

## **Rotary Club of Howrah**

### **Annual Report 2015-16**

Firstly I would like to thank every of the Howrah Rotary Club of giving me the privilege of leading the club over the past Rotary year. The time has gone very quickly and as the Directors' reports indicate, very successfully. We have a very resilient and team oriented club which goes about its fundamental business with a minimum of fuss. Importantly all the work is made lighter by an "one in all in" approach which allows us to achieve great success in demanding situations. This was no more apparent from late October to the first week of December when we did four major fundraising events, a large public service celebration, a working bee and two K&D barbecues. These high pressure times are made easier by a highly reliable and consistent team who rise to the challenge and believe it or not have great fun. We are well served by a wide range of members who have significant skills and leadership capacity, all of whom are committed to the Rotary ideals to make a difference in our world be it locally or internationally. Our club is renowned for its open, welcoming and friendly atmosphere which is appreciated by all who visit or work with us.

Like all good teams we are blessed by members who go well beyond what is expected and it would be remiss of me not to mention the following club members who have helped me and more importantly the club, to achieve our goals.

Secretary Jan stepped into the demanding Secretary's role and has done an outstanding job keeping the club operating smoothly and efficiently.

Sergeant At Arms Glen has been largely responsible for our terrific guest speaker line-up, keeping the meetings flowing smoothly and inventing many creative "fines" to raise much needed funds. But more than that, he always steps up in times of need to take the lead and gets things done. His role in the Fashion Parade is just one outstanding example. President Elect Gerrard Blizzard has made a very prudent and wise decision to invite Glen to be an Assistant Governor next Rotary year. We all wish Glen every success in his new role.

"Jack of all trades" George was stepping down from leadership positions to have a rest but that didn't happen. Stand in Sergeant, MC extraordinaire, Quizmaster and his continued outstanding commitment to the BBQs, especially at K&D has been outstanding.

Reg Emmett has maintained his passion for all things Rotary at Club and District level. His input into the various websites, Facebook pages as Web Master for us and the District is outstanding. He often is the driver of many projects and causes that are important but sometimes forgotten. His and Annette's generosity in buying a shipping container to help solve our equipment crisis is

much appreciated. In addition he has been a real asset for a novice President with his very sage advice and the occasional prod in the right direction when things need to be done.

As my initial mentor Director Richard Wyatt has continued been an important sounding board and provider of thoughtful advice to me as President and an invaluable source of reliable and wide ranging knowledge of Rotary procedure and practices. His commitment to our club is well recognised and his fine organisational skills made for a fantastic 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of our Rotary Club.

To Treasurer Lindsay you continue to look after the club's finances with great diligence and commitment. The role is time consuming and complex and your accuracy and timely financial reports are an integral part of the smooth operation of our club.

Despite a very busy year personally David Mitchell has continued to give his time and energy to the club in a variety of ways. His work with our book collection remains an important fundraiser for the club. We are also most appreciative of David and Fran's generosity in allowing us to store our equipment and books at his former business premises for the greater part of this year.

The "Dynamic Duo" Helen and Basil Murray continue to dedicate so much time and passion to our club in so many ways. They are rarely fazed by any task and continue to put their combined hands up to take on demanding roles as well as many smaller tasks, but no less important that lay the basis of a well organised and fun club. K&D BBQs, Fashion Parade coordination, raffles, "tea and coffee lady" and almost perfect attendance at everything we do - the list goes on.

To all the Directors I want to express my great appreciation for your time, commitment, energy and leadership in making my year as President of this great club so enjoyable and satisfying. Your contribution to Board decision making has been insightful and reasoned and always holding the best interests of the club to the forefront of our plans and actions.

Finally to all Howrah Rotary members can I thank you sincerely for your active participation in the committees that play a key role in decision making and the organisation of club activities. Your untiring drive and commitment have been outstanding, your efforts to raise funds and to volunteer your time and energy to all the club's activities has been greatly appreciated by Rotary in general and especially by me. Your good humour, sense of fun and friendship has made this year a most enjoyable one. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution of our friends and partners throughout the year, without their skills, hard work and assistance especially at the major fundraisers our task would be much more difficult. Their attendance and support at meetings, social events and more formal gatherings also enhances the success, fun and enjoyment of these occasions. They are appreciated.

The following Directors' Reports add the detail to your excellent work throughout the year and we look forward to doing it all again next year. Also attached is the Treasurer's Financial Report which indicates we have raised and spent about \$41 000 during the year and an inspection of the list of recipients of our funds show we have made a considerable contribution to a wide range of most worthy causes.

## **Directors Reports**

The return of the committee system to coordinate and organise club activities and events worked very efficiently and devolved responsibilities to a fine group of leaders. Decentralised decision-making allowed all members to have the opportunity to contribute to planning future directions and the day to day running of the club. Alteration to the Club Bylaws allowed the introduction of a Membership Directorship to oversee one of our main focus areas the recruitment and retention of members. The following is a brief report of the activities of each Directorship.

### **Club Service: Director Richard Wyatt**

This year has been a very a very busy one for our Club Service team. An outstanding range of guest speakers has been a feature of our meeting program thanks largely to Sergeant Glen Woolley's fine organisational skills. From bush poetry, to responses to international disasters, with inventions like the Skyhydrant, to stories like that of Tony Lacy and his battle with Parkinsons Disease, to great work being done in our schools we have been entertained, inspired and impressed by some very special people. Several social events and meetings, like visiting Government House gardens, have allowed plenty of good fellowship between members and it has been great to share these occasions and some meetings with our partners. The Club had several partners' nights which were well attended, meetings at the Emmett's and the Woolley's were much appreciated and the movie night at the State Theatre and afterwards at Vanidols was very enjoyable.

Our generous sponsors, Dilgers Garage and Southern Air continue to provide valuable support.

The Bulletin has recorded our efforts and achievements not just to our present members and partners but to our Honorary Members, the DG and other District Officers as well as most of the local schools in our area. Thanks to webmaster Reg Emmett it is also available on our own and the District's websites. Sincere thanks to Jacob George for his excellent photography which enhances each edition.

Fundraising efforts have included our regular K&D BBQs as well as the major events such as the Fashion Parade, Government House Open Day, Book Sales and the Harvest Festival at the

Botanical Gardens. Also worthy of mention are the funds raised by our weekly raffles, the Giving Bowl, fine sessions and the Entertainment Books.

The unfortunate loss of our storage space for club equipment and our book collection necessitated a rapid response to find alternative arrangements and these were achieved with a minimum of fuss and demonstrated the ingenuity and generosity so often displayed by our members. The purchase of a new equipment trailer housed in a container at the Emmett's property and the storage of most the books at the Sandford Chapel has alleviated what was potentially a serious problem for the club. The club would like to acknowledge the contribution and generous support it received from PP David Mitchell in the storage of the club's resources at his business premises for the past three years.

The smooth organisation of the club and its activities has been greatly appreciated by the membership, as evidenced by the recent 40th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Howrah Charter. It was a wonderful celebration attended by almost seventy people and demonstrated great planning and attention to detail by Director Richard and his team.

### **Community Service: Director Graeme Farrell**

#### **Spring Festival – Botanical Gardens**

Our club has been involved with this event for many years going back to the Tulip Festival days. Although it may be regarded as a prestigious event, I would suggest in future we address the club's involvement owing to the ground fee of \$420.00 at present, for a non-profit organisation? Result \$1039.00 for two days trading.

#### **Fashion Parade**

This event saw a united effort by our club extending ourselves beyond the dedication of normal duties. The result achieved \$4970.00 and from part of that raised \$2200 will be used for the establishment of a research program at the Menzies Centre focussed on Motor Neurone Disease and further commitment for the following two years. Also resulting from this fine event was a \$2000 donation to The Breast Cancer Network of Australia.

#### **Howrah Men's Shed Inc.**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Her Excellency the Governor Professor Kate Warner A.M. officially opened the shed. Our club donated \$2000. Also we made available until the venture was completed, our chapel at Sandford and provided power at a cost of \$1707.

#### **Anti-Poverty Week – Second Bite Trailer**

From fundraising at a K&D BBQ our club donated \$400 towards the purchase of this vehicle.

### **Government House Open Day**

Once again a huge effort by our Rotary family, not only at the BBQ also our ladies providing scones, jam and serving Devonshire teas. This resulted with a reward of \$3229, our appreciation to Her Excellency Kate Warner and the Government house. Her Excellency requested \$2000 be presented to Food Bank.

### **Howrah Primary School Twilight Fair**

Members assisted with the conducting of the school chocolate wheel.

### **Special Children's Christmas Party**

This event was conducted at the D.E.C. and here again all hands on deck contributed to the running of the canteen also the BBQ, catering for a vast attendance over two days.

### **Colony 47 Inc.**

Our yearly donation of \$500 was forwarded and in return a Certificate of Appreciation was received.

### **Corpus Christi Catholic School Twilight Fair**

A team from our club conducted the school's chocolate wheel.

### **ANZAC Day 2016**

At the Clarence RSL Club Dawn Service, President Rob laid a wreath on behalf of the club.

### **Shadforth's Charity Golf Day**

Using our BBQ trailer a team of four operated at the Royal Hobart Golf Course to assist in raising funds for the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation.

### **Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea**

Hear again as in previous years our club donated \$250 to the Sunshine Tennis Club Biggest Morning Tea.

### **Rotary Howrah Rotunda/ BBQ, Correa Street Howrah**

Owing to corrosion forming on the brass plaques acknowledging companies and individuals who contributed to the construction, club member David Lamb cleaned, polished, sealed and

reinstalled the refurbished plaques. Further we have requested the Clarence City Council repaint the tables and chairs in the rotunda.

### **Donations**

Clarence Eisteddfod        \$200.00

Guide Dogs Tas            \$500.00

Recommendations for the new Board to consider; Macular Degeneration disease, A.R.H., CANTEEN, the Hobart Women's Shelter and White Lion.

I wish to thank the committee for their support and the overwhelming contribution by the Rotary family for a successful year, also not failing to mention the tremendous fundraising that took place. **Presented by Graeme Farrell - Director**

### **International Service: Director Alan Morriss**

As has been the case over the past years, unforeseen events continue to give us motivation to provide funds for communities devastated by natural disasters. This year has seen our club donate \$4000 to RAWCS projects in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in Nepal. In addition, following on from an excellent presentation by Youngtown Rotary Club's Ted Burton we have purchased a water purifying unit for a village in Nepal. Each Skyhydrant costs \$3500 and ours will be installed by Disaster Aid International which is a branch of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills in Victoria. At our recent 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration International Service Director Alan Morriss and his wife Di and Honorary Member Malcolm Salier and his wife Margaret announced they have each purchased a Skyhydrant at their own expense bringing the total to three units all of which will be installed in Nepal. Sincere thanks are extended to David Mitchell for stepping up to accept the position of Acting International Service Director due to Alan Morriss being on medical leave.

### **Youth Service: Director Reg Emmett**

The Youth Service team have been very busy in our local schools visiting all state primary and high schools in our area and the independent Emmanuel College. Most now receive our weekly Bulletin and some have been in contact to seek our assistance with events and functions.

Clarence High School attended a club meeting to request support for a team of students who were travelling to Vietnam and Cambodia. While part of the trip involved sightseeing a key focus was working in local schools in each country to assist in the construction of new school buildings and teaching younger students about Tasmania and assisting with their English development. The team were fine ambassadors for their school and the state and returned to

the club to report on their adventures. It was obvious to all who listened to their story that the trip had been a life changing experience. Our club donated \$500 to the school which purchased part of a team uniform and resources to be given to the schools they visited.

The Rokeby High School Knopwood Project was also the recipient of funding from our club. After a visit from 2015's student leaders we heard about their disappointment in having to wear their sports uniform when they represented their school at official functions and events, especially when compared to other schools whose representatives wore more formal and appropriate attire. The students asked for assistance to purchase blazers that could be worn by the next group of student leaders. Our club resolved to donate sufficient funds to provide blazers for the incoming 2016 Prefect Board at a cost of \$1300. A Rotary District Grant Application was successful so the costs were halved for our club.

Our annual support of local school end of year prize giving assemblies continued with each school receiving funds to purchase awards and prizes for students who had excelled at school in their academic, sporting, artistic or personal development. The total amount donated was \$1100.

As a community service a team of thirteen Howrah Rotarians volunteered to act as mentors for Grade 5 and 6 students from five local primary schools in the UTAS sponsored Science Discovery Challenge held at Rokeby High School. Similarly volunteers will also assist at the Grade 9 and 10 Try a Skill Day later in June.

The club continued its support of Grade 11 and 12 students to attend the National Youth Science Forum held annually in Canberra during January. We nominated two students to attend with the costs shared with another Rotary Club. Adam Dimsey represented our Club at the Forum and soon after his return came back to the club to thank us for the support for what proved to be a fantastic experience.

Similarly our club sponsored two students from Clarence High School to attend RYPEN held at The Lea Scout camp in May. All students sponsored in both programs returned to the club to report favourably on their experiences.

The contribution of Howrah Rotary Club in connecting with and working in our local schools was acknowledged by DG John Dare when he spoke about our achievements at the recent 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

### **Membership: Director Gayle Smith**

While we have not met our membership target of an increase of five new members a considerable amount of work has been completed by the Membership Committee. At present

the club membership is 26 active members and 5 Honorary members an increase of one member in this Rotary year. The team have welcomed several potential members two of which are still yet to commit to become full members.

Much time and effort has been put in by the Membership team updating, collating and organising resources, pamphlets and kits for potential new members. A process is now in place to accept and act upon membership requests in an organised and consistent manner. Advertising for noticeboards in local businesses and centres has been distributed and direct face to face follow-up has been organised whenever an enquiry has been received.

However recruitment is still an issue not easily solved and it needs to be a whole of club responsibility to seek out potential members by invitations to meetings, events and functions.

To President Elect Jan and the new Board can I would like to wish you every success and good fortune in the year ahead. It is wonderful to see the increased involvement of our female members in the leadership and management of the club.

Rob Warren

President Rotary Club of Howrah 2015-16.