



VOCATIONAL SERVICE REPORT 2011-12



The Vocational Committee has had a good year and was delighted to welcome Helen Morrison as a new Rotary member and valued committee member. The committee has shown, once again, how well it can work together and provide assistance across the board to all Rotary projects and club initiatives.

Committee Members: Rhonda Elizabeth Crooks (Chair) – Chris Lampel, Diane Wilkinson, Roger Taylor, Laurie Huffer, Brian Gregory, Neil Thompson, Len Cairns and Helen Morrison

We kicked off the New Year with a visit by Chris Lim in July. Chris is on a John Flynn Scholarship Program. Chris had just spent 1 week at a Student conference in Sydney with over 1000 Students. He gave us an update since his last visit. Some of his experiences included working with the Royal Flying Doctors service, and speaking to students at schools in the northern parts of Perth. Chris also travelled to Vietnam in February for a holiday and had some very interesting adventure tours around the country, and experimenting with interesting cultural food. We enjoyed listening to his updates.

In September we welcomed John Caruana to talk about MUNA and we look forward to another visit from John, possibly sometime in 2012.

October being Vocational Service month was welcomed by an interesting talk from Laurie Huffer. Laurie talked about Rotary International. During this period, clubs highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian. Special activities promote the vocational avenue of service.

In November we welcomed Monique Hustler to talk about her experiences participating in the National Youth Science Forum.

2011/2012 also saw the introduction of the Vocational Service Award. This award is designed to illuminate people in our community that have selflessly dedicated years to our community. In November 2011, we nominated and brought together two very special people, to publicly honor their achievements. Mrs Margaret Hinson for her services to Lifeline and Mr Graham Giblett, for his contribution to local football. It was a wonderful evening and a very worthwhile event.

In December we held the Pride of Workmanship awards at Old Gippsdown. Once again the evening was a success in bringing together students, their families and school officials to celebrate and publicly acknowledge the achievement of 13 local school students. The delight on the faces of each student as they so proudly accepted their Rotary Pride of Workmanship award was clearly apparent, as was the pride and happiness of their supporters demonstrated by their applause each time President Pash presented the individual awards.

In March 2012 we welcomed the debate between Lowanna and Kurnai College held at the Moe RSL. Each student represented their School well, and the scores ended up being even. However Eddie Beulke the adjudicator along with judges Len Cains and May Sennett finally awarded Lowanna College as the winner this year.



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The topic of the debate was "Facebook Encourages Bullying". From all accounts this debate goes down as being one of the best held to date.

After discussion amongst members it was generally agreed that the reason for debate being so successful was largely due to the students being so engaged with the subject and Facebook . The debate was well supported by the Rotary Club of Morwell and huge thanks must go to Chris Lampel and Ann Vokes of Morwell.

In June Tonya Ryan and Natalie Acreman, Lowanna students attended MUNA at Neerim South. Both girls had an absolutely fantastic experience and were voted the second most responsible.

All of the Vocational Committee members have contributed throughout the year and I look forward to 2012/2013 knowing there is much to do. We say good bye to Reverend Neil Thompson who has given me much welcomed guidance and support during my time with Rotary.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and active participation.

Rhonda Elizabeth Crooks
Chair
Vocational Committee