



# K O O N G G A

Bulletin of the Rotary Club Of Ku-ring-gai Inc - Chartered 6th February 1959



Volume 58 No. 12 21 September 2015

Rotary monthly theme: Basic education & literacy

## This week: Christina Xu: Shen Yun Performing Arts: Chi- nese artistic performers



Originally from Beijing and qualified in traditional Chinese medicine, Christina Xu migrated to Australia 20 years ago. Since then she has requalified as an accountant and has for the last 15 years worked in senior roles in several leading listed corporations.

Living in Australia has provided Christina with freedom and she has embraced Australian culture, whilst retaining her traditional Chinese culture and background. She has dedicated herself to sharing the beauty and value of traditional Chinese culture and explaining how this culture can be integrated within western society.

Christina will discuss the revival of 5000 years of Chinese civilization, including calligraphy, clothing, herbs, musical instruments and much more. She will tell how and why this rich culture was almost lost and how it now finds its way to rebirth through Shen Yun Performing Arts.

## Last week's guests & notices

### President Graham:

- Welcomed our guest speaker, Archie Law, Avinash Sathe and Joyce Cribb;
- Invited members and their partners and friends to join Caroline Jones' book club (apparently more accurately described as a wine and cheese club) which will be discussing 'The Lady in Gold';
- Said that the Community Service Committee will discuss a proposal to distribute flyers promoting the pain management seminar to be held at the Royal North Shore Hospital on 13 October, which is an initiative of

the lower north shore Rotary clubs (see advertisement in last week's Koongga - Ed.).

**Roger Desmarchelier** invited members and their partners to visit the Fairfield High School Parents Café for a multicultural lunch on Saturday, 24 October. The visit will demonstrate the school's community building work in action. (See the report about it in Koongga 18 May 2015.)

## Studio ARTES

Studio ARTES provides visual arts, skills training and performing arts programs for people with disabilities.

The visual arts program offers members tuition by practising artists in a variety of media. Sessions facilitate development of artistic as well as social and other life skills. A professional development program, "Studio A", caters specifically to those who have a vocational interest in the arts. Opportunities exist for artwork to be displayed at "Gallery ARTES" and other exhibition venues.



The training and life skills sessions offer many creative and exciting ways to learn and develop skills in a variety of areas. Members develop socially while participating in a program which celebrates community access and targets whole of life outcomes. A number of opportunities exist through "Extension Sessions" for members to challenge and extend themselves by developing skills in specialist areas; as a progression from one of the core training sessions.



Studio ARTES offer participants a safe and exciting environment to explore a range of performance styles and practices including dance, drama and music. Participants are encouraged to collaborate in group-devised pieces or

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara. Visitors welcome (Tel: 9498 2700). [www.kuringgairotary.org.au](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au) 'Be a gift to the world' is the Rotary International President's theme for 2015-16



develop their own area of interest. Performance sessions provide a supportive and playful environment for participants to strengthen self-confidence and social skills

and networks. The abilities and talents of members are showcased in a number of performances and events, including Studio ARTES' Annual Ball and Ride a Day in My Wheels event.

Studio ARTES was developed as an alternative to existing service provision in 2000 in response to a recognised need in the local area, and to provide a facility which could lead to more meaningful inclusion in the community for adults with a wide range of a disabilities. The program which was developed reflected individual goals of the local people with disabilities who had no funded program to attend, and was located in a double-garage on the Pacific Highway in Hornsby.

In the initial stages of operation in 2000-2001 Studio ARTES received no government funding but relied entirely on local support and the assistance of volunteers for its existence.

By 2004 with the number increasing from the initial 16 students to 85 students a new venue was established to deliver the expanding programs. These premises were specially renovated with generous community support, to address the needs of the organisation.

Studio ARTES currently supports over 140 members and operates from 3 premises – the Studio on Jersey St, Gallery ARTES on the corner of George and Florence Streets near Hornsby Mall, and the PCYC Performing Arts Centre in Waitara.

60% of Studio ARTES' members receive no government funding for service access, meaning that they are required to pay to attend a program, which for many is unaffordable. In keeping with the ethos of being an inclusive and equitable service provider Studio ARTES offers fee assistance to support these members to attend. This is enabled by fundraising efforts, donations and sponsorship by individuals and businesses.

Studio ARTES' reputation for excellence in programming is highlighted by recognition from ARTS NSW as a key cultural producer. Studio ARTES' record of achievements includes both national and international exhibitions in major art colleges, universities and commercial galleries. Importantly, the quality of Studio ARTES programming has seen the lives of individual members transformed.

### **Studio ARTES Wild Wild West Ball**

It's time to head west, to the Wild Wild West! That's right, Studio ARTES is inviting you to brush up on your bootscootin', get out your Akubra and head on down to the Showroom at Hornsby RSL on Friday 6 November for another Studio ARTES extravaganza!

This year the ball will be a part of the Hornsby Festival of the Arts, so make sure you snap up your tickets soon! You can get tickets at <http://www.studioartes.com.au/#/annual-ball-2015/c542>

### **Ride a day in my wheels**

To celebrate International Day of People with a Disability, Studio ARTES is holding the 5th annual "Ride a Day in My Wheels".

Studio ARTES is enlisting local community members to take the challenge and ride in a wheelchair to raise funds and awareness of the challenges faced on a daily basis by people living with disability.



"Ride a Day in My Wheels" will showcase the Studio ARTES Performing Arts team with live performances throughout the day, as well as market stalls selling Studio ARTES products and artwork, a raffle, sausage sizzle, balloons, face painting and more!

In 2015 the event will take place on Saturday 5th December from 10am – 3pm in Hornsby Mall. **Studio ARTES needs lots of riders - go online to register at <http://www.studioartes.com.au/#/ride-a-day-in-my-wheels/ck08>**

### **District Grant Scholarship 2014-15**



Our Districts Grant Scholar for last year, William Chan, will leave for his studies in Milan, Italy, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

William was born in Hong Kong but moved to Australia at the age of three. Initially, his family moved to Melbourne and then to Brisbane, where he spent most of his childhood.

William studied for a Bachelor of Design in Architecture at Sydney University for four years and has worked at two Sydney architecture firms over the past three years.

During the second year of his undergraduate degree, William had the opportunity to work in the slums of South Africa to collaborate on water and sanitation design projects with the local community. Since then, he has been passionate about how he can use his design skills to positively impact and change the lives of the urban poor in this field. He has worked in India, Latin America and back to South Africa on similar projects since then.

To further develop his skills and knowledge in this area, William has decided to study the professional postgraduate program, the Laurea Magistrale in Architecture at the Politecnico di Milano (Leonardo da Vinci campus). He will begin his two-year degree on 5 October 2015 and will be living at the Galileo Galilei Residence in the heart of the city. He chose this university because of its strong global reputation in engineering and architecture, the opportunities available for multidisciplinary projects in water and sanitation, and its research focus on solving challenges in the developing world.

- William was nominated by the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park.
- He knows 'Rotary' having completed the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program and having been Presid-

ent of his school Interact club.

- The Foundation Grant for William was US\$30,000 and was paid into our District account as A\$40,800.

There were 6 applicants for the scholarship - all honours graduates, two with University medals (William was one). Nominees for the award need to have an outstanding academic background and a track record of community service.

## Seniors' cycle service



What are these three seniors thinking? Would you challenge yourself to help others? Will you reach your \$50,000 target? What do you know about motor neurone disease ('MND')? How come Rotary is helping?

On September 14th this year, semi-retired business person, local cyclist and Rotarian Bob Montgomery, embarked on a solo charity bike ride from Perth to Sydney ... over 4,100km. All money raised will go towards raising awareness and research funds for MND.

This is Bob's second charity ride, also for MND. In 2013 he rode from the Blue Mountains to Port Douglas raising over \$35,000 for MND. Now aged 71, Bob and wife Jenny, and friend Peter Shehadie are about to set out again and need your support for MND.

Bob's decision to support MND is based on the fact that he has known several young people diagnosed with this fatal disease over the last few years and was personally touched when his cousin Judith was struck down with MND in February 2013. Unfortunately Judith died on Christmas Day 2013, just one week before he completed his Ride to the Reef.

Bob and Peter are Rotarians and members of the Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise. You can follow Bob's epic journey on: [www.facebook.com/perth2sydney4mnd](http://www.facebook.com/perth2sydney4mnd)

If you would like to make a donation to MND, go to Bob's Everyday Hero website <http://perth2sydney4mnd.everydayhero.com/au/perth2sydney4mnd>

Contact on the road: Bob/Jenny 0412 191036 Peter 0429 954230 In Sydney: Bill 0418 113643

## MindDog

Cath has Bipolar II disorder. She also has three dogs. Agoraphobia, anxiety and difficulties in relating to other people can all be facets of Bipolar Disorder.

Cath found that she could cope with these difficulties when her dogs were with her. After discovering the American website [psychdog.org](http://psychdog.org), she decided to try and get her dog Buddy certified. Buddy was a Ridgeback with a cheque-



red history. He was given to Cath when he was six months old. Aggressive to other dogs, he was also a chook killer having been left in a paddock to run wild. With the help of her other dogs, a trainer, and a lot of time, Cath was able to improve his behaviour.

However, she was unable to find any existing organisation or trainer to help Buddy become certified as a service dog. After a long search she found trainer Mali Rolph who tested Buddy for his suitability as a mindDog. He passed and with the help of her psychiatrist, Cath made Buddy an ID card and procured a public transport pass for him. From his wild, untrained beginnings Buddy had become a 'dog with a job'.

With a group of friends and professionals, Cath set up mindDog in early 2011 in Sydney, so that other people with mental health disorders could share the benefits of having their own service dog. For more information see <http://minddog.org.au/>

## Club visioning facilitation training

Rotarians who believe that they can make a difference, one club at a time, are encouraged to train as a Club Vision Facilitator on Saturday 21 November.

Club Visioning is a foundation element for clubs, bringing members together toward ...

- Continuity of leadership, vision and process
- Consistency in programming
- Consensus toward solidarity and unanimity in purpose and action

Read on if you are interested in serving Rotary in this way ...

Becoming a Club Vision Facilitator contributes to President K.R. Ravindran's 'Be a Gift to the World' theme for 2015-16. Ravindran urges Rotary members to give the gifts of time, talent, and knowledge to improve lives in communities across the globe. "Through Rotary, we can take these gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our world."

The club you serve will benefit from the teamwork that you and your fellow Vision Facilitators display as you guide a group of Rotary club leaders through a process that will deliver a vision result. This Vision Result presents a club with a strong path toward the future, while engaging current membership toward a clear set of goals.

Professionally, as a Facilitator you will learn a skill set and process that can be applied wherever a group of individuals come together for a common purpose looking for an uncommon result. The skills you develop and the process you learn will be an asset available to each of you in times to come.

Personally, as a Rotary volunteer you will not only grow as a leader but will make a difference with your fellow Rotarians and their clubs through your actions. The personal satisfaction that comes from facilitating your fellow Rotarians toward their vision in growth and delivery of service cannot be matched. It is your "Legacy of Service".

If you are interested in delivering planning and club assistance to clubs in our district, then Club Visioning may be for you. Typically a club visioning session occurs on a week day evening starting at 5.30pm concluding at

9.30pm. Hospitality is provided to the facilitators by the club.

Club Vision Facilitation Training is scheduled for Saturday 21 November 8.30am for 9.00am concluding at 4.00pm at the District Office in Thornleigh. After the District's contribution to the cost of providing the training (which will include morning and afternoon tea and lunch and a Club Visioning Facilitation Manual) a fee of \$55.00 is payable by each participant. The option is available to clubs to sponsor attendance at the training.

Please contact the District 9685 Club Vision Facilitation Chair - David Mylan (Terrigal) on 0411 878 854 or email [clubvisioning@rotarydistrict9685.org.au](mailto:clubvisioning@rotarydistrict9685.org.au)

## Last week: Archie Law: ActionAid



ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights and defeat poverty for all. Its current campaigns include a movement to promote safe cities for women and helping women around the world stand up for their rights. Archie Law is the Executive Director of ActionAid Australia. Following is a summary of his talk:

Globally, women are more likely to live in poverty than men. The resources needed to fund global justice work are not scarce, but hidden away in tax havens or lost in harmful incentives. Whilst \$130 billion per year is allocated in foreign aid, some \$300 billion goes missing due to multinational corporations dodging tax.

### SAB Miller In Ghana

Over an eighteen month investigation period involving analysis of SAB Miller's published financials, interviews with government officials and undercover research, ActionAid uncovered a complex web of creative accounting that was costing developing countries as much as AU\$30m per year in lost tax revenue – enough money to educate an additional 250,000 children.

The SAB Miller group makes profits of over AU\$3billion a year, but in Ghana, the site of one of their largest breweries, the company paid no income tax in three of the past four years.

Marta sells SAB Miller's Club beer at her small beer and food stall in the shadow of the brewery in which it is made. She works from 6.30am in the morning until 8pm at night and makes a profit of around AU\$300 per month. And she pays around AU\$70 per year in tax. That means she pays more tax than SAB Miller's entire Ghana operation.



In Ghana taxes mean the difference between education and illiteracy, health and sickness. Ghana has had many economic successes over the past 20 years – it has stable democracy with free and fair elections. Poverty and hunger is on the decrease and primary school enrolment has increased to 8 in 10 children.

### Associated British Foods In Zambia

In February 2013, ActionAid published the **Sweet Noth-**

**ings report**, detailing how British food giant Associated British Foods ('ABF') was dodging taxes in Africa, with a special focus on its subsidiary Zambia Sugar.

ABF owns brands such as Silver Spoon, Tip Top bread, and Ryvita. Our investigation showed how ABF's Zambian subsidiary used a variety of transactions to channel a third of its pre-tax profits into tax haven sister companies in Ireland, Mauritius and the Netherlands

Caroline Muchanga is a stallholder selling sugar in Nakambala market, near the Zambia Sugar estate. She earns a monthly net income of around AU\$120, of which she pays approximately AU\$5 in tax. Meanwhile, Zambia Sugar earns around AU\$10m per month, of which it pays zero dollars in tax.



ActionAid estimates that tax dodging by Zambia Sugar (the largest sugar mill in Africa) has cost Zambia US\$17.7 million since 2007. That's 14 times more than the country received in UK aid to combat hunger and food insecurity in the same period.

### Paladin in Malawi

Last month, ActionAid Australia released **An Extractive Affair** report on Australian mining company Paladin Energy Limited, which has a uranium mine in Malawi, the poorest country in the world, and which has dodged US\$43 million tax over the last six years.

The money has been lost through a combination of harmful tax incentives from the Malawian government, and tax planning using treaty shopping by Paladin and in this case flowing money through the Netherlands on its way back to Australia.

Fagness is 33 years old and has seven children. She works as a farmer and lives in the Kayelekera region next to Paladin's uranium mine. Like so many in Malawi, she lives in poverty and her family lack so many of the services that could be paid for if multinationals paid their fair share of taxes in the world's poorest country.



### ActionAid's demands to the Australian government

ActionAid is demanding an end to tax havens, the elimination of harmful tax incentives and comprehensive transparency and accountability from the companies that do business in other countries and the governments that both regulate business and have the obligation to provide services to citizens.

## Next week: Joint meeting with Rotary Club of Lindfield

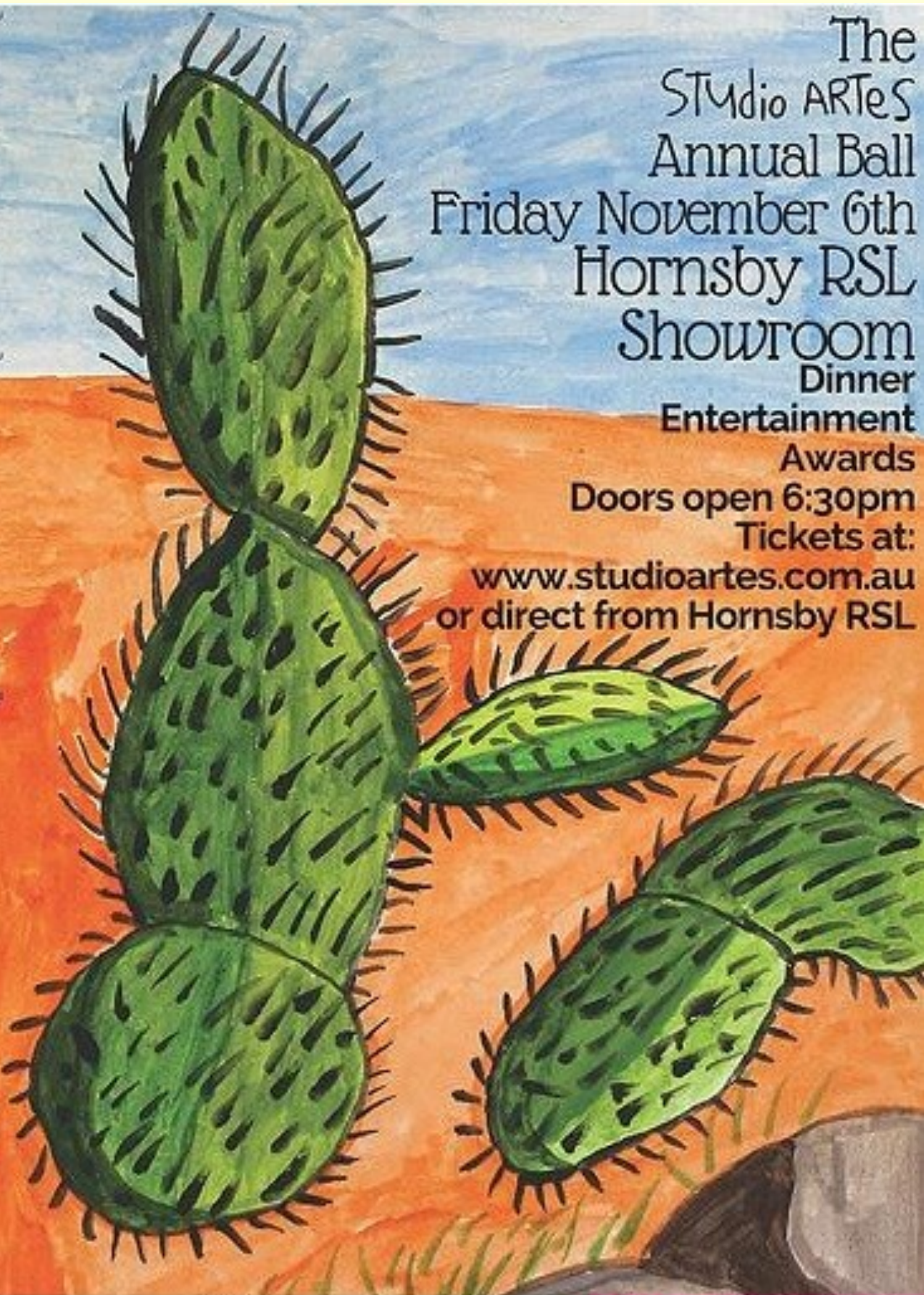
Next week we will be joined by members of the Rotary Club of Lindfield to discuss a proposed joint project installing solar power in Fiji.

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The  
STudio ARTeS  
Annual Ball  
Friday November 6th  
Hornsby RSL  
Showroom  
Dinner  
Entertainment

Awards  
Doors open 6:30pm

Tickets at:  
[www.studioartes.com.au](http://www.studioartes.com.au)  
or direct from Hornsby RSL



HORNSBY RSL CLUB

STudio ARTeS

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

FESTIVAL  
OF THE  
ARTS

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HORNSBY  
RSL CLUB



## Ride-a-Day is ramping up too!

**2015 sees us taking over Hornsby Mall for the 5th Ride a Day in My Wheels!**

We have a few riders already signed up, including the entire P.R group who will be fundraising as a team, however **WE NEED MORE RIDERS!** If you or someone you know would like to raise awareness of some of the challenges faced by people with disabilities AND raise some much-needed funds for Studio ARTES, sign up as a rider and start sharing your story!

You can contribute to any of the riders or sign up to ride by clicking on the picture below. Click Sponsor a Friend to choose your rider, or Start Fundraising to sign up!

Remember, the more people that ride, the more people can find out about Studio ARTES and the work that we do here - so, **will you step up and sit down?**



[Click here to sign up to ride, support riders or join Friends of Studio ARTES:](http://www.studioartes.com.au/) <http://www.studioartes.com.au/>

## Calendar of events

September	28	Joint meeting with Rotary Club of Lindfield to discuss Fiji solar project
October	5	Public holiday: no meeting
	12	[Hat Day] Dr Simone Isemann: Hoarding
	19	
	26	
November	2	Hugh McKay: The community
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
December	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	No meeting

## Club officers and committee chairmen 2015-16

### Board of directors

<b>President</b>	Graham Timms
<b>Vice President</b>	John Aitken
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Tony McClelland
<b>President Elect</b>	Michael Midlam
<b>Secretary</b>	Geoff Hungerford
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Maslen
<b>Director - Membership</b>	Tony McClelland
<b>Director - Public Relations</b>	Roger Desmarchelier
<b>Director - Club Administration</b>	Michael Midlam
<b>Director - Service Projects</b>	John Aitken
<b>Director - Rotary Foundation</b>	Peter Tang

### Service committee chairmen

<b>Administration (Club Service)</b>	Michael Midlam
<b>Vocational Service</b>	Lindsay Forrest
<b>Community Service</b>	Roger Desmarchelier
<b>International Service</b>	Georgina Manning
<b>Youth Service</b>	Linda Lam-Rohlfs
<b>Social events</b>	Joy Newling
<b>Bobbin Head Cycle Classic</b>	Tony McClelland
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Malcolm Braid
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Lindsay Forrest
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Chris Lewis

## Club committees 2015-16

**Administration:** Michael Midlam, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall (Program), Bob Ivey (Web and social media), Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga)

**Bobbin Head Cycle Classic:** Tony McClelland, John Aitken, Ross Egan, Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Graham Timms

**Club History:** Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

**Community:** Roger Desmarchelier, Gary Dawson, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day), Greg Goodman (Bowelscan), Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Nick Kenyon, Ted Price

**International:** Georgina Manning, Roger Desmarchelier, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Rob Hall, Loïc Lacombe, Graham Maslen, Greg Newling

**Membership:** Tony McClelland, Caroline Jones, Ken Sackville

**Public Relations:** Roger Desmarchelier, Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Georgina Manning,

**Rotary Foundation:** Peter Tang, Lindsay Forrest, Chris Hoch, Greg Newling

**Social Events:** Joy Newling, Ross Egan, Dilys Geddes, Georgina Manning,

**Vocational:** Lindsay Forrest, Lou Coenen, David Forsythe, Peter Kipps, Michael Tyler

**Youth:** Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Joyce Enos, Stan Glaser, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Joy Newling, Don Riddell