



ROTARY CLUB OF CANBERRA INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

GPO Box 276

Canberra ACT 2601

www.rotarycanberra.org.au

Board Membership 2022-2023

President: Chris Angus PHF

Secretary: Helen Moore PHF

Treasurer: Paul Street OAM PHF

Immediate Past President: Sandra Turner PHF

President Elect: Shawn Wilson

Club Service: Shawn Wilson

Service Project Director: Phil Byrne OAM PHF

Rotary Foundation and Fundraising: Rosemary Ganly PHF

Membership: Michael Moore AM PHF

Public Image: Sandra Turner PHF

President's Report 2022-2023

Over the 12 months to 30 June 2023, the Rotary Club of Canberra achieved remarkable milestones that reflect its dedication to making a positive impact on the community. The Club's success is measured not just by its financial resources but by its ability to create meaningful change.

The Club's outgoing Fundraising Director, Rosemary Ganly, led the club into new collaborations. A memorandum of understanding was signed with fellow Rotarian David Campbell, initiating a partnership with St. Andrew's church in Forrest to host a joint concert. This event will not only provide cultural enrichment but will also serve as a catalyst for positive change in the community, demonstrating the club's commitment to innovative fundraising and community engagement.

An enduring and central partnership with Circus Quirkus has been instrumental in the Club's fundraising efforts, allowing them to touch countless lives and bring hope to those in need. The 'Gnomes' activity at the Annual Floriade raised around \$4,500, further bolstering the club's capacity to support worthy causes. Also, one of the Club's cherished annual events is Buycycle, which successfully raised \$7,000 in October.

Stephen Utick's tireless efforts have led to a program to renovate the English Garden in Canberra's Weston Park, marking the Club's influence on the horticultural life of the town.

However, the Club's impact extends beyond fundraising. As the sponsor Club of the District Project for Ruby's Place, a substantial donation of \$9,000 was made. Ruby's Place, dedicated to working with vulnerable youth in Waramanga, is now operational, making a profound difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families. Discussions are ongoing to expand this model to reach more young individuals in need. Special thanks are extended to David Marshall and Alan Scandrett for their wonderful contributions in this regard.

The Club also contributed to various community efforts, including helping those affected by the floods in central west NSW, supporting and hosting a young man from the Solomon Islands as part of the Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) program, providing him with critical hospital treatment and a home stay in a members family home for the duration. The Club has also supported academic and leadership development for some young Canberrans and others from the local Rotary District, by funding them to attend various enrichment and educational programs. The Rotary Club of Canberra remains actively engaged in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.



Rotarian Desmond Woods with Mercy and William from the Solomon Islands who he hosted while William received medical treatment in Canberra.

The club's global impact is evident through a \$4,000 donation to a district project in Fiji, which facilitated the installation of solar panels and batteries, reducing the burden of running diesel-fuelled generators for a local school. This commitment to sustainable solutions and international partnerships reflects the Club's dedication to a more equitable and environmentally conscious world.



The truly transformative work done by Elizabeth and Desmond Woods in partnership with Emily Nabakooza, benefiting young Ugandans, particularly women must also be recognised.

Behind-the-scenes work is not overlooked, as Max Kimber, the Club public officer, played a crucial role in rewriting the Club's Constitution to achieve compliance with Rotary International and the ACT Government's expectations. This accomplishment ensures the Club's integrity, transparency, and alignment with the global Rotary movement, reinforcing its commitment to good governance.

In summary, the Rotary Club of Canberra's achievements over my year as President encompassed successful fundraising events, significant community contributions, and a commitment to making a global impact while upholding the values of Rotary. The Club's dedication to innovative initiatives, sustainability, and good governance is evident in its accomplishments.

Rotary Awards

The following Rotary Awards were presented by the President to members of the Rotary Club of Canberra and a well deserving community member as part of the Changeover Dinner celebrations in June 2023:

Rotarian of the Year 2022-2023 – Helen Moore PHF

Paul Harris Fellows: Natalie Vandeppeer-Bradley, Elizabeth Woods, Desmond Woods, Sue Wigley, Ruth Pearce, Hugh Daiken, Rosemary Ganly, Steven Utick

Chris Angus PHF – President 2022-2023

Club Service

The system of having regular Monday lunchtime meetings was changed to allow for alternate dinner and lunch gatherings as a trial to cater for those unable to attend during the working day. An additional trial involved all members being allocated one meeting with the responsibility to organise a speaker or activity. This process meant the members were provided a variety of different speakers and some interesting outside activities. Both trials were to be evaluated and reassessed at the end of the calendar year.

Shawn Wilson – Club Service Director

Service Projects

Service Projects were supported and funded with a total of \$9725 during the year.

Youth Projects

Science Schools Foundation - \$380

NYSF funding for two Students - \$1950

RYPEN funding for one Student Wagga - \$400

Youth Exchange expenses and allowance for Joni - \$3595

National Schools Debating - \$550

RYLA funding for three Students with one non-attendance - \$2850

The Youth Exchange Program has been a continuous part of the Club's service since early 1980s with students supported to go on exchange to another country, and other inbound students home hosted by members of the Club. Except for the recent COVID years, our members have been privileged to host wonderful students from all over the world who have become lifelong friends. This year has been no exception with the Club hosting an exceptional student from Finland, Joni Rainesalo. Joni was hosted by four families and enjoyed his time in Canberra immensely. The Club will continue to host Youth Exchange Students with the next young man, Jonas Stein from Germany, arriving in August to start his year in Canberra.



President Chris, exchange student Joni Rainesalo with PP and Youth Counsellor, Phil Byrne

International

St Judes School - \$720

Fiji Solar Project - \$4000

Sri Lanka - \$1000

Fiji RAWCS Project (with RC Goulburn) - \$2500

Total \$8220

Community Projects

Flood Appeal Forbes - \$5000

Wiradjuri Group Study Exchange - \$3000

Vulnerable Youth Project - \$9000

Total \$17000

Environmental Projects

Rotarian Stephen Utick developed an environmental project to revitalise the English Gardens at Weston Park. The Weston Park Nursery Heritage Project has the aim of raising awareness about Rotary in the Community, work collaboratively with the ACT Government and other Rotary Clubs and individuals, while also providing an opportunity to raise funds for the Club. It will also help engage Club members in a worthwhile endeavour. The project will re-invigorate the English Garden area and provide opportunities for an excellent historical walk for all to enjoy. Stephen has agreed to take control of the Project and has started organising the program which will begin in earnest in September. This area is one of the most important environmental heritage sites in the ACT as it is the site of horticultural and aboricultural trials supervised by Thomas Charles George Weston (1866-1935) during the 1920s and early 1930s for the development of the Capital region.



Volunteer Rotarians at the Weston Park Nursery Heritage Project

Other Projects

Malaria Vaccine Project Griffith University – a final contribution of \$3860 to this vaccine development project.

ROMAC donation - \$500 to assist with the program across the Pacific.

Fiji Vatukarasa Community Hall and Toilet Repair Project – Contribution in funds and volunteer time from member Phil Byrne. This project has been planned over three years and as part of the Rotary Club of Goulburn's international program. The Project

aims to replace damaged, leaking corrugated roof sheeting, replace water damaged ceiling lining, restore and upgrade a septic system, and a toilet block to proper operation, repair louvre windows in the hall, and undertake any necessary repairs or upgrades damage revealed during these tasks. The project includes training local villagers in maintenance of the facilities.

Phil Byrne proposed at the March board meeting that the Club support the project with a donation of \$5000 towards the total expected cost of \$25,000. The Board agreed that \$2500 from the current year's budget be allocated to the project and that next year's Board consider the additional allocation of \$2500 at its first meeting.

Phil Byrne OAM PP PHF Service Projects Director

Foundation and Fundraising

Background

This year the Rotary Club of Canberra Board decided to add to the role of the Foundation Director and initiated a Foundation and Fundraising position.

Foundation

The Club has made its regular contribution to the Rotary Foundation and to Polio Plus. The total Club contribution was \$10,000. A greater effort has been made to advertise the Centurion scheme and it is hoped that in the future more members will become individual contributors to the Foundation through this \$US100 per year process. The Club remains committed to the Rotary Foundation as the Rotary Charity and for the District and Global Grants made available to our Club over time. These grants have enabled us to continue our work in the local and international communities.

Fundraising

There have been 3 additional Fundraising projects in the Rotary Year 2022-2023. The main event which provides funds for the Club to do its work in the community, locally and internationally, is Circus Quirkus which is a partnership with other organisations and the report on these funds can be found in the Financial Report.

Floriade Gnomes: The Rotary Club of Canberra (RCC) worked with the Rotary Club of Canberra Murrumbidgee providing volunteers for the Rotary Gnomes Project at Floriade. At a presentation night on 9 November, the Club was presented with a cheque for \$4,725.00 to recognize the work of our volunteers. It is appropriate in this report to thank all those club members who volunteered and helped raise this money.

Trash and Treasure: The Rotary Club of Tuggeranong invited RCC to contribute to their roster at the Rotary Club of Belconnen's Trash and Treasure Markets. The Rotary Club of Tuggeranong agreed to share the income they received from the markets with RCC in proportion to the number of roster slots RCC members had filled. Several members were regular volunteers over the contracted months. A total of \$1,765.89 was received for the 6 months of volunteering.

BuyCycle: The RCC held a very successful BuyCycle event on 16 October 2022 at the Fitters Workshop in Kingston ACT. This project involved most of the Club members on the actual day and for some, for many weeks beforehand. There will be a full report on this event in the Service Project Director's Report. The Club thanks all those members who worked so hard to make this event a success.



President Chris Angus and Buycycle organiser Bruce Mackay selling bicycles

St John's Care Christmas Gift Cards

The Club members donated funds to enable the purchase of gift cards to the value of \$540 which were presented to St John's Care for deserving teenagers as part of their Christmas Appeal 2022.

Rosemary Ganly PP PHF - Foundation and Fundraising Director

Public Image

Public Image contribution for the reporting year has consisted of social media (Facebook), website and the Bulletin newsletter. Facebook remains the main access to our wider audience. In the reporting period, the Rotary Club of Canberra Facebook page had a reach of 8463. There were 83 published posts throughout the year and 1952 Facebook visits, with 70 new 'likes' over the 12-month period.

Our audience is approximately 60% women and 40% men. The two highest age groups are 65+, followed by 35-44 for both women and men. This shows there is a significant younger audience of followers and may indicate a means of reaching more potential members in the future.

Weekly posts about upcoming speakers allows for broader dissemination of our speaker activities and it has also been a means to promote activities such as the Floriade gnome sales and the Weston Park Heritage Garden activities as well as internal events such as Changeover District activities like the Peace Walk held in early 2023.

Like any communications effort, it is a time-consuming process and depends on information available. All Board and Club members are regularly encouraged to provide updates for publication on events and activities pertaining to our Club to ensure our messaging remains constant and varied and to reflect our diverse Club interests.

The Bulletin newsletter is produced through ClubRunner and the editor was able to speak with ClubRunner representatives at the RI Convention in Melbourne in May to learn more about useful publishing tools available. Regular availability of information

and time to edit and publish contributions for both the newsletter and website has been a factor in publications in this past year and Club member assistance to keep our audience updated through these means is always encouraged.

Members have previously noted they don't regularly view the Club website, although everyone has access available to them. Members are encouraged to use the site and there is a plan to provide some easy-to-understand guidelines through the next period to encourage our members to use the site more often, including to learn about upcoming events and activities and to learn more about our speakers - and to book and decline meetings and events online which is very helpful for planning purposes.

Promotion of Canberra BuyCycle 2022 included social media, interviews on local radio and the inclusion of an article in the City News. The event was very well attended through this promotion, providing a good fundraising avenue for the Club.

Sandra Turner PP PHF - Public Image Director

Membership Report

The Rotary Club of Canberra member numbers dropped during 2022-2023 due to overseas postings, interstate moves and work commitments. The Club also lost one of the long standing and great Rotarians, Gary Lee, who died earlier in the year. Currently the number of members is 49 with the newer Rotarians enthusiastically involved in Club activities.

Michael Moore AM PP PHF – Membership Director

JC Olsson Relief Trust Fund

The Annual Report of the JC Olsson Relief Trust Fund including the financial statement, will be provided as a verbal report at the AGM and also as an addendum to this Report.

Reviewed Financial Statements

The Financial Reports for 2022-2023 are provided as an annexure to this Annual Report along with the Reviewers Report.



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Chris Angus PHF
President 2022-2023
Rotary Club of Canberra

Date: 27 November 2023



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Paul Street OAM PP PHF
Treasurer 2022-2023
Rotary Club of Canberra

Date: 27 November 2023