the past 12 months.

Let me begin with **Meetings and Membership**. It goes without saying that we are blessed to have our meetings actually on our magnificent harbour; this of course would not be possible without the continued support of Captain Cook Cruises. But this year heralded some changes; firstly, Trevor and Geraldine decided it was finally time to sell the business, which could have been a concern for the Club. It would have been more than understandable if Trevor had left any decision about Capt Cook's continued support up to the new owners. However, while we will never really know, I suspect that, while not a condition of sale, a very strong recommendation was made somewhere in the final negotiations. As always we are grateful to Trevor, Geraldine, Jackie, Anthony and the crew of the various ships we have met on this year for their generosity. Particularly to the aforementioned crew whose patience with the quirkiness of our membership goes above and beyond the call of duty.

The other change was the rather sudden announcement by the State Government that we had to move. Again Trevor assisted us to "rehome" at an alternate location in Campbell's Cove and we did not miss a beat ... but to keep everybody on their toes, particularly Ray our honorary meeter and greeter on the wharf and our very own Walter Mitty, we have moved again, but this time back to where it all began, The Eastern Pontoon. I am hopeful that we will stay put for a time now, however we have shown over and over again we can adapt and if we have to do so I am sure we will, with great aplomb. I am happy to report that once we knew where we

were, the meetings were well organized, dignified and finished on time every week ... look, I am telling this story so settle in!

As always one of the highlights of a Sydney Cove Rotary meeting is our fantastic **Speaker Program**, run once again by Guy Glenny. Some of the highlights this year were:

- Simon Mordant on his Philanthropic Journey
- Justice Michael Kirby who spoke about his work on the future of the Commonwealth of Nations
- Nick Stace from Choice
- Gordon Bray on The Olympic Dream.

But as always our own members' stories were just as interesting and powerful:

- Ron Smart on Sierra Leone
- Jennifer Hewett sharing with us not just her husband's stories but a little of her own journey with Peter and the story that continues after he has gone
- Jeremy Wright's trip to Nigeria for Seya's wedding, a former Ambassadorial Scholar to this Club
- Our wonderful Christmas cruise with the fantastic music of the Salvation Army, enthusiastic carol singing and the wonderful fellowship of family and friends
- And of course we were taken over by Pirates on Talk like a Pirate Day.

I would like to thank **our Sergeant** this year, Matthew Payne, who did a wonderful job in taking your loose change and whenever possible your folding money and more importantly was excellent company on the head table.

Our **Membership** remains stable at 90 active members (well, financial, as David Scarlett wasn't so active for a while) and 7 honorary members. We continue to improve our gender diversity and attract some younger members but our cultural diversity still needs some work – I have heard some people describe Rotary as being Male, Pale and Stale ... well, Coves are not overwhelmingly male and we are anything but stale however we do remain a little pale. Something to consider perhaps in the new year. Sadly, the first member to be inducted this year, Eric Bowell, was not long afterwards diagnosed with cancer and lost his battle earlier this year. Eric had been a member of Rotary Clubs of Auckland and Sydney, but we did not really have a chance to know him well. Our thoughts continue to be with his family. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Fiona Lavan our Corporate Member Planning process is largely complete and we have several corporates in our sights for the New Year.

I now move to **Fundraising and Fellowship**. Our **16th Regatta** was again a remarkable success by any measure. Bob Bruce and Bill Little produced another fantastic result: a net profit of \$164,417 for the year. Given the state of the economy and the roll on effect of that to our major sponsors and supporters this is an even more remarkable achievement.

Proceeds will be distributed as follows:

- Sydney Children's Hospital \$82,500
- CYCA SOLAS Trusts \$15,000
- Rotary Club of Sydney Cove (Immediate Past Presidents' Holiday Fund!!!) \$32,883
- RCSC Benevolent Fund \$34,034.

While it is true that our Regatta is the jewel in the crown it is important that we continue to raise funds and awareness through other channels.

This year, under the stewardship of Peter Roberts, we again held our **Golf Day** at the beautiful, and oh so exclusive, Avondale Golf Club. We had some new corporate teams this year which bodes well for the future of this event and even a women's team, Rotarians everywhere are weeping! The weather Gods were again kind, just, and a good time was had by all. Importantly we raised \$10,000 for the Club.

Karol Binkowski (aka the Polish Dr) was given the very difficult role of fundraising for the **Foundation** and cleverly he roped in, I mean sought assistance from, new member Siobhan Moran. This partnership saw two

new functions, a movie night and a trivia night. Pleasingly both these events not only raised money for PolioPlus but provided an opportunity for fellowship, an important part of being a Rotarian. We again participated in the **Sydney Triathlon** providing marshalling for the participants over the two day program but went a little further this year with our own members donning the Lycra for a good cause and competing in this gruelling event ... well, gruelling for Margot Smith and myself. Matthew Payne and his Rotaract team members swanned around as a group so didn't even raise a sweat. But we did raise some money and in total \$5,918 was raised for PolioPlus. This is a significant reduction from last year and the Foundation Committee is developing a different approach for the new Rotary year which includes collaboration with our friends from Sydney City Rotaract.

We did manage to get a **Boardroom Bash** in, just, and many thanks to Guy Glenny for hosting us at the new Jones de la Salle Offices and we raised the culture of the Club when we visited the Picasso exhibit at the Art Gallery earlier in the year.

While all this frivolity is taking place there is the very serious nature of grass roots work being undertaken by our various **service committees**:

Our **Community Service** committee headed up by Tom Gervay continued their remarkable efforts over many projects.

- Wrap with Love (Meg Gervay) celebrated their 20th year with the distribution of 36,000 hand knitted blankets to the needy around the world. We continue to co-ordinate 80 Rotary clubs around the state in the collecting and transportation of the community knitting to the Alexandria HQ.
- Boot-Up Café (Bruce Hill and Stanley Lee): This year we updated our original installation of 10 years ago at the Salvation Army Oasis Centre, with the installation of 4 new computers, continuing the good work done by former member Ed Ackman. The need to remain connected is as important as it was all those years ago and perhaps even more so for those marginalized.
- Connection is another theme of the Vinnie's Night Patrol where once a month a team of seven Coves prepare and provide meals, hot drinks and companionship to over 100 homeless men and women.
- Our involvement in the Homeless Street Soccer continues to grow. Spearheaded by Denis Smith, and approximately 70 Rotarians and friends volunteered at the 10 day national championships this year.
- Other activities undertaken by this committee include: Landscaping a garden for Dementia patients at the Braeside Hospital ... stage one is complete. David Scarlett will be lurking shortly at a meeting near you for assistance with stage 2. The Australia Day Wheelchair Race, King George V Christmas Party and the Millers Pt Partnership Program all form activities undertaken in the name of Community Service.

Our **New Generations Team** under the leadership of Vanessa Woodley has also been very busy. This year we sponsored two teams from SCEGGS for the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) which was held on the 12 May at the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong. MUNA is an excellent opportunity for senior school students to improve their public speaking skills, share their views on world problems and gain a deeper understanding of different races and cultures.

We again supported both RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) and RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) by sponsoring an attendee at each event. The big news is that this year we finally sent a girl to RYPEN – in the years since 2009 we have sponsored 12 boys, so better late than never. Both these programs offer invaluable leadership and life skills to students and young adults and if you believe in changing the world one person at a time, this is a great place to start. We continue to be a supporter of the National Youth Science Forum and sponsored two exceptional students to Canberra this January.

To prove that New Generations love an acronym for the first time Coves were involved in RYDA – Rotary Youth Driver Awareness scheme ... So really for those still with me the Young People got involved with RYLA, MUNA, RYPEN, NYSF and RYDA getting them a big thumbs up on FB!

I have not forgotten of course the Youth Exchange Program, a favourite of this Club and myself mostly because of the wonderful students we meet from all over the world and who particularly this year have played such a big part on our meetings ... even though they didn't want to. Jakob and Helene, I cannot tell you what a pleasure it has been to have you as our Exchange Students during my year. That feeling may of course not be shared by Jakob which many of you will understand. But it is indeed a mature person who can play along with a group of strangers in a language that is not their first and you have both done so with a maturity and grace that is beyond your years. Your parents must be rightly so very proud of both of you; I know we are and you should both know that you have a large group of second parents down under who would be delighted to have you back anytime and we look forward to hearing about your certain success in the years to come. This leaves me with **Indigenous and International**. Both these committees have had challenging years as they rethink ways we can engage in their communities.

Jeremy Wright chaired the Indigenous committee and they have built a considered and successful relationship with the Tribal Warrior Association (TWA). Since November 2011 several Coves have been involved in the Boxercise and Mentoring Project run by TWA. Through this project there may be other opportunities to collaborate further with TWA. While this is a small program for the Club it has great promise and importantly involves us in activities that are at the centre of Sydney's Urban Aboriginal population and there is a strong connection through the Harbour via our support of 3 young Aboriginal interns working part time on the two TWA owned vessels. I congratulate Jeremy and his committee for the thinking applied to the approach to this program and believe it will pay significant dividends over time to all involved.

It was also a year of consideration for our International committee who are looking for ways to match their efforts against Rotary International's main areas of focus. We continue to be involved in the Solomons under the umbrella of RAWCS and our chairman Ted McKeown will again return in March/April of next year. We have also assisted with the funding of a George Institute researcher, Penny Farrel, who is undertaking epidemiological research in the Solomons. Ranfurly continues its work collecting and distributing used books to schools through the Pacific region under the watchful eye of David Braun. Other projects under consideration by the International Committees are micro financing, Kids in Kenya and assisting the Salvation Army with their school project in Sierra Leone. Much to look forward to.

In closing, I would like to thank David Goodliffe who, week in week out, does a fantastic job on our wonderful Bulletin and his ghost writer Bruce Hill who is always on hand to bail out a wandering President when a President's report is required. And I would like to recognise Tom and Meg Gervay who are true examples of what it means to be Rotarians; our Club would be weaker without their passion to make a difference and their fellowship. And, of course, there is my amazing Board who do so much important work mostly behind the scenes, always in their own time and often while juggling demanding jobs. Without their dedication this Club would simply not function. The Board comprises:

PE Maurice York, Michael Maher, Meg Gervay, Alex Allwood, Deb Watson, Rob Campbell, Fiona Lavan, John Walker, IPP Robert Lee, Eva Gerber

I consider myself very privileged to have had the opportunity to be President of this great Club and I know, under the guidance of Maurice, we will continue to be the envy of many other service clubs and make significant contributions to our community.

Thank you."

YEAR 25 - 2012-13: PRESIDENT MAURICE YORK

Peace Through Service



This is a summary version of the report presented to the final Board meeting for the 2012-13 Rotary year.

It has been my privilege to serve as President in this the 25th year of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove. The very first Kiwi President and All Black supporter to take this office.

We set out at the beginning of this year the three major themes:

- To engage members especially in hands-on projects
- To serve our community
- Enhance the image of Rotary.

We have had a great year in all three dimensions, and this has culminated in our Club being awarded an RI Presidential citation. The citation very much reflects the fact that we have had a balanced program covering many different aspects of our service and congratulations go to all who have worked so hard raise funds and deliver projects and also to work in the background to deliver our Club program of speakers and events, run the desk and handle all the myriad of tasks which keep us going.

My major personal focus for the year was to run engaging meetings with the coves and visitors enjoying themselves, enhancing the mood and culture of the Club. I personally want to acknowledge Alex Allwood in her role as Sargent for a great contribution to the culture of the Club plus her personal support in running meetings. Her company on the front table, timekeeping and sound suggestions of how to handle situations has been a wonderful support for me. And of course, Alex leading the rendition "Happy Birthday Mr President" much to my surprise.

My second focus for the year has been to empower individuals and committees to get on with and do the job and I'm delighted with the outcome. We have over the last couple of years deliberately set out to do some renewal at board and committee level, and it has worked, with all board members and committee leads rising to the challenge. I believe we end the year in excellent shape, having had a very successful year, more than 20 projects completed and a high level of engagement of members.

We stabilised our return to our original home, which I think was a great result as Campbell's Cove was proving difficult for us. While we are a little down on members and this has been impacting the attendance at meetings (running at 55%); we close the year with a strong pipeline of potential members, projects and initiatives for coming year. In particular, we are gearing up for a new event at the Choral Grand Prix which has significant potential for the future.

My highlight for the year was the Regatta, it was truly exhilarating to see the event come together and see such a significant sum raised, followed by presenting the cheques to SCH and SOLAS.

But also there were other highlights – working side by side with Club members and friends at Braeside, attending the SCH champions dinner and understanding the magnitude of our achievement over time; a great result from the golf day; to see the spirit and culture of the Club so well captured in the Club video; to be part of the inspiring Xmas cruise, giving out well-deserved awards and enjoying Ron's program timed to perfection with the anthem resounding to a climax as we returned to the wharf, inspired and enthralled.

Giving out PHF's is great – this year we were able to honour and surprise Bob Cameron and Eva Gerber plus Ted McKeown, Bruce and Annie Christie.

I was unfortunately off sick for three weeks including golf day, so thanks to Fiona, Rob and Greg who stood in for me.

THE BOARD

The board has worked really well together, building a great consensus and with valuable input from all. In addition to the myriad of matters concerned with running the Club, we also took on defining some of the key procedures and completing the governance work done in the last two years, with a smooth budget process and improved financial reporting.

Special thanks to: -

- Secretary Meg Gervay, assisted by Andrew Wawn, has completed all things secretarial with smooth efficiency and timely reminders to make sure all was on time.
- Treasurer John Morrison put in a great performance, with limited handover from last year. He overcame a significant initial hurdle to re-present the accounts for audit and his substantial personal effort to get the audit done in time for the AGM was very much appreciated.
- PE Jeremy has been outstandingly successful in working with the system (including the new Grants schemes) to give us a great start into next year and bring Seye out for his PHD with significant District support. I personally appreciate the support and advice, and believe we are well placed for a successful transition.
- Immediate Past President Deb was unfortunately not able to be at many meetings due to pressures of work, but did come up trumps late in the year with an interesting new approach to a mentoring project which we will be able to pilot in the near future.
- Membership under Fiona had a quiet year, with four new members, but they were very significant in getting us the Presidential Citation as they managed to significantly increase our diversity with two new members from backgrounds which are significantly under-represented in the Club.
- Public Relations – Alex Allwood took us forward into the brave new world of social media, keeping the web site and our Facebook pages refreshed, ensuring that the site ranked outstandingly well in searches. In addition, Alex put in a major personal effort in getting the new Club video completed – a significant asset for the Club and which greatly enhances the image of Rotary.
- Foundation and Fundraising under Ted McKeown got on with the job with some very well-run committees and we have two outstandingly successful events in the Regatta and the Golf day, and the major work for the Choral Grand Prix (which will be in August 2013) was completed. As noted, we did not get far on Future Vision, but that was entirely due to late information from District; but we did engage well with Foundation at District level for the work with PE Jeremy and we were also able to maintain our contribution level to the Foundation.
- Service project communication worked especially well this year under Deb Watson, with a steady flow of information and decisions which significantly simplified the Board's work and kept us all informed. There are more details in each to the committee reports as summarized below.
- John Walker has had an extremely busy year with his dual role and Club Services (administration) and taking the lead on establishing the Choral event. John has been assisted especially by Guy, who kept the speaker program full and flowing, Eva who not only relentlessly chased the coves to make sure they were ready for duties at meetings but also facilitated boardroom bashes – especially one at the MCA. David Goodliffe took care of the bulletin in his tirelessly efficient way. And the assistance of the 'officers of the black bag' – Michael and Ken is greatly appreciated.

OUR BENEVOLENT FUND

The Fund is fortunate to have as trustees five members with both a depth and a diversity of experience. Three of them also have extensive investment experience, and sit on the Investment Committee, which is charged with adding value to the Fund by actively investing with a long-term focus.

During the year, there has been a significant boost to the fund from the rebound in investment values,

OUR PROGRAM

Guy Glenny organised a balanced program. Looking back, we had 8 presentations from members on a diverse range of topics from current affairs, military history and life experiences - including a special 'is there life on mars?' from Guy himself. We had committees reporting back on plans and projects and had a Club assembly on strategy.

Major speakers included talks on Charities, ACMF, ROMAC, RFDS, Vision beyond Oz, as well as on Social issues, Indigenous issues, Microfinance, Women's rights, Health issues, including research in the Solomon's, Knee Surgery, and a world expert on e-health. Plus speeches on local and international affairs and events and the future of digital media; special interest topics such as gold, the fleet review, people smuggling, Pride and Prejudice and the Story factory. Rotary speakers included RI Vice President, DG, Ambassadorial Scholars, Exchange Students, RYLA, NYSF, and GSE.

Some deserve special mention – Lisa and the Dictionary of Sydney was fascinating and Lisa went on to speak at Tedx Sydney; Jeremy's son did a great personal presentation on climate change advocacy, David Christian did his magnificent Ted talk on Big History and finally we had the total inspiration of hearing from Warwick Sherman and his battle with cancer.

DISTRICT INVOLVEMENT

We have a reputation for an impressive performance and this continued with Tom Gervay as an ADG, Paul Ward-Harvey as Youth plus working on the constitution of the new District. David Brawn continued his sterling efforts for efforts on District Membership, Club Extension, YEP Airport assistance and Ranfurly with Rufus and Warren. Fiona Lavan on GSE, Fiona Gawel organised a very effective RYPEN camp, Peter Meares was Foundation Permanent Fund Chair. Meg Gervay on the Inter-District Wrap with Love, Vanessa Woodley and Mark Sheppard on Youth Exchange, Alex Martiniuk, Ambassadorial Scholar Alumni

Plus, a specular performance from John Walker and Michael Maher at District conference.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

FOUNDATION AND FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising efforts have stood upon three pillars, the Regatta, the Golf Day and this year we also do acknowledge the great efforts of John Walker and Derek White in getting the Choral Grand Prix organised.

The Regatta was again highly successful, thanks especially to those tireless stalwarts, Bill Little and Bob Bruce – particularly given the difficult financial climate. The net profit on the day was \$173,599.00, distributed as follows: - Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick \$ 87,000.00, SOLAS Foundation \$15,000.00, RCSC Benevolent Fund \$ 71,599.00. The Benevolent Fund paid the Club an administration fee of \$36,008.00 from the \$71,599.

The Golf Day at Avondale Golf Club was also very successful. My thanks in particular go to Ken Mangraviti for steering the whole activity, Michael Maher for making all the arrangements with Avondale Golf Club, Guy conducting the auction, and Peter Roberts and Matthew Payne for taking charge of the raffle and silent auction. This year, the Golf Day was run in conjunction with the Adam Scott Foundation, and the final outcome after donations of \$11,500 was \$2874.35.

As it has done every year since it was chartered, the Club contributed \$US100.00 per member to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International - \$9000. In addition, the board decided to contribute a further \$5,000.00 earmarked specifically for Polio Plus.

MEMBERSHIP

New members this year were Sven Weissenborn, Adi Tigrania, Denis de Rozario and Kevin Beltrame. We also lost several members - mainly due to change in life events (working retirement relocation etc. - and our current membership number sits at 81.

We have several past members of the Club who have indicated a keen desire to rejoin – a great sign that Sydney Cove has lost none of its appeal. Membership features heavily in the future strategy work. Fiona has engineered a transition of the membership portfolio, and it will be in great hands for the next few years with Paul Ward-Harvey at the helm.

CLUB SERVICES

In summary - Club Services managed

- Venue liaison, taking care of co-ordination with Captain Cook Cruises
- The bulletin, a great effort from David Goodliffe and the writing team, especially Meg Gervay.
- ClubRunner via Kevin Beltrame and Derek White
- Implementing TryBooking
- Fellowship events – MCA, Board Room bash sponsored by HTM Wilson (Andrew Wawn was our host), plus Guy at JLL, BBQ for rugby at Gervays, The Chinese New Year, Ted McKeown has organized bush walks, we had the monthly Michael Costello Inaugural Lunches and a rugby evening at the Gervays.
- The DUTY ROSTER and the Weekly Agenda continue to be produced by Eva Gerber.
- THE DESK - Michael Lowe and Ken Mangraviti have the collection of weekly fees and attendance records running smoothly
- At each meeting, Meg G provides 6 printed copies of the weekly Bulletin for visitors and others

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In summary: An outstanding year, and a significant contribution to the image of the Club with the Club video “a day in the life” of a Sydney Cove Rotarian. We especially acknowledge honorary member Russell Cunningham who donated much of his company’s services to assist producing the video. Alex’s company - The Holla Agency - assisted with writing and producing and Director Colin Skyba gave us an excellent deal. Without professional assistance, this could never have been achieved to this quality and impact.

The efforts in PR, especially in ensuring that our web sites consistently ranked with search engines and that we engaged in social media were a key factor in our Presidential Citation.

PROJECTS AND COMMITTEE SUMMARY

The service committees carried out approximately 20 projects covering all avenues of service this year. Each committee has provided a detailed report and set out below is a brief summary of each. All committees did a great job of budgeting and staying within budgets; and in some cases, getting especially good results by leveraging donations in kind.

INTERNATIONAL - CHAIRED BY BRUCE CHRISTIE

Committee Members: Ted McKeown, Fiona Lavan, Dennis Smith, Denis de Rozario, Tom Gervay, Greg Prowse, Ron Smart, Andrew Wawn, Michael Austin, David Gawel, Dominic Williams, Rufus Wolfson, Alan Tait, Bruce Christie (Chair).

Summary: the ISC committee was very active during 2012/13, participating in several successful projects overseas. The committee is also actively pursuing new projects for future years.

Key projects were Kids in Kenya (Tom & Meg Gervay, Dominic Williams); Auburn to Africa Mission (Ron Smart); Solomon Islands Western Province (Ted McKeown, Bruce and Annie Christie); and Ranfurly (David Brawn, Rufus Wolfson) plus ShelterBox (two new boxes)

COMMUNITY – CHAIRED BY STANLEY LEE

Committee: Stanley Lee (Chairman), Caroline New, Kevin Beltrame, Tom Gervay, Deb Watson, Denzil Byrne, Margot Smith, Meg Gervay, David Scarlett, Bruce Hill, Denis Smith, Eva Gerber, Robert Lee, Greg Prowse, Andrew Wawn, Jackie Charlton, Peter Welch, Max Connery, Richard Marshall.

Summary: Generally, the committee was very active during this Rotary year, participating in many successful programmes, plus a number of other activities. It is also actively pursuing new projects for the future years.

The committee also participated in a number of community BBQs and provide volunteers for other activities such as the Regatta, Science Competitions and Science Forum. Of special note is the work done by Kevin as we re-evaluate the needs of the rocks area. Overall a great team effort for the year.

Key Programs - Wrap With Love Community Service (Meg Gervay), Bootup Café (Stanley Lee, Kevin Beltrame) Homeless Street Soccer (Denis Smith, Peter Meares); Vinnie's Night Patrol (Tom Gervay); Fort Street Public School (Kevin Beltrame); Imagination Library (Derek White); Indigenous Services [Tribal Warrior and Boxercise] (Jeremy Wright); Braeside Hospital (David Scarlett); Australia Day Wheelchair Race (Matt Payne); Stepping Stone House (Max Connery, Denzil Byrne).

YOUTH – CHAIRED BY VANESSA WOODLEY

Key Team members Paul Ward-Harvey and Mark Sheppard. A big year for youth, with lots of activity in the Rotary Youth Programs

Key Projects

- Youth Exchange Program - This year our Club hosted two inbound Exchange Students, Alexandra (Alex) Strobl from Austria and Guilherme (Guigs) Benicio da Silva from Brazil, and two outbound Exchange Students Paloma Siles and Cleo Myerscough. Paloma is on exchange in Brazil and Cleo is in Italy.
- MUNA -- We sponsored two teams from SCEGGS Darlinghurst for the Model United Nations Assembly
- RYLA - This year we sponsored Hope Meatuai and Nadine Lightfoot to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- RYPEN – The Club supported 4 students.
- NYSF – The Club sponsored Eleanor Henderson; and special thanks to Club members who assisted with the NYSF District interviews.
- RYDA - Our Club continued to support the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program this year and Club members assisted at various sessions through. Thank you to John Harrison and other Club members for their involvement with the RYDA program.
- SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE- Our Club assisted as coordinators of the experiments/exercises for 6 days of the programme and we learnt a lot about the skills of the youth of Australia as they clearly enjoyed their exposure to Science, Engineering and Rotary.
- Finally, we awarded the Greg Henderson Award to Ben Sporr of Baker College.

IN CONCLUSION

Again, it has been a privilege and pleasure to be the 25th president of this great Rotary Club. We have had a great year, worked well together, had a lot of fun and served our community. We have shown we are prepared to change and try new things, and we conclude the year in great shape. I wish Jeremy, the incoming board and committee leads all the best and the club remains in safe hands. But as always, it's the individual members, working hard in the committees, serving above self, that makes this work. Congratulations to All.

Thank you, it has been a privilege to serve with you all.

RECOGNITION

We have been able to celebrate achievement and service by the awarding of more than 40 PHF's and have even had a couple of members honoured in the Order of Australia citing their work with us. And Andy Buttfield received the Service Above Self Award, one of the highest awards in Rotary - presented by the RI President himself, Bill Boyd, at a Club meeting

These members of the club have received special recognition for the efforts related to Rotary club actives

OAM

Bill Little, Bob Bruce

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Andy Buttfield

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS AS OF 2013

In recognition of their outstanding service to Rotary and the community, the following current Club Members have been given recognition by being awarded a Paul Harris Fellow:

David Brawn DSP, Bob Bruce SP, Greg Prowse, Philip Edmonds, Guy Glenny SP, Trevor Haworth DSP, Rob Taggart, Fiona Lavan SP, Roger Cherry, Michael Maher SP, Thelma Wansley, David Scarlett, Bill Little DSP, John McKernan, Paul Ward-Harvey SP, Michael Lowe SP, Dominic Williams, Alistair Gray, Gary Price, Ron Smart, Robert Cameron, Tom Gervay DSP, Max Connery, Derek White, Maurice York, Peter Welch, Suzanne Campbell, John King, Bruce Hill, David Goodliffe, Michael Austin SP, Meg Gervay SP, Denis Smith, Eva Gerber, Bob Cameron, Peter Meares, Robert Lee

NOTE: SP designates Sapphire Pin holder; DSP designates Double Sapphire Pin holder

HONORARY MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 2013:

Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC

Ken Done

John Messenger

PP Peter Golding

PP Peter Watt

PP Graham Lightfoot

Russell Cunningham

CURRENT (AS AT JUNE 2013) CLUB MEMBERS WHO ARE CHARTER MEMBERS:

David Brawn, DSP Trevor Haworth, DSP Bill Little, DSP Peter Welch