

Rotary Club of Karrinyup 2023 – 2024 President's Report



2023-2024 President Kay Durrant

In my incoming address, I drew a comparison between the metamorphosis of the butterfly and the evolution of our club over the years. We have faced changing needs and circumstances, just as the butterfly must fight its way out of the cocoon. Our strength has come from grappling with the challenges that surround us.

The community within the council boundaries and patrons of the Stirling Farmers market do appreciate our club. At our 50th birthday celebration, we had the opportunity to meet up with most of our beneficiaries; that have, in some way, been

impacted by the Karrinyup Club.

We met with our International Water project leader Joyce and learnt that the school now has 270 children and 9 have graduated to further education. Remember 20 odd children and a mud brick room was their beginning. The water project has allowed the school to provide crops for food and build the school rooms, an impact that is felt throughout their community.

Because of the passion of our committees, we have made an impact on the individual rough sleeper and a young student with Trachoma.

The Homeless Committee sought items for the homeless backpack toiletries etc - these were well received at the homeless helping hand shelter. The action to end trachoma by supplying hygiene bags to students in the Goldfields region has now come to an end. Well done!

Our Golden Project, overseen by Peter Polain, Jenni Wilke and Peter Durrant, is finally emerging at the beginning of the Story Trail at Lake Gwelup. Go for a walk - it's a beautiful location. Interestingly this is our fourth project at this location.

Rotary Youth Exchange - A welcome return! Our club has had a RYE student for about 47 years - the only disruption was the covid years. Karolina from Poland our 2023-2024 student has had full year of many experiences. Those experiences at times are life changing, but it's the member outings that play a successful role in the student's understanding of our family life. Thank you, Geoff Inman, Hilary and John Thraves and families for including Karolina in your family events. Karolina was able to squeeze in a couple family things between her busy time. A beach surf trip with Geoff and family and a family outing with your granddaughters, Hilary and John thank you for including Karolina. Our new RYE is from Austria is Viki and she will arrive 24th July.

We have touched many aspects of the community both locally and internationally. To achieve these depths of projects requires vision and most of all the avenue to raise money. We can say we are lucky that we have the Stirling Farmers Market. This vibrant marketplace not only supports our local community, but also serves as a catalyst for numerous community, regional, and global initiatives.

But it is our members and leaders within the market that make this weekly event happen. Honorary Member Peter Polain together with Farmers Market Manager - Heather Leaney and committee members, Klaus Nehyba, Trish Lynch and Jenni Wilke work tirelessly, while behind the scenes are John Burt and Eddy Giacomet together with the raffle ticket sellers and the helpers on the day.

The SFM goes from strength to strength with some 40 plus stalls every week. The team behind the market are to be congratulated on nearly 13 years of coordinating our club members stall holders and liaising with council. The market is not just where I buy my eggs and Bok Choy but a place where our community regularly meets and our members have catch-ups. It is location where our Club has a presence.

In November, the City of Stirling trackless train was a key feature in the 12th birthday celebrations, along with bouncy castle, pony rides and face painting all fun things for the young children and in particular grandchildren or children.

Our Farmers Market celebrates significant calendar events such as Xmas with a night market and Santa. Chinese New Year, World Bee day. Each of these events are focussed on the community enjoyment and we can stage these for the community at no cost.

The SFM has engaged Churchlands SHS students to support the weekly event. Most are working towards a community service award. So, our 39 members are very busy volunteering.

It is inspiring to talk to members who wish to do hands on work, thus at the end of the task, you see the impact on the group. Volunteering is a way of engaging with the needs of the community. If we look at the hours that are spent on a weekly basis, just a quick calculation from the initial market, we have required approximately and (really is a guesstimate) of 33,800 hours. About 2,600 a year.

As a member, I contribute to projects that not only change lives but also inspire others to do the same, fostering a cycle of positive impact. It's about giving a hand up, not just a handout, empowering people to stand independently and strong.

As my year comes to an end, the butterfly has flown to the tropics. Our club has collaborated seamlessly with like-minded groups, coming together to make a substantial difference so much so that the City of Stirling honoured us with our 50th Birthday celebration. Were we really aware of the community's thoughts? Did we perceive that we had an impact on the community? The community within the council boundaries and patrons of the Stirling Farmers market do appreciate our club.

I would like to recognise and thank the 2023-2024 Board – Phil Ledger, Jenni Wilke, Carolyn Prunster, Vic Dennis, Murray Jorgensen, Klaus Neyhba, Mike Murphy, Dawn Palm, Sandra McGuire, Mick Rogers, Tess Gardner and Trish Lynch. Particular thanks go to retiring Board members – Treasurer Murray Jorgensen, Vocational Service Director Tess Gardner and Youth Director Trish Lynch. Thank you all for your hard work and support throughout the year.

Thank you also to all members for the opportunity to serve as your President in the 50th year of our club. It has been a privilege.



President Kay with the 2023-2024 Board of Directors