

UPDATE

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund

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S U M M E R • 2 0 0 5 / 0 6

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our Annual General Meeting, held at Penrith on November 18th, once again highlighted the achievements of ARHRF during the past year. Indeed, ARHRF is going from strength to strength. As your newly elected chairman I look forward to leading your Board of Directors in celebrating our Silver Anniversary with the continuing success of

our existing programs and the investigation and development of exciting new programs.

None of this success is possible without the continuing support of Rotarians and Rotary Clubs throughout Australia. We are always indebted to the dedicated commitment of individual people that have inspired the achievements and the successes of ARHRF.

John Ranieri

John, our Chairman for the past two years, must be leaving the Board of ARHRF with a great sense of satisfaction. John has led, as Chairman with distinction, overseeing the



ARHRF Chairman
Ian Oliver

expansion of our Research and Scholarship programs, the continuation of our Community Awareness programs and the introduction of innovative new programs.

We were delighted to appoint John to Honorary Life Membership of ARHRF – a well deserved honour. Congratulations, John.

Phil Francis

Each year, we present The ARHRF Medal

to a person who has made an outstanding contribution, sometimes unobtrusively, in supporting ARHRF. Such is the case with Phil Francis of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn in Victoria. For many years, Phil organised and managed the "Toss the Coin" competition with the AFL and ensured that financial benefit flowed to the Fund. Many thousands of dollars were raised by running this competition and we thank Phil for his outstanding work. Congratulations, Phil.



Phil Francis

The Board

As mentioned, John leaves the Board after many years of dedicated service, as does Graeme Woolcott. Graeme served on the Board for six years, with distinction. At each meeting Graeme would enliven proceedings with strong debate and argument which ensured that our deliberations led to soundly based decisions. Thank you, Graeme, for your dedication and commitment to the success of ARHRF.

I welcome our newly elected members to the Board, Ron Pickford from Ballarat, Victoria and John Iriks

from Kwinana, Western Australia. We look forward to your valuable contributions.

Congratulations to Terry Lees on your election as Vice Chairman of ARHRF. I look forward to working with you during your term as my deputy.

Also elected at the AGM, our Honorary Treasurer Ron Beslich. As well as the normal duties of Treasurer, Ron assists the Board with the maintenance and continuing development of policies that constitute our Business Plan. Your continuing commitment to the Fund is very much appreciated, Ron.

The Rotary Health Safari

The Safari is reaching the end of it's remarkable journey around Australia, an odyssey that will remain in the memories of people for many years.

Despite dealing with some problems and traumas as the Safari traversed the continent it has been a highly successful project. We exceeded all our expectations in terms of Community Awareness of Mental Illness, with outstanding media coverage throughout the journey and we believe that many people have been assisted with some of their health problems after visiting and participating in the computer display.

The whole venture would have been impossible without the incredible work of John Flower who assisted in the development of the project and then travelled with the Safari for most of the journey. Thank you, John.

Also, many thanks to Dick White who chaired the Safari Committee



John Ranieri and
Ian Oliver

Health Research by Australians – for Australians – in Australia



Chairman's Report continued...

and the members of the Committee, all the volunteers who assisted John in taking the Safari from town to town and setting up the displays at each of the sites, and the many Rotarians and Rotary Clubs who assisted the Safari on it's arrival at each of the towns.

The Safari would not have started without the incredible support of our sponsors, particularly Winnebago and Peugeot who supplied the vehicles for the Safari and beyondblue, the depression initiative. Harvey Norman and Genesys were also major and important sponsors.

Don Gordon

Don Gordon, President of the Rotary Club of Mornington in 1981, the year of the conception of ARHRF, played a key role in ensuring the successful establishment of the Fund. Don served as Secretary of the Steering Committee and his dedication and commitment to the task of setting up and establishing the Fund with other members of the Steering Committee, laid the solid foundations leading to our continuing success in meeting the primary objective of providing much needed funds for Medical and Health Research. Don has supported ARHRF over many years and we were delighted to appoint Don to Honorary Life Membership of ARHRF. Congratulations, Don.
Ian Oliver, Chairman

L to R: PP Frank Fisher, PP Joy Gillett – CEO ARHRF, PP Brian Goding, PP Don Gordon, John Flower – ARHRF Safari Co-ordinator and DG Ray Stewart.



ARHRF Safari in Adelaide

The Rotary Club of Adelaide celebrated the arrival of the ARHRF Safari in Adelaide at their meeting on Wednesday 12th October, 2005.

The whole meeting was based around ARHRF activities and included guest speaker Professor Michael Sawyer, Chairman ARHRF Research Committee, who spoke about children's chronic illness and child and adolescent mental disorders.



PDG Graeme Higginson (left) with Chairman Ian Oliver.

New ARHRF Companion Graeme Higginson with the Honour Board of Companions of the Rotary Club of Adelaide.



Rotarian Ian Oliver spoke briefly about the activities of the 'Safari' and presented a 'Gold Companion' award to PDG Graeme Higginson from the Rotary Club of Adelaide who recently donated \$10,000.00 to the Fund.

Rotary Health Safari ARHRF Centennial Dinner Celebration

Some three hundred Rotarians and guests celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund at the ARHRF's Centennial Dinner celebration in Canberra on Friday, 18 November 2005. This included members of the local mental health professional network and researchers from the Australian National University.

The event was held at the Hellenic Club in conjunction with the arrival of the Rotary Health Safari Winnebago. Some 20 special guests, representing the 13 sponsors of the dinner attended the function.

Safari Organiser, John Flower, advised that the dinner was the largest Safari event held anywhere in Australia to date. This was the "last hoorah" also, for PDG John Ranieri, the outgoing Chairman of the ARHRF, who was the keynote dinner speaker.

The dinner was opened by Senator Gary Humphries, who read a greeting from the Prime Minister. The Hon. Gary Nairn represented the Minister for Health and presented appreciations to John Ranieri and guest speaker, Professor Anthony Jorm.

Although principally conducted as an awareness event of the ARHRF, the dinner was





Cheryl Deguara, ARHRF Program Co-ordinator receiving a Mental Health Matters Award from John Hatzistergos, NSW Minister for Health

Mental Health. Dr Rob Morrison from Flinders University developed the feature which was broadcast repeatedly and posted on the ABC website. Dr Morrison was a finalist in the category: 'Excellence in promoting positive mental health by reporting mental illness and mental health in a balanced and respectful way'.

The Rotary clubs of South Australia were also a finalist in the Dr Margaret Tobin Awards, in the 'Promoting an understanding of mental health in the community' category. In partnership with the local community, the Rotary clubs have organised 15 forums reaching more than 2,250 South Australians.

South Australian Health Minister Lea Stevens and Minister Assisting in Mental Health Carmel Zollo announced the Award winners at the Adelaide Festival Centre Terrace on 10 October.

"These Awards help us to remember Dr Tobin's contribution and motivate others to follow her lead in improving and advancing mental health services for South Australians," Ms Stevens said.

"They also recognise and celebrate the achievements of individuals, community groups and organisations who have worked tirelessly to make a difference in the mental health sector."



Gongs Galore

The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and Rotary clubs in South Australia have been honoured for their ongoing commitment to mental health issues, with awards during the recent Mental Health Week.

New South Wales Minister for Health John Hatzistergos presented Cheryl Deguara from the ARHRF with a Mental Health Matters Award at the launch of NSW Mental Health Week in Wynyard Park on 10th October. The Mental Health Matters Awards recognise the achievement of individuals and organisations who have worked to improve understanding, awareness, service provision and the general betterment of mental health in the community over the past 12 months. "The ARHRF received the Non-Government and Community Organisation award for its research and public forum programs," said Ms Deguara. "The Minister acknowledged the outstanding efforts of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and other organisations, in developing innovative and effective programs that tackle difficult mental health issues," she said.

A feature story broadcast on ABC Radio National about the outcomes of the ARHRF's Mental Health Symposium in Canberra in 2003, was a finalist in the Dr Margaret Tobin Awards for Excellence in

also a fund raiser. The Rotary Club of Queanbeyan quickly offered a challenge to other Clubs with a donation of \$2,500 to the ARHRF, which was accepted by the Rotary Club of Hall, with an immediate pledge of \$5,000. Many thanks are extended to these Clubs for their direct support of the ARHRF.

*Ken Stone
D9710 Safari Coordinator*



John Ranieri with John Flower and Professor Anthony Jorm

ARHRF Mental Illness Awareness FORUMS

February

27th Combined Chatswood Area Rotary Clubs
Chatswood Club, 7.30pm

March

15th Rotary Club of Condobolin, NSW, TBC, 6.30 for 7pm
21st Rotary Clubs of Norwood & St Peters, SA. Norwood Concert Hall, 6.30 for 7pm

*Open Minds
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Offering specialised programs in Mental Health awareness and management for managers, employees, services and civic leaders.

VALE



COLIN DODDS

27 February 1926
5 December 2005

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that our past ARHRF Chairman Colin Dodds passed away on 5th December.

A charter member of the Rotary Club of Concord, NSW (1956) Col was an immediate enthusiast for Rotary. He served his club as secretary, director of each avenue of service, vice president and president.

After several district appointments, including chairmanship of the membership development committee and the Interact committee in the same year, he was elected to service as governor of District 969 (9690) in 1980-81. He then accepted several Australian Rotary Institute appointments, serving as a member of the agenda committee, the training committee, and the resolutions committee as member and chairman.

In 1986 Col was elected to the ARHRF board of directors, was state co-ordinator for NSW in 1989, vice chairman in 1988-90, chairman in 1991-1993, retiring from the board in 1994. He is a Gold Companion and a Life Member of the Fund.

He is survived by his wife Athalie and his three children and eight grandchildren.

He was a true Friend of the Fund and will be sadly missed.

COMPANIONS & FRIENDS OF THE FUND

From September – December 2005

Gold Companions – \$10,000

George Dee – Rotary Club of Acacia Ridge, Qld

Graeme Higginson – Rotary Club of Adelaide, SA

Companions – \$5,000

Ray Wells – Rotary Club of Parramatta City, NSW

Diamond Friends – \$2,500

Keith Henning – Rotary Club of Parramatta City, NSW

Silver Friends – \$1,000

Denis McCann – Rotary Club of Stawell, Vic.

Des Hosking – Rotary Club of Williamstown, Vic.

R.W. Barry – Rotary Club of Belmont, WA

Bronze Friends – \$500

Garry Fenner – Rotary Club of Hamilton, Qld.

Peter Griffin – Rotary Club of Mooloolaba, Qld.

Robert Summers – Rotary Club of Hastings Western Port, Vic.

Friends – \$100

Sue Went / Dave Shakespeare / Merrill Shakespeare / Carmen Plumridge / Les Plumridge

– Rotary Club of Parramatta Daybreak, NSW

Joan Richards / Ron Richards / Pedro Yap

– Rotary Club of Sydney CBD, NSW

JF Wood – NSW, no Club

June Bragg – Rotary Club of Wetherill Park, NSW

Rob Wylie – Rotary Club of Caboolture, Qld

Michael Morrison – Rotary Club of Prahran, Vic.

John Hennessy – Rotary Club of Aspley, Qld.

Ray Martin – Rotary Club of Berwick, Vic.

Alma Davidson – Rotary Club of Ross River, Qld.

R.H. Blenkiron – Rotary Club of Barossa Valley, SA

Ray Hirst / Barbara Hirst
– Rotary Club of Albany Port, WA

Time to Review the Effectiveness of Rotary's Mental Health and Depression Community Forum Program

As the ARHRF Mental Health and Depression Community Forum Program has been running for 6 years, it is time to review what we have achieved and, in particular, determine if we have met the aims of the program. The ARHRF has contracted Professor Ian Hickie and Dr Grace Groom, of the Brain and Mind Research Institute (BMRI), University of Sydney, to evaluate the program. Professor Hickie and Dr Groom are well placed to undertake the evaluation as they have a wealth of experience in the mental health sector and are very familiar with the extensive work undertaken by Rotarians in this important area.

In the New Year, as part of the program evaluation, Professor Hickie and Dr Groom will make contact with Rotarians who have had direct involvement with the program to seek their views and input into the evaluation. They will also be interviewing the many mental health experts who have spoken at the forums and a sample of those members of the community who have participated.

If the evaluators make contact with you or your club in 2006 please take the time to share your views and experiences with them. We are hopeful the work we have undertaken in this area and our collective experiences will contribute to a body of knowledge and the development of further community mental health awareness programs that will improve the lives of many, many Australians.

Joy Gillett

