

## 2010-2011 Year in Review



What a great opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved over the past 12 months. A very important activity because sometimes we get too busy planning and doing, planning and doing ... and do not find time to reflect.

- RI President Ray Klinginsmith's theme for the 2010/11 was "**Building Communities, Bridging Continents**". His wish was to see **bigger, better** and **bolder** Rotary clubs.
- How did RCNS fare?
- **Building Communities**
  - In conjunction with Australian Rotary Health – we held a 2 day **Mental Health First Aid Workshop**. This workshop saw us develop a strong relationship with the Salvation Army.
  - Our club continues the support of the **Bald & Beautiful Foundation** with their pampering day for adult cancer sufferers and their carers
  - **Graffiti removal** in the Newcastle district
  - Gardening at **Hunter Wetlands Centre**
  - Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- **Bridging Continents**
  - RCNS has supported:
    - Group Study Exchange hosting and support – District 5520 – New Mexico, **USA**
    - St Judes - **Tanzania**
    - MESCH program - **Vietnam**
    - **Papua New Guinea** evening
    - Lyn Thorpe and Bill Walker's continued medical assistance throughout **Asia**
    - Donating to the District Disaster Relief for our neighbours in **New Zealand** and **Japan** and of course **ShelterBox** purchases
- **Bigger**

I had the great pleasure of presiding over the induction of and welcoming to our club:

  - Deborah Cochrane
  - Lisa Craig
  - Lynn Flanagan
  - Amir Dastaviz
  - Colin Haggar
  - Dennis Willis
  - And welcoming back to our club Steph Berrick

We have two new members to be inducted soon:

- Jennifer Richards
- Susan Norgard

Sadly, all for personal reasons, we said goodbye to Wendy Lovett and Lisa Craig, Lynn Flanagan and Amir will not be renewing their memberships.

The nett result is still an increase in membership = bigger club membership.

- **Better**

As a firm believer in “Continuous Improvement” I can only suggest that RCNS is always seeking ways to do things better. Certainly this year we embraced the various committees which I believe has helped to foster a team culture in the club.

Evidence of this has been:

- **Welcoming new members** – ensuring that there is a good match between new member experience, expertise and interest and the committee they join and the mentor they are assigned
- Our new focus for the distribution of our monthly fine session monies to smaller charities where we know our funds can make a difference
- **TEAM WORK**
- - **The Art Preview**
  - **The Annual Golf Day**
  - **Bald & Beautiful Pampering Day**
  - **Trivia Night**
  - **Cooking dinners at Ronald McDonald House**
  - **Gardening at the Wetlands**
  - **Graffiti removal**
- Support at various District workshops and programmes such as:
  - MUNA
  - Membership Makeover

- **Bolder**

- We embraced some change with the meeting formats. One example is **decreasing Guest Speakers to two per month**, down from three
- We did not shy away from having **two activities scheduled on the one weekend**
- We completed the **Vision Creation Workshop** and will continue with our vision and goals in the coming year
- **Club Assemblies** – committees sit together and bond as teams
- **eBulletin** – we have continued the electronic version of the Bulletin
- **Website – member profiling.** We continue to attract enquiries and receive compliments for our site
- **Vocational visit** with breakfast at Hunter Surf LifeSaving premises

Something that I am particularly proud of is the comments I receive from members, guests and visiting Rotarians. **That is the “feeling” they get from our club.** Those comments include “friendly, warm, productive, enthusiastic, .....

### **District Involvement/Representation**

The RCNS involvement in District 9670 programmes and committees is a testament to our commitment and support of Rotary.

- Wendy Hawthorne – Chair of the District Membership Committee organising the District Membership Seminar
  - Bill Walker – RAWCS Committee involved with RAM and ROMAC
  - Lyn Thorpe – RAWCS Committee, Co-Chair ROMAC,
  - Megan Valentine – District MUNA Chair
  - Charlie Bevan – Electronics Communications Committee
  - Denis Hyland – Rotary Foundation Committee
  - Julie Bevan – Certified Vision Facilitator
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- Several RCNS members attend the annual District Conference in Dubbo including Denis Willis, Denis Hyland, Wendy Hawthorne, Linda Evans, Bill Walker, Lyn Thorpe with myself and Charlie representing the club on the golf course. Several members have attended the PR workshop, District Assembly, District Training

### **Vote of Thanks my Committee**

Thank you to the following people who embraced the new Committee Chair positions, helped facilitate change for our club, their commitment, work and effort and the support they provided me throughout my time as President.

- Chris Page – Service Projects
- Greg Valentine – Public Relations
- Jenny Noblet – Membership
- Julie Midson York – New Generation
- Lynn Stewart – Administration
- Megan Valentine – Foundation

And

- Alan Stevens – Secretary and Bulletin Editor
- Charlie Bevan – Treasurer