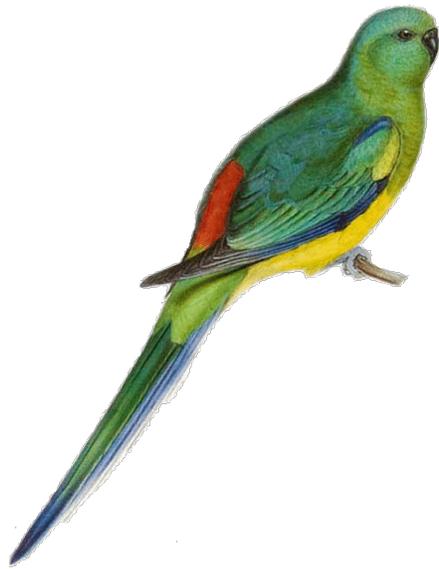


# Rotary Club of North Ryde Inc

## 2018 Annual Report



Red rumped parrot

## **The President's Year in Review – Victoria Crawford and Brian Powell**

The Rotary Club of North Ryde has had another successful Rotary year. Once again members, friends and families have worked hard to deliver our projects. Sharing the President's role has proved to be a good way to lead the Club giving us both the time we needed during the year. The club board has worked hard to deliver on our vision and our plans and have provided wonderful personal support over the last 12 months. Again, our small club has worked well within the North Ryde community building on our substantial community links. But for both of us it is the wonderful friendship and fellowship we have with members that make this a warm and welcoming club.

We started the year with 22 members and welcomed Nadia Al Adawy as a member. She and her husband Asim Khawaja (also a member) welcomed a new baby boy into the world. Spitting image of his brother and father! We also have several people who join with us at social events but also work with us on specific projects. James and Jen Nowiczewski, parents of our exchange student who is in Finland, have been a great help on barbecues, the Christmas Carols and our IT program. Greg Jarret helped with the Carols. We must also thank those outside the club who hosted our exchange student Steve and Sue Burnet and Kylie and David Williams. And of course Terrie and Mark McConnell from our club.

Very sadly Robert Chesney, a member for 30 years and then an Honorary member for the last five years passed away during the year. He was a Past President of the club and held many other positions over the years. After he retired from Rotary he continued to work with us on barbecues, the Christmas Carols, the IT program and the North Ryde Community Aid Christmas lunch. He last worked with us just before Christmas with this year's NRCA lunch and our Christmas barbecue at Cox's Rd. He was a willing worker, gentle, kind, empathetic and had a great sense of humour. Our thoughts have been with his family and close friends as they cope with his loss.

It is wonderful to see how several of our members and past members have managed illnesses or loss this year. Some have had a tough year but come through with grace and good humour.

With the basic Rotary idea of serving others and making the world a better place it would be good to see a greater participation of young people in our club. We have had several new members over the last few years who have been in their 20's, 30's and 40's and want to continue that trend. Part of this is working with Rotaract. The Rotaract Club of Macquarie University sponsored by this Club about 10 years ago has changed its structure and is now the Rotaract Club of Ryde Macquarie. This has given them a growth in membership and we look forward to continuing to work with them. Rotaract provides a starting point in Rotary for 18 to 30 year olds. We usually support one of their members to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) camp and each year they enjoy it so much they take on roles to organize the next year's camp. We have found them all to be amazing young people with a great capacity for working towards making positive change in the world.

For 18 years we have been responsible for the Carols on the Common (for the last eight or so in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park). This has been a major fund raiser particularly for ROMAC (Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children) but we have diversified recently. This year will be our fifth FUN RUN for Youth Mental Health at Macquarie University Sports Grounds. Both projects generally involve all club members in some form or another, whether it be in the lead up work or actively helping on the day.

This year the fun run will be held on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. We are still actively looking for sponsors and participants. Our aim is to build up the number of participants. We are still looking at including the main university grounds as part of the fun run. There is a corporate event prize again this year for those organisations with a competitive streak.

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, Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University Village, Robert Menzies College, North Ryde Golf Club, North Ryde RSL, The Ranch Hotel, New Horizons, North Ryde Community Aid, and Johnson and Johnson.

Thank you to all members and those who work with us.

## **Community Service – Pat Perrin**

In August 2017 we were visited by most of the Principals from Ryde Secondary College and the 5 primary schools in our area that we support with annual donations: Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Kent Road Public School, North Ryde Public School, Ryde East Public School, and Truscott Street Public School. Each Principal gave a short talk about their school programmes and how the donation would be used.

At the end of August we held our fourth Fun Run . Again, it was a great success and Pam Wood is leading the team for this year. The main beneficiaries of the Fun Run were Australian Rotary Health for research into youth mental health and the Macquarie University Centre for Emotional Health.

Mid November saw the erection of our Tree of Joy at Cox's Road Mall. Thanks go to Seb and Annette for providing essential storage space for all the gifts, which removes double handling and makes the job a lot easier. This year we received over 8,500 gifts. Bendigo Bank donated \$1,000 towards the purchase of gifts, which were donated to New Horizons Nursing Home, Macquarie Hospital, and the Smith Family. Many thanks must also go to Lindsays' Meats, Cox's Road Fruit Market, Ritchies IGA Supa Market, Caffè Incontro, Cox's Road Hardware, North Ryde Pharmacy, and Nought to Five Early Childhood Centre for all of their terrific generosity. A sausage sizzle on the day we distributed the gifts completed the Tree of Joy programme.

In mid December we sponsored the annual Christmas Party for the clients of North Ryde Community Aid. All hands were on deck to serve a scrumptious lunch cooked by North Ryde RSL Club. Lunch was followed by a few glasses of champagne. All in all a most enjoyable time was had by all. This was partly funded by a grant from Ryde Council. We have been successful again in obtaining a grant for this year's function which will cover the entire cost of the food.

The Christmas Carols on the Common were as usual a combined effort with Macquarie Park Rotary Club. It was once again a very successful event with a tremendous crowd, and with everyone being in great Christmas spirit.

Our fund-raising efforts continue tonight with our fantastic giant raffle. Please be generous and support a worthy cause.

## **Vocational Service – David Martin and Pam Wood**

Our main vocational activity is our IT Week in May. It ran from Sunday, 20 May to Friday, 25 May. In cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of Inverell, Forbes and Temora, we brought students to Sydney from four different rural schools (Ashford Central, West Wyalong, Temora and Forbes High Schools) and provided them with a concentrated program of learning about IT training and careers at twelve different locations.

The technology based companies that the students are taken to range from the true IT company like Microsoft, Oracle, Google, IBM and Cisco to companies like Optus, Cochlear, Konica Minolta, Sydney Observatory and Coles that are extensive users of technology, and to learning institutions like Macquarie University and UTS which get the students involved in designing, making and programming robots.

The students are hosted by Rotarian members of the club, who also take them out on a social excursion one evening during the week. On the last night they are with us we have a dinner at North Ryde Community Aid and the students present their summaries of the visits. Once again these were great presentations. The students were a talented group who made some solid friendships during the week and sang to us on the night.

## **Youth – Pam Bennett**

The Youth Exchange Program is a program to promote peace and understanding throughout the world and Rotary exchanges approx 8000 students to 82 countries around the world. We currently have Josh Nowiczewski, from Hunters Hill High School, who sends us wonderful accounts of his experiences. He, as with most of our students, is making the most of his opportunities.

In January 2017 we welcomed Ana Alves from Brazil as our Youth Exchange Student. Ana attended Ryde Secondary College and presented twice at the Club meetings as well as the school. In January 2018 we sadly said goodbye to her after having met her parents who had a short visit to see Australia just before Ana's exchange finished.

In January we also sent a student to the RYLA program (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program). This is a training program for students who show qualities of leadership in the community. The student this year was Ricky Yong Chin Yuan from Macquarie University. Since attending RYLA Ricky has joined the Philanthropy Club at the university and is working with us on the Fun Run. Ricky told us he gained a lot from this week and came back to give us a very enthusiastic presentation.

Each year we also provide a scholarship for a student at Dunmore Lang College where we have our meetings. This year the student was Dinithi Katupitiya. While she has not been able to speak at the club, Victoria Crawford met her and reports that she is a very accomplished student studying international affairs.

## **International - Liane Corbett**

The club continued with our strong support for ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) through a significant donation from funds raised at the Christmas Carols on The Common and through additional donations from our club at our end of year disbursements. We also contributed \$15 to ROMAC, on behalf of each guest speaker we had during the year.

Our club has always been a strong supporter of ROMAC through our club members being involved in management and support roles within ROMAC. These roles have included past members Steve Perrin and Phill Isaacs as Eastern Region and District Chairs respectively and current member Rob Wilkinson as Deputy Chairman for 2 years and now Board Chairman. My role for a number of years has been to facilitate and support the patients and their families when they come to Sydney. It has been a very rewarding task.

We have, as a club, always had a strong interest in helping countries that have been engulfed in natural disasters as and when they arise. This year we have been able to donate sufficient funds for two Shelter Boxes.

The shelter box is sent to areas where homes have been destroyed 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.

## **Club Service – David Martin**

The club continued to enjoy the breakfast meeting venue at Dunmore Lang College and the hospitality provided by them. The venue is convenient for members, has good parking and the friendly assistance provided by Dunmore Lang personnel is greatly appreciated.

Regular breakfast meetings are held on the first, second and third Friday morning of each month and social events are usually held in the evenings, on the fourth Friday. Our meetings bring the Club together to discuss and learn about important topics, through guest speakers, as well as to have a bit of fun and get to know each other. Guest speaker topics are very varied and range from awareness about medical conditions such as melanoma and strokes, to the role of the Salvation Army in our local area, volunteering as a midwife in Tanzania, working in Bletchley during the war and the problems in Israel and Palestine. We also have our own members talking about their varied and very interesting journeys through life and work.

For several years now we have attended the Opera in the Arboretum at Pearl Beach organised by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy. This year was no exception and we were treated to a fabulous afternoon of top class operatic entertainment. The cast included Don Bradman's granddaughter!

Our social events often include dinner in a local restaurant or in a member's home. We try to frequent local businesses and have been to Basils Seafood Restaurant, Grill'd Healthy Hamburgers, Fournò Restaurant and Noble Terrace Chinese Restaurant amongst others.

We had a most enjoyable farewell breakfast for our exchange student Anna from Brazil, along with her parents, who were visiting for a short while, at Eden Gardens Restaurant. It was a very hot morning in early January, but a good time was had by all. We have since had another social breakfast at Eden Gardens on a weekend so that members with young families could attend.

## **Treasurer – Sandeep Rathi**

### **Fund Raising**

Our accounts are not finalised but here is a preliminary result.

With a huge thank you to the generosity of local families and businesses, the majority of our net charitable income was derived from:

Proceeds from the North Ryde Fun Run for Youth Mental Health	\$8,900
Proceeds from Christmas Carols on the Common	\$ 9,820
Sundry Donations and miscellaneous activities	\$ 8,420
Grants	\$ 2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,140</b>

### **Donations**

Rotary Programmes (Australian Rotary Health, Shelter Box, Rotary Foundation Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children)	\$13,000
Youth Programmes (Rotary Exchange students, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness and NRRC Country NSW IT student tour)	\$ 2,520
Local Education Institutions (5 Local Primary schools, Local Secondary School, Dunmore Lang College Scholarship)	\$ 4,750
Community Donations (Centre for Emotional Health, North Ryde Community Aid, New Horizons Aged Care, Polio Australia, St Michael Mission and The Smith Family)	\$ 8,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,140</b>

**NB** In addition to these amounts, a further \$2,100 was donated to ROMAC jointly by our club and the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park from the Christmas Carols proceeds. A further \$10,000 was donated to ROMAC by Johnson & Johnson as part of their support via Carols.