

## FROM GOLD COAST ROTARY IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT MR JOHN D'ANNA

Last meeting was our HANDOVER DINNER which was a resounding success with 76 attendees. The meeting was full of positive energy, formalities and friendship. We had visitors from the RC of Southport, Burleigh Heads, Surfers Sunrise, Broadwater-Southport, Coomera River, Griffith Gold Coast (the Uni Club) and the newly chartered Gold Coast Passport. Great to have prospective new members, friends and family and to see many of our long-standing members and honorary members join us.



For me personally it was a very rewarding experience to have served as your President and I am glad that I handed over a club in a very good shape to our new President Rowan. We are now the largest Club in the District with 50 members and donations to charities over \$108,000 in 2018/19.





I now have more time to dedicate myself to a change of direction in my professional life as I embark on an English teaching career, so if you meet some Brazilians and Japanese speaking English with a French accent, they were probably my students ☺ !



For those who were not there on the night and for those who can't remember, here is what happened.

6.00pm - Arrival and Fellowship. We were greeted with background music by Sophia Koop.



Master of Ceremonies Past District Governor Ross Smith guided us through the formalities including the;

- Welcome
- Loyal Toast
- Honour Roll Call including recognition of
  - Charter Member John Goldstein
  - Paul Harris Fellows
  - Past Presidents:
    - Other Rotary Club Representatives
    - District Governor Nominee 2020/21 Andy Rajapakse

I had the pleasure to induct 4 new members: Karim Gawor, Tammi Mayfield, Lea Rickwood & Luciane Sperling, our 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> current members.



Past President Kate Kimmorley presented Don Stalker with an Honorary Membership.



The Toast to Rotary Int. was proposed by District Governor Nominee for 2020/21 Andy Rajapakse with the response from Past District Governor Ross Smith.



As 2018/19 President I delivered my annual report and presented awards and acknowledgements for those members who have put in an extra effort and gone beyond what was expected; these are the "SUPERHEROES" of our Club, and were recognised for their super dedication with a special badge: "The Rotary Hero" badge.

- Chawki Gazal, Kate Kimmorley and Mark Urquart for their commitment in ensuring the Ball was a success.
- Kathy Hogan A special congratulation for having organised a very successful Pride Of Workmanship event.
- Sue Foskett for the amount of work she took on as Chair of both Club Admin and Youth
- Jill Ellis and Rowan Johnstone for 100% attendance



I also acknowledged 3 special ladies who, meeting after meeting, performed their duties without fail:

- Carol Allan for manning the front desk and collecting and banking the money
- Jill Ellis whose photos are a fantastic pictorial record of our gathering.
- Caroline Mercer for securing such interesting speakers.

The annual award - Rotarian of the year is designated to a Rotarian in our club who clearly stands out in demonstrating "Service Above Self" and commitment to the Four-Way Test. The nominee is an outstanding club member who has made significant contributions to our Club, this member is Rowan Johnstone: who excelled in his duties by growing our membership by 14 new members to the total of 50 members.

The next reward is the ultimate in Rotary recognition for the "Service Above Self" ideal, and it was my privilege to recognise David Baguley with a PHF level 7, for outstanding commitment to Rotary and our club by selecting and managing successfully large projects and events like the Commonwealth Games Cleaning contract, the Gold Coast Ramble and in 2019 the Botanical Bazaar.



The Toast to the Partners was proposed by Geoff Prentice with the Response by his wife Margaret Prentice.



The Yearbook was distributed to all members.

After our main course and the traditional “cutting of the Rotary cake” (made by Martin Reisch from Master Sweets) I inducted our 2019/20 President Rowan Johnstone, who, then introduced his Board.



Once again a sincere thanks to all of those who supported me during my year as President, and my best wishes to President Rowan and his Leadership Team.

