



### Volunteers to India

In **2005**, Dr Alok Sharma, Mrs Meena Sharma, Varoon Sharma and President Philip Cross.

In **2007**, Dr Alok Sharma, Mrs Meena Sharma, Varoon Sharma President Dr Leone Harvey-Smith, Mr Will Blackwell, Mr Philip Cross, Mrs Merryl Cross, Dr Neil Pinto, Mrs Nola Pinto, Mr Graham Gorrell, Mrs Jenny Gorrell, Mr Paul Burch, Mrs Helene Blackwell, Mr Ron Walter and Mrs Marilyn Walter.

In **2010**, Dr Alok Sharma, Mrs Meena Sharma, Varoon Sharma

In **2011**, Dr Alok Sharma, Mrs Meena Sharma, Varoon Sharma, Dr Leone Harvey-Smith, Mr Will Blackwell, Dr Peter Crozier and Mrs Gail Crozier.

### Summary of our achievements for the three Eye Camps held in 2005, 2007, 2011 and the School project in 2010;

People who turned up	5,500
People seen to	4,036
Cataract Operations	670
Sets of Glasses issued	1,115
Medicines dispensed	2,350



### Fundraising Dinners:

30 July 2005 at the Wagga Wagga Country Club, 173 attended

4 August 2007 at the Wagga RSL Club, 300 attended

26 February 2011 at the Mater Dei Multi Purpose Hall, 300 attended

### The High Commissioners for India that attended our Dinners:

2005, Mr Madhusudan Ganapathi

2007, Mr Sujan Chinoy

2011, Mrs Sujatha Singh

### Eye Camps in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India:

First from the 18 to 20 November 2005.

Second from 12 to 14 October 2007

School Camp on 29 September 2010, Budia Primary School, about 7 km from Yamuna Nagar, dental and eye check up of 500 students

Third from 12 to 14 March 2011

### Hospital Venues:

2005 and 2007 Civil Hospital Yamuna Nagar

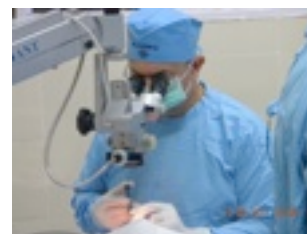
2011 The Trauma Centre of the Civil Hospital Yamuna Nagar

### Awards presented for the Darkness to Light Project: to Dr Alok Sharma:



At the District 9700 Conference at Orange in April 2006;

- The Rotary Foundation District Service Award for "From Darkness to Light Service to the Visually Impaired", for outstanding service in promoting the Rotary Foundation and its goal of world understanding and peace; and
- The Bruce Gruber "Outstanding Rotarian of the Year award for D9700"



- In May 2006 the Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga presented Alok a certificate of appreciation for his work in India.
- At the Club's Changeover in June 2006 Alok received The "Rotarian of the Year" Award that was presented to him by Mrs Grace Walsh, Peter's Mum.
- At the Club's Christmas party in December 2007; Presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship.



### Other Awards presented:

- Philip Cross received the Rotary Foundation District Service Award in 2006 for "From Darkness to Light Service to the Visually Impaired", for outstanding service in promoting the Rotary Foundation and its goal of world understanding and peace and a PHF at the end of his term as President.
- Ajoy Joshi was presented with a PHF at the 2007 Fundraising Dinner for his generosity in donating and preparing the meals for the Fundraising Dinners.
- For the third time our Chef from Sydney, Mr Ajoy Joshi PHF from Nilgiri's Restaurant in St Leonards (voted best Indian Restaurant for the last 5 years and food safari chef from SBS), and has donated and prepared all the food for some 800 people that have attended our three fundraising dinners.
- At the District 9700 Conference at Orange in April 2011 the Club received Best International Project for D9700



### Donations to support people within the Riverina Area

#### ❖ Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, December 2010

The President of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga, Michelle Maddison presented 2 Stryker Surgistools valued at \$5,400 to the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Eye Theatre as part of her Club's ongoing project "From Darkness to Light".

Dr Alok Sharma said the operating stools will be utilized by 3 specialist Eye Surgeons and a Registrar at the Base Hospital while performing precision eye surgery and will be very beneficial for both doctor and patient.

#### ❖ To a legally blind lady in Wagga Wagga, April 2011



Dr Alok Sharma presented a Wagga resident Mrs Thara Pech a Pearl text to speech camera including Open Book and software upgrade valued at \$2,000.

Thara was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa when she was 13 years old. Being legally blind the hardware (camera) and software will convert text to speech and will allow Thara to complete her tertiary education in the area of social work or serve as a hospital chaplain.

The Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga wishes to acknowledge the support received by its members as well as the Rotary Club of Yamuna Nagar Riviera, the supporting Doctors from the Eye Hospital at Rohtak and the Mohan Eye Institute from Delhi lead by Dr Rajiv Mohan. Without the support of the Sharma family, the generosity of the public and many Companies, the project "Darkness to Light" would not have been possible. Thank you all.

The concept of an Eye Camp in India was a dream of Dr Alok Sharma, and the above photo of a husband and wife taken in 2005 says it all, he got new glasses and she a cataract operation.

Alok had the seed sown by a Sister in one of the Temples he worshiped at in India when he returned to India to visit relatives. Having joined Rotary in 2003, Alok put his dream into reality and set about to raise funds to undertake some 200 cataract operations somewhere in India near his home town north of Delhi.

A phone call to Mr Rajiv Bhatia, Charter President of the Rotary Club of Yamuna Nagar – Riviera in District 3080 was music to Alok's ears as Rajiv was most enthusiastic.

Our Rotary Club has received fantastic responses from many people and Companies since commencing with its "Darkness to Light" Project in 2005, where Doctors undertake cataract operations and provided glasses to the very poor and to date have raised over \$130,000, a remarkable achievement.