

8.1. MM01: Vale Rotary Club of North Sydney

After 95 years of continuous service to the community, the Rotary Club of North Sydney is to close.

Club President, Ms Toni Field, recently called me to advise that, due to declining membership, the Club has resolved to close at the end of this year.

For nearly a century, members have worked supporting local community projects, as well as international projects with a humanitarian purpose. For example, locally Rotary Club of North Sydney runs a market at Crows Nest, provides a Seniors Christmas Lunch at the Crows Nest Centre, and each Christmas collects, sorts, and delivers gifts to local charities for distribution to those in need as part of their Tree of Joy project.

The Rotary Club of North Sydney also has a proud record of supporting international aid projects through tireless fundraising. For example, this year the Club is raising funds for the PNG Desk Project to supply durable desks and chairs to schools in Papua New Guinea to assist in addressing the lack of basic needs in schools and, in turn, promote school attendance to combat generational poverty. The desks and chairs are made locally by young people and disabled workers as part of a 'New Life Skills' program run by City Mission, a non-profit NGO, much like Wesley Mission in Australia.

The Rotary Club of North Sydney, like other volunteer organisations, has made an enormous contribution to our community, and communities around the world, over many decades.

Ms Field advised that they will continue to run the markets in Crows Nest as part of the Sunrise Rotary Club (which meets in McMahons Point) and members will continue to contribute on projects undertaken by that Club.

In St Leonards Park, at the corner of Miller and Falcon Streets there are two trees, with plaques, planted by the Rotary Club of North Sydney that mark the many decades of the Club's activities in North Sydney.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council acknowledge the valuable contribution of the Rotary Club of North Sydney to our community by planting a tree to be grouped with the existing "Rotary trees" in St Leonards Park.
- 2. THAT** Council write to the Rotary Club of North Sydney thanking them for their service to our community for the last 95 years.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**