Rotary Club of North Ryde 2024-2025 Annual Report



2024-2025

Collaboration
 Community Spirit
 Championing Our Youth



Rotary Club of North Ryde Inc. (Rotary District 9685) E: northryderotary@gmail.com P.O. Box 6171 North Ryde, NSW 2113 Australia



www_northryderotary_com

www_facebook_com/northryderotary



Club Executives & Directors 2024-2025

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President	Garry Maloney	Rotary Foundation	Sandeep Rathi	
Immediate Past President	Bernie Mason	Community Service	Pamela Wood	
President Elect	Mandy Van	Youth	Bernie Mason Mandy Van	
Secretary / Public Offier	Pamela Wood	Membership	Bob Selinger	
Treasurer	Binoe Verghese	International Service	Brian Bailey Bob Selinger	
Club Administration	Peter Mason Rob Wilkinson	Bulletin & News Web Manager	Pamela Wood	
Public Image	Mandy Van	Vocational Service	Peter Mason	



Club Executives & Directors 2025-2026

President	Mandy Van	Rotary Foundation	Bernie Mason	
Immediate Past President	Garry Maloney	Community Service	Garry Maloney	
President Elect	Bernie Mason Peter Mason	Youth	Bernie Mason Pam Bennett	
Secretary / Public Offier	Pamela Wood	Membership	Bob Selinger Bernie Mason	
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Public Image	Mandy Van	Vocational Service	Peter Mason	



It has been an incredible privilege to be President of such a hardworking Rotary club. I would like to thank all our Club members and especially the Board members for their friendship, hard work and wonderful support over the last 12 months. I would also like to thank the people of our local community for the continued support in helping us achieve what we have been able to over the last 12 months.

Our club meetings are held two Fridays per month via Zoom with one face to face meeting per month at Dunmore Lang College. We have had some very **interesting and inspirational speakers** throughout the year and had some fun along the way.

We currently have **17 members** and **one Honorary member**. Of our current members, including our Honorary member, **10 are male and 8 are female**. We are very proud of the fact that for a small club, our membership is very diverse. We also have a wide range of age groups amongst members in our club. This contributes to making a more vibrant and stronger club. Club members have worked incredibly hard to make it a successful year. We are always very busy working to **make a difference in our local and broader community**.

This month we welcome new member Nick Martorana and sadly say farewell to outgoing members, Queenie Seto and Ruth Gosbell. Also Makram (Mak) Khalil who has been a member of our club for 39 years has decided he needs a break and is not renewing his membership for the coming year. But in recognition of Mak's involvement with our club and Rotary we have offered him, and he has accepted an Honorary Membership of our club. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Queenie and Ruth, and particularly Mak, for their support of the club during their membership and hope we will see them at some of our events and activities in the future. We will continue to work on increasing our membership throughout the next Rotary year.

One of our major activities each year is the **Rotary Carols on the Common in December.** This annual event is held in partnership with the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park. It was estimated that there were approximately 10,000 people attending the event. The event is free to the community, and we thank our sponsors for their support in helping us stage the event.

Another important event we hold is the North Ryde eFun Run for Youth Mental Health, which was held from Sunday 6 April to Sunday 13 April 2025. The funds raised from this event go to Australian Rotary Health for research into youth mental health and to the Macquarie University Lifespan and Wellbeing Research Centre's Cool Kids program.

I would like to thank club member David Martin for organising this year's **2025 Country Students DIGIT week which was held in May this year.** Our thanks also to the members of the Rotary Club of Epping who partnered with us in this worthwhile project. It was another very successful and enjoyable week for the eight students, their hosts and the club members who chaperoned them each day.

We continue to strongly support the Rotary Youth programs including **Youth Exchange**, **RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Award), **RYPEN** (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment). We also supported a team from Marsden High School who participated in the Pitch for Purpose project which was part of this year's District 9685 Conference.

I would like to thank Ahmed Allam, Manager Ritchies IGA Cox's Road Mall, Annette and Seb Lentini for organising the Cox's Road Community Fair held in September 2024. Thanks also to Rev. John Chappell for providing the use of the BBQs on the day.

As the person who organises the **Bunnings BBQs**' that we hold at Bunnings Gladesville, I would sincerely like to thank everyone who comes along to help on the day. I must also thank the suppliers that support us for the BBQs: **Bush's Meats, IGA Cox's Road Mall, Fruit** and Veg Cox's Road Mall, North Ryde RSL Club, Officeworks North Ryde.

We owe a lot of our success to the **local community and businesses** for their generous support and assistance in many forms. In particular, the businesses at **Cox's Road Mall, Bendigo Bank North Ryde, Dunmore Lang College, North Ryde Golf Club, North Ryde RSL, Kwik Kopy North Ryde and Konica Minolta.**

We were delighted that the club was recognised during the year with the following awards: ShelterBox – Rotary Lifetime Giving Sapphire Award for significant financial contribution. ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) – Certificate of Appreciation for over 25 years of support. A special award from ROMAC was presented to Rob Wilkinson- A Lifetime Recognition Award.



At the recent District 9685 President's Lunch our club was awarded: Community Service - Small Club (for clubs with 25 or less members) Vocational Service - Small Club - for the DIGIT program.

Once again thank you to this year's Board: Pam Wood, Rob Wilkinson, Binoe Verghese, Bernadette Mason, Peter Mason, Bob Selinger OAM, Mandy Van and to all our Club members for another successful Rotary year.

Garry Maloney President 2024-25



Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.

The Rotary Club of North Ryde holds regular **BBQs at Bunnings Gladesville** which have been a great fundraising activity for the club. These BBQ's have provided a fundraising stream for club projects, as well as raising our profile in the community. We have a team of up to 9 members and friends of the club who help throughout the day and make the day enjoyable for all involved.

The Club continued to provide a donation of \$500 to each of the **6 local Primary schools** and \$1000 to **Ryde Secondary College** to support programs for the students. We hosted four principals and teacher representatives at a breakfast meeting at **Dunmore Lang College** in October. This was a great opportunity to hear about what is happening in the schools and how these donations are used to support specific programs.

We provide an annual **scholarship** of \$1000 to a selected student from **Dunmore Lang College** to help cover their educational expenses for the year. We also continue our sponsorship of a student through the **Smith Family Learning for Life Program**. This year we also provided a \$200 sponsorship for the **City of Ryde Eisteddfod**.

We continued to work with the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park on planning the **Rotary Carols on the Common**. This year, the Carols returned to North Ryde Common on Sunday 16 December along with the much-anticipated fireworks finale. The event was well supported and appreciated by the community with one of the best crowds in attendance yet.

The Annual Rotary Carols on the Common is supported and sponsored by local community members, groups and businesses, the **City of Ryde Council** and **State and Federal Members of Parliament**. Stephen Sim was, once again, MC for the event and Roseanna Gallo organised and lead the performances, as well as being Chairperson for the committee.

This year each club raised \$11864 to go towards our annual giving programs through the Carols. From total funds raised \$500 each was donated to **St John's Ambulance, Ryde SES, Warringah Headquarters RFS** and 1st **East Ryde Scout group** and 1st **North Ryde Scout Group**. Funds raised from the bucket collections went to the **Northern Centre West Ryde** and **District 9685 Respectful Relationships Scholarship**, to support victims of **domestic violence**.

Throughout November and December, the Rotary Club of North Ryde sets up the **Tree of Joy at Cox's Road Mall**. Cox's Road Mall Management provided support for the collection of the gifts as they came in. Donations and gifts from the Tree of Joy were donated to **CCA NSW Community Hub Eastwood**, **St Vincent De Paul** and **Macquarie Hospital**.

The North Ryde community was again, very generous with their donations. Reverend John Chappell provided storage at **St** John's Anglican Church Hall as gifts were collected. **Bendigo Bank North Ryde** donated \$1000 towards the purchase of gifts for Macquarie Hospital and to help with costs. Businesses in the Mall also provided support for the Tree of Joy including Ritchies IGA Supa Market, North Ryde Pharmacy and Café SaBu.



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We continued the **Christmas pudding** drive which was undertaken with Chatswood/Roseville, Wahroonga, Pennant Hills and Turramurra Rotary Clubs to raise funds to provide **Books in Homes for Moree Public School**.

Some of our members joined other local community groups in the **Walk against Domestic Violence** held on Thursday 23 November 2024. The aim of this walk was to draw attention to the need to stop domestic violence in the world and give a sense of Hope for the victims. Bob Selinger OAM also introduced the **Safe DV Phone reuse initiative** at Cox's Road Mall.

The North Ryde eFun Run for Youth Mental Health was held in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Macquarie Park and Ryde and Macquarie University's Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Research Centre. It was held over a week from 6 April until 13 April 2025.

This year the eFun Run raised approximately \$11 000 through direct sponsorship of participants by their friends, families and colleagues, as well as corporate sponsorship from **Bendigo Bank North Ryde** and **North Ryde RSL**. Funds will be distributed between **Australian Rotary Health**, receiving \$6000 and Macquarie University Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Research Centre's Cool Kids Program receiving approx. \$3500.

Our club continues to work hard to have a strong and positive profile in the local community and continue to support the community throughout the year.

Pamela Wood Community Service Director 2024-25



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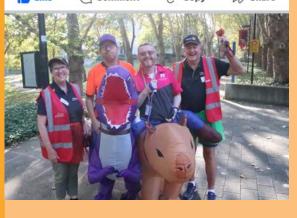
Macquarie University parkrun

An awesome day today as we were joined by the University's Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Research Centre and the Rotary Club of North Ryde for a fancy dress themed Event #025.

We were also joined by friends from Wentworth Common parkrun who came today while their course is closed for the Easter show, and together these excellent people helped us achieve a new course record of 601 participants!

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Youth Service - Bernie Mason & Mandy Van

We started the 2024-25 Rotary year with a farewell to our wonderful **Rotary Youth Exchange student**, **Luis (Currito) Alfonso Indiano**, who had been with us for 12 months and was heading back to Spain. He was very sad to be leaving us but very excited be going home to his friends, his sport, his mum and all his family.

In August we attended the **North Ryde Public School Assembly**, to witness the prizes given using our \$500 donation to the school, which is part of our commitment to all the local schools in our area. We installed a second buddy bench at North Ryde Public School purchased through a global grant. The **Buddy Bench** encourages students to come and sit on the bench if they are lonely, feeling isolated, or just want a friend.

The **Science Experience** was held in Melbourne in October. Our candidate from **Marsden High School** experienced all things science and had a wonderful weekend doing so.

In December, President Garry Maloney represented our club at the **North Ryde Public School Assembly**. Garry presented the **Citizenship award to a Year 6 student** at their final assembly for the year.

In January, **RYLA** was held at the **Knox Grammar School**, Wahroonga. Our Club sponsored one participant, **Erika Otero**. Our RYLArian came away with so much confidence and was so enthusiastic for everything that she had learnt over the week with RYLA.

We also welcomed our **new Rotary Youth Exchange student** from **Japan** in January. **Mei Yamamoto** arrived in Australia, a very quiet young lady whose confidence is growing in leaps and bounds as she progresses through her stay with us this year. We are sharing responsibility for Mei with the Rotary Club of Ryde, and this is proving to be most beneficial.

In February, some of our members attended a wonderful dinner to welcome back the exchange students who had travelled overseas, it's called rebounds dinner, and it was held at the Muirfield Golf Club at North Rocks.

Summer RYPEN was held in over a weekend in February at the Narrabeen Sports and Fitness Centre. We sponsored two participants this year, Kayla Mason and Brieanna Buckland. They spoke very highly of their experience for the weekend in learning leadership and personal growth skills, that will take them through their schooling years and into the future.

Peter and Bernie Mason attended Marsden High School assembly to hear the summer RYPEN students speak to years 10, 11 and 12 students, about their experiences at RYPEN. They were both very excited and have gone on to become leaders in their fields of interest in their school.

Our Club held a **trivia night** on Saturday 22 February to raise funds for all our youth projects throughout the year. We held this at a new venue this year and it was a very good night.

District Conference, 2025 was held at Penrith from 21-22 March. A wonderful initiative by our District Governor, Niranjan Deodhar was to introduce students to Rotary through the **Pitch for Purpose**. Marsden High School entered 6 teams, four of whom went through to the finals and two of whom received first and second places. The teams were remarkable in their initiatives and putting forward their projects. Primary school teams throughout the district also presented. The teams were to present projects that they thought were important to the environment and their community. All in all, it was a highly commendable event.



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In April President Garry Maloney organised the **Youth Club Assembly breakfast**. The young people we have sponsored in the **District 9685 leadership courses** throughout the year each gave a presentation. We heard from Mei, about her journey as a **Rotary Youth Exchange student**. Then the students who took part in the summer (2025) and winter (2024) RYPEN program spoke about their experiences. The students who participated in the Pitch for Purpose competition at District Conference also presented. The final speaker was this year's recipient of the club's **Dunmore Lang College scholarship**, **Alexandra Fothergill** who is studying a double degree in arts and law at **Macquarie University**. **Dunmore Lang College** Principal Alasdair Murrie-West spoke about the importance of the scholarship that we provide.

Our RYLArian, Erika Otero, spoke highly of her experience at Knox Grammar School, and how she will carry the leadership skills she gained throughout her career and life.

We have 2 candidates from Marsden High School, Evelyn Lee and Ruvisha Vithanage, for the Winter RYPEN which will be held in Katoomba from the 13-15 June.

We are in the process of helping reignite the **Rotaract Club of Macquarie University**. This is in the planning stages, and when they have 30 members, 80% of whom must be enrolled at the University, can then move forward to charter. Our thanks to District Rotaract Chair, Krissie Webb, for leading his venture.

Bernie Mason and Mandy Van Joint Youth Service Directors 2024-25





Pitch for Purpose Innovation Challenge - Rotary District 9685



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Vocational Service - Peter Mason

Another successful **DIGIT Week** excursion was held this year.

Four students from **Forbes** (Isabel, Lindsay, Josiah and Dylan), two students from **Inverell** (Alex and Beauen), and two students from **Ashford** (Stewart and Flynn) were greeted and escorted to their host families on Sunday evening.

Monday was a casual start at 9:00am for driving to visit **Cochlear** at Macquarie then a back-room tour of **North Ryde RSL Club** with lunch. A drive then to Homebush to see the **Rural Fire Service (RFS) Headquarters Operation centre**. The students were intrigued as they could associate with the RFS and their local area, as some parents are RFS members. Then a short drive to the **SAN Hospital** at Wahroonga to visit their robotics surgery. Our dinner hosts that night were the Rotary Club of Epping, at their club. They provided a lovely spread of quiche with salads and then finished off with ice-creams.

Tuesday was an early start at 8:15am. This was a public transport day starting with a very squeezy journey on the Metro train from Macquarie University to Central Station and a walk to the **University of Technology**, Sydney to visit their **library** and **robotics laboratory**. Lunch was then shared with the many university students in the campus food hall. Back to the train station for a short ride to North Sydney to visit **CISCO** in the early afternoon. The students were involved in a quiz about **CISCO** from which they won prizes (happy students). Following this was another train trip back over the **Harbour Bridge** to Wynyard and onto **IBM**. They provided our dinner of pizzas as well (happy students again). We followed this up with a walk around **Circular Quay, Customs House** and the **Opera House**. Ice creams were purchased on our walk back to Wynyard Station for our journey home.

Wednesday was an earlier start at 8:00am, to again have a Metro train journey to Central station and a light rail journey to **Pyrmont to a Google site** visit. We then had a journey of discovery from Pyrmont to Darling Harbour and King Street Wharf, followed by a **ferry ride** via **Balmain** and **Luna Park** to Circular Quay and then onto **Pancakes at the Rocks** for lunch. After lunch, another train journey to North Sydney to visit **Microsoft**. At 4:30pm, another Metro journey that delivered us back to Macquarie Centre ready for adventures at Strike Bowl. Games of laser tag and bowling with dinner consumed between bowling ball tossing. The tired students were returned to their host families.

Thursday was another casual start at around 9:00am. A **tour of the Macquarie University campus** to start the day with an explanation of the university life from a current university student, Chelsea. Chelsea was very informative with many questions being asked. Lunch was at Macquarie Centre before a short drive to **Oracle** for a fun afternoon, that was had by all. We then returned to **Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Ryde Centre** at Marsfield.

Ron and Tina from the **RDA showed the students the horses** as they were being put to bed for the night. Then it was time for preparing their presentations. After a lovely dinner of chicken and a variety of salads followed by cheesecake, pavlova and apple crumble dessert, the students gave their presentations.

These students asked many varied and relevant questions of how things worked at the different site visits. They also asked the presenters how they managed a start their **IT** careers and what they themselves should do to achieve this.

I am amazed at how much information and detail these young people absorbed over the week. Their presentations were detailed and very informative.

Eight very tired students were delivered back to Strathfield and Hornsby stations for their 6 and 10 hour, respective homeward bound journeys.

I send a big thank you to everyone involved from both **Rotary Clubs of North Ryde and Epping**, for hosting, transporting the students, plus Monday and Thursday night dinners. Thanks also to Mandy, Brian and Garry for helping to keep track of the 8 students during their excursions. A big thanks also goes to **David Martin** for his many hours of emails, phone calls and spreadsheets to make this another, enjoyable and successful DIGIT adventure.

Peter Mason Vocational Director 2024-25













International Service - Bob Selinger OAM & Brian Bailey

The Club continued with its support for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) This year we donated \$5000 as part of our annual giving.

We have always had a strong interest in helping countries, including our own, that have been engulfed in natural disasters or wars. This year we will have donated \$2000 for two ShelterBoxes.

The ShelterBox is sent to areas where homes have been destroyed, by natural disaster or war and contains a tent for up to 10 people, all the equipment a family would need to cook and purify water, and books and pencils etc for children.

Each year, our Club also supports Rotary's End Polio Campaign through an annual donation to the Rotary Foundation. This year we have contributed \$2260 to the Foundation through the Centurion program.

Bob Selinger OAM & Brian Bailey International Service Director







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Club Administration & Service - Peter Mason & Rob Wilkinson

Our meeting format over the past 12 months involved Club meetings and Board meetings conducted over Zoom plus Club Assembly breakfasts at Dunmore Lang College, which can also be attended via Zoom. Meetings are held each Friday morning from 7.30-8.30a.m.

We have held several social gatherings throughout the year. The first being the **Annual Celebration dinner** on Friday 28 June 2024 at the North Ryde RSL Club. Other social events included breakfast and **brunch gatherings** at Ben Mica Cafe, Cafe Sabu and Sotto on Ryde Café and Dinner at Nobel Terrace Chinese Restaurant. We have attended other local Rotary Club's fundraising events during the year and attended some joint meetings with Epping and Ryde clubs.

Bunnings BBQs are still a good fundraising day for our club and others like Riding for the Disabled Ryde Centre at Marsfield during the horses' birthday in August 2024 and **Lei Day** in April 2025 to raise funds for **ROMAC**.

In September 2024 we assisted with the local community event, held at **Cox's Road Mall**, where we were the barbeque masters being ably assisted by **John Chappell** and his **St. John's Anglican Church** members.

In December 2024, we celebrated **Rotary Carols on the Common**, with our neighbouring **Rotary Club of Macquarie Park**. A most enjoyable evening was greatly appreciated by the community. Prior to the Carols our **Club's Christmas party** was hosted by Bernie and Peter Mason in their home.

Our traditional **breakfast at Cafe Sabu** was held in January to kick off the new year. In February, our Club held a fun filled **trivia night**. This was at the **Holy Spirit North Ryde Parish Hal**. It was well attended by family, friends of the club, members from our club and other nearby Rotary Clubs. The **Trivia Night** raised funds to support our **Youth Programs**.

In March 2025, some of our members attended the **Rotary District 9685 Conference** at the Pullman Hotel, at Penrith Panthers Leagues Club.

In April 2025, we held our eFun Run raising funds for Youth Mental Health.

In May 2025, we held our **DIGIT week**. Our club along with the **Rotary Club of Epping** hosted 8 students from **Forbes**, **Inverell** and **Ashford**. We visited companies and organisations that create and utilise IT in their daily business. We finished the week's experience with dinner at the **Riding for the Disabled (RDA Ryde Centre)** at Marsfield.

We have had some wonderful and engaging **guest speakers** over the past 12 months. A big thank-you to Rob Wilkinson for his work in arranging these speakers.

* August 2024

Karina Stone - Rotary Scholarship recipient.

* September 2024

Jack Mahanna and Esha Oberoi - AFEA Care Services. Cate Sinclair. The Northern Centre.

* October 2024

Marie Copp - Escabags. Janelle Craig - Respectful Relationships.

* November 2024

Charles Fellner - Scam Awareness.

* February 2025

Fay Kitto, Rotary Club of Carlingford - Sustainable Cambodia.

* March 2025

Liz McDougall - RYPEN in Fiji.

* April 2025

RYLA, RYPEN and Dunmore Lang College Scholarship recipient presentation. Bob Selinger OAM. Club Member.

* May 2025

District Governor Niranjan Deodhar - Global Grants.

We continued to thank our guest speakers by providing them with a **Gro-Tree**. The Gro-Tree project has been a project of our club since 2021. We are partnered with **Landcare Australia**, currently planting at Lithgow. We present a Gro Tree to each of our guest speakers, sponsors and supporters. Each recipient gets a numbered certificate. Thank you to Bob Selinger OAM for bringing this initiative to our club.

Peter Mason and Rob Wilkinson Joint Club Administration and Service Directors 2024-25



Treasurer - Binoe Verghese

Our accounts will be finalised after 30th June. Preliminary results are shown below.

Fund Raising

Throughout the year, the Club persisted in organising fundraising endeavours, taking advantage of the increasing number of permitted physical events.

Most of our charitable net income was generated from:

BBQs	\$15,241
North Ryde eFun Run for Youth Mental Health	\$11,468
Share of "Rotary Carols on the Common" event.	\$10,530
Trivia Night	\$6,358
Sale of Christmas Puddings (in collaboration with five other Clubs):	\$1,784
Miscellaneous events	\$5,958
Total	\$51,339

Donations & Projects

The Club allocated funds for various programs and services to benefit the local community and support charitable initiatives.

Rotary Programs (Australian Rotary Health, Rotary Foundation, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC), Rotary Australia World Community Service, Shelter Box).	\$17,260
RAWCS Project – (1. To provide education scholarships for adult DV victim survivors in Rotary district 9685; 2. Solar Portable Irrigation Pumps Bank for Farmer in India; 3. Converting rural schools into Happy Schools with gender segregated toilets in India	\$5 <mark>,</mark> 000
Youth Programs (Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Programs (RYLA & RYPEN))	\$5,214
Sponsorship and donations to Local Education Institutions (6 Local Primary schools & Ryde Secondary College, Dunmore Lang College Scholarships and sponsorship of buddy benches to encourage social inclusion, empathy, and kindness)	\$8,469
Community Donations (Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Centre, North Ryde Community Aid, New Horizons, Riding for Disabled Association, St Michael Mission, St John's Anglican Church and The Smith Family, 1st East Ryde Scouts, CCA NSW, St Johns Ambulance, NSW-RFS-Warringa, SES-Ryde)	19,287
Other Club Projects	\$2,735
Aboriginal Partnership programs (Donations to cultural awareness day in schools and donations of books to schools where majority of students are of Aboriginal descent)	\$2,436
Sustainability related projects	\$500
Community Awards	\$200
Total	\$61,101

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank all members for their timely payment of dues and active participation in fundraising activities. We also appreciate the support and generosity of our donors and the local community, without whom our charitable endeavours would not have been possible.

Conclusion

The Rotary Club of North Ryde's financial health remains stable thanks to our members' and supporters' collective efforts and contributions. We will continue prioritising transparency and prudent financial management to further our mission of serving the community.

Binoe Verghese Treasurer 2024-25



It's important to know what keeps the wheel turning.



Fun Time during 2024-2025





