

Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai



Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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President's Report- Roger Desmarchelier

My term as Joint President in this year was for the six months from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. It was a time impacted considerably by the Covid 19 restrictions. Our Club ceased meeting face to face in early 2020 and, apart from a few restricted open meetings, all under my Presidency were virtual meetings through Zoom. This made it very difficult to manage a regular programme and to make the weekly meetings interesting for all members.

Despite these restrictions, our Club met regularly with a diverse range of speakers, some local and some from overseas, including a speaker from Houston, Texas, and a speaker from the School for Life in Uganda. We also had most members give a 5 on me talk about themselves during these zoom meetings.

There were few opportunities for fund raising and we participated in no social activities during this period. Hence, we were limited in our opportunity to donate to some of our charitable causes.

One of the highlights of my period as President was to integrate the 15 members from the Rotary Club of Lindfield. That occurred on 1 July and most of those members have continued their membership with our Club and are making significant contributions to the success of our Club.

It was with pleasure that I handed over the Presidency for the remaining six months of this year to Arthur Maltby, who will carry on the high standards of the Club during his Presidential period.

President's Report- Arthur Maltby

My term as President began in January after Roger and I jointly hosted the Club's Christmas dinner. In the first six months of the Rotary year, the Club was limited by Covid 19 restrictions, to a reduced meeting schedule. However, this time was used constructively to investigate options for our meetings in 2021. This led to us relocating our meetings to the West Pymble Bicentennial Club and planning our meetings to be a mixture of face-to-face, zoom and restaurant meetings. Our challenge was to provide a programme, which provided regularity with variety for our Club meetings and functions.

However, our choice had to comply with the restrictions imposed for compliance with Covid requirements for public venues. Initially, these requirements ruled out restaurant meetings, theatre evenings, BBQ's and standing in groups while socialising.

We were fortunate that the Bicentennial Club was sufficiently large that it could accommodate our members in their dining room and they had an outdoor balcony, where we could gather and socialise prior to our meetings. In addition, the club was very welcoming and good value. As a consequence, the majority of our meetings were dinner meetings at the club, interspersed with a couple of zoom meetings.

In time, the Covid restrictions were gradually relaxed and we were able to recommence some fundraising activities in Bunnings BBQ's, the Gordon markets and socially, a restaurant evening. Unfortunately, a planned theatre evening had to be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen Covid restrictions. Critically, we were able to resume our running of the BOBBO cycle classic in March with three other clubs and by ourselves, the Lindfield Run in April. Both involved most

members of the Club in planning and support roles. As a result, significant funds were raised to be able to present cheques to a number of charities, including \$125,000 to Lifeline, \$25,000 to Eagles Rapps and \$25,000 to KYDS. Donations were also made to a number of local organisations, as well for projects in Fiji, Timor-Leste and India.

Unfortunately, a recent surge in the spread of the Covid virus has caused the postponement of our scheduled changeover ceremony at the end of June and will disrupt some meetings in July.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the members of the Board, the Heads of Service and the Club members for their contribution and support during the last six months. It has been a privilege to be part of a Club dedicated to the commitment of the principles of the Rotary organisation.

As we approach the conclusion of my Presidency, I believe Roger, myself and the Board are able to hand over to John and his team, a strong Club and an enthusiastic membership, which will continue the traditions of the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai.

Thank you, all members of the KRC Board this Rotary Year and to my Avenue of Service Chairs for their contributions to another successful year. Our executive group this year was as follows:

20/21 KRC Board Members:

President (1) July 1 - 31 December. Roger Desmarchelier

(2) January 1 - 30 June. Arthur Maltby

Vice President: Joy Newling

Immediate Past President Bob Elsworth

Secretary: Gary Keating

Treasurer: Chris Lewis

Director: Rob Hall (Resigned February 2021)

Director: Robyne Alexander (Resigned August 2020)

Director Barry Ng (Appointed August 2020)

Director: Gary Keating

Director Malcolm Braid

KRC Avenue of Service Chair

Community: Michael Midlam. Lindsay Forrest

Administration: Gary Keating

Membership: Roger Desmarchelier

Public Image: Rob Hall

Foundation: Greg Newling

Vocation: David Kitchen

Youth: Malcolm Braid

Fund Raising: Ross Egan

International: Peter Kipps

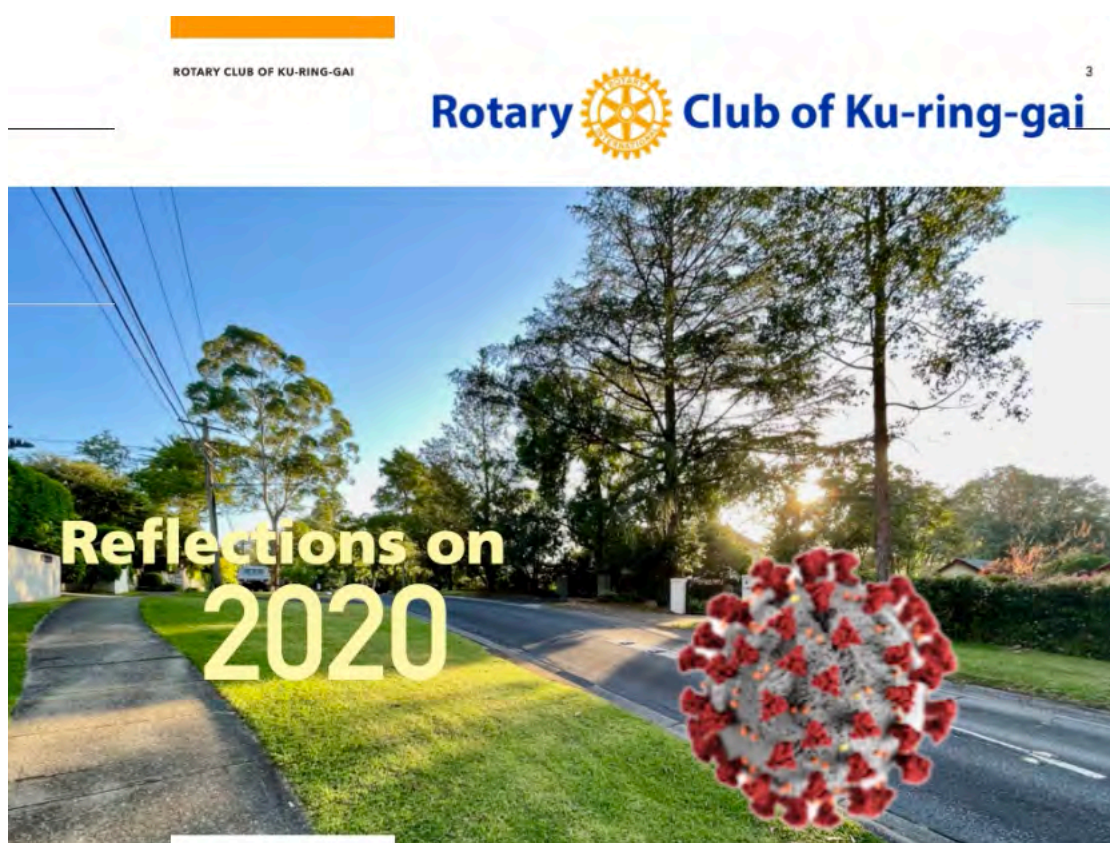
Welfare: Joy and Greg Newling

Public Image (Rob Hall – AoS Chair)

This Rotary year was unusual in that it could be divided into two parts—during COVID 19 and beginning to emerge from COVID 19. This meant that we had fewer guest speakers and fewer occasions to work on projects or fundraising. Consequently, it was more difficult to create fresh content for traditional and social media.

Nevertheless, members found ways to spread the word about our Club. Greg Newling established a strong relationship with the newly launched hardcopy local newspaper, “**Hornsby - Ku-ring-gai Post**”, and ensured a regular flow of articles that mentioned our Club and our projects.

President Arthur Maltby encouraged members to participate in creating a movie focussed on our Club to be entered in the competition being held as part of the District conference in 2021. Rob Hall compiled the material and incorporated a series of short videos featuring Co-Presidents Roger Desmarchelier and Arthur Maltby, along with Michael Midlam, Joy Newling, Anne Maslen and Gary Keating. The film was ranked 5th out some 35 entries. A copy was placed on our website.



As the restrictions put in place to contain COVID were eased in the early part of 2021, our Club was able to participate in running the Bobbo (Bobbin Head Cycle Classic) and the Lindfield Fun Run. Once again, we were able to post new content on Facebook and our Club website.

In 2021, Ku-ring-gai Council released their draft plan for redeveloping the playground associated with West Pymble Mall. Some two years prior, our Club had proposed adding a table and seating in the playground to provide a place for parents and others to sit without needing to be customers at the

adjacent coffee shop. This plan was received with enthusiasm by the local community. So, we raised the funds for the furniture but then needed to wait for Council to finish their own planning for the site. With the release of the draft plan, we were able to post in the Pymble & West Pymble Facebook page to remind the local community of our role in contributing to the proposed improvements. Our Club is noted in the draft plan as collaborating with the Ku-ring-gai Council..

Vocation (David Kitchen – AoS Chair)

Due to the restrictions of Covid 19 no events were undertaken in the 6 months 1/07/2020 to 31/12/2020. However we were able to have a delayed Pride Of Workmanship night on the 8th March where we presented 5 deserving recipients with a Pride of Workmanship award. This was well received by members and we hope to organise another Pride of Workmanship award night later this calendar year.

Also in conjunction with Malcolm Braid who organised everything, we held a school debate with 5 students from year 11 at Killara High School with the topic “Dogs are better than cats” This was also well received by members and we would hope to have another debate in the first 6 months of next year.

Club Service / Administration (Gary Keating – AoS Chair)

1 Former members of Lindfield Rotary Club were successfully integrated into the activities of Ku-Ring-Gai Club, broadening our range of projects and enhancing all with the wider expertise available.

2 Covid pandemic forced changes to our activities and the Club adapted rapidly
Subscription to Zoom Pro to enable online meetings without artificial time limitations
-Relocation when physical meetings became possible again. Killara Golf club unable to offer previous services at a competitive price to a single club under covid restrictions. West Pymble Bicentennial Club became our regular meeting venue.

3 Membership details were updated as required to District and Clubrunner.
During the year our club saw the resignation of David Forsythe for professional/relocation reasons. He was elevated to Honorary Membership in recognition of his great contribution.
Also resigning for health/relocation reasons were: Sally White (30/6/2020), David Blackwell (31/12/2020), Martha Tellez (31/12/2020), David Morris (23/3/2021) and Trish Barrett (30/6/2021).
As at 1 July 2021, Club membership is projected to be 40 financial and 4 Honorary members.

4 Regulatory affairs were maintained:
Our Charitable Fundraising authority was updated with the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing
Annual Statement and Financial Accounts filed with Office of Fair Trading
Market approvals renewed with Council
Working with Children Checks updated (Lindsay Forrest)

5 Records kept of all meetings (agenda, minutes of Board Meetings and AGM).

Foundation (Greg Newling – AoS Chair)

574 children in India can now lead a normal life, thanks to The Rotary Foundation's support for a project started by the Rotary Club of Lindfield, and only recently completed. Well done to Chris Clifford and Michael Shepherd.

The Club contributed \$US16,725. Combined District and Rotary International Foundation support came to \$US93,292.

Do you need any more convincing that donations to The Rotary Foundation "Do good in the world?" We have continued to help school children in Fiji by supporting the supply of solar power through the "It's Time" Foundation.

However, the continuous funding from The Rotary Foundation, both locally and internationally, depends on continuous funding of The Rotary Foundation by members.

Please remember that this is our charity and that donations to the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust are tax deductible. Ask me how, don't send credit card details by email.

\$2 per week will make you a "Centurion." About half our members already are. If every Club member was, we would add another \$2,000 annually to The Rotary Foundation!

International Projects 2021

(Peter Kipps – AoS Chair)

Fiji school Solar Panel project \$4,000 + District Grant \$4,000 = Total \$8,000

<https://iitime.org/>



This is partial funding for panels, battery, inverter and wiring. The project will continue for years (200 schools to go!). It would be good for our club to be involved in this project on an ongoing basis.

Uganda School for Life \$2,072 Teacher for a year



[https://
www.schoolforlife.org.au/](https://www.schoolforlife.org.au/)

This school was started by 2 young Australians. Their mission is to “Educate poverty out of existence”. They have built 2 primary and 1 secondary school in 10 years, and 2 more are under construction.

Timor Léste Flood relief \$2,500



Normally we fund the Rypen courses initiated by Pennant Hills Rotary. However, this year they could not take place and they have had devastating floods so we made a \$2500 donation to Flood Relief.

Indonesia - ANZA scholarships - \$1,050

ANZA Student Sponsorship Program poster. The poster features the ANZA logo, the text "ANZA STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM", "EDUCATION GIVES CHOICES AND CHANGES LIVES", and "Sponsor a disadvantaged child's education from Rp 1,050,000". It also lists "Sponsors for 2020/ 21 Academic Year Needed!" and "Elementary Junior High High School Vocational". At the bottom, it says "For more information visit www.anzajakarta.com/Student-Sponsorship or email anzastudentsponsorship@gmail.com". The background of the poster shows a group of children in orange shirts waving.

This project pays for scholarships for 4 Indonesian students, who would otherwise miss out on secondary education. A small amount of money goes a long way and it would be good to continue this.

India - Sathi all for Partnerships - \$2,500



We intended to help fund a Days for Girls project in India, but owing to Covid this was shelved. So we switched the donation to an NGO charity, SAFP, which has helped a variety of causes in India for over 20 years. The funds will be used for Covid relief

Community (Lindsay Forrest – AoS Chair)

The main projects for Community this past year were the operation of the D-Café and keeping in contact with Eagles Raps. Due to the restrictions caused by Covid, we could not do the usual Eagles Christmas party but were able to distribute Christmas hampers to the students who were very grateful. Covid also affected our weekly D-Café meetings and for several months were not able to use our indoor venue at West Pymble Pool. We kept in touch for a few weeks via Zoom, but this proved not to be as acceptable as face to face meetings. To solve this, whenever the weather permitted, we had outdoor meetings at Wahroonga park where everyone brought their own chairs, set them up at a safe distance, and enjoyed coffee and conversation. Covid also caused the cancellation of Daffodil Day collections and the selling of badges for Legacy, but we were able to participate in Clean Up Australia Day by collecting litter from around the West Pymble Shopping Centre and Lofberg Oval.

Ku-ring-gai Connect

RCK began this community service in the Ku-ring-gai area by taking on the running of Ku-ring-gai Connect (KC) under a MOU relationship with Hornsby Connect (HC) providing low cost food hampers to citizens in need of a helping hand UP – commencing in September 2020.

The service operates from the Seniors rooms in Gilroy Lane Turramurra, every Thursday – originally mornings but changing to afternoons from Feb 2021. Clients may be referred from many service organisations. Logistics/hampers are provided to KC by HC.

RCK took this project on because it is one which demonstrates a strong presence and service in the community, with almost 50% of our members volunteering on the roster to cover opening hours.

Client numbers remain low, but are showing some signs of growth, supported by Lifeline Emergency Response who are referring clients most weeks. A review has been held on the modest success of this initiative to date and a task group of RCK and HC will monitor the need in the community and consider different models to meet that need.

My thanks to the commitment of Members to this initiative, and in particular to Team Leaders Roger D, Michael D and Sandra W.

Financial (Chris Lewis - Treasurer)

For the Project Account, in the earlier part of the year, the focus was on conservatively managing the balance in the account due to uncertainties created by COVID. As the year progressed, successful fundraising activities started up, leading to a substantial increase in the Account's financial position.

The Club has nevertheless continued to support many worthwhile projects with significant donations for solar panels in Fiji, the School for Life in Uganda, flood relief for Timor, COVID relief for India, Shelterbox, Polio plus, Rotary Health, Smiles2U as well as some other projects.

Community and Youth activities in the year were reduced due to the impact of COVID. Of note in particular, this was the first year the Lindfield Fun Run was held by the club, with significant additional funds earned which have been and will be donated to beneficiaries.

Youth (Malcolm Braid – AoS Chair)

The year started with the aims and goals being -

- To initiate a new youth opportunity in the Ku ring gai area
- To endeavour to further engage with the Interact Club at PLC
- To nominate candidates for RYLA, RYPEN, NYSF and MUNA
- To continue engagement with the local High Schools, Clarke Road School and Sir Eric Woodward School

In July our team was enthusiastic to get things going, however the Covid restrictions for group meetings either in schools or outside made it almost impossible. Consequently very few activities / projects were undertaken.

The District Youth team did manage to arrange a Zoom program for RYPEN students spread over two consecutive weekends. Unfortunately we were unable to entice students from Killara High to enrol.

The annual presentation of the 'Benefic Award ' was done in December at Killara, Turramurra and Ku ring gai High Schools, Clarke Road School and Sir Eric Woodward School. However the Covid restrictions meant Rotary members could not attend each presentation and it was undertaken by the Principal on the Club's behalf. The awardees received a trophy and a voucher to purchase a book.

The Benefic Award is presented in the High schools to a year 9 student who has displayed a 'favourable influence' and been a good role model on their peers. At the other schools a slightly different criteria is used to fit in with their student focus on development.

At Clarke Road School, a group of members were able to attend the school in the holiday period and undertake garden maintenance which was greatly appreciated. The Club members also coordinated a BBQ at the school on the retirement of the Principal.

The last program in the Rotary year was a debate at our Club meeting by students from Killara High School. The topic was 'Dogs are better than cats'. It was a light hearted topic and all members enjoyed hearing the students deliver their arguments. Thanks to Roger Desmarchelier & Rob Hall as adjudicators and David Kitchen as timekeeper and logistics organiser on the night. A cheque for \$250 was presented to the school Debating Club for further training of students in debating skills.

Many thanks to the Youth committee (Bruce Dowling, Frank Windeyer, Joy Newling and Anne Maslen) who helped prepare the program and undertook the various obligations required. It is hoped that 2021/2022 year will be more active for Youth activities and programs as we see less intrusion by the Covid pandemic.

Information Technology (Bob Ivey – IT Manager)

2020-21 brought a couple of new IT changes and challenges to the club – introducing Zoom meetings and rectifying a corruption to the website.

Zoom meetings, while not providing the same level of fellowship among members as does a dinner meeting, they did provide the opportunity to listen to guest speakers unable to attend personally, including from international locations.

Our website suffered a corruption last December. After a couple of weeks of investigation and trial and error, our IT Managers Anil Fulwaria and Bob Ivey finally succumbed and hired an overseas professional who fixed it within hours. The experience demonstrated once again, the importance of regular maintenance, backups and good security including strong passwords - by all users.

Our Facebook page is an important tool to maintain our 'face' in the community – more so than the website, which is more of an information source. We recognise and sincerely thank Rob Hall for his most significant contribution in maintaining it.

A frequently updated website is important too, and your IT team continues to spend significant time on keeping it up to date with modern design and technology.