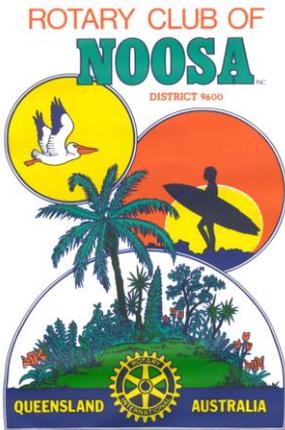


A History of the Rotary Club of Noosa - 1969-2013



The Rotary Club of Noosa was chartered by the Rotary Club of Gympie on the 24th of February 1969. Its formation was the beginning of the Rotary movement in the Noosa area. The club's first meeting at the Lakes Motel in Tewantin where it continued to meet until late 1996. Re-development of that site forced a move to the Tewantin-Noosa Golf Club which served as the meeting place until 1999, when the club was obliged to relocate once again. This time it was to the Tewantin-Noosa RSL Club - a very hospitable, supportive & relaxing meeting venue that remains to this day.

In response to a rapidly growing population in Noosa-Tewantin/hinterland's area, the club sponsored additional Rotary Clubs. On the 5th of June 1982, it founded the Rotary Club of Noosa Heads. Then over a decade later on May 15th, 1993, it established the Rotary Club of Cooroy, and finally the Rotary Club of Noosa Heads Daybreak about 10 years ago. Each time valuable and experienced members transferred to the new clubs to provide a pool of expertise to ensure the stability and viability of the new clubs. Nevertheless the original Noosa club (this Club), has continued to grow in strength and service.

As Noosa became more attractive as a retirement location, the club responded by chartering Probus Clubs. Of the eight Probus Clubs in the district, we have established six of these. The most recent was on February 8th, 2010. As an indication of the need in this section of the population, the club is investigating the sponsorship of yet another club this year.

Over the years the club has embarked on a wide variety of fund raising activities including Christmas raffles, Melbourne Cup sweeps, international evenings, Oktoberfests, garage sales, golf competitions, art exhibitions, Country music festivals, and Bunnings Sausage Sizzles to mention a few.

The formation of additional Rotary Clubs & changes in society, have made charitable fundraising much more difficult. Like all organisations the club has had to adopt a more sophisticated & commercial approach to this ever demanding task. Its major source of funds in recent years has been the widely acclaimed Children's Film Festival with its two-fold purpose of providing a recreational outing for the families of the disadvantaged and disabled, whilst providing an important source of funds for the club's community and charity programmes. This activity morphed into the very popular Circus Quirkus until 2010 when it became the Razzamatazz spectacular, celebrated at Nambour Civic Centre with ~ 2,000 tickets sold.

Many community service projects have been completed over the years, benefiting local residents and organisations. One example from this period was the Disaster Relief Trailer Project completed in 1995. The trailer was presented to the Salvation Army for use in times of cyclones, floods and fires. This project was an outstanding example of Rotarians' skills, not only in the expert design and construction of the trailer, but also in generating support and involvement from the local community. In 2013 a massive relief program provided hi quality furniture worth in excess of \$100,000 was sourced and transported to Bundaberg flood victims.

Another joint venture with the business community was the Rotary Camp Quality Annual Jet-Ski Picnic Day. It had its beginnings when a local jet-ski enthusiast, now a Rotarian, volunteered his and other jet-ski owners' services to entertain Camp Quality children (cancer sufferers), their families & carers.

Activities and support for youth have always been an important focus of this club, involving commitment to Rotary Youth Programmes and assistance to local schools and youth groups. Over the last few years it has become one of strongest areas of action and includes Youth Exchange, Leadership

programs, Driver safety education programs (like RYDA), Australian Business Week, TrueFX and several other youth focussed programs.

In the Rotary Centenary Year of 2004, the club nostalgically revisited one of its very first projects. About 42 years ago we initiated a project to clean up an area at Noosa Junction, by removing old car bodies and discarded fridges from the waterway and clearing rotting vegetation. In cooperation with the (then) Noosa Council, club members prepared the way for paths, a playground, picnic tables and an open play area with an old train for children to play on; something our founding members still remember fondly. This led to the formation of Pinaroo Park. Since then the park had experienced the ravages of time. So in 2004, the Rotary Club of Noosa, in conjunction with Bushcare, Noosa Council & local residents, embarked on a project to restore the park - a wonderful way to celebrate Rotary's 100 years of community service! 6 years later, it has become Pinaroo ROTARY Park and has benefitted from regular garden care, tree and shrub planting, the installation of (free) electric BBQs with a shelter and shortly, signs depicting the native fauna and flora for users of this jewel of Noosa Junction, Pinaroo Rotary Park.

Today, this Club of less than 50 Members, proudly contributes more than \$300,000.00 in goods, services and cash **each year** to local and International communities through our involvement in the following programs:

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF), Preserve Planet Earth (PPE), Bowelscan, Pinaroo Rotary Park, State Emergency Service (SES) liaison, Salvation Army appeal, Red Cross appeal, Legacy Badge week, Noosa Triathlon support, Uplift Bra program, Manuel community service program, Bunnings Sausage sizzles, Bendigo Bank Collaborative funding liaison, Probus club expansion reviews, supporting our obligations to Rotary International and their worldwide programs for: Major Giving, Annual Giving, Polio Eradication, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Rotary World peace Fellowships, Group Study Exchange (GSE), Polio-Plus, Donations-In-Kind, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM), Literacy and Numeracy programs, International Nights, Shelter Boxes, RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) Volunteers, ROMAC (Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children), Shimla Orphanage (India), Global & District Grants. Australian Business Week (ABW), Medical/Surgical Program Philippines, Vocational Guest Speakers, Pride Of Workmanship awards, Bundaberg Flood Relief, 4-Way test School Speaking competitions, RYLA, RYPEN, MUNA, RDANZE New Zealand Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE), Liaison with Primary and Secondary Schools for Rotary Programs, National Youth Science Forum, Shoeboxes for East Timor kids, delivering ShelterBoxes to emergency areas like Haiti, Victorian Bushfires, Pakistan & Chile and of course the excellent RYDA program that educates hundreds of local year 11 students in the consequences of bad decisions as a driver or passenger.

These projects represent most of our present activity but aren't exhaustive. They are constantly reviewed by the relevant committees whose Directors make ongoing recommendations' to the Board from time to time, such as a recent program to support Children's education of the Noosa Biosphere and their ongoing understanding and responsibility for it. We have set-up Interact Clubs in district high schools for 15 to 18 year old students.

This is just a snapshot of the Rotary Club of Noosa's activities. Our Members are understandably proud to be Rotarians who really do care for mankind. We are ordinary people, who through Rotary, achieve some truly extraordinary things.

LEN TYLER -Past President of the Rotary Club of Noosa (Inc.) & Assistant Governor Sunshine North Cluster 2012-2015

Visit us at www.noosarotary.org.au

