

Presentation for changeover – Wednesday 14 June 2023

Thank you Peter, and good evening to District Governor, Mina Howard, Rotarians, friends and guests.

Firstly, it is important to recognise that Peter has served two consecutive years as President of Wahroonga Rotary Club. For most of us, one year is enough! But Peter put his hand up again and has made a great contribution over those two years. I think his wife, Gabrielle, also deserves our thanks.

Thanks also go to Peter for accommodating a change in date for this function, and to our organiser extraordinaire, Rochelle Wiley. Originally, it was originally set for Wednesday 28 June. I put a spanner in the organisation by taking the opportunity to go to England to watch my girlfriend's granddaughter play in the Australian Women's Cricket team. name

For the cricket tragics in the room, the of this amazingly talented young woman, just 19 years of age, is Phoebe Litchfield.

This coming Rotary year, 2023-2024, the Rotary International president Gordon McNally has set his theme as "Create Hope in the World". Gordon is a Scotsman with a broad accent, a commanding presence, and speaks passionately about his theme. He is one of those people who inspires others.

Closer to home, our incoming District Governor, Christine Owen, will focus on domestic and family violence. Her mantra is **Say NO to Domestic and Family Violence and YES to positive relationships.**

As the President of Wahroonga Rotary, I am keen to promote both the Rotary International ideal and the District Governor's focus.

Many of the community projects our club already supports are humanitarian and community based. Just some of these are the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, Hornsby Connect (a venture that provides food for locals who are doing it tough), KYDS (an organisation that works with youth and suicide), Lifeline, Police Citizens Youth Club.

We continue to sponsor young people to attend some of the many youth-related programs run by Rotary. MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly), RYLA (Rotary

Youth Leadership Awards), RYPEN (Rotary Youth Enrichment Program) and NYSF (National Youth Science Forum).

Our Vocational awards recognise the 'ordinary' members of our community – those who go about their work without expecting a reward and who would normally go unrecognised.

We support International projects that fit within Rotary International's focus areas, some of which are providing clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Mothers & Children, growing local economies, fighting disease and protecting the environment.

On an International note, I would like to pass on information shared at the recent Rotary International Convention. It concerns Rotary's efforts in Ukraine. So far Rotary has spent around \$US40m supporting Ukraine, and they will clearly need many millions more. Rotary is involved in a wide range of activities including child evacuation, medical supplies, temporary housing, school building repairs and clearing live munitions in liberated areas. Rotary is so well organised in Ukraine for the work they are doing, that their membership has increased by 20%.

To support the projects we undertake, we require money. No, this is not a fundraiser, although we will willingly and unashamedly take your money! We give our time and energy to raise the funds, so if you see a Rotarian in the community selling raffle tickets or shaking the can for a worthy cause, please consider stopping and putting your hand in your pocket. And don't worry if you haven't any 'real' money, Rotary will accept credit cards! And, of course, we always welcome new members!

Last year our club took over the organisation and running of the Wahroonga Village Fair. This is a huge undertaking, and we are fortunate to have club members who have the required management and organisational skills. The Wahroonga Village Fair team is led by Greg Starr, very ably assisted by our Public Image person, Janelle Speight.

In the coming year, I would like the Club to support a Research PhD Fellowship – a 3-year funding commitment in conjunction with Australian Rotary Health and a

participating university. Whether we can take on such a large financial commitment has not been decided, but it doesn't hurt to dream.

But right now, I would like to introduce the team who will lead the Wahroonga Rotary Club into 2023-2024. Not everyone I am about to name was able to make it here tonight, so if you are here please come up when your name is called.

(New Board announced)

Thank you to everyone who has come along tonight. Thank you to especially to my son, Keiran, and granddaughter Erica.

We have already heard about the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris. Rotary's reach and vision has gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

Paul Harris once said, "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves".

Let us remember that, and put our efforts into making a difference.

Mentie Knowles