

Rotary club of Howrah

President's Annual Report 2004/05

Thankyou for the opportunity to be your president in 2004/05. As you know I was a last minute "shoo-in" president when the president elect took up a one year study opportunity. For me it was a steep learning curve for the first 2 months!! Let's hope Lee Prouse has time to return as a member of our club in the near future, now that his study is completed.

The club adopted 4 overall goals for the year. Here's the report card.

- 1. 10 new members.** The outcome was 4 out of 10. We will have 4 new members by 30 June 2005. What we have also achieved is a change in mindset, where all of us are more actively on the lookout for new members. We have another 3 to 5 in the pipeline who should join in the next few months. We need a club with 30 to 35 members so that we can function effectively, train and mentor new members and not overload those members who are able to and participate in the more active jobs. The brochure we prepared and distributed, the 2 ads we placed, the signs on our Rotary stall were all good moves which have helped lift our image I believe.
- 2. Raise and invest \$15,000 in our community and the Rotary Foundation.** We easily achieved this goal with room to spare, raising \$22,958 during the year, a magnificent effort, for which you should all be congratulated.
- 3. Have Fun.** Great fellowship, atmosphere, humour and support for each other, our families and for worthwhile causes are all hallmarks of a healthy club with a good future. It makes the job of any president a real pleasure at times!
- 4. One overseas sister club.** We achieved this with the Rotary Club of Tiaong in the Philippines in 2004.

Overall a good result I think.

Some highlights of the year were:

- The Christmas party at the Richmond Wine Centre; great weather, good food, carol singing for prizes and a Cheshire look on Fred Hampton's face as he enjoyed and encouraged the backrub from a much younger attractive lady.
- Completion of purchase of the Chapel at Sandford.
- The recent Rotary information night when our members promoted interest in our club to prospective members. It was a great night which everyone enjoyed.
- Designing and selling a District badge; an unconventional approach to help keep subs down. Congratulations to Richard Boast.
- Looking over the James Craig after feeding the Boat Show volunteers.
- Another great day at Government House. What a venue!
- Construction of the sandpit cover at Clarendonvale Primary School, enabling youngsters to enjoy creative play without the dangers of broken glass and sharps

- Strong continuing support for youth in our area through our club programs
- Our wine and oyster stall at the Taste of Tasmania
- Hosting the GSE team from Wisconsin, USA

There were some sadder moments during the year as well, including the loss of Fred Hampton, a foundation member of the club, in March 2005.

Some thoughts for the future:

- Continue the search for new members. I see this as number one priority for our club's future ability to function and deliver to the community.
- Think laterally when looking at ways to raise funds and tap more into tax effective methods. We used this approach with the RAWCS tsunami appeal.
- Build a better network with business, technical and professional people in our area. Find out who they are, contact and seek support from them. While many will be too busy to commit as members, they could be a valuable source of support and donations
- Focus more of our international effort on our sister club, the Rotary Club of Tiaong.

Special thanks to:

- The Directors David Lamb, Malcolm Salier, John Drinkwater and Kelly Direen and their committees, who really make things happen
- Our Treasurer John Anderson, who has worked tirelessly to make sure our club gets the best financial outcome
- Our Secretary Glen Woolley, a mine of information and energy, always on the ball and ready to help
- Our Taste manager Reg Emmett and his committee for managing a complex process and a great result
- Reg as our Bulletin editor, a whiz with words
- Norm Cooper for his patience and perseverance which led to a successful conclusion for our club with the Chapel
- Max Dunstone for the great day at Government House
- Our sergeant Richard Wyatt and his assistants Graeme Farrell and Andrew Stewart for keeping us on track during the year
- Graeme Farrell for organising the Jazz festival, great music
- Beth Rees for all the varied and interesting speakers
- Our partners, for their support and tolerance
- All of our members who make this such a great club.

Good luck to incoming President Harold James and his team in 2005/06.

Regards

RG Shoobridge
 President
 15 June 2005