



Rotary Club of Sydney

2017-2018

97th Annual Report



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

In Rotary year 2017-18 the Rotary International President Ian Riseley challenged us all with his theme ***Rotary: Making a Difference.***

In our Rotary Club of Sydney, 2017-18 would see us celebrate our Clubs' 97th Birthday. There was a growing recognition that while we had made and would continue to "make a difference", as we approached our Centenary Year we needed to start looking at our Club's long-term impact and sustainability, particularly as the needs of our members changed with the changes happening in society and the world of work.

At our Club President launch on 4th July, we discussed the many and varied activities available and the many ways that Rotarians could get involved. Changes to Rotary International rules in recent years have allowed greater flexibility around meetings, membership and engagement. A growing concept is a "Multi-Dimensional Club" where the weekly Club meeting is only one, still very important activity, although declining in attendance as busy family, work and social lives compete for members time and attention. When we look across the range of activities our Club is engaged in, there are many other opportunities for members to get involved and make a difference including Club committees, community service, Rotary Means Business networking, fundraising activities, volunteering at major events, fellowship and social activities, and donating to our many causes and supported charities. We shared words to describe the Club that we want to continue to be including: ***"energetic, vibrant, active, busy, and fun"***.

In laying out my Vision for the Rotary Club of Sydney Year 2017-2018, I set three core objectives of:

Participation
Impact
Re-Generation

The following pages are a summary of a very busy and impactful year! Thankyou.

Shane Herbert
President, 2017-18

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Club Leadership Team

Our busy Club could not operate and provide the range of activities without the assistance and input of many people including Directors, Committee Chairs, Office Officers and many others in project and team leadership roles. Club Office Holders through the 2017-18 Rotary Year were:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| President | Shane Herbert |
| Immediate Past President | Alex Shaw |
| President Elect | Keith Garner |
| Treasurer | Colin Westman |
| Club Secretary | Kelly Eldridge |
| Vice President | Chris McDiven |
| Vice President | Chris Timmins |
| Director & Chair – Youth Committee (2017) | Brigette Sancho |
| Director & Chair – Youth Committee (2018) | Mary Waite |
| Director & Chair – International Committee | Carolyn Fletcher |
| Director & Chair – Peace Group (2017) | Fatima Ali |
| Director & Chair – Peace Group (2018) | David Hirsch |
| Director - Communications | Dane Eldridge |
| Director - Rural Programs | Geoff Wilbow |
| Director - Soukup | Gillean Wilbow |
| Director - District Liaison | John Given |
| Director - Membership | Tony Benner |
| Director | Karen Loblay |
| Chair – Service & Awards Committee | Rob Clifton-Steele |
| Chair – Investment Committee | Simon Martin |
| Meetings Coordinator | John Randall |

Goals and Objectives for 2017-18

At the start of every year the Club leadership team are encouraged by Rotary District 9675 to set out specific goals and targets for the Rotary year. Achievement of these goals can be measured and tracked online through the MyRotary website. In June 2017, the outgoing and the incoming Boards met together for a workshop to identify challenges, opportunities and set some goals for the year. This workshop informed the 2017-18 Goals, and the Presidents Objectives of *Participation, Impact and Re-Generation*.

From a range of options, our Club decided to focus on selected Rotary Goals that would support involvement, participation and membership growth. Specific areas of focus were:

- ✓ **Club Membership** – a regular challenge is to recruit enough new members to replace those who retire or move away, and we set a goal to retain current and introduce new members in order to maintain membership of the Club at 130 active and financial members;
- ✓ **Service Participation** – an important element of Rotary Making a Difference, we sought to provide opportunities to involve more members in active service projects and community service activities - with an increase in service projects completed and introduction to members of a variety of supported community service providers, particularly projects offering opportunity for many members to get involved;
- ✓ **Leadership Development Participation** – providing opportunity for newer and younger members to learn about Rotary and take on leadership roles, we identified existing District leadership programmes as well as encouraged newer members to step up to lead projects, chair committees and join the Board;
- ✓ **Engaging with Future Rotarians** – our Club worked hard to engage with and support three Rotaract Clubs within Sydney, we provided and sponsored a large cohort to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and started the process to sponsor a new Interact Club at St Andrews Cathedral School in Sydney;
- ✓ **Volunteering** – providing additional project opportunities while also recognising the many hours of volunteer time already committed, allowed us to celebrate our Club's impact and participation in volunteering on Rotary Club of Sydney projects as well as other events and community service activities throughout Sydney.

Through encouraging participation in a wide a varied range of Club sponsored and organised activities, providing opportunities for members to make an impact through volunteering and fundraising, and encouraging and promoting newer members to step up to leadership, our Club was recognised with a [Rotary International President Citation](#) presented at the District Governor changeover event in July 2018.

Club Major Project – “The Presidents Project”

In 2015 and 2016 there was an increasing amount of media attention on the difficulties faced by a significant proportion of contemporary Defence Force Veterans. Australia was winding back our involvement in long and drawn-out military operations in war against insurgents and peace-building, in particular in Iraq, and Afghanistan. Many of our members were struck by the plight of particularly younger veterans, facing financial hardship, emotional and psychological trauma, and difficulty making transition to their future lives outside of the military. One of the benefits and responsibilities of the incoming Club President is to introduce a major project for the coming year.

Serving On

- Veterans serving their communities



A joint initiative between the Rotary Club of Sydney and Soldier On - giving contemporary veterans the skills, opportunities and support to continue to serve through purposeful work and impactful projects helping people and communities.

In 2017 The Rotary Club of Sydney launched our Club’s Major Project – SERVING ON. Club President and former Army Officer Shane Herbert brought this initiative to the attention of Sydney Rotary as a way for Rotarians to thank and support our younger veterans for their Service, and as a way to assist their transition into future successful careers through engaging in continued service helping their Community. Contemporary Veterans have served our nation since 1990 as members of the Australian Defence Forces – Army, Navy and Air Force – as well as other non-military service personnel who often serve side-by-side in conflict zones, peace-keeping operations and disaster relief.

Most of these service men and women go on after their uniformed roles to transition successfully and contribute to society through work in the corporate sector. We know also that many veterans suffer because of their service. There are 5000 contemporary veterans in NSW alone in receipt of DVA benefits. Despite significant improvements in the range of support services available, many contemporary veterans still struggle to find **meaningful work, social connection and purpose** after their military service. Veterans can become socially isolated and unable to find ways to connect with and contribute to the community. This can lead to or exacerbate other problems including mental health issues.

Since founding in Australia in 1921, Rotarians have developed, managed and volunteered in hundreds of community service projects in their local communities. Rotary is internationally regarded as one of the

most effective community service organisations. Serving On combines Soldier On knowledge of the needs of contemporary veterans with the organisation, community networks and fundraising support of Rotary Club of Sydney.

Some of the objectives of Serving On are:

- ✓ **Support social connectedness of contemporary veterans who may otherwise face exclusion and loss of social networks;**
- ✓ **Offer the opportunity to contribute to society and community through purposeful work and value adding projects;**
- ✓ **Assist with re-integration and employment opportunities by providing skills and experience while working alongside professionals and community leaders;**
- ✓ **Promote the public image of contemporary veterans as valuable and contributing members of their communities**

Serving On was piloted in Sydney in 2017-2018, with plans to recruit, train and deploy 100 contemporary veterans on a range of community service projects suited to their skills and capabilities. Our Club raised more than \$150,000 to provide staff, training, project support and monthly structured volunteering opportunities in community service activities around Sydney. Through our efforts over the past two years, Rotary has demonstrated the value of volunteering and the power of serving others to help build connections, provide a sense of purpose, and help young veterans to continue to serve. Because of our pilot program, our charity partner Soldier On have now integrated Serving On - Veteran Volunteering into their national programs agenda. Serving On will continue to support and recognise Veterans for many years to come.



Recent Monthly Projects 2018:

- ✓ *Re-painting the Gym at PCYC Woolloomooloo*
- ✓ *Restoration of historic gun emplacement at North Head*
- ✓ *Building a Rehabilitation Garden for injured sailors at Garden Island*
- ✓ *Serving meals to Guests at Sydney Homeless Connect*
- ✓ *Repairs and maintenance at a community college for refugees*
- ✓ *Fit out of a Youth Drop-in Centre with Salvation Army*
- ✓ *Clean, restore and assemble an Army Bailey Bridge for Engineers Museum*
- ✓ *Domestic Violence Refuge Centre – repair and maintenance with Homeless Veterans*
- ✓ *Volunteering for Invictus Games Family & Friends BBQ and Picnic Day*

RIPPC – Rotary International Presidents Peace Conference

In early 2017 Club Vice President Chris McDiven proposed that Rotary Club of Sydney should nominate Sydney, Australia as host for one of the planned Rotary International Peace Conferences. At the time none of us were fully aware of the huge effort in planning, organising and delivering an event of this size and significance. Many members of our Club as well as other Sydney and District Clubs were involved in what became one of the highlights of Rotary in Sydney for 2017-18. The event could not have been the success it was without the leadership of Chris McDiven and her Committee. Below is a report from Vice President Chris McDiven:

RIPPC for RC Sydney Annual Report

The RC of Sydney and District 9675 hosted one of six Rotary International Presidential Peacebuilding Conferences in RI President Ian Riseley's year. The 17 March 2018 conference, held in the Sydney Town Hall, was a well-attended gathering of peacebuilders, Rotarians and public figures discussing our theme of Economic and Community Development, and Peace.

The program was designed to explore building peace through economic and community development in the world, our region and in our local community.

Opening the conference and speaking on the topic of 'The Economic Value of Peace' Steve Killelea, (from the Institute of Economics and Peace), stressed peace is a pre-requisite for society to survive as we know it.

Noble Peace Prize recipient Muhammed Yunus emphasised the importance of providing opportunity to the disenfranchised and he reminded us 'Poor people do not choose to be poor'.

We had several examples of how one individual can make a significant difference in building peace at grass roots level. Rwandan genocide survivor Nepo Sibomana, The Mustard Seed Institute, brought tears to our eyes as he described how he has risen above the destruction of his whole family to start a social enterprise building peace through agriculture. Stephanie Woollard, Seven Women, spoke about her life-changing work with disabled women in Nepal.

We heard how a local program in Redfern with indigenous youth, Tribal Warrior, has led to a massive decrease of 80% of youth crime in the local area; and how an inter-faith educational organisation, Together for Humanity, fosters students intercultural understanding to reduce prejudice, increase tolerance and bring communities together.

Our successful conference stressed opportunities for education, economic participation and social integration are fundamental to creating a peaceful world.

The Service and Awards Committee 2017-18 (by Committee Chair – Rob Clifton-Steele)

The Service and Awards Committee has a busy program through the year. It traditionally auspices the following programs:

- Admin and café volunteers and a swim team for the annual 24-Hour MS Mega Swim;
- The Anzac Day BBQ;
- The Rotary Sydney Community Service Award;
- the Rotary Sydney Vocational Service Award;
- The Joan Salter Fund – currently supporting KidsXpress;
- A Police Officer of the Year Award for the Local Area Command and a nominee for the State Finals;
- The Australian Citizenship Ceremony;
- Vocational Service Nights and Ethics Events.

The committee has had a very dedicated core of volunteers involved in all of these events who give many hours for the organisation and running of the events. In particular Joe Botta, Chris Timmins, James Allen, Jennifer Kwok, Simon Martin, Janette Parkinson, Bill Neill have been involved with the committee's activities for, in some cases, many years. One focus of our activity during this year was to bring on new members to expand the activities of the committee but also to share the load, particularly of organising the major events. We were very fortunate to have Anna Jose-Timmings and Noémie Lassara join the committee and bring their computer knowledge and organising ability into the scheduling of volunteer teams.

The Committee also focused on seeking out new potential activities for service and to regenerate enthusiasm for long-established activities. For instance, we invited Darling Harbour Rotary Club to participate in our annual Anzac Day BBQ. They added Anzac biscuits to our menu and we expect that this will be the first of future cooperative activities between the clubs. We agreed to support a Rotary Sydney team in the Sydney City to Surf race. Not only would this raise money for a project of the Club, but it would give any athletic member an opportunity to socialise outside the club's lunchtime and committee activities. This expanded into an idea to create an athletics group which would provide volunteers into both the Mega Swim and the City to Surf. We hope that this idea will be pursued in the coming years, particularly as a way of providing another attractive avenue for younger club members. The Committee also started to examine opportunities for mentoring young children with reading and mathematics and adolescents for driving. We also sought opportunities to allow older members of the Club to participate in service activities.

For my part, the highlight of the year was to see our indomitable Paul Harris Fellow, Roni Corne, overcoming disability and swimming multiple sets of laps in the Mega Swim.

Sydney Rotary Peacebuilding Group 2017-18 (by Chair David Hirsch)

The RC of Sydney Peacebuilding Group continued with its program of guest speakers who addressed us on a wide range of peacebuilding topics. Among our speakers were:

The Hon Robert Tickner AO, former CEO of the Australian Red Cross Society and current Ambassador for ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) - winner of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize - addressed us on the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

Jane Stratton, Executive Director of Think+DO Tank Foundation, a community development organization in Western Sydney spoke with us about designing community projects;

Professor Sev Ozdowski AM, former Human Rights Commissioner and current Director, Equity and Diversity at the University of Western Sydney discussed the importance of social cohesion.;

Simeon Beckett, barrister and member of the Human Rights Council of Australia gave us a history of human rights and argued for a Charter of Rights for Australia;

We held a workshop to discuss ideas for a peacebuilding project and decided that we should develop a project with a local focus and one that promoted social cohesion. A project subcommittee was set up to explore possible projects. The committee met with the Institute for Economics and Peace which recently formed a partnership with Rotary to promote the IEP Pillars of Positive Peace which aligns with Rotary's area of focus on promoting peace and preventing conflict.

We are aiming to have the RC of Sydney be accredited as a Peacebuilding Club with the Rotarian Action Group for Peace.

This year's recipient of our Community Peace Award was Cana Farm. This is a charity run by volunteers that employs people who have experienced significant disadvantage in their lives and aims to help them to integrate into the wider community. It operates an organic farm in Orchard Hills that grows, manufactures and sells organic produce and provides education and life skills courses as well.

Club Speakers and Special Guests

Throughout the year the Club held regular Tuesday lunch time meetings at Cello Restaurant, within the historic Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Members and guests enjoyed a wide variety of guest speakers from Business, Government, and Community Service Partners. Listed below, in the order of appearance, are the external speakers and special guests from 2017-18:

| | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frances Rush, CEO Asylum Seekers Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lieutenant Colonel Richard Watson – RAMSI Peacekeeping Mission to Solomon Islands |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous Lawyer Geoffrey Winters, speaking on ‘Treaty versus Constitutional Recognition’ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judith Fox, CEO of Australian Shareholders Association |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peter Kaye, CEO of Duke of Edinburgh Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PDG Stephen Humphries, Australian Rotary Health |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of NSW |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mahir Mohmand, CEO of THRIVE Refugee Enterprises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lieutenant Colonel (rtd) Kyle Tyrell, Iraq War Veteran and PTSD ambassador |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dominic Teakle, CEO of NSW PCYC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ King Fong – Eminent Chinese Australian business leader |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Bale, CEO of SoldierOn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tashi Tenzing – Nepalese mountaineer and Mt Everest climber |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jean Nepo Sibomana – survivor of Rwandan Genocide and founder Mustard Seed Institute |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neville Tompkins, NSW Commissioner of Scouting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vic Alherdoff, CEO NSW Jewish Board of Deputies |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District Governor 9675 Stephen Britten | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michael Kirby, former High Court Justice |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eminent Economist Dr Gerado Sicat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lieutenant Colonel Darleen Young – female soldier and Veteran |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soils for Life Chairman, Major General Mike Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margo Ward, CEO of KidsXpress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Melanie Noden, CEO The Hunger Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Janine Wood – Invictus Games Director of Community Engagement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hugh Riminton, Journalist, Author and SoldierOn Ambassador | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alex Greenwich, MP – Minister for Sydney |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victor Dominello, NSW Minister for Financial Services and Innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Brown, President NSW RSL and Veteran advocate |

Members also had the honour and pleasure of an address by the Governor of NSW General David Hurley, also the Rotary International President Ian Riseley, at a fundraising cocktail party hosted by Government House in Sydney.

The Rotary Club of Sydney 2017-18 in Pictures

Welcome

2017/18



Rotary International
Presidents Peace Conference

2017/18



Rotary International Presidents Peace Conference 2017/18



Cocktail Reception Government House 2017/18



ANZAC Day BBQ

2017/18



Rotary
Club of Sydney



MS Mega Swim

2017/18



Rotary
Club of Sydney



Speakers

2017/18



Speakers

2017/18



Speakers

2017/18



Paul Harris Fellows

2017/18



New Members

2017/18



Presentations

2017/18



International Visitors

2017/18



Youth

2017/18



Support & Fellowship

2017/18



Projects

2017/18



The Rotary Club of Sydney is supporting drought affected farmers in western NSW and Queensland in partnership with Burrumbuttock Hay Runners.

The club has continued to work closely with Brendan Farrell whose on air call to radio announcer Steve Price at 2GB in early 2014 started this public appeal. Burrumbuttock Hay Runners has moved donated hay worth in excess of \$100 million to feed drought affected livestock.

Your donation, large or small, will help the next hay run. [Click here](#)



Rotary: Give Every Child A Future
Our Australasian Centenary Project

unicef for every child



Fundraising

2017/18



Rotary Club of Sydney 

Serving On Club Major Project

2017/18



Rotary Club of Sydney 

Serving On Club Major Project

2017/18



2017/18

Rotary Club of Sydney

THANK-YOU

