



A History of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga 1975-2022

Written by
Gordon Fuller and Steve McGregor

4th Edition

Rotary Club of Wahroonga History from 1975 – 2022



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Front Cover; Wahroonga Railway Station before they cut the trees down, by Steve McGregor

Photo this page: Norm Danvers, President 1979/80, receives the presidential collar from Past President Rob Ferguson at Changeover.

The Authors

This history of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga was written in the main by Past President Gordon Fuller, who joined in 1977, one of the early band of brothers who were there in the formative years. As an Honorary Member he is in many ways still with the Club. His history of how the Club started and of course the beginnings of the very successful "Sun Rise Club" format proves interesting. Gordon was also the Club's historian and archivist for many years and his knowledge of the Club's beginnings was invaluable. He is currently an active member of the Rotary Club of Uralla.

Rotarian Steve McGregor a relative newcomer (almost 30 years!) to the Club, having joined in 1990, wrote the sections relating to the most recent years and also sourced the vintage photographs from the Club's archives. Steve was an ideal choice to oversee this project as he has many years of experience as an author whose published works cover genres from children's literature to the history of organisations such as ours.

Past President Rob Ferguson, Charter Member and Honorary Life Member, very kindly assisted in the editing of the text and in bringing the document to completion.

Past President George Richards, who recorded almost every event over the last thirty years for his award-winning Wahroongler (the Club's weekly Bulletin), and many others also deserve mention for their photography, for if it wasn't for them we would not have the photographs seen in this "History of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga."



Left: PP Gordon Fuller receiving the Stirrer's Award from Sergeant at Arms Steve McGregor

How it all Started

It is appropriate I think that in this forty-sixth year (2021) celebrating the establishment of our Rotary Club that we pause for a while and look back on the history of our club. PP Rob Ferguson is the only Charter member left and I am indebted to him for retaining a lot of the early knowledge and passing it on to me as the club historian.

In our archives we have a folder where you will find a copy of the minutes of an extraordinary meeting on the 7th October 1975 of the Board of the Rotary club of Turramurra regarding proposed territorial areas for a new club shared with Turramurra and problems with the ceding of some areas from the Hornsby club.

There is also an original copy of the program for the Charter Night on the 25th November 1975 held at the Police Citizens Boys club at Hornsby. The ancestry of our club is also in the folder as well as the list of the original 24 charter members.

Well, let's start at the beginning. PP Gordon Baker, a Paul Harris Fellow from the Rotary Club of Turramurra, had the foresight to realise that a new lunchtime club could gather business people from the local area, who were not able to attend an evening meeting.

He initially interviewed some 60-70 potential members holding meetings at the 'Elsinore Schweizer Hof Restaurant' (later Guardian Funerals, and now an apartment complex) owned by his good friend Manfred Haas who became one of our members. These meetings were hosted by Gordon Baker and his wife Roma with the help of Turramurra members. The number was gradually 'winnowed' down to 35 and then to 24 with whom he conducted final individual interviews to explain the privileges and responsibilities of becoming a Rotarian. The first 'interest' meeting was held for 24 prospective members on the 26th July 1975.

A more formal meeting was chaired by Past District Governor Harry Fieldhouse, the District Governor, Bob Moin, the President of the Rotary Club of Turramurra, Gordon Baker, and the 24 possible new members. The following resolutions were passed:

- That the provisional Rotary Club of Wahroonga apply for a charter to Rotary International;
 - That a modified standard constitution and set of bylaws be adopted;
 - That boundaries be specified and approved;
 - That election be held for its first officers.
-

The First Meeting

The provisional Rotary Club held its first meeting at 12.30pm for a 1.00 pm start at what was to become their home at the Schweizer Hof Restaurant on Monday the 17th November, 1975.

This meeting, along with so many in those early days, was distinguished by a great deal of tentativeness (no doubt due to a great lack of Rotary procedure) but enthused by a surge of interest as each learned from the other.

The Club was presented with its Charter on the 25th November 1975, in the presence of many members of the Clubs of District 268. The evening was sponsored by our mother club, Turramurra, on a very hot but happy night. By way of interest this very special occasion cost \$7.50 per person including drinks.

The first Board Meeting was held on the 9th December 1975 at the 'Bush' School in Burns Road Wahroonga. At that meeting it was agreed that:

- There would be an admission fee of \$20.00 for new members to join;
- That membership would cost \$45.00 per annum payable half yearly to avoid undue hardship;
- The mid-day meal at the Schweizer Hof would be \$4.00 per head of which \$0.25c would be retained to pay for the meal of the guest speaker, and the running of the club.

We initially met in the upstairs Elsinore Function Room but as it had already been booked by another group once a month we would meet downstairs in the Schweizer Hof public restaurant. This would of necessity be a meeting without a guest speaker and became known as our Downstairs Meeting, a term which continued to be used for a purely fellowship meeting for some years after we had left the Schweizer Hof.

Gordon Baker spent a great deal of time teaching us the "mysteries" and etiquette of being a Rotarian. Of great importance was the classification system for in those days there were only 56 business classifications approved with a qualification that only one Rotarian residing or working in the defined boundaries could be given that classification. How things have changed. As an example Alan Dwyer, a charter member and an architect, had to give approval for Gordon Fuller, also an architect to join the club as 'Additional Active' in 1977. These classifications were quite a problem as we had 3 charter members in Education and this was solved by having three classifications:

Education - Primary, Education - Private, Education - Principal

A member's classification might later change to 'Senior Active' or 'Past Service' to allow a new member to fill what would now become a 'vacant' classification.

Fellowship, as the basis of service, was of utmost importance to Gordon and he insisted that nothing but Rotary titles should ever be used within the Club. We were all equal in Rotary and all other titles (Dr, Prof, Capt etc) had to be left at the door. He also advised us, as an all-male club, that when we held a ladies night some ladies may appear more "attractively kissable" than others, but to maintain fellowship the Rotary rule was: if you kiss one, you must kiss the lot!

Gordon was also adamant that in order to engender fellowship and to avoid the formation of cliques we should honour the Rotary spirit by sitting at a different table each week. This was enforced by an ever vigilant Sergeant-at-Arms.

This early insistence has certainly born fruit as we have noticed over the years how often visitors have commented on the strong sense of fellowship within our club.

Our ladies likewise formed very strong friendships and each month rostered themselves onto a cake stall in Wahroonga to raise funds for our various projects.

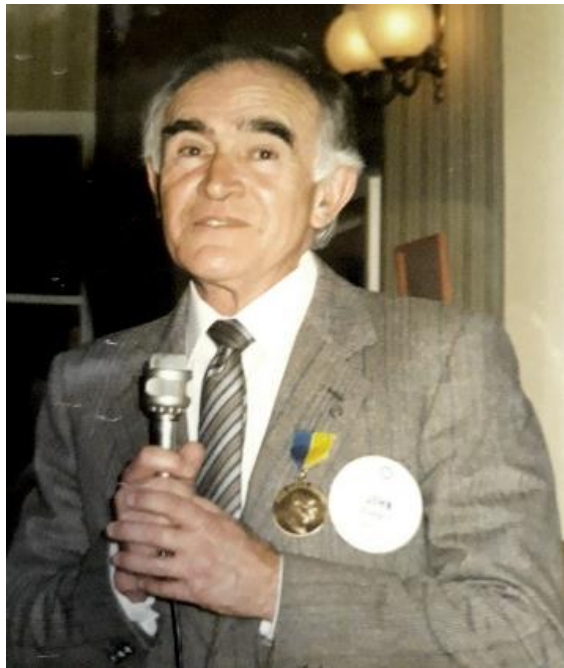
Of the 24 charter members of the Club only five had previous Rotary experience. It was not until we attended the District 268 Conference in March 1976 at the Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education that the fledgling club understood the amazing influence that Rotary had on both the local and broader community.

Being very enthusiastic and having a charter member Ian McDonald, who was an art dealer, the club decided to have an art show in its first year with paintings worth then over \$200,000! This was held at Grace Bros, Chatswood and was opened on the 6th April 1976 by none other than the distinguished film producer, Ms. Pat Lovell, with a chicken and champagne supper. All members and wives were rostered to attend for the whole week of the exhibition, a venture that put our club on the map and raised the sum of \$11,000 after costs!

The President's of the Club

A brief record of the President's years are listed in this section of the history of the Club.

1975-6 President John Doherty



As Pres John Doherty said in his report to the club: "we worked, complained, socialised and best of all contributed of ourselves to provide a community service and felt that we were at last true Rotarians."

Other highlights of the year included:

Our present Bulletin cover was designed by Alan Houghton

Interschool humorous debate between senior students from Abbotsleigh, Knox and St Leo's

UPA aged care and Neringah were the recipients of substantial donations

We hosted a South African GSE student for one week

Rob Ferguson on District Committee to select a GSE team for South Africa, our first District involvement.

1976-77 – President Rob Habel



Rob was one of the five charter members with previous Rotary experience and the first to serve a full year as president. Highlights of his year included:

"Bavarian Night" resulting in three talking books presented to the Royal Blind Society

Club members' professional details forwarded to school careers advisors as a basis for career night talks and work experience opportunities

Employer/employees luncheon arranged

Annual public speaking competition for schools

"Swiss Night" raised funds for books to a school in the Celebes.

1977-78 – President Fred Liney



During this year a meeting was held to consider a change from a lunchtime club to an evening club. Mike Jenkinson suggested we meet over breakfast but at the time the idea was too radical and was not taken seriously. The result was 'steady as she goes' with a rider that: 'only if and when we start to lose impetus within our sphere of activities should this subject be again raised'. It would be a further six years before the question would be raised again and Australia's first Rotary Breakfast Club would eventuate.

Highlights included:

Hawaiian night resulting in the air conditioning of the babies' ward at John Williams Hospital

Additions to library at St Lucy's School for the Blind

Sponsoring two country children to a city holiday camp at Abbotsleigh School

Water supply system given to the village of Omborda in the

Highlands of Papua New Guinea

Youth exchange to Denmark and Germany

Gardening at Carramar home for unmarried mothers

1978-79 – President Rob Ferguson



Two exciting ventures occurred this year. The first was a day charter trip on the MV Krait, the famous vessel that carried members of Z Force to attack shipping in Singapore Harbour during WW II.

The other was the chartering of a Jumbo jet together with Turramurra and Ku-ring-gai clubs for a flight over the Antarctic. As Pres Rob's wife Cecile was due to give birth to their fourth child on the day of the flight, obstetrician Charter Pres John Doherty was keen to assist at the birth over Antarctica but Cecile declined. In lieu of this for entertainment marriage celebrant Gordon Baker conducted a mid-air wedding. Other highlights included:

Five local Rotary Clubs raised \$13,000 for Rotary House at Hillview Turramurra

Probus Club of Wahroonga, our first Probus Club, formed under guidance of Jack Rashleigh, who would later be awarded our first Paul Harris Fellowship for this project

Gardening days at Carramar Maternity Home

Supported Australian RI President Clem Renouf's 3H Program (Health, Hunger and Humanity) and the "Peace Gun", a vaccine injector that could immunise one thousand children per hour

Ocker Night at the Schweizer Hof • Exchange Student sent to Germany

Support for all youth programs in International Year of the Child

When the Schweizer Hof closed for lunch we moved to the Ku-ring-gai Club in Telegraph Rd, at Pymble.



An early photograph which shows the 1978/79 District 268 Presidents - with DG Bob Burnett in the centre of the front row in the light grey suit and Pres Rob Ferguson in the front row second from the right. Bob was from our mother club Turramurra and the RI President that year was the Australian Clem Renouf from Nambour in Queensland. He was the driving force behind PolioPlus.

1979-80 – President Norm Danvers



Exchange students sent to and hosted from Japan

Family Day on the Hawkesbury River

Hydraulic rescue equipment for fire vehicles promoted by our club and successfully presented to the district conference

Support for careers advisory market at Willoughby Civic Centre

First Citizenship Award given to Val Street for work with underprivileged children

First Christmas stocking raffle raise \$1,400

1980-81 – President Bob England



Loss of Dunc McNicol grand old man of Rotary

Progressive dinner, Chinese banquet and fellowship dinner at L'Onion Soup Restaurant

Christmas Party to mark the end of Manfred Haas's ownership of the Schweizer Hof

Art Show raised \$1500 for UPA's 40th Anniversary Appeal

Driver training day at Amaroo Park

Christmas stocking raised \$2419 for Spinal Injuries Research Unit

Support for 3H program- Health, Hunger and Humanity

1981-82 – President Ern Hoy



Bus Shelter for UPA

Christmas stocking raised \$4000

Exchange student sent to Japan

50% of Charter members still with the Club

Hand-propelled tricycle given to Mercy Life Children's Centre

Disabled access conversion arranged for new UPA bus

Support for Microsearch Organisation

Donation of award for the design of an Adventure Playground for disadvantaged children at the Mercy Family Waitara Centre

David Gardiner initiates Country/City exchange scheme

1982-83 – President Jack Rashleigh



Main projects for the year were:-

Joint meetings arranged with Turramurra Club

Support for the domestic fire safety project

Installation of a stair elevator at Prouille School to enable access for physically disabled children

Funds provided to maintain a first aid facility at the Sera Monastery in South India, run by Australians

Funding two cases of four hens each and one year's chicken feed to Thai border refugee camps

Support for George Winston, founder of Technical Aid for the Disabled, to attend a conference in Texas. Our Club arranged with clubs in Houston, Palo Alto and Downey to provide accommodation.

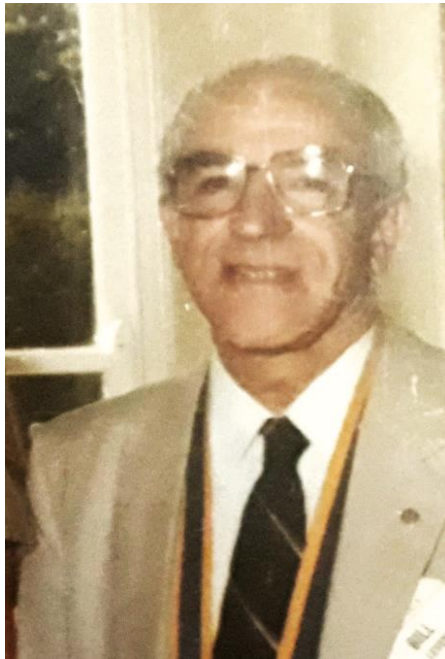
Association with Rotary Club of Wien (Vienna) Austria to help accommodate a Wahroonga Churchill Fellow studying organ music at the Vienna Academy.

Club responsible for running the Careers Market at Willoughby Civic Centre



Warrawee Railway Station – early days

1983-84 – President - Bill Leventhal



In Bill Leventhal's year as President, Tony Dickin suggested our lagging membership was not due to a lack of enthusiasm but a change from owner-operators to rental-operators in shopping villages such as Wahroonga. We also realised that Pymble was not really convenient for many business people and we were in the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai's paddock.

Later, when Bill passed away, the Club created the Bill Leventhal Award series for staff at the Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga.

Bill established a team consisting of Tony Dickin, himself, John Theil, Jim Mein, Gordon Johnson, Lach McCudden, and Gordon Fuller to look at the future. Tony's analytical mind and his idea of a breakfast club was exciting.



An early photo, from left: Rotarians Gordon Fuller, John Thiel, Tony Dickin, Bill Leventhal, Jim Mein, Gordon Johnson and Lach McCudden

Rotary District said it would never work, however the District Governor (DG) Buster Pye eventually became enthused and supported our idea.

We were the first club in the South West Pacific region to decide to meet regularly for breakfast. In those days there were no coffee shops or fast food facilities in the area. An approach to Warrawee Bowling Club resulted in them agreeing to experiment with the idea. That was 36 years ago and we are still there! Our first meeting was on Wednesday the 5th October 1983.

Other highlights this year included:

Rotary International citation given to our club as the first club in south west Pacific region to meet regularly for breakfast, see photo below.

Club's membership increases from 23 to 29

Support for safety house scheme

Move from Ku-ring-gai Club to Warrawee Bowling Club

Formation of second Probus Club and Jack Rashleigh appointed to District Probus committee

Marian Street Theatre night and dinner with Turramurra Club

Seminar at Knox Grammar School

Purchase of a special wheelchair for paraplegics in Papua New Guinea

Well our club hit the headlines not only around Australia, but in New Zealand and the Pacific. Rotarians from the central coast working in Sydney used our location as a makeup on the way to work and our membership grew by leaps and bounds with 6 new members and no resignations in the first year.



In the first year as a breakfast club we had the pleasure of welcoming visiting Rotarians on about 230 occasions. This put some pressure on the Bowling Club at times but there was always an extra croissant in the kitchen. In those days it was an extended continental breakfast with of course porridge in winter.

Photo: Rotarians Jack Rashleigh (right) and Tom Chester (left) 'brought the house down' by turning up in their pajamas. The photo of them finished up in the North Shore Times.



The Sunrise Club, the Next Phase

So they were the early years, exciting, adventurous and involving, showing true concern for others and sharing with other clubs our ideas and the will to 'give it a go'.

The club started with a strong base and we can assume that the fellows who started the Club would all be proud of our current membership of 61.

Reflecting on the guest speakers and people who have been guests of our Club over the years brings to mind a few names.

Amongst other well-known persons we have had the Bishop of Parramatta and the Moderator of the Uniting Church as members of our club.

The Club has retained all the Past President's Year Books and these have been a great basis of research on the Club's past history. PP Gordon Fuller has extracted 3 or 4 of the most significant events and experiences in each of the Club's years up to the end of the 20th century. They are as follows:-

1984-85 – President Gordon Fuller



We supplied and erected a heritage phone box and phone in the children's play area at the Mercy Family Life School, Waitara.

With Ku-ring-gai Council we planned the new traffic island in Wahroonga village.

Purchased a special paraplegic designed wheelchair for PNG.

1985-86 – Hilton Krone



Produced special 1st day envelopes for Abbotsleigh's 100th Anniversary.

Our postmaster member, PP Bob England, stamped 750 envelopes on the day and funds raised provided a lectern for the new school assembly hall.

Ferry trip around Pittwater and picnic at Scotland Island.

Hands on construction of the Wahroonga traffic safety island, fondly known as "Fuller's Folly".

Nov. 1985- The Club's 10th Anniversary Dinner at the 'Brown Musket' restaurant in Hornsby.

1986-87 – President Tom Love



Camp Breakaway site established at San Remo on Lake Budgewoi. Rotarians Bob Mugden (Turramurra) and Gordon Fuller, (both architects), advised on the site and the design of the amenities block. This was the result of an initiative from the Wyong Club.

Our Club Bulletin won the district award.

1987-88 – President David Gardiner



We hosted a GSE (Group Study Exchange) team from Roorkee, India. As a result, Sandeep Agrawal, a hydraulics engineer, joined Rotary and became the New Delhi Rotary District Governor.

We constructed a kit summer house for the UPA in Wahroonga. Some may remember how not to lay rectangular shingle tiles over a hexagon.

Our earlier Rotary Exchange-student Kumico Myasaka from Japan returned to Sydney as bridesmaid for another exchange student.

1988-89 – President David Cooper



The Bi-Centennial Year. Our whole District took over Dobroyd Point to watch the tall ships come through the heads.

Our Club won the District barber shop quartet competition at the Gosford conference thanks to Phil Dean, Rob Ferguson, Bob Quodling, Ian Davidson and Phil Ostle.

A fashion parade organised by our members' wives raised \$1,100.00 for a school peer support programs in our area. By the way Gordon Fuller's wife, Margaret, was instrumental in creating the peer support program in the early 1970's.

1989-90 – President Rob Giacometti

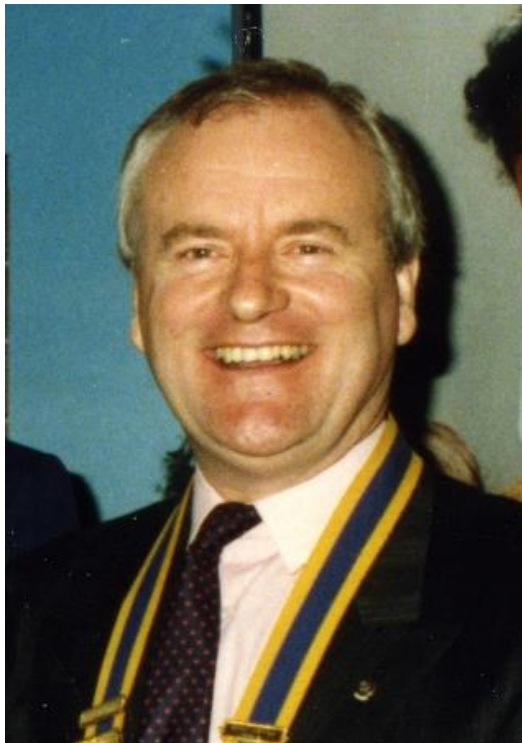


This year witnessed the passing of PP Bill Leventhal and the beginning of our close association with the San Hospital, where Bill worked as a highly respected surgeon.

Highlights included:

- David Cooper's 'Four Seasons' involving various outings: in Winter, a cruise on the Hawkesbury; in Spring, a picnic day at Lane Cove Park; in Summer, a day at Avoca Beach, based at Tom Love's holiday home; and finally in Autumn, enjoying the Mt. Wilson colour spectacular.
- The auction of items in John and Margaret Sachs' house and the auction of all the interiors (except for the billiard table).

1990-91 – President Martin Forrow



Column 8 joined the club in the person of George Richards the long established journalist at the SMH who wrote Granny's Column, later renamed "Column 8". George became our highly respected bulletin editor and is famous as the Club's trivia guru.

We commenced sales of Christmas cakes and puddings.

We visited state parliament, Fort Denison and Tebbutt's Observatory (1845) at Windsor.

1991-92 – President Lionel Lever



In January a mini cyclone (the sky turned green) devastated the Upper North Shore and Hills district. Major damage was done along the highway, Mona Vale Road, Pentecost Avenue and many other local roads. Remember the whole of Cliff Oval stacked high with fallen trees! Our club was heavily involved in the massive cleanup. This was the year popular Past President Martin Forrow passed away.

Highlights included:

We had our first children's exchange with Gloucester Rotary Club.

We remember the delight of the children seeing the ocean and waves for the first time and the experiences the children, from here in Sydney, had on farms in the country.

We donated six bikes and six trikes to St. Lucy's School

We accepted five new members this year and only one, Steve McGregor, has remained with the Club.

1992-93 – President Jim Mein, AM



We inducted five new members at one breakfast.

We presented a 'missing person' tracking unit to Hornsby Police. We all remember it was used to recover a man who had wandered into Ku-ring-gai National Park from Princess Juliana nursing home.

We spawned our third Probus Club, named the Probus Club of East Wahroonga.

1993-94 – President George Richards



The World International Rotary Congress was held in Melbourne. We organised a bus at \$100 a head, shared with Lindfield, St. Ives, Brookvale and a Taipei club to attend. Travelling the Princes Highway from Sydney to Eden, Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Wangaratta and after it was all over, back up the Hume Highway to Sydney.

Had a slight delay in Eden. We got a short way out of Eden when the partner of one of our mature members found she had left a valuable ring back at the hotel. Our obliging driver turned around, back to the hotel, only to find she had it in her purse all the time! We will not embarrass John Welch by mentioning any names.

Who will forget the tunnel walk organised by Rotary under the Harbour, or the storm that washed out the Wahrenonga Village Fair (we finished up selling 'steamed sausages'). The bread rolls were a bit soggy too.

Our club organised the 25th anniversary of RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) camp at Vision Valley, attended by the then

Governor of NSW, Peter Sinclair.

1994-95 – President Bob Quodling



You will all remember this was the year of the devastating bushfires which stranded vehicles on the northern freeway for 3 days. David Cooper organised accommodation at Barker College and our own police member, Jim Cavanaugh, co-ordinated our efforts and those of all emergency services. Our club was recognised by the Premier for our effort and Jim Cavanaugh received a Vocational Excellence award for his untiring efforts.

Other highlights included:

- Our weekly bulletin was renamed "The Wahrenongler", the suggestion of past editor Rob Ferguson
- We erected a notice board in the Wahrenonga village.
- Rob Ferguson collected and arranged for the transport of dental equipment to Ghana, valued at \$20,000.

• The theme for this year was 'Be a Friend'. We bonded an amazing friendship with Mongolia through our member Philip Hinton with 8 weeks of support for Hishigzul, the two year old

daughter of a Mongolian policeman, Enkbaht and his family. With Dr. Alan Gale's help from the San we brought Hishigzul to Sydney for open heart surgery accompanied by her father, and two Mongolian surgeons for training in cardiac surgery. Eventual success resulted in our Club organising a dinner at St. Ives. With Telstra's help we organised a telephone link up with the charter night for the Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club. Enkbaht sang a love-song to his wife - this was very emotional and there was not a dry eye in the place.

1995-96 – President Ian Davidson



Fund raising for the year exceeds \$55,000

A very successful Christmas party was held at the Ku-ring-gai wildflower garden, complete with an enormous goanna.



We accepted our first two lady members into the club, being Janet Grundy left and Judith Kaine right, above



1996-97 – President Phil Dean

A 'Care for Kids' concert was organised at the Willoughby Civic Centre and raised \$11,250 for the Rotary wing and equipment at the Westmead Children's Hospital.

A music hall concert with melodies and melodrama in appropriate dress was held at St. Ives. Anyone remember the 'fairy who's forty' and the two public guardians?

1997 -98 – President John Baikie



Consolidation of ties with Mongolia with a medical team led by Dr. Alan Gale accompanied by Rob and Joan Giacometti, Bob Quodling and Brian and Rosemary Freeman. This was to be the first of six visits by Joan in company with Jan Cameron to Didi's Lotus Centre in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Over fifteen bridge days in subsequent years they raised over \$200,000 and sent sewing machines and other items to the orphanage.

Our club ran the district assembly at the Bathurst Police Academy under the baton of David Cooper and a competent IT team.

Steve McGregor ran a motivational workshop for the 'over 55's' and we issued an information package to all schools in our area covering all the rotary youth programs on offer.

1998-99 – President John Cameron AM



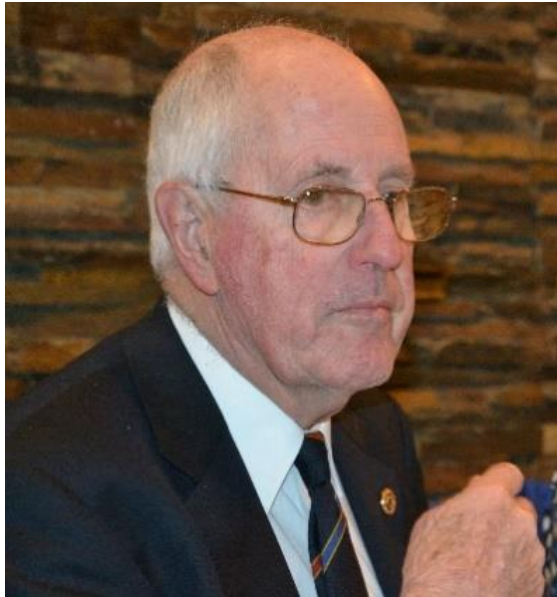
We had a membership of 57 and an average attendance of 80% - our average is now in the low 60%.

Funds raised to bring a cardio-thoracic team to Sydney from Mongolia to attend the cardio-thoracic international conference.

Our open heart Mongolian project recognised as a district activity.

Visit to the Baha'i temple to hear Philip Hinton present his play 'Portals of Freedom'.

1999-2000 – President Ian Cameron



We hosted a group from Gerrard's Cross Rotary Club in England with a memorable trip on the 'Bounty'.

We were presented with the District Award for 'best all round club' from among 67 clubs.

The club collected 24 beds from Chatswood Hospital, transported by large truck to Prospect where they were shipped to Vietnam.

Bowls day at Warrawee Bowling Club a great success.

2000-01 – President Dick Webb



- Australia's Centenary was celebrated with a "Federation Frolics" including an auction with David Cooper, a Barker master, as auctioneer. The 1984 scandal where another horse had been substituted for the racehorse "Fine Cotton" had been back in the news. Our resident "poet laureate" Rob Ferguson, penned the following at the time:

Now me name is Barker Cooper, I'm a Rotary auctioneer
I'll sell your little treasures, all your old unwanted gear
Got a Monet in the attic or some Grange down in the cellar?
I'll flog it off for twice its worth to an unsuspecting feller.

But Culture's what I'm on about, the finer things in life
Like this old and greasy tea towel from a Balmain Tiger's wife
Now have I any offers – what's that? A thousand quid!
Marg Sachs, that's very generous for an early opening bid.

No more takers? Then you've got it, coffee stains and all
It'll look a proper picture when it's framed up on your wall.

But Margie Sachs she jumped with glee: It's fooled you all of course

It's really a famous saddle cloth from a great Australian horse.
See his name's here in the corner, embroidered all in green
It's quite the finest specimen I think I've ever seen.

Now I am an honest auctioneer, 'ave been from the start
But what I've gotta say to 'er will break 'er little 'eart
I'm sorry love, I tells 'er, it's a tea towel old and rotten
And the words down in the corner read "Pure Linen" not "Fine Cotton".

Bob Howe motivated the Club to support Council approval for the design of a rotunda in Wahroonga Park in memory of the late Mayor Richard Geddes, and encouraged use of the building for many functions such as Australia Day and concerts in the park.

'Paint your Heart out' got rid of graffiti and tidied up many areas in the Wahroonga Village.

Continued support for the 'Didi's Children's Centre' in Mongolia which now has grown to over 300 children with the first graduates honoured this year.

2001-02 — President John Welch



District Golf Day to raise money for ROMAC

Cath Lab project \$1.5 million dollars to Mongolia with Dr. Alan Gale and team

John who was an engineer put many of his skills together when he traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to assist with the Mongolian Project

Projects such as Daffodil Day, Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, Carol Night plus many more

The passing of our long serving Treasurer Gordon Johnson was a shock to all

Funds donated to St Lucy's and St Edmund's.

Christmas Raffle and fund raising during the year for various Club projects

2002-03 - President David Maclean



Spit to Manly Walk, Parliament House dinner courtesy of Premier Barry O'Farrell (Honorary Member)

Trivia night, Heritage Fleet visit and many more outings were arranged

St Lucy's and St Edmund's donations

Sellout fundraiser concert by Sydney Welsh Choir

Christmas raffle and fund raising during the year for various Club projects

Organised District Golf day, Red Shield Appeal and Club's Christmas party at Stephen and Glynne McGregor's home

2003-4 – President Ken Broadhead OAM



Participated in the Australia Day at the Wahroonga Park celebration

Garden restoration at home for Club member who was a WW2 Veteran.

Undertook career counselling & advice at local schools

Youth exchange student to Brazil, RYLA (2 candidates), RYPEN and RYDA all supported

District Golf day organised proceeds to the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus

St Lucys and St Edmunds donations for the schools.

2004- President Vic Deeble



District Golf day organised again, \$21K received contributed to ROMAC and various charities

Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony arranged at Wahroonga Park

The Bridge Day fundraising for Di Di's orphanage in Mongolia

Club member Past President Jim Mein became Moderator of Uniting Church

Clean Up Australia Day, San Hospital annual breakfast and Dr Bill Leventhall awards for hospital staff

Flagpole installed in Wahroonga Park

2005 – President Gary Webb OAM



Managed District 9680 Assembly

Organised the District Golf Day

Held Dancing with the Stars and other functions and events

Humanitarian project for Russian 7 year old Nastya Omarova for surgery from.

Nastya stayed 6 months with Rtn Peter and Pat Edwards

Jesu Ashram Orphanage in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka being rebuilt due to damage by tsunami

Donations for St Edmunds and St Lucy's schools.



A Paul Harris Fellowship sapphire pin was awarded to Garry Webb

2006 - President Peter Smith OAM



Youth Exchange Student Ylva Rantfors from Sweden

Youth projects supported: RYLA, RYPEN, National Science Summer School, Honeywell Engineering, Siemens Science Experience, Young Drivers School, National Youth Leadership program in Canberra and annual Bridge Day in aid of Di Di's Orphanage in Mongolia.

Formed the NOVUS Foundation, a partnership with the San Hospital and Phil McCarroll (Philanthropist), Rtms Garry Webb, Peter Smith and John Cameron.

The first NOVUS Foundation Gala Dinner

Donations to St Lucy's and St Edmunds schools

2007 – President Bob Howe OAM



Australia Day in Wahroonga Park organised

Bowel Scan, Carols by Candlelight at the San, Carols in the Park, Clean Up Australia Day, Daffodil Day, Lifeline,

Paint your Heart out and Red Shield Appeal and more supported by way of donations and Club involvement

Donations for the St Edmunds and St Lucy's schools

NOVUS Gala Dinner and funds raised for various Club projects

2008 – President Margaret Sachs



Lotus Centre Mongolia school for children, Polio Plus, The Dharapani School in Nepal (Prof Anne Prescott and team) and more projects concerning the welfare of children

Donations for the St Lucy's and St Edmunds schools

Daffodil Day, San Fun Run, Lifeline Book Fair, Bowel Scan, the Club's Christmas raffle

Dr. Bill Leventhal awards at the San Hospital for hospital staff

Completion of the Jeevanandra Orphanage in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka (Rtn Richard Pitt and team)

Donations to St Lucy's and St Edmunds Schools

2009- President Bob Potter



Organised the District Conference at Port Macquarie (Rtn Jim Verco and team)

Support of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai PCYC and Street Works, Hamlin Fistula, sales of Club wine

NOVUS \$145K net profit and \$29K of Club's to various charities

International Women's Day Dinner, President at Home dinners raised funds for Women's Foundation

Club's Christmas raffle, Christmas carols at the San, two barbecues and more raised funds for various projects

St Lucy's and St Edmunds donation for the school, Australia Rotary Health, Lifeline all received funds from the club

2010- President Richard Pitt



Website developed which also enabled Club members to gain access to information

Novus Foundation and sales of the Club's wine raised funds for various charities and projects

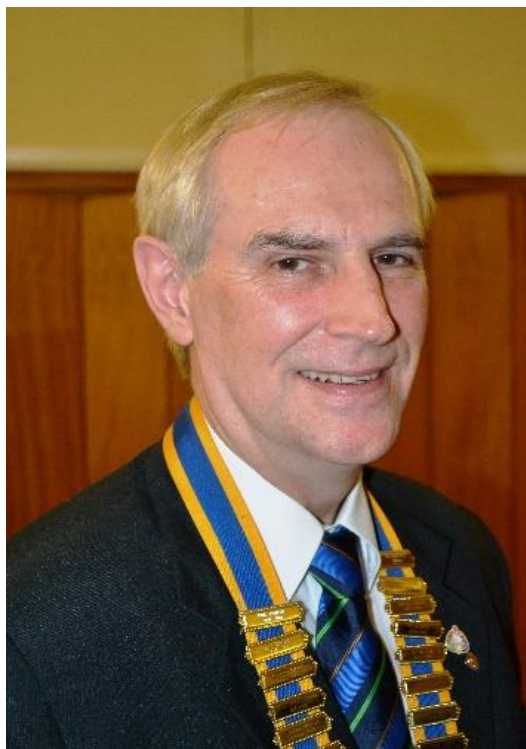
St Edmunds and St Lucy's bursaries to cover student's tuition costs

Incoming Exchange student Sophie Teiche from Austria stayed with us during the year and outgoing student Brigitte Tapp travelled to Italy

Australia Day Citizenship ceremony organized in the Wahroonga Park

Social functions were important too for this year and we held the Club's Christmas Party, attended the Pymble Players theatre and went on a Cockatoo Island tour plus more.

2011- President Bob Hamilton



Monster Quiz Nights, funds for International projects.

Novus Foundation Gala Dinner, net \$160000 raised of which \$30000 was set aside for Clubs youth programs.

SAN Healthcare Outreach Program, PCYC Hornsby, Street Work Studio Arts and Bear Cottage, all received support and donations

Club wine sales netted \$14,000 and the Club's Christmas Raffle had resulted in donations to Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) and Kids Off the Street (KYDS).

St Edmunds and St Lucy's schools received funds for bursaries for pupils.

2012- President John Collins



We set out to be a more flexible club. Some of our ideas relating to satellite clubs proved to be too high in the stratosphere for us to achieve but we were very successful in retaining members even when they moved away from the district and our meetings became more relaxed and noisy.

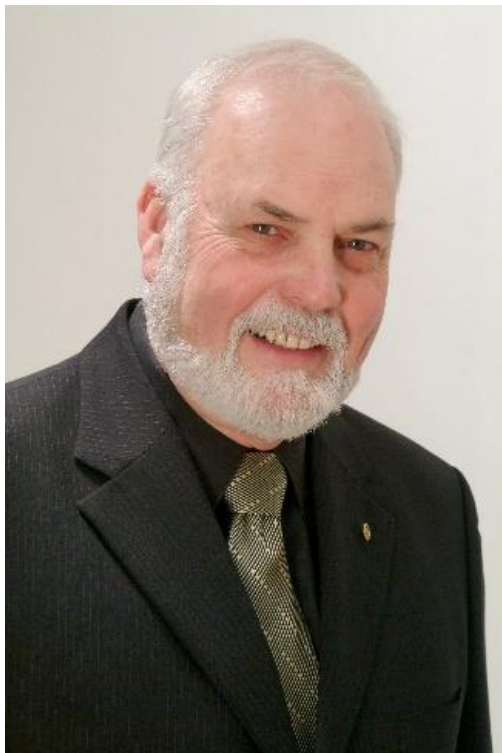
We targeted a number of local Rotary Clubs and organisations to work with during my year and some of these contacts initiated in this year have resulted in closer relationships for the BOBO and the PCYC.

Our objective was to improve club communications and we achieved this in a number of ways including member surveys, 5 minute life and times slots for existing members and a push to communicate digitally at every available opportunity.

We were able to have a successful year across the club projects. This included 2 Novus dinners (because of a date change) and the usual workload including a MUNA, Our Kids Our Mob, RYPEN and Didi's Orphanage to name but a

few and we also set up the Rotary Club of Wahroonga Foundation to help pay for these initiatives.

2013- President Jim Verco



We introduced Breakfast Payments by EFT making reception duties easier and smoothing funding with Warrawee Bowling Club.

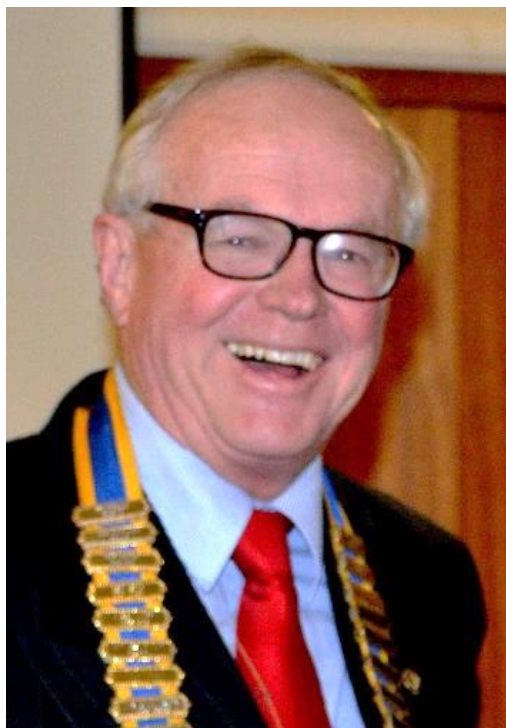
We raised funds \$12K for bushfire victims in the Blue Mountains; for 17 Shelter Boxes for the Philippines and toilets for a girls' school in Nepal \$8K, as well as all our normal efforts including the final "Didi's Bridge Day".

KYDS, Streetwork, Achieve Australia, Open Heart International, and the youth projects of our club were all beneficiaries of the \$175,000 raised via the Novus dinner. \$35,000 of which was donated to a selection of the Club's projects.

Most of our members supported and enjoyed the three Goon Show Dinners at the Bowling Club and raised funds in the process.

San Hospital for the annual Dr Bill Leventhal awards presented to individuals working at the hospital.

2014-15 – President David Russell



NOVUS Dinner and the Beneficiaries Meeting (cheques worth \$135,000 were presented and donated).

Handover of the PCYC Bus

Raising Money for Vanuatu Hurricane Damage

Celebrating the ANZAC Centenary

Helping run the BOBBO (raising \$220,000 for various charities)

Wahroonga Fair and our Raffle

Supporting Anne Prescott and our International Team raising money for Nepal and earthquake aftermath

2015-16 — President Marlene Carty



Celebrated 10th year of Novus Foundation Gala Dinners – nearly \$1.4 million raised and \$275,000 towards our own Youth Projects

Organised the 40th Birthday of the Club at the Asquith Golf Club

Initiated Ku-ring-gai Council Refugee Welcome Packs, raised \$100,000 in cash and kind

Received District 9685 Highly Commendable Award for International Service

2016-17 – President Neil McWhannell



Ministry of Fun formed – organised Melbourne Cup Breakfast, Soup Night and Christmas Party and more

Helped a wide range of Community Projects: Hornsby PCYC, KYDS, Lifeline, Shelterbox and so on.

Wahroonga Fair supported, Clean Up Australia, BOBBO Cycle Classic, The San Run For Life and more were all supported by the Club

We raised \$9800 towards a hostel at Bhawani School, contributed to four major projects in Nepal.

Over 11 years we have worked to raise over \$1.5 million through our partnerships and Novus Foundation.

2017-18 – President Sue Owen



The Club helped organise the BOBBO Cycle Classic again and presented the Bill Leventhal Awards to the San Hospital staff.

Garry Webb, one of the members who was so instrumental in starting the Novus Foundation passed away and we attended a Memorial dedication at the SAN in his memory.

Many functions were held and the RYLA Dinner, ABBOX BBQ were two of many

Having fun is also important and we attended occasions like the Mooney Mooney Club lunch, The Bridge Day, Pymble Players theatre and Kerri Hodge's Soup Night.

Community events that the Club was involved with were many; San Run for Life as well as breakfast at St Edmund's and St Lucy's Schools where cheques for bursaries were presented.

Ross Emslie donated \$40,000 to the Club for various projects.

2018-19 – President Stuart Armstrong



We had 33 distinct projects and activities that were repeated or carried forward from the previous year.

Anne Prescott, an associate professor in maths education, again visited Nepal to use her special skills to oversee the projects we support there.

The Club received the District Vocational Award, recognising the contribution of Ken Broadhead.

Various programs were supported such as; Street Works, KYDS, BOBBO Cycle Classic, Lifeline, Women's Shelter, Hornsby Connect and many more

The Novus Gala Dinner was again held with hundreds attending and raised funds for various Club and our Partner's projects

Barry Edmundson organised the Drought Relief program for the Club. We raised \$10,000 which was delivered by a group of members and their wives to the Narrabri Rotary

Club. One of our important projects namely the Bush Children's Education Fund received \$30,000 by way of donation.

2019-20 – President Doug Reid



The Youth Committees highlights included sending a record number of attendees to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). There was the award of a Rotary International Avenue of Service Award to Bob Howe, recognising his outstanding work in Youth Service.

A new Rotaract club was chartered on the 1st August 2019; the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Rotaract Club.

The club's Youth and Vocational Committees won their respective District 9685 Awards for the year.

The International Committee started a new project located in Coorg, India, with monies for the project coming from a District Grant as well as fundraising by the club.

The Membership Committee inducted five new members into the club, including the fifth one inducted online at distance on their driveway.

The speaker program, for the first six months of the year, showed the breadth of our clubs background and interests.

However, the Rotary year was significantly changed by the impact of COVID-19, resulting in the club embracing the concept of online meetings. As the usual breakfast meetings were cancelled, club members showed the spirit and can-do attitude within the club and quickly changed to this new meeting format.

2020 -21 President – Janelle Speight



The welfare of the club members and the ongoing support to the projects and our community is of the utmost importance especially within the current climate of the pandemic. COVID-19 restrictions began in March 2020 in Australia.

- Our fundraising opportunities have gone online with auctions and donation accessibility available on our website and in our newsletter. We have expanded the use of Club Runner and have a permanent technical team.
- A major part of our focus this year is to broaden and grow membership.
- Our Treasurer John Cameron along with our Foundation and Fundraising team Doug Reid and Stuart Armstrong have submitted several grants this year.
- Our Community Committee lead by Lucy Dahill have developed Community Caring awards to those Volunteers who go above and beyond especially in this COVID-19 period.
- Our International team lead by Anne Prescott is running a Trivia night in September to raise funds for Nepal, Mongolia and India.
- Our Youth team lead by Bob Howe will run an auction for St. Lucy's and St. Edmunds bursaries again this year as our club has taken on the organising of its own raffle.
- We have established a new RCW Committee to work with the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Rotaract Club. Committee Chair Simon Clegg.
- Our speaker program is very successful with a broad range of topics and skilled people presenting.
- Important are our fellowship meetings run by the Social Committee lead by Rochelle Wiley.

2021-22 – President Elect – Peter Kirkwood OAM



Peter has had a long association with Rotary having joined the Rotary Club of Waitara late 1999 and was President in 2002-03.

Later he was inducted into the Rotary Club of Wahroonga by President Neil McWhannell at the RCW changeover dinner on Wednesday 28th June 2017.

It is somewhat early for us to indicate what plans or projects for this 2021-22. Currently the President elect is monitoring outcomes of President Janelle Speight's goals for the current year, and the Covid-19 situation; the latter will certainly have an impact on next year.

The Many Projects of the Club

Rotary is not just about a club it is about the people that are its members and those who benefit from the initiatives that are undertaken each year. Over the course of almost 5 decades the Rotary Club of Wahroonga has had hundreds possibly thousands of different projects where funds have been raised and distributed obviously they are too many to list here. Consequently we describe some of the major ones also those that are a little different.

There have been bushfires, floods and tsunamis and members have been out in the streets with their collection buckets raising thousands of dollars for these causes. We have even travelled to Narrabri to present a cheque to the members of that club for assistance to the farmers during the drought in 2000.

We arranged for a Mongolian to travel to Australia, who had one leg after a misadventure in the Ulaanbaatar hospital. We arranged for the San to fit him with a prosthesis. A Doctor was also funded to accompany him so he could learn about this field of medicine and inform his colleagues in Mongolia.

Another project that was different was the Chinese solar water heaters. There are citizens of the Republic of China whose homes have no electricity and little fuel for fires. Funds were raised and a number of solar water heaters were funded and sent to the Chinese people.

The Shelter Boxes were also a popular project to support as were many others. Some of these that we list are The Fistula Prevention Program, Clean Water projects in India, Golf Days and many more.

Our Club also helped with projects dealing with children in Nepal with cleft palates, people in Mongolia with holes in the heart, New Guinea people with arrow injuries, Indonesian kids with severe burns and many more.

Some of these many projects have been included here in the following pages.

[Our Mongolian Adventure](#)

[Wahroonga Park Rotunda](#)

[What ANZAC Day means to us](#)

[The Partnership](#)

[The Novus Foundation](#)

[The Cath Lab Saga](#)

[International Projects](#)

[The Christmas Raffle](#)

[Youth Projects](#)

Our Mongolian Adventure

In popular literature one often reads disparaging remarks about a Rotary Club being a boring place for boring people. The story we are about to tell you is far from boring and is, in fact a wonderful adventure.

In 1994, Sean Hinton, son of Rotary Club of Wahroonga member, actor Phil Hinton, was in Mongolia running a tour company and about to become a founder member of the new Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar. Sean was approached one day by a local policeman, Enkhbat who had a two-year-old daughter, Hishigzul, (nick name Zula) who would soon die if she didn't receive urgent heart surgery. Enkhbat had appealed for help in newspapers and on the radio, but to no avail.

It seems that Hishigzul had a congenital heart defect that no hospital in Mongolia could treat. Her little heart had four holes, and the point where the four chambers met was interconnected. She also had a split mitral valve and a narrowed pulmonary artery. She was starved of oxygen. So, as a last resort, Enkhbat approached Sean - perhaps he had friends in Australia who could save his little girl's life?

Sean called his Dad, and asked "Can your Rotary club help?" Sean was about to find those friends for Enkhbat, but he could never have guessed how many, and how spontaneous their response would be.

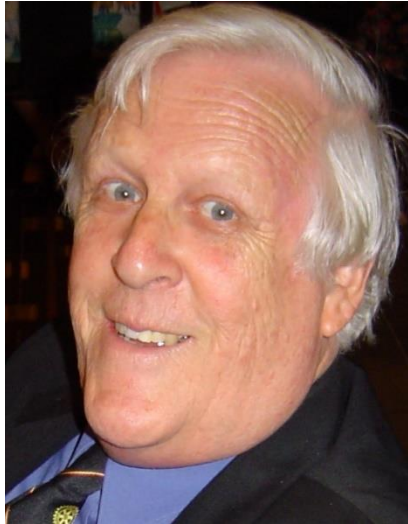
Phil immediately appealed to Wahroonga's new President Rob Quodling, the X factor in this story, a man with a heart of gold. Although a Wahroonga club project, Rob contacted DG Ivan Skellet who promoted it hard in the District and soon many D9680 Clubs contributed.

Sean's contacts in Mongolia were proving fruitful too. The new Australian Ambassador in Beijing (with jurisdiction for Mongolia) found some generous funds, as did the Catholic Church and Swiss technology company, ASEA, Brown, Boveri. We were off and running! The club's first local contribution came from the Hornsby community of the Baha'i Faith (through Phil Hinton) followed by the NSW Police Officers' Union (a Wahroonga Rotary Club member, Sergeant Jim Cavanaugh, knew Enkhbat as a brother officer), the Sydney Adventist Hospital and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Cardiac surgeon Dr Alan Gale (Northbridge Rotary) volunteered to take on the surgery at the San. President Rob Quodling, ever an entrepreneur found that the managing director of Qantas, James Strong, was in Beijing, about to open a new Sydney-Beijing Qantas service. At a make-up lunch meeting at North Sydney Rotary, Phil sat next to a member and told him the Hishigzul story. "And what is your line of work?" asked Phil. "I am an executive with Qantas".

In no time we had three return tickets to Sydney – for Hishigzul, Enkhbat and, due to far exceeding our funding target, a Mongolian heart surgeon, Boldsai Khan. Alan Gale saw this as an opportunity to bring a Mongolian doctor to Australia for training. Alan described hospital standards in Mongolia as "Moscow 1970", the result of Russian occupation of Mongolia after the war.

When Hishigzul was examined in Sydney, it was found her situation was far worse than expected. Professor Tim Cartmill, the pre-eminent neonatal paediatric cardiac surgeon in Sydney, was enlisted to take over the case and the operation was transferred from the San to the Children's Hospital, Camperdown. After very tense days post-operatively, Hishigzul survived.



President Bob Quodling moved to have the project adopted.

Jim Cavanaugh remembers standing outside the operating theatre with Enkhbat, both of them with tears in their eyes as they looked down on baby Hishigzul. "I wondered if she would survive", recalled Jim. "We gave her our love and reassurance that we would be there when she came out of the operation. Such a beautiful person and she trusted us to protect her."

The climax of the story came with a dinner that Wahroonga Rotary held at St Ives both to celebrate Zula's discharge from hospital and to mark the charter dinner in Ulaanbaatar of the new Rotary club. Telstra provided a phone link from the St Ives stage to the Ulaanbaatar hotel, with Enkhbat in Sydney and his wife, Altantsetseg, alongside Sean, at the hotel. When Enkhbat, with Zula in his arms, sang a plaintive Mongolian song to his wife – it

sounds mawkish, – there was not a dry eye in the house.



Above: President Bob Quodling is in tears (like everyone else) as Enkhbat sings over the phone to Zula's mother.

When it came time for Zula and her father to return to Mongolia, the farewell was deeply touching. Among the parting gifts from his Australian friends, Enkhbat had an Akubra hat, and Zula had a rocking horse.

Back in Mongolia, she grew up as a playful little girl, keen to become an accountant. When she was old enough Zula enrolled in university. It was our hope here and in Mongolia that we would be able to bring her to Australia as a Rotary exchange student.

Right: Phil Hinton who made things happen

Footnote:

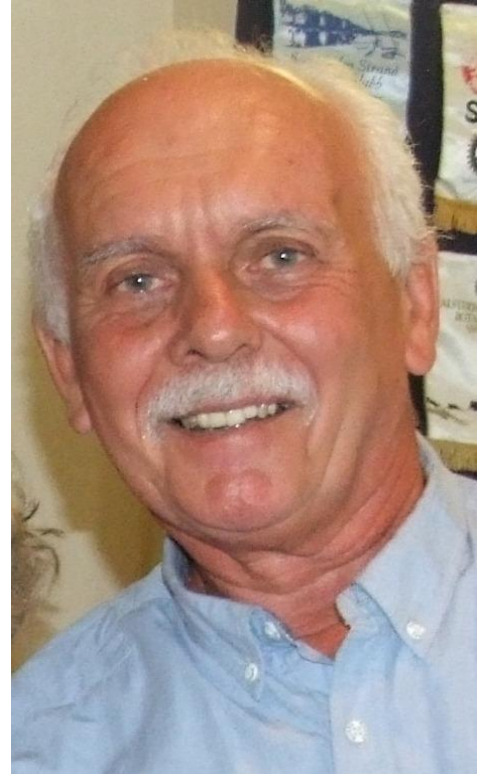
Nineteen years later, tragedy struck for the little girl from Mongolia. She contracted a severe bout of influenza and passed away. However her legacy remains and because of her and the subsequent supporting programs through Dr. Alan Gale and the Adventist Hospital, Mongolia now has the skills and equipment to conduct the cardiac operations that are so necessary.

The Club's bulletin editor George Richards wrote as follows:-

Farewell to a Brave Young Girl - 2013

We were all, members and friends, deeply saddened last Friday by the death in Ulaanbaatar of Hishigzul, our little Mongolian girl, who we brought to Sydney as a two-year-old in desperate need of a major heart operation. She had been suffering respiratory problems, had spent time in hospital, and then died on her way home. Sean Hinton, who was in Asia, heard the news and sent it on to his father, our past member Phil Hinton, who passed it on to the club.

With our President Bob Quodling at the helm, and the help of Rotary clubs and major organisations including Qantas and the Australian Embassy in Beijing, the Westmead Children's Hospital, and surgeon Tim Cartmill, she was granted a life of 22 years - tragically cut short.



Building the Wahroonga Park Rotunda



Richard Geddes was very well-known and liked throughout the community; his warmth compassion and general concern for people at all levels of the community is widely recognised. However, in 1999 the very popular Richard Geddes, mayor of Ku-ring-gai, died from a heart attack.

He always spoke about his plans to have a rotunda in Wahroonga Park and it was agreed that a committee be formed to ensure that his dream became a reality as a memorial to the 12 years of his life dedicated to the council.

A Steering Committee was formed and the members were, Bob Howe (chair and friend of Richard Geddes), Gordon Fuller (architect and president of the Wahroonga Chamber of Commerce), Rosalie Geddes (wife of Richard Geddes), David Dobbin (Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council), Johanne Tobin (Councillor Wahroonga Ward and Rhonda Bignell (general manager of the Council).

To start the process the Wahroonga Rotary Club donated \$5,000 (Ian Cameron as President) and \$5,000 from The Wahroonga Chamber of Commerce (Gordon Fuller President, and also a member of the Wahroonga Rotary Club). The Ku-ring-gai Council was very supportive and waived Council Fees and helped publicise the fundraising. Other donations were from the public and \$68,000 was raised in just 4 months.

The proposed band rotunda was to be built in the federation style to suit the heritage of the park. It was initially then designed by Geoff Hermon, Gordon Fuller and Michael Spencer. The purpose of the rotunda was to make it a useful facility for the whole community. Therefore, it was built to be of a size that would comfortably accommodate musicians and bands. It was also proposed that an eight metre rotunda would best suit this purpose and not be so large as to dominate the park.

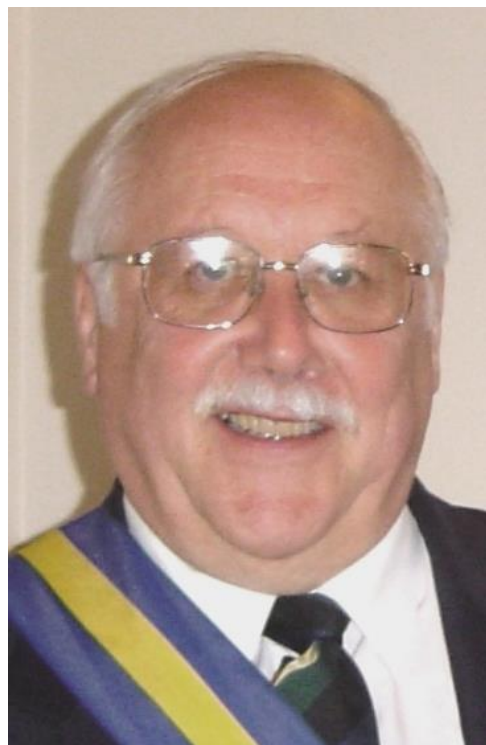
Gordon Fuller worked with Geoff Hermon of the Australian Summer House Company from Dural and built the octagonal Rotunda. Geoff advised that the rotunda's model was what is called the "Castlereagh" which is still made to this day. All timber used was a high grade treated pine. Fastenings and hardware were hot dipped galvanized. Initially Geoff had recommended that the balustrade be made using steel but this was rejected on cost. Interestingly some years later Geoff then had to replace the balustrade with steel as children had vandalized the handrail and other parts of the rotunda. The structure's top, or as it is called a cupola, is made of colorbond. The rotunda was completed in late 1999 and has become a well-used facility for public concerts, weddings, Australia Day proceedings and meetings. Its setting in Wahroonga Park has been used for a lot of publicity and has stood the test of time. We feel that Richard Geddes, pictured right, would be more than pleased at the result.



Photo of Richard Geddes courtesy of the Ku-ring-gai Council. Artwork by Steve McGregor

What ANZAC Day Means to us

It has been a tradition that the Rotary Club of Wahroonga observes ANZAC Day and each year a keynote speaker is invited to give an address. Past President David Maclean was chosen in 2021 and his address reproduced below is an excellent example of the standard of speaker.



My qualifications to speak are tenuous. I am not a veteran of the Second World War or later campaigns. I was born in the UK in 1941 during the Blitz but after the Battle of Britain. In late 1940 with me on the way, one Sunday morning, my parent's home received a direct hit. My Mother returned to the house from the public shelter and went to make my brother's bed. When she opened the bedroom door there was no house behind it!

After a brief time in a reception centre my Mother and brother were allocated two steps on Holborn underground station which they utilised for a short while before moving to my Aunt's abode in Weybridge Surrey. This is the house in which I was born. It was situated near the end of the Vickers runway where the factory built Wellington bombers and so it received its own good share of Luftwaffe attention during this time.

When I was about 2 months old, we returned to live in north London close to Highgate and Hampstead and there we remained for the rest of the war. During the war there were a number of bombing raids which came close to our home. There were at least 12 bomb sites within a radius of 300 metres, some less than 50 metres. Also, an ack-ack and searchlight battery was situated less than 1 kilometre away.

My memories of this period included air raids particularly the attacks of the V1 or Doodlebug rockets. And I grew up in a city with no lights. When walking at night particularly winter nights, we navigated from tree to tree or lamppost to lamppost. Each of these objects had two white bands painted on them to aid the travellers. The total loss of lives lost in the UK due to the air raids exceeded 66,000.

Whilst this was a time of great concern and worry, there was a great sense of good spirits and humour. In the summer of 1944, during the height of the V1 attacks, my Father was enjoying a drink in a local hostelry with a few friends. The pub was between the main north/south road and a side road where one of the local buses started its journey. The alert went up for an air raid and as the bus started up it was noted that a V1 was heading north towards them. So, the group hopped onto the bus with their pints and headed south for a stop or two before catching another bus returning to the pub. The V1 flew over the hill and exploded in the valley.

But back to my qualifications to give this address. I did spend 12 years wearing khaki in two phases. Firstly, I was a cadet in both my school unit which was attached to the Middlesex Regiment and at the same time I was a member of the London Scottish. During this time, I spent many a weekend at Bisley – the famous rifle ranges in Surrey and of an evening I would listen spellbound to the stories of old comrades who had seen action in France and Belgium during the First World War.

Not that they ever spoke of the horrors of trench warfare, instead they would reminisce on the mud, the periods away from the action when they were resting but most of all they would speak of mateship. Following my cadet days, I spent 8 years as a reservist with the 1st Battalion London Scottish (Gordon Highlanders) and enjoyed at first hand the understanding of mateship.

On my Maclean side I was only the second person to wear a British uniform – the first being my elder brother, James who in his life served in all three services. He was conscripted in 1947 for National Service with the Royal Air Force. But he was keen to try out for aircrew and so he signed on for a period of 3 years and served as a Signaller with Bomber Command.

At the end of his RAF service, he undertook to complete his compulsory time as a reservist by serving with the Inns of Court Regiment before transferring to the 21st SAS. Later in life when he was a Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh University, he served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Before James and I, the last to serve in the military was my ancestor Alexander Maclean who had fought with the Jacobites against the English at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and his son Andrew O'Hara Maclean who had been a mercenary soldier in Russia and had reached the rank of Lt Colonel.

Sadly, I lost my brother in 1978 when he was just 49. He is buried in a clan mausoleum on the Isle of Mull a few miles from the last resting place of Governor Lachlan Macquarie our fellow clansman.

On my mother's side of the family there was a naval tradition going back to Nelson's time and before. My grandfather was a Commissioned Skipper during World War I of a RN vessel named Torbay II and he spent his service in the Mediterranean including landing spies on the Dardanelles. His other posting was with the Dover Patrol carrying out mine lifting and patrol duties.

And so, I come to you today as a person who has little personal memory of war apart from living in London and experiencing air raids and ack ack fire. But I have gained over my 55 years living in Australia, an enormous respect for the ANZAC spirit which was formed on those terrible and unfriendly beaches and hinterland of Gallipoli.

Never forget that the various colonies of Australia had supplied troops to the Sudan in the 1880's and to the South African Boer war of 1899-1902. Perhaps in today's atmosphere of independence we cannot fully understand the willingness for Australia and other Dominion countries to give unqualified support to Britain and the Empire. But it was so, young men in their thousands volunteered to serve, perhaps initially with a sense of duty and adventure which all too soon turned to the reality that war is hideous.

The landings at Gallipoli were as well planned as they could be with a lead time of 36 days and the benefit of aerial reconnaissance. But the Turks were well prepared and were ready for the attack.

On that dawn of April 25th, the Australians and New Zealanders landed on the beach that was to become Anzac Cove under the command of Major-Gen William Bridges, the first commandant of the Military College Duntroon and the first commander of the AIF before he was killed early in the Gallipoli campaign. He was born in 1861 at Greenock in Scotland. As a youth he moved to Canada where he entered the Royal Military College but failed to graduate. He then followed his parents to Australia, arriving in Sydney in August 1879 and joining the civil service.

In 1885 he returned to military life. Applying too late to join the Sudan detachment, he was commissioned instead in the militia forces raised to cover the contingent's absence. He took a permanent commission in the artillery and held the post of Chief Instructor at the School of Gunnery for nine years. He served with the British Army in South Africa. Back in Australia, he held various important military appointments including: Chief Intelligence Officer; first chief of the Australian general staff; Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff in London and in 1910 he was recalled to establish Australia's first military college at Duntroon. Bridges now a brigadier general remained at Duntroon until his appointment as Inspector General of the Australian Army in May 1914.

When the First World War began, he was given the task of raising an Australian contingent for service in Europe - he named it the Australian Imperial Force and was appointed its commander. His division was the first ashore at ANZAC Cove on 25th April; foreseeing disaster, he argued for immediate evacuation.

The force stayed and Bridges began a routine of visits to the firing line, showing a complete disregard for his own safety. On 15th May he was wounded by a sniper's bullet and he died three days later on board a hospital ship. Until the re-internment of the Unknown Soldier in recent years, he became the only Australian killed in the First World War to have his remains returned to Australia; he was buried at Duntroon.

Lt-Gen William Birdwood was appointed to the post of commander of the AIF. He held this post until May 1918 when he passed the command to Lt-Gen Sir John Monash a man who was possibly the most capable general of the First World War. General Monash had been a brigade commander at Gallipoli landing there on April 26th.

It should be remembered that the Gallipoli campaign was not restricted to land operations. Some months before the assault by British, French and Anzac troops on April 25th there was a naval bombardment of the forts at the Dardanelles. This commenced in November 1914 and again in February 1915. They continued through March when on the 18th, eighteen battleships entered the straits fifteen from Britain and three from France. They were making good progress until the French ship Bouvet struck a mine and sunk. Soon after two British ships also hit mines, the Irresistible and the Ocean both sunk with the loss of 700 lives. So, three ships were sunk, another three were severely damaged and the allies were forced to retreat.

Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck informed the First Sea Lord, Winston Churchill that to take the Gallipoli peninsula he would need the help of the army and General Ian Hamilton was appointed commander of the troops and plans were now made for full-scale landings at Gallipoli. Also, there were a number of operations by the British and Australian submarines in the Sea of Marmara.

On the night of April 24th/25th the Australian submarine HMAS AE2 under the command of Lt-Cmdr Stoker sank one Turkish cruiser but was thwarted by defective torpedoes in several other attempts to sink promising targets. On April 30th, AE2 was sunk whilst trying to evade the Turkish torpedo boat Sultanhisar. The crew were taken prisoner.

Also, there was the submarine attack in December 1914 when the British submarine B11 commanded by Lt (later Cmdr) Norman Holbrook who was awarded the first Naval Victoria Cross of the War. His submarine sank the Turkish battleship Mesudiye in the Straits south of Çanakkale. The town of Germanton in the Riverina district of NSW changed its name to Holbrook in 1915 and, in 1995, the town acquired a portion of the Oberon class submarine HMAS Otway after it was decommissioned by the Australian Navy.

The Allied submarine operations in the Sea of Marmara were a significant success of the Gallipoli campaign. Between April 1915 and January 1916, nine British and the one Australian submarine sank two battleships, one destroyer, five gunboats, nine troop transports, seven supply ships, 35 steamers and 188 assorted smaller vessels at a cost of total of 8 Allied submarines which were sunk in the strait or in the Sea of Marmara. The Turks were forced to abandon the Sea of Marmara as a transport route.

Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Valley, Lone Pine, Johnston's Jolly, Quinn's Post, The Nek, Chunuk Bair are names now inscribed in Australian and Anzac legend.

There were 11 Victoria Crosses awarded in the Anzac area, 10 of which went to Anzacs. The first Anzac area VC was awarded to L/Cpl Walter Parker, Portsmouth Battalion, Royal Naval Division. As a stretcher bearer, he looked after dozens of his wounded comrades despite his own wounds.

The first Australian to be awarded the VC was Acting L/Cpl (later Capt) Albert Jacka who won the medal on the 19th May 1915 at Courtney's Post – he went on to win a MC and bar. Seven VC's were won between the 7th and 9th of August at **Lone Pine. Cpl (later Col) Cyril Bassett of the NZ Engineers (Signals) won his VC on the assault at Chunuk Bair** on the 10th August 1915 and the final Anzac VC was awarded to 2 /Lt (later Capt) HugoThrossell of the 10th Australian Light Horse for his bravery on Hill 60 on the 29th August.

In September 2014 Rosemary and I enjoyed a wonderful cruise from Istanbul to Athens on SS Minerva by way of the Gallipoli peninsular and particularly ANZAC Cove. One of the lecturers on board provided a very moving account of the Gallipoli campaign and as we left the captain ordered a blast from the ship's horn in honour of the combatants.

After Gallipoli, the Australian AIF went on to fight in the Middle East where the Australian Light Horse added to the Anzac story in Mesopotamia at places like Beersheba. Many were transferred to the Western Front in France and Belgium and their legend grew at places such as Fromelles, Pozieres, Thiepval, Bullecourt, Messines, Ypres, Polygon Wood, Villers-Bretonneux and the final battle at Hamel. Also, a significant number of Australians served as pilots with the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service.

Of course, the Anzac spirit continued in the second great conflict of the 20th Century. The Royal Australian Navy served in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Russian Conveys and the North Sea. The Second AIF fought in Sidi Barrani, Bardia, Mersa Matruh, Tobruk, Greece, Crete and El Alamein. The AIF and AMF continued the fight in Malaya, Papua New Guinea, Borneo and other battlefields in the South Pacific where names such as the Kokoda Trail, Milne Bay, Buna and Finschhafen have been immortalised. And large numbers served both in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force Squadrons of Fighter and Bomber Command in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and within Australia.

Following WW2, Australian forces have served in the United Nations action in Korea from 1950 to 1953, in the Malaysian Emergency in 1949-1955, in Confrontasi with Indonesia in the 1960's, in Vietnam in 1965-1972, and in more recent years in the Gulf, East Timor, the Solomons, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is clear from many dialogues and reports that the sense of mateship still exists and we can be proud of our military history and our role in maintaining world peace.

In 2019 I joined a pilgrimage to Ypres and Messines with my old regiment The London Scottish. The Pipe Band followed by current serving soldiers and then the Old Comrades paraded and took part in the nightly ceremony at the Menin Gate and the following day we all marched from Ypres to the Regimental Memorial at Messines.

This was followed by a civic reception put on by the town of Messines at which a local Belgium grandmother spoke to Rosemary who had identified herself as Australian. This lady reiterated the gratitude of locals to the troops who defended their freedom especially the Australians who had travelled across the world to help.

In 2009, I visited Albany in Western Australia where the flotilla of ships assembled during October 1914 to take the Australian Army to the Middle East. There in the Princess Royal Harbour approaches is a channel now named Attaturk Channel

Editor's note:

David Maclean was a member of Wahroonga Rotary for some 14 years, undertook numerous roles and was President in 2002/2003.

He is a retired business and IT consultant who has worked with WD Scott and Co, and other large companies. He has consulted extensively in Indonesia and other countries.

David served in the London Scottish Regiment, which has a very proud history. He holds the British Ex-services badge, and the Community Fires Services Medal..

He has deep insights into British and Australian military history, and is a valued long term member of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies.

The Partnership and its Beginning



Some of the Board members for the Novus Foundation 2017 – Front from left: Phil McCarroll, Garry Webb OAM, Phil Currie (CEO of the San Hospital), Back Row from left: John Collins, Rochelle Wiley and Terry Hodge.

At the commencement of 2006 President Peter Smith OAM wanted to develop closer relations with the key employers in the Club's catchment area and develop programs which might address the issue of membership growth. We could see problems arising, namely that we were all getting older and we could not see any large number of youthful new recruits applying for membership.

A committee was formed and the concept of working with new partnerships resulted. The target was to develop partnerships with key employer organisations in the area where the Rotary Club of Wahroonga (WRC) is located. We would also be able to present the opportunities and benefits of the membership of Rotary and thus receive greater numbers of new applicants for membership.

We considered the first two organisations with which we needed to develop closer relations, as they were major employers in our area, namely the Sydney Adventist Hospital (The San) and the Phil McCarroll Automotive Group at Waitara.

In addition the club needed a separate entity to have any income or expenses processed and consequently, members were made aware that the club had entered into a Partnership with Phil McCarroll in the creation of the "Novus Foundation". Our main aim in the first year was raising the funds to assist The Australasian Research Institute (ARI), the research arm of the Sydney Adventist Hospital to conduct the research into adolescent obesity.

The vision of the RCW was that the Gala events, run by the Partnership, had greater potential than its previous major fund raiser, the annual district golf day. This golf day had been running for a number of years and as a consequence approximately \$35,000 was raised for the Rotary Club of Wahroonga projects.

Once the Novus Foundation was established and the partnership put together; then we held a major fundraising event on Saturday the 12th of May 2007, namely the Gala Dinner. This dinner had over 300 hundred attendees and was an outstanding success.

Financially too, this event met all of our objectives and consequently we were able to present a cheque for \$90,000 to The Australasian Research Institute. This donation exceeded the ARI's original request and was sufficient for them to complete the research project into adolescent obesity.

This has been a wonderful development in the growth of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga and all members have been enjoying the experience. We are confident that growth in membership will also come to the club as people see the excitement and community minded spirit that prevails. At the date of compiling this brief background, some thirteen years since 2007, no one could have foreseen that the partnership formed between the Sydney Adventist Hospital, the McCarroll Automotive Group and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga would produce such a remarkable outcome for our local community.

The 13 annual fundraising events (the Gala Dinners), jointly hosted by the partners, has raised \$1.8 million for youth related charities in our community, of which \$350,000 has been used by our Club to fund a whole range of Youth Projects.

These funds were contributed by the club to the San for:-

- 2008, 2015 – Australasian Research Institute
- 2010, 2012, 2013 – Healthcare Outreach
- 2014 – Open Heart International
- 2016, 2017 – ARI and OHI

The RCW membership has continued to grow and flourish with in excess of 60 members, the largest club in our district.

San Hospital and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga

Our involvement with the San has continued to grow and listed below is some of the initiatives that the two robust organisations have worked on over the years.

Awards to San staff from The Rotary Club of Wahroonga

Each year the Rotary Club of Wahroonga has a breakfast meeting at the SAN. Various awards are made to deserving members of the hospital's staff and volunteers. The awards are as follows:-

- Bill Leventhal Award for Clinical Excellence, annually from 1986
- Community Service Award, annually from 2015
- Paul Harris Fellow, first awarded 1993
- Pride of Workmanship Award, annually from 1985
- Quiet achievers award was in 2002 and 2005
- Sapphire Pin, received by Dr Leon Clark (CEO of the San) in 2014
- Vocational Excellence Awards, given sparingly since 1985

Carols by Candlelight

Thousands of local community members gathered on the Hospital green on Sunday joining in the Christmas festivities for San Carols by Candlelight.

- PP Ian Davidson and the Wahroonga Rotary were listed as "special helpers" in 1995
- The Club collected the offering in 1996 and were still collecting in 2019

Jacaranda Lodge

Jacaranda Lodge is a "home away from home" for those requiring low cost accommodation, and is located on-site at Sydney Adventist Hospital. The SAN provide accommodation for patients undergoing regular treatments, or who wish to be close to the hospital the night prior to their admission; for family members while a patient is in hospital.

Support group meetings are held in the Rotary Room. This was funded by Rotary clubs of District 9680 for the 1999 extensions of Jacaranda Lodge.

Run for Life

Funds raised at San Run for Life go towards San Cancer Services to support the community. In conjunction with the Hospital's world-class physical care facilities, San Cancer Services looks after the full range of emotional needs for cancer patients and their loved ones throughout their journey.

Wahroonga Rotary volunteers at the fun run are first listed in 2006

The Novus Foundation.

Back in 2005 the Rotary Club of Wahroonga's major fundraiser was to organise the District Golf Day. Teams from most of the clubs in the District competed and funds were raised from many organizations through donations, a raffle and entry fees.

The arrangement was that Wahroonga, as organiser, would be entitled to 50% of the profit to use for its projects and District would receive the balance.

The sum Wahroonga received varied year to year, but was in the order of \$15000-\$20000. It should be noted Wahroonga could not rely on this income because at least in theory the winning club had the right to stage next year's Golf Day.

At that time the Club's total annual income was something in the order of \$60000, including the proceeds earned from the golf day.

So, President Garry Webb OAM and his Board, decided to seek out a fundraising project to replace the golf day which would raise significant funds, of an amount more in keeping with the size and potential of Wahroonga.

The Club's major supporter of the golf day was Phil McCarroll AM who in addition to a cash donation also made a car available for a hole in one. (This prize was never won, although on one famous occasion only a few inches was the difference and that person tried again after the competition had finished and actually achieved a hole in one! Very exciting, but of course it didn't count.)

On the strength of Phil's support of the club, Richard Pitt, who had enlisted Phil's help when the club first took on the Golf Day, went back to Phil and asked if he could help the Club.

Typically Phil said of course he could, how about a grand Fundraising Dinner and added, 'not to worry I organize a couple of these a year and can help you'.

So, as they say, the rest is history! And what a history for the Club and for all those local beneficiaries we have supported each year until COVID sadly put a (temporary) halt to the annual Novus Foundation Gala Fundraising Dinner in 2020 and 2021.

Over the years 2007 to 2019 a figure of \$1,813,000 has been raised and every cent has been donated to a number of local charities (see below) in response to their specific needs at the time and including to Wahroonga Rotary, for exclusive use in support of its wide range of youth projects.

But that's the end result- in the beginning an enormous amount of work had to be done to set up what was to become Novus Foundation.

Firstly, having embraced the idea of the Gala Dinner, decisions needed to be taken, some of which were -what causes should be supported, should the Club receive some of the income (as it had from the Golf Day), should an entity be established, what name should it have, would it be a limited company, should the board of such an entity be independent from the Club, could we obtain tax deductibility status, plus a long list of detailed other tasks and needs.

So began an amazing time for the Club.

The Club's Board realised early on that this could be a much bigger project than the club could resource alone. A Partnership was therefore established between Wahroonga Rotary and the McCarroll Automotive Group.

Phil McCarroll and his team were with us all the way, providing sponsors, prizes and, most importantly, the confidence to undertake something the Club had never visualised before.



2017-18 Beneficiaries - Front row left, Phil McCarroll and front row right President Sue Owen.

What was also terrific was that Dr Leon Clark AM, the CEO of the SAN and a great member of Wahroonga Rotary quickly came on board and agreed to the SAN also lending its support.

That support was invaluable too. For many years they provided an executive of the hospital to be the Executive Officer, office space was made available and crucially, financial backing was made available for the new Novus Foundation to be operational, before any funds could be raised.

In subsequent years the SAN joined with the McCarroll Automotive Group and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga as a Partner in Novus.

It was agreed the fundraising focus would be Youth and that the name of the entity charged with raising the funds would be NOVUS FOUNDATION, Novus being the Latin word for youthful.

John Cameron AM took charge of creating the Novus entity and, with the professional Pro Bono input of lawyers Sparke Helmore created a Company Limited by Guarantee known as Novus Foundation Limited and a trust called the Novus Foundation Trust, through which all donated tax deductible contributions are passed to complying beneficiaries. The Constitution of both these entities was also prepared.

All of these formalities required a Board of Directors to be established. Phil McCarroll agreed to be Chairman and was joined by Leon Clark and Simon McCarroll.

By this time Peter Smith OAM had become Wahroonga President and took on the role of Deputy Chair of Novus and fellow Rotarians Garry Webb OAM, Bob Howe OAM and Richard Pitt also joined the Novus Board.

At last the scene was set to organize the first Fundraising event and a date was set for May 2007.

The first major beneficiary was to be the Australasian Research Institute, the research arm of the SAN, which, in conjunction with the University of NSW was researching Type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents, in a project called 'Healthy under the skin you are in'.

The structure of the event was established- a dinner to be held at the Miramare Gardens Function Centre, Terry Hills followed by dancing.

During the evening there would be a Live Auction and ongoing through the evening a silent auction and a raffle would also raise funds. All prizes were donated by sponsoring companies and individuals. A target audience of over 500 people would attend with approximately half the tables sponsored by supporting organizations. And live entertainment would be provided. Peter Fitzsimmons was the MC in that first year.

Most important of all the recipients of the funds raised would have time allocated to talk about their work.



Novus Board 2018-19 – Front row left: Terry Hodge, Steve Rivers, Phil McCarroll, Middle row: Peter Smith OAM, David Russell, John Collins, Back row left: CEO San Hospital Brett Goodes, Rochelle Wiley

Over the years this formula remains very much intact. The number of beneficiaries has been increased to three or four each year, technology has been introduced to simplify the bidding procedure of the Silent Auction.

Many of the original supporters attend each year and the annual income distributed, whilst fluctuating in line with economic circumstances, averages \$140000.

The amount of work undertaken by many members of the Club at that time, to contact sponsors, to obtain prizes, to hire entertainment, an MC and auctioneer was willingly undertaken. A Dinner Committee put together the program for the evening. Thanks to their efforts the first Gala Fundraising Dinner raised \$175000.

So the first year was a great success. Looking back it highlights a number of important things for Rotary and in particular our Club.

Firstly by challenging ourselves to do more in the community we established a great sense of purpose that continues today.

We looked outside and formed powerful alliances with the local community, including major organisations.

We harnessed the significant experience of many of our members who, in their working lives, had held senior managerial and professional positions or had successfully run small business enterprises. We learnt so much about managing volunteers through the structure and planning of a large and enduring project and certainly did a lot of good and saved many lives through our commitment to the community.

Over the years the funds raised have been donated to many local charities.

\$	Donated to
446000 -	Australasian Research Inst.
349000 -	Rotary Club of Wahroonga
336000 -	SAN Outreach
239000-	StreetWork
175000-	KYDS
127000 -	PCYC
57000-	Achieve Australia
30000-	Bush Children's Education Foundation.
23000-	Studio-ARTES
20000-	BeCentre
11000-	Bear Cottage

This is a grand total of \$1813000 up to and including the 2019 function.

Novus has been fortunate in that every year a Gala Dinner has been held its three Partners have been outstanding. Both McCarroll's and the Sydney Adventist Hospital have brought many sponsored tables of companies and individuals to the function.

The Rotary Club of Wahroonga has organized the Dinner, including sourcing the prizes, managing bookings, liaising with Miramare Gardens and physically supporting the Function through members attending and volunteering on the night.

The beneficiaries also play their part by bringing groups of supporters to the Night, contributing prizes and, of course, presenting their work to the Dinner participants.

But now the great issue facing Novus is how to spring back from not being able to hold the annual event in 2020 and 2021.

Novus is fortunate that its two Foundation Partners, McCarrolls and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga continue to positively look forward to a 2022 function. Also many of the corporate and individual supporters remain in contact.

As this document is being prepared during the June/July Covid lockdown in NSW, the biggest future risk is uncertainty.

The current Novus Board of Phil McCarroll, John Collins, Terry Hodge, Simon McCarroll, David Russell, Peter Smith, Rochelle Wiley and its two independent directors Tony MacRae and Steve Rivers will continue with efforts to hold a sensational event for our beneficiaries in 2022!

The Cath Lab Saga - Mongolia

After the Russians pulled out of Mongolia, training in cardiac surgery slowed down considerably. So following from the Hishigzul project, Wahroonga sponsored some Mongolian cardiac surgeons to a medical conference and a week of visits to the major cardiac units in Sydney.

Alan Gale then organised a number of ADRA /SAN hospital teams to go to Ulaanbaatar to do cardiac surgery and help the local medicos. A dental team went with one of the medical teams. A Wahroonga Rotarian generally went as the administrative assistant.

The wife of one of these Rotarians, Joan Giacometti, also went with one team. In Ulaanbaatar, Joan met an Australian girl, Didi, who had set up school for local orphans. Joan was impressed with her efforts and, on her return to Sydney, organised a bridge day to raise money to help Didi. The (recent) 10th Annual Didi Bridge Day, organised by Joan and the Wahroonga lady members, wives and partners raised nearly \$20,000. Joan and some of the ladies have made two subsequent visits to ensure the money is being well spent and to assist for a couple of weeks.

When the SAN hospital replaced its cardiac operating theatre equipment, the hospital offered the replaced equipment to the Ulaanbaatar Hospital, provided Wahroonga Rotary organised and paid for its transportation to Mongolia. A Carl F Millar Grant was obtained from the Rotary Foundation to send a team (under the auspices of FAIM) to Mongolia to determine if it was practical - medically, operationally and physically - for the equipment to go there. Another crucial fund raising effort, supported by Paul Cave (Bridge Climb founder) and some Australian mining companies operating in Mongolia, enabled the equipment to be sent. It was then installed by a FAIM team. Subsequently, another Sydney hospital replaced its identical equipment, so FAIM was able to send to Ulaanbaatar selected parts of this, for spares.

An interesting aside here was that although Mongolia have so many of its people suffering from a hole in the heart these operations we're not being conducted it seems that the Mongolian hospitals hitherto assisted and run by the USSR had no technology such as a Cath Lab heart bypass machine even if it did the army even service for electricity was problematic and an operation could be interrupted by a power blackout the only alternative for the Mongolian medicos was to freeze the body and in a bed of Ice and then attempt the procedure this however as previously explained was difficult due to the irregularity of the power

When the Adventist hospital learnt of the dire straits that the Mongolian population were in at the result of the Russians leaving Mongolia and the condition of the hospital and the operating theatre a lot of committee work began. The club was then advised that the Adventist hospital we're going to replace their Cath Lab with a new one and offered the Cath Lab to the Club.

Funds were then raised to have the Cathlab flown, in a large crate, to China and then by train into Mongolia where it was to be installed at the main hospital in Ulaanbaatar.

It was decided that some of the Rotarian would meet up with the Cath Lab at the hospital and assist the Mongolians in installing it. Due to indifferent supplies of electricity in Mongolia assistance was also given to them in establishing a power source.

A generator would need to be installed and all the electrical wiring for the Cath lab. Therefore, Rotarians John Welch (an engineer) and Ron Marcus (who was an electrician) flew into Mongolia to assist them in having the Cath Lab established

Dr Alan Gale from the San Hospital and staff then traveled to Mongolia to conduct operations and start training the surgeon's.

It wasn't long before some of the Mongolian surgeons were brought out to Australia and were trained in the procedure of open-heart surgery at the San.

Rotarian Past President Rob Giacometti in 1998 accompanied Dr Alan Gale to Ulaanbaatar. As you can imagine there was a lot of organisation to be done to bring all this to a successful conclusion.

The work done was in fact magnificent and PP John Welch and his team were successful in the work done. The Club assumed the task of taking on financial responsibility for the project. The Club then organized the removal of the Cath Lab from the Adventist Hospital and reinstalled it in Ulaanbaatar. The Adventist Hospital should also be commended for their generosity with this gift for the Mongolian people.

This was a long project occurring over several years and commencing with a Carl Miller Grant (\$8,000) to visit Mongolia to assess viability. Also application was made for Container Grants to cover transportation and these were finally obtained. The Mongolian hospitals did not have this facility and with the population's propensity to suffer from heart disease it was looked upon as imperative to install such a machine.

The Cath Lab was a large machine that required its own shipping container. This container ended up in China and then had to be then forwarded on to Ulaanbaatar. To justify initial costs of freight by sea and trans-Siberian railway, purchase of air conditioning equipment and some expected costs for the installation team there was a need to raise some \$60,000, from local sources and abroad, to transport and do the final re-installation and commissioning in 2003.

Also the new installation had to be commissioned by a medical team from the Adventist Hospital.

At the time it was conservatively estimated that this project would be a gift to the Mongolian people and would be equivalent to \$750,000. The specialist from the hospital, Dr Alan Gale, however believed the gift to be more in the vicinity of \$1.5 million, and gave a presentation on this project at the Rotary International Conference, Brisbane 1996.

It should be emphasised that this Cath Lab project in Mongolia is not connected to dental work by Dr. Brian Freeman or the young girl Hishigul, brought to Australia for a heart operation, nor our support for the Didi's Orphanage but an entirely separate project coming from the offer from the Adventist Hospital to the RCW to take possession of an earlier model but very functional Cath Lab and offer this to another country. Ron Marcus from Castle Hill Club did a similar transfer to a hospital in Nepal and was very much involved in this activity.



Photos: Cath Lab monitors left and Cath Lab right before it was sent to Ulanbattar Hospital

The very considerable financial responsibility to do this was accepted by President John Welch on behalf of the Club and carried on by the next President after David Maclean, namely Vic Deeble.

John was understandably pleased to receive formal recognition for this project in September 2003 through a Certificate from The Australian Government signed by the then Prime Minister John

Howard. He values this recognition but was very disappointed to see that his attempts to support this project in Mongolia, by way of a comprehensive proposal to Australia Overseas Aid (Aus Aid) through planned visits over 5 years for service and maintenance through a joint Rotary club of Wahroonga and Aus Aid activity was casually dismissed by Aus Aid as *Rotary Australia World Community Service* (RAWCS) was not an accredited Non-Government Organisation (NGO).

However, some spade work done while in Mongolia and later, concerning a Canadian Gold mining (Ivanhoe Mines UB) working in Mongolia resulted in this company providing \$30,000 and this was given to RAWC'S and is used to this day to allow regular maintenance visits to this Cath Lab in Ulaanbaatar.

This \$30,000 should not be confused with the amount given in the early stages of the project by the founder, Paul Cave of the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk. Thus the total funds raised, including container grants, for this Mongolian Cath Lab amounted to about \$100,000.

The man who started our Club on this great adventure, Phil Hinton, wrote,

"Following from the Hishigzul project, Wahroonga Rotary sponsored some Mongolian cardiac surgeons to a medical conference and a week of visits to the major cardiac units in Sydney. Alan Gale then organised a number of ADRA /SAN hospital teams to go to Ulaanbaatar to do cardiac surgery and help the local medicos. A dental team went with one of the medical teams. A Wahroonga Rotarian generally went as the administrative assistant. The wife of one of these Rotarians, Joan Giacometti, also went with one team.

In Ulaanbaatar, Joan met an Australian girl, Didi, who had set up an orphanage and a school for local orphans. Joan was impressed with her efforts and, on her return to Sydney, organised bridge-playing days to raise money to help Didi. When the San hospital replaced its cardiac operating theatre equipment, the hospital offered the replaced equipment to the Ulaanbaatar Hospital, provided Wahroonga Rotary organised and paid for its transportation to Mongolia.

Another crucial fund- raising effort was successful, supported with \$35,000 by Paul Cave, the Bridge Climb founder, and some Australian mining companies operating in Mongolia, enabled the equipment to be sent and installed by a team organised by the Rotary body Fourth Avenue in Motion – FAIM"

Some International Projects

written July 2021

For many years now, the Rotary Club of Wahrenonga has been very active with their International Committees. There have been many different projects over the years that should be mentioned however, lack of space sees that we only feature a select few. The Shelter Box project was a marvelous way to aid people caught in natural disasters. The Fistula Foundation was supported and no doubt assisted many girls who suffered from this condition. The digging of wells and solar powered pumps in India, the solar powered heaters in China, Aiding children who had been severely burned, Cleft palates from Nepal, Holes in the heart from Mongolia and many more. Those International Projects to be described in greater detail are shown below.

Jeevananda Ashram – Sri Lanka – by PP Richard Pitt

BATTICALOA ORPHANAGE PROJECT - Commenced May 2007, Opened April 16 2009 RAWCS PROJECT NUMBER 48/2005-6

Background

Grown out of the need created by the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004 and the desire for Rotary to assist the people of Sri Lanka, this project was conceived to provide accommodation in the form of an Orphanage for more than 70 children.

The Orphanage was to be run by a section of the Catholic Church. The buildings and land were to belong to the Catholic Church of Batticaloa.

Contributions to the Project



• Wahrenonga Rotary Club	10,000
• Five Dock Rotary Club	20,600
• Sydney Rotary Club	12,400
• Rotary District 9680	50,000
• RAWCS	10,368
• Gerrard's Cross Rotary Club	2,400
• Rotary District 9700	22,000
• Brambles	<u>20,000</u>
• TOTAL	147,768

The First Day- the Bishop of Batticaloa blesses the project



PP Richard Pitt and Benjamin the builder



The orphanage under construction see above and below, completed.





The Opening Ceremony - With some of the girls, PP Richard Pitt and his wife Lesley and members of the Rotary Club of Batticaloa

The orphanage was opened on 16th April 2009. Eighty girls had moved into the orphanage about two months prior to that.

This orphanage has been funded completely by donations from Australia excepting a small contribution from a Rotary Club in the United Kingdom. The majority of the Australian funding has been from Rotary Clubs but there was also some support from the logistics company, Brambles. For the construction we were able to use the services of a very reliable local builder in Batticaloa and had the support of the local Rotary Club of Batticaloa in the overseeing of the construction and quality control. Three members of the local Batticaloa Rotary Club were engineers, including the Rotary Club

of Batticaloa president at the time.

Rotary assisted the orphans by purchasing 40 beds for the orphanage. Previously the girls had been sleeping on mats on the floor.

Photo left: The New Beds get a try out.



The Rotary Club of Wahroonga has committed to helping the Orphans at the

Jeevananda Ashram in their progression to a proper place, and life, in the local community.

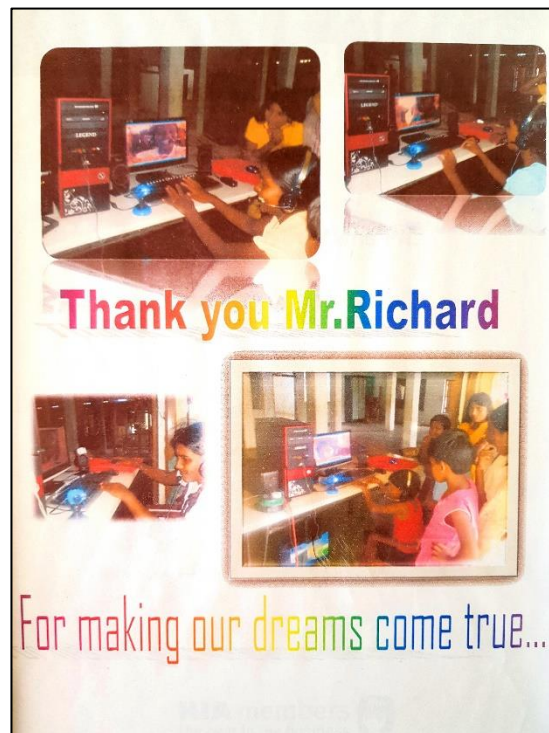
With this in mind the next step was to purchase three sewing machines, tables for the machines, material & thread so that some of the older girls are able to get some vocational training thereby assisting them in their life after they leave the orphanage.



The Girls at their lessons in the new school building.

Continuing support from the Rotary Club of Wahroonga has supplied the orphanage with a computer and connection to the internet. This will provide the girls with further opportunity to learn, and will help us with communication with the orphanage.

Support from the Rotary Club of Wahroonga to the Jeevananda Ashram has continued by supplying an annual amount to purchase school stationery and essentials such as shoes



A charming thank you note from the girls using their new computer which our Club supplied to them.

Indochina Starfish Foundation - Cambodia – by Jim Fulton and the ISF Team

This month, we're celebrating the successes of our students this month. Solin* has found stable education with ISF after financial insecurity almost cut her learning career short. And thanks to part-time work provided by our Employment Programme at an ISF mobile library, Sopheak* is able to continue studying.

In our continuing effort to positively influence the communities we serve, ISF has employed reusable bags for food parcel distribution. With our actions, we aim to drive the change in our communities in

Stung Meanchey and Chbar Ampov, encouraging others to do the same and leading to our whole communities taking action

**Names of children under 18 are changed for their protection*



Solin finds a Stable education at ISF



A part-time job at ISF saved his education. Making little income, Sopheak's parents didn't have enough for his education. Before he joined our Employment Program, this young learner almost had to quit school to earn money.

Cheshire Homes - Pollibetta, Coorg, India - Radha Simhadri

I was in India twice at Cheshire Homes for the disabled in Pollibetta, Coorg. The first time (Dec 19) was to present a cheque of \$ 5000 from Rotary Wahroonga for the plastic recycling project. This is part of a District Grant. I then met with Cheshire Homes Board members as well as Rotarians from the area.

The second visit was on 13 March 2020 when I was invited to be the chief guest at their 20th annual day meet to present awards to the children in the program. It was amazing to see how the teachers, families and the entire community help out in the well-being of children.

On Nov23rd we held an evening of jazz and Indian dancing with Indian food between the jazz and dancing. It was held at Peter Duly auditorium at Abbotsleigh.



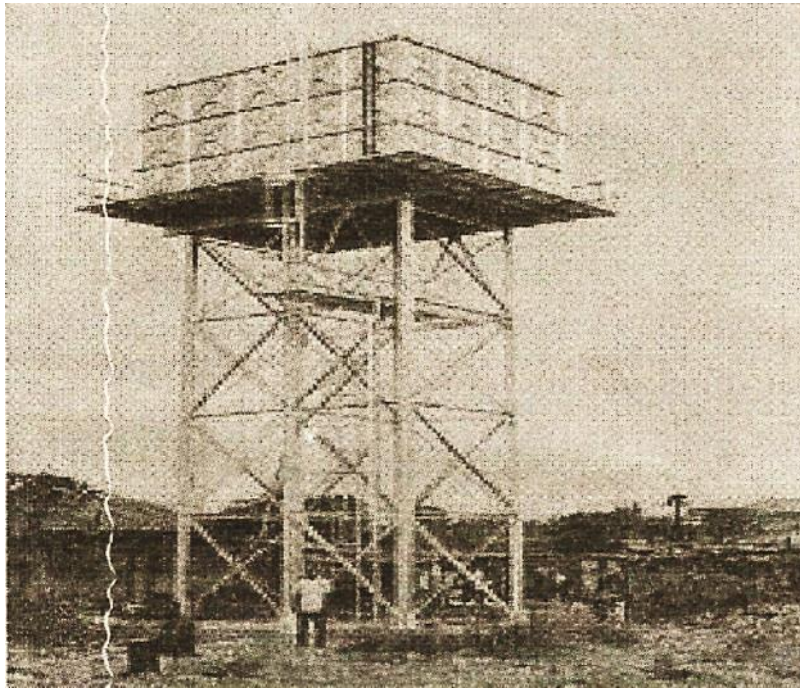
Making papier Mache bags with seeds



Recycling plastic to make table mats



**Recycling plastic fibres in a loom
Water Tank – Port Harcourt, Nigeria – PP Doug Reid**



The new Global Grant sought with the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Central, Nigeria will supply the Toni-Pirima Ama Community, Port Harcourt, and Rivers State with clean water. A well-defined system of operation and maintenance will be established for the sustainability of the project under the maintenance committee of the community. The committee will be responsible to collect and use the maintenance funds from the three benefiting communities via their leaders.

Water Tower

Nepal - Anne Prescott



From Left: Richard Jackson, Anne Prescott, Allan Waldon and Jan Cameron

For some time local butcher Allan Waldon had given some support to the people of Nepal. To obtain additional help he approached the Rotary Club of Wahroonga and that is how we came to be involved in this wonderful project.

As at 2020 Wahroonga Rotary has been involved in Nepal for over ten years, initially supporting teacher professional development and school building programs. The Earthquake in April, 2015 unfortunately occurred in the region of Gorkha where most of our work had been carried out, and much of what had been built was destroyed. This is an update of our work in Nepal.

Bhawani School Hostel

Bhawani Secondary School in Manbu village serves its surrounding villages including some beyond a sensible day return walk to school, so over 100 students aged between 8 and 20 years board during

the week at the hostel. Manbu is towards the upper limit of the habitable zone in the Himalayas and is cold at night in winter, very cold for students trying to sleep in a room with no heating, no insulation, no ceiling, no glass in the windows and hard stone walls, or a tent. The hostel was all but demolished in the earthquake in April, 2015. Three 8 room buildings have been completed and furnished, with plans and money-raising underway so we can build another. This year we gained a \$12 000 District Grant to furnish the rooms, especially bunks, bedding and floor coverings.

The girls in the hostel also received donations of warm jumpers, toothbrushes and toothpaste.



Bunk beds bought for the hostel and a fully furnished room in hostel and below popular books for learning to read in Nepali or English





Jumpers, toothpaste and toothbrushes

- **Teacher Training**

In January, we returned to Bhairabi and Manbu for teacher education sessions. Again, we had UTS student teachers, teachers and friends who provided basic teacher training for primary and lower secondary teachers. Teacher training has grown to become a key focus for our work in Nepal. Primary teachers do not receive any teacher education – they simply move from the classroom to being the teacher. This used to occur when the student/teacher finished Year 8 but has recently been raised to Year 12. We conduct two sessions each day covering classroom management (to reduce the amount of shouting and hitting in class), ways to teach particular topics in Maths, English and Science. Many teachers walk more than 2 hours each way so they can attend.

This year we had a first aid trainer on the team. In about 2 hours at each school he was able to give all the teachers basic first aid. It was a lot of fun as arms and legs were bandaged but obviously with a serious message.



Traditional Nepalese folk art



The 2019 Nepal group with Rotarian Anne Prescott centre.



English teachers in the new classroom



Science teachers in the great outdoors, with the magnificent scenery in front of them.

Rebuilding schools.

Classes in some schools are still being held in tents, half demolished buildings and even buildings that are so damaged they should be demolished. It is only now that we can use the money raised immediately after the earthquake to complete the refurbishment/rebuild. It is exciting to see school

buildings completed in Bhairabi, Dharapani, and Manbu, as well as many other schools rather than classrooms with dirt floors, a roof letting in the monsoonal rains and shutters that will keep out the cold but also the light, as electricity is not always available.



The new building of Bhawani School in Manbu.



The Bhairabi school new building



Dharapani School in the course of construction

In September 2018, we held a Trivia Night raising money for both Days for Girls and the Indochina Starfish Foundation, Australia.

- **Days for Girls**

Since 2016 the Rotary Club of Wahroonga has been working towards setting up a centre in Nepal for producing the Days for Girls sanitary kits and then handing them out to the girls in the schools in Gorkha. We have arranged with DfG to be the Gorkha Centre for Days for Girls so they will help train the women in Araghat. We will continue to raise money for DfG to pay the women and buy the materials supplied by the Days for Girls organisation in Nepal.

South Africa – Jo Karaolis

Kopanang Women's Co-Operative South Africa

After several months working with the Project leaders via email, a detailed programme of training for the leadership team in management skills has been agreed. It will include the employment of a professional business coach, experienced in development programmes in South Africa, to work directly with the leadership team. In addition, members of the team will undertake short courses in financial management, project management and people management skills. \$35,000 was transferred in April, 2019 for this training. An outcomes-based reporting regime is currently being drawn up in association with Sister Sheila Flynn and Mr John Cameron of the Wahroonga Rotary Club. In addition, a partnership has been made with a Sydney-based group, Friends of Kopanang, to send two young graduates to work at Kopanang for three months to assist in implementing the leadership team's project management. \$7000 is to be provided for one of the two fellowships. A small balance remains in the RAWCS account.

Cambodia

Indochina Starfish Foundation Australia

The Rotary Club of Wahroonga again donated \$1500 to ISF as a scholarship for a student to get an education. This is an important initiative for all students but has been particularly important for students who have had to drop out of school because of the costs.

Bunleng is one student who thought he would have to be a construction worker or some other kind of labourer because he could not get an education. With an ISF scholarship, he worked very hard at school and graduated in 2017, and his family were given regular food parcels. He is now applying for scholarships so he can undertake a bachelor's degree in business management.



A very happy Bunleng pictured here looking forward to further studies.

The Christmas Raffle.

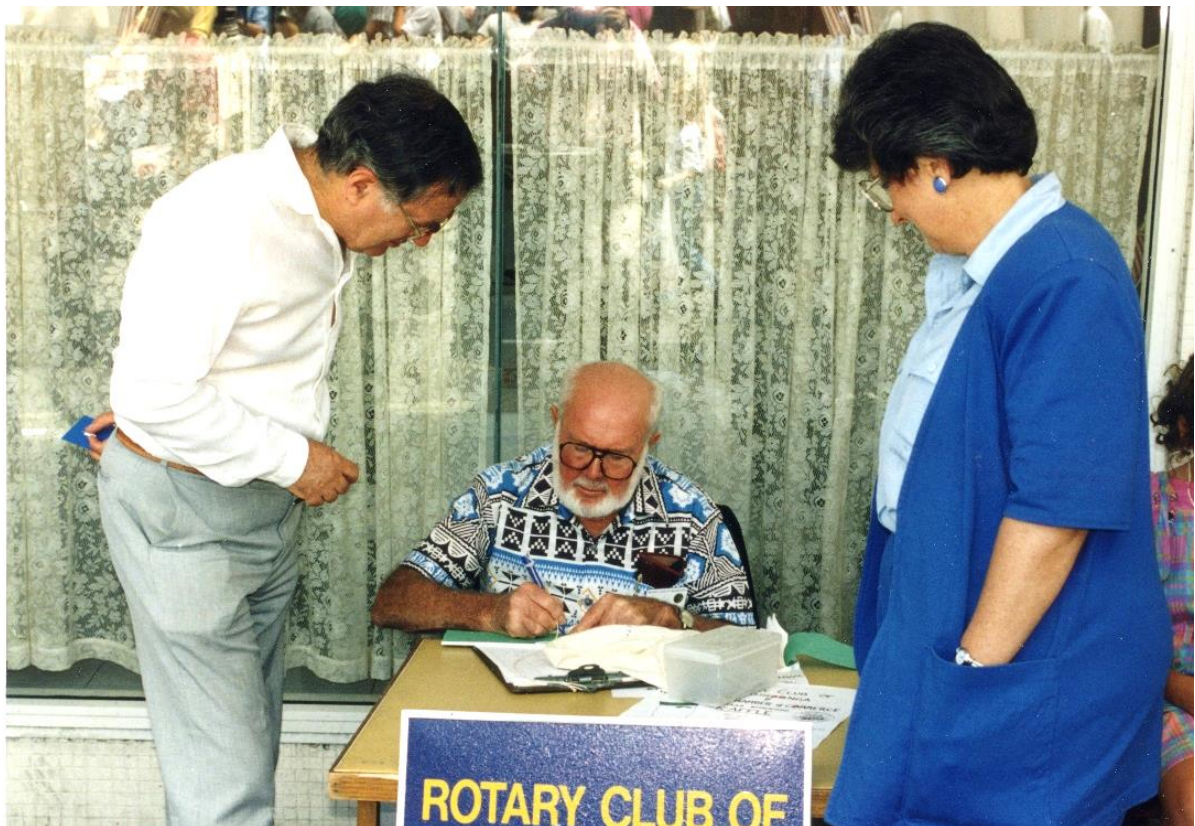
July 2021

For almost four decades the Club has conducted a Christmas Raffle. One might think that this is not too fruitful however, a lot of good has come from this seemingly unimportant project.

Since it was started there have been scores of Rotarians who have been involved. Mainly in the selling of raffle tickets. You can imagine though some of the stories that could be told, the people that one meets and the generosity of our fellow man.

One of the Rotary Club members during this time was known as "Mr. Raffle". Stan Penberthy was given this thankless task each December and he would faithfully organise a team of members to sell the tickets and stand on street corners to way-lay unsuspecting pedestrians.

Stan was an ex-Bank Manager and although a dour fellow, he had a dry sense of humour. One year the Club decided to conduct a talent show of members and Stan was there in a group of members in drag purporting to be the Spice Girls, a talented singing group in the 1990's.



Stan Penberthy seated in Wahroonga shopping centre, doing what he does best.

We can still remember with a smile that the five girl group had increased to six and Stan was there looking very cute in a long wig.

It was then announced " this 'talented singing group' will now sing a popular Spice Girl song for your entertainment tonight. Now give the 'girls a great big welcome, Scary, Sporty, Baby, Ginger, Posh and of course Old Spice (our Stan Penberthy).

However, getting back to the Christmas Raffle, first prizes have varied during the past 40 years ranging from motor cars to holidays. Just pause for a while and think about the funds collected. Let's say that the raffle has been going for 35 years. Raising say an average of \$5,000 per year. Well that means our Rotary Club of Wahroonga has raised \$175,000. Now that is a lot of moolah.

The Christmas Raffle proceeds, in recent years, goes towards the St Lucy's School and St Edmunds College for Bursaries. These bursaries are designed to fund a student's attendance. In 2020 we also received \$3,000 from a District Grant and \$3,000 from the creative masks made by Christine Biddle and her great team (which included Joan Giacometti, Jo-Ann Moffat, Jan Cameron, Ann Davidson and Margaret Broadhead).

Consequently, what started off as a minor fund raising event has developed into an important part of the Club's project program.

Youth Projects

22/8/21

Rotary has long been associated with a whole host of projects supporting youth. After all it is the young people who will inherit the earth, so why not nurture and support them.

Some of the projects that the Rotary Club of Wahroonga supports are RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) where this leadership program is coordinated by Rotary Clubs around the globe. Each year, thousands of young people participate in this program. Young people ages 18-28 are sponsored by Rotary Clubs to attend this live in week-long event run by the club's district committee. In 2019, our Club sponsored 10 young people to attend RYLA.

RYPEN, (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment), During an intensive residential weekend, young people aged approximately 14 to 16 years develop increased motivation, improved life skills, better self-image, pride in themselves and an understanding of setting and achieving goals.

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and the Siemens Science Summer School are designed to assist students who are gifted in the sciences.

Mentoring sessions such as the time our Club visited the Turramurra High School and helped the senior students with role plays for job interviews and made suggestions for their CV's. We have also mentored children with various issues and helped steer them on a straighter path. All these projects and more have been worked on by the Club's Youth Committee, which has been guided by PP Bob Howe OAM for the last 10 years.

One project that is our highest Youth priority has been running for three decades now. It is the Club's support of the two special needs schools St Edmund's College and St Lucy's School in Wahroonga.

Ten years ago, the Club decided to formalise its financial support and that is when the Bursary System started in Richard Pitt's term as President (2010/2011) with a bursary for each school. In the first year, 2010, of this new scheme, an amount of \$9,000 pa was put aside to fund these bursaries. To date we have now donated over \$110,000 to the two schools for bursaries.



Photo: The pupils of St Edmunds put on a thumping good show at our Annual meeting where the Club visits the school and presented a cheque for \$4,905 to fund the Bursary for a student's fees in 2016.

These Bursaries are for disabled students at these schools and our Christmas Raffle and Carols at the SAN support these Bursaries. We are very proud that a very large part of our Club was active in these two activities made easier because these schools are well known locally. Of interest, one of our members, Jo Karaolis AM, was the Principal of St Lucy's until her retirement in 2012.

Each year the Club is invited to visit the schools for a breakfast and this is an opportunity for us to see the students and present cheques for the schools. The students of St Edmunds each year give us a rousing beat with their drums, guaranteed to wake the sleepest of Rotarians.



Above: The Club members always enjoy the breakfast meetings at St Lucy's and here Past President Richard Pitt introduces the Principal David Raphael, sitting on his left.



From left: PP Rob Ferguson, Greg Starr and PP Bob Howe OAM grapple with the program used by the students at St Lucy's School, Wahroonga to aid in communication.

A Selection of Historic Photographs



A Club Project, The Greening of the approach to the bridge over the new motorway at Wahroonga - from left: Judy Quodling, Kerry Dean, Unknown, Unknown, Stan Penberthy, Phil Dean, Gordon Johnson, George Richards, Vic Deeble, Ken Broadhead, Olive Cavanaugh, Jill Everett, Jim Cavanaugh (face hidden) Bill Everett, John Julius, Tom Love, David Gardiner, Judy Johnson, Ian Davidson and Phil Ostle.



From left PP Phil Dean, PP Ian Davidson, PP David Gardiner, Gretel Davidson and Ruth Penbarthy.



**President Robert Habel, Norma Doherty, Gordon and Roma Baker and John Doherty –
Swiss Night dinner 1976**



1976 – Bernie Cornell, President Fred Liney present Citizenship Award to Bill Mackay.



Photo 1978 – from left: Charter members Noel Rae, Tom Chester, PP John Doherty, Mike Jenkinson, PP Fred Liney (1975) and President Rob Ferguson (1978)



1983 – From left, Chairman Rob Ferguson, Veritey Fuller , a scout (Stewart) from 3rd Wahroonga Scouts and PP Bill Leventhall



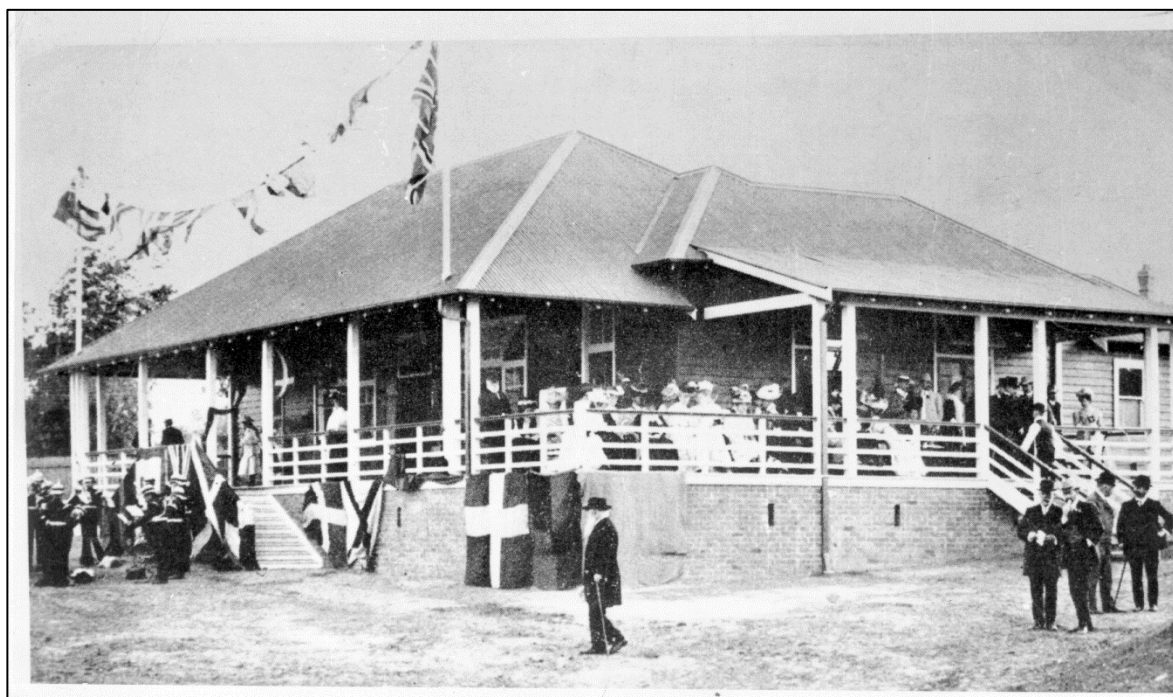
The Bavarian Night 27th April, 1977: from left, President Robert Habel, Pat Colvin MBE, John Doherty and Gordon Baker,



President Bob England (1980) with Jack Rashleigh (1982) at the Rotary District Conference.



1976 - Snr. Constable B. Gately presents 190 Club certificate to President Robert Habel and Brian James.



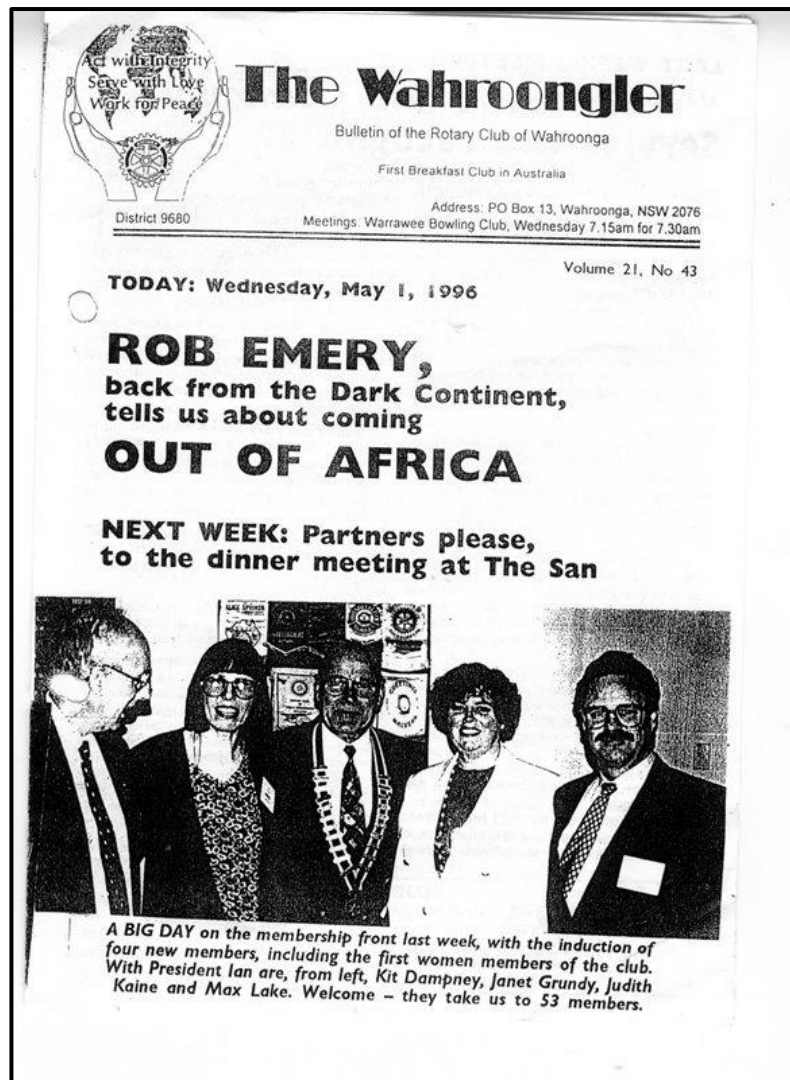
The Warrawee Bowling Club in 1906 – the Club has been the venue for most of our breakfast meetings and social nights for 30 years.



President Hilton Krone (1985) welcomes Lionel Lever to the Club. Lionel became President himself in 1991.



PP Margaret Sachs (2008) with PP Tom Love (1986), with Cecile Ferguson behind the tea cup, at a Club social dinner.



An old copy of the Wahroongler, (the Club's weekly bulletin) 1996, leader shows the induction of new members, two being the first women to join the Club. Editor PP George Richards. From Left: Kit Dampney, Janet Grundy, President Ian Davidson, Judith Kaine and Max Lake.



The Club's 40th Birthday 2011 at the Asquith Golf Club.



The Novus Foundation formed by a partnership with the Club, Phil McCarroll (philanthropist and businessman) and the Adventist Hospital has proved very successful with fund raising. Here we have some beneficiaries receiving donations. Phil McCarroll front row left sitting.



The little Mongolian girl, Hishigzul and father who we brought out from Mongolia for her hole in the heart operation.



Our Rotary Exchange Student program has been very worthwhile for the Club over the years. Here we have from Left: Ylva Rantfors (Sweden), Glynne McGregor and Kristin Guinn (USA).



Rotary Exchange Student Cornelia Bjorke (Norway) now a mother with PP Jim Mein AM.