



CANBERRA SUNRISE PRESIDENTS REPORT 2024-25



RCCS 30th Birthday

Board 2024-25

President Peter McDermott, President-Elect Rosemary Everett (from June 2025), Gabrielle Quadraccia (President-elect until March 2025), Vice President Margaret Atkin, Immediate Past President Yohan Ramasundara, Secretary Alan McCulloch, Treasurer Roger Crosthwaite, Board Director Kim Barrett

CLUB MEMBERS

Margaret Atkin, Kim Barrett, Anna Boots, Stephen Bramah, Garth Britton, Roger Crosthwaite, Helen Deutsch, David Elder, Donald Erickson, Rosemary Everett, Greg Hood, Suzanne Howarth, Alan McCulloch, Peter McDermott, John McKenna, Gabrielle Quadraccia, Yohan Ramasundara, Ainslie Sowden, Neil Spalding

OVERVIEW OF A YEAR OF CHALLENGE

RY 2024/5 has been a year of challenge. We have not only survived but prospered. Looking at the range of activities we have undertaken and the funds we have disbursed, we are providing support to the Canberra Community far beyond what our numbers would suggest. Not only did we do some great things, but we had fun in doing so.

We started the year with 22 members, with three leaving in December 2024 - Randal Markey, Amardeep Singh, and Marwan Altalib – so we finished with 18 Active Members and one Honorary member. We started a 'Friends and Supporters' program in August 2024. All recent departees have been invited to become either friends or supporters with 100% take-up. Even with reduced numbers over the past 2-3 years, we are still a middle-sized club in the district.

We continued with our trial of two formal meetings per month, with one social activity per month (which enabled many in our Friends and Supporters to continue their connection with RCCS). After our forced move out of the Commonwealth Club at the end of RY 2023/4, we started the RY with two possible venues - Mercure and the Canberra Golf Club. In August members agreed that the Mercure was the preferred venue for meeting. Mercure have been exceptionally accommodating and flexible and are happy to cater for our small numbers (averaging 12 Rotarians per meeting).

At the planning day held in March 2024, members indicated they wanted RCCS to explore merging with another club as the best option for its continuation. The Board agreed to discreetly explore options for the future. Four other clubs - Woden Daybreak, Canberra, Canberra Burley Griffin, and Murrumbidgee Canberra Rotary were contacted to ascertain their interest in an amalgamation or merger. Of these, only Canberra Burley Griffin indicated that they wished to proceed with discussions towards a merger. Much discussion and consultation took place, but on 12 February 2025, the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin advised that they would not be proceeding with the proposal to merge with RCCS. In a Special General Meeting on 3 April 2025, members agreed in a majority decision to 'Continue to operate the club under the current constitution and governance arrangements (contingent on sufficient members being available to fill Board positions)'.

Highlights for the year were MUNA and the Dream Cricket Gala Day. Both events showed two important points: we as a club can do great things with a smaller number of members than before; and secondly, we have many folk, Rotarians and others, who are always willing to help us in our endeavours. RCCS does, due to the hard work and commitment of our members 'punch well above its weight' and by doing so, has made our beloved club a power of strength in D9705. I thank every member for their support in this challenging but rewarding year.

Peter McDermott

Peter McDermott, AM, CSC, PhD, MPH
President 2024-25

15 June 2025

REPORTS BY AVENUE OF SERVICE

YOUTH

As a youth-focused club, we do much for youth in the community. We supported MUNA and helped out with RYPEN and RLYA. We sponsored a NYSF Sponsorship attendee, Ema Morree. We conducted another highly successful Dream Cricket Gala Day on 15 November. We supported a Rotary Global Grant Scholar – Ms Yurika Nakayama who is studying for a PhD at ANU.

CLUB

We had a very active guest speaker program during the year:

2024

18 July Desmond Woods – Nepal Project
15 Aug Alexander Maier – Malaria
5 September David Croaker – Medical aid to Pacific
19 September Ross Cheater – SIEC
3 October Genevieve Jacobs – Hands across Canberra
17 October Roger Carthey – Prostate Cancer
7 November Mark Lax – Remembrance Day

2025

6 February Christy Kaenh – Peace Fellows
20 February Desmond Woods – WASH Project
6 March Christina Spry – TB Project
20 March Keith Cantlie Jones – Vinnies
3 April Allison Ballard – Volunteer Brigades
17 April Phil Basche – Mentoring Men
8 May Stephen Trump – Red Cross
5 June Lavinia Tyrrell – Karinya House
23 June Peace Fellows dinner – Fellows present

We ran BBQs for profit and to support others. The raffle and SGT's sessions raised funds. We made significant disbursement from our admirable fundraising efforts. Disbursement made to our selected charities totalled \$31,819. They were:

Dementia Australia	\$650
Disbursements – other	\$5,000
NYSF program	\$1,300
SIEC - Dickson College	\$659
Rotary Foundation – Centurion	\$1,700
Rotary Foundation – (Club gave)	\$3,000
Rotary Foundation - End Polio	\$1,500
Girl Project (Kenya)	\$1,000
Drought and Flood relief	\$ 6,000
Karinya house	\$1,000

Club team leaders were:

Position	Team Leader
International Ave	Ainslie
Community/ Environment	Stephen Bramah
Vocational Avenue	John McKenna
Youth Avenue	Greg Hood
Photos/Raffle	Peter McDermott
Sergeant-at-Arms	David Elder
Membership	David Elder
MUNA Coordinator	Greg Hood
MUNA Registrar	David Elder/ Helen Deutsch
Webmaster/PR	Greg Hood
Dream Cricket	Yohan Ramasundara
Program Coordinator	Margaret Atkin
Rotary Foundation	Kim Barrett
Club Protection Officer	Helen Deutsch
Club Assets & Insurance	Suzanne Howarth
Club Public Officer	Alan McCulloch
Asst Treasurer (venue)	Neil Spalding

MUNA

We conducted MUNA on the weekend 17 – 18 August 2024. MoAD was filled with youthful voices debating United Nations Resolutions with fervour, conviction and with passion. We were delighted to facilitate the Rotary District's 25th National MUNA welcoming 44 delegates from 15 different. The winning teams were:

- Sweden (**Macarthur Anglican School**) - first prize
- New Zealand (**Central Coast Steiner School**)- second prize
- Russia (**Unity Grammar School**) – third place.
- Solomon Islands (**St Peter's Anglican College**) - Totenhofer Peace Prize.

COMMUNITY

We did lots for the community, including work for Buk bilong picaninny. We nominated two folk for a district Community Service Award, Phil Basche, and Anne Sophie Hermann, manager of Buk bilong pikaninny. We paid for a peace pole and were present at the planting Peace Poles Ceremony. We participated with Murrumbidgee Canberra at Floriade on their gnomes painting project.

FOUNDATION

We gave, as a club and individually, to the RI Centurion program, to the Foundation, and contributed to World Polio Day.

SUMMARY

What an eventful year! Despite our challenges, we worked hard and demonstrated we put "Service before Self".

