

# Rotary Club of Taree



**The Rotary Club of Taree Inc**

Club number 17947

Chartered May 25<sup>th</sup> 1937

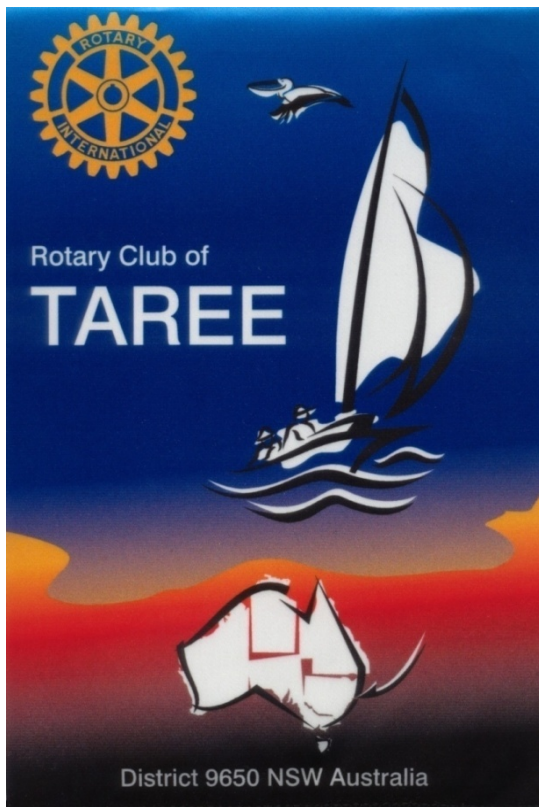
85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022

PRESIDENT **SUSIE PLODER**



*Either **define the moment** or the moment will define you. **Walt Witman***

Serve To Change Lives: Rotary Theme 2021/22



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This Annual Report has been compiled by Ian Woollard

**Imagine Rotary**  
RI Pres 2022-23 Jennifer Jones



**Rotary International President**

**Shekhar Mehta (Rashi)**

**President 2021-22**

**Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar**

**West Bengal, India**



**Rotary Foundation Chair**

**John F Germ**

**Rotary Club of Chattanooga**

**Tennessee, USA**



**Governor, District 9650**

**David MAYNE (Heather)**

**Rotary Club of Port Macquarie**



**Assistant Governor, Cluster 4**

**LAURIE EASTER (Leonie)**

**Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast**

# The Rotary Year 2021-22 has begun...

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 we installed our new Club President Susie Ploder!



*The Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2021-22: from left, back row- Sgt at Arms Bruce Moy, Fundraising Director Warren Blanch, Vocational Director Matt Anlezark, Executive Secretary John Roetman, Treasurer Ian Woollard, Public Relations Ross Tingle; 2<sup>nd</sup> row, from right – Rotary Foundation Director PDG Ian Dyball, Membership Director Fiona Tnney, Club Admin Director Peter Tinney, International Director Phil Streatfeild, Secretary Di Woollard; front row from left – Pres Elect Dr Grace Maano, President Susie Ploder and Immediate Past President David Denning.*

OFFICE BEARERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2021/22	2022/23
<b>President</b>	Susie Ploder	Dr Grace Maano
<b>President-elect</b>	Dr Grace Maano	
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	David Denning	Susie Ploder
<b>Secretary</b>	Dianne Woollard	Kevin Sharp
<b>Treasurer/Public Officer</b>	Ian Woollard	Phil Streatfeild
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Bruce Moy	Bruce Moy
<b>Club Administration</b>	John Roetman	John Roetman
<b>Vocational Service Director</b>	David Denning	David Denning
<b>Community Service</b>	Neil Hanington	David Denning
<b>International Service</b>	Phil Streatfeild	Vacant
<b>The Rotary Foundation</b>	Ian Dyball	Vacant
<b>New Generations/ Youth Director</b>	David Denning	Susie Ploder
<b>Membership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>	Ross Tingle	Ross Tingle
<b>Public Image</b>	Dr Grace Maano	Dr Grace Maano
<b>Fundraising</b>	Warren Blanch	Warren Blanch
<b>Club Trainer</b>	Ian Dyball	Ian Dyball
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	John Roetman	Ian Woollard
<b>Youth Protection Officer</b>	John Roetman	Ian Woollard

## TEAM

**T** Together  
**E** Everyone  
**A** Achieves  
**M** More

## PRESIDENT Susie Ploder



Hello my fellow Rotarians and welcome to our annual report for 2021/22.

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve as our club President for the past year in 2021/22 and what a most significant year it has been as we celebrated our 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party last month. It was a time of great celebration and I doubt that there are many more clubs that have achieved such a significant milestone.

I feel humbled and very special indeed and I have grown significantly throughout the year. Thank you everyone for your kindness and guidance throughout the year. Together we achieved a great deal.

But in contrast to our very successful year, we have also had our share of great sadness. We lost our valuable members Brian Braithwaite in January and Harvey Else in March this year. Also our former Club President John Ritchie (President 1983/84) passed away during the year. These members were stalwarts of our club and gave many years of esteemed Service Above Self to our club, our community, our district, and internationally. They are sorely missed.

In this month we have also lost Mrs Diana Rose wife of Dr Colin Rose, which came as a great shock to us all. Diana always was behind the scenes supporting Dr Col in our club activities and was always there to lend a helping hand in our activities. Diana is also sorely missed and to Dr Col we extend our deepest sympathy.

As I start my yearly report as President, I also just want to share a brief background of my life .

I was born in the Philippines and studied Commerce for 4 years. During my studies I was involved in cultural dance in the Philippines to pay for my studies and during the day I worked as receptionist Girl Scout office to support my parents financially. I come to Australian 1981 to have a family of my own. I married Herbie and we have two children Sean Ploder and Rowena Ploder. We first lived in Old Bar in a quite area where I have not seen people walking outside and nothing exciting happening. I felt lonely and sad wanted to go back to the Philippines to be with my family members. Then I meet 3 Filipina friends. In my early years living in Old Bar, I said to myself 'this is not what I expected coming to Australian and becoming a lost person with no friends or relatives to talk to. I wanted to live in the big city to explore and learn more about the country. After few years living in Manning Area, I noticed that we do not have any people to contact and welcome our new Filipino people to our area. As a result, we formed a Filipina community and we named our group FIL-Oz Philippines Australia community. I was President in the group for 6 years and we used to meet every 2 weeks to catch up and eat our traditional Filipino food with lots of laughter and to welcome our new Filipina friends arriving in Taree .

After a few years living in this beautiful Manning area, I said to myself I want to do something and be part of this community. I met Mave Richardson as she was interested to meet some Filipina in the Manning Area. So, we started dancing in some local places and events to show and share our culture. This was very successful as our Filipino community raised enough money to donate one bed Manning River Hospital. Our dance group was a great success.

I was also involved in the Girls Guides and a BROWNIE leader for 15 years in Taree. Here I learned how to tie a knot and enjoyed camping with other leaders . As soon as our children went to school, I studied Child Care

[Serve To Change Lives: Rotary Theme 2021/22](#)

at Taree TAFE and at the completion of my studies I applied for a job in child care at Cundletown Pre School where I been working for 26 years. I love gardening, cooking and crafts.

My life started in Rotary when I was invited by Laurie and Leonie Easter, Leonie in 2014. After 2 years in Rotary, I was the club Fundraising Director for 5 years and I was presented with a Paul Harris recognition Certificate and Pin in 2021.

I was inducted as President of Rotary club of Taree June 2021 and it started my mission in Rotary International. because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

We were using zoom to conduct meeting for 4 months just to connected with other members. A big thank you to Fr Peter Tinney for setting up Zoom to have our weekly meetings.

We also faced lots of challenges during my term of office - Drought, Fire, Flood and then came along COVID-19. We are now doing well and performing an amazing job to keep our Rotary family members safe.

I have also learnt a lot more about Rotary and the wider community .

It was my pleasure to induct 2 members during my year. we , one will be inducted at the changeover dinner.

We also used zoom meeting for our guest speakers for few months between July till October and some programs that we are able to do during COVID-19 are:

- Jeans for Genes
- Beth Holroyd Hunter New England Rural Mental health.
- We had Members from our club share Poetry and talk about their overseas holiday.
- Hat Day a fun night with everyone wearing their favourite hat.
- A clean up and tree planting at the southern entrance to Taree. This was a collaborative project with the Taree Lion's club and our Rotary club. Our combined efforts they move the rubbish to the tip .
- Bob Nelson Taree north come to talk about community sleep bus how can we help,
- We had 10 members come to attended the SHOW CASE In Tamworth
- Anika Stanic our exchange student to Taiwan gave us a talk about her 12 months experience.
- The 35th Anniversary of Rotary club of OKAYAMA CHUO Japan by zoom was one of our wonderful events for this year. We are able to join their meeting via zoom. Many thanks to Alan Small, Ross Tingle, Herb Beer, Phil Streatfeild and Greg Gilbert for making this event very successful and most enjoyable evening.
- In December at our Bunnings community Christmas night, Dr Grace dressed up as Santa and the children loved it.
- At our annual Christmas Party at the Aeroclub last year we shared a seafood dinner and fellowship and a big surprise by our members singing Christmas songs and carols. All enjoyed their night and the comments I received is that 'we should do this every year as it is a lot of fun and fellowship.
- I was fortunate to attend the 39th anniversary lunch of the Probus Club of Taree. it was a good experience to meet some members and to welcome their new board.
- The Adopt-an-ED an KENYA project was organise by Dr Grace Maano and Phil Streatfeild and this was very successful.
- Our BBQ's at Bunnings are an ongoing event. Many thanks to Warren Blanch fundraising director.
- Our annual Australia Day Golf Day was another big success. A big thank you to Kevin Sharp and the team in helping to run our Annual Golf Day. This is our main fundraising for the year and we raised money for the Australian Children's Music Foundation, Taree Eisteddfod, and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter service.
- On the Australian day celebration at the Riverstage President Susie organised the activities for young children. We worked together with the other Rotary Clubs and the Lions club to ensure the day was a success.
- Our Valentine's Day Dinner was very successful and other clubs came along to support the fundraising night and all money was donated to RAWCS.

- Thanks to Fr Peter for being part Midcoast Council team helping people that have been affected with the bushfire and flood. We are able to go and help with the free Community BBQ and children's activities.

During the year our notable guest speakers were:

- Wendy Stein Order Australian Medal past President of the Rotary club of Salamander Bay her topic about the RAWCS projects.
- Darcy Geale a member of Rotary ECLUB serving the Humanity.
- In May we had a combined Cluster 4 dinner at Club Taree and for other clubs to catch up with District Governor David Mayne and his wife Heather. Heather also talked about her project YOUTH INSEARCH and our club Rotary of Taree donated \$1.000 towards her project. Our special guest speaker on that night Alyn Beard CEO of AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING and Buy Australian Products. We had about 95 peoples attending and I wish thank everyone for coming and making it a very successful evening. Thanks to Brian Beesley, Bruce Moy, and Laurie Easter for getting it done in a short period of time and to organise our event. Well done.
- Joshua Rodger CEO Manning Support Services gave us a talk about the help MSS can provide to enhance the quality of people's lives by providing services to enable them to live with Dignity and respect.
- Kerrie Guppy of Conservation and Land Management (also Managing Director of Australian ECO solutions).
- To finish off my term we held a wonderful celebration 85th Birthday Party for the Rotary club of Taree. Thanks again to Alan Small and Max Carey for sharing their experience about the history of Rotary in Taree and how they become active members. We had 3 long term members celebrating their birthday by cutting the 85th anniversary cake.

It is also very heartening as our members continue to make an impact worldwide. Earlier this month Professor Mike Fellows was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Dauphine in Paris. Congratulations Mike on this wonderful achievement and we look forward to catching up with you when you return to Australia.

At our Rotary District 9650 conference in Port Macquarie, we had 9 members attended the last meeting of District 9650 before commencing with District 9660. Thank you, Dr Grace, for our new Rotary T-shirts with the Inspire Rotary logo.

Finally, at the end of my term as President of this great club, I would just like to say another BIG thank you to everyone for your wonderful support and commitment that you shared with me and others as we continue keep each other safe and in particular, protect the most vulnerable members of our club.

Rotary always brings together like minded leaders, who step forward to take on some toughest challenges in their community and always using our Rotary smile 😊 .

*Susie Ploder*



## TREASURER Ian Woollard



The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the donations and expenditures in each of the service activities, other than Club Administration, that have been supported by our club during the 2021-22 Rotary year, and as approved by the Board of Directors. During this year we have still had to contend with the COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the ongoing restrictions I have much pleasure in presenting the Treasurers Report for 2021/22 as at 31/05/2022.

This year was another good year for our club given how the impact of Covid-19 had on our club meetings. We have done exceptionally well under these circumstances. Our income has not skipped a beat and we are in a very good very financial position at this point in time.

It was really pleasing that all member subscriptions were paid for the year. Some financial highlights are:

1. The annual Australia Day Golf Day was a resounding success. This year we saw a record of 180 players taking part and this enabled us to continue our support our 3 main charities:
  1. Westpac Rescue Helicopter service \$3,000.00
  2. Australian Children's Music Foundation \$3,000.00
  3. Taree Eisteddfod - SMILE Program \$3,000.00
2. The Battery Muster income was well received. \$1165.00 received in 2021/22.
3. The BBQ functions continue to generate a good income stream albeit with large overheads.
4. Club Taree have allocated our club a Friday night raffle proceeds.
5. A donation of \$1,000.00 was sent to the Rotary Club of Lismore for their flood relief efforts.
6. A district grant of \$4,000.00 was received for 20 baby kits at Ali Carung.
7. A \$3,000.00 donation was received for our Disaster fund from St Johns Anglican Church.

Our bank account balance as at 31/05/2022 are as follows:

<b>Bank Accounts as at 31/05/2022</b>	
Specific Project Monies	\$ 2,883.07
Foundation	\$ 4,049.21
General	\$ 7,717.48
Japanese	\$ 1,502.09
Project	\$ 6,420.38
RYDA	\$ 4,373.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,946.12</b>



**Profit and Loss as at 31/05/2022**

Description	Income	Expense	Net Proceeds
<b>Club Activities</b>			
General Expenses		\$ 1,538	-\$1,538
Auditor's Remuneration		\$ 660	-\$660
Accounting		\$ 440	-\$440
Telephone & Internet		\$ 48	-\$48
Members Supplies		\$ 285	-\$285
Member Donations During COVID-19	\$ 10		\$10
Fines	\$ 1,458		\$1,458
Entry Door Fee	\$ 2,902		\$2,902
Changeover Income	\$ 150		\$150
<b>Total Club Activities</b>	<b>\$ 4,521</b>	<b>\$ 2,972</b>	<b>\$1,549</b>
<b>Fund Raising</b>			
Battery Muster	\$ 1,165		\$1,165
Club Raffles	\$ 1,233		\$1,233
BBQ Income	\$ 6,760	\$ 4,754	\$2,005
Bushfire and Drought	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,679	-\$3,679
<b>Total Fund Raising</b>	<b>\$ 12,157</b>	<b>\$ 11,433</b>	<b>\$725</b>
<b>Donations - External</b>		<b>\$ 5,077</b>	<b>-\$5,077</b>
<b>External Events/Functions</b>	<b>\$ 1,524</b>		<b>\$1,524</b>
<b>Golf Day</b>	<b>\$ 11,940</b>	<b>\$ 9,495</b>	<b>\$2,445</b>
<b>Member Subscriptions - 2021/22</b>	<b>\$ 3,920</b>		<b>\$3,920</b>
<b>Rotary District 9650 - Outgoings</b>		<b>\$ 4,370</b>	<b>-\$4,370</b>
<b>Rotary International - Outgoings</b>		<b>\$ 4,144</b>	<b>-\$4,144</b>
<b>Subscriptions (Rotary Down Under)</b>		<b>\$ 2,316</b>	<b>-\$2,316</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>		<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Foundation</b>	<b>\$ 163</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>-\$837</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,225</b>	<b>\$ 40,805</b>	<b>-\$2,580</b>

NB These figures are unaudited and a full audit report will be presented at our Annual General Meeting in November 2022.

*Ian Woollard*

## SECRETARY

### Dianne Woollard



It has been a very busy year as Secretary of our club this year. It has continued to be an enormous challenge with COVID-19. It has been a continuous learning curve to ensure that the good governance of club is upheld and maintained.

As club Secretary there are so many variables that one must attend to – correspondence, board meetings, board minutes, board agenda's, cluster meetings, insurance queries, and contact with people seeking our assistance or offering their support. You never know what you are going to encounter next.

The pandemic has made the task more difficult as our board could not meet face to face as usual and we had to adjust to online board meetings via Zoom. This has been very challenging. To compound our very topsy-turvy year.

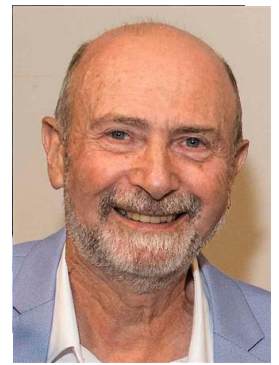
I would like to thank Ian for all his invaluable assistance throughout the past 2 years that I have been Secretary. I could not have done it without his help.

In closing I would like to thank President Susie and our many board members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. It has been very educational and rewarding and a real privilege to serve in this capacity.

*Dianne Woollard*

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY & DATABASE MANAGER**

### **John Roetman**



The role of club Executive Secretary includes management of relevant databases at the club, district and international level and for our club. It also includes management of ClubRunner and the website attached to this program. This role has also been expanded somewhat this year to include organizing and running Zoom meetings due to some members still wanting to join in from home due to Covid 19 concerns.

There has been some significant technological challenges with running zoom and projecting via Club Taree's audio visual system but we seem to be getting on top of these now thanks to some hired help. I think our club should be congratulated for adopting such technology and allowing members some flexibility during these trying times. Many clubs have not risen to this challenge and may have lost members because of it. One of the great benefits of using Zoom is the ability to "dial in" guest speakers from all over the world which we have done successfully on more than one occasion.

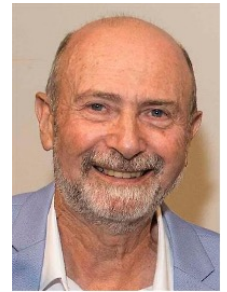
All of our club databases have been kept up to date throughout the year including Working With Children Check. ClubRunner has also been utilized successfully to manage our various club events. Next year heralds some changes in how our various databases interact with each other which can only make the job easier.

*John Roetmann*



## **CLUB ADMINISTRATION**

### **Director: John Roetman**



The 2021/22 was a very mucked up year for our club as we severely impacted by COVID-19. For much of the first half of the year we could not meet face-to-face and as an alternative we met via Zoom.

None the less during 2021/22 we did meet via Zoom and kept our club functioning amidst it all.

And later to add to the turmoil, there were restrictions on the number people that could attend our meetings. However we preserved and made it through the year.

Peter Tinney handed over the Administration reins when he accepted a transfer to Newcastle and I would like to thank Peter and Fiona for their contribution for the first part of the year.

Our full program for the year has been included at the end of our Annual Report.



## Vocational Director Matthew Anlezark

Our club held several Vocational visits throughout the year. We were extremely limited in our ability to conduct external visits and but we had a couple and they were memorable.



Our first visit was to the Taree University Campus and we were given a guided tour through the facility by Donna Ballard the CEO of the Taree University Campus. This was very enjoyable to see the facilities that students that have access to.

Our second outing was a visit to the Taree Fire Station where we enjoyed a tour around the Fire Station and this enabled members to have close up inspection of the fire truck and the equipment used. Following this we all had an enjoyable social dinner together at Sailo's restaurant.



Donna Ballard CEO Taree University Campus



Visit to the Taree Fire Station



## COMMUNITY SERVICE Director Neil Hanington



This has been another very strange year with all the COVID-19 restrictions continuing.

### **Rotary Central**

The Rotary Clubs of Taree, Taree on Manning and Taree North received government grants totaling \$120,000 to build a storage shed on land provided by the MidCoast Council. Our club proved the labour for the internal fit out of the building and the building is now well utilised.

### **Bicentenary Park**

The Bicentenary Park project is continuing and the focus is to make the Bicentenary Park a showcase park at junction of the Manning River and Brown's Creek and when completed it will form part of Fig Trees on the Manning residential project which will transform the River bank at Chatham.

### **Rotary Park**

We have been able to carry out an improvement to Rotary Park we have installed a Rotary Peace pole in the park.

### **RYSTEM Engagement Midcoast Inc - Rural Youth Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

The RYSTEM company has been registered and we have obtained our ABN number and we are now underway with the new program.

In order to provide affordable science activities to our schools a company was formed with the Rotary clubs of Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Lower MidCoast, Taree, Taree on Manning, Taree North and Wingham as the shareholders with our Community Services Director acting as the Public Officer. The company is known as RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast Inc.

Our primary objective is to deliver these activities at no cost to our local schools

A number of scientific activities have been designed and were tested with the Dungog High School and this is an exciting project which we will bring to all the primary and secondary schools in our area.

Following on from the test program at Dungog High School the following events were conducted:

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> May at St Claire's High School – 12 Rotarians from all clubs helped stage the event and lunch was provided by Rotary Club of Taree North.
2. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Taree Racecourse. This was the first full 3-day event RYSTEM has conducted for Primary and High Schools. The program was well received by the students and teachers and once again lunch was provided by Rotary Club of Taree North.

### **Entrance to The Service Centre at Taree South**

We cleaned up the entrance the service centre and planted a row of tress along both sides of the road in collaboration with Midcoast Council and Taree Lions Club.

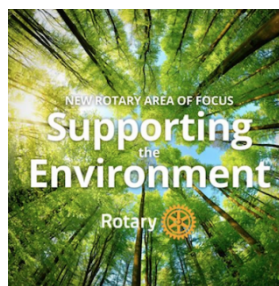
*Neil Hanington*



Our Annual Report offers a timely opportunity to remind us of details of **OUR** Rotary Foundation

**THE 7 AREAS OF FOCUS**

- ✓ Peace & Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Disease Prevention & Treatment
- ✓ Maternal & Child Health
- ✓ Water and Sanitation
- ✓ Basic Education & Literacy
- ✓ Economic & Community Development
- ✓ Supporting the Environment



**THE PROGRAMS OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

- a) **Polio eradication.** This is our number ONE priority.
- b) **District Grants.** These are small (up to about \$5,000) grants that can be used for local or international projects. The Rotary Club of Taree has successfully applied for 8 District Grants in the last 6 years.
- c) **Global Grants** are large (US\$30,000 minimum) projects where clubs/districts work with international partners
- d) **Vocational Training Teams** have replaced the former Group Study Exchange (which can still operate) and are focused on professionals travelling to learn or to teach about their vocation
- e) **Area of Focus Scholarships**, formerly known as Ambassadorial Scholarships, offering post-graduate level of studies aimed at enhancing career experience
- f) **Rotary Peace Scholarships.** Rotary has partnered with 7 leading universities around the world, including University of Queensland, where students are trained for placement variously around the world working towards peace and conflict resolution.

**THE WAYS WE CAN SUPPORT OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION.**



**The Centurion Program**, where we can contribute A\$100 per year to the Annual Programs Fund via Rotary Foundation Australia, set up to give tax deductibility. Contributions count towards Paul Harris Fellow recognition.



**Paul Harris Fellow recognition**, where a donation of US\$1,000 made by a club or an individual gives the opportunity for the club OR the individual to name a person a Paul Harris Fellow.



**A Bequest Society** member is an individual or a couple who have made a provision in their estate plan to gift a minimum US \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation. The number of jewels designates the level of the bequest. A **Benefactor** is one who makes a provision of US\$1,000 in a will.

**DISTRICT 9650 ROTARY FOUNDATION GRANT**

Our ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation was critical in the approval of our Rotary Foundation District Grant application for \$4,000 for the provision of 20 baby kits to the community of Ali Curung in the NT. The contents of these kits was determined by the school principal in consultation with the mothers in the Ali Curung Community.

The preparation of these kits has been delayed due to the fact that major renovations and alterations at Alekarenge School has limited the space available to store and distribute the kits. We will continue to liaise with the school principal and anticipate that this project will proceed very soon.





## **Our Partnership with Alekarenge School, NT**

### **Initiated by our commitment to assist in the National program to EndTrachoma**

The Rotary Club of Taree has been partnered with the Alekarenge School, in the community of Ali Curung, 378 km north of Alice Springs. We prepared, delivered and personally handed to the students 200 toiletry kits, plus other items such as blankets, rugs, pillows and nappies as requested during discussions with the then School Principal Colin Kiel. We discussed an extensive range of possible ways that Rotary could support and partner with the school and the community.

One of the EndTrachoma projects is the provision of mirrors in every home. PDG Helen Ryan and members of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay have very generously supported our efforts by the purchase and provision of 145 packs of 3 acrylic mirrors, each measuring 300 mm square. 100 packs will go into the homes in Ali Curung; 25 packs are for Alekarenge School, and 25 packs for the nearby Murray Downs School and Community. We are very appreciative of this support.

There is still enormous potential for The Rotary Club of Taree to work with the school and our First Nation people in Ali Curung, particularly in the areas of health and education. We want these young people to have the same opportunities in life as our children have had, and are confident that we can find a pathway forward together.

*Ian Dyball*

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# INTERNATIONAL SERVICE 2021-2022

## Director: Philip Streatfeild

Our Rotary Club continued to sponsor “Given” a student at the School of Saint Jude and also continued our support of the “Little Blue Shed” in Uganda.

Under the guidance of our Rotarian Dr Grace Maano a Rotary World Community Service (RAWCS) Project was completed in the Philippines and another RAWCS Project in Kenya is still in progress.



## SCHOOL OF SAINT JUDE: TANZANIA - STUDENT SPONSOR



SCHOOL OF ST JUDE CLASS 4B (Given is standing in front of the teacher)

Given is now 9 years old. He is in Standard 4 (Fourth Class) at the Sisia Primary Campus.

Given was born on 14 August 2012 and will be 10 years old this year. From his school reports he is progressing extremely well, and his teachers indicate his attitude and values are excellent. Given sent the following letter to our club.

Dear All Rotary Club of Tazee

Hi, I hope you are fine, I am fine too. I have just finished holidays I am now at school. My holiday was good, I rested at home I stayed home, I was doing my Homeworks and helped my parents to do different house chores. I am at school and we are studying hard. Teachers are very lovely here. They help us to understand our subjects. I have a young sister, and her name is Gabriela she has five years old. My favourite subjects are Maths, Civic, English, Social studies, Kiswahili and P.E I want to be a professor to teach in a college when I grow up. What is your favourite subjects? Do you have children? I wish and your family the best of luck

Love from,

Given Michael 3c

**Greetings from Tanzania!**

Surprise! A friendly volunteer packed your letter in her suitcase so we could get it you. Help us to keep in touch with you by letting us know of any changes to your contact details. Please email us at:  
[sponsor@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:sponsor@schoolofstjude.co.tz)

**Thank you for your support of St Jude's!**

## **ADOPT-AN-E.D. IN KENYA, registered as RAWCS PROJECT #61/2020-21.**

The project is to fund one or more Emergency Department/s (Emergency Care Centres) in Kenya to purchase and install an oxygen gas manifold system. This is essentially a stable low-technology plumbing system to provide basic oxygen, from storage bottles to multiple patient beds.

Oxygen is fundamental to modern emergency care: relatively inexpensive, and essential to initial patient stabilization in a wide variety of life-critical emergency medical situations. The **overall goal of the Adopt-an-E.D.** project is to improve the basic emergency care services available to the general public in this relatively poor country, by focusing on its rural and countryside County hospitals.

Our Rotary Club has raised \$10,345 and with an incoming pledge from the DAK Foundation the total amount for 3 oxygen manifolds will be covered.

This month of June 2022, a Rotary Global Grant Application will be submitted and if successful the grant will be able to fund a total of 6 oxygen manifold, for 6 county hospitals in Kenya namely:

1. Kariuki County Referral Hospital. (Nyandarua. County- 167km from capital Nairobi)
2. Hola County Referral Hospital (Tana River County-487 km from capital city Nairobi)
3. Lamu County Referral Hospital (Lamu County-467 km from capital city Nairobi)
4. Wajir County Referral Hospital (Wajir County- 709 km from capital city Nairobi)
5. Iten County Referral Hospital (Elgeyo Marakwet County- 346 km from capital Nairobi)
6. Busia County Referral Hospital (Busia County-476 km from capital city Nairobi)

Once approved, we are aiming to have these 6 oxygen manifolds installed by year-end of 2022, with a plan for Taree Rotary Club Members as an Overseas Volunteer Team to visit to Kenya in 2023.

## **COVID HOME CARE KIT SUPPORT PROGRAM PHILIPPINES - Registered as RAWCS Project 34-2021-22**

The Project: In the Philippines, 80% of covid-confirmed cases are in home isolation, providing them with Home Care kits containing equipment for monitoring temperature and oxygenation as well as support medications will help prevent delayed hospital presentation/admission/death.

- A total of \$2,250 was raised, which allowed the purchase of 200 Covid Home Care Kits.
- Two hundred kits were distributed to 7 local municipal health units and had been distributed to covid patients with the left over distributed to health staff for monitoring of future covid cases.

*Philip Streatfeild*



## YOUTH SERVICE

### Director David Denning



Youth Directors Report 2021-2022

Director PP David Denning

As last year Covid 19 disrupted all youth activities in the first half of the year.

All youth activities were cancelled including public speaking, in the second half of the year things improved and some youth activities recommenced.

We were unable to find a candid for RYPEN but were able to send two young people to RYLA in May 2022. Jesse Osborne was sponsored by Manning Support Services and co-sponsored Miss Eddie Raglus with the Rotary Club of Wingham. Both our young people had a great time and came away with a new appreciation of their potential skills and abilities.

Hopefully, we can conduct more Youth activities next year. Here's hoping.

*David Denning*



## FUNDRAISING

### Warren Blanch

Coming out of COVID-19 restrictions our club has survived reasonably well.

Our major fundraiser – The Australia Day Golf Day at the Taree Golf Club, headed by Kevin Sharp and his hard working team raised \$11,194.00 and we assisted in supporting the following :

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Australian Children's Music Foundation | \$3,000.00 |
| 2. Westpac Rescue Helicopter service      | \$3,000.00 |
| 3. Taree Eisteddfod – Smile Program       | \$3,000.00 |
| 4. Supported 50% of a RYLA attendee       | \$ 496.00  |

Our Bunnings BBQ's were held regularly and through these we have raised \$2,005.00. A big thank you to all who assisted on the days.

The Battery Muster – collecting old car and truck raised \$1164.00. Our thanks go to Midcoast Ford, Midcoast Mowers, and our member contributions.

This year we were given the opportunity to conduct the Club Taree raffles on a Friday night and through this effort we were able to raise \$430.00 on the evening. We are scheduled to conduct another raffle in the near future. This activity requires 3-4 people for about 4 hours effort.

A 100 club was also run successfully through our club meetings.

For next year we are trying to bring up a LEGO exhibition at the Manning Entertainment Centre and try to conduct a bucket collection at the Service Centre at Taree South. More details on these proposed activities next year.

Finally, I wish to say a huge Thank You to all the members and partners for your dedication, support, and hard work at the many events and fund raising programs we ran through the year.

*Warren Blanch*



## MEMBERSHIP Director: Ross Tingle

Assistant: Alan Small and Ashley Cleaver



Membership Director: Ross Tingle  
Assistant: Alan Small and Ashley Cleaver  
Committee: Grace Maano, Anna Hutchinson, and Gerard Connolly.

### Greetings

First of all, let me say that our President Susie Ploder is a most dedicated and delightful lady with a heart as big as the ocean. She has delighted us all with her ever ready smile and cheerfulness throughout the year, and has served our club well.

The effects of the COVID PANDEMIC this year have been quite challenging for all members. As a result, it has meant that members have not been able to meet at our usual venue at Club Taree on occasions when the spread of the pandemic was quite acute, and the safety of members was our top priority.

This meant that we had to be very inventive and met on ZOOM, which meant each member could stay at home and connect with each other through their computers on screen. There were many different speakers from different parts of the world connecting with us and telling their unique stories.

Our President Elect Dr Grace Maano was forth coming with connections to doctors in Africa and the Philippines where we were able to support their missions in health to combat the pandemic. On other nights we got to know more about our members as they shared more of their life stories. On one occasion the topic was:

" If you had your life over would you have chosen the same ambition or would you have chosen something different. "

Another topic was:

" sharing the story of your favourite recent book . "

So, the challenges to members was unique and the effect it had on people's lives was unprecedented when jobs and lifestyles were turned upside down.

Working with our other community clubs Rotary , Lions and business leaders hosting community BBQ gatherings of support has also been fulfilling, and supporting community musical performances on the riverbank using the new Riverstage on the river, yes " on the river "

One of our most recent events was the combined Cluster Dinner with District Governor David Mayne and Heather, and guest speaker the famous " Alyn Beard " who is CEO of Australian Made and Manufacturer of the historic generational " Beards beds company." His talk was most inspiring and knowledgeable on world trade.

In all this the year finished well with,

34 current members, all of which are active in community activities.

# New members : 2 Gerard Connelly and Johnson Simon.

# Resignations : 1 Greg Gilbert IT.

# Active members deceased : 2 Brian Braithwaite and Harvey Else are sorely missed.

# Honorary Members : Ted Gauntlett , Les Hogarth, Di Morrissey, Stephen Bromhead, Ian Sinclair, and Ken Henry.

It has been my privilege and honour to follow Fiona Tinney, and from Ashley Cleaver as Membership Director and Photographer along with Alan Small directing our Incubator Club Certificates.

Thank you from us all and we look forward to your support this new Rotary year.

Kind regards ,  
Ross Tingle

**PUBLIC IMAGE**  
**Director: Grace Maano**

***“Promote or Perish”***

Director            Grace Maano  
Committee        Alan Small, Max Carey, Fiona Tinney



Our Public Relations is ongoing and the attached Summary of Public Image Materials that we have sent or done.

We had been active in social media Facebook Page with updated Club Events and since April 2022 fortnightly "Rotary in Action" Facebook posts on our Page.

We had Media Releases and been featured in local Manning River Times newspaper once or twice a month since April 2022, the latest being Alan Small's article for our 85th birthday celebration.

<https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/7756224/taree-rotary-celebrates-85-years-of-service-to-the-community/?cs=356>

Our Club Website has been updated Home Page Stories and features our upcoming Christmas in July event.  
<https://www.tareerotary.org.au/>

The weekly Club Bulletins have been published and copies of these bulletins will be uploaded to DACdb for future reference.

The Christmas in July Event flyers (see sample attached) had been posted in many local shops bulletin boards. District Enews will feature it in June. Facebook Event created and shared to various Facebook local groups.

Our Cub Information Brochure had been updated for RY 2022-23 and will be available at the Club Changeover.

Rotary Branding and Public Image through Club Uniform Board Business shirts organized for the District Assembly last May 22nd and Club Uniform Business Shirts are being organized for the District Changeover on June 25th. Members will be invited to order these Shirts for use in other Rotary club events as well as in the upcoming District Conference and RI Convention in 2023.

Rotary Business Cards for RY 2022-23 had been ordered and can be distributed at the Club Changeover.

We have created a Club Email address to avoid publishing our personal email in public - [rctaree@gmail.com](mailto:rctaree@gmail.com) - is available to all Board Directors and Members. Password is PaulHarris1905.

Thank you all for entrusting me with this job, despite the weekly demands for time, it has been a pleasure.

*Dr Grace Maano*

# More photos from recent club events

## BBQ's at Bunnings







Lance Fletcher at our meeting



Alyn Beard and Allan Small



Rotarians at Mamma Mia  
on Sat night 12th of March

Thoroughly enjoyed the  
show and amazed at the  
performance

Mama Mia concert goes



**Kevin Sharp presenting Maurie Stack with our club \$3,000.00 donation to the Australian Music Foundation**

***Peace Pole installed at Taree Rotary Park***





Darcy Geale PHF



David and Heather Mayne



Peace Poles at Rotary Park

Okayama-Chuo 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Serve To Change Lives: Rotary Theme 2021/22



Cuttin the cake at thwe Okayama-Chuo Birthday Celebration Meeeing



Rotarian Kevin Sharp explained the proceedings at our annual Golf Fundraising Day and presented Richard with the donation from our club.

Richard pointed out that the Rotary logo is now in the Tamworth Westpac Rescue helicopter. Proposal is under negotiations for the Rotary logo to be on all the Westpac Rescue Helicopters - with each club in the district to donate \$1000. Richard emphasized the fact that 'we can't do what we do' without the support provided by organizations like Rotary.... expressed his THANK YOU!

# We Love Rotary - Valentines Dinner 2022

On the 14th of February at Club Taree, 50 red-dressed guests enjoyed Valentines Dinner with Rotary Club of Taree while also raising much needed funds for ROMAC.





**Our members at Settlement City for the District conference**



**Prof Mike Fellows and Prof Fran Rosamond**



**Australian Made Cluster Dinner**

## MEETINGS PROGRAM 2021 – 2022

Date	Location	Event
11/10/2021	Club Taree	Hat Day "Lift the lid on Mental Illness" – Australian Rotary Health
18/10/2021	Club Taree	Suzie Rowe & Kiarni Samaritans
25/10/2021	Club Taree	World Polio Day & Annika Stanic - Rotary Exchange student (Taiwan)
1/11/2021	Club Taree	New Member Talks - Gerard Bowen & Dr Johnson Simon
6/11/2021	Southern Entry to Taree	Working Bee/ clean up
8/11/2021	Club Taree	Service Above Self - Membership Night
9/11/2021	Southern Entry to Taree	Tree Planting
16/11/2021	Taree Uni	Vocational Visit - Donna Ballard and dinner at Jashan Lounge
22/11/2021	Club Taree	Annual General Meeting
29/11/2021	Club Taree	Community Service & Vocation
5/12/2021	Club Taree	Zoom Mtg Okayama Chuo
10/12/2021	Club Taree	Christmas Party
13/12/2021	Aeroclub	Last Night
8/2/2022	Taree University Campus	Vocational Visit - Donna Ballard followed by dinner at Jashan Lounge
14/2/2022	Club Taree	Valentine's Day Ball Cocktail Party- Membership
21/2/2022	Club Taree	Tania Curcic - Little Blue Shed Update
28/2/2022	Club Taree	Rev Claire Wright Taree Uniting Church
7/3/2022	Club Taree	Meeting Cancelled due to bad weather
11/3/2022	Club Taree	Rotary Friday Night Raffles
14/3/2022	Club Taree	Lance Fletcher and Dr Johnson Symon
18/3/2022	Port Macquarie	District Conference
21/3/2022	Club Taree	Conference Update & Bicentennial Gardens Project Update
28/3/2022	Club Taree	Tim Stack Taree Eisteddfod Donation
4/4/2022	Club Taree	RAWCS Save the Kuba Babies, PP Wendy Stein and Maurie Stack Australian Children's Music Donation
11/4/2022	Club Taree	Richa McGovern Westpac Rescue Donation
30/4/2022	Mitchell Island	Recovery BBQ By MCC Taree Rotary cooking Sausages 4 to 7 Pm
1/5/2022	Oxley Island	Recovery BBQ By MCC Taree LIONS cooking Sausages 4 to 7 Pm
2/5/2022	Club Taree	Peter Epov Russia/Ukraine Background
7/5/2022	BBQ Bunnings Taree	8 Am to 4.30 pm Three Shifts
9/5/2022	Club Taree	Conservation & Land Management - Kerrie Guppy
16/5/2022	Club Taree	Mr Alyn Beard Chairman of Australian Made with Cluster 3 Rotary Clubs
23/5/2022	Club Taree	85th Birthday Taree Rotary and Combined Club Meeting/DG Visit
30/5/2022	Club Taree	Joshua Rogers CEO Manning Support Services
6/6/2022	Vocational Visit	Fire & Rescue Vocational Visit dinner at Sailo's
20/6/2022	Club Taree	Arron Dodd (Into the Wild) Youth Adventure
24/6/2022	St Mary's Catholic Hall	Changeover Dinner

## PRESIDENTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Club President</u>	<u>Rotary International President (Country) and Theme</u>
1937-38	Cuth <b>Haddan</b>	Maurice Duperrey (France)
1938-39	Claude <b>Walker</b>	George C Hager (USA)
1939-40	Chas <b>Peel</b>	Walter D Head (USA)
1940-41	Brian <b>Davidson</b>	Armando Pereira (Brazil)
1941-42	Ron <b>Butterworth</b>	Tom Davis (USA)
1942-43	Steward <b>Sheppard</b>	Fernando Carbajal (Peru)
1943-44	Merv <b>Williams</b>	Charles Wheeler (USA)
1944-45	Fred <b>Burrows</b>	Richard Wells (USA)
1945-46	Ron <b>Butterworth</b>	T A Warren (England)
1946-47	Hiram <b>Cowan</b>	Richard Hedke (USA)
1947-48	Frank <b>Hole</b>	Kendrick Guernsey (USA)
1948-49	Herman <b>Nelson</b>	<b>Angus Mitchell</b> (Australia)
1949-50	Alex <b>Herberte</b>	Percy Hodgson (USA)
1950-51	Hugh <b>Scribner</b>	Arthur Laagueux (Canada) – <i>Beget our Heirs; Honesty; Plan, Re-examine our world, Extend Rotary’s Influence</i>
1951-52	Stewart <b>McGlashan</b>	Frank Spain (USA)
1952-53	Roy <b>Saxby</b>	H J Brunnier (USA)
1953-54	Ralph <b>Plummer</b>	Joaquin Cibils (Uruguay) – <i>Rotary is Hope in Action</i>
1954-55	Wal <b>Sneddon</b>	Herbert J Taylor (USA) – <i>Glean from past &amp; act; Share; Build with 4 WayTest; Serve youth; International goodwill</i>
1955-56	Jim <b>Hamilton</b>	A Z Baker (USA) – <i>Develop Our Resources</i>
1956-57	Darrell <b>Crowfoot</b>	Gian Paolo Lang (Italy) – <i>Keep Rotary Simple;</i>
1957-58	Ralph <b>Chequer</b>	Charles Tennent (USA) – <i>Enlist-Extend-Explore-Serve</i>
1958-59}	Les <b>Osmond-Dreyer</b>	Clifford Randall (USA) – <i>Help Shape the Future</i>
1958-59}	Max <b>North</b>	
1959-60	John <b>Campbell-Brown</b>	Harold Thomas (New Zealand)- <i>Vitalise! Personalise! Build Bridges of Friendship!</i>
1960-61	Bill <b>Nelson Snr</b>	J Edd McLaughlin (USA) – <i>You Are Rotary – Live it! Express it! Expand it!</i>
1961-62	Cliff <b>Douglass</b>	Joseph Abey (USA) – <i>Act; Aim for Action; Communicate for understanding; Test for leadership</i>
1962-63	Eric <b>Davis</b>	Nitish Lahaeer (India)- <i>Kindle The Spark Within</i>
1963-64	Rex <b>Yen</b>	Carl P Miller (USA)- <i>Meeting Rotary’s Challenge in the space age</i>
1964-65	Bill <b>Hardie</b>	Charles Pettingill (USA) – <i>Live Rotary</i>
1965-66	Chris <b>Mooney</b>	C P H Teenstra(Netherlands)- <i>Action, Consolidation &amp;Continuity</i>
1966-67	Roy <b>Allen</b>	Richard Evans (USA)- <i>A Better World Through Rotary</i>
1967-68	Allan <b>Thompson</b>	Luther Hodges (USA)- <i>Make Your Rotary Membership Effective</i>
1968-69	Kevin <b>Hardes</b>	Kiyoshi Togasaki (Japan)- <i>Participate</i>
1969-70	Charles <b>Withers</b>	James Conway (USA) – <i>Review &amp; Renew</i>
1970-71	Keith <b>Griffin</b>	William Walk (USA) – <i>Bridge The Gaps</i>
1971-72	Allan <b>Osmond-Dreyer</b>	Ernest Breitholtz (Sweden) - <i>Goodwill Begins With You</i>
1972-73	Bill <b>Nelson Jnr</b>	Roy Hickman (USA) – <i>Let’s Take A New Look &amp; Act</i>
1973-74	Rex <b>Meehan</b>	William Carter (England) – <i>A Time For Action</i>
1974-75	Allan <b>Connors</b>	Williams Robbins (USA)- <i>Renew The Spirit of Rotary</i>
1975-76	Jock <b>Turner</b>	Ernesto de Mello (Brazil) - <i>To Dignify the Human Being</i>
1976-77	Wes <b>Woodward</b>	Robert Manchester (USA) - <i>I Believe in Rotary</i>
1977-78	Manuel <b>Zaunders</b>	W Jack Davis (USA) – <i>Serve to unite mankind</i>
1978-79	John <b>Lattimore</b>	<b>Clem Renouf</b> (Australia) – <i>Reach Out</i>
1979-80	Max <b>Carey</b>	James L Bomar (USA) - <i>Let Service Light the Way</i>
1980-91	Bob <b>Young</b>	Rolf Klarich (Finland) – <i>Take Time To Serve</i>
1981-82	Bob <b>Berry</b>	Stan McCaffrey (USA)– <i>World Understanding &amp; Peace Through Rotary</i>
1982-83	Dennis <b>Rees</b>	HirojiMukasa (Japan) – <i>Mankind is One- Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World</i>
1983-84	John <b>Ritchie</b>	William E Skelton (USA) - <i>Share Rotary, Serve People</i>
1984-85	Ted <b>Saxby</b>	Carlos Canseco ((Mexico) - <i>Discover a New World of Service</i>
1985-86	Noel <b>Emerton</b>	Ed Cadman (USA) – <i>You Are The Key</i>



1986-87	George <b>Shreeve</b>	M A T Caparas (Philippines) – <i>Rotary Brings Hope</i>
1987-88	Alan <b>Cowan</b>	Charles Keller (USA) - <i>Rotarians-United in Service, Dedicated to Peace</i>
1988-89	Ralph <b>Godwin</b>	<b>Royce Abbey</b> (Australia) - <i>Put Life into Rotary – Your Life</i>
1989-90	Graeme <b>Sparkes-Carroll</b>	Hugh Archer ((USA) - <i>Enjoy Rotary</i>
1990-91	Glenn <b>Maas</b>	Paulo V C Costa (Brazil) - <i>Honour Rotary with Faith &amp; Enthusiasm</i>
1991-92	Ern <b>Death</b>	Rajendra K Saboo (India) – <i>Look Beyond Yourself</i>
1992-93	Brian <b>Prince</b>	Cliff Dochterman (USA) – <i>Real Happiness is Helping Others</i>
1993-94	Colin <b>Ruprecht</b>	Robert Barth (Switzerland) - <i>Believe in What You Do- Do What You Believe In.</i>
1994-95	David <b>Howard</b>	Bill Huntley (England) – <i>Be A Friend</i>
1995-96	Peter <b>Dahdah</b>	Herbert Brown (USA) - <i>Act With Integrity, Serve With Love, Work For Peace</i>
1996-97	Ashley <b>Cleaver</b>	Luis Vincent Giay (Argentina) - <i>Build The Future With Action &amp; Vision</i>
1997-98	Brian <b>Hole</b>	<b>Glenn Kinross</b> (Australia) – <i>Show Rotary Cares</i>
1998-99	Leslie <b>Hogarth</b>	James Lacy (USA) – <i>Follow Your Rotary Dream</i>
1999-00	Herb <b>Beer</b>	Carlo Ravizza (Italy) – <i>Act With Consistency, Credibility &amp; Continuity</i>
2000-01	Ken <b>Patterson</b>	Frank Devlin (Mexico) – <i>Create Awareness, Take Action</i>
2001-02	Dennis <b>Brown</b>	Richard King (USA) – <i>Mankind is Our Business</i>
2002-03	Ken <b>Raison</b>	Bhichai Rattakul (Thailand) – <i>Sow The Seeds of Love</i>
2003-04	Larry <b>Belton</b>	Jonathon Majiyagbe (Nigeria) – <i>Lend A Hand</i>
2004-05	Ian <b>Dyball</b>	Glenn Estess (USA) – <i>Celebrate Rotary</i>
2005-06	Wayne <b>Robards</b>	Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer (Sweden) – <i>Service Above Self</i>
2006-07	Terry <b>Drury</b>	Bill Boyd (New Zealand) – <i>Lead The Way</i>
2007-08	Philip <b>Streatfeild</b>	Wilfred Wilkinson (Canada) – <i>Rotary Shares</i>
2008-09	Kevin <b>Sharp</b>	Dong-Kurn Lee (Korea) – <i>Make Dreams Real</i>
2009-10	Bruce <b>Moy</b>	John Kenny (Scotland) – <i>The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands</i>
2010-11	Bruce <b>Moy</b>	Ray Klinginsmith (USA) – <i>Building Communities, Bridging Continents</i>
2011-12	David <b>Fisher</b>	Kalyan Banerjee (India) – <i>Reach Within to Embrace Humanity</i>
2012-13	Howard <b>Whitelaw</b>	Sakuji Tanaka (Japan) - <i>Peace Through Service</i>
2013-14	Joy <b>McCaffrey</b>	Ron Burton (USA) - <i>Engage Rotary, Change Lives</i>
2014-15	Laurie <b>Easter</b>	Gary Huang (Taiwan) – <i>Light up Rotary</i>
2015-16	Mark <b>Drury</b>	K R (Ravi) Ravendrin (Sri Lanka) – <i>Be A Gift To The World</i>
2016-17	Murray <b>Difford</b>	John Germ (USA) – <i>Rotary Serving Humanity</i>
2017-18	David <b>Denning</b>	<b>Ian Riseley</b> (Australia) – <i>Rotary, Making a Difference</i>
2018-19	Ian <b>Woollard</b>	Barry Rassin (Bahamas) – <i>Be The Inspiration</i>
2019–20	Ross <b>Tingle</b>	Mark Maloney (USA) – <i>Rotary Connects The World</i>
2020-21	David <b>Denning</b>	Holger Knaak (Germany) - <i>Rotary Opens Opportunities</i>
2021-22	Susie <b>Ploder</b>	Shekhar Mehta (India) - <i>Serve to Change Lives</i>
2022-23	Dr Grace <b>Maano</b>	Jennifer Jones (Canada) - <i>Imagine Rotary</i>

For any organisation to survive for 85 years in a world that is constantly changing is a remarkable achievement.

As you know, Rotary, as an organisation was formed in February 1905, so that Rotary International was only 32 years old when the Rotary Club of Taree was formed in 1937 – sponsored by Newcastle. And can you imagine the drive from Newcastle in 1937. It would take a whole day.

To put that in some context, Rotary arrived in *Austria* in 1938, Italy in 1939 and so forth, so this is very old and distinguished club by any measure and we can be proud of it's many achievements.

Our lives are series of threads, in career and privately – those threads build a complex and unique patchwork, which reflects all aspects of who we are.

Rotary was an important thread for me.

How did I become associated with Rotary?

After many career experiments and experiences, (all of which I enjoyed) I decided to pursue my love of images and with Jan's help, opened a pokey little photographic store in the Valley Fair shopping Centre. This was after I had declined offers of work as a journalist and broadcaster in other cities.

My first customer was Apexian and later a distinguished Rotarian called Peter Dahdah. We have been friends ever since.

That little one-man store eventually brought about many changes to the photo industry and spawned Australia's largest group of photo specialists – the Camera House group.

One day, a smiling pleasant man called Roy Allan dropped into my store – introduced himself and explained he was from the Rotary Club of Taree and would I like to consider joining the club.

I thought Rotary was only for special people, but on a handshake. I agreed to come along one night as his guest to see what it was all about. And from memory, I think it was the year of Rex Yen's Presidency, I became a proud Rotarian.

There have been many highlights for me as a member of the Rotary Club of Taree including the creation of special audio-visuals for Rotary conferences, the aerial photography for the planning of Rotary Park – one of the best Rotary legacies on the coast – I also enjoyed being a Rotary Director looking after international exchange students – really great experiences with quality human beings... all future leaders of their communities.

And the really big one, assisting to create, maintain and grow our Sister Club arrangement with the Rotary Club of Okayama Chuo in southern Japan.

The Rotarians of Okayama Chuo have become very special to all of us and based on their actions, vice versa. I think it is the best international project we have done --- the sister club arrangement has been going now for almost 25 years and was an important part of Brian Hole's presidency who signed the formal agreement in the most memorable and enjoyable ceremony I can remember. My respects also to Herb Beer who was one of the early driving forces towards engaging with the city of Okayama and the Rotary Club of Okayama Chuo.

As an aside, I must tell you about my first night as a Rotarian after my induction. I sat down at a table opposite two older very distinguished Rotarians – one was Mert Duncan headmaster of Taree High School, the other was the head of the TAFE college at that time, whose name escapes me.

I was in my early twenties and had a young face. Mert said quietly, but loud enough for me to hear: "I see they are letting schoolboys into Rotary now!" Without thinking I said something I wished I hadn't: "Could it be that It is because you older guys don't do enough – and then wished I could swallow my tongue. But sometime later all was forgiven and we became Rotary friends.

The other thing I am very proud of is that one day I was talking with Ashley Cleaver and brought up the matter of introducing women to Rotary. After some discussion we decided to introduce the idea to a forthcoming Rotary dinner meeting I well remember dropping that bomb at a Rotary meeting at Manuels Restaurant.

World War 111 broke out almost immediately and I needed urgent surgery after being sawn off at the knees by some

Rotary luminaries. Following a harsh rejection of the idea I was quietly determined and we decided to re-introduce the subject in about 6 months time.

This produced a more muted response and within a year or so we had our first female member. And you have to ask yourself: what would Rotary be today without our female members. The change spread across Australia and the world.

Although many members threatened to resign, in the end most did not and our club and Rotary worldwide are stronger and better for the move.

Finally, a tribute to President Susie Ploder; she took on the top job and with energy and determination, has made it work. Well done, Susie....



85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party goes



85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party goes

## POINTS TO PONDER

### Our Flag

Our flag bears the stars that blaze by night,  
in our southern sky of blue,  
And the little old flag in the corner,  
that's part of our heritage too.

It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish,  
who were sent to the ends of the earth,  
The rogues and schemers, the doers and dreamers,  
who gave modern Australia birth.

And you who are shouting to change it  
You don't seem to understand  
It's a flag of our law and our language  
Not the flag of a faraway land.

There are plenty of people who'll tell you  
When Europe was plunged into night  
That little old flag in the corner  
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It doesn't mean we owe allegiance  
To a foreign imperial dream  
We've the stars to show where we're going  
And the old flag to show where we've been

By an unknown soldier



***“Whoever renders service to many puts himself in line for greatness – great wealth, great return, great satisfaction, great reputation, and great joy.” – JIM ROHN***