



**SERVICE Above Self**

Good Morning Michelle,

It was a privilege to have you there for the Formation Meeting and the ladies will treasure your presence and your address to them.

Rotary is an International Service Organisation, this year celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year. We formed our Rotary Club in Caloundra 50 years ago. Although we facilitated the formation of the new DA Club, great credit must be paid to Lexie Warren of MBT because without her yesterday's Formation Meeting would not have occurred.

In the space of just 9 weeks, the seed she sowed when she addressed the Rotary Club of Caloundra on Dragons Abreast on 26<sup>th</sup> April resulted in 47 new members of the new Sunshine Coast Dragons Abreast Club on 2/7. She suggested that "You guys & girls ought to start up a DA Club here on the Sunshine Coast".

In the first week of May our Rotary Club resolved to facilitate the formation of a DA Club on the coast.

We contacted Cathy Apelt of the Queensland Cancer Fund at Maroochydore and the Caloundra and Noosa Cancer Support Groups and immediately found there had been a great desire to start a Club here, which had remained unfulfilled.

We secured Lake Kawana Course for a "Come & Try Day" on 28<sup>th</sup> May when the Pink Ladies of MBT and the Brisbane River Dragons hit town. 62 paddlers paid \$5 each to try their paddling skills and amidst TV crews and newspaper reporters, we were away.

Since then we have had great media support locally and our Club received a steady stream of phone calls from would-be paddlers – ladies who had been desperate to join a DA Club on the Sunshine Coast.

When Michelle Hanton announced she would attend the Formation Meeting on 2/7, that was the icing on the cake and the new Club was formed with 47 very keen paddlers and supporters, a training Coach and a full complement of 8 Steering Committee executives. Donations from the Rotary Club of Caloundra, the Inner Wheel Club of Sunshine Coast and a private donation, totalled \$1,750 to start the Club's drive for equipment.

The assistance our Rotary Club received from Jo Parry, Janelle Gamble and Lexie Warren was superb and we have been "on a high" for 2 months whilst completing one of the very best Community Projects in our Club's history.

Alf Muller