



Welcome to this newsletter where you will find out a little bit more about the District 9800 Paul Harris Society, of which I am the Chair, and hopefully be inspired to join yourself. Now this is not a secret society and has a very impressive history! On the 2nd of June 2007 the Paul Harris Society, with nineteen members, was chartered under the guidance of Past District Governor Bernie Walsh and District 9800 Foundation Chair Chris Don. In that first Rotary year the numbers grew to thirty members with thirty two members by the end of December 2008.

John and Barbara Rafter provided the inspiration for this initiative. They attended The Rotary International Convention in Denmark and heard about the Paul Harris Society and to this day remain members and indeed Champions of the Paul Harris Society. Inaugural members and partners who are still listed as members include Neville John, Ian Knight, Vicki Teschke, Marjorie Gerlinger, Chris Don, Dino Sapuppo, Bernie Walsh, John Steven, Don and Margery Jago and Hein and Veronica Otten. Keith Ryall December 2008 ,and Gabe Hau November 2008, received their membership recognition and also remain members to this day.

Members of Paul Harris Society make a commitment to the Rotary Foundation to contribute US \$1000.00 each year for as long as they are able to. They can allocate their funds to the Annual Fund, End Polio or approved Global Grants. Members are recognised by an addition to their Paul Harris Fellowship Pin in the shape of wings. We have one hundred and forty three members representing forty four Rotary Clubs and I would love to hear from you if you would like to join this happy group.

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**Welcome to our newest members:**

**Jennifer Nunan Wyndham Rotary**

**Angela Ciliberto Balwyn Rotary**



At least once a year members get together to talk about Rotary and the Rotary Foundation. The District 9800 Foundation Chair graciously provides information about the latest programs and initiatives that are funded from the contributions made by the members. In this context thirty members of the District's Paul Harris Society enjoyed a very convivial Christmas lunch at Graduate House on Friday December 10.

Among the attendees were District Governor Dale Hoy, PDG Philip Archer, PDG Grant Hocking and Melissa, PDG Murray Verso and Irene, PDG Keith Ryall and Gabrielle, PDG Ian Knight and Genny, John and Barbara Rafter.

A highlight of the day was the induction of Michael Lishman from the Rotary Club of Woodend into the Society. His partner Deidre Willmott also intends to join. Like so many members of the Paul Harris Society, Michael sees his commitment as an opportunity to support projects and programs that make a difference in the lives of others locally and internationally. He understands and trusts the Rotary Foundation to spend his donation dollars wisely.



**Personal giving to improve the lives of others tends to bring a smile especially when catching up with like minded people. Thanks for your support to the PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY.**



Julie shared her motivation to continue contributing to the Paul Harris Society and encouraged all in attendance to do the same. Two questions provided a focus for the conversation that followed.

**“Why did you join the Paul Harris Society?” and “Why do you stay a member?”**

**Some of the responses included:**

I decided to increase my charity giving and decided that the Rotary Foundation offered the best value for money given the low administration cost.

The money is spent by Rotarians on Rotary projects around the world. The donations are tax deductible and when you make a 1000 US donation you don't forget to claim it.

The fact that half the donation can come back to our District helps.

I can give a Paul Harris Fellowship to someone else from the donation that I give.

Strong governance of the funds and global impact and sustainability of the projects completed.

I appreciate the good work of the Rotary Foundation (TRF).

I'm impressed by the high ratings TRF receives from Charity Navigator.

I was tapped on the shoulder.

I want to set an example to others.

I have the capacity to give and very happy to do so.

The programs funded by TRF are very impressive.

**It's cheaper than a case of wine a month and really does help me make a difference in the world.**

**The responses do put a compelling case for us all to talk to others in our Rotary Club about the value of being a members of the Paul Harris Society, so all in attendance were called to take action and tell their story as to why they joined the PHS!**

