



2025-26

CHANGEOVER

Wagga Wagga, 13 June 2026

Changeover 2026 Program

- 12:00pm - Arrival
- 12:30pm - Call to Order, welcome and Introductions
- Toast to Rotary International
- Response to the Toast from PDG Rob Woolley
- Lunch
- Dessert
- Changeover Ceremony
- President's Address - Hayley Gollasch
- Closing Remarks
- Fellowship
- Safe Travels



The Year at a Glance

- 14 active members
- 4 honorary members
- 18 fortnightly meetings
- 11 Facebook posts reaching 4,300+ people
- \$300 donated to Nepal school sponsorship
- \$1,500 raised for mental health
- 6 boxes of trachoma hygiene supplies sent to the Northern Territory
- 900 children supported through the RAWCS programme in Nepal
- 2 students on exchange



Outgoing President's Message

When I look back over my two years as President, what strikes me most isn't any single project or event — it's the consistency. Meeting after meeting, this club showed up. We strategised, donated, dispatched hygiene supplies to the Territory, raised money for mental health, and watched our exchange students grow. For a small online club spread across hundreds of kilometres, that's a remarkable thing.

The Wagga cohort has been extraordinary — Jenny, Ros, Hayley, and others quietly running RYDA, Race Days, Gears and Beers, and more, without much fanfare. Wendy brought Nepal to life and moved the board to act. Alana has kept MUNA going year after year. Lindell has held our connection to the next generation through Interact.

The foundations are laid. The UC scholarship, the Nepal project, the membership conversations — all ready for Hayley and the incoming board to build on. I'm handing over a club in good shape, to a President who will take it somewhere great.

Thank you all.

Travis Holland

Youth Programs

Investing in the next generation

Youth has been the thread running through much of our activity this year.

Lucy Noakes returned from her year in France as our sponsored youth exchange student. Likewise, **Carmel Kelly** is six months into her exchange, sending back regular photo-filled updates from school, host families, and travels across Europe.

Meg Barrell and **Travis Holland** have served on the District RYPEN committee and attended the weekend at Capital Country Sutton, while former member **Sally McLean** facilitated sessions. Matthew Winnett and Liz Noakes served on the District Youth Exchange Committee and connections with the **National Youth Science Forum** continue to grow.

Lindell McConnell has continued her engagement with the Interact club, which has been extremely active in service and fundraising projects.

Southern Highlands MUNA

Young Diplomats in Action

On 30 May, the Wingecarribee Shire Council chambers filled with debate as students from six Southern Highlands high schools took part in the 2026 **Southern Highlands Model United Nations Assembly** — debating real UN resolutions on everything from space weapons to rural poverty.

The winning team — Luc Hilaire, Christopher Leach, and Sam Skinner from Southern Highlands Christian School — will now represent the Southern Highlands at the National MUNA in Canberra in August.

The E-Club of Brindabella co-runs and co-sponsors SH MUNA alongside the Rotary Clubs of Bowral-Mittagong and Moss Vale, notably through the involvement of **Alana Saunders** as the assistant to the Secretary General for several years.

Nepal: Eight Years of Service

Member **Wendy de Luca** travelled to Nepal with RAWCS this year, where the team converted a classroom into a dining room and kitchen for Sri Kamala Secondary College, revitalised a shipping container for another school, and delivered teacher professional development at the Senduli Community Technical Institute.

The RAWCS programme — run in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu for eight years — supports 900 children across 18 schools with uniforms and supplies, prioritising children from Dalit castes and other disadvantaged backgrounds, at \$75 per child per year.

Following Wendy's presentation, the board approved a \$300 donation to support four students and will continue to support Wendy's efforts.

Educational Scholarship

The board this year agreed to explore a formal partnership with the University of Canberra to administer the club's tertiary education scholarship. The proposed model would have the university identify a shortlist of candidates — undergraduate students in financial need with a history of community service — with the club making the final selection.

The scholarship endowment remains under club administration through the **Greater Good Foundation** in the ACT.

Treasurer **Ros Prangnell** made contact with the University of Canberra to discuss parameters and next steps. This work continues into 2026–27.



Showing Up Where it Counts

The club's **Wagga members** organised a Hats Off for **Mental Health** trivia night, raising \$1,500 for Rotary mental health initiatives. A special thanks to **Jenny Lovekin** for the success of this event!

The **End Trachoma** programme returned: coordinated by **Rob Uhl** with club members and Moss Vale Public School, six boxes of toiletry bags and supplies were sent to Bulla Camp School in the Northern Territory.

The club also contributed to **World Polio Day** awareness, with District 9705's contributions to polio eradication acknowledged by Rotary International. Wild polio now remains endemic in just two countries worldwide.

Ross Ellis, Lindell McConnell and other members participated in the annual Floriade Gnome Painting in Canberra.

Showing Up Where it Counts Continued

The **Wagga cohort** was particularly busy, combining with other clubs to assist in running the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program, the Science and Engineering Challenge, Gears and Beers, and Race Days. Thanks to **Jenny Lovekin, Ros Prangnell, Hayley Gollasch** and others for these incredible service and fundraising efforts.



Speakers & Learning

Conversations that Count

The year brought a strong programme of guest speakers and ideas.

Nadia Burkolter, DonateLife spoke in September about organ and tissue donation — a reminder that one conversation can save lives. Chief Inspector **Gary Raymond** APM OAM shared his 34-year NSW Police career in March, including his work on the Anita Cobby case and the establishment of Grace's Place — a world-first residential facility that has supported 4,000 people affected by homicide.

Lucy Noakes, our returned Youth Exchange student, shared her year in France. **Evan Burrell** provoked rich discussion about the future of Rotary and how e-clubs can lead the way. **John Askew** presented on district service projects including Ruby's House and domestic violence support initiatives across the ACT and NSW.

Public Image

Our Reach in 2025-26

The club published 11 posts on Facebook across the year, reaching over 4,300 page impressions and 2,878 content views, with 98 interactions and a net gain of 25 new followers.

The most-engaged post was the Changeover 2025 in Taralga (274 impressions, 26 interactions). The DonateLife speaker post drew 15 reactions. The Gary Raymond post reached 248 impressions with 9 interactions. World Polio Day content reached 144 impressions with 15 reactions.

The most visited pages on the club website were the 2025 SH MUNA story, End Trachoma content, and Grace's Place story – all programme content, which says something about what draws people in. The club also received editorial coverage in *The Southern Wire* following SH MUNA 2026.

The People Who Made it Happen

Outgoing Board 2025–26 President: Travis Holland · Secretary: Alana Saunders · Treasurer: Ros Prangnell · President Elect: Hayley Gollasch · Foundation: Jennifer Lovekin · Public Officer: Beth Woolley · Protection Officer: Jennifer Lovekin

Incoming Board 2026–27 President: Hayley Gollasch · Secretary: Alana Saunders · Treasurer: Ros Prangnell · Immediate Past President: Travis Holland · Youth Director: Meghan Barrell · Foundation: Jennifer Lovekin · Public Officer: Beth Woolley · Protection Officer: Jennifer Lovekin

Thank you to every member who served on the board this year and to those stepping up for 2026-27.

Thank you Rob Uhl

Past President and Past District Governor **Rob Uhl** transferred her membership to the Rotary Club of Moss Vale after many years of outstanding contribution to the Rotary E-Club of Brindabella.

Rob's fingerprints are on some of the club's most enduring work. She led the End Trachoma programme, coordinating the collection and dispatch of hygiene supplies to remote Northern Territory schools — work that continued again this year. She travelled to Nepal with RAWCS, building the club's long-standing connection with education and community projects there.

As a Past District Governor, Rob brought visibility, connections, and a commitment to service that set a standard for the whole club.

We are grateful for everything she gave to Brindabella, and we're glad she remains part of the Rotary family.

Thank you, Rob.

What Comes Next

The 2025–26 year has set several things in motion for the incoming board to carry forward.

The tertiary scholarship partnership is a substantial new development. With the groundwork done, 2026–27 is the year to formalise the arrangement and make a meaningful first award. This is only one step in using what is an amazing resource for the club in the Greater Good fund.

The Nepal programme has clear momentum. Wendy's work through RAWCS is well-established and the club has already voted with its wallet. The board has the opportunity to make it a formal club project and continue to support it.

Membership and engagement remains the perennial challenge — but this year's conversations about Gen Z and e-club identity have been honest and useful. And members have recently suggested many excellent service projects to carry forward. The foundation is strong - let's continue in service, together.



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eClub of
Brindabella



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