

Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club

2016-2017 President's Report

Thanks to all members of Central Blue for giving me the opportunity to serve as President for the past 12 months it has indeed been an honour.

Our club is lucky to have a solid membership base which has allowed us to achieve many things throughout the year.

It is not my intention to cover all aspects of our achievements in my report as they covered so well in the following Avenues of Service reports.

Please take time to digest the many community and fundraising events we were involved with through the past Rotary year it makes great reading.

Thanks to all members who have allowed and supported all the things that have happened. Allowing us to support both Local and International community service projects.

It is important that I thank my Board for their support and guidance throughout this Rotary year: Lora Stopic, Peter Hartley, Kevin Schreiber, Jennifer Scott, Ian Scott, Pamela Williams.

The team heading up the Avenues of Service did a sterling job: Ava Emdin, Youth; Steve Cookson, International; Allan Byrnes, Vocational. Your efforts were very much appreciated by me the club and the community as a whole.

A big thank you to Tom Colless for supporting our Marketing Program by allowing us to sign both sides of his truck. The truck runs up and down the highway daily.

We should never forget the support we as members receive from our partners allowing us the opportunity to serve the community. From us all we thank you.

Our meetings have been varied with great guest speakers, thanks to Paul Pixton for the huge effort he put in to arranging the speakers.

Rotary needs to change in many ways to attract younger members who together with our experienced and long serving members can move forward to better serve the community, in which we live. Members should be prepared to accept and work with the changes ahead allowing Rotary to grow into a bigger more vibrant service organisation.

I will now take the opportunity to wish the incoming President Roza Sage and her Board all the best for the 2017-2018 Rotary Year ahead.

A big thank you to my wife, Margaret, for her support she has shown me throughout what has been a busy year.

Raymond Wiles OAM President
2016-2017

Community and Fundraising Projects held throughout 2016-2017

- Catering for BMGS Sports Carnival
- Assisting Blue Mountains Grammar School with fundraising for school charity - "Compassion"
- Scenic World Sculpture Exhibition -hosting and fundraiser
- Aboriginal Art Group grant
- Golden Mile fundraiser
- Leura Public School and Grand View Hotel markets BBQ
- Polio Eradication sales

- Umina Beach Rotary hosted in Blue Mountains
- Garage Sale - community service fundraiser
- Monster Book Sale to aid Cambodia project
- Leura Garden Festival - volunteering
- Leura Village Fair - BBQ fundraiser
- Leura Harvest Festival - Bratwurst sausage sales introduced
- Hat Night - fundraiser for Australian Rotary Health
- Graffiti removal - volunteering
- Trivia Night - combined fundraiser for Can Assist and Central Blue Rotary
- Christmas pudding sales - twilight market, Faulconbridge
- Christmas party - Chinese banquet -social activities
- Special Olympics - joint Rotary BBQ breakfast for start of Big Ride
- Community Raffle - Rural Fire Service and Girl Guides
- Carols in Park - catering for Anglican Church, Wentworth Falls
- Christmas Raffle
- Leura Village Association - assisting with late night Christmas shopping
- Hazelbrook Scout Group - working bee funding for leader training
- Australia Day Community Breakfast -Wilson Park, Wentworth Falls
- Nepal - International Project
- Cambodia - International Project
- Roaring Twenties event at Hydro Majestic Hotel - volunteering
- Greystanes Golf Day - organising committee and volunteering
- Red Shield Appeal - volunteering
- RSPCA Million Paws Walk - BBQ fundraiser
- Lawson Primary School - sponsorship community breakfast
- Sale fluffy toys - community fundraiser
- Contribution towards erecting an historical Police officer headstone
- Days for Girls - donation and working bees
- Donation of fluffy toys to Katoomba Hospital Children's Ward
- Coronation Park, Wentworth Falls -support with funds for garden upkeep
- Multi-Cultural Weekend - coordination and financial support
- Penrith Valley Rotary Club - hosted joint meeting
- Blue Mountains Rotary clubs membership drive - Business Expo, Springwood
- The Rotary Foundation and Australian Rotary Health donations
- Winter and Christmas Hampers

Activities relating to: Youth, Foundation Vocational and International are covered in their reports.

Our Donations

This year, Central Blue Mountains Rotary has been able to donate in excess of \$38,000 to charities and other worthy causes.

The total amount listed below is \$34,950, being the bulk of our donations.

The Rotary Foundation	\$11,600.00
Polio Plus	\$4,600.00
Food Hampers	\$3,200.00
Nepal Project	\$3,000.00
Blue Mountains Grammar	\$1,650.00
Bowel Care Australia	\$1,155.00
Australian Rotary Health	\$1,000.00
Shelterbox Australia	\$1,000.00
Sustainable Cambodia	\$1,000.00
Astha Home for Girls, Nepal	\$1,000.00
Aboriginal Artists Group	\$750.00
RSPC	\$700.00
Wentworth Falls Garden Club	\$625.00
Can Assist Blue Mountains	\$620.00
Indigenous Literature	\$250.00
Hazelbrook Scouts	\$250.00
Wires - Blue Mountains	\$250.00
Safer Australian Roads & Highways	\$250.00
Interplast	\$200.00

Vocation

During the year our Club enjoyed two vocational visits which involved modern technology.

The first, to Bennett's Printing in Katoomba, demonstrated how quick the printing process can now be completed due to computers.

The second visit was to the Optus Satellite Control Centre at Belrose. This involved a bus trip and was opened up to other Rotary clubs as well as friends. The tour of the Optus facility was eye-opening due to the amount of technology being used and also extremely interesting seeing how internet and television is supplied to our homes. After the visit everyone enjoyed dinner and fellowship at Terry Hills Tavern.

The Vocation portfolio also involves the annual Pride of Workmanship award night. The event this year was held on 23rd of May at the Carrington Hotel and again it involved all four upper mountains Rotary clubs. Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise organised the event and did a great job showcasing Rotary.

Our Club gave three awards. The recipients, Nick Da rias (Katoomba RSL), Sherrie Roberts (Katoomba RSL) and Tony Muller (NRMA Roadside Assistance) were all honoured to be recognised for their long service in our local community.

Allan Byrnes
Vocational Director

Membership

This year we have farewelled several members due to them leaving the Blue Mountains. Immediate Past President Noel Hiffernan sold his home in Hawkesbury Heights and moved up the coast to live near friends around Port Macquarie. We wish him well and hope he enjoys the company of great Rotarians in the Port Macquarie community. The Club appointed Noel as an honorary member of the Club for 2016-17.

Dean Chevallerau and his partner Allison have also moved to the North Coast for a warmer lifestyle change.

Rotarian Barry Stockbridge will spend winter on the North Coast and summer back in the Blue Mountains and attend our club. Barry will remain a member of Central Blue. We look forward to the warmer weather and seeing Barry again, hopefully with improved health.

Karen and Paul Sullivan finally made the move to the city and hopefully will join a nearby Rotary club. They both occasionally drop in to our meetings and we look forward to their company whenever they are visiting the Mountains.

Both Roslyn Wollaston and Penny Jackson resigned in 2015 due to other commitments; however they were not removed from the official list until 2016.

It is also with great sadness that we farewell Past President, Princess Pamela Williams and her husband

Brian. Pamela joined Central Blue on the 21st April 1999. They are also moving to Port Macquarie to be closer to family. We will miss them both. It seems we nearly have enough Central Blue Rotarians around Port Macquarie, to be able to form a satellite Club!

This year we have welcomed four new members. Brian Turner and his wife Jackie are from Katoomba. Brian joined the Club on 30 November 2016. Brian has an army background and in recent years has been the president of Katoomba RSL. It has been a very busy and challenging time for Brian over the past few months with not only the new regulations for large assemblies on public roads (such as the ANZAC march), but also with the fire that destroyed the Katoomba RSL. Our club has offered to assist the RSL community as and when needed.

Angela .Lougheed joined the Club on 1 March 2017. Angela and her partner John are from Hazelbrook. She is very involved in the Hazelbrook community and runs an online health food business. Angela's skills include community advocacy, marketing, website and social media.

Rick Tasker and his partner Lorraine Corrigan-Tasker are from Katoomba. Rick joined the Club on 22 March 2017. Rick's background is also army. In more recent years he has managed the maintenance of EFTPOS and similar online technology. Recently, Rick has taken on the role of a poste. Through rain, hail and shine, he will be seen delivering the mail on his motor bike.

John Sim and his wife Gwenda live in Leura. John joined the Club on 26 April 2017. John is no stranger to service clubs, having served in Lions for many years. John is a life member of Lions. John's background is building and architecture. He also served in the Australian Defence Force as a cadet, and was a civilian pilot.

We look forward to each of our new members volunteering their time and talents to support our local community as well as those communities overseas that need our help.

This year most members were engaged in community service, including fund raising at our regular BBQs assisting with Sculptures at Scenic World running our inaugural Australia Day event for the Mid Mountains, to name a few. Some members participated in International projects in Nepal and Cambodia. Two members attended the Korean International Convention. Ten members attended District Conference at Penrith, including five of our newest Rotarians. Eight members attended District Assembly training for 2017-2018. Our President elect for 2017-2018 Roza Sage attended PETS.

Jennifer Scott PDG-PHF
Membership Director - 2016-2017

The Rotary Foundation

It has been great being Foundation Chair in 2016-2017, the Centenary of The Rotary Foundation. The "*100 Years of Doing Good in the World*" helped spread awareness of the Foundation, both what we can do with our charity, and how we can contribute to it.

The big District event for the centenary was the Million Dollar Dinner and our Club rose to the occasion with extra donations in November, including a Foundation Certificate of Appreciation from Eric and Sue Cantor Day to the nurses in the Day Ward at the Nepean Cancer Centre for their support to Eric. This is the corporate equivalent of a Paul Harris Fellow award. District 9685, with our help, made a million dollars for the Foundation.

We also raised extra funds for End Polio Now and participated in a fantastic District led Polio Challenge, matching contributions of USD \$2,650 from

District Designated Funds to end up with US\$19,875 after matches from Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates 3 for 1 match. The real good news is that there have only been 5 cases of polio reported this calendar year.

Our contributions to the Foundation Annual Fund stand at \$9,641 out of a goal of \$10,800 and to Polio \$4,621 against a goal of \$2,700. With more to go into Foundation by 30 June, we will meet and beat our goals.

The figures are pleasing and when I think of all the people we have reached out to through the Foundation with its humanitarian programs, I am in awe of what it allows us as Rotarians to achieve — international goodwill, understanding and peace.

Congratulations and thank you all.

Ian Scott AM, PDG, PHF
Foundation Director 2016-2017

International Service

International Service is the cornerstone of Rotary International, from club projects to the worldwide Polio Plus. "*Rotary Serving Humanity*" has been Rotary's 2016/17 theme.

Rotary International lists six areas of focus: fighting disease; growing local economies; promoting peace; providing clean water; saving mothers and children; and supporting education. Our international service this year has covered the focus areas through

Sustainable Cambodia, based in Pursat, includes school education, (from pre-school to university), the "*Big Village Gift Basket*" (clean water, crop seeds, animals and families/ community training) and a range of associated activities.

Our club member, PDG Jennifer Scott now heads the Australian arm, which has RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) status and thus tax deductibility for donations.

In February, Jennifer led Rotarians from a number of Australian clubs (including CBM and Springwood) on an inspection tour of Sustainable Cambodia's operations. More than 60 Rotarians, partners and friends from the United States and Australia participated, including CBM members PDG Ian Scott and club International Chair, PP Steve Cookson. Australian representatives of *SewAid* and *Days for Girls* also went and added their expertise.

The Astha Home for Girls in Kathmandu, Nepal, benefited from continuing support by CBM Rotary. Our Past President Peter Carroll has been involved with the project for over a decade. Peter lodged a detailed plan with RAWCS — approved just before Christmas - to provide a permanent (owned) home and continued education and training for the girls, who have been rescued from likely international sex slavery (and abject poverty and illiteracy in their home villages). The RAWCS approval has been very significant for this project, which is run in collaboration with the Himalayan Patan Rotary Club in Kathmandu.

ShelterBox Australia has received continuing club and individual member financial support.

Beginning with our first meeting this Rotary year, we introduced an informative and enjoyable new element — an international toast, recognising a wide variety of fellow Rotary clubs overseas. Our club members chose, researched and reported on clubs from the USA, UK, Canada, South Africa, Nepal, Cambodia, Japan, Hungary, Austria, France, Sudan, Norway, The Netherlands, Iceland and Fiji, amongst others. It's been enlightening and fun!

We met our key International Service goals for this year, but, as always, there is more to do. Thank you to our supportive President and club members, international committee members Ian Scott and Peter Carroll and, of course, RAWCS. Together, we all contribute to Rotary serving humanity.

Steve Cookson

International Services Chair, 2016/17

Youth Service

Many young people in the upper Blue Mountains participated in and benefited from a variety of Rotary programs which the Club was delighted to offer.

Following are the highlights of the year.

- Four students attended the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) at Springwood's Blue Gum Lodge. There is no doubt that this program has a profoundly positive effect on the lives of the young people attending.
- The Club's Rotary Youth Leadership Awardee (RYLA) visited the Club after attending this leadership camp and it was very plain to see why he has been invited to attend next year as a counsellor.
- For the first time in many years a local team from Blue Mountains Grammar School participated in the District's Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) debating competition. The team chose to represent Russia in the Assembly.
- The Club assisted a bright science student attend the Canberra based National Youth Science Forum. This highly competitive two-week experience opens the doors to the wide range of science and technology career choices available to them.
- Science and technology is certainly alive and well in the Mountains with our Club supporting the Science and Engineering Challenge. Again, members played a role in guiding the budding scientists and engineers through the various steps of the challenge.
- A scholarship for students from Wentworth Public School to attend a creative writing enrichment camp was established. Central Blue was delighted to give these youngsters the opportunity to develop their already advanced writing skills and look forward to continuing this relationship with the school.
- Central Blue Rotary continued its relationship with Hazelbrook Scout Group through offering a place at the RYPEN camp to a teenage Scout, support of working bees and financial assistance. Scouting and Rotary is a perfect match as both organisations place high importance on community service.
- An addition to the Youth program was the support the Club gave the Emu Plains Chapter of Days for Girls, a non-profit organisation providing feminine hygiene kits to girls and young women in the third world. Aside from financial assistance, members and friends of the Club donated fabric and a sewing machine. Monthly working bees are well supported by the Club.

Thanks to a group of socially aware year 10 students the Club learned what social issues are important to today's young people and how through meaningful engagement Rotary can best help them in their endeavours. The young people of the Blue Mountains are committed to community service and social justice and it is a pleasure to support them.

Thank you to Katoomba, Blackheath and Upper Blue Mts Sunrise Clubs, our local schools, teachers and students and their parents and guest speakers on youth issues for their enthusiastic support of Central Blue Rotary Club's Youth Service activities.

Ava Emdin
Youth Service Coordinator, 2016-2017