



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CANBERRA SUNRISE INC.**

PO Box 9155 Deakin ACT 2600 Australia  
Rotary District 9705

---

**Final Report - President Margaret  
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

**IMAGINE ROTARY** was the theme for 2022-23 – with Jennifer E Jones as the Rotary International President – the first woman in this role – who encouraged us to ***Dream big & take action***. Within our own District 9705, Geraldine Rurenga was District Governor, possibly the youngest woman ever. Highlight of the year would be the RI Convention in Melbourne – valuable memories for attendees.

Early in the year, we talked about the future: *the Club at the crossroads, about when, how and what we do. Who are we? What do we stand for? Do we want our ship to 'drown' or 'start the engines'?* Aims were to: Engage members' passions in *service and making a difference*; retaining and engage new members; fundraising to help others; identify community needs; grow diversity; maintain a happy dynamic club. To: engage, serve & have fun! The Club now has a lot to be proud of.

**Strategic Planning and our future:** the club's single biggest commitment during 2022-23. The Club Strategists led members to 4 strategic priority teams – Membership, Community, Public Image and Club Service – to develop priorities and Action Plans to achieve the agreed goals. Discussions continued at the Planning Day, with forward steps now in the hands of the new Board 2023-24.

**Membership at 30 June 2023:** 31 members on database.

- New members: Greg Hood (inducted 21 July 2022), George Huitker (TBC induction 16 July), and Roger Crosthwaite (TBA induction).
- During the year, we farewelled Carol Hayes – RIP Carol, 1962-2022, who is always in our hearts.
- Taking a Rotary break, from 1 July 2023: Simon Cullen, Sue Bury, Mike Bury, Don Erickson.

**Club fees & payments:** \$185: 1 July to 31 December 2022; \$210: 1 January to 30 June 2023. Square Terminal was introduced in 2023, to provide efficiency for breakfast and BBQ charges.

**Guest Speaker Program:** great Guest Speaker program, including Past RI Director Noel Trevaskis, our RYLA participants Gabi and Kathy, YEP Chynna, the East African Beyond Water guests and an impressive array of member talks – eg. Japanese wanderings; Memories of GH and its guests...

**Christmas Giving Tree – St Vincent de Paul:** Rotary working in collaboration with the community. Club members were generous with their gifts for Toddlers, Kids and Teens – *making a difference*. Thank you to all club members for entering into the festive spirit at our Christmas breakfast meeting. Further developments to be pursued after the CEO Vinnies speaks to the Club on 17 August 2023.

**Buk bilong Pikinini:** The club continues to be engaged in the collection and sorting of books donated by ACT primary schools, and has given \$1,000 to ship containers to PNG for distribution to schools.

**MUNA 2022:** Monumental effort was made by a key group of Rotarians. Emerging from COVID scenarios, we were challenged with uncertainty about school student interest. Some 45 enthusiastic students participating. Keynote speaker was Lorraine Finlay, the Human Rights Commissioner, together with other speakers, Mr Rick Smith AO PSM, a former senior diplomat, and Dr Kim Huynh, an ANU academic - arrived in Australia as a refugee. Report article appeared in Rotary Down Under, August 2022. Coordination and actions are well progressed for the 2023 event.

**YEP Chynna from Taiwan:** 24 August 2022 to 19 June 2023, with 5 Host Families. Chynna presented to the club in February and June. Chynna clearly had blossomed over this time. Members and Hosts gave Chynna some very special visits, including to the South Coast, Melbourne Tennis Open, Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb, National Museum of Australia, watching cricket at Grammar School, and she attended Trivia Night. As Counsellor YEP is rewarding. Club costing amounts to \$3k per student.

**Ryla participants dinner:** Invaluable rewards to our club, to engage with Kathy Huyann Tran (club sponsored) and Gabrielle Evans – we had two Guest Speaker occasions, and both are assisting with MUNA Adjudication in 2023. Club voluntary donations assisted with the attendance of the week-long RYLA event - \$950 per student. Rotary youth programs are very important to support.

**Foundation – End Polio Now:** World Polio Day was 24 October 2022. Sergeant fines were collected. Members continue to support the Rotary Foundation Centurion Program.

**Trivia Night:** Funds were raised for *Canteen Australia* – a youth cancer charity, HQ in Brisbane QLD. Extraordinary support was given by Rotarians - donating major items and also making purchases. Significant numbers were attracted through Rotary member networks. A dedicated team of Rotarians managed the trivia questions, silent auction presentations and lists, seating allocations and the myriad of overloaded administrative arrangements. It was a huge challenge, and likely beyond the club's capacity. Rotary presented \$10k in proceeds to *Canteen Australia*, but no representation present, and have indicated that the proceeds will be used for administrative purposes, such as travel for their youth candidate needs. Board considered that future events to focus on more local community needs, with Rotary costs extracted, and funds to be used for more direct assistance to the recipients. Board Guideline template to be re-instituted for future ad hoc events.

**Dream Cricket for 2022-23:** Board postponed due to lack of school student numbers, teacher engagement, and the need to promote school-based clinics beforehand. Formal letters were sent to all VIPs, School contacts and District leaders. Better firm plans are proposed for the year ahead.

**Website Management:** An IT guru has been identified to progress the updating of the website.

**Peace Fellows Program 2022:** Not undertaken. Need to find a new coordinating team for 2023-24.

(1) To support the program through raising its profile and vetting applicants

(2) To participate in the organisation and management of annual visits to Canberra.

The organisation of visits present significant challenges given the level of planning, management and coordination required for a successful visit.

**Jubilee QEII Tree Planting - \$20k Commonwealth Grant:** The initiative shown by one Rotarian with this project is outstanding. The potential of community engagement, working with school students, and membership diversity is to be applauded. Planting 500 trees in the Molonglo River catchment area was indeed a challenge, which was embraced by the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley, the Hon David Smith MP, the local community and school, and many Rotarians and their families and friends. Sunny warm weather was achieved, along with the contractor's hole-digging, to allow the planting of seedlings. The final unveiling of the plaque on the chosen Rock – will be ceremonially undertaken in November 2023. School collaboration is expected to be ongoing.

**SIEC at Dickson College:** Rotary Sunrise Awards were presented at the end of each term. One prize each term (@\$250), although two were presented in June, as there were two graduating classes. Dickson College continues to show gratitude for Rotary's support of the learning English students.

**BBQ Trailer & Fundraising:**

- BBQ Trailer repairs have been carried out, registration paid and the trailer re-located at Lions Youth Haven. About 4 x BBQs have been held, such as 18/2, 5/3, 19/3.
- Theatre events – two group bookings have raised club funds
- Rosie's Honey Mustard – one Rotarian has persisted with this fundraising.
- Floriade Gnomes at Floriade – we received greater profits during this last Rotary year.

**Rotary Image:**

One focus for the year was the promotion of our events, and the reporting of activities. Promotional material to be developed and used for all activities. We want to make a noise in the community.

**Dress code at the Commonwealth Club:** Reminder to all Rotarians, and any Guests.  
*Long sleeved collared shirt / no denim / no runners / jacket and tie optional*

**Carol Hayes:** 7 May 1962 – 16 October 2022

The club celebrated the life of Carol Hayes at a meeting. Carol was such a vibrant smiling happy person who engendered brightness and joy to be with. Carol had so much life left to be lived, and had wondrous plans to help make a difference in the world. We salute Carol's memory forever.

**Club Changeover & mid-term break**

- Changeover lunch: Sunday 16 July, 12noon-2.30pm at *Short Eats*, Phillip.
- Meeting break at CC: Thursday 29 June to Thursday 20 July 2023

**Final words**

It has been a privilege to have been given the trust to lead as President 2022-23 (after 2006-07). Thank you to all Club Members who have surfed the waves of change, and provided great support.

The Board has been strong and influential in keeping Club Members engaged and positively looking forward. Each one has given so much, and I am grateful for the perseverance. While likely not to be sustainable, the generosity of time and expertise has been over-whelming. Thank you to the Board 2022-23 team – Bruce, Simon, Yohan, David, Helen, Judy, Greg.

Personally, I wished to implement some generational change within leadership ranks. With some generous and willing newcomers, I believe we have tipped the balance a little. Personally, I wish the new Board 2023-24 team every success ahead – President Yohan, Helen, Maile, Ray, Alan and Greg.

Finally - Congratulations and thank you for helping to make a difference, with "service above self".

Margaret Atkin  
President 2022-23

30 June 2023