

# ROTARY CLUB OF HOWRAH

## 2000/2001 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2000/2001 annual report on behalf of the Rotary Club of Howrah. Looking back over the year all members of the club can be justly proud of the achievements which have been made, none of which would have been achieved to such a high standard without the aid and assistance of our spouses, partners and children.

The year commenced with 27 members. Throughout the year we have inducted 2 new members, Harold James and Paul Wicks. Not only do we welcome these new members, but we also welcome their wives, Barbara and Andrea, respectively. The aim for this Rotary year was to induct 4 new members, however I am pleased to report that we have not lost any of our members, with a membership now standing at 29. Not only has our membership risen, so has our weekly attendance. Each week our attendance figures has increased, with our club achieving the highest figures for district attendance during the month of November. The latest attendance figures represent a district ranking of 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is a clear indication of member's commitment and enjoyment of Rotary. I thank Hank Bouman for his attendance rendition each week, together with his accounting skills.

Each week Rotarians have been subject to a wide range of guest speakers. Through the efforts of Reg Emmett, speakers have presented a wide variety of topics which has enriched and challenged each and every member.

The publication of the weekly bulletin has been a great source of information and amusement within the club. The newsletter continues to provide publicity for issues impacting on the club, and has allowed the club to identify some controversial issues, especially at district level, which would have usually gone unnoticed. I thank George Gilbert and Richard Wyatt for the weekly bulletin, and I hope that the newsletter continues to provide the club with a voice within the district.

Club projects has seen the establishment of the "Taste of Tasmania" project. Through the untiring efforts, predominantly by Norm Cooper and David Lamb, the "Wine and Oyster Bar" was a great success, not only in terms of profits made, but also for the social and fellowship enjoyed by all Rotarians, partners, family and friends. I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to Norm and David for their efforts. Without the dedication displayed by these two Rotarians the club would not have been in a position to participate in this project. I urge all members to fully support this project in 2001/2002 as the major fund raising effort for the year, because if we leave the organisation, and service delivery of this project to only a few members of the club, we will see the loss of a great club project.

There were valuable lessons learnt from this years project, which will provide a sound basis for the next operation. I thank Richard Wyatt for taking over as the co-ordinator of this project.

The club continued to support other projects, financed not only from the "Taste of Tasmania", but also through the chocolate wheel. The Hobart Regatta proved to be somewhat of a financial disaster, with a recommendation being made by the Club Service Committee not to attend in future years. The open day at Government House proved to be

successful, due mainly to the efforts of Max and Lesley Dunstone, and I gratefully acknowledge their efforts.

The club also undertook the arrangements for the catering at the Hobart Airport Open Day, where over \$5,000 was raised by the club towards the Rotary Rescue Helicopter. Other fundraising projects were undertaken during the year, including the St. Johns School Fair, and the Richmond Village Fair.

Through the fund raising efforts of Rotarians it has been possible to assist many charities and organisation in need. Some of these donations include: the donation of life jackets to the Eastern Shore Scout Group; Ronald McDonald House; International aid to Orissa, India, following floods to the region; Salvation Army youth; Oberek Polish Dancers, Clarendon House; Purchase of desks for schools in New Guinea; Indonesian Orphans, Group Study Exchange, etc.

One of the highlights of the year as club president was to announce the partnership agreement between the Rotary Club of Howrah and the Clifton Beach Life Saving Club, where the Rotary club donated \$5,000 towards the building fund at the surf club, with a further \$3,000 and \$2,000 being donated over the next 2 years. A further \$5,000 was also donated to the Australian Rotary Health Research Foundation. The presentation of this cheque was recognised by the ARHRF with the presentation of a "Gold Companion Award" to the club, recognising the outstanding efforts of all club members.

The Rotary Club of Howrah continues to support youth within the community through the presentation of citizenship awards to all schools with the area. Prizes fro this award has been increased from \$50 to \$100 per school. The club continues to support nominees to Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Model United Nations Assembly, National Youth Science Forum, and the purchase of two scholarship applications for the Rotary Rescue Helicopter Pilot Scholarship Scheme. Through the efforts of Rotarian Dick Shoobridge the club was able to participate within the "Operation Livewire" project, with the support and mentoring being provided to Amanda Aitken. I thank Dick for his time, valuable business advice, and guidance provided to Amanda during the course of this project. Throughout the year the club also assisted students and staff at the Rokeby High School with mock job interviews and I thank all Rotarians that donated their time to assist with this project.

The strength of the Rotary Club of Howrah continues to lie with its members and the strong bonds that have developed, and which are enjoyed during our time of fellowship. Fellowship was particularly enjoyed at a number of functions, including: the Change-Over Dinner; Christmas Dinner; International Night; Winery Tour, B.B.Q at Lindsay and Jean Chivers; and not to mention the fellowship enjoyed at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, which was held at the Police Academy on 18 May 2001. This dinner was attended by a number of past and present members, including Mrs Marion Casimaty, Mrs Jan Chew, and Mrs Cecily Jones, wives of members who have been called to higher service. I thank Terry Morrisby and John Drinkwater for their efforts in organising this evening.

In February 2001, due to the alterations being made to the Foreshore Tavern, it was necessary to re-locate the weekly meetings. Through the efforts of Peter Calvert, a number of venues were examined, with the Police Academy being chosen by members as the preferred venue. I thank Peter for his efforts.

The club continues to grow in professionalism, especially with the purchase of Rotary shirts for all members to wear at fundraising activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their continued efforts at the various fund raising activities held.

As you can see my year as President has proved to be most enjoyable. The successes that have been achieved would not have been possible without the support and advice from the members of my board, including Max Dunstone, George Toepfer, Peter Claver, Ray Carpenter, John Anderson, David Lamb, and Malcolm Salier. I particularly thank David Lamb for his support, advice and direction.

The Rotary Club of Howrah has a number of challenges ahead, including membership, and members volunteering to undertake board or executive positions within the club. I take this opportunity to thank all members, wives, and partners for their assistance during the year, and look forward to their continued support in times to come. I extend my best wishes to President Elect Malcolm and his board in the coming year, and I hope that Malcolm enjoys his year as President as much as I have done this year. I can confidently report that work undertaken by the Rotary Club of Howrah has “**Created Awareness and taken Action**” to make Tasmania, Australia and the world a better place to live”,

Thank You.

**Glen Woolley**  
14 June 2001