

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 Rotary Club of Adelaide Light Inc















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# Photo top: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Logo above:

Stephanie Urchick

Rotary International Theme 2024-2025

Photo below:

DISTRICT 9510 GOVERNOR

Marie-louise Lees



#### **IMAGES FRONT PAGE**

From Top (clockwise):

- Sadra Zarei, son of member Fatemeh Zarei and Reza, was chosen to undertake a five-day Youth Adventure aboard the "One & All" sailing ship in September 2024
- Kilts galore at our inaugural Robert (Rabbie) Burns dinner organised by John Wotherspoon (I-r) John Wotherspoon, Helen Smith and minstrel/bard Ethan Mintti
- 25 November 2024 Walk Against Domestic Violence
- Rotary and Rotaract members and families enjoying our 2024 Christmas
   Croquet match at South Terrace Croquet Club
- Tree planting in the North Adelaide parklands with the help of Cuppa Conversation friends, members and their families
- October 2024 Colombian Cooking class—delicious, entertaining and well attended. L-r Sheryl Cranston, Maria Garces, Max (son of Sheryl and Ian) and Ian Delaere
- Fred's Van volunteers (I-r) Pat Welke, Liz Tilley and Paul Jupp on this particularly wintry cold night to provide warm soup and food to the homeless in the city

#### 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS





President Yvette Reade
President-Elect Yvette Reade

**Secretary** Di Lane

Treasurer Bruce McDonald

Immediate Past President Yvette Reade

#### **COMMITTEE DIRECTORS**

Club Administration Richard Jarrett

**Community Service** Paige Honor and Kirsti Kankkunen

Vocational and Youth Service Richard Jarrett

International Service John Wotherspoon

Fundraising & Fellowship Rob McLennan

**Rotary Foundation** Fred Field; Di Lane

Membership Rob McLennan

Public Relations Yvette Reade

Master of Ceremonies Stuart Marshall; Rob McLennan

Rotaract Liaison Richard Jarrett

Newsletter Editor Di Lane

Webmaster Richard Jarrett

**Child Protection/Public Officer** Fred Field; Di Lane

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024-2025

by Yvette Reade, President

Once again, it was a pleasure to serve as President this year and I look forward to my upcoming third consecutive year in this role.

As you'll read on Page 10, for the past three years our International Services team has been concentrating on helping communities closer to Australia, and so chose the nearby third-world country of Timor Leste which had a great need for basic infrastructure, sports facilities and, most importantly, easier access to clean water.

In May last year, three of our Club members - John Wotherspoon, Kirsti Kankkunnen and Rob McLennan - joined the Northern Australia-based D9560 tour of Timor Leste to view our Club's previous two projects — water to a Birthing Clinic (which couldn't happen due to extreme rainfall making travel impossible) and a school's new multifunction playing court (which our members did view as well as presenting a commemorative plaque to officially open the new courts).

In collaboration with the Timorese Rotary Club of Dili Lafaek, John, Kirsti and Rob scoped out what will be our largest project to date: providing clean potable water to approximately 115 households in two remote villages of Lookeu Foho and Sulamali. Our team formed great friendships with the people they metespecially Mersu Noronha (shown below) who was the President of the Rotary Club of Dili Lafaek and construction lead for the water project. His unfortunate and untimely death hit the project hard for several months, but the grit and determination of John Wotherspoon and Paul Jupp found appropriate replacements so that the



project could go ahead.

With the funding help of the RC of Mitcham and the Qld-based RC of Hervey Bay Sunrise, this project will cost around \$AUD 98,000 (\$US 60,000). Two months ago (in April) our project was granted a Rotary-designated Global and District Grant to start the project when the rainy season ends soon. Congratulations especially to John Wotherspoon and Paul Jupp who were instrumental in pouring over the incessant amount of paperwork required, as well as inviting other Clubs to join and co-fund this very important overseas project.

Another international project our Club has adopted is Erfan Abidi's "Afghan Girls' Underground Empowerment Network" which provides the funding for women



teachers and supplies in underground classrooms throughout Afghanistan. Girls past Grade 6 have been prohibited from attending school, so now they are being secretly educated and given a hope for the future and the encouragement and empowerment to become future doctors, teachers and changemakers. Erfan had a stall at the recent Rotary Multi-District Impact Summit in Adelaide (shown above) to promote the international project to gain funding for this on-going project.

As Julie Andrews (Maria) sang to Christopher Plummer (Captain Von Trapp) in the Sound of Music – we "must have done something good". Rob McLennan will happily tell everyone that our members are made up 54% women/46% men; roughly half and half younger and older; our Club meets at three different venues for breakfast (shown above), Coffee Catch-up and dinner during the month to suit all our members; and we have a diversity of projects for everyone to find their "niche" to help our various local and global communities.



We must still be "doing something good", as this year, our Club was fortunate to have inducted five new members into the fold.

We've had an exciting and fulfilling year.

In late May, we had a wonderful multicultural walk to Morialta Falls for our monthly Cuppa Conversations event. The group of walkers saw many koalas and even a few kangaroos hopped past us on the track. Rob McLennan gave nature talk and John Wotherspoon took the more adventurous members up a steep track to the top of the Falls. So good to see these connections growing, people of all nationalities sharing stories and laughter while we learn about their countries and they learn about Australia.

Our fundraising led by Rob McLennan with help from John Wotherspoon has been outstanding. Without funds, our projects wouldn't be possible, so I wish to thank everyone for volunteering to cook and serve at our Bunnings BBQs, Christmas Tree sales, wine sales and our successful Colombian Cooking Class — with thanks to Sally and Rob for hosting this delicious event. I also wish to thank our volunteers who staffed Fred's Van to feed the homeless on a three-weekly roster; and the continuation of mentoring our Afghan families.

It was lovely to welcome "drop-in guests" Gregory and Karagh White and their delightful son Alexander (below) at one of our breakfasts. Gregory and Karagh were both Rotaractors prior to moving to Canberra for work. I was Gregory's mentor during his time with Rotaract.



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024-2025 contd.

This year, the 12 Presidents of District 9510's Group 1 clubs (encompassing Adelaide and some surrounding suburbs) elected to undertake a joint new project called "Shop & Share" (photos below). This project had various Clubs jointly or singly set up a table in front of a shopping centre supermarket displaying "Shop & Share" posters that requested shoppers to buy a little extra to donate non-perishable goods to people in need. The Rotary Clubs of Adelaide and Adelaide Light jointly chose Romeo's Supermarket in the North Adelaide Village. On the Saturday, Adelaide Light collected two large shopping trolleys of goods that we immediately delivered to Catherine House headquarters to distribute to their various women's safe houses in the city; they were absolutely delighted. Likewise, the Rotary Club of Adelaide took the same amount on Sunday evening to their charity the Women's Safety Service who advocate for women

and children experiencing domestic and family violence. The other 10 Clubs experienced similar donation largesse at other supermarkets and the BrickWorks Market. This was a very successful project to help the community. Rotary, along with other service clubs that undertake the BBQs for Bunnings Mile End were invited to participate in a promotional day, with Coast FM interviewing many of the participants including myself as Club President to detail information about "End Polio Now" and other Rotary projects.

Our Club donated \$13,000 to important programs such as End Polio Global Fund, "New Dawn" Ukraine Crises fund, Australian Rotary Health, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children, Shelterbox, and the "Rotary says No to Domestic Violence" walk. A further and ongoing amount of \$2,500 goes towards our Indigenous Health Scholarship for a five-year period.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to another exciting year of Rotary action. But along the way, we'll have great social events so that all our members can have relaxing and fun get-togethers.

My thanks for the honour and privilege that you have given me by once again electing me as President of this Club. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as President for the past two years and I thank all members and their partners sincerely for their unending support, encouragement and excellent ideas.

I know that I can continue to count on your support this coming year and together we will implement and promote the Rotary International theme for the year ahead of "Unite for Good" chosen by the 2025-26 International President Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo from Brazil.







Left column: RC of Adelaide and Adelaide Light combined for the "Shop & Share" event in North Adelaide

Left bottom: Elaine and President Yvette dropped off a boot-full of donated goods to Catherine House's Lyn Smith and Molly Dyer who were pleased to accept the donation

Above: This Cuppa Conversation meeting was a picnic held in the Botanic Gardens

Below: Brian and Barb Brock with member Helen Smith were guest speakers detailing the history of the Onkaparina Mill and the huge collection of swatches and material that should be housed in an appropriate Museum—preferably at the old Mill



#### **CLUB ADMINISTRATION**

by Richard Jarrett, Director

Club Service covers all aspects of club administration and relies on input from a number of our members.

For the last year, the Club has been meeting for breakfast on the second Thursday of each month at the South Terrace Croquet Club and then on the fourth Thursday of each month for dinner at the Kent Town Hotel. This has proved to be an excellent move and we enjoy guest speakers who can choose between a breakfast or dinner meeting to suit their schedule.



Across 23 meetings for the year, attendance from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025 fluctuated from 9 to 19 members, averaging 12 per meeting, a little down on last year. Every other Thursday is a Coffee Catch-up at the White Picket Café for an hour or two from 9.30am which is a great time for retirees who don't wish to drive their car in the reduced light conditions for an early breakfast or late dinner.

Our Club maintains an online presence across several platforms. Our webmaster, Richard Jarrett, maintains our formal club website on ClubRunner, where member records, photos and stories are maintained. This includes a now extensive list of Friends of the Club. This allows us to maintain email contact with members and friends and is where Di Lane does an excellent job as Editor of our weekly Newsletters. Our Newsletter is currently sent to 112 members and Friends. John Wotherspoon maintains our more outward-looking website at rotaryadelaidelight.org, while several others (usually Kirsti Kankunnen, Paige



Honor, Katey Halliday and Lili Osario) post regularly to our Facebook page. Lili also maintains our WhatsApp group associated with our Cuppa Conversation activities.

A regular supply of speakers is provided by Dean Sullivan, while Rob McLennan maintains the links with our venues and also takes and collects orders for our breakfast meetings. Yvette Reade is the cook who makes up the breakfast orders of croissants each month and Paul Ensore • Mentoring: Members spent time with makes up a special blend of muesli, fruit and Greek yoghurt.

My thanks to all these members for their contributions to the smooth running of the Club.

Club Service is also responsible for keeping a record of volunteer hours across the year. Hours for the following activities are shown (estimates in some cases) with a total of 1243 volunteer hours across the period 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025, almost the same as last year:

- · Barbecues: For the period, the Club ran 13 barbecues and participated in an additional 12 joint barbecues with RC of Norwood at Bunnings Mile End (648 hours).
- Bread Run: Our long running bread run (more than 20 years) ferrying bread from Bakers Delight in North Adelaide to the Adelaide Day Centre, sadly came to an end when the Bakers Delight franchise at North Adelaide closed down and we

failed to find a suitable bakery replacement.

- Christmas Tree Sales: This year trees were sold over three weekends at just one venue, Bunnings Kent Town (90 hours).
- Fred's Van: has become a regular activity, with four people involved on a Wednesday evening every three weeks (216 hours).
- our refugee families, primarily in English language practice (127 hours).
- Cuppa Conversation: This is our welcome program for recent arrivals in Australia and has been held on nine occasions at various venues including cafes in the Botanic Park and Hutt Street. One meeting we decided to have a lovely beach morning at the Esplanade Hotel and in May 2024 a delightful walk and coffee at Morialta Park to view its waterfalls — with Lili Osorio undertaking the organising over most of the past year (the 162 hours logged at the actual event doesn't take into account Lili's hours of following up on the phone with attendees!).

Above left: Guest speaker Valeria Anava of the Red Cross

Above right: Two shifts of happy servers delivering well cooked and delicious snags to customers at Bunnings Mile End

#### **CLUB ADMINISTRATION contd.**







#### A quick snap-shot of our Rotary year Clockwise from top left:

- Erfan speaking at the inaugural "Supporting Afghan Girls' Education" fundraising dinner in November 2024;
- One of the many filled tables at the
- Bunnings Mile End BBQ volunteers with members Angas, Bruce, Ian, Elaine and a a member's friend;
- Fatemeh, Lili and Maria at the inaugural Rabbie Burns dinner;
- Two exhausted Rotarians after a very long shift—Rob and Paul Ensor
- Morialta Falls Cuppa Conversation visit in May 2025
- One of the many Coffee Catch-ups at the White Picket Café with Di Lane, John Wotherspoon, Yvette Reade, Rob McLennan, Elaine Reade, Graham Smith and Don Tindale;
- Pat Welke as guest speaker on her art installation designs;
- Guest speaker Dr Stephen Morris spoke on "Limits to Growth—Population and the Economy"













#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

by Kirsti Kankkunnen & Paige Honor, Co-Directors

We've had another busy year in Community Service with a large active committee meeting monthly and several successful long standing projects on the go.

#### **Cuppa Conversation**



This initiative to support migrants in Adelaide has continued to be a rewarding project. While attendance has dropped in the past six months - likely linked to changes in visa rules and some migrants having to return to their countries - when the group has caught up it has brought together lovely people who want to connect, improve their job situation, practice their English and ask questions to navigate life in Adelaide. There are always a number of brand-new arrivals to Adelaide who come along rather bravely. Our Cuppa champion, Lili Osorio, has continued to run this project with enthusiasm and warmth, and her connection to the Latino community has been invaluable.

On 31 May 2025, we undertook a successful Cuppa trip to Morialta for a morning coffee and walk to the first falls and lookouts above. This was attended by eight Rotarians and 21 migrants from seven countries including Chile, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Philippines, Japan and Taiwan. We were

lucky to spot at least four koalas and a kangaroo obligingly hopped past the group along the path which excited everyone.

#### Fred's Van



We continue every third Wednesday night to run Fred's Van with a rolling roster of five members and friends of the Club, including Bethany, Sue (husband Alex is in Mitcham Rotary), former Rotaractor Santhny and her now husband Abi, together with two longstanding Vinnie's Volunteers, Tess and Luke. We prepare the food in Vinnie's kitchen in Hawthorn and head out just before 7pm to serve it at Gawler Place to the homeless and others doing it tough. The number of customers served varies considerably depending on the time of the year, with large crowds of 70-80 over the summer months, but only about 50 over the winter months. Numbers of women and new faces accessing the service continues to be high showing the high need in the community with rising costs of living.

#### **Refugee mentoring**

A small group of committee members including Paige, Katey, Kirsti, Yvette and past member Margie, have been part of a roster to practice conversational English with Wahab, Wahida and their eldest daughter Rasa (14yo) over the past year. This always involves wonderful Afghan hospitality with tea, snacks and usually a homecooked delicious meal, as well as time chatting and getting updates from the other children. The kids are doing very well at school, which they enjoy thoroughly, and their English is rapidly improving. Rasa will be transitioning to

Roma Mitchell High School in the second half of 2025.

We also continue to support Erfan and his family informally, and celebrate important milestones with them, such as Nahid's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. A special thankyou to Alison Carter who has been attending weekly over the year to continue English lessons with Manizha who has not been at TAFE since having baby Nahid last year. They have both reported enjoying this time together.

Both family's children participated in a free intensive week of learn to swim basics run through Emmanuel College and West Beach SLSC in December 2024 which they all enjoyed. This involved water familiarisation, beach safety and a day at the beach.

#### **Catherine House**



We have continued to maintain our connection with Catherine House and completed a garden working bee in November 2024, where we weeded and mulched the front and back yards. We are scheduled to do more regular garden maintenance this year with the next working bee booked for 19 July.

Our club participated in a joint project with 12-Adelaide based clubs, called Shop and Share on 11 and 12 April 2025. Volunteers encouraged shoppers at North Adelaide Village to buy and donate extra non-perishables for people in need. On 11 April, two full shopping trolleys of canned goods, bathroom necessities, pasta and cereals were collected and donated to Catherine House by Adelaide Light Club; and on Sunday 12 April, the Rotary Club of Adelaide (who we shared the North Adelaide Shopping Centre site with on both days) donated their two large shopping trolleys of goods to the Women's Safety Service (see photos in President's ReportP5).

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE contd.**

#### Walk a Mile in My Boots



A handful of members participated in the Hutt St Centre's "Walk a Mile in My Boots" event in August 2024, which was the first one held in person since before Covid. It was a foggy and chilly morning but heartening to see so many participate and come together for this good cause.

#### **Colombian Cooking Class**

On 19 October 2024 we held our second annual cooking class, with this year's cuisine being Columbian. Rob and Sally McLennan kindly hosted, and chefs Lili and Maria led the cooking





demonstration, with Cuppa friend Geraldine assisting. Three delicious courses were devoured including entree of ripe plantain with guava paste and mozzarella, main of Arepas with shredded beef or chicken, and lemon Dulcales for dessert. All 16 attendees had a lovely afternoon learning more about Columbian cuisine and culture.

#### Other notable events/projects

- In other related efforts, we had a number of committee members, along with some Cuppa attendees, participate in the Districts' 2nd annual "Rotary Says No To Domestic Violence" walk on 14 September 2024. Our own Rob McLennan again MC'd the speaker part of the event (see photos P15).
- Erfan Abidi and Lili Osario have been active at the Australia Refugee Association providing seminars to migrants as part of the "Strong Men Stronger Families" project.
- Donations towards emergency weather events have totalled \$6000:
- \$2000 to the South Australian Drought Relief Project, whereby 18 large round bales, enough to feed 100 sheep for 2-3 months were provided





- \$2000 donated to victims of the Queensland flood appeal established by Districts 9560 and 9620 following Cyclone Alfred in March
- \$2000 for the NSW flood victims via District 9660 following four months worth of rainfall being received in two days in the Mid North Coast and Hunter region in May 2025.

#### **DV Safe Phones**



Special mention goes to John
Wotherspoon (see photo above) and Rob
McLennan who helped collect and send
off two large packages of mobile phones
to DV Safe Phones in Mooloolaba,
Queensland. These phones are provided
free to domestic violence (DV)
organisations and law enforcement
agencies, safe houses and hospitals to
provide to victims of DV to help keep
them safe and connected to a support
network.

#### Colombian Cooking Class

Left column, top down

- Maria, Geraldine and Lili doing prep work
- Rob and Sally with two Colombian attendees,
- Ellen Tindale, Pam Sullivan, Liz Tilley and a Cuppa Conversation attendee enjoying the afternoon's meal.

Katey Halliday and Kirsti Kankkunnen

 Proudly displaying the Colombian flag, after the wonderful lunch, all the attendees enjoyed the beauty of the day in Sally and Rob's garden.

#### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

by John Wotherspoon, Director

Our Committee's focus this year continued project activity in Timor Lesté as well as Erfan's Afghan girl's education project.

#### **Timor Lesté**

During our May 2024 Study Tour of Timor Lesté, Rob McLennan and I evaluated two village water supply projects near the South Coast town of Suai (pronounced Sue-aye). Both villages, Sulamali and Lookeu Foho currently cart water in plastic jerry cans each day from a well about a kilometre away.

Two detailed pump-to-tank reticulation projects to supply public taps directly through each village were proposed by the energetic and practical Mersu Novonha, Immediate Past



Above: Village well at Lookeu Foho showing the process of filling jerry cans

President of the Dili Lafaek Rotary Club. While a guest speaker at the Mitcham Rotary Club, the members showed an interest in financially supporting this project, as did the Rotary Club of Hervey Bay Sunrise (D9560), so Adelaide Light began seeking District and Global grants to fund this work.

Part way through this process, it was a great shock to everyone here and in Timor Lesté, that Mersu was tragically murdered in a family dispute on 30 August 2024. A huge loss to his wife and young daughter and also to his Dili Lafaek Club where he was so crucial in projects and leadership. Mersu was a fine

Below: Consultation with villagers regarding the proposed projects



man, a role model in his 30s and almost an elder in a country where 63% of the population are aged under-30.

Though grieving, his Dili Lafaek colleagues are slowly recovering and have gathered a new team to continue Mersu's project work. So, in liaison with Dili Lafaek's members Bete, José and Domingos and support from District 9560, our District 9510 and the Global Grant system, Paul Jupp and I doggedly and successfully negotiated the following financial outcome:

AUD	USD	Source
7,823	4,920	RC Adelaide Light
7,823	4,920	RC Mitcham
15,900	10,000	District 9510 designated funds
7,823	4,920	RC Hervey Bay
7,950	5,000	District 9560 designated funds
19,080	12,000	World Fund (Rotary Foundation)
66 399	41.760	

Once the 2025 wet season finishes, the project is poised to begin. Completion is expected during the coming dry.

A submersible pump will be installed in an exisiting well outside each village, after thorough cleaning to eliminate contaminants. Water will be pumped to a tank built at a high point, then gravity fed to public taps in each village and school. The villagers will assist and be trained in this work, including pump operation, underground pipe laying, overall system operation and collection of annual water fees from each household.

### Afghan Girls' underground schooling past

Taliban policy means girls must leave school past Year 6 though many Afghan people disagree with this. In the past couple of years, Erfan Abidi has privately initiated a project that is similar to that which worked during the 1996 Taliban regime. He's created a network of unofficial classrooms to replace this lost

Below: Rough road conditions between Dili and Suai



education whereby many homes became secret schools. Afghani girls often gather in



one house to be educated. Unlike other countries where individualism is more common, Afghan families are large and may have 20 school-eligible girls in one household, so no one can see what's happening inside these homes.

These initiatives have received support from global humanitarian organisations like the Malala Foundation. Many organisations and clubs are eager to get involved. The European Union has funded organisations to secretly teach girls both online and in person and some Europeans have approached Erfan to collaborate on this cause. On-line education has been another way for girls to learn—begun by a Melbourne-based Roary Club.

Our Club helped Erfan's project with a fundraising dinner last November to pay women teachers and provide supplies to the classrooms. This year the Club provided a pullup banner, flyers and business cards that Erfan can take when he speaks at service cubs or events. The photo below shows the booth (kindly donated by Rotarian Angela Ellis who is passionate about the project) at the Multi-District Impact Summit in May 2025. Future Club activity will be triggered by Erfan as the need arises but will probably involve occasional fundraising dinners with funds directed through the "Circle of Friends-132" account for this purpose. Paige Honor has also successfully initiated a "Let Afghan Girls Learn" My Cause campaign that's boosting fund inflow.



#### INTERNATIONAL (contd)



#### **New Dawn Ukraine Crisis project**

One again, our Club donated to the D9510 New Dawn Ukraine Crisis project. Tim Mee (left) of the Rotary Club of Morialta and non -Rotarian, Maurice O'Connell, spoke at our club, telling us of the aid provided to the Odessa area community.

Maurice spends the warmer half of each year in the Ukraine volunteering to provide humanitarian aid such as through the provision of heating, cooking, shelter, power supply (generators) and other essential supplies—including food packs—to those in need.

Since 2022-23, five transportable medical centres have been provided to southern Ukraine townships. For example, the fifth medical centre (service by doctors, nurses and health professionals) was placed in the small village of Pravdyne which was occupied by Russian forces in mid-2022 and taken back by Ukraine forces in November 2022. Families have been returning to their homes in the past two years, with little or no medical facilities available. The medical centre will be used by the villagers (currently 800 people) as well as residents from surrounding communities (approximately 4000 people).

Our Board agreed donate \$2,000 in April to support this worthy RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) cause.

#### **Our Committee**

Our committee members have met just a couple of times and traction is building. My thanks to Paul Jupp and also to Kirsti, Erfan, Angus, Barry and Bruce for their valuable input.

#### PHOTOS TAKEN AT LAST YEAR'S CHANGEOVER













Changeover dinners are a great way to celebrate all the achievements of the year.

Handing out "Certificates of Thanks" to (from top)

- President Yvette with the International Committee
- Fred Field for his many years of service upon leaving the Board
- Alison Carter, also leaving the board, for her time as Director Youth & Vocational, and Rotaract Liaison
- Three table photos of attendees (at left)
- Kirsti Kankkunen, Paige Honor, Maria Garces, Lili Osario and Katey Halliday (below)



#### YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

by Richard Jarrett, Director

#### **RYLA**



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is currently held each September. It is a leadership program designed for young adults aged 18-25. In September 2024, Adelaide Light sponsored a member of the Adelaide City Rotaract Club - Shubhika (Sammy) Balvally.

#### **RYPEN**

The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) camp is a residential weekend currently held each September. It is for students aged 14-17, so suitable for secondary school students in Years 9-11. Participants are involved in a variety of workshops and activities, which provides an opportunity for them to personally develop, gain self-confidence, communication skills, challenge themselves, build friendships and develop life skills. In September 2024, we sponsored Raven to attend.

#### **NYSF**

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

takes place in
January each year
for students who
were in Year 11
the previous year
(when applications
fall due). The
program currently
runs across eight
days at ANU in
Canberra and at
the University of



Queensland. While not specifically a Rotary program, applicants are encouraged to seek financial support from their local Rotary Club and Rotary plays a significant role in the selection and mentoring of students. Our Club generally supports one student and contributes 50% of the cost, with the

student and/or parents providing the rest.

This last January, our Club was pleased to support Charlotte Delaere, currently in Year 12 at St Aloysius College, and the daughter of members Sheryl Cranston and Ian Delaere. Charlotte enthusiastically regaled us with her wonderful experiences at NYSF and the dilemma of being attracted to many science streams that she will now have to choose from for her future studies and eventual job placement. Charlotte thanked our Club for our financial support and encouragement.

#### Rotaract





Adelaide Light is the partner club for Adelaide City Rotaract Club, having established the

club 12 years ago (September 2012). The first set of members were mainly young people who had attended RYLA over the previous few years. They meet second and fourth Monday nights at the Cumberland Arms Hotel, 205 Waymouth Street, Adelaide. Initially, we had a roster for our members to attend each

meeting; however, they now appear to be more self-sufficient and autonomous. We aim to keep track of their meetings and attend when we can. Adelaide Light's Past Director Alison Carter, Director Richard Jarret and President Yvette attended Rotaract's Changeover luncheon.

#### **Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge**

Adelaide Light became involved with the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge for the first time in 2024. We were happy to sponsor Sadra Zarei, son of member Fatemeh, who took part in a five-day voyage on the sailing ship "One & All" in September 2024. Sadra (shown on the boat front right) came to our meeting on 28 November to talk about his experience which provided a dose of clean air, a healthy use of muscles, and a small absence from electronic gadgetry.

It is interesting to note that Adelaide Light's first community project was painting the "One & All" sailing vessel in 1986 in the Club's first year of existence. We undertook another project for the sailing ship in 1991 when the CEO of the "One & All" challenged Adelaide Light to raise the necessary funds to initiate a "Blue Light Crime Prevention Camp" on board the ship! The Club (under the Directorship of former member Michael Klobas) accepted the challenge and raised \$5,000 at a movie night to send young people at risk on the sail training ship.



#### YOUTH (contd.)

#### **Indigenous Health Scholarship Program**



This program is run through Australian Rotary Health. Three years ago, our

Club agreed to a five year deal to sponsor a student on this indigenous health scholarship program. They organise a suitable student who receives \$5000 each year to pay for their course - half supplied by a Rotary Club and half by the SA Department of Health. We began sponsoring a second-year medical student Anesha Rahman under this program in 2023 and funded her for three years. As Anesha transferred to a different scholarship, we will now be sponsoring a new student, Sarah Browne, for the next two years. Sarah Browne is doing a Bachelor of Paramedicine at Flinders University. Kirsti Kankkunen, Anesha's mentor for the past three years, has agreed to continue that role jointly with Ian Delaere for Sarah's two year scholarship.

#### **School involvement**

We aim to develop and maintain contacts with local primary and secondary schools in order to inform them about our Rotary programs and to encourage their students to apply. A number of the Rotary programs listed above send information directly to schools as well.

This year, after several attempts largely thwarted by Covid, we have engaged with Gilles Street Primary School, which has a high proportion of immigrant families (English as a second language). This year, Gilles Street Primary asked whether we could assist them by sponsoring a school visit to Glenelg for their students to learn beach safety with the Glenelg Surf Lifeguards including how to spot rips in the surf, dangerous sea creatures, safe practices in water and what to do in an emergency. The students then got into the water to practice floating, swimming and having fun. We donated \$500 towards teaching beach safety.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

by Rob McLennan, Director

The club's membership continues to be strong with 31 members comprising 17 females and 14 males, as well as four Honorary members (males).

This year we inducted five members into the Club—Sheryl Cranston and Ian Delaere, Yulieth Gonzalez and our most recent member Helen Smith. Jody Jezukaitis was inducted in October 2024 but has chosen to resign due to personal reasons on 1 June 2025.

Sadly, our Club members mourn the passing of our beloved long term member David Rowe who was one

of four members who started our fledgeling Provisional Club in the winter of 1985 (see inset below).

As at 30 June 2025, we will farewell Katey Halliday who will be leaving the Club due to work commitments. Katey



Top: Yulieth's and Ian's sponsor Rob McLennan with (I-r) new members Yulieth Gonzales, Sheryl Cranston and Ian Delaere, and Sheryl's sponsor President Yvette Reade

Below: Sponsor Rob McLennan with Helen Smith and President Yvette



joined our sponsored Adelaide City Rotaract Club in September 2012 and was later President of that Club, prior to deciding to join Adelaide Light in June 2019. Katey has elected to remain a "Friend" of the Club and we hope to see her at future events.

#### **VALE DAVID ROWE**

Since the very beginnings of Adelaide Light, **David Rowe** was a valued long-term member who was instrumental in forming the Provisional Club back in 1985.

A former member of the RC of Adelaide, David joined a splinter group with Phil Harding, Barry Grear and Tony



Above: Photo of David Rowe (extreme right) attending an Adelaide Town Hall Mayoral event along with (I-r) Ellen and Don Tindale, and Yvette Reade.

Reade to start a breakfast club. David gave many years to Rotary including being the District Governor's Special Representative to DG Max Smith. David never sought the role of President but was always available for projects even into his early 90s. He earned a Paul Harris Fellow (2 Sapphires).

His irrepressible smile, humour and gentlemanly ways endeared him to everyone. Happily married to "Betty Rowe", as he always called her, he was always available for meetings, events and social occasions—often with his ukulele and song sheet!

David passed away on 16 October 2024, just nine days short of his 96th birthday. Vale, David.

#### **FUNDRAISING & FELLOWSHIP**

by Rob McLennan, Director

#### **Fundraising**

This financial year our Club budgeted to raise \$32,600 and as at the 7 May we had made a net profit of \$33,221.

Our monthly Monday barbecue revenue at Bunnings Mile End is complimented by our assisting the RC of Norwood with their monthly Friday barbecues which have so far realised a combined net profit of \$18,255.00.



We also had two very successful wine sales this year, Mitchell's Alcatraz Riesling (approximately 74 dozen) and Mitchell's Kalmar Shiraz (approximately 89 dozen) with sales of the Shiraz continuing to improve our bottom line before the 30 June. Until 7 May they have contributed a net profit of \$9,857.

Our third biggest fundraiser is the annual sales of Christmas Trees at Bunnings Kent Town and although down this year largely due to very hot weather



over one weekend, it still provided a net profit of \$3,968.58

With one more barbecue planned for Monday 9 June which is a public holiday plus one more RC of Norwood BBQ, I forecast a total fundraising amount of \$36,000 for 2024-25.

Thank you to all the regular club volunteers and the many "Friends" of the Club who enable us to provide much need funding to our International, Community, and Youth & Vocational Service projects.

#### **Fellowship**

I consider that all of our meetings or events—whether Coffee Catch-ups, breakfasts, dinners, monthly barbecues, annual Christmas Tree selling or undertaking projects together can all be classified as a great opportunity for fellowship.

However we did participate in many additional social events such as our Coffee Conversations (shown below) at two different locations around the city.





#### **Christmas Croquet Challenge**

Of course, we also held our annual Christmas event—the Silver Teapot Croquet Challenge and dinner with members of the Rotaract Club of Adelaide City. Delightful that this year we had many young children enjoying the event with not only Erfan and Manizha's four, we had Wahab and Wahida's six children, and an unexpected visit from former Rotaract member John and Catherine McLeod with their two children.





Top left: one of our monthly BBQ shifts Bottom left: lan Delaere at the Christmas Tree Sales at Bunnings

Centre top: One of the half Rotary/half Rotaract teams vying to win the coveted Silver Teapot Trophy

Centre bottom: Lovely to hear the enjoyment of children laughing at the Christmas event Right bottom: Rotary President Yvette trying to wrest the Silver Teapot Trophy from Rotaract President Steph as Rotaract had won the Christmas Croquet tournament last year



#### **FUNDRAISING & FELLOWSHIP contd.**

#### **Colombian Cooking Class**



Last year, Lili and Maria organised a Mexican cooking class; this year members Maria Garces and Lili Osario with their friend Geraldine featured Colombian cuisine on Saturday 19 October 2024 at Rob and Sally's home.

Lili talked about Colombia's varied terrain and culinary diversity and Maria explained the different area's locally grown produce diversity.

The main meal of Arepas with shredded beef and vegetables in dough patties was superb.

New members Sheryl Cranston and Ian Delaere who bought along their son Max (daughter Charlotte was away at the time), said the next day that Max had insisted on having some Colombian hogao sauce (made from spring onions, tomatoes, oil and salt) on his baguette lunch because it was so delicious!





Photos above: Sally shown helping to serve the meal to 16 guests, and Rob heating the flatbread on the BBQ

#### **Rabbie Burns Dinner**

The inaugural Robert Burns Dinner held on Thursday 25 July 2024 at the Edinburgh Hotel was an outstanding success. Organised by John Wotherspoon, this event was a great deal of fun. Yvette made up an entrée of lentil-based mock-haggis and the whisky sauce to compliment the dishes for the 60 guests.

The large crowd who dressed up in family kilts or "McSpotLight" tartans enjoyed the theatrics of "The Calling of the Clans", the "Piping in of the Haggis", an ode "To a Mouse" and other Scottish Burns poetry and the "Immortal Toast to Rabbie Burns". Spontaneous Highland dancing broke out at the end of the evening.

The follow-up Rabbie Burns dinner will be held on 9 June 2025, just prior to our annual Changeover.



Photo above: the inaugural Rabbie Burns dinner was a huge success with wonderful theatrics and spontaneous highland dancing Photos below: Although tartans ruled the dress code on the night, it was lovely that Manizha and Erfan Abidi (shown holding his Afghan hat) were dressed in Afghan attire to celebrate the Scottish bard. Two of their children are also shown in this photo

## Rotary Walk Against Domestic Violence



The second "Rotary Walk Against Domestic Violence" public awareness campaign on Saturday 14 September 2024 was well supported by our club as many Rotary and other service Clubs and organisations walked from Victoria Square down King William Street to the Rotunda by the Torrens River to listen to guest speakers.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this another very successful fundraising and fellowship year for our Club.





#### **ROTARY FOUNDATION, DONATIONS and RECOGNITIONS**

by Di Lane, Director

The Rotary Foundation transforms Rotarian's and Club's gifts into service projects that change lives both locally and internationally.

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than US\$4 billion on lifechanging, sustainable projects.

The Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment and alleviating poverty.

#### The Impact of One Donation

- For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected from polio.
- \$50 can provide clean water to help fight waterborne illness.
- \$500 can launch an antibullying campaign and create a safe environment for children.

The Rotary Foundation's District Grants are a significant portion of their program awards, with the 2024-25 budget allocation a substantial amount for this purpose. Specifically, the Rotary Foundation approved \$71.89 million for the District Designated Fund which is used for program awards including District Grants. The World Fund also allocated \$33.447 million for program awards, including grants.

In 2024, Australian Rotary clubs received \$1,756,517 in funding from The Rotary Foundation for their projects. The funding for 2025 is \$1,539,347 which is the amount distributed by Australian Rotary Health. These grants support a variety of community initiatives and scholarships. District Grants are

typically used for small-scale, shortterm activities that address community needs.

The Foundation is solely supported by voluntary contributions from members and allies.

This year 2024-25, Adelaide Light has donated to the Rotary Foundation (AUD\$):

- End Polio Global Fund \$4,000
- Rotary World Community –New Dawn Ukraine Fund \$2,000

as well as other Rotary projects:

- ARH Indigenous Health Scholarships \$2,500
- Australian Rotary Health \$2,000
- ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) \$1000, and
- Shelterbox \$1,000
- Hay for SA farmers \$2000
- Queensland Flood Relief \$2,000
- NSW Flood Appeal \$2,000
- Vision of Island \$1,000
- Mersu Noronha—Go Fund Me Family Support \$500
- Gilles Street School—Beach Safety Program \$500

Photos at right: 2 Sapphire PHF pins were presented by DG Craig Dowling to Secretary Di Lane, Treasurer Bruce McDonald and (bottom) President Yvette Reade for their ongoing service over many years

#### **PHF AWARDS**



Top: At last year's Changeover dinner, the Club was pleased to congratulate (top) Lili Osario shown with President Yvette and District Governor Craig Dowling and (below) Erfan Abidi on being presented with Paul Harris Fellow awards for their contribution to Cuppa Conversation (Lili) and Afghan Girl's Underground Education (Erfan)









#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Club financial statements are for the 11-month period to 31 May 2025.

The Club has once again ended the year on a solid footing with total funds on hand of \$30,397.37 to fund ongoing Club activities.

This strong result has been achieved after our Club spent a total of \$36,790.04 funding both local and international projects, and this was only due to the continued efforts of our Fundraising Committee which has so far this year raised a total of \$34,418.78.

#### **Bruce McDonald**

Treasurer 2024-2025

#### **CLUB ACCOUNTS**

#### Balance Sheet for period ending 31 May 2025

#### **ASSETS**

NAB Cheque Account	\$	532.88
NAB Isaver Account	2	9,864.4 <u>9</u>
TOTAL	\$3	0,397.37
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Club Funds Balance 1 July 2024		4,132.06
Movement this year	<u>.</u>	<u>2,644.44</u>
BALANCE	\$	6,776.50
Fundraising Account Balance 1 July 2024	2	7,556.29
Movement this year	<u>-</u> ;	<u>3,935.42</u>
BALANCE	<b>\$2</b> :	<u>3,620.87</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3</u>	<u>0,397.37</u>

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 May 2025

BALANCE 31 May 2025		<u>\$30,397.37</u>
Total Donations/Projects Expenditure	<u>36,790.04</u>	Ann ar= -:
Vision of Islands	1,000.00	
Timor Leste Water Project	7,823.00	
Timor Leste Manatuto Project	149.00	
Shelterbox	1,000.00	
RYSA One & All Sailing Challenge	1,200.00	
RYPEN	425.00	
RYLA Student Sponsorship	1,150.00	
Rotary World Community—Ukraine New Dawn Fund	2,000.00	
Rotary Foundation—End Polio	4,000.00	
ROMAC	1,000.00	
Queensland Flood Relief	2,000.00	
NYSF—Student Sponsorship	1,500.00	
NSW Flood Appeal	2,000.00	
No to Domestic Violence	490.19	
Mersu Noronha—Go Fund Me Family Support	500.00	
Indigenous Health Scholarship	5,000.00	
Hay for SA Farmers	2,000.00	
Gilles Street School—Beach Safety Program	500.00	
DV Safe Phones	39.95	
Cuppa Conversation	200.00	
Australian Rotary Health	2,000.00	
Afghan Girls' Empowerment—Display material	812.90	
LESS - DONATIONS/PROJECTS	242.00	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		67,187.41
Total Fundraising	<u>32,854.62</u>	
Less costs—Insurance	<u>-1,244.16</u>	
Less costs — Sim Card	-320.00 1 244.16	
Total Fundraising	34,418.78	
	<u>3,487.36</u>	
Christmas Tree Stands Christmas Trees	481.22 2.487.26	
Christmas Tree Stands	397.20	
	•	
Mitchell's Alcatraz Riesling Mitchell's Kalmar Shiraz	5,466.23 4,611.47	
Hither & Yon Grenanche	130.00	
Colombian Cooking	85.17	
Bunnings BBQs	13,971.76	
Bunnings BBQs—joint RC Norwood	5,256.07	
Bottle Recycling  Ruppings PROS inject RC Natural	532.30	
Plus - Fundraising	F22.20	
CLUB ADMINISTRATION SURPLUS	2,644.44	34,332.79
Total Club Administration Expenditure	8,707.37 2,644.44	24 222 70
Christmas Function—Teapot Challenge	231.65 8 707.37	
Rotary International Dues	3,867.48	
Rotary Down Under	1,155.50	
Rotary International Dues	3,991.86	
Printing and Stationery	100.00	
PO Box	253.00	
Pilot Costs for District	466.56	
Flowers and gifts	195.70	
District Dues	796.23	
ClubRunner Web Page	965.01	
Club Domain Name Fee—Go Daddy	227.40	
Badges and Engraving	324.46	
LESS EXPENDITURE - CLUB ADMINISTRATION		
Total Club Administration Income	11,351.81	
Robert Burns Dinner	1,820.75	
Membership Dues	7,775.00	
Breakfast Margin	723.36	
Interest	1,032.70	
Add Income - Club Administration		
Opening Balance 1 July 2024		\$31,688.35



#### MEMBERSHIP - as at 30 June 2025

Erfanullah Abidi

Andrew Black (Honorary)

Bob Buckerfield (Honorary)

John Campbell Julie Campbell Alison Carter Sheryl Cranston Ian Delaere

Paul Ensor
Maria Garces
Yulieth Gonzalez
Barry Grear AO
Katey Halliday
Paige Honor

Richard Jarrett Paul Jupp Kirsti Kankkunen

John Karran (Honorary)

Di Lane Stuart Marshall Bruce McDonald Rob McLennan Liliam Osario Elaine Reade

Yvette Reade

Graham Smith (Honorary)

Helen Smith
Dean Sullivan
Liz Tilley
Don Tindale
Angus Tuck
Pat Welke

John Wotherspoon Fatemeh Zarei

1998-1999

1999-2000

Peter Bayetto

Katina Jones



#### **AWARDS**

# Current Members & Partners awarded Paul Harris Fellows:

Erfanullah Abidi

Andrew Black (Honorary)
Bob Buckerfield (Honorary)

John Campbell
Julie Campbell
Paul Ensor
Barry Grear AO
Katey Halliday
Paige Honor
Richard Jarrett
Paul Jupp

Kirsti Kankkunen

John Karran (Honorary)

Di Lane

Bruce McDonald Robert McLennan Liliam Osario Yvette Reade

**Graham Smith (Honorary)** 

Dean Sullivan Pam Sullivan Don Tindale Angus Tuck

Deborah Wotherspoon John Wotherspoon

#### **Current Members & Partners awarded PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS - SAPPHIRES**

Barry Grear AO - 1 Sapphire
Paul Jupp—1 Sapphire
Dean Sullivan—1 Sapphire
Julie Campbell - 2 Sapphires
Fred Field - 2 Sapphires

Di Lane - 2 Sapphires
Bruce McDonald - 2 Sapphires
Yvette Reade - 2 Sapphires
John Wotherspoon - 2 Sapphires
Rob McLennan -3 Sapphires
Angus Tuck - 3 Sapphires
Richard Jarrett - 4 Sapphires

John Campbell - Ruby

#### **PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY**

John Campbell Angus Tuck

#### **BEQUEST SOCIETY**

Yvette and Anthony Reade Julie and John Campbell

#### **PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS**

Anthony (Tony) Reade OAM 1993-1994 Katina Jones 2004-2005

John Campbell 2014-2015

#### **AUSTRALIAN AWARDS**

Barry Grear AO

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ADELAIDE LIGHT INC

2012-2013

2013-2014

1986-1987	Anthony (Tony) Reade OAM	2000-2001	Rob McLennan	2014-2015	Yvette Reade
1987-1988	Philip Harding AM	2001-2002	Ian Bluntish	2015-2016	Miriam Silva
1988-1989	John Rodda	2002-2003	John Wotherspoon	2016-2017	Don Tindale
1989-1990	Dean Kuhl	2003-2004	Robert (Rob) Brook	2017-2018	Julie Campbell
1990-1991	Stuart Ferguson	2004-2005	Stephen Baker	2018-2019	Rob McLennan
1991-1992	Andrew Black	2005-2006	Kym Pedler	2019-2020	Katrina Ball
1992-1993	Don Tindale	2006-2007	Deborah Wotherspoon	2020-2021	Rob McLennan
1993-1994	Alan Mead	2007-2008	Neil Bray	2021-2022	John Wotherspoon
1994-1995	Barry Grear AO	2008-2009	Terry Rodoni	2022-2023	John Wotherspoon
1995-1996	Robert (Bob) Angove AM	2009-2010	Angus Tuck	2023-2024	Yvette Reade
1996-1997	Graham Smith	2010-2011	Carolyn Wigg	2024-2025	Yvette Reade
1997-1998	Rex Spinley	2011-2012	John Campbell		

Dean Sullivan

Richard Jarrett