



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Rotary 
Club of Woy Woy



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The Rotary Club of Woy Woy Inc Annual Report 2019-20 records the activities of the Club during the Rotary year, July 2019 to June 2020.

Our club is actively involved in projects large and small which focus on improving the wellbeing of local and international communities.

Rotary Club of Woy Woy Inc
Rotary District 9685
Chartered on 7 June 1950
ABN 81 610 993 599

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Woy Woy NSW 2256

ROTARY CLUB OF WOY WOY BOARD 2019-20

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Don Tee
IMM PAST PRESIDENT	Russell Grove
VICE PRESIDENT	Charles Brock
SECRETARY	Annette Karton
TREASURER	Wayne Jennings

DIRECTORS

ADMIN/CLUB SERVICE	Jan Steele
MEMBERSHIP	Russell Grove
PUBLIC IMAGE	Vic Deeble
ROTARY FOUNDATION	Marie Armstrong

SERVICE CHAIRS

COMMUNITY SERVICE	Jo Weston - resigned Dec 2019
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	Joan Redmond / Di Schwarzl
VOCATIONAL SERVICE	Barry Freeman
YOUTH SERVICE	Steve Weston - resigned Dec 2019



“Rotary allows us to connect with one another, in deep and meaningful ways, across our differences. It connects us with people we would never otherwise have met, who are more like us than we ever could have known. It connects us with our communities, to professional opportunities, and to the people who need our help.

Connection is what makes the experience of Rotary so very different from walking along that concourse at JFK Airport. In Rotary, none of us is an island. All of us are in Rotary together, whoever we are, wherever we are from, whatever language we speak or traditions we follow. We are all connected to one another — part of our communities and members not only of our clubs, but also of the global community to which we all belong.

This connection is what lies at the heart of the Rotary experience. It is what brings us to Rotary. It is why we stay.”

RI President Mark Maloney, 2019-20

Front cover

Top: A drought stricken paddock in Canowindra

Bottom: President Don marks the Club's 70th birthday, COVID-style



A message from the PRESIDENT

Service Above Self immediately comes to mind as I write this report as President of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy for 2019-2020.

Service Above Self is why we are Rotarians. It's an interesting motto isn't it? Just three words. Gets you thinking doesn't it?

2018-19 was to be the last year I was going to serve on the Board as I thought I had been there long enough and done enough. Suddenly it all changed in November 2018 when we found ourselves without a President, and PP Russell stepped in to finish the year without a President elect and incoming Board. "Not me," I said, "I've done it 2 and 1/2 times already."

Over morning tea on a Saturday Jan Steele – who often comes for morning tea on a Saturday, nothing unusual about that – but this particular Saturday she was on a mission. By the time she left I said I would give it some thought to stand again (may as well have said yes then). The following weeks as rumour got around the support from the members offering to join me on the Board was just amazing. "I'm in" was the general assurance given to me.

So on election night before leaving home for the meeting Susie said: "You know you don't have to do this." "Yes, I think I do," was my reply. With the election over, the Club had a full Board, except for President elect for the following year.

After all, it is *Service Above Self*.

We started the year with a new position in Rotary Woy Woy. Executive Assistance to the President 2019-2020. There is no doubt I would not have been able to carry out the job without Susie filling that role. You all know my prowess with computers and emails.

After changeover, attended by many friends and guests, DG Kalma and some PDGs we got into the year ahead. We had many and varied projects planned by the directors in various avenues. Russell took on the role of Convenor of the Opera 2020 and so we were well into having a great year ahead.

We were also able to continue our fellowship weekend away. This we held to donate for Drought Relief. We headed to my home town of Canowindra in Central West NSW with 27 Rotarians and friends attending the weekend. Thanks to the generosity of the Ettalong Vietnam Veterans who had kindly donated \$2000 to the cause we were able to distribute \$3000 worth of IGA vouchers to the farmers in and around Canowindra.

Thanks to IGA - John Lawrence in Canowindra and Geoff Bottom in Blayney; Ray and Ro Nash, Bruce and Zoane Loomes and the CWA ladies. A great weekend was had by all. There is a special report elsewhere in the annual report covering the weekend.

SUPPORTING CANOWINDRA



ANZAC DAWN SERVICE





l/r: President Don and Sue Tee at the Rotary welcome dinner for RI President Mark Maloney and his wife, Gay



*District Governor's official visit in October
l/r: Bob Kaye-Smith, AG Christine Owen, DG 9685 Kalma McLellan and President Don*

Interact has been working well at BWSC Umina Campus thanks to Steve, Annette and Di for helping with their breakfasts.

We had a bus trip to Sydney for a dinner with RI President Mark Daniel Maloney. Our club was well represented and we hopped on the bus with other central coast clubs, organised by our AG Christine Owen.

The Melbourne Cup Trifecta was once again organised by Charles with tickets sold by members. This year not all prizes were claimed, resulting in some extra profit for our fundraising. VP Charles was in charge as I was on holiday in NZ.

The selling of Christmas trees was again a great success, both for fundraising and for the fellowship had under the big tree in the car park at Woy Woy.

Our Christmas party was held at the Ela Mesa Restaurant in Woy Woy and organised by Steve and Jan. This was a huge success. One of the highlights was to present Mary Ford with her honorary membership. We were also joined by our past exchange students Sara and Alicia, and other honorary members. Sadly with baby arriving soon and work commitments, Jo and Steve left our club on this evening and we wished them all the best. Baby Jackson arrived in March and all are doing well.

After a very successful first six months and having an excellent array of speakers at our meetings, arranged by Vic Deeble, we headed to the Christmas break.

We resumed in the New Year with lots of good plans in order. Barry had the Pride of Workmanship Award Night well underway and had selected recipients. The Opera was on its way and the Anzac Day Dawn Service candles had arrived.

Enter COVID-19.

With a phone call from VP Charles whilst we were on holidays proposing to call a Board meeting seeking to close our Rotary meetings for a month.

Well the world and Rotary changed and everything was now cancelled or postponed as the country was shut down.

We asked our Opera patrons and sponsors if they would like to donate their cost to Rotary so we could continue our good work. Most were agreeable and we were able to show a profit for the Opera 2020. After propping up the Opera income with funds raised in the Service account the Club was able to honour its commitments although some at a reduced amount. Thanks to Russell, Joan, Vic, Adrian and Wayne for the work involved in this process, organising payments and refunds.

Our Vocational and Community Service night has been postponed to later in the year and our Paul Harris Fellowship night is on hold also.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service was cancelled although many members took candles and they were seen at the Driveway Dawn Service with Rotary candles in use at St Huberts Island, Kincumber, Pearl Beach, Bensville, Woy Woy and Empire Bay.

Enter the world of electronic meetings on Zoom. Thanks to Annette and Vic Deeble we were soon meeting on Zoom from the comfort of home. This has been very successful and we have still has some guest speakers. Vic has also done a great job keeping us in touch via The Pinion each week with Joan keeping Facebook and the website up to date.



Although these meetings have been keeping us in touch, some members are still missing and I look forward to the fellowship of members when we return to normal meetings at Everglades as I believe there is no substitute for personal fellowship and a night out with friends once a week.

This year had been a very successful year in spite of us being isolated from each other and I give thanks to all the Board members and club members for their support. Sadly we have lost Adrian due to family commitments, Russell transferred to Gosford City, and Ted has moved to South West Rocks, though will stay with us until he finds a new club. We wish them well.

In June, ten of us attended the funeral service for Neville Pickering PHF who had struggled with his health for a long time. Past member Father Michael conducted the service.

I am sure Joan will enjoy her time as President of the Club with the full support of all the members as so many of us Past Presidents have. Joan will no doubt bring some fresh new ideas to us with her Board and keep some of the traditional events. I wish her every success for the year ahead.

Although we will have a Zoom changeover, we can still dress up and enjoy the experience.



President Don and Sue Tee - Changeover 2020

To say this year has been unusual and interesting would be an understatement. I would like to thank the Board of 2019-20 for their support and work with projects, although unfortunately many of these were cancelled or postponed.

Thank you to Charles, Wayne, Annette, Russell, Joan, Marie, Barry, Jan, Di, Vic D, Susie, Steve and Jo.

A quote from Freddy Mercury: "We are the champions my friends."

Don Tee
PRESIDENT 2019-2020

SUPPORTING CANOWINDRA



DONATIONS 2019-2020 - \$62,437.11

Our Club has had a somewhat strange year, with a third of it being affected by COVID-19 and our inability to have meetings or have fundraising events. However, we still managed to distribute \$62,437.11.

The main sources of fundraising were the Melbourne Cup Trifecta, Christmas Tree Sales, and Opera in the Arboretum, which, although not held due to the pandemic, produced a nett profit of \$16,416 due primarily to the effort of Joan Redmond in obtaining donations from patrons, and the donations made by our sponsors, particularly Central Coast Volkswagen.

Due to the effort of Marie Armstrong and Trevor Walker, we obtained grants which assisted in the purchase of medical equipment for Blue Wave Living.

Giving consideration to the disruptions, we have had a favourable year and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members for their efforts in fundraising.

Wayne Jennings

TRESURER

Dementia Scholarship Project



In July, we welcomed PhD student Zhenyu Zhang who gave an update on the research she is undertaking at the University of Wollongong into Dementia. Zhenyu's research aims to develop and validate an ontology to represent non-pharmacological treatment knowledge in Dementia care. This project was the result of a decision to invest a bequest of \$10,000, by the late Eric Abrahams, into a research project with Australian Rotary Health. Our club provided \$11,000 pa for 3 years. ARH and the UoW matched the grant resulting in \$100,000 being available to support this scholarship project.

Above U/r: Marie Armstrong, Zhenyu Zhang, President Don and Sue Tee

RECIPIENTS 2019-20

DISTRIBUTED BY 21 JUNE 2020

\$

Australian Rotary Health	11,000.00
Scholarship Central Coast Conservatorium	8,000.00
Blue Wave Living	7,787.00
(Woy Woy Community Aged Care)	
Drought Relief Distributions	7,093.34
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	5,371.58
(Central Coast Family Support Service)	
Donations to Artists	4,000.00
Pure Joy Women Empowerment Uganda	3,822.00
Australian Rotary Foundation Trust	2,802.00
Umina Beach Men's Shed	2,186.00
ANZAC Day Service	1,900.00
Purple House	1,500.00
Cerebral Palsy Alliance	1,500.00
Project Red Socks	1,245.00
Donations to Musicians	1,000.00
Australian Rotary Foundation - Polio Plus	600.00
Australian Rotary Bush Fire Relief Fund	500.00
Blackwall Girl Guides	500.00
Community Service Awards	489.50
Sindhuli Primary School - Nepal	375.00
(Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga)	
End Trachoma by 2020	374.80
South African Covid-19 Food Appeal	250.00
(Rotary Club of Terrigal project)	
Mary Macs - BBQ for Homeless	140.89



Above: Joe Weston and Ted Crawley volunteering at the Deepwater Plaza Mary Macs fundraiser



Membership



The Club has over the last few years had a gradual increase in membership reaching 49 at the conclusion of the 2018-19 Rotary year. At the end of this Rotary year we will have 29 members. That decrease of 24 members can be attributed to deaths (2), transfers to the newly formed Rotary Club of Brisbane Water (9), transfers to other Clubs (3), resignations due to work obligations (2), health reasons (1), non-participation (4), retirement (1) and other reasons (2). These figures are offset by new members (4).

All these reasons are common causes for the loss of members. Unfortunately this year has been a pandemic in regard to membership decline which is disappointing as we approach our 70th year of being chartered.

Does the question need to be asked should an assessment be made as to where the Club is placed and what the future holds? If members value their membership of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy surely it is worth encouraging others to join. Is it not the responsibility of all members to take action to ensure the continuing viability of the Club?

I wish the Club well for the future.

Russell Grove
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Above l/r: Gabby Greyem (centre), proprietor of Jasmine Greens Park Kiosk received a Paul Harris Fellow for her exceptional service to the community, the environment and local youth. Barry Freeman (right) received a quadruple sapphire pin to his Paul Harris Fellow for his donations to The Rotary Foundation

Foundation



The Foundation Year started well with the Club receiving a District 9685 grant of \$3,000 and another grant of \$3,000 from Everglades Country Club. This made a total of grants received by the Club of \$6,000.

The Club assisted Blue Wave Living with the purchase of a Bladder Scanner. The Scanner was put to good use by helping patients with dementia that can now have a bladder scan in their own room saving them the discomfort of having to be transported to Gosford Hospital. With the help of the grants, the RCWW only had to make a contribution of \$1,781.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, our other fundraising plans had to be put on hold until a future date.

Marie Armstrong
FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Above l/r: Vic Deeble (Public Image), Matt Downie, Marie Armstrong, Pres. Don Tee, Kathy Murphy (Care Mgr) and Rotarian Ross Pearce (Chairman Blue Wave Living)

Vale Neville Pickering PHF

Neville will be remembered by our club as the quiet achiever who, even in his nineties, sat at the door and recorded our attendance and put his accountancy experience to good use collecting our weekly monies as assistant treasurer.

Neville was always someone who could share a smile with people at the door and was a friend to all. We regret that Neville did not join our club earlier in his life and only spent the last eight years with us. He will be sorely missed.



COMMUNITY

Yes, it's been quite a year. We were stopped in our tracks by the COVID-19 pandemic in March and we did the best we could in the circumstances by having Zoom meeting so we could continue to chat to members and friends near and far.

Every year we lend a hand with the Red Shield Appeal, but that went online too, due to COVID. And, for the first time, Australia had a virtual Anzac Dawn Service. This is a time of great community spirit when we would normally be at the Woy Woy Memorial Park to hand out candles to light the dawn. Instead we stood in our driveways to remember the fallen and watched the live online Service from the Australian War Memorial on the ABC.

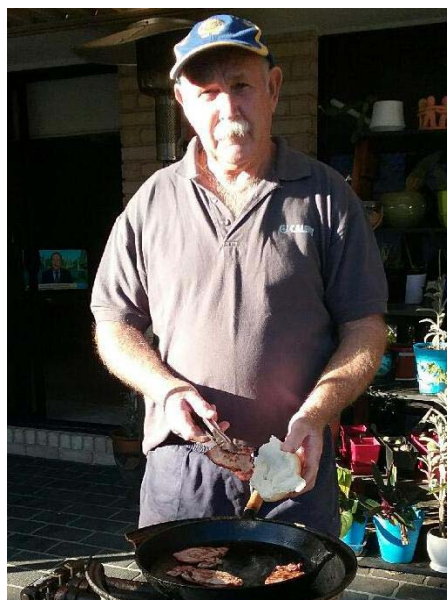
Before the pandemic came, we had lots of fun and fellowship while serving the community and promoting Rotary in our backyard and further afield. Some activities we did this year were:

- Assisting with the chair arrangements for the Vietnam Vets Long Tan Memorial Service
- A truly satisfying weekend trip to Canowindra to support the drought-stricken farming community
- Melbourne Cup Trifecta ticket sales
- Volunteering at the Deepwater Plaza fundraiser for Mary Macs
- Working Bee at Blackwall Girl Guides
- Club promotion stalls at the Coastal Twist Festival, Seniors Expo and at Umina Beach Markets
- Christmas trees sales to support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Hosting BBQs for Mary Macs and Outriggers

Our Community Chair, Jo Weston made a huge contribution during the first half of the year and she left us to have a baby. We were absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to see her at home on Zoom nursing her new bub, Jackson - such a precious moment.

Julie Allen will take on Community Service next year. She has lots of ideas for community engagement and I am sure she will be a great asset.

Joan Redmond
PRESIDENT ELECT





In the role of Admin/Club Service Director, I would like to thank Sue Tee for her mentoring and, although there are often difficulties chasing members for their rsvp and reminding them what is on and when, members have tended to be more diligent this year in informing of their intentions with regard to their attendance at meetings and the various events.

The procedure of ordering our meals from the Bistro has continued satisfactorily and we thank Everglades for looking after our needs.

We all had a great evening at our Christmas Party at Ela Mesa Greek Restaurant. Lots of good food, laughs and lively music had everyone dancing up a storm.

Vic Deeble excelled in the production of The Pinion once again and came up with a variety of interesting guest speakers including some of our own members who gave us an insight into their lives.

Our thanks also to Joan who has continued to maintain and update the Club Facebook page and Website.

I would like to thank all those people who assisted with my role when I was not able.

It hasn't been easy for President Don over the last few months coping with the pandemic and its challenges. Congratulations to him for his constant efforts to keep everyone involved as much as possible.

Thanks to Annette and all concerned in running the Zoom meetings (way out of my depth of expertise). Hopefully we will get back to a new normal moving forward.

I was happy to be to be a part of the Board even though my input was minimal over the last few months.

Looking forward to a happy and successful 2020-21.

Jan Steele

CLUB ADMINISTRATION





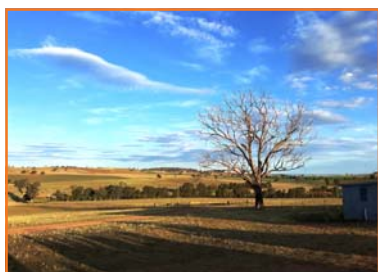
CLUB WEEKEND IN CANOWINDRA September 14-16 2019

With drought relief foremost on our minds we headed to my town of origin, Canowindra, with \$1000 to spend or donate, or so we thought. When the Vietnam Veterans of Ettalong heard about our trip, through Wayne Jennings' association with them, they donated another \$1000. Their members hearing about this then donated \$1000 from their own pockets. \$3000 – what a great start!

Setting out from Everglades car park at 8am with 27 Rotarians and friends, we headed for Canowindra. We travelled down the freeway to Berowra and across the ferry for morning tea at Richmond in the park opposite the air force base. After morning tea the next stop was Carcoar Dam just outside Blayney.

Contact had been made with Geoff Bottom from Blayney Rotary, manager of IGA Blayney. Geoff and his staff supplied us with some of the best wraps we had ever tasted. When Sue and I called in to pick up our lunches Geoff then supplied us, at no cost, a great selection of fruit and water for the travellers.

Lunch at Carcoar Dam showed us how bad the drought was with the boat ramp some 100m from the water. Boy some Rotarians are good on the tooth – the look on their faces as the chuck wagon rolled into the car park was amazing.



After lunch, as Willie sang – on the road again – we headed for Canowindra to stay at the Motel or the Old Vic Inn.

Dinner was at the local RSL Club. We had our own dining room, where we met some of our hosts for the weekend, Ray and Ro Nash & Bruce and Zoane Loomes.

Rising early the next morning the local ladies from the CWA had made us breakfast (it was a smorgasbord of delights) with long tables set for royalty, we were gobsmacked by their efforts. Bruce took us for a tour of the original fossil site on the road to Gooloogong. Bruce is a wealth of knowledge about the site and discovery of the fossils and the Canowindra Grossi.

We travelled to Eugowra for morning tea alongside the Lachlan River; there was actually some water in the river! Morning tea devoured we travelled the short distance to Escort Rock. This is where Ben Hall and the Gardner Gang lay in wait for the gold wagon travelling from Orange to Forbes. The wheel tracks are still visible in the rocks from the wagons. A most interesting site. An interesting story is that there is still one bag of gold missing... or is it ??? Some say the coach driver had it as part of a bribe. Hmmm, I wonder.

We headed to town for lunch and some "SHOPPING" and tours of the town. We met again at the fossil museum, where we were given a very informative tour with Bruce as our guide.





After the tour we visited a local farm “Wollombeen” owned by Ray and Ro Nash (it was my mum’s family home). We stopped for photos of the canola being grown – that yellow stuff in the paddock.

At the shearing shed Ray told us of the effect the drought was having on the farmers. Leaning on a couple of bales of hay Ray explained the cost of these. We inspected the shearing shed and machinery used in farming. Ray took us to a neighbour’s farm where David and his son showed us a crop of canola being grown.

On to the church hall for a bbq. We met several local people who had prepared a banquet for us. During the evening we made presentations to those who had assisted us for the weekend. With the Rotary banner and Vietnam Veterans Flag on display we donated almost \$500 to the local church with monies raised from dinner and a fine session. We announced that we would donate 30 IGA Gift vouchers to local farmers on behalf of Rotary Woy Woy and the Ettalong Beach branch of Vietnam Veterans, to be used at IGA Canowindra. Some locals asked why would a bunch of people from the city care about farmers in the central west. There were tears coming as Ray responded and expressed his thanks; “makes me proud to be an Australian.”

Morning had broken and it was off to the CWA hall for breakfast, expecting the same as yesterday. But no, the ladies had excelled again with a different menu. We presented a certificate of thanks and some cash to the ladies of the CWA to be used locally.

At the request of Coco Harvest chocolate shop where much money had changed hands the day before, we gathered for a photo opportunity for their Facebook page. They said we were their best group ever and donated some chocolates that we passed onto Ro Nash and Zoane Loomes with thanks.

Leaving Canowindra, we headed to the Breakout camp at Cowra and the Japanese Gardens for morning tea – yep there is a lot of eating on these trips. We then headed for home in all different directions.

A great weekend was had by all and our guests have asked if we can come again. Thanks go to Ray and Ro Nash, Bruce and Zoane Loomes, without these people the weekend would not have been possible. Also John Lawrence, IGA Canowindra, Geoff Bottom, IGA Blayney and to Ettalong Beach Vietnam Veterans.

Not only was it a drought relief weekend but also one of great fellowship. If you ever wonder if the farmers appreciated the gift vouchers, well we were humbled to receive dozens of thank you cards from those who received vouchers, so yes they sure did. More tears, this time from us.

Don and Sue Tee | EVENT ORGANISERS



Youth

During this Rotary Year our main Youth focus has been on Interact. Our Interact Club had a membership of around 25 during 2019 – Terms 3 and 4. The Interact Club held a Pizza Day to raise fund to support one of the Brisbane Water Secondary College Year 7 Project Based Learning projects, “Give Hope Help”. This project aims to provide three care packages to long term patients at Gosford Children’s Ward.

Interact also supported End Polio Now both financially and by holding a special interactive day to raise awareness and celebrate the progress so far. On Interact’s return in Feb/March 2020 there were 20-25 starters, some returning and some new Year 7 recruits.

In December a number of club members, in conjunction with Brisbane Water Secondary College Junior Campus, supported and mentored Year 9 students through sitting on Interview Panels at the Year 9 Mock Interviews.

Tamsin Caldwell, a past RYPEN student again helped out this year with our Christmas Tree sales. Over the Christmas period we also enjoyed a visit from Sara Ferndahl, our 2015-16 Youth Exchange Student from Sweden and her family. This made for a special Christmas for both Sara and our members. Tamsin, Sara and Alicia Karton, Past Exchange Student to France, all joined us at our Christmas Party at Ela Mesa.



Due to the current Pandemic a number of Youth Projects – MUNA, RYDA, RYPEN, the Science and Engineering Challenge, as well as Interact have had to be put on hold.

A big thank you to all our club members who have supported Youth by attending and helping at many events. Also a special thank you to Steve Weston for his leadership during 2019.

We wish Di Schwarzl and her team a very successful Youth Program during 2020-21.

Annette Karton 2020 / Steve Weston 2019
YOUTH SERVICE CHAIR

Above: Sara Ferndahl and Annette Karton

Vocation

Our single achievement for the year was a visit to the Umina Beach Men’s Shed and what an interesting night it was. We were shown the many aspects of the Men’s Shed and told about the community activity projects the teams undertake, at the same time as the importance of men’s socialising being a major benefit to members.

The night was topped off with a wonderful BBQ put on by a number of the members. A great night was had by all those who attended

We had set up a further two activities planned: a visit to the Preview Restaurant at Ourimbah TAFE for June this year, and a Pride of Workmanship/ Community Awards night that was prepared for March this year. Both of these activities were deferred until the new Rotary year due to the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barry Freeman
VOCATIONAL SERVICE CHAIR



Above: Vic Brown gives a talk at the Umina Beach Men’s Shed

UGANDA

Pure Joy Women Empowerment Uganda
RAWCS Project 91/2017-18

Pure Joy began the year with a good bank balance, 25 tailoring trainees and 5 women receiving small stipends. Funds raised by selling craft products, doing promotions, external donations and club funding were put towards the annual rent and utilities on co-joined units, operating costs for tailoring and to expand the project to establish a hairdressing salon. Operations changed too with the agreement that Pure Joy would no longer provide tailoring services for free so the project could meet its long-term goal of becoming sustainable.

In August, we had a great turnout for our movie night with 100 supporters raising \$1,540 towards the salon. Thanks to our raffle sponsors and to President Don, Sue, Ted, Maureen, Annette Ted and Marie for helping on the night, and Cafe DMR for selling ticket.

In October, Pure Joy craft was the drawcard at the combined Rotary stall at the inaugural Coastal Twist festival which attracted 6000 visitors; a happy vibe with lots of buyers.

Plans that began in July to promote Pure Joy, the Opera and our club at Umina Beach Markets came to fruition. We got permission to have a market stall over 4 months, Oct to Jan. Thanks to all the tall club members (you know who you are!) who helped with set up, pull down and manning the stall. The addition of Square tap and go payment proved essential to sales.

The end of October saw us in Kampala where we were joined by Susan (hairdressing) and Hellen (tailoring) to purchase fabric and hair products with \$1000 in-country funds, supplied by our club. Six tailoring trainees graduated – see the celebration video on Facebook – and we opened the Pure Joy Hairdressing Salon, on Thurs 7 Nov. The graduation dresses the ladies made were truly outstanding. We helped them to complete the folders for RYLA and make craft products and we distributed sanitary kits at the extremely poor Star Standard PS.

In March, due to the pandemic, operations were suspended and, as we write, funds are on their way to purchase safety and hygiene items required by their health authorities so they can reopen. Later in 2020, with funds from the Opera, the project will expand again to offer training and services in beauty.

Special thanks go to volunteer Project Mgrs Rotarians Grace and Collins Okello PHFs, Rotary Njeru, for managing the project's growth this year and for looking after the welfare of the women at this difficult time.



PHILIPPINES – NEPAL – SOUTH AFRICA

The Club also provided school fee funding for a disadvantaged student, through the Bagong Bario program in the Philippines, and supported aid projects run by other clubs: Sindhuli Primary School (Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga) and South African Covid-19 Food Appeal (Rotary Club of Terrigal).

Looking back on the year, it is satisfying to see the good we have been able to do, despite the pandemic, and to recall an unforgettable volunteering experience 12,000 miles from home.

Joan Redmond | Di Schwarzl
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CHAIRS

PUBLIC IMAGE

It may be obvious, but the success of our club is measured both by what we do and by what we are seen to have done. The role of the Public Image director is to promote our image with the public and to ensure that what we achieve as a club is communicated to them.

This year, we have used several approaches to achieve these objectives. We publicise our activities in the Peninsula News and online, using Facebook and our club website. We ensure that the Rotary Club of Woy Woy and the Rotary brand is kept in the public eye.

At public events members are encouraged to wear club uniforms to make it clear that our club is involved. This has been notably successful at events such as the sale of Trifecta tickets, for the Melbourne Cup, and the sale of Christmas trees at Woy Woy station carpark. We build public awareness at these events.

As most people will guess, this year has been somewhat of a challenge with the intervention into our activities by the coronavirus. We had put some considerable effort into publicity for the Opera in the Arboretum, with a campaign of newsletters starting some six months before the event supplemented by advertising in both the Peninsula News and the Coast News. Unfortunately, the event was not to be. However, the publicity has kept us in the public eye and hopefully kept our customer base engaged for a future Opera.

As a further support for the Public Image of the club, our programme of speakers was organised so that interesting speakers would address our meetings and thereby give rise to reports that could be of interest to the general public and would be picked up by the press. This enabled us to get free coverage on a very regular basis in the Peninsula News.

Several people contributed to the public image effort. I would especially thank Joan Redmond for taking on both the website maintenance, which required weekly updates, and a similar task looking after our Facebook page. I also thank Justin Archer and Vic Brown for their work with the newsletters, signs and brochures for the Opera. Finally, I thank all club members who contributed articles, or made presentations to the club, without which our publications would have lacked the personal touch of our own members.

I hand over to Sue Tee and am sure that you will give her your full support.

Vic Deeble

PUBLIC IMAGE DIRECTOR





OPERA IN THE ARBORETUM 2020

Opera in the Arboretum (15 Years) has become an integral part of the Club's activities and has been the main source of income to allow the Club to support deserving projects. The role of Opera Convenor needed to be filled with the passing of John Greenway. While the Club was enthusiastic that we continue with the Opera no members were willing to undertake the task of leading and as a consequence regrettably I undertook the role of Convenor in difficult circumstances with minimal background, information and support.

Michaele and Justin Archer again offered their expert advice and support with great design and publicity brochures. With advice from Michaele we were able to engage four highly recommended opera singers (Julie Lea Goodwin, Daniel Sumegi, Jacqueline Dark and John Longmuir), solo cellist (Sebastien del Rosario Hibbard) and the well regarded piano accompanist (Francis Greep). We are very grateful to Justin and Michaele for their continuing support of the Opera. Without their input there would be no Opera.

Patrick Brennan (CEO CC Conservatorium of Music) was preparing the Chamber Orchestra comprising both professional and students to support the artists in a program of music recommended by Michaele in consultation with Patrick and the artists. It is appreciated that Paola Liverani Brooks and Vic Deeble were preparing for the role of Presenters.

A new Opera website was developed by Joan Redmond. Vic Brown spent many hours preparing for local signage and moving the signs around to various locations. Vic Deeble prepared newsletters and press releases. Marie Armstrong and Nick Wyatt were ready to welcome the artists and prepare the Arboretum to safely and comfortably receive 800 guests.

The expertise of Adrian Thurlow was successfully put to the test as our Sponsorship Coordinator. We are grateful to the sponsors who continued to support the event, particularly Central Coast Volkswagen. Wayne Jennings as Treasurer supported with the collection on sponsorship funds. The sale of tickets through TryBooking was a new initiative suggested by Joan Redmond and commenced last year by me as President. We undertook Radio publicity with a competition for free passes with Radio 50 Plus over a five week period together with a special hour-long interview on Rotary Community Radio, "Rotary Matters".

The usual Raffle was coordinated by me with 13 great prizes being gathered together: (Portrait in Oil, Jocelyn Maughan; ACCOM Real Estate, Ettalong Resort;

Specsavers Woy Woy; Shelley Beach Golf Club; Bunnings Umina-BBQ; LINDT Chocolates; a basket of 12 Wines; Kincumber Mitre 10 - Bosch Drill; Boathouse Hotel, Patonga; Bombini, Avoca; Basket of Gourmet Goodies; Pearls on the Beach Restaurant and Pearl Beach Cafe and Store. We offer sincere thanks to these generous people and organisations.

THEN COMES THE LOCKDOWN AND CANCELLATION OF THE OPERA

Very disappointing given all the planning, coordinating and hard work but fortunately all was not lost. We pursued the idea of asking ticket holders and sponsors to consider donating back the cost of their ticket or sponsor funds or part thereof. Ticket refunds were managed by Joan Redmond through the Trybooking system. Adrian Thurlow made a similar approach to Sponsors with a good response. We were left with a net income (approx \$17,000) to meet expenses, make partial ex-gratia payments to artists and make donations to our nominated beneficiaries: CC Conservatorium Strings Scholarship, Drought Relief, Bushfire Relief, Umina Beach Men's Shed, Purple House, Cerebral Palsy Research and Pure Joy Women Empowerment Uganda). All in all there has been a successful outcome in difficult and unprecedented circumstances. The Club should be grateful to those members who were prepared to assist with preparing for Opera in the Arboretum 2020. I also thank them for their assistance.

Russell Grove

OPERA CONVENOR 2020

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