



This Week: The Hon John Watkins

John Watkins is the CEO of Alzheimer's Australia NSW and has held that position since September 2008. The role involves some of the major ageing and dementia challenges facing the New South Wales community over coming years. Alzheimer's Australia NSW is based at Macquarie Park in Sydney.



28 July
2009

ROTARY MATTERS

Alzheimer's Australia NSW represents the interests of people living with dementia and their carers in New South Wales. It provides leadership in dementia policy and services, encourages and participates in research initiatives, and provides education, knowledge and skills to people living with dementia, their families and carers.

Prior to joining Alzheimer's Australia John was a member of the NSW Parliament between 1995 and 2008. He was sworn in as Deputy Premier in August 2005 and was NSW Transport Minister from January 2005 and Minister for Finance from April 2007 until his resignation from politics in September 2008.

Previously he had held six other Ministerial appointments including the portfolios of State Development, Police (twice), Education and Training, Corrective Services, Fair Trading and Sport and Recreation. He was also Minister responsible for World Youth Day 2008, the APEC Conference in 2007 and other major events.

Mr Watkins graduated in Arts and Law from the University of NSW. He also holds a Master of Arts from Macquarie University and a Diploma of Education from Sydney Teachers College. He worked as a teacher for 16 years until his election to Parliament in 1995.

He is married to Deborah and they have five children – three girls and two boys. Their eldest is twenty eight, and their youngest child, Xavier, is five.

A Very Good New Rotarian year to Everyone!

Two meetings gone already and doesn't it feel good. Time is going too fast.



Already we have had five great members projects presented to us, bestowed a well deserved Vocational Service Award on Actor and Director John Bell, founder of the Bell Shakespeare Company, been introduced to our new

fresh-faced Board members and club officers and started on a full and exciting speakers programme already booked through October. A fellowship programme is taking shape that will have something to satisfy the taste buds of all members and friends so keep reading your weekly Bulletin for event details as they become known.

All this plus something important to me. Attendance at lunch is 'UP'. This is great news! Keep up the enthusiasm and keep the curve on the ascendancy. A well attended club generates vibrancy and excitement and will help us achieve all the goals we have set for this year.

Clubrunner, our latest aid in helping to maintain a

smooth running club is being used more and more by our members, especially in booking ahead for lunch. Currently over 65% of attendees at lunch have indicated they were coming through the Clubrunner system. This is tremendous as it saves our club money when we overestimate numbers to the caterers and have to pay for lunches not eaten. If any member has a problem with the system please contact our Web master, Mark Dyer or myself at anytime and let's see how high we can get this percentage.

The five member projects for the year seem to have been well received and a recent survey indicates our club has made an excellent decision in going this way. A report released on Thursday 23 July shows approx 60% of all NFP organisations are struggling for funds this year especially those out with the radar of mainstream corporate donors.

This is where organisations especially Rotary can make a big impact. The five projects we have chosen this year fall into that category and if it was not for the generosity of our members the projects we have chosen to support would most probably not go ahead. ⇨ P3



ROTARY – People like you and me

What others are saying about Rotary

"Rotary has the ability to organize campaigns to mobilize support for some of the worthiest causes that exist, and that makes Rotary a precious resource."

– **Kofi Annan, former UN secretary-general**

"I admire the Rotary promise to solve problems that destroy lives and trample dreams and human potential."

– **Queen Noor al-Hussein of Jordan**

"Rotary's PolioPlus program is a shining example of the achievements made possible by cooperation between the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations."

– **Kofi Annan, former UN secretary-general**

"I would be proud and enthusiastic to be associated with Rotary in any way."

– **Ted Turner, former head of Turner Broadcasting**

"You who believe in and continue to strive to save the world's children from the ravages of polio are most definitely champions."

– **Gro Harlem Brundtland, World Health Organization director general**

"In 1988, the World Health Assembly agreed that it would commit to eradicating polio in time for the world to be certified polio-free by 2005. Since then, Rotary International, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been leading this massive undertaking."

– **Mia Farrow, UNICEF goodwill ambassador**

"Thank you, Rotary, for recognizing that a world without polio is possible. You have been the catalyst for the world to accept and carry out the challenge of eradicating polio from the earth."

– **Bill Gates, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

BBQ TIME!

All present and past members and partners (and family) are invited to a BBQ to be held Sunday 16th August 2009 from 6pm at Killara Golf Club.

At this beautiful venue we will sip a glass or two and catch up while the sun slowly sinks (by arrangement) in the west.

This will be followed by the BBQ of prime steak or chicken accompanied by delicious salads sweets and coffee or tea.

Drinks from the bar at your own expense, so come and join us for a happy evening of good food and fellowship for only \$45 per person.

When booking on ClubRunner, please indicate your preference for chicken or steak.

Please contact one of the members below for further information.

John Craig, Tony Tinworth, Joe Botta & Bill Locke

OUR 2009/2010 BOARD

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Roslyn McLeod President Elect	rmcleod@tourhosts.com.au
Chris McDiven Vice President	chris.mcdiven@bigpond.com
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Mark Dyer Website/Administration	mark.dyer@updatetime.com.au

The Rotary Club of Sydney thanks its Major Sponsors



Rotary's 4-Way Test

It asks the following four questions:

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

A Very Good New Rotarian year to Everyone!

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I therefore ask you to get behind these projects and offer whatever help you can as once again we can show that 'Rotary Can Make a Difference' pick one or two that is close to your heart and let the Project leader know you have their support.

**Y-Fin Project – Sue Walker, ACMF – Karen Loblay,
Lou's Place – James Allen, The Jewish House Crisis
Line – Ken Hacker and Home Hospice – Lynn Ralph.**

If you need any further information on these great projects then contact the team leader or visit our club website at www.sydneyrotary.com

With your help I promise a year that will invigorate, excite, challenge and hopefully maintain the ideals that prompted you to join Rotary in the first place.

Please never hesitate in contacting me should the need arise.

John Given

Well Done Joe, Joyce and John!



From the Sergeant

David Hunt's very articulate and informative commentary on "Pericles" at last week's meeting has given me an idea. - why don't we have a "David and Margaret" session from time to time (perhaps monthly, depending on material).



I will need your support. If you have seen an excellent show or movie and you just can't wait to tell your fellow Rotarians, then send me an email - 30 second limit. I will read your comments or better still you can do it. You can also warn of disasters. Your fellow Rotarians will gladly pay a fee for the information!

Email: colpam.westman@bigpond.com or use Club Runner"

Our old friends The Sydney Street Choir had their opening night at the Belvoir Theatre on Monday 20th July.

They had asked if any one could volunteer to provide a hot meal for the cast prior to the show. Our own Masterchef Joe Botta and his beloved wife Joyce put their hand up to cook Joe's 'World Famous' Spaghetti Bolognese.

Both can be seen (left) in the kitchen of the Belvoir preparing for a taste test from the cast.

Your own Pres went along to help out and was landed with the task of cooking the pasta and garlic bread, a pretty hot job especially trying to meet the high standards required by Joyce.

The cooking went well and not only did the choir dine extensively on this famous dish but it was also accompanied by soft drink and a Chocolate mousse.

As to the taste test I think the photo of the choir tells you the result.

The winner of the evening ate five main courses, four desserts and 12 pieces of Garlic bread and pronounced the food GREAT.

For those who were at the changeover dinner the winner was the large blond haired male choir member who held the mic under his chin.

A big round of thanks from everyone to Joe and Joyce for their great efforts.

The choir, after being wheeled onto stage performed admirably on this great night for all of them.

John Given





Coming Up!

www.sydneyrotary.com
www.clubrunner.ca/sydney

- 28 July John Watkins, former Deputy Premier & CEO of Alzheimer's NSW.
- 29 July **Rotary Means Business, 6pm, 2nd Floor, Castlereagh Hotel.**
- 4 Aug Peter Janssen, Chairman, The Foundation of National Parks & Wildlife.
- 11 Aug Pieta Thornton, President & Co-ordinator Victims and Witnesses of Crime Support
- 16 Aug **Barbecue at Killara Golf Club, 6pm. Booking details on ClubRunner.**
- 18 Aug Speaker from Northcott Society.
- 25 Aug His Excellency Ernesto de Leon Ambassador of the Philippines
- 1 Sept Dr YKK, Founder President & CEO of Mindbloom
- 8 Aug Rob Edwards from It's Time Foundation Conservation
- 15 Aug Marie-Louise Carroll National Relationship Manager Surf Life Saving Foundation

Please transfer these dates to your Diary.

Of Matters Financial...

It is that time of the year again for issuing our six monthly dues and it is with pleasure that I can say our Board has managed to keep costs at the same level as last year even though we have lost a few members during the year. To save costs we will be issuing these notifications at our next two luncheon meetings and then mailing out the remaining ones.

As in previous years we as a club commit to making an annual donation to **The Rotary Foundation**, this is one of the bedrocks of Rotary. Its mission is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfilment of the Objects of Rotary, Rotary's mission and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national, and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programmes. In keeping with a club of our history and standing within Rotary I have promised the foundation we, 'The Rotary Club of Sydney' will donate US\$15,000 this year.

This equates to approx A\$100 for each member of our club. On the dues form you have the opportunity to support me in this promise by donating an amount to the Benevolent fund. The programmes provided by the foundation make a true and lasting difference in the lives of people around the globe.

It is not only my thanks you will receive but also that of the many well deserving recipients both here in Australia and overseas.

John Given

From the World President

When Paul Harris began the first Rotary club 104 years ago, he did not initially think of service. Instead, he had in mind a place where people of good character, intelligence, and morals could enjoy each other's fellowship and friendship. The service came later, as a natural outgrowth of the gathering of such people.

Every good Rotarian, every member who shares our core values, will make a club that much stronger, and that much more attractive for others to join. Unfortunately, it is also the case that bringing in the wrong person can have the opposite effect. Rotarians are and must be people of a certain calibre – people with the capacity to do great deeds, the sense to do them wisely, and the strength of character to do them honestly and well.

In the end, I believe that the best way to bring new members into Rotary is the way it has been done for generations: One member invites a carefully chosen friend, client, or colleague to a meeting and, if the match is a good one, proposes that individual for membership. This is the way that our clubs remain harmonious; it is the way that new clubs become old clubs, and new members become Rotarians for life.

The membership challenges that we face today are considerable, and in many ways new. There is no denying the difficulties posed by the current global financial situation. But in the words of Henry Ford, "If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability." And as long as we all do our jobs well, and bring in new members carefully, this is a security we in Rotary will never lack.

John Kenny
President, Rotary International



**Please send your news to the Bulletin Editor,
Tony Benner at Tel. 9279 0261.
rotarymatters@people.net.au**

**The Rotary Club of Sydney meets every Tuesday
at 12:30pm, Cello Room, 4th Floor, Castlereagh
Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.**

Rotary District 9750, Club # 18206, chartered 1st May 1921

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Sydney, NSW 2001, Tel. +612 8014 8073**

Happy Birthday to these members:

- No birthdays this week!

