On Thursday there was a great send off for Lynne Rodda, with over 400 people in attendance at the service. There were almost 20 members from our club together with Honorary/former members John Walton, Mike Stansbury and Geoff Chapman. Many of their partners also attended.

Geoff Cook provided a wonderful eulogy about Lynne the Rotarian. All of the other speakers also mentioned Lynne's role in Rotary.

The celebrant Greg Ross was also a Rotarian who members recall was the master of ceremonies at the 2016 District 9790 Conference. He spoke movingly and sang praises of her achievements as the Chair of that Conference. She was a wonderful Rotarian and a special friend to all.

President Tony
DATES TO REMEMBER

March 22 – 25 : District Conference Yarrawonga/Mulwala

ATTENDANCE 26 FEBRUARY
MEMBERS 17
GUESTS 3
APOLOGIES 12

Lynne Rodda

21st June 1946 ~ 22nd February 2018

Alan Hickling with Chairman Max

22nd June 2012

Lucky Bruce
Alan Hickling - Speaker Monday 26th February 2018

Our speaker last Monday 26th February 2018, was Alan Hickling, Chief Executive Officer, Education Training & Employment Australia, 113 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. The subject of his talk was Private Training Organisations.

Alan started a nursing agency business, here in Heidelberg. Education Training & Employment Australia (ETAA) in 1998, as a result of wanting to have better trained workers in the agency. The business has grown, and now has offices in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Mildura, Geelong and Sydney. ETEA provides training for both domestic and overseas students, with a heavy focus on nursing and community services courses ranging from Certificate 111 through to Advanced Diploma of Nursing.

ETEA has this year expanded into regional Victoria providing opportunity to young country people to study and participate in training funded by the Victorian Government. As successful and honourable as Alan is in his practice, there are severe concerns re some aspects in the profession generally.

In 1989 the Hawke Labor Government, reintroduced fees for university students. The Higher Education Contribution Schemes (HECS), followed with income-contingent loans which initially were made available in 1989, for Commonwealth supported places in higher education. In 2005 the scheme was extended to full-fee paying students in higher education courses through FEE-HELP.

VET FEE HELP was introduced in 2009 for full-fee paying students in Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses delivered by VET providers. From the introduction of the scheme there were unscrupulous providers throughout the system seeking to rort the system. The Federal Government was warned as early as 2012 about rorting, and that there were no suitable safeguards in place to protect against the abuse of vulnerable students. The value of the scheme went from $325m to $3b in three years, with the majority of this never to be recovered.

Some notable examples of the scheme are as follows:

1. Phoenix Institute of Australia, a dual sector provider:
   Grew exponentially under VET FEE HELP claiming $25m per month with CFH.
2. St Stephen Institute:
   Students from India paid $10,000 to get a student visa with no education, then went to work for Australia Post through scam.
3. Sage Institute:
   Closed leaving 1600 students with debt and 200 staff redundant
4. Acquire Learning:
   Debts of $92m. Being investigated $25m loans to directors

Thank you, Alan. Glad to see your practice is going well, as you do provide a quality service.

MAX CHESTER OAM
Dear Tony,

Today, I had the pleasure of passing over the cheque for $1500 to Laurie Fisher, Manager of DIK Store Footscray, and Bob Glindemann, Chair, DIK Inc. Footscray. Thank you and your Club for supporting a true gem of Rotary.

Find attached a photo. If you wish to have full resolution original, please let me know.

I will be manning a booth, for RAWCS and DIK, at the Conference in Mulwala at the end of this month. Feel free to call in.

Yours in Rotary,
David Meller PP PHF
(Rotary Club of Strathmore)
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Strathmore Vic 3041

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