

President's Report 2018-19

June 18 2019

I am very proud to have served the last 12 months as president of this great Rotary Club. It all started with a sense of urgency as President Elect Kevin stood aside for health reasons, but as the members rallied behind me everything started to take shape. A big thank you to Kevin because as you know I headed off to Europe after only 2 months in the job and Kevin took over. The holiday had been pre-booked for some time and we had to go mainly because I was too scared to tell Sue it might be cancelled.

I feel that a lot has been achieved this year and this is because the members have embraced our program and projects. It's been a busy year for me and I'm not sure how I managed the position of president 30 years ago with a one year old and a daughter born during that year plus an expanding construction business to manage. I have concluded that I didn't do much that year.

So what have you done this year ?

You have completed projects or donated over \$77,000. In addition we have funds totalling \$6,772 in the Ghana Project and US \$15,000 allocated for when the project gets underway.

Expenditure includes the following donations or project:

Afghan widows	\$ 100	
Backpacks 4 Kids	\$ 6,000	incl \$3000 from our charitable trust
Birthing Kits	\$ 6,000	
Nana's Free food equip	\$ 4,057	
Calperum Student	\$ 500	
Foodbank	\$ 2,000	
CFS Foundation	\$ 2,000	
Science experience	\$ 190	
WBSLSC Defibrillator	\$ 1,864	
Down Syndrome	\$33,549	
RYPEN / RYLA camps	\$ 1,450	
Rotary Drought Relief	\$ 5,755	
Cancer Research	\$ 511	
WBSLSC incl P&B swim	\$ 6,000	incl money raised by WBSLSC wine sales
Rotary Foundation	\$ 5,500	
Smith Family	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	
Total	\$77,476	

Where did the money come from ?

This year we were very fortunate to have a project that was appealing and readily attracted grants and corporate money. I would like to thank Brian McDonald for finding this project at Down Syndrome SA and promoting it to this club. John Jackson, Chris Branson and myself put together several applications for grants and were fortunate to secure almost \$33,000.

Other sources of income included the Bookmart over \$12,300, Carousel \$1,444, Henley BBQ \$2,180, Serafino Wine sales \$3,226, Entertainment Books and Semaphore Park Residents action group.

The year began with a proposal to collaborate with Henley Beach, West Lakes, Largs Bay, Grange and Regency Park Rotary Clubs in something we have never done before. The event was designed to improve the Public Image of Rotary as well as publicise the End Polio Campaign, but of course the drawcard would always be the 80th anniversary of the carousel at Semaphore. A great success due to the volunteers on the organising committee and the participants on the day. KPR was recognised with a District Award for "Rotary Image & Public Relations".

Our first project for the year was a donation of a soup kettle and glass door frig / freezer to Nana's Free Food Basket. We have assisted them in the past, but this was a game changer for them and made the setup so much easier. We were fortunate to have received funds from the Semaphore Park Residents Action Group which had recently closed. We received their surplus funds of \$2,770 and I applied for and received a Rotary District grant of \$ 2,100 which means we were able to complete the project without any cost to our club. Special thanks to Stuart for his involvement. Nana's Free Food Basket is a fantastic community service at the Bower Cottages, and next Wednesday I will be presenting their founder, Bronwyn Plate with a well deserved Paul Harris Recognition. Please come along just to see for yourself the essential service they provide with food donations and dedicated volunteers.

The major project this year was the redevelopment of a disused double carport at Down Syndrome SA. The scope of work was defined by their desire to have an all weather outdoor kitchen and teaching area. This facility is a perfect fit for the young adults participating in the "Life Education & Work Skills " program, as they will have the opportunity to develop life skills by focusing on daily life activities and social skills, which ultimately could lead to more independent living.

The club members embraced this project and turned it into a first class, very comfortable and practical teaching area. The roof was replaced with fully insulated "Cooldek" panels from Stratco. The BBQ equipment and tables & chairs were provided by BBQ Galore at very competitive pricing. The carpet was supplied and installed by Findon Carpet Mart. Other refinements included a new garden, "zipscreen" blinds, reverse cycle air conditioning and a new sliding door for easy access to indoor classrooms. These suppliers and contractors have assisted us by making our money go much further, but our sponsors are the ones who have backed this project by providing the necessary cash in order to get started.

Down Syndrome SA and the Rotary Club of Kidman Park are particularly grateful to Bendigo Bank, Rotary Australia World Community Service, West End Community Fund, The Rotary Foundation and Serafino Wines for their contribution and cash grants which have made all this possible.

The grants and discounts from contractors have contributed to the financial success of the project and I'm very proud to announce today that the total cost to our club is only \$ 409. for a facility with a retail value of over \$ 57,000.

While all this has been going on you have also managed to volunteer yourself for :

- Assembling 2000 birthing kits

- Helping distribute toys and backpacks for "Backpacks 4 SA Kids"

- Assisting at the Semaphore Carousel

- Helping Henley Rotary Club maintain their presence at the West Beach BBQ

- Foodbank volunteering

- Meals on Wheels every week

- Preparing sandwiches every week for Kickstart 4 Kids.

- Bunnings and other sausage sizzles.

A quick calculation will find that collectively you have volunteered for around 1,300 hours.

It's not all work as we have also managed to fit in plenty of fellowship and socialising, including Mitcham film evening, Clare Riesling Trail, Theatre / Dinner night, Xmas dinner with Henley Beach, Presidents BBQ, Popeye Gin Masterclass, Guess who's Coming to Dinner, Golf weekend, The Reel Event and a weekend at Calperum Station.

With all this volunteering and socialising you would be silly not to join us - and three new members did. Clive & Christine Turner and Mario McDonagh.

These things do not happen by themselves. It takes planning, sometimes a lot and other times not too much but someone has to step up and do it. So I'd like to thank the board and all those members who organised events for the rest of us to enjoy. But it doesn't stop there as someone must attend the function or volunteer at the event so I'll thank all of you for your participation.

Not everything goes to plan and last year we were advised that the West Lakes Library would close and be demolished turning our Bookmart into rubble. Since then Jenny, Warren, Margaret, Ron and myself have been working very hard to keep our biggest fundraiser alive and possibly bigger and better. Stuart has also been a valuable contributor as he knows how the wheels turn inside local government. Currently we are in negotiations with the City of Charles Sturt to procure a 5 year lease at Smith Reserve in Woodville West. This is a big change, however we are seeing this as an opportunity with new possibilities. We are

realistic in our view that initially revenue will be down and expenses up as we spend on rent, marketing and new equipment.

The process is progressing as expected and we are looking forward to improving on our existing model to make the Bookmart a big winner for KPR. There is still plenty of hard work ahead, however we have the right people on the steering committee. A big thank you to Margaret and Stuart for their ongoing support of our volunteers and the Bookmart over many years.

The Ghana Project was launched in late February in partnership with the Rotary Club of Winneba. They have now selected the University of Education as the school and will be providing facilities for disabled students. The flow of information from Ghana has been frustratingly slow to say the least, but since reading Mark Balla's book "Toilet Warrior" I now have a better understanding of the barriers to a successful water and sanitation project. It's a great read and I recommend it to you.

During the year it has been my pleasure to attend several Rotaract meetings at Thebarton Senior College. It is always good to catch up with the students and the coordinator/teacher Reanne. The Rotaractors have contributed to our programs on a number of occasions, including the End Polio day at the Semaphore Carousel and the assembly of 2,000 "Birthing Kits". We sponsored 3 students to RYPEN / RYLA camps and I know that they have cherished the experience. In March we were very happy to sponsor 10 students and Reanne to the District Conference at Hahndorf. The Conference was one of the best I have attended with a great line up of speakers much to the delight of the Rotaractors and the 18 members and partners who attended from our club. We were also fortunate to have a showcase at the conference where we promoted our Ghana schools Water & Sanitation Project. The next conference is at Whyalla so attendance will require a bit more commitment.

The PA system has haunted many presidents for many years and quite a few attempts have been made to improve the quality. I too have "had a go" and hopefully it is better than before. The lectern is now collapsible with 2 less microphone connections, and 8 new ceiling speakers are performing well. During the year we have had the pleasure of being informed and entertained by at least 35 great guest speakers and an average attendance of 40 members. The vibrant and interesting meetings have undoubtedly contributed to the ongoing success of our club.

We are in the business of serving the community so it is reasonable to assume we can identify an exceptional community leader. Before this Rotary year comes to an end we will have awarded 8 community leaders for their outstanding service with a Paul Harris Recognition. These awards are made possible by past donations of \$1000 USD to the Rotary Foundation.

This year we presented Paul Harris Awards to :

Bronwyn Plate from Nanna's Free Food
Past President Jenny Harris
Member Alison Harris
Past Secretary Paul Denley (Sapphire Pin)
Rachel Zaltron from Backpacks 4 SA Kids
Past President Warren Hobbs (Double Sapphire Pin)
Bookmart volunteers Don & Lee Mc Culloch

There are lot of members who have actively supported me this year and I am very appreciative of that. It's very comforting to know your decisions are in tune with the majority. I've also been challenged a few times, which is fine with me. I encourage people to put their views forward and as I said 12 months ago a quote from Ghandi " There go my people, I must follow them for I am their leader." I'm very comfortable with how things have turned out and have no regrets. I must thank the board for their hard work and dedication to this club and members. Speaking of dedication I have to give special thanks to Frank Bunnik who will retire from the board after 7 years of service. Our treasurer David Lindsay is also retiring after 2 years in a job that is not always appreciated and is a weekly commitment. Paul Denley has served as secretary for many years and is now taking a break. He has been a great secretary as everything just seems to get done with no fuss. Thank you David, Paul & Frank. One more special person with a big commitment to this club on a weekly basis. Jen Clarke produces a superb edition of the Kidman Krier every week without fail and for that I thank you. I hope all of you have enjoyed the past year as I have and I wish Tiggy and his board all the best for the coming year.

Rob Chambers

President 2018-19