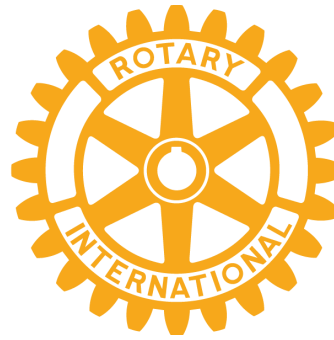


Rotary



The Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc Annual Changeover Luncheon

6th July 2025



Handover of the gymnastics equipment at the PCYC



2024—25

—

District 9640



2025 - 26

Programme

Master of Ceremonies: Trent Belling

Toast to Australia Trent Belling

Toast to Partners: Graeme Isaacson

Introductions, Apologies: Trent Belling

President's Welcome: President Andy Bell

Menu TRYP Hotel

Main Course

alternative drops of

**Swordfish and pepponata
7-herb oil and crispy fries**

or

**De-boned chicken in lemon cashew cream
sage & cavello nero**

Desert

**Tiramisu with Lavazza Coffee & Brooklet distilleries
Mac liquor.**

or

**Bombe Alaska, mango & liquorice icecream,
lit with white rum from Normandy**

Toast to Rotary International: Mario Fairlie

Response: PDG Lisa Hunt

President's Report: President Andy Bell

Club Presentations: President Andy Bell

Handing over of Club Charter and President's Collar

Introduction of new board: President Paul Seymour

Close: Trent Belling

ROTARY CLUB OF SURFERS SUNRISE Inc

Office Bearers 2024 - 25

President	Andy Bell
Immediate Past President	Doug Lipp
Vice President	Doug Lipp
President Elect	Paul Seymour
Secretary	Trent Belling
Treasurer	Charles Thomasson
Director, Club Administration	Franz Huber
Director, The Rotary Foundation	Dr Elizabeth Celi
Director, Membership	Angus Miller
Director, Youth Services	Thomas Robinson
Director, Services Project	Geoff Croad
Director, Fundraising	Ross Augustine
Chairman of Wheelchair Trust	Geoff Croad

Club Service and special projects positions

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster	Franz Huber
Facebook Administrator	Franz Huber
Facebook Market Administrator	Ashleigh Symes
Rotary Information, Club Trainer	PDG Darrell Brown
Matching Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie, Ross Augustine
District Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie, Ross Augustine
Golf Day Coordinators	Charles Thomasson, Doug Lipp,
Sportsman's Lunch Coordinator	Doug Lipp
Vanuatu Project Coordinator	Mario Fairlie
Club Insurance Officer	Ian Mayberry
Social Events Convenor	Adrian Crowe

President's Report

Andy Bell

What an honour it was to be the President of our great club for the Rotary year just past.

Back in July last year, in my opening address to our members, I outlined a number of goals I had set for my Presidency. I was unable to achieve all of them, but I am more than happy with the ones that were achieved.

My number one goal was to bring the club together and have greater involvement by all our members. I reintroduced some basic ideals, basics such as Rotary's Four Way Test.

I must give special and heartfelt thanks to all of our Board Members. Each of them went above and beyond expectations in their respective portfolios.

Up front, let's mention the "quiet guys": Our Club Secretary, Trent Belling, who runs our board meetings and writes up the minutes and maintains the liaison to District and Rotary International. Club Treasurer Charles Thomasson and Wheelchair Trust Treasurer Doug Lipp. These are all time-consuming jobs, all without the "up-front glory", yet without their work, the club could not exist.

As a club, we are proud of the commitment and endeavours of a team of dedicated Associate Members of the club who work at our Project Shed on Saturdays, Wednesdays, and now also on Monday mornings. They are led wonderfully by our Service Projects Director, Geoff Croad. Geoff and his team are responsible for building our 'Rough Terrain Wheelchairs', which are shipped all over the world. Our volunteers also recondition donated bicycles, which we either give away to disadvantaged people or sell for funds to assist with the construction of wheelchairs. A fantastic group of men and women who epitomise the ideals of Rotary's international motto, 'Service Above Self'. To give you an idea of the extent of our signature project, check out Geoff's report further on.

Under the stewardship of our Fundraising Director, Ross Augustine, we had several very successful fundraising activities. Our annual Golf Day broke all records, as did the last Bunnings Sausage Sizzle in June. PP Doug Lipp also chimed in with arranging a Sportsman's Lunch. I would be hopeful that, like our Golf Day, this would become an annual event.

With the assistance of Foundation Chair Elizabeth Celi and Ross Augustine, we were able to secure a number of grants from our District and from The Rotary Foundation. One of these grants enabled us to purchase much needed gymnastics equipment for the local Police Citizens Youth Club.

Thanks to the good work of our Membership Chair Angus Miller, I was honoured to induct our new member Bevan Sim as well as a new Corporate Member, Kieser Bundall, represented by Kane Chisholm and Paige Lovett as full members and Chelsea Quinn and Sophie Moore as Associate Corporate Members.

Our Youth Services Director, Thomas Robertson, in his first year on the job organised our club's successful nomination of Chloe Chan to be accepted into the National Youth Science Forum, as well as Nicolas Butler, who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp in January.

Attendance at our meetings, both formal and informal, has been very good, and a huge thanks has to go to our Director of Club Administration, Franz Huber, who has arranged some exceptional speakers who covered a variety of subjects and, via his weekly club bulletins and the regular updating of our website and Facebook pages, keeps members informed of what has happened and of upcoming events. Franz also maintains our membership and associate membership databases.

It is not just board members who are an integral component of our club's success: Take Ray Higgs, who liaises with the Surfers Paradise Surf Club to present the annual Lutzy Award to a young individual who is not necessarily the best surfer, but who is clearly an emerging leader. Then there is Welfare Officer Graeme Issacson, Social Committee Chair Adrian Crowe and our Insurance Officer Ian Mayberry.

And, in a league of its own is Mario Fairlie's ongoing hands-on contributions. Take the recent case when the project shed needed new T-shirts. Without hesitation, Mario contributed directly toward the cost of them. He has also helped me immeasurably in arranging the Paul Harris Fellow awards I will be presenting at the Changeover.

Adrian Crowe was appointed as Social Events Chair to arrange events outside of the Wednesday meetings, to which partners and friends can be brought along, and Graeme Isaacson accepted the job of 'Welfare Officer', to touch base with members who are unable to attend due to medical issues or business pressure.

I am passionate about helping victims of domestic violence and helping poor and disadvantaged school kids. Look out for some initiatives to assist in both of these areas we are about to embark upon.

I would like to make special mention and thanks to Vice President Doug Lipp for standing in for me when I was out of action due to some medical issues.

Thank you to all members of Surfers Sunrise Rotary for putting up with me and making my job as President so enjoyable.

I wish incoming President Paul Seymour and the incoming board all the best for the coming year. We are in safe hands.

Yours in Rotary

Andy Bell,
President 2024-25

Treasurer's Report

Charles Thomasson

Rotary club of Surfers Sunrise - Profit & Loss For the period of 01 July 2024 to 01 June 2025

	2025	2024
Trading Income		
BBQ Income	7,907.56	11,389.62
Bikes & Bits sales	5,077.50	-
Business Expo Fundraising	-	433.01
Change Over Function Ticket Sales	-	(458.25)
Christmas Dinner	(57.00)	(30.80)
Christmas Cakes	83.16	(690.56)
Containers Fundraising	10,238.00	17,655.10
Corporate Sponsorship	1,440.00	1,440.00
Donations Received	6,202.10	3,100.00
Foundation Fundraising	100.00	200.00
Golf Day Income	14,594.50	9,008.04
Grants (Commonwealth) Capital	-	28,302.00
Morning Meeting Fees	-	623.00
Other Revenue	2,500.00	1,083.00
Rotary Club Annual Dues	9,900.00	9,900.00
Total Trading Income	57,985.82	81,954.16
Gross Profit	57,985.82	81,954.16
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	385.00	-
Audit Fees	2,100.00	-
Awards	-	101.70
Bank Fees	389.22	418.86
Breakfast Costs	167.76	126.90
Club Runner Costs	775.27	1,020.51
Depreciation	-	4,716.27
District Dues	4,816.97	4,521.00
District Insurance	1,496.00	1,638.00
Donations paid	11,312.07	11,436.25
Dues Rotary International	2,379.25	4,286.75
Engraving-Badges-Pins	-	94.60
Freight	3,191.63	-
Golf Day Expenses	5,106.75	4,068.10
Insurance - Volunteers	-	500.00
Lutzy Award Board	2,400.00	2,200.00
Lutzy Award Meals	116.32	336.00
MV - Fuel & Oil	-	629.78
MV - Rego	1,052.32	871.25
MV & Forklift - Excess Insurance	1,240.96	-
MV Repairs and Maintenance	1,697.50	845.00

Treasurer's Report

Charles Thomasson

	2025	2024
NYSF	1,495.00	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	783.63	416.00
Printing & Stationery	747.61	70.00
Project Shed Costs	306.36	968.00
Project Shed-Electricity	1,123.62	1,519.73
Project Shed-Miscellaneous	2,844.40	1,778.31
Project Shed-Rates	1,334.26	1,023.29
Project Shed-Repairs & Maintenance	932.80	(34.00)
Project Shed-Security	594.00	297.00
Rotary Down Under	1,126.90	1,090.38
Rotary Foundation	-	3,400.00
Rotary Shirts Costs	257.96	69.31
RYLA	725.00	-
RYPEN	320.00	335.00
Subscriptions	-	39.47
Sundry Expenses	-	351.75
Trailer - Repairs & Maintenance	856.06	-
Trailer- Registration & Insurance	-	234.85
Training Costs	83.00	532.25
Vanuatu Project	-	13,057.58
Total Operating Expenses	52,157.62	62,959.89
Net Profit	5,828.20	18,994.27

Current Bank Account Balances:

Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise General Account	\$20,859.54
Rotary Surfers Sunrise Project Account	\$853.08
Rotary Surfers Sunrise Vanuatu Account	\$273.17

Note: this report is as at **01 June 2025**, and does NOT represent the accounts for the entire financial year ending 30th June 2025.

A formal report for the entire financial year will be presented at the AGM.

Yours in Rotary

Charles Thomasson
Treasurer

Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust - Financials Doug Lipp

SURFERS SUNRISE WHEELCHAIR TRUST INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1ST JULY 2024 TO 27 May 2025

Balance as per cash book 1 st July 2024		21304.81
<u>ADD: INCOME</u>		
Sale of Chairs	915.00	
Donation Stripe	26050.00	
Containers for Change	1883.90	
Shed Sales	1290.50	
Donations – no receipts	1175.00	
Donation Box Bunnings	218.20	
	<u> </u>	31532.60
		<u>52837.41</u>
<u>LESS: EXPENDITURE</u>		
Nerang Nuts and bolts	803.86	
Bunnings	4602.30	
Stripe Costs	87.84	
Timber	4045.99	
Transfer to Club	<u>12000.00</u>	
		21539.99
<u>Balance as 27 May 2025</u>	\$	<u>31297.42</u> =====

Note: this report is as at **27th May 2025**, and does NOT represent the accounts for the entire financial year ending 30th June 2025.
A formal report for the entire financial year will be presented at the AGM.

Yours in Rotary

Doug Lipp,

Treasurer
Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust

Fundraising

Ross Augustine

Below are the major fundraising activities for the year.

Bunnings Bar-be-que.

We have had six BBQs this year and raised \$10,446, this is slightly less than the amount raised from the 7 such events last year. As there has been greater demand for this excellent fundraiser, Bunnings have restricted the number we were offered. I'm still trying to organize future bookings at Bunnings.

Containers for Change.

Revenue from containers is down this year due to the fire in the Q1 building. We are looking for additional facilities to participate in the program and have a presentation available for members to distribute to potential building managers.

Golf Day.

We raised \$9,487 this year, a great increase on the previous year. The date for the next golf day is Monday 27th October. The local PCYC was a major beneficiary: we provided funds for the purchase of much needed gymnastics equipment, which was "officially" handed over at the end of February. The PCYC will again be one of the beneficiaries from this year's event.

We are always looking for a major raffle prize and also sponsors to subsidise some of the expenses on the day (see further details below).

District Foundation Grant Application.

The application for last year was amended to apply for Gym Equipment to support youth programs at PCYC. We received \$4,162 from district and with a matching amount from the club we provided a range of equipment for PCYC.

We currently have an application for \$5,000 to help subsidise cost of transport of a container of wheelchairs overseas.

Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust.

As a club we need to look at the trust and broaden the scope for use of donated deductible funds to enable the club to support other community projects.

Sportsman's Lunch. (needs update after the event)

Doug Lipp has booked Friday 20th June at Surfers Paradise Golf Club with profits from the day to be split with the Golf Club.

Thanks to the support from members over the six BBQs we have held this year and the helpers on the Golf Day. We are looking for additional locations to increase funds raised from the Containers for Change program. We cannot expect to again have six Bunnings BBQs in the upcoming year, so income from this source is expected to be about half.

The club still needs community service projects to allocate our funds toward and give a focus for our activities.

Yours in Rotary,

Ross Augustine,
Director, Fundraising



The Surfers Sunrise Corporate Cup

Membership

Angus Miller

The 2025 Rotary year has been one of mixed fortunes for our membership. We are happy to have welcomed new member Bevan Sim (picture right), introduced by Doug Lipp. His classification, since he is a qualified Architect, is Architecture. But really, until retirement, Bevan was also a builder. Interestingly, Bevan specialised in acting as an expert witness in building & construction disputes, submitting forensic reports to the court.

Then we inducted the Kieser Bundall exercise and fitness clinic as Corporate Members, creating a synergy between the Surf Life Saving Club, Surfers Sunrise Rotary and the Kieser organisation. Several of our (dare I say, elderly?) members regularly attend the Kieser fitness centre, where, under careful supervision by qualified exercise physiologists and physiotherapists, they improve their fitness levels with astounding results. Kieser's four members include principals Kane Chisholm, Paige Lovett (picture below), and associates Chelsea Quinn and Sophie Moore.



Great to gain four young people to our membership!

All the new members have already contributed towards the club's activities in a very positive manner, working at our sausage sizzles and other working and social events.

I have to say with some regret that we have lost two members, Chris Thurtell and Johnny Bueti. Both having given a great deal, Chris in his

function in the Youth Exchange Program, and Johnny in Chris's case and Johnny with his fundraising events, the 'Italian Long Lunch'. Should you decide to return, you are most welcome!

We are always looking for people who are in our community, who have the spirit and the attitude to become part of this great organisation. So why not invite a guest to come along? They will be welcome and they will enjoy the experience, just as you do.

Yours in Rotary

Angus Miller
Director, Membership

Youth Services

Thomas Robinson

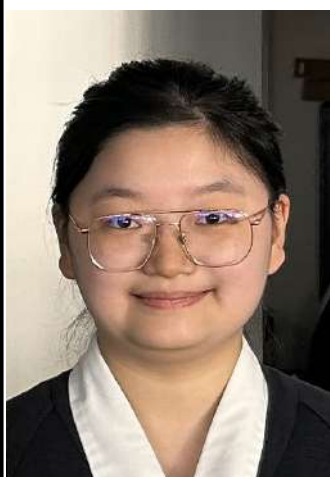
This year, we had three major highlight activities in relation to Youth Services. They were

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Nick Butler, a young man from Varsity, was nominated by Franz Huber and was accepted into the program. Nick completed the RYLA camp at Bornhoffen in January 2025. Now, normally our RYLA Awardees come to do a presentation at our club, outlining their experiences and the effect the program had on their life. Nick was indeed booked, but... Almost immediately after the camp, he was offered a job with an airconditioning firm, and they start even earlier than our club meets... Needless to point out though that he, as have every other RYLA awardee before him, described the one week camp as an extraordinarily enlightening and motivating experience.



National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)



This is one of the most competitive Youth events to get accepted into, so congratulations to “our” budding scientist **Chloe Chan** who was accepted to participate in this event. It was held in Canberra, with a week long “sampler” where the participants were exposed in small groups, practically one-on-one, with highly recognised scientists. They also had a direct video link to CERN in Geneva, where sub-atomic particles are made to collide with each other. Chloe, who currently studies at Queensland Academies of Health Sciences, presented a brief outline of the forum at our club in April 2024. Although not yet absolutely decided on, she is seriously considering a career in Cyber Security. The cost of the forum (around \$3,000) is shared 50/50 between the student and our club. Check this link

<https://rotarysurferssunrise.org/Stories/chloe-chan-national-youth-science-forum>

for more details, and there is also a Download file of Chloe’s presentation on our website.

The Lutz Award

This award is in honour of our late member Keith Lutz, who was a driving force in our club, particularly with our Wheelchair project. He also was a leader and mentor in the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club.

The award is aimed at an emerging young leader (not necessarily the best surfer, but of course can be), nominated by the Surfers Paradise SLSC. The winner is presented with a real, very useful prize: a \$2,500 Surf Ski, inscribed with the details of the award. Presented in August 2024, it was awarded to **Louis van Drunen**. For more details, check this link:

<https://rotarysurferssunrise.org/Stories/congratulations!-louis-van-drunen-is-the-lutzy-award-winner-for-2024>



The Rotary Foundation

Dr Elizabeth Celi

The main activities for The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Committee were

- Our annual Club contributions to TRF of \$100 per member have been paid
- Raising awareness of the Polio Plus Fund – ongoing
- District Grant application for 2024-2024 was successful for the 2023-2024 year bringing gymnastics equipment to the PCYC of Broadbeach Waters, with our club meeting held there for the official handover, a fun and successful morning. Thank you to Ross Augustine and those who assisted him in preparing and carrying through this grant.
- Review of District and Global Grant applications, with an initial focus on the Wheelchair Shed and the longstanding manufacture of rough terrain wheelchairs and their delivery to overseas regions in need. This has been a significant focus for the 2024-2025 Rotary year and detailed further below
- Ross Augustine (and others I am unaware of but no doubt assisted) submitted the quite time consuming paperwork.

Following two meetings,

- one held late 2024 with Neil Jones, Tony Heading, President Andy Bell, PE Paul Seymour, Fundraising Director Ross Augustine and myself (apologies from Wheelchair Trust Chairman Geoff Croad) to discuss possible grants (District and Global) through TRF that could be applied for the 2024-2025 cycle
- The second meeting we had on 5th April 2025 with the above club and committee member Mario Fairlie, to further discuss specifics.

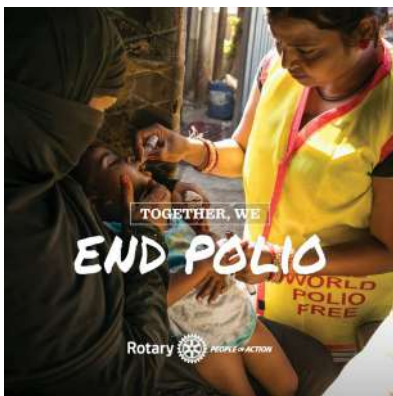


Paul Harris Fellowship pin with 2 sapphires (in total awarded 3 times)

It was the overall decision to:

1. Initially apply for a District Grant to cover partial purchase of materials for wheelchair manufacturing at the Surfers Sunrise project shed.
 - Ross Augustine has completed the Club Qualification Memorandum of Understanding in order to proceed with a Grants Application and the process required with District.
 - Ross Augustine has since completed the District Grant application that was due 31st May 2025, with significant correspondence and discussion with District Grant Chair Tony Heading to ensure its appropriateness and meeting guidelines. I was informed the Grant has been adjusted so as to assist with delivery of the Wheelchairs to considered and appropriate overseas destinations, so as to not interfere with required purchasing of needed materials in the short term. That is, purchase of materials from club funds before any grant money allocations are decided and funds made available to the club, should the application be successful.
 - I would like to extend my sincere thanks to both Ross Augustine and Geoff Croad for their significant background work in contacting relevant people, having necessary discussions and ongoing logistical considerations in attending to operations at the shed and the preparation of this District Grant process. Big thank for your efforts and ongoing considerations. We'll look to ease that load with medium-long term planning regarding the use of the shed.

2. Pause on an application for a Global Grant in consideration of (a) logistics for delivery of wheelchairs to overseas locations, including Rotary clubs on the ground at appropriate delivery locations, and (b) question of consideration as to whether a short term or longer term (3-5 year) Global Grant application be submitted.
 - Significant consideration needs to be made regarding the availability of manpower at the Shed, not only in manufacture of wheelchairs but in overseeing and managing longer term logistics for such manufacture. While the relevance of a longer-term grant is considered for cost/benefit of applying and managing a Global Grant, the concern of whether the Shed and wheelchair manufacture logistics can be sustained for such a Global Grant is a serious consideration.
 - Alternatives of how to utilise the Shed for a locally oriented project both to focus our logistical efforts for our local community AND maximise the possibility of renewing the lease on the Shed which comes up for review in the next 1-2 years, is an important medium-long term consideration the Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise needs to consider.
3. Consideration of local projects to utilise the Shed for our Club continue to be under consideration. Options include:
 - Build-A-Bike, which other Rotary clubs or independent organisations are already doing. This is to be reviewed for an understanding of logistics and other considerations
 - Other options can be considered for any ideas from club members over the coming six months.



In all, I'd like to extend my thanks to all of the members listed here for their background work to simply do the logistics reflective of TRF objectives.

In particular, the hands-on deck for the project shed, superbly co-ordinated by Geoff Croad. The many men and women who attend the shed each week provide a haven of community, manufacturing expertise and the Rotary fellowship we all know and love. It's a great asset our club has and in considering it's medium-long term viability, local projects that can be conducted through the shed need some

consideration and input by all members of Rotary Surfers Sunrise. Geoff, you are a star and we'll look to get you some back up over the next Rotary year.

Our fundraising efforts have been beautifully co-ordinated by Ross Augustine and backed with the expertise of our brilliant Treasurer Charles Thomasson. For both of your on-the-ground logistics, analyses (!) and the background work no-one sees, my sincere thanks. Last but not least, to our President Andy Bell and President-Elect Paul Seymour: your support and discussions throughout the year with all of the above activity has been most welcome and appreciated. I look forward to doing my best as President Elect to progress the great vibe of our club, it's awesome members and efforts so far. Not least bringing more of our club fellowship forward for more fun and games while serving the international Rotary Foundation.

Yours in Rotary,
Elizabeth Celi

Chair, The Rotary Foundation Committee

Wheelchair Trust

Geoff Croad

Over the last 12 months, we have increased the number of Associate Members at the project shed to around forty people, with five of them women! Some attend both Wednesday and Saturdays, some one on one of the two weekly days, and recently we have also started to open the shed on Monday mornings. At any given time, some are on holiday, or absent due to health problems. In whatever way, we appreciate very much our volunteers' contribution to the Wheelchair Factory.

Regrettably, long-term members John Hall, Terry Donovan, John Thompson, Nait Bailie, Damian Lockett and Steve Hills had to retire due to health problems, and Brendan Aspery returned to Sydney to assist aged parents. Some of these Volunteers had been coming to the shed for over 20 years and are very much missed by their mates. We look forward to any of you returning as your health improves, or even to just dropping in for a cuppa and to say hello.

Don Glover from Radio 4 CRB continues to provide us with great support by running a short promo, looking for retirees to assist at the shed, as well as a promo on the Bike Sale. Together with one of his mates, Don also assisted in organising the recent Bike Sale.

A big cheer to Rick Old, for taking the initiative to approach and invite Lesa de Re from Channel 9 "A Current Affair" to come to the shed on Wednesday, 2nd July to interview Des LaRance and film our Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Project. This is to bring the public up to date on what has happened since the inaugural despatch of 10 wheelchairs to Fiji, which was broadcast by ACA in August 1997, some 28 years ago.

John Thompson did our annual test & tag on all the electrical equipment at the shed, together with Paul O'Neill Paul Fullagar. Paul O'Neill keeps an updated register of our assets.

So many others within the shed have gone out of their way to assist in so many ways. If it's not taking tyres for recycling to Chip Tyres at Ipswich, or delivering finished, boxed wheelchairs to RAWCS/RARE at Alexandra Hills for export, they may be collecting trailer & ute loads of discarded bikes from GCCC Waste Disposal sites, Hi Rise buildings, Shopping centres, and private homes. Lots of these collections are done outside our normal two days at the shed.



Another big load of donated chairs arrives at the shed... (from left) Al Sirovs, Bryan Tuesley, Caelin Robb, Rick Parry, Geoff Croad, Sioa Geli

I would like to give special recognition to Bryan Tuesley, Rick Parry, Rick Old, Paul Mowle, Bob Heffernan, Wally Grieco, Brian Mitchell, Steven Briggs, Iain Campbell and others, who frequently assist in times outside our general Wednesday & Saturday morning shifts.

Nevil Tait, by trade a builder & architect, is not only inserting the solid tubes into the tyres & rim, but he has also reorganised the display board with photos and awards our club has received over the years. He has also assisted in the tidy up of the storage area of nuts & bolts, castors and disused machinery. Some were dumped and others were sold. He also arranged for the purchase of a new front door to the shed.

Lionel Molloy and Don Ferguson must be commended: Lionel for organising the morning tea/coffee and Don for purchasing the goodies for morning tea, and – most importantly – some must be Paul O'Neil and Rick Parry's wives for supplying some tasty snacks!

Bryan Tuesley, well, he never stops. He is often at the shed as early as 6 am, or is out getting the little things that pop up that are needed to assist in making the job easier for the volunteers, or taking or coordinating the collection of bikes with the donors, the sale of recycled steel and aluminium, and the list goes on.

After visiting Palen Creek Correctional Centre to view their sand blaster, the board approved the upgrade to our own. It was recently delivered and is operational after Paul Fletcher spent a Sunday assembling it. This machine will help greatly in cleaning the bike frames.

With the contribution of the volunteers and the financial assistance of Mario Fairlie, we have now placed an order for 43 Rotary Polo shirts, each with the Rotary club logo and the volunteer's name embroidered. This should make it a lot easier for our fellow Rotary members and visitors to know who they are speaking to when they come to the shed.



Some 30 years ago, our Honorary Member Des LaRance OAM (picture left—still going strong!) had the vision to design the concept and to get something done about the plight of disadvantaged, disabled children in developing countries. Des is still at the shed putting wheelchairs together, teaching our younger members Emma Dean, Claire Forster, Caelin Robb, Cooper Noble & Nathan Kahika the art of putting a full wheelchair together.

This last 12 months we have only shipped 140 wheelchairs via Archerfield Rotary Club/RAWCS/RARE, leaving another 298 units, ready and boxed, waiting for RAWCS/RARE via their contacts to take and ship. But it seems that the only way we will move this stock is for the support of funds raised by Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club or via grants from the District and/or Matching Grants via The Rotary Foundation. I

appreciate Ross Augustine's assistance in this area.

By mid July we will have a 20ft Container arriving from China with parts to assist in building another 375 wheelchairs (Cost of Materials Aust \$30,477.66 less deposit paid by Trust of Aust \$6978.18 leaving a balance yet to be paid of Aust \$23,499.48 Shipping Cost Aust \$8642.44 are as yet to be paid from the Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club account, as monies donated to the Wheelchair Trust cannot be allocated to overhead and freight cost.

We also got a quote regarding a new braking system for the wheelchairs. For 400 sets, the cost is AUS \$ 9,376.20 or \$23.44 a pair), plus shipping cost. Hopefully, in our next order, we can include these.

To date, we have exported 11,206 Rough Terrain Wheelchairs, and, including the 298 we have in stock, have manufactured a total of 11,504.

The Wheelchair Factory also sells refurbished bikes, steel, aluminium, and second-hand plastic chairs (45 were donated). Caelin Robb, along with his carers, has dismantled about 300 chairs that were donated. These seats can be used for our wheelchairs, saving us the cost of new seats. In addition, we sell the discarded steel legs as scrap steel. A big Thank You to Ashleigh Symes who arranges the advertising of bikes and other items for sale on Facebook Marketplace.

For Associates who are happy to do an extra morning, or to work on a Monday rather than a Wednesday or Saturday, we now open the factory on a Monday morning as well, with Paul Fletcher as the responsible person for this shift.



Kristen "KJ" Jewson has been working on updating our Wheelchair Trust website, www.wheelchairtrust.org.au. It is only days away from being completed, and to improve security, Matt Hayward is installing a number of extra cameras around the shed.

If I haven't mentioned you yet, be assured that you are just as valuable to our project. You all do a fantastic job in breaking down the old bikes, cutting the ply for the wheelchair bases, removing the spokes of the discarded wheel for aluminium recycling, improving bikes worthy for sale, sorting out the packets of nuts, bolts etc which go with each wheelchair, adjusting the plastic recycled seat to fit to the wheelchair, painting the plywood and adding decorations of Australian birds, cleaning the two steel frames required to form a new wheelchair or painting the frame to present it like new. Putting the wheelchair parts together, ready to be boxed for shipping, etc, etc. A big "Thank You!" goes to you all. I look forward to continuing this great project in the upcoming Rotary Year 2025-26.

Yours in Rotary,

Geoff Croad,
Chairman, Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust

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Club Administration

Franz Huber

The year started with incoming President **Andy Bell** accepting the President's collar from Immediate Past President Doug Lipp. Our traditional Changeover Luncheon was again held at Braeside Estate in Merrimac.

Venue, Program

All our regular meetings are held at the **Surfers Paradise SLSC**, where the upstairs venue is made available every fortnight for our 'formal' meetings. On alternative weeks we have a 'social' meeting, downstairs in the bistro. We much appreciate the Surf Club making the venue available to us; no doubt this would be the premier location to have a Rotary breakfast meeting!

On the first meeting, President Andy titled the outline of his vision for 2024-25 'Back to the Future', with the emphasis on the traditional values of Rotary, particularly the 4-Way Test. The list of speakers and events throughout the year (see full details with corresponding links further on in this report) shows a nicely balanced program across a variety of subjects. On multiple presentations, our own members demonstrated their expertise or experiences, such as **Rock O'Keefe** entertaining us with his recollection of liaising with the monks of Bhutan and **Paul Seymour's** participation on the Rotary Friendship Exchange to Pennsylvania. Contrasting, we enjoyed presentations of new members introducing



themselves and health care specialists such as (now corporate members) **Kieser Bundall** with their exercise physiology. One of our meetings visited Kieser, where our muscles were duly tested in one of their many exercise machines. (Photo left, Adrian Crowe "in the chair").

Of course, one of the events I must specially mention: the '**Lutzy Award**' (see Youth Service Report above). And what about presentations such as **Chloe Chan's** report on her week at the National Science Forum! Contrast this with **Di Kozik's** outline of her work at St John's Crisis Centre, looking after hundreds of homeless people.

One of our annual highlights always is **Angie Bell**, MP for

Moncrieff (and now Shadow Minister for the Environment and Shadow Minister for Youth) speaking at our club in what now has become a regular annual event. A former Youth Exchange Student to Denmark, Angie has always been a strong supporter of our club, and has greatly assisted with the processing of government grants for our Wheelchair Project.

Website, Bulletin, Social Media, Communication

Editing the bulletin, website and Facebook pages would be a chore if it wasn't for a very active club such as Surfers Sunrise. Then, it becomes a very enjoyable hobby. This hobby has one major additional benefit: I claim to get more out of our guest speakers than anyone else, as I really need to pay attention!

Both the website as well as the Facebook pages are regularly updated, with some stories also appearing in our club's weekly bulletin and vice-versa.

Club Administration

Our weekly club bulletin and website are running via 'ClubRunner', an Internet (or 'cloud based') system adopted by Rotary International. The same system is also used to notify members and the public of upcoming events, allows the downloading of photo albums and documents, and is a depository for club documents. Those documents are accessible to all members (it requires a login and password to protect privacy), and so is membership data.



Shadow Minister Angie Bell

An app, which runs on either iPhone or Android mobiles, allows members instant access to our website, as well as such items as member's contact details.

I am very grateful to members who contribute to the smooth running of our club's administration and particularly who do a presentation or assist with arranging guest speakers. Keep them coming!

Social events

Our newly appointed 'Social Convenor' **Adrian Crowe** arranged several events, starting off with a Sunday lunch at Stanley's Barn in Upper Coomera.

This year's Christmas Breakfast was at the Spit Cafe, organised by **Graeme Isaacson**.

Then, in February we convened at the Paradise Point park to listen to 'Good Oldies Music', and the most recent event was a Japanese Teppanyaki lunch, enjoying food with a difference, cooked right in front of you.



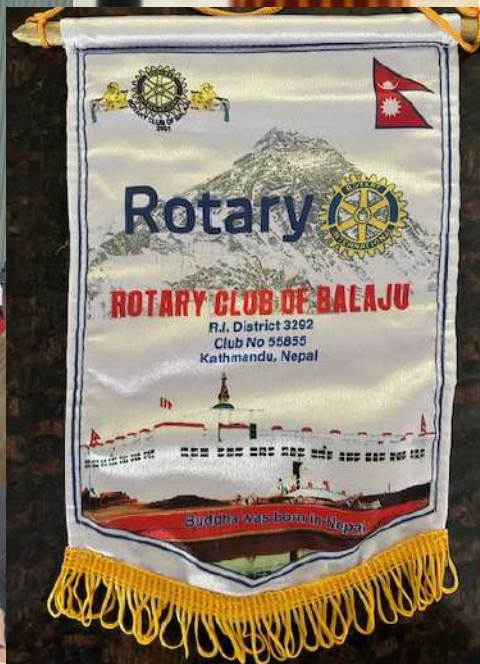
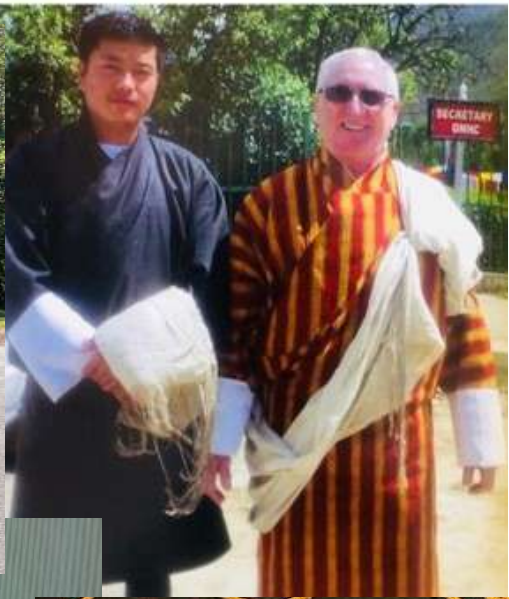
Perhaps worth mentioning: every second week when we have a social, casual meeting, some of our members convene at the Benowa Tavern for a glass of wine or a beer. Like the casual meetings on Wednesday mornings, great problems of the world at both macro and micro level are discussed and solved.

In closing, a special, big 'Thank You!' must go to our outgoing President **Andy Bell**. Under his leadership, this has again been a dynamic and invigorating year for Surfers Sunrise. And welcome, incoming President **Paul Seymour**! Looking forward to another great year.

Yours in Rotary

Franz Huber
Director, Club Administration

Club Committee Changes		
	2024 - 25	2025 - 26
President	Andy Bell	Paul Seymour
Immediate Past President, Vice President	Doug Lipp	Andy Bell
President Elect	Paul Seymour	Dr Elizabeth Celi
Secretary	Trent Belling	Trent Belling
Executive Secretary	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Treasurer	Charles Thomasson	Charles Thomasson
Director - Club Administration Program, Communication, Website & Social Media Administrator	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Director - Service Projects (Vocational, Community Service, International Service, Young Leaders)	Geoff Croad	Rock O'Keefe
Director - Public Image (Media Relations, Advertising, Market- ing, Social Media)	TBA	TBA
Director - Membership Recruitment, Retention, Orientation, Education, Diversity	Angus Miller	Doug Lipp
Director - The Rotary Foundation Polio Plus, Fundraising for TRF	Dr Elizabeth Celi	Dr Elizabeth Celi
Director - Fundraising	Ross Augustine	Ross Augustine
Director, Youth Services	Thomas Robinson	Mitch Brown
Chairman, Wheelchair Trust	Geoff Croad	Geoff Croad
Treasurer, Wheelchair Trust	Doug Lipp	Doug Lipp
Bulletin Editor / Webmaster	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Facebook Page / Social media	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Youth Protection Officer (incorporating Blue Cards)	Gerald East	Gerald East
Matching Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie	Mario Fairlie
Welfare Officer	Graeme Isaacson	Graeme Isaacson
Fellowship, Social Program	Adrian Crowe	Adrian Crowe



Clockwise from top left: Another load of wheelchairs is on the way... Rock O'Keefe in Bhutan... Visitor from Nepal... Youth Exchange visitors... stacking recycled steel at the shed... The Rotary Foundation Seminar... a load of lovingly refurbished kid's bikes for St John's Chris Centre at Christmas



There are dozens more photos. Check out our Photo Album section on our website www.rotarysurferssunire.org