



Rotary Club of Sydney 2015-16



95th Annual Report

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1. ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY BOARD 2015-16

Board Members

President	Andrew Laurie
President Elect (July – December)	Peter Townsend
President Elect (January – June)	Alex Shaw
Immediate Past President	Diana Richards
Treasurer	Colin Westman
Secretary	Alex Ebert
Service and Awards Director	Shane Herbert
Membership Director	Anthony LeMarchant
Youth Services Director	Chris Timmins
International Service Director	Carolyn Fletcher
Communications Director	Dane Eldridge



Officers

President's Aide	John Randall
Receptionist	Roni Corne
Honorary Legal Counsel	Peter Townsend

District Governor

Graham Wilson

Rotary International President

K.R. Ravindran

Honorary Members

Governor Gen. David Hurley
 Premier Mike Baird
 Sir William Deane AC KBE
 Councillor Clover Moore MP
 Andrew Scipione APM

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rotary Club of Sydney remains an incredibly busy place; 2015/16 was a year filled with service activities, social activities, community involvement and fellowship among members and the broader Rotary and Sydney community. The following pages should provide some idea of the volume and range of activities undertaken by the club during the year; I know that there are very few, if any, other organisations in Sydney, let alone Rotary Clubs, who have a comparable list. In this sense, and if measured by the extent of service activity led, managed, funded or supported by the Club, the year has been a great success.

However, the Club continues to go through similar challenges to those faced by Rotary Clubs elsewhere. Maintaining membership numbers, keeping sufficient members engaged with, and actively involved in, the club remain among the greatest of those challenges.

Recognising these challenges, the year has also been one of experimentation. Clearly, some change is required if the club is to remain strong and relevant. Over the course of 2015/16, a number of initiatives were trialled. These included new types of social events, regularly scheduled evening meetings to complement the usual lunch meetings, additional service initiatives and the use of new forms of promotion. Some were successful, while others were less so but still answered questions about what might work and what might not work in future. For example, regularly scheduled evening meetings, while requested by many members of the club, were not well attended.

Overall, there has been a slight decline in membership for the year. However, almost 90% of the final membership for the year have actively engaged with the club during the year. The financial position of the club is strong. Club members have enjoyed many great events and activities during the year and the Club, as a whole, has made a huge contribution to those in need: in Sydney, around Australia and around the world.

It remains a great club, a wonderfully active club and a club that continues to achieve so much, for so many. The remainder of this report provides further detail on all of the different areas of service undertaken by the club in 2015/16, as well as of other activities of the club.

Fundraising/President's Project

This year's President's Project was the Take Charge of Your Life Program, undertaken in conjunction with the Wesley Mission. The project sought to create a program that would support young Australians leaving Foster Care.

There are some 40,000 young Australians in care. The majority of those experience very negative outcomes upon leaving care, including homelessness, unemployment, addiction, mental and physical health problems, very low educational attainment and even suicide. There existed a clear need to design and build a program that can support those people through that transition to independent living.

Rotary Club of Sydney funded the design, development and 6-month pilot of the program. This funding amounted to \$225,000; an amount which was raised from a wide range of activities, including club member donations, outside donations and specific fund-raising events. Furthermore, the funding establishes a model that can be rolled out nationally by for-purpose agencies in partnership with either donors and/or with State and Federal governments.

Each young adult is offered a package of support options, individually tailored to their unique situation, location and level of need. Package components will include combinations of mentoring, education, training, life skill development, accommodation support and employment opportunities. In the course of the pilot, solutions were found for Participants across all key needs, including

accommodation, training, employment and general support. Initial results, including results from a systematic Assessment Tool being employed, have been very positive and the Program will now be continued under management primarily of the Wesley Mission.



The program enjoyed support from the State Government, including having the Honorary Brad Hazzard, Minister for Family and Community Services and the Minister for Social Housing, who spoke at the launch and at a subsequent fundraising event. That event provided one of the highlights of the calendar; hosted by Club Member Thomas Moegelin at the Audi Centre in Zetland, the evening included auctioning of Audi Drive Days and other Merchandise. Those Drive Days, the evening itself and the fundraising that it enabled were all an outstanding success.

Additional fund-raising events included rounds of Golf at the NSW Golf Club, provided by Club Member Nicholas Assef. These were then “purchased” with donations to the project and provided a good contribution to the required funding. There were also a number of individual members of the club who made sizeable donations to the project; most notably John Plummer, Garry Browne, Bruce and Zeny Edwards, Karen Loblay, Taine Moufaridge, Tom Noetel and Diana Richards. Over the course of the year, contributions were received from the majority of club members. The balance of funding was received from external supporters.

Speakers and Club Days

The Club welcomed some 45 Guest Speakers during the year. Some of the highlights included:

- From Business, **Wal King** (former CEO, Leighton Holdings), **Paul Scurrah** (MD, DP World Australia), **Luke Naish** (CEO, BBQ Galore), **John Winning** (CEO, Winning Appliances & Appliances Online), **Holly Kramer** (former CEO, Best & Less), **Tim Power** (Founder and CEO, 3PL Learning), and **Sam Romaniuk** (CEO, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority)



- From Politics, **Tanya Plibersek** (Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition & Member for Sydney), **Jillian Skinner** (NSW Minister for Health), **John Barilaro** (NSW Minister for Small Business), **Adrian Piccoli** (NSW Minister for Education), and **Troy Grant** (Deputy Premier and NSW Minister for Police, Gaming and the Arts)
- From Public and Community Service, **Elizabeth Coombs** (NSW Privacy Commissioner), **Ric Smith** (former Secretary of Defence, Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador to Beijing and to Jakarta), **Heath Dukker** (CEO, Youth in Search), and **Lucy Brogden**.
- From Sport, **Nick Farr-Jones** (former Wallaby and World Cup-winning Captain), **James Castrission** (First person to kayak the



Tasman and to walk unassisted to the South Pole and back), **Pat Farmer** (First person to run from the North Pole to the South Pole), and **Sarah Ryan** (Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer)

With the exception of one speaker who had to leave half way through lunch, they all arrived early, stayed late, addressed us, took our question and chatted with members and guests before and after the meeting. It remains a unique opportunity in Sydney.



The Club also marked several special Events over the course of the year. Many of these had prominent Guest Speakers address the club. These days included (with Guest Speakers highlighted):

- Community Service Award – **Dr Jamal Rifi**
- Ethics Event – **Fifa Riccobono; former CEO, Albert Music**
- National Skills Week
- Citizenship Ceremony – **Senator Arthur Sinodinos;**
- Consular Day – **Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP; NSW Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations**
- Mental Health Week – **Dr Tim Sharp, aka Dr Happy**
- Local Area Command Police Awards
- International Peace Day and Presentation of the Inaugural RCS Community Peace Prize to the Shared Table Project – **Clyde McConaghy; Founder, Global Peace Index**
- Soukup Scholarship – **Belinda Hutchinson AM, Chancellor of the University of Sydney**
- International Womens' Day
- District Governor's Visit: **DG Graham Wilson**
- Club Assembly
- President's wrap up

One of the club's annual events, the awarding of the RCS Vocational Service Award, was not held this year. This year's Awardee, Catherine Livingstone, was unable to attend due to other commitments, so the Award will be presented during the following Rotary Year.

Social Events Calendar

A wide range of fellowship events were held over the 2015-16 year. Some of the highlights included:

- Function to raise funds for President's Project; held at the Audi Centre in Zetland and hosted by Club Member Thomas Moegelin, Dealer Principle, Audi Sydney
- Audi Drive Day; supported by Audi Sydney
- The Dance; 60 members and other volunteers conducting a "flash mob" in Martin Place, to raise money for youth programs of Rotary and the Rotary Club of Sydney
- Bangarra Dance performance
- Fiducian Golf Day; to raise money for Vision Beyond Aus
- Curwoods Artist in Residence Exhibition; to raise money for the Rotary Club of Sydney Youth Programs



- Sydney Harbour Golf Club drinks at the Rocks
- Mazi Mas Dinner
- Melbourne Cup Breakfast
- Christmas Party
- ANZAC Day BBQ; raising money for the Rotary Club of Sydney Service Projects
- MS Mega Swim; 24-hour swim to raise money for MS Australia, at which Club members volunteer to assist in a range of capacities.



Visit of Rotary International President Elect John Germ

The President-Elect of Rotary International, John Germ, visited Sydney in mid-August. The Club hosted a dinner on Thursday 20th of August, at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. Over 100 people attended the dinner, at which PE Germ updated us all on his plans for Rotary International next year. Of particular note was his recognition of the challenges facing Rotary, many of which are familiar to the Rotary Club of Sydney, and his enthusiasm to embrace and drive change. The types of ideas and activities being explored by the Club are very consistent with this.

Sydney Harbour Golf Club

The Rotary Club of Sydney Cove launched, during 2015/16, the Sydney Harbour Golf Club (SHGC). It will involve, over the course of a year, 6 events at 6 iconic Sydney Venues, each featuring 3 holes of mini-golf, food and drink and networking. Whilst the SHGC is principally focussed on attracting Corporate Memberships and participation, they offered the Rotary Club of Sydney the opportunity to participate as a Foundation Member of the Club. This was accepted by the Board, providing RCS with tickets to all future events SHGC. Recognising the potential to utilise these tickets for members' events, for fundraising, for engagement with potential members in a very different way to our normal, this should provide a good future opportunity.

The first SHGC Event took place during Vivid and, with a combination of new members and active longer-standing members present, was a good way of building stronger relationships between the old and the new.

The Dance

On the 27th of November, 2015, the Dance was held in Martin Place and was considered by all involved to be a great success, in terms of the operational logistics, participation and fund-raising. The Dance generated \$14,601 and made a surplus of approximately \$7,000. This was a great result for the inaugural event.

Luncheon Numbers

Lunch attendance has continued to be extremely variable over the course of the year. The strongest attendance was at the Changeover lunch at the beginning of the year, at which over 100 were present. Average luncheon attendance for the year was 40. This number has introduced some risk to our continued ability to meet at the Castlereagh Hotel, at the favourable rates that we have enjoyed to date, however the relationship with the hotel remains strong at the close of the year.

President's Activities

The President represented the Club at a range of external events through the course of the year:

June	Sydney Harbour Golf Club Vivid Event
	Rotaract Club of Sydney end of year meeting
May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
	Soukup Luncheon at UTS
April	Audi Driver Day
	Fiducian Vision Beyond Aus Golf Day Dinner
	Anzac Day
	MS Megaswim
March	Burrumbuttock Hay Runners Event, Ilfracombe, QLD
	Wesley Mission Easter Breakfast
	Rotary District Conference
	Sunset Celebration
January	Rotary Youth Leadership (RYLA) Apprentice
December	Meeting with Monica Barone, CEO, City of Sydney
November	District Presidents' Meeting
	Police Officer of the Year Awards
	Rotary Foundation Dinner
October	UNAA Wreath Laying Ceremony
	Opening of the Curwoods Artist in Residence Exhibition
	Non-Violence Concert at Parliament House
	Audi Event
	Ball to Celebrate 170 Years of Government House
September	MS Awards Lunch
August	Dinner for Rotary International President-Elect John Germ
July	Drummoyne Rotary Club Changeover

3. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From the beginning of the year, the President and Board of the Club recognized the need to grow the Club's membership base and to improve member engagement. That more progress wasn't made towards these aims was the source of disappointment. The Club tested a range of activities – we tested evening meetings and we tested regular social gatherings. These were the most common requests received from members but neither were well attended. We tested changes to the meeting structure. The President spoke individually with almost every member to explore how they wished to be engaged. In interviewing new members, the club was more disciplined about emphasising the need to participate. And some new members were very active indeed!

Nonetheless, in the course of the year, membership numbers declined approximately 10%. To remain viable, let alone strong, further strategies will need to be explored by the club in future to attract, retain and engage members.

On a positive note, the club did end the year with more good, enthusiastic member prospects in the funnel. Furthermore, approximately 89% of that membership have been engaged during the year. Not all members attend lunch, but there are many ways to participate in, and contribute to, this club.

Four Paul Harris Fellows were conferred by the Club:

As Rotary, Paul Harris Fellows are awarded to those who donate considerable sums of money to the Rotary Foundation. As the Rotary Club of Sydney, we also award Paul Harris Fellows to individuals

who have contributed to the club and to its activities to the highest possible level. In the 2015/16 year, four such Paul Harris Fellows were awarded:

In addition to his financial support for the Rotary Foundation and his past role as President of this Club, **Geoff Wilbow** has continued to serve on the Board of Vision Beyond Aus and has, over this Rotary Year, actively supported many of our Club's activities. He has taken the lead on a number of them and has been one of our most active contributors to the club.

Diana Richards is the Club's Immediate Past President and has served on numerous of the Club's Committees over the last 15 years, most actively the Youth Services Committee.

Colin Westman has now completed three years as Honorary Treasurer of the Club. This is a challenging role in any organisation. In a Club of this size, within a worldwide organization with significant complexity to its rules and regulations and with the value of the funds involved, it is a very significant and demanding role. Colin has provided exemplary service in it.

Roni Corne has been a tireless worker for the club for many years. Roni has formally held the role of Receptionist but has also supported the club financially, swam for our team in the MS Megaswim, has volunteered at many of our events and has provided support to the club and its members in innumerable ways.

4. SERVICE COMMITTEES

The Majority of the Service Projects supported by the Rotary Club of Sydney continue to be managed by the following Service Committees:

a) International Service Committee

Chair – Carolyn Fletcher

Projects and Activities managed by the International Services Committee in 2015/16 included:

- i. Vision Beyond Aus
- ii. Opportunity Cambodia
- iii. East Timor Health Project
- iv. Hope Road, South Sudan
- v. Manjeri School, Uganda
- vi. Kiribati Water Project
- vii. Pollinate Energy
- viii. Adrian Golding Gift of Life
- ix. 2 Global Scholars
- x. Pakistan Girls School
- xi. Four Clubs Centenary Project

Six of these projects are now approved RAWCS projects.

Alex Ebert has led the ongoing development of our relationships with our sister clubs in Makati (Philippines), Singapore and Hong Kong and has explored the possibility of a closer relationship with the Rotary Club of New York.

Paul Wenham organised a particularly successful Consular Day at the Club. Featuring an address by the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, Treasurer of NSW, the meeting was one of the best attended of the year, including the presence of 21 Consuls and Consuls General. The decision was taken to offer Consuls-General and Consuls Honorary Membership of the Club as a way of engaging them for the short

periods of time for which they typically reside in Sydney. By the end of the year, six applications had already been received.

b) Service and Awards Committee

Chair – Shane Herbert

Projects and Activities managed by the Service and Awards Committee in 2015/16 included:

- i. Vocational Service Award – Catherine Livingstone
- ii. Community Service Award – Dr Jamal Rifi
- iii. Joan Salter Fund
- iv. Teachers Award
- v. Ethics Event - Fifa Riccobono
- vi. Police Officer of the Year, Local Area Command
- vii. Police Officer of the Year, State Finals
- viii. Australian Citizenship Ceremony
- ix. Anzac Day BBQ
- x. MS Megawim
- xi. Childhood Literacy Project



c) Youth Services Committee

Chair – Chris Timmins

Projects and Activities managed by the Youth Services Committee in 2015/16 included:

- i. RYLA – 9 Attendees
- ii. MUNA – 1 Team from St Andrews Cathedral School
- iii. Rotaract
- iv. National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)
- v. PCYC
- vi. Rotary Youth Exchange (although currently the program is suspended by District, pending review of its design)
- vii. Melbourne Cup Sweepstake
- viii. Curwoods Artist in Residence Fund-raiser

d) Peace Committee

Chair: Chris McDiven

Projects and Activities managed by the Peace Building Committee in 2015/16 included:

- i. UNAA Peace Programs
- ii. Inaugural RCS Community Peace Prize - The Shared Table Project
- iii. Together for Humanity
- iv. Mazi Mas Function
- v. Crime-stoppers Campaign
- vi. Peace Park
- vii. Peace Fellowship



e) Soukup committee

Chair: Gillean Wilbow

During 2015/16, the Soukup Committee has made significant progress implementing the Board's policy, in line with the Trust Deed, of providing scholarships to young, undergraduate students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent whose means would not otherwise permit them to undertake university study. Key points to note:

- RCS will support students at The University of Sydney and The University of Technology, Sydney.
- RCS has established a "standard scholarship" that applies at both universities each Scholarship committing the Rotary Club of Sydney's Soukup Memorial Scholarship Fund to \$15,000 a year for 3 years; we would consider a fourth year for a particular student but there is no initial commitment to the additional year.
- A small amount of money is allocated over each of the next 2 years to Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarships.
- The committee has also received pledges from individual club members totaling \$75,000 to increase the scholarships available over the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, meaning that 5 scholarships can now be offered.

5. DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES

The Rotary Club of Sydney Rural Community Support Programme (RRCS), as it is now known, was established in 2014. This Programme has enabled the Club to continue to do what it has always done: partner with others in the community in Achieving for Others. To date the programme has delivered outcomes for people who need help in rural NSW and Queensland. More money has been donated to the club to support this programme than any other project in the Club's history; with the vast majority of the money being donated from non-members.

In dollar turnover this has been the club's largest programme in each of the last 3 Rotary years and will be in 2016-17. Money is raised and spent in partnership with other organisations; our major partner is Burrumbuttock Hay Runners.

Over the last three years the Club has assembled donations to back the:

- Burrumbuttock Hay Runners
- Western Division Resilient Landscapes Project
- Australian Rotary Health Mental Health First Aid Courses, and
- Bourke High School students' excursion to Japan, as one of the sponsors.

A highlight of the 2015/16 year was the successful event conducted in Ilfracombe, QLD, in April, celebrating the arrival of our 11th convoy of hay to drought affected regions. The convoy consisted of nearly 300 Prime-movers, more than 400 trailers and approximately \$6million worth of hay. The gratitude of the local community and the enthusiasm of the Truck Drivers was quite compelling and this initiative is clearly making a huge difference.



6. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The financial position of the club remains strong.

The General Fund has again operated to a surplus. That surplus was then put towards a range of additional projects.

The Benevolent Fund and Soukup Fund remain our primary funds for charitable works. Both are in a good position and contain in the vicinity of \$2.5million.

No significant change has been made to the Club's Investment Policies during the year. However, the Finance and Investment Committee, led by Peter LeMessurier, as well as the Board, has invested considerable time this year to the refinement of the investment mandate and how it is managed. The governance associated with these funds is vitally important and has been refined in the course of the year.

Of perhaps greatest importance, in the context of the club's financial activities, in the course of the year the Club actively led, participated in, managed and supported projects that delivered approximately \$2million in service to people in need around Sydney, Australia and the world.