

**ADDRESS TO CHANGEOVER DINNER 5 JULY 2011 BY WILL BLACKWELL,
INCOMING PRESIDENT 2011-12**

LET ME AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE:

- PDG BERNIE ROGERS (& LIZ)
- ADG GENEVIEVE POWER (& ROSS)
- VISITORS FROM NEIGHBOURING CLUBS:
 - GLENDA WAHLERT & DAVID BAILEY - JERRA
 - NERIDA DEAN – QBN
 - COLIN EVERETT & BOB TEMPLETON - BUNGENDORE
- JAS, OUR YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK NOW-PP GARY FOR ALL THE WORK HE HAS DONE AS PRESIDENT OVER THE PAST YEAR. THANK YOU GARY AND I HOPE I CAN DO HALF AS WELL.

NOW WOULD ALSO BE A GOOD TIME TO REMIND US ALL THAT BEHIND A GOOD MAN IS ALWAYS A **SURPRISED – OOOPS – GOOD WOMAN**. ROSE, PLEASE COME HERE AND ACCEPT A SMALL EXPRESSION OF THANKS FROM THE CLUB FOR BEING SUCH A WONDERFUL “FIRST LADY” LAST YEAR.

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AS YOU WOULD ALL KNOW BY NOW, THIS WAS NOT MEANT TO BE MY YEAR. SINCE ACCEPTING THE NOMINATION TO BE PRESIDENT OF OUR CLUB FOR 2012-13 LAST NOVEMBER, I HAD EFFECTIVELY POSTPONED BY PLANNING FOR MY YEAR AS PRESIDENT TO THE OCCASIONAL COGITATIONS AND MUSINGS, ACROSS A DISPARATE ARRAY OF SUBJECTS, USUALLY WHILE DRIVING SOMEWHERE -- VAGUELY DREAMING OF SOME THINGS, AND

GENERALLY ASSURING MYSELF I HAD MORE THAN A YEAR TO WORK THESE IDEAS INTO A COHERANT AND FOCUSSED PLAN.

FOOL!

SO, IT WOULD SEEM THAT ALL THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE LESSONS – UNDERTAKEN TO SUCK UP TO THE RI PRESIDENT FOR '12-'13 MR SAKUJI TANAKA – HAVE BEEN A WASTE OF TIME, AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN STUDYING HINDI TO IMPRESS KALYAN BENERJEE. BUCKLEYS CHANCE, AS I'VE TRIED AND FAILED AT HINDI ON TWO VISITS TO INDIA!

NOTWITHSTANDING MY TRUNCATED PLANNING TIMEFRAME, I DO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY AND HONOUR TO BE PRESIDENT OF THIS CLUB, AND I DO HAVE AMBITIONS FOR THE CLUB AND THIS COMING YEAR.

SINCE JOINING QUEANBEYAN WEST I HAVE GROWN TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF BEING SOMEWHAT CONTRARY. THERE IS A VIEW, EXPRESSED BY SOME, THAT OUR PRINCIPAL FOCUS MUST BE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND THAT WE SHOULD RESIST THE EVANGELICAL URGINGS OF, AND I QUOTE HERE, THE “TUPPERWARE-LIKE CONVENTIONS” THAT ARE DISTRICT, RI, AND THE FOUNDATION.

HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AN ISLAND. A LOT OF OUR ABILITY TO SERVE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY COMES BECAUSE WE ARE A PART OF, AND HAVE THE BACKING OF, THE WIDER ROTARY ORGANISATION.

FOR THIS REASON I WOULD LIKE US ALL TO TAKE TO HEART KALYAN BENERJEE'S THEME FOR THIS YEAR ***TO REACH WITHIN YOURSELF; THEN MOVE ON -- CONFIDENTLY, FIRMLY -- TOWARD THE TARGET YOU'VE SET YOURSELF; DISCOVER YOURSELF, DEVELOP YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOU, THEN UNHESITATINGLY, UNFLINCHINGLY, GO FORWARD TO ENCIRCLE THE WORLD AND EMBRACE HUMANITY.***

THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO UNVEIL OUR BANNER FOR THIS YEAR.

HOW MIGHT WE DO THIS?

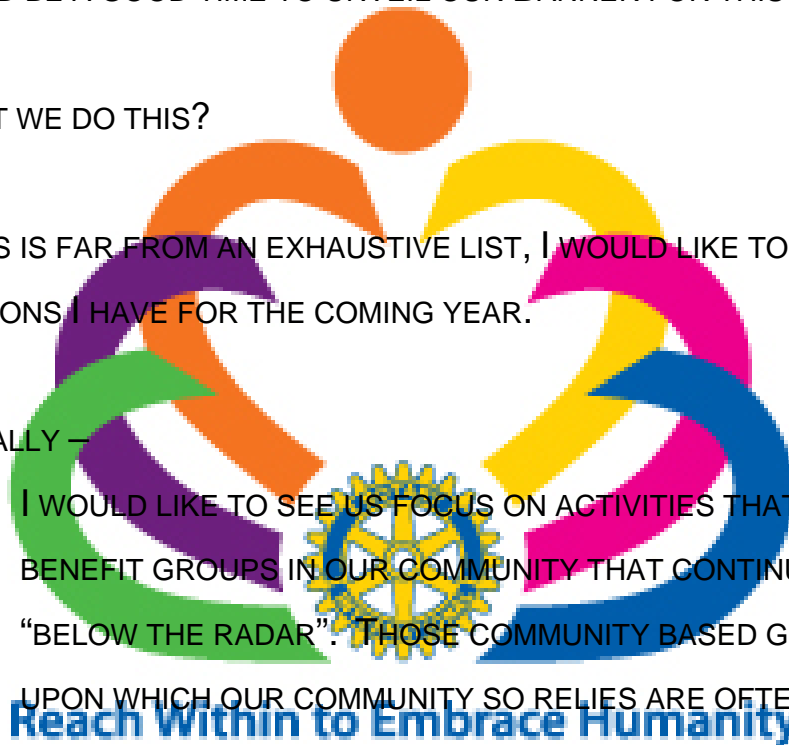
WHILE THIS IS FAR FROM AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION A FEW AMBITIONS I HAVE FOR THE COMING YEAR.

LOCALLY –

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT CONTINUE TO SIT “BELOW THE RADAR”: THOSE COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS

UPON WHICH OUR COMMUNITY SO RELIES ARE OFTEN FORGOTTEN WHEN IT COMES TO FUND RAISING; WHEREAS, THE LARGER, NATIONAL GROUPS HAVE ACCESS TO VOLUNTEER AND FUNDING SOURCES THAT THE LOCAL GROUPS CAN ONLY DREAM OF.

TO FACILITATE FLEXIBILITY IN THIS AREA, IT IS HOPED THAT WE CAN UNDERTAKE SOME ORGANISED AND REGULAR FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES TO BOLSTER OUR RESERVES, IN ADDITION



TO THE REGULAR BBQS AND OTHER SUPPORT WE PROVIDE SPECIFIC ORGANISATIONS AND EVENTS.

MEMBERSHIP --

A CLUB LIKE OURS RELIES ON NEW MEMBERS TO BRING TO IT DIVERSITY, STRENGTH AND, IMPORTANTLY, STAMINA.

WE AT QUEANBEYAN WEST ENJOY WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP AND 'SENSE OF COMMUNITY', THOUGH ONLY A FEW OF US HAS ACTIVELY INTRODUCED NEW MEMBERS – THANKS TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE. THINK OF WHAT WE COULD DO, BOTH LOCALLY AND IN THE WIDER WORLD, WITH 35, 45 OR, INDEED 75 MEMBERS!

SUCH GROWTH WON'T HAPPEN IN ONE YEAR, BUT IF WE ALL JUST 'SOLD' OUR CLUB AND ROTARY TO THOSE WE MEET, AND THEN ASKED THESE PEOPLE ALONG FOR THE EXPERIENCE, WE COULD ACHIEVE THIS IN TIME.

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INTERNATIONAL --

AS MANY KNOW, I HAVE A STRONG AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ROTARY'S WIDER PROGRAMS, LIKE RAWCS AND YEP. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE OVER THE YEARS PARTICIPATED IN TWO FAIM TRIPS TO PNG – THE 1ST TO MANNIS ISLAND AND THE 2ND TO BRAHMAN, A VILLAGE SOME HOURS INLAND FROM MADANG; AND ALSO TWO RAWCS TRIPS

TO INDIA, BRINGING *DARKNESS TO LIGHT* IN YAMUNA NAGAR,
HARYANA STATE IN D3080.

WHILE PERSONALLY ENRICHING, THESE PROJECTS HAVE ALSO
MADE MATERIAL AND REAL DIFFERENCES TO THE LIVES OF REAL
PEOPLE IN NEED.

**I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR CLUB DEVELOP OR PARTICIPATE IN A
RAWCS PROJECT.**

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION:

IT IS EASY TO SEE THE FOUNDATION AS JUST ANOTHER
'EVANGELICAL' CHARITY LEANING ON US FOR MONEY. BUT IT IS
NOT.

THIS IS OUR OWN CHARITY.

WHO WOULD DISAGREE WITH ITS PROJECTS TO: FIGHT HUNGER,
REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY, PROMOTE PEACE & CONFLICT
RESOLUTION, ENCOURAGE BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY, AND
ERADICATE POLIO?

LIVING OUR COMFORTABLE MIDDLE-CLASS LIVES HERE IN
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AUSTRALIA – WHERE EVEN THE POOR GENERALLY AREN'T BY
WORLD STANDARDS -- IT IS SO EASY TO MISS THE URGENCY OF
THESE OBJECTIVES – E.G. WHO IN OUR GENERATION HAS EVEN
MET SOMEONE WHO HAD POLIO; AND IF WE HAVE, WHAT ABOUT
OUR KIDS? WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE TO BE PART OF AN
ORGANISATION THAT ACHIEVES WHAT HAS ONLY BEEN DONE
ONCE BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND – THE ELIMINATION
OF A KILLER DISEASE???

WHILE WE EACH GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION THROUGH OUR SEMI-ANNUAL DUES, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE EACH MEMBER JOIN THE ***EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR*** PROGRAM TO GIVE EVEN A SMALL EXTRA AMOUNT PERSONALLY.

NOW, HAVING SET SUCH A POOR PRECEDENT BY DRAGGING THIS ADDRESS OUT FAR TOO LONG, I WOULD LIKE NOW TO INVITE MY BOARD TO COME FORWARD AND COLLECT THEIR NEW DINNER BADGES.

BEFORE THEY COME FORWARD, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR AGREEING TO CONTINUE IN THEIR ROLES WITH ME AS PRESIDENT FOR, AS YOU WOULD KNOW, THEY WERE CO-OPTED BY **PAUL NORRIS** AND IT WAS WITH HIM THEY EXPECTED TO SERVE. NOT ONLY DID I AVOID PETS, BUT I ALSO FLUMBED A GREAT BOARD OF DEDICATED MEMBERS. THANK YOU.

WHILE I'M SURE THEY WOULD ALL LOVE YOU TO APPLAUD SEPARATELY, LET ME REMIND YOU AS A VETERAN OF MANY CHANGEOVERS, THIS WILL BE A LOT QUICKER IF APPLAUSE IS KEPT UNTIL THE ENTIRE BOARD IS AMASSED HERE

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MAY I PRESENT YOUR BOARD FOR 2011-12.

