

**ROTARY CLUB OF ADELAIDE PARKS INC**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2013**

**Prepared by President Allan Cram**

**18<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

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## OVERVIEW

### Theme of RI

**'In Rotary our business is not profit. Our business is peace. Our reward is not financial but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts.**

These are the words of Rotary International President, Sakuji Tanaka. In the year of 2012-2013 the Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks endeavoured to make its contribution towards a better world.

### Support for Each Other

Peace and happiness start at the individual level and the Adelaide Parks Rotarians were shocked by the home accident that befell Gerald Welden. His family and friends rallied around him in a most remarkable way with a number of Rotarians featured strongly in his recovery and I thank all of you who have visited and supported him and his family since.

### Support at the Local Level

The Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks helped change lives in our local and district communities. The former Hindmarsh members, particularly John Hicks and Geoff Schahinger with help from the rest of our team, continued to carry on their legacy, with rostered support of the Hindmarsh Meals on Wheels throughout the 2012-2013 year.

In addition, John and Kathy Cotter arranged the distribution of the school Christmas hampers at the Kilkenny Primary School. One single mother had to walk about 2 kilometres to collect it and it was my pleasure to give her a lift back to her home. I know that this contributed to a better Christmas for her and her family.

The Spinal Unit of the Hampstead Centre, through Eric Russell's work, were grateful to our team repainting the benches to brighten the scenery for patients. I thank Alan Key, Gerry Dee, Vic Gudiskis, Paul Cavell, Bob Congdon, Geoff Schahinger, Henry Slater and others I have and may have not mentioned, for your contributions.

Through the work of George Sinclair, Hussain Rammal, Jim Davies and Paul and Julie Cavell, we also supported the development of future scientists Hattie and Dasith, by sending them to the National Youth Science Forum in Perth held in January. Dasith in particular would not have been able to take this opportunity without our support.

Alan and Catherine Logue also supported our young people with the RYLA camp during 2012-2013 ensuring that emerging leaders have an opportunity to contribute to Rotary and their community in the future.

### **District Achievements**

Marie Dorrington as District Governor, inspired the Clubs with outstanding events at Peace forum in February and the District Conference in Bendigo. Barbara Wheatcroft, Bob and Pam Congdon all played major roles in this District Conference which inspired so many of us. The preparations for Barb's District Conference have been thorough and well supported by the remarkable entire Schahinger family, Kathy Cotter, Vic Gudiskis Paul and Debbie Haylock.

### **International Achievements**

Bob Congdon continued the work to support the sponsored students of the AGN School which has become recognised by our district as a project worth supporting.

In January 2013, Scott Mason with the help of Zonta, introduced us to Dr Luc Mulimbalimba, an outstanding individual who has gone back to his war torn community to build a hospital, implement community projects and support the dispossessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A special thanks to those who have already been mentioned along with Michael Bendyk, Anne Crawford, David Cockshell, Grace and Phillip Graham who showed strong interest in supporting this project. The container of medical equipment joyfully reached its destination.

David Tuzewski represented Disaster Aid Australia, supporting victims of Typhoon Pablo in the Philippines in December 2012. Unfortunately this scenario has been repeated again this month and David is in the Philippines again to support the crisis wreaked by this month's Typhoon.

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### **Working with other Adelaide Clubs**

A number of joint ventures were held due to John Campbell's strong efforts to bring the Adelaide Clubs together. These included a recruitment drive at a Japanese restaurant and a joint Club meeting for the visiting VETT group from the Philippines. Again, Adelaide Parks members supported this, particularly Jim Davies and Barbara Wheatcroft. John Campbell, from

Adelaide Light, and current District Governor Elect, was also generous with his support to our club.

### **Venue change to the Naval, Military and Airforce Club**

The Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks had to make a tough decision to leave the Public Schools Club due to members' concerns. The committee of Keith Pearson, Bob Congdon, Henry Slater, Scott Mason, Eric Russell and Vic Gudiskis worked together to find the current excellent location we now meet in. There were some unpleasant issues to deal with but the overall result has been well received by members.

### **Paul Harris Recipients**

To our Paul Harris Fellow and sapphire winners Jeff Mattner and Vic Gudiskis as well as the friends of Rotary Irena and Henning, this club and the people we support, are truly grateful for your generosity. Thank you.

### **Members Retiring from RCAP**

I also acknowledge Bob Tinker's retirement during my year. Bob provided great support to Eric Russell during his District Governor year and also joined Eric and Geoff Schahinger at the Rotary Convention in Thailand. We thank him for his contribution.

### **The RCAP Board**

Life can be challenging, especially with full time work commitments and a family to deal with. To each of the Board Members I extend my gratitude. To Allan Franca (with great support from Vic Gudiskis) I thank you for your work as Secretary.

In addition I'd like to thank Charles Shahinger, as Club Treasurer, for his work to ensure that the financial aspects of Adelaide Parks were well looked after.

To George Sinclair I thank you for standing in for Gerald Welden as our Sergeant at Arms. This has meant an additional weekly commitment from you, but you have served our club well.

The ever reliable Geoff Schahinger provided the newsletter for part of the 2012-2013 year as well as wise counsel and support person in organising speakers which he continues to do.

Keith Pearson and Scott Mason helped build the membership with the enlistment of Michael Bendyk, Anne Crawford and Phillip Graham during this period.

Bob Congdon continued the marvellous link with the AGN School and was a valuable member of the Bendigo Conference Team, while Paul Cavell helped deliver the container to Tanzania with the support of David Cockshell from Rotary's Donation In Kind.

John Hicks once again strongly supported the local community with his tireless efforts to provide hampers to schools, sales and distribution of Christmas cakes and puddings and supporting the Meals on Wheels rostering with Geoff Schahinger.

Jim Davies continued the fundraising with the distribution of the Entertainment Books, collection of shoes for donation, as well as organising the socks and jocks collection for the Hutt Street Centre.

Vic Gudiskis did a great job of negotiating a good price for the sale of wine which was a major source of funds to the club. Barbara Wheatcroft continued the Yellow Brick Road rostering to obtain additional funds.

Eric Russell took on the Public Relations role and, along with Henry Slater and Kathy Cotter, provided me with incredible support in my first year as President.

In addition, Sonya Schahinger, while not a member of the Club, provided wonderful support to Kathy Cotter, for ensuring our larger dinner functions were a great success.

I'd also like to acknowledge the generosity of the friends of Rotary Irena and Henning who continue to join us at events despite some personal challenges. This club and the people we support are truly grateful.

To Keith Pearson, I wish you a wonderful year, and I am confident that the Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks will continue to grow with your leadership.

**Allan Cram**

**President Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks 2012-2013**

**TREASURER - 2012/2013 Financial Statements prepared by Treasurer Charles Schahinger**

**Achievements and Performance**

During the year the Club was able to raise funds in a variety of ways. Regular weekly fundraising included the Fines Session \$2365, the Raffle \$2405 and the Polio Pig \$388.

A great fundraising result was from Wine Sales which raised \$2075.

Additional fundraising opportunities came from Entertainment Books \$ 728, the Yellowbrick Road at the Royal Adelaide Show \$877, Puddings and Cakes at Christmas \$270 Future Leaders Seminar \$994 and donations of \$3090.

We aim to support a number of international, national and local charities as detailed in the reports. A fine balance exists between our income and expenditure and needs to be carefully analysed so that we have sufficient funds to continue to 'do good'.

**Charles Schahinger**

**Treasurer Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks 2012-2013**

**Financial Statements**

Attached as Appendix A

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT - Allan Cram**

**Achievements and Performance**

Circumstances prevented Nazeem Jummun from holding this office for much of the 2012-2013 year. I, with support from members such as Allan Franca, Kathy Cotter, Geoff Schahinger and Eric Russell were able to gather a range of speakers, internal and external to the Club.

The Duty Roster system was continued from the previous year and I thank Kathy Cotter for its update and management. The Duty Roster system provided a structure that guaranteed that the management of the meetings went smoothly. The Duty Team Captains are to be commended on the smooth functioning of the meetings.

I took on the role as writer for a fortnightly newsletter but unfortunately was unable to provide a consistent message. This has since been addressed by the new team.

**Acknowledgements**

As stated above I'd like to acknowledge the support of the above named members during the year. In addition, I'd like to also acknowledge Michael Bendyk's arrangement of excellent speakers to the Club as well. Furthermore, Mark Jennings and the team at the Naval, Military and Airforce Club have made the transition of our home venue a pleasure.

Prior to this I'd like to also thank, Lucy and Honorary Member Nick, at the Public Schools Club who were presiding there, and providing us with excellent meals and service prior to the turn of events.

**Allan Cram –on behalf of Administration**

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Keith Pearson**

Developing club membership requires both recruitment and retention . This year we managed to recruit Anne Crawford and retain all of our members except one who resigned in June 2013, so we have done well in comparison to some other Rotary Clubs who have not retained members.

New member bring important benefits including diversity, fresh ideas and new energy. Although the committee leads the club in recruiting it is the individual members of Adelaide Parks Rotary Club who have the responsibility of recruiting new members. We can only try harder in the coming year to recruit more female members and more younger members.

The membership committee should encourage all members to reach out to family and friends, business associates and other community members e.g. The Salvation Army, by asking them to join.

The Club Membership Committee goes to Bob Congdon next year, ably assisted by Scott Mason and we need to get behind them if we are to be successful in recruiting new members and retaining our current ones.

The average age of the club is 62.7 years hence the need to look at younger members in the future. Thanks to Wes for keeping the number up!

Ron Burton, incoming President of Rotary International, from Oklahoma, USA is passionate about membership and suggests we consider trying to bring in only one member each in 2013-2014. I think over a 12 month period bringing in one member each is a target to aim for, even if we don't get there.

Winston Churchill said, " I never worry about action, only inaction."

I highly recommend these tools from RI:-

Membership Video Set (427-MU)Two DVD's (one for new members and one for prospective member s ), each featuring a compilation of Rotary Videos.

The ABC's of Rotary (363-EN)

RI Theme Brochure (900-EN)

Rotary's US \$200 Million Challenge Brochure (986-EN)Polio Education

Available from Parramatta

**CLUB SERVICE REPORT -Youth Report – George Sinclair**

This Rotary year we had 2 successful applicants for the National Youth Science Forum. Dasith Wewegama and Hattie Huang passed the District Interview with flying colours. Dasith was a year 11 student at Adelaide High School and Hattie was from Glenunga International High School. We transferred Hattie's application back to District Committee to pass on to another club. We supported Dasith's application with almost total funding.

Dasith returned to our club during February to give the club a most interesting summary of his experiences at the NYSF programme in Perth.

2 new applications for the 2014 NYSF have been received from Glenunga International High School and club interviews will take place shortly.

Once again we thank Paul Cavell and wife Julie for their support of these youth projects.

## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE REPORT – Director Bob Congdon**

### **AGN School Project**

In 2009 the Board of the Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks received a project proposal advocating the creation of student scholarships to a school in rural Tamil Nadu, Southern India. This proposal was adopted by the club. Subsequently the Adelaide Parks Board applied for and received a Simplified District Grant. The Rotary Foundation has continued to support this project since its commencement. Students are selected prior to the opening of each academic year and Foundation Grants applications are made to support the Project.

### **Background**

The AGN School in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, provides education from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> year to rural students from an area within a 15km radius of the village of Konganapuram. The AGN School was established in 1998 in a small farm house in the village of Konganapuram. Since then the school has grown. It now occupies new and modern premises, offering a syllabus which meets state education department requirements to a student population of 1400. The school offers education to paying students and also scholarships to a small number ( approx. 8%) of students.

This school has responded to an existing need for locally accessible quality education for children living in an underprivileged rural environment. The school has succeeded in sustaining a high standard of education while managing high growth and continuing financial viability.

### **RC of Adelaide Parks Goal**

To facilitate the attendance of talented students of limited means at AGN School through years nine through twelve. Covering all education, accommodation and associated school costs. The expectation is that through this high quality education assistance students will then go on to successfully complete tertiary studies.

It is anticipated that these students will eventually return to their respective rural communities and contribute their professional skills and expertise for the betterment of these communities.

### **Current Situation/Successes**

There are presently seven students on scholarships at present. A further three students ( one, a carryover from 2012) will commenced in late July 2013. All students are performing well.



\*An additional Scholarship will be offered from funds held over from 2012.

### **District Simplified Grant**

A successful application was made for a grant made in mid 2012 to be applied in commencement year 2013. An amount of USD \$2,103 was granted.

### **Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks**

The Club contribution (at current exch. rate) is USD\$5,855 or AUD\$5,328 will cover the balance of the cost of the scholarship program for 2013.

### **Summary**

\*One student (2012 commencement) withdrew in mid 2012 due to difficulty with instruction in English. The total funds for this student have been held over and have been used to fund an additional student for commencement this year.

The AGN School continues to provide regular feedback on student performance .

### **Hospital Equipment Shipment to the Congo**

**(This Important project was lead by Paul Cavell.)**

Among many interesting guest speakers this year we were particularly impressed by Dr. Luc Muliambalimbia who was brought to the attention of the club by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills.

Recognizing the dire circumstances of his home village in the Congo Dr. Luc resigned from his UN post in Africa to focus on helping his own people. Here he found that a new hospital lacked adequate furnishing (beds etc.) and equipment which it urgently needed to make it a fully operational facility.

The Rotary Club of Adelaide Parks, with its access to the District operated Donations In Kind Facility at Edinburgh Park, agreed to work in conjunction with the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills and the Birthing Kit Foundation to source needed hospital beds, furnishings, and equipment. Rotarians from RC of Adelaide Parks together with volunteers from Zonta and the Birthing Kit Foundation consolidated the equipment supplied by Donations In Kind with birthing kits and clothing supplied by Zonta and the Birthing Kit Foundation and packed the consignment into a

forty foot container which was subsequently shipped to the Congo. Equipment shipped included :-

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Operating tables

Dental Chairs

Dental Instruments

Hospital beds

Mattresses

Wheel Chairs

Office chairs

Autoclaves

Surgical Instruments

### **Summary**

The Club's International Service contribution in this past year has consisted of funding ( AGN Scholarships) and "hands on " activities. All members have therefore had an opportunity to contribute and learn through our involvement in the International Portfolio.

### **Bob Congdon**

### **Director International Service 2012-13**

**APPENDICES**