



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY

The Rotary Club of Sydney is the premier Rotary Club in New South Wales

## Annual Report 2013-14 President Geoff Wilbow

The Rotary Club of Sydney is a very busy club co-ordinating the best weekly speakers' programme in Sydney, a wide variety of club events and an outstanding range of projects in our mission of *Achieving for Others*\*.

**"Engage Rotary, Change Lives" was the Rotary International President Ron D Burton's theme.** In support of this theme the Rotary Club of Sydney in 2013-14 turned over \$1.275 million in donations, scholarships and sponsorships to partner with other organisations in *Achieving for Others*; but the financial commitment from members and supporters is not the main story, engagement at club, local, national and international level is the hallmark of the club.

Now in its 94<sup>th</sup> year, the Rotary Club of Sydney is changing and becoming stronger. The number of members has increased in each of the last 5 years with a net growth in membership of 35% in the last 2 years; this Rotary year the club inducted 40 new members, half of them from non-English speaking backgrounds and people are joining the Rotary Club of Sydney at a younger age. Unfortunately this is not the trend in other Sydney clubs, the rest of District 9675 or in Australia as a whole.

### Honours and Awards

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our Honorary Member **Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO**, Governor of NSW on becoming a **Dame of the Order of Australia** for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to the administration, public life, and people of New South Wales, to medicine, particularly as an advocate for improved mental health outcomes for the young, marginalised and disadvantaged, to international relations, through the promotion of collaborative health programs, and as a leader in tertiary education.

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our Honorary Member **The Honourable Thomas Bathurst, AC**, Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of NSW on becoming a **Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)**, for eminent service to the judiciary and to the law, to the development of the legal profession, particularly through the implementation of uniform national rules of conduct, and to the community of New South Wales.

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our member, Past President and District Governor of Rotary International District 9675 **Garry Browne AM** on becoming a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** for significant service to the community as a supporter of a range of social welfare, youth, Jewish and environmental organisations, and to business.



The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our member **Dr Barbara Woodward AM** on becoming a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** for significant service to international relations through business and charitable organisations.

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our member and Communications Director **Tony Benner** on receiving the Rotary International **Avenues of Service Award** that honours a member who participates in service activities in each of the five Avenues of Service of: Club, Vocational, Community, International, and Youth; and on receiving a **Corporate Paul Harris Fellow** from RI District 9675 in recognition of his service to the District in Communication and Public Relations.

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated our member, Membership Director and Past District Governor **Glenn Wran** on receiving a **Golden Microscope Award** from RI District 9675 for voluntary health related community work.

\* Brian Fletcher *Rotary Club of Sydney 1921-2005 Achieving for Others 2005*



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## Achieving for Others

At the Rotary International Convention Opening Plenary Session in Sydney on Sunday 1 June 2014 it was noted the first Rotary project in Australia was the formation of the **NSW Society for Crippled Children**, now the Northcott Society, by the Rotary Club of Sydney. Many of the children were crippled by polio. The Rotary Club of Sydney has not stopped *Achieving for Others* since.



### The Rotary Life Skills Centre: Rotary District 9675 Best Community Service Project

The Rotary Life Skills Centre, built in 2013-14, was officially opened by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, and an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Sydney, and Ron D Burton, Rotary International President, on the morning of Thursday 5 June 2014.



Each President of the Rotary Club of Sydney has the privilege of selecting a President's Project and along with all the many other things the club will do that year he or she asks for support for that project. In the year Rotary was coming to Sydney for its International Convention I asked our members and other supporters to build this Rotary Life Skills Centre in Sydney.

The Rotary Life Skills Centre, built in the previously unused basement and outdoor decking areas of William Booth House, as a joint project by the Rotary Club of Sydney and The Salvation Army will provide a centre of hope giving opportunities to those struggling to put their lives back together post and during recovery from drug, alcohol and gambling addictions often associated with mental illness and homelessness. This centre will help people who are our neighbours. They are people in our city of Sydney, sometimes literally living on our streets, who need our help.

**The Rotary Club of Sydney received the Rotary International District 9675 Best Community Service Project Award for the Rotary Life Skills Centre.**

**The final item in this report is a list of Rotary Life Skills Centre Major Supporters, Key Supporters and Supporters; I thank them personally and on behalf of the club.**

### **The Rotary Club of Sydney and Radio Station 2GB support of drought affected farmers**

In early 2014 as drought conditions continued across western NSW and Queensland, an on air call by Brendan Farrell to radio announcer Steve Price at 2GB resulted in a public appeal to donate money via the Rotary Club of Sydney to pay for fuel to move donated hay to support drought affected farmers and in some cases to purchase hay to feed stock. Sharon Knight of the Rural Counselling Service in Bourke undertook the important task of working with others to co-ordinate the delivery of hay and to manage the distributions to farmers in need. This was the catalyst that led to contributions from 2GB listeners, Rotary Clubs across NSW, other Clubs and organisations supporting three projects:

**Fuel to move donated hay**, and sometimes the purchase of hay, to feed drought affected livestock in western NSW and Queensland; to date hay to the value of \$2.5 million has been donated and trucked on 160 trucks to 460 farmers. This will continue into the next Rotary year.



**Australian Rotary Health Mental Health First Aid Courses:** to build resilience into farming communities by creating a better understanding of the symptoms of mental health problems.



**The Western Division Resilient Landscapes Project:** in partnership with Soils For Life. Chairman of Soils For Life, former Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC, said: "The joint Soils for Life and Rotary Club of Sydney *Western Division Resilient Landscapes Project* aims to help farmers learn how to manage their properties to minimise the impact of drought on production and landscape health." The aim is nothing less than ensuring environment management and food security for a planet that will have over 9 billion people by 2050.

### Other donations, scholarships, sponsorships activities to support Australians

In 2013-14 the Rotary Club of Sydney gave Soukup Memorial Fund tertiary education scholarships to those in need, particularly indigenous students from rural and regional areas; conducted the annual NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards on behalf of all Rotary Clubs in the state; administered the Sydney MS 24 hour Mega Swim; supported research into schizophrenia at the St Vincent's Hospital Brain Training Centre; supported Police Legacy, Multiple Sclerosis Australia, Cerebral Palsy Australia, the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Australian Children's Music Foundation, the United Nations Association of Australia's NSW Day of Peace; and also supported candidates to various Rotary leadership programs including the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RLYA) and the International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (IRYLA). The Rotary Club of Sydney sponsored 10 (out of a total of 70) candidates at the RI District 9675 RYLA and two participants, Jake Weragoda and Rebecca Weragoda, both members of the Rotaract Club of Sydney, to the IRYLA held at the time of the IR Convention in Sydney.

### Timor-Leste

This year the club has continued to embrace the nation of Timor-Leste working with the University of Sydney Medical Faculty on the **Fundu Isin – Di'ak Timor-Leste (Health Project)**, which aims to eradicate two nasty parasitic diseases caused by lymphatic filariasis and intestinal worms, a project established by my predecessor President James Allen in 2012-13; supporting the **building and equipping of schools** and bringing a child, Francisca Saldanha and a 10 month old baby, Erneo, to Australia for life saving surgery in partnership with **Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)**.



Timor-Leste is a nation on our doorstep where a third of the population live below the poverty line and half are illiterate. They are our neighbours and they need our help.

### Other International commitments

Also internationally the Rotary Club of Sydney has returned eyesight to more than 6,000 very poor people in India, Cambodia, Nepal, and Myanmar in partnership with **Vision Beyond Aus**, supported education through **Opportunity Cambodia**, helped the typhoon victims in the Philippines via **Shelter Box** and are helping supply **clean water in Kiribati** and of course we have supported **The Rotary Foundation** in its mission to finally eliminate polio from the planet.

### International Youth Exchange

The Rotary Club of Sydney has three Australian secondary students overseas, Rachael Noble in Belgium, Mathew Bryon in Italy and Janice Ma in Germany as part of the **Rotary International Youth Exchange Programme** and two overseas students, Nicolas Deweer from Belgium and Sara Checchi from Italy will arrive at the start in July 2014. Co-ordinated by Julie Fish.

**The Rotary Club of Sydney 2013-14 donations, scholarships and sponsorships - a detailed list**

|  |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| <p>The Rotary Life Skills Centre in partnership with The Salvation Army; a centre to provide a positive environment where those who are socially excluded can develop a sense of belonging and rebuild skills to assist them to obtain regular employment and permanent housing.</p> | <p><b>\$185,000</b></p> | <p>From general club fundraising and contributions from members and supporters. <b>In addition RI District 9675 contributed \$25,000 to the RLSC.</b> Includes \$10,000 accrued for payment in 2014-15.</p>  |
| <p>Hay and fuel to move hay to drought affected farmers in western NSW and Qld. Hay to value of \$2.5 million has been donated and trucked on 160 trucks to 460 farmers.</p>   | <p><b>\$213,000</b></p> | <p>Part of the 2GB/Rotary Drought Appeal; contributions from 2GB listeners, other Rotary Clubs, other organisations, club members and supporters. Includes \$22,750 accrued for payment in 2014-15. Donations are still being received.</p>  |
| <p>The Western Division Resilient Landscapes Project in partnership with Soils For Life to help farmers learn how to manage their properties to minimise the impact of drought on production and landscape health.</p>   | <p><b>\$144,000</b></p> | <p>Contributions from 2GB listeners, other Rotary Clubs, other organisations, club members and supporters. Includes \$44,000 accrued for payment in 2014-15.</p>   |
| <p>Australian Rotary Health Mental Health First Aid Courses: to build resilience into farming communities by creating a better understanding of the symptoms of mental health problems.</p>  | <p><b>\$55,000</b></p>  | <p>Contributions from 2GB listeners, other Rotary Clubs, other organisations, club members and supporters.</p>   |
| <p>Vision Beyond Aus: to return eyesight to very poor people in India, Cambodia, Nepal, and Myanmar.</p>   | <p><b>\$230,000</b></p> | <p>Includes money raised by Fiducian, Indy Singh and others and specifically paid to the club to support VBA via RAWCS. Also includes \$30,000 from general club fundraising and member contributions. <b>Plus a member donated \$10,000 direct to RAWCS for VBA.</b></p>  |
| <p>Opportunity Cambodia: to provide education and training for Cambodia's poorest and most vulnerable children so they become healthy, self-empowered and self-sustaining members of their society.</p>  | <p><b>\$130,000</b></p> | <p>Includes money raised by Carolyn Fletcher and others and specifically paid to the club to support Opportunity Cambodia via RAWCS. Also includes \$10,000 from general club fundraising and member contributions.</p>  |
| <p>Timor-Leste Education Projects: to support the building and equipping of schools.</p>   | <p><b>\$60,000</b></p>  | <p>Includes money raised by Jenny Coles and others and specifically paid to the club to support Timor-Leste Education Project via RAWCS. Also includes \$10,000 from general club fundraising and member contributions.</p>  |
| <p>The Rotary Foundation: Annual Fund and Polio Plus, End Polio Now.</p>   | <p><b>\$36,000</b></p>  | <p>Includes \$15,700 from the surplus made at the NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards plus general club fundraising and member contributions. <b>In addition at the opening of the RLSC RI District 9675 contributed \$25,000 and a private foundation made a contribution of \$20,000 to The Rotary Foundation.</b></p> |
| <p>Rotary Oral Health Project.</p>   | <p><b>\$35,000</b></p>  | <p>This is the start of a major RCS project for 2014-15. Accrued for payment in 2014-15.</p>   |

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children bringing children and babies from the Pacific and PNG to Australia for life saving surgery (this year from Timor-Leste).                                       | \$30,000 | From the Adrian Golding Gift of Life Fund.  |
| Cerebral Palsy Australia.  | \$20,000 | From a contribution. Grant application pending.   |
| Fundu Isin – Di'ak Timor-Leste (Health Project) in partnership with the University of Sydney Medical Faculty: to eradicate two parasitic diseases caused by lymphatic filariasis and intestinal worms. | \$16,000 | <b>Adding to the \$200,000 raised by RCS in 2012-13.</b> RSC is applying for a global grant for this project. Accrued for payment in 2014-15.   |
| Police Legacy: to provide care and support for serving and retired police officers and their families during times of tragedy and need.  | \$15,000 | From the surplus made at the NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards.   |
| The Brain Training Centre: to establish this centre at St Vincent's Hospital, partnering with the Schizophrenia Foundation.  | \$16,000 | Part of the RCS \$ 48,000 commitment over 3 years from the Joan Salter Fund. Accrued for payment in 2014-15.  |
| University of Western Sydney scholarship: for an indigenous student to study medicine.   | \$15,000 | From the Soukup Memorial Scholarship Fund. Includes \$7,500 accrued for payment in 2014-15.   |
| University of New South Wales Indigenous School Scholarships.  | \$10,000 | From the Soukup Memorial Scholarship Fund.  |
| Country Education Foundation Scholarships.   | \$8,000  | From the Soukup Memorial Scholarship Fund.  |
| Australian Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarships.  | \$5,000  | From the Soukup Memorial Scholarship Fund. <b>Matched by the Government, meaning \$10,000 worth of scholarships will be paid.</b>   |
| Australian Children's Music Foundation: to provide free music education and instruments to disadvantaged and indigenous children and youth at risk.  | \$10,000 | From a member contribution. Grant application pending.  |
| Kiribati Clean Water Project: in partnership with the RC Coffs Harbour.  | \$10,000 | From general club fundraising and a member contribution. Global grant application being made by RC Coffs Harbour.   |
| Support for local aboriginal secondary students.   | \$10,000 | From general club fundraising and member contributions.   |
| UN International Day of Peace: sponsorship for the United Nations Association of Australia NSW Division.   | \$5,000  | From a member contribution.   |
| MS Australia's Go For Gold scholarship programme: as part of the Sydney 24 Hours MS Mega Swim.   | \$3,000  | From general club fundraising and member contributions. <b>With RCS help, the 24hr MS Mega Swim in Sydney raised over \$200,000 this year: a total of \$1.1 million over 5 years.</b> |
| Motor Neurone Disease Association.   | \$2,000  | From the surplus made at the NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards.   |
| Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.  | \$2,000  | From general club fundraising and member contributions.   |
| Blue Mountains Bushfire Appeal.  | \$1,500  | From general club fundraising and contributions from members and supporters.  |

|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>ShelterBox Australia: to contribute to stock in readiness for the next disaster.</b>                             | <b>\$1,000</b>  | From general club fundraising and member contributions. |
| <b>Ranfurly Book Aid: to ship donated books to needy schools and communities in PNG and the South West Pacific.</b> | <b>\$1,000</b>  | From general club fundraising and member contributions. |
| <b>Olympiad Student Sponsorship: in partnership with the RCSIW and RC Five Dock.</b>                                | <b>\$500</b>    | From general club fundraising and member contributions. |
| <b>RCSCBD Indigenous Literacy Programme: in memory of Ron Richards.</b>   | <b>\$500</b>    | From general club fundraising and member contributions. |
| <b>RYLA, IRYLA, MUNA, Youth Exchange, Rotaract and Shift 2014 Sponsorship.</b>                                      | <b>\$15,000</b> | From general club fundraising and member contributions. |

Note: Amounts in the above table have been rounded and are approximate. The audited financial statements for the Rotary Club of Sydney General Fund, Benevolent Fund and the Soukup Fund will show the exact amounts.

**A special thanks to the Club's Honorary Treasurer Colin Westman and bookkeeper Monique Tilley for their professionalism and commitment in managing the club finances.**

## Soukup Scholarships

Soukup Memorial Fund: tertiary education scholarships. George and Jenny Soukup became Honorary Members.



### Revenue Generation and Twin Clubs – initiatives for the future

During the year the Rotary Club of Sydney established two new committees with the future in mind:

- **Revenue Generation Committee:** The aim of this committee is to establish a long term consistent approach to revenue generation especially by developing relationships with corporations, governments, foundations, clubs and high net worth individuals.
- **Twin Clubs Committee:** The Rotary Club of Sydney has for many years had 3 twin clubs in Singapore, Hong Kong and Makati. The aim of this committee is to increase the number of twin clubs and to look at how we can leverage off these relationships to expand the range and size of our international projects.



## A stellar line-up of guest speakers at the Rotary Club of Sydney in 2013-14

- Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, opened the Rotary Life Skills Centre and on a separate occasion presented the painting by Xanana Gusmão to the people of Timor-Leste
- Her Excellency Kirsty Sword Gusmão, Timor-Leste's Ambassador for Education and wife of the Prime Minister
- The Honourable James Spigelman AC QC, Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales
- Commissioner Andrew Scipione APM, NSW Police Service
- Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service
- The Honourable Jason Clare MP on The Mateship Treks
- Scott Morrison MP on The Mateship Treks
- The Honourable Nick Greiner AC, Infrastructure NSW
- The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Minister for Transport
- The Honourable Kevin Humphries MP, Minister for Natural Resources Land and Water; and Minister for Western NSW
- The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson MBBS, MRACGP, FRACP (Hon.), FAMA, Director of the Australian War Memorial
- Stepan Kerkyasharian AO, President of the Anti-Discrimination Board who spoke at the club's Australian Citizenship Ceremony
- Dr Kim Jaggard, Principal Sydney Boys High School
- Carolyn Fletcher AM on Opportunity Cambodia
- David Holm, Architect, Churchill Fellowship
- Paul McPhun Executive Director of Medecins sans Frontières
- Cheryl Bart, on The Explorers Grand Slam
- Vic Ahladeff, Chair of Community Relations Commission NSW on journalism in South Africa during Apartheid
- Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director St James Ethics Centre
- Stephen Page, Bangarra Dance Company
- Dr Michael Schaper Deputy Chairman ACCC
- Mathias Kopp on 'Business Angels'
- Craig Carter on the Resilient Landscapes Project
- Peter Debnam Soils for Life Board Member
- Carol Cooke AM, Gold Medal winner at the 2012 London Paralympics
- New Members: Geoffrey Olds, Peter Khoury, Fatima Ali, Will Sparling
- Cameron Kerr, Chief Executive Taronga Zoo at the Australiana Dinner
- Dr Wayne Johnson, Archaeologist, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
- Dr Mark Westman, Founder of Pets in the Park
- Ron D Burton Rotary International President 2013-14 at the opening of the Rotary Life Skills Centre.
- Jan Utzon, Architect, celebrating The Opera House's 40th Anniversary
- Gail Kelly, CEO of Westpac
- Bernie Brookes, CEO of Myer
- Charles Tarbey, Chairman of Century 21 Australia
- Professor Barney Glover, Vice Chancellor of University Western Sydney
- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney
- Professor James Weirick on the design of Canberra
- Associate Professor Jennifer Burn on Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Associate Professor Dr Melissa Green on Schizophrenia
- Hugo Llorens, Consul General of the USA
- Her Excellency Ambassador Belen F. Anota, Ambassador of the Philippines
- Miss Gulseren Celik Consul General of Turkey
- Professor Dr. Floricel-Paul Mocanu, Consul General of Romania
- Abel Guterres, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Timor-Leste, who received the painting by Xanana Gusmão for the people of Timor-Leste
- Rear Admiral Ian Crawford AO AM (Mil) RAN (Rtd)
- Major Paul Moulds AM from The Salvation Army on partnering with the club to support the marginalised and homeless of Sydney
- Garry Browne AM, District Governor, Rotary International District 9675
- Martin Butterworth, Managing Director, Space Syntax Australia
- Les Murray AM, Australian Sports journalist and broadcaster
- Ann Knight, Honorary Secretary and member of Management Board of NSW Rape Crisis Service
- David Williams President NSW Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans Services Association
- Kel Gleeson, President UNAA NSW on his role in UN Peacekeeping Operations in Rwanda,
- Steve Price, announcer radio station 2GB
- Claire Moffat CEO of Connected Media
- Professor Jack Beeton, Aboriginal philosopher and teacher and the only Australian to receive the United Nations "Unsung Hero" Award, 2001



## Events and Meetings

### Club events

- **Relics, Revelry and Rotary at The Rocks** held at the The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre and on the roof of the YHA. We heard the story, the site, and what more than a million excavated artefacts tell about the lives of convicts and the other lower orders of the colony from Dr Wayne Johnston, archaeologist with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore; had a guided tour of Sydney's best-preserved archaeological site and enjoyed cocktails and canapés on the rooftop terrace with spectacular views of Sydney Harbour and the Opera House. Organised by Julian Ledger and Marie Sahagun (of YHA).
- Several **Rotary Means Business evenings** allowing Sydney Rotary members and their business associates to meet, discuss business, trade useful information, and promote themselves among other professionals of varying fields. **Rotary Means Business is also a great opportunity for Rotarians to talk to non-Rotarians about Rotary.** Organised by Tony Benner.
- The annual **Sydney MS 24 Hour Mega Swim** to support MS Australia's Go For Gold scholarship programme. The club's swimming team "The Rotary Tumble Turns" swam for the 24 hours. Organised by Kaise Stephan. Other club members administered the event and ran the BBQ and food outlet. Coles sponsorship is greatly appreciated. Organised by James Allen, Robert Funke and Skender Bregu.
- The annual **ANZAC Day BBQ** in Hyde Park to feed marchers and supporters. The weather was not kind this year with rain for much of the day so a special thanks to all involved in trying conditions. Woolworths sponsorship is greatly appreciated. Organised by Joe Botta and Michael Dunn.
- The annual **Fiducian Charity Golf Day and Dinner** to raise money for Vision Beyond Aus. A successful event despite rain delaying the start of play. Organised by Indy Singh and the staff of Fiducian Portfolio Services.
- **Cocktails at Parliament House** where Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, and Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Sydney, presented the painting by Xanana Gusmao to Ambassador, Abel Guterres, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Timor-Leste before its return to Timor-Leste.
- **A visit to Gawura School**, a primary school for indigenous students within St Andrew's Cathedral School.
- **Charity Preview of the film "The Monuments Men"** to support Polio Plus. Organised by Tony Benner.
- **Dinner to Celebrate Chinese New Year** and the start of the year of the Horse. Organised by Tony Benner.
- **Vocational Evening at Shaw Stockbroking** with Speaker: RCS Member Peter Townsend, Principal, Townsend Business & Corporate Lawyer on "Where there is a will ..." Estate Planning. Organised by Simon Martin.
- An **Australian Bush Dance** at the rocks. Organised by Patricia Harrison.
- **End of year drinks and canapés** in the Dangar Room at the Union, University & Schools Club. On the evening we celebrated the 2013-14 Rotary Year, welcomed new members and their partners and looked forward to launching the new Rotary year.



### Rotary International Convention and associated Rotary Club of Sydney events

It was a great experience to have the RI Convention in Sydney 1- 4 June 2014. 18,000 Rotarians and friends attended from around the world. It raised the profile of Rotary with the Sydney community and with governments in Australia. We applaud the pledge by the Australian Prime Minister of \$100 million from the Australian Government to The Rotary Foundation: Polio Plus, End Polio Now.

The Rotary Club of Sydney arranged the following events at the time of the RI convention:

- **Australiana Night at Taronga Zoo's Reception Centre** with outstanding views of Sydney harbour by night. During arrival drinks guests were introduced to some of Australia's unique animals; followed by a delicious three-course



dinner with entertainment from The Reel Matilda bush band. All guests received a complimentary soft toy koala or kangaroo. We had 120 people from 20 countries. It was a great night of Rotary international fellowship. Organised by Tony Benner.

- **Australian Walkabout at Taronga Zoo**, escorted tours of Australian Wildlife.
- **Feast on Sydney Harbour Cruise**. This event was co-ordinated by the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove in co-operation with the RC Sydney and RC Sydney Darling Harbour. Guests wined and dined to live jazz, popular opera or an Aussie bush band. Again a great night of Rotary international fellowship. James Allen and Julie Fish organised our club's involvement.
- A special **Rotary Means Business** international networking event was held at the Reagh Bar, Castlereagh Hotel. Organised by Tony Benner

- Rene Benitez and Moss Akbarian both hosted dinners in their homes for Rotarians from overseas and Australia.

### Club Meetings

As a standard the club continued its practice of many years of meeting on Tuesdays at 12.30pm for 12.45pm until 2pm in the **Cello Room, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel**, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

There were variations:

- Early in the year a Tuesday lunch meeting was held in the **Dining Room of the Salvation Army's William Booth House** hosted by Major Bob Seymour and 15 of the residents enabling members and guests to view the un-renovated Basement Area that was to become the Rotary Life Skills Centre. It was a good opportunity not only to see the basement before work started on The Rotary Life Skills Centre but to talk and interact with some the people it will help.
- Four other Tuesday Lunch meetings were held in **different locations**: the End of Year Yum Cha Lunch in December and in January, the Welcome Back Coffee Catch Up, and meetings at the Athenian Greek Restaurant and The Grace Hotel.
- There were two **Thursday Lunch meetings** held in the Cello Room to accommodate the guest speaker.
- There were two **Breakfast Meetings** held in the Cello Room including the Melbourne Cup Breakfast on the first Tuesday in November.
- Three meetings were held on a **Tuesday evening**: a Launch the Year Dinner at which the Choir from William Booth House performed, a meeting to hear the truly fascinating professional and personal stories of 4 of our new members (both in the Cello Room) and an end of year Christmas function (held at the Flyover Bar).

Meetings included the following annual events: City Central Local Area Command Police Officer of the Year Finalists and Award, Consular Day, Citizenship Ceremony, Official Visit of the District Governor, Soukup Memorial Scholarships Award, Vocational and Community Services Awards and Ethics Day.

## Annual General Meeting

The Rotary Club of Sydney AGM was held on the 3 December 2013 and adjourned until the 4 February 2014. The meeting approved the verbal report on the 2012-13 year previously presented, approved the audited financial statements for the Rotary Club of Sydney General Fund, Benevolent Fund and the Soukup Fund for 2012-13 and called for nominations for club office holders for 2014-15.



## Other events where the club was represented

- The announcement by Honourable Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Citizenship and Communities and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the NSW Government of “Wartime Legends” at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park. **“Wartime Legends” is a Centenary of Anzac initiative encouraging special recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ military service during the First World War. The Rotary Club of Sydney is the first partner with the NSW Government in this initiative.** The President spoke on behalf of the club. On a separate occasion the minister presented a certificate to acknowledge the club’s partnership.
- The **Coloured Diggers March** at Redfern on Anzac Day in recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander military veterans.
- The **handover of the Xanana Gusmao painting to the Resistance Museum in Dili, Timor-Leste**; the club was represented by IPP James Allen and Professor Peter McMinn.
- A Dinner meeting of the **Small Practices Upper North (SPUN)** network of the Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter. They presented the club with a Cheque for \$5,000 in support of the Rotary Life Skills Centre.
- Two UN International **Day of Peace** Briefing Nights.
- A memorial and wreath laying service in remembrance of the 72nd Anniversary of the sinking of **HMAS Kuttabul**.
- The **Rotary Club of Sydney Cove** Annual Regatta.
- A **Rotary Club of Sydney Inner West Rotary Means Business** at Glebe Town Hall.
- The **Rotary Club of Belrose** to acknowledge their club’s contribution to the Drought Appeal.
- The Farewell Party for the **Rotary Club of Sydney CBD**.
- District Combined Presidents’ Meetings, Group A Presidents’ Meeting and District Changeover Events.
- The Multi District Rotary Foundation Dinner at which the guest speaker was **RI PE Garry Huang**.
- A Dinner honouring the visit of the Chairman of **The Rotary Foundation – Mr DK Lee**
- A service at the **Great Synagogue** followed by a dinner and on a separate occasion the **Israel 66th Independence Day** Cocktail Reception, both at the invitation of the Jewish Board of Deputies.
- A dinner arranged by the **Consul General of Egypt for Rotarians** from Egypt, Australia and elsewhere and invited members of the Diplomatic Corps.
- The **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey** at the invitation of the Consul-General of Turkey.
- The Salvation Army’s **OASIS Ball**. Organised by Karen Loblay.
- The **Masonic Club’s** President’s Dinner.
- The book Launch of **God’s Donkey** by Peter Gale on the life of Sister Mary Theodore, an amazing Australian who dedicated her life to caring and looking after the mentally and physically challenged and orphaned or abandoned children at Mithra, in Chennai, India.
- The **International Woman’s Day** breakfast. Organised by Karen Loblay.
- **Christmas in July** at the Gardens. Organised by Patricia Harrison.

## **Rotary International District 9675**

Rotary International District 9675 was fortunate to have a dynamic District Governor Garry Browne AM and leadership team in its inaugural year. A report on the district is elsewhere but it is worth noting here:

- The District Governor and 6 other members of the district leadership team were members of the Rotary Club of Sydney.
- The new district established 6 district projects. The Rotary Club of Sydney financially supported 4 of them: Isin-Di'ak Fund Timor-Leste, SoilsForLife, Australian Cerebral Palsy and the Australian Children's Music Foundation.
- SHIFT 2014 was a great success (see below).

### **SHIFT 2014**

The concept of SHIFT started with DG Garry Browne AM creating SHIFT 2014; it showed new thinking, new technologies and new opportunities. The District Conference for RI District 9675 was incorporated into SHIFT 2014; a similar arrangement will not take place in 2015. The Rotary Club of Sydney will leverage off the success of SHIFT 2014 and accept the District's offer to take ownership of SHIFT starting by coordinating SHIFT 2015.



### **Rotaract Clubs**

Rotaract is organized by Rotary clubs to promote leadership, professional development, and service among young adults ages 18-30. At the start of the Rotary year the Rotary Club of Sydney was a sponsor of the Sydney City Rotaract (jointly with the Rotary Clubs of Sydney Cove, Sydney Darling Harbour and Sydney CBD). By the end the 2013-2014 year the Rotary Club of Sydney was a sponsor of:

- **Sydney City Rotaract** (jointly with the Rotary Clubs of Sydney Cove and Sydney Darling Harbour)
- **University of Sydney Rotaract** (jointly with the Rotary Club of Sydney Inner West)
- **University of Technology Sydney Rotaract.**

This increased involvement with Rotaract is an important part of the Rotary Club of Sydney's future growth strategy.

### **Rotary Club of Sydney CBD**

At the end of the 2013-14 the Rotary Club of Sydney CBD surrendered its charter. In part the motion leading to this read: "As a strategic initiative, with a view to consolidation in the Sydney city area so that the two large Clubs (namely the Rotary Club of Sydney and the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove) may achieve greater capacity to draw on the Central Business District for potential members....."

### **Members of the Rotary Club of Sydney who were District 9675 Office Holders 2013-14**

District Governor

Honorary Treasurer

Rotary Foundation Chair

Rotary Foundation Deputy Chair

Marketing, PR & Communication Chair

Committee of Administration Chair

Centurion Club Chair

Garry Browne AM

Michael Mekhitarian

Glenn Wran

Ned Boyce

Tony Benner

John Given

Marian Haddad (July 2013 –December 2013)

# The Rotary Club of Sydney Awards

## Annual Club Awards



**Vocational Service Award for 2014: The Honourable James Spigelman AC QC**, Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, recognising his distinguished and continuing career of public and community service.

**Vocational Service Award for 2013: Stephen Page**, Bangarra Dance Company recognising the major contribution he has made to the cultural life of Australia

**Community Service Award 2014: Anne Knight**, executive member of the Board of Management of Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia and as the Special Needs Consultant for Girl Guides NSW & ACT, recognising her volunteering efforts and the contribution that she has made to the community.

The Community Service Award for 2013 was presented in the previous Rotary year.

**City Central Local Area Command Police Officer of the Year: Detective Sergeant Roland Winter**

### NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards for 2013

NSW Police Officer of the Year: Detective Senior Constable Vasilios Ferfiris  
Field Operations Local Area Command: Constable Angela Vergopoulos from Ashfield  
Specialists Operations/Corporate Services: Detective Senior Constable Ferfiris, Drug Squad  
Community Award: Sergeant Bob Minns from Wollongong  
Customer Service Award: Inspector Bruce McGregor from Lake Macquarie  
Volunteer Award: Dennis Gapes from Hawkesbury  
Police Employee Award: Kirsty Doolan from Tuggerah

### Recognition of Corporate Major Supporters and Supporters

The Club has started a programme of recognising as **Major Supporters** and **Supporters** some businesses that have been important contributors to the Rotary Club of Sydney.

**Certificates have been presented to the following Major Supporters:**

- Shaw Stockbroking
- Zions Pty Ltd
- Corporate Focus PR Pty Ltd
- Stuart Alexander & Company
- Fiducian Portfolio Services
- Mannion's Business Services Pty Limited
- Arinex Professional Conference Organiser

**Certificates have been presented to the following Supporters:**

- YHA Australia Ltd
- NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service in Bourke.
- Radio Station 2GB

## Paul Harris Fellows

As a tribute to individuals who meet the high professional and personal standards set forth by Rotary's founder Paul Harris, the Rotary Club of Sydney occasionally decides to honour Rotarians and others in the community by designating them a **Paul Harris Fellow**. In doing so the club makes a \$US1,000 donation to support one of the Rotary Foundation's major humanitarian programs, PolioPlus.

The Rotary Club of Sydney congratulated the following Paul Harris Fellows:

**Gail Kelly**, CEO Westpac: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution to the banking industry, her work in improving gender equality at Westpac, her active community service and for maintaining the bank's role as a good corporate citizen.

**Bernie Brookes** CEO Myer: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney acknowledgement of his outstanding contribution to the retail industry in Australia and his active involvement in philanthropy and community support.

**Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service**: a sapphire pin presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of his dedication to firefighting and also recognising the outstanding service of the members of the New South Wales Rural Fire Services which he leads.

**Deputy NSW Police Commissioner Catherine Burn**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of her commitment to excellence in policing and to Police Legacy.



**Her Excellency Kirsty Sword Gusmão**: a sapphire pin presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney acknowledgement of her commitment to social justice, human rights and education.

**Brendan Farrell**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of his initiative and commitment to coordinating the delivery of hay to drought affected farmers in western NSW and Queensland.

**Carolyn Fletcher AM**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of her significant service to the community, particularly through the establishment of education and training opportunities for children in Cambodia.

**Karen Loblay**: a sapphire pin presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of her commitment to social justice, human rights, education and her outstanding philanthropic work.

**Kenneth Coles AM**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney in acknowledgement of his contribution to business, the Australian community and his outstanding philanthropic work.

**Bert Rosenberg**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney for his long term commitment to the Rotary Club of Sydney and especially his role as the inaugural Chair of The Soukup Memorial Scholarship Committee

**David Hunt**: presented by the Rotary Club of Sydney for his long term commitment to the Rotary Club of Sydney and especially his role as Honorary Legal Adviser and as an inaugural member of The Soukup Memorial Scholarship Committee.

**Patricia Harrison**: a two sapphire pin presented by PDG Bill Salter for services to RI District 9750.

**John Given**: a two sapphire pin presented by PDG Bill Salter for services to RI District 9750.

**Michael Dunn**: a sapphire pin presented by PDG Bill Salter for services to RI District 9750.

## Rotary Club of Sydney Honorary Members

Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, CVO, Governor of NSW

The Honourable Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW (June 2013- April 2014)

The Honourable Thomas Bathurst, AC, Chief Justice of NSW

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney

Commissioner Andrew Scipione APM, NSW Commissioner of Police

Sir William Deane, former Governor General of Australia

Joe Botta

William Locke

Harold Bodinnar

George Soukup (accepted Honorary Membership in April 2014)

Jenny Soukup (accepted Honorary Membership in April 2014)

## Rotary Club of Sydney Office Holders

### Directors

|  |  |
|--|--|
| President                                | Geoffrey Wilbow                            |
| Immediate Past President                 | James Allen                                |
| President Elect                          | Diana Richards                             |
| Vice President                           | Andrew Laurie                              |
| Vice President                           | Alex Shaw                                  |
| Honorary Treasurer                       | Colin Westman                              |
| Honorary Secretary                       | Michael Gable (July 2103 – December 2013)  |
|  | Michael Squire (January 2014- June 2014)   |
| Administration                           | Patricia Harrison (July 2013-August 2013)  |
| International Services                   | Annette Delaney (July 2013- August 2013)   |
|  | Stuart Campbell (September 2013-June 2014) |
| Vocational & Community Services & Awards | Simon Martin                               |
| Youth Services                           | Anthony Le Marchant                        |
| Soukup Scholarship                       | Karen Loblay                               |
| Membership                               | Glenn Wran                                 |
| Investment and Finance                   | Ned Boyce                                  |
| Communication                            | Tony Benner                                |
| NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards    | John Given                                 |
| Twin Clubs                               | Moss Akbarian (January 2014-June 2014)     |

### Officers and Co-ordinators

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sergeant-at -Arms                   | Shane Herbert   |
| President's Aide                    | John Randall  |
| Honorary Legal Adviser              | Peter Townsend  |
| Revenue Generation Chair            | Scott Steyn   |
| RAWCS Project Co-ordinator          | Bruce Edwards   |
| Vision Beyond Aus Chair             | Indy Singh  |
| Opportunity Cambodia CEO            | Carolyn Fletcher AM                                     |
| Anzac Day BBQ Co-ordinator          | Joe Botta   |
| Citizenship Ceremony Co-ordinator   | Jennifer Kwok   |
| Consular Day Co-ordinator           | Paul Wenham   |
| MS 24h Hour Mega Swim Co-ordinators | James Allen, Kaise Stephan, Robert Funke, Skender Bregu |
| ROMAC Club Co-ordinator             | Ian Conley  |
| Youth Exchange Club Co-ordinator    | Julie Fish  |
| Honorary Auditors                   | Mannion's Business Services Pty Limited                 |
| Bookkeeper                          | Monique Tilley, Timesaver Financial Services            |
| Receptionist                        | Carolyn Heffernan, Fiducian Financial Services          |

## Vale

During the year The Rotary Club of Sydney noted with sadness the passing of:

- **Ron Dunk:** A member of the Rotary Club of Sydney for 51 years and a Paul Harris Fellow.
- **Paul Vertes:** A member of the Rotary Club of Sydney for 16 years and a Paul Harris Fellow.

They will be greatly missed by their Rotary friends.





# The Rotary Life Skills Centre Sydney

## Major Supporters

John Plummer  
 Karen Loblay  
 Gillean Wilbow  
 Servcorp Limited  
 Stuart Alexander & Company  
 Rotary International District 9675  
 Members and friends of the Rotary Club of Sydney

## Key Supporters

Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter SPUN Network Group  
 Coles Danziger Foundation on behalf of Kenneth Coles  
 Fiducian Portfolio Services Limited  
 Bruce and Zeny Edwards  
 YHA Australia

## Supporters

|                                  |                      |   |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Fatima Ali                       | Michael Dermody      | David & Judy Hunt                           | Doug Pritchard                   |
| James Allen                      | Kavita Devi          | David Kellaway                              | Joanna Quinn                     |
| Hassan Al-Zahab                  | Rex Doughty          | Jennifer Kwok                               | John Randall                     |
| Don Bell                         | Hashim Durrani       | Andrew Laurie                               | John Rawson                      |
| Tony Benner                      | Herman Eisenberg     | Anthony Le Marchant                         | Diana Richards                   |
| Peter Blythe                     | Irene Euler-Kennedy  | Julian Ledger                               | Bert Rosenberg                   |
| Peter Bowen                      | Carolyn Fletcher OAM | William Locke                               | Marie Sahagun                    |
| Ned Boyce                        | Robert Funke         | Himalti Maharaj                             | Indy Singh                       |
| Peita Boyd                       | Michael Gable        | Ann-Marie Phillips                          | Shiva Sri Ramanathan             |
| Garry A. Browne                  | Mark Gainford        | Graham Matheson                             | Dennis Smith                     |
| Robert Bratusa                   | Keith Garner         | Chris McDiven                               | John Star                        |
| Terry Carson                     | John Gissing         | Geoff McIntyre                              | Paul St. Clair                   |
| Carruthers Pty Ltd               | Clive Goodwin        | Edward McKeown                              | Kaise Stephan                    |
| Kenneth Coles                    | Robert Harris        | John McKernan                               | Peter Townsend                   |
| Ross Colquhoun                   | Anthony Harding      | David McLeish                               | Richard Trett                    |
| James Condon                     | Ron Hardwick         | Michael Mekhitarian                         | Paul Vertes                      |
| Ian Conley                       | Patricia Harrison    | Claire Moffat                               | Deborah Watson                   |
| Roni Corne                       | Daniel Harrison      | Joy Mooney                                  | Paul Wenham                      |
| Michael Dale                     | Shane Herbert        | Marie Louise Muscat                         | Colin Westman                    |
| Consular Corps Sydney            | Amy Hing-Young       | John Nutt                                   | Jeremy Wright                    |
| Kenneth John Davey               | Clare Hoekman        | Rolf Prince                                 | Henry Ye                         |
| Printing Online Pty Ltd          | Rolf Howard          |   | Rotary Club of Sydney Inner West |
| Copestone Management Consultants |                      | Jakub Czlonka of Encompass Wealth Solutions |                                  |