

Sunday 13 July 2007

**Motion passed at  
Australian Presidential Membership Conference  
Canberra July 11-13 2008**

At the Australian Presidential Membership Conference held in Canberra on July 11-13, 2008, a series of small group workshops were held in which over 500 Rotarians from all Australian Region Rotary Districts, working in small facilitated groups, were asked to contribute their suggestions on how we could build a more effective model for Rotary in Australia.

The results were collated by Australia's three Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators (Past Governors Sylvia Byers, Noel Trevaskis, and Rob Wylie), and were presented to all delegates in the plenary session on the morning of Sunday 13 July.

At the completion of that presentation, Immediate Past Governor Ian Dyball (District 9650) proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Immediate Past Governor Jennifer Scott (District 9690).

*"We, the Rotarians attending the Presidential Membership conference in Canberra in July 2008 are committed to building stronger Rotary clubs.*

*We recommend that the Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators, in collating the responses from the breakout workshops, prepare a series of recommended protocols, practices, and procedures that will provide a coordinated national approach to:*

- (i) Membership growth and retention*
- (ii) Enhancing the public profile and awareness of Rotary*
- (iii) Strengthening our clubs to be more relevant.*

*We further request that the above recommendation be disseminated to allow time for discussion by District personnel prior to the Institute in Christchurch in November.*

*We request that the Membership Coordinators identify the sections of Rotary International Bylaws that would require amendment at Council of Legislation in 2010 in order that the recommendations can be formally adopted as Rotary practice."*

On a show of hands, Rotary International Director John Lawrence, in the presence of Rotary International President D. K. Lee, declared the motion passed unanimously.

Copies of the presentation mentioned above, in three power point files, as made at the Conference, are being made available to current District Governors and District Membership Chairs. Copies will also be available (as soon as possible) for download from the Australian Rotary Membership website at <http://www.membership.rotary.org.au/>, and the Presidential Membership Conference website at <http://www.rotarydownunder.com.au/>. If you have trouble accessing or

finding the right files please email me [robwy43@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robwy43@bigpond.net.au) and I can email them to you.

These presentations were assembled during the conference under some time pressure, so they are not quite as polished as I would have liked. A more detailed report will be prepared by Sylvia, Noel, Rob in response to the above motion and sent to all Districts as soon as possible.

We will be in touch with District Governors and Council on Legislation delegates from various Australian Districts to discuss a joint approach on the suggested amendments.

I look forward to the challenge of following up this great opportunity to improve the effectiveness, image, and membership growth of Rotary in Australia, in accordance with the expressed wishes of those who attended the conference. I know Noel and Sylvia share my sentiments. We accept the challenge!

Yours in Rotary

Rob.

*Rob Wylie*  
*Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator*