

# ROTARY CLUB OF HOWRAH

## 2009 – 2010 PRESIDENTS' REPORT

It gives me great pleasure in being able to present the 2009 – 2010 President's report on behalf of the Rotary Club of Howrah. Firstly I would like to acknowledge the great work achieved by Past President Kerry Tilyard in her year as President in 2008 – 2009.

Kerry's year as President provided the opportunity to continue with the TASTE of Tasmania fund raising event; however at the conclusion of the TASTE it was decided the club would no longer be involved because of the impost of organizing such a large scale event. Past President Kerry took leave of absence in April 2009 to travel to the mainland resulting in me taking over as President earlier than expected.

I had the pleasure in inviting former members Ralph Whese, Max Dunstone and John Anderson to be honorary members, and it was my honour they all accepted and have been involved in club activities over the past year.

The past year has been a particularly busy and at times difficult year. For me personally and for the club we sadly lost the services of Past District Governor Syd from the club under difficult circumstances, and I took the opportunity to redevelop the club management structure and implement some new portfolios in the areas of:

**Membership** – under the chair of Richard Shoobridge

**Public Relations** – under the chair of George Toepfer

**Service Projects** - under the chair of Reg Emmett

**Club Administration** – under the chair of Richard Boast

**The Rotary Foundation** – under the chair of Basil Murray

**Treasurer** – Cheryle Eyre

**Secretary** – Kerry Tilyard

The new look of the club structure provides the basis for a 3 year the strategic direction and re-building of the club, particular in the area of new membership. Whilst we said good-bye to Syd McClymont, Michael Lane, Malcolm Salier we said hello to June Woolley and Aaron Stobie.

Due to the loss of the TASTE of Tasmania we realigned our fund raising efforts to our ability to sustain smaller events, such as the Seafarers Festival, Jazz Festival, and Anaconda. We also assisted the Salvation Army with a BBQ at the Bellerive Primary School where, where they raised awareness and funding for homeless people. Whilst our fund raising efforts for this year have been considerably smaller the fellowship enjoyed at each of these functions has been memorable and enjoyable.

The club remains viable and financial with \$4,790.99 in the Club Account after starting the year with \$2,847.46. There is \$36,940.44 in the Service Account after starting the year with \$47,649.81. Whilst there is a deficit of \$9168.83 in the Service Account there has been some significant expenditure associated with donations to the Rotary Foundation, Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, School Prizes, purchase of the Money Spinner, Rotary Health Research Foundation, etc.

Albeit our smaller fund raising efforts we continued to be involved in a number of Club and District activities such as:

- The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program
- Science and Engineering Competition
- Indonesian Orphan Students Sponsorship
- Siemens Science Experience
- Model United Nations Assembly
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment ((RYPEN)
- Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS)
- Australia Rotary Health Research
- Bowelscan
- A matching grant with the Rotary Club of San Pablo where we provided finances to purchase dictionaries for Year 3 students

During the year the club was able to host our Group Study Exchange visitors from the United States. I thank the hosting families and organizers for making their visit worthwhile, friendly and memorable. I know this was the first time that Helen and Basil Murray had hosted and I know the experiences they have from this visit will last with them for a long time.

The dedication of members to the club is evidenced by our success in being named the best club attendance in 2009-2010. At the recent District Change-Over lunch District Governor Ian named our club as having the best attendance record of any other club. This is achievement in itself, and displays the fun and pleasure we all get from our Thursday night attendance. I thank Suzanne for being Suzanne and bringing to the club a new dimension for laughter. In particular I extend my thanks to David Lamb for presenting the club attendance report each week and also for supplying our attendance records to the District each month. Henk Bowman would be very proud.

At this time I would like to congratulate Past President Reg Emmett on recently being awarded a District commendation for his work with the District Web Site. Reg's work with the webpage is phenomenal and the credit he received for his tireless work is just recognition. Congratulations Reg.

Through the efforts of Reg Emmett we became involved in the 'Second Bite' project and continue to assist with this program on a weekly basis. The provision of basic needs to our local community is having a positive impact and is well accepted.

We also purchased our 'Money Spinner'. We are privileged to have it placed in the Woolworths Supermarket complex at the Shoreline Shopping Centre. The 'Money Spinner' has raised \$570.20 since being put into place in February 2010 and I thank George Toepfer for arranging for the 'money spinner' to be installed at Woolworths.

As we look to the year ahead there continues to be many hurdles we need to address in order to continue to be a sustainable and viable club. Issues such as membership continue to be our number 1 priority, together with the development of a strategic plan and identification of other fund raising opportunities.

As I hand over to our new President for the year I would like to thank each and every member of the club and your partners for the support and assistance provided to me and to the club over the past year. It has been very much appreciated. I hope the year has been enjoyable for you as it has been for me.

I would particularly like to thank all the chairs of the new committees for taking on the roles and for taking on the leadership role. I also wish to thank:

- Jacob George for being our local photographer, and more so for arranging our weekly program and providing us with a wealth of speakers.
- Reg Emmett for our weekly bulletin and for keeping us updated and informed.
- Alan Morris for taking on the role as our Public Officer
- John Drinkwater for arranging the weekly raffle
- Everyone involved in our fund raising efforts, but in particular Kerry Tilyard for being the backbone of our efforts in this area.
- Cheryle for her untiring efforts with our finances and treasury reports
- Reg Emmett for his ongoing assistance and mentoring of Cheryle.

In conclusion I would like lastly like to thank June for all her support, advice and assistance throughout the year. The year has been a particularly difficult one with a number of personal challenges to overcome and without your love and support I don't believe I would have been able to finish the year as Club President.

As I hand over the chain of office to President Dick Shoobridge, our new president I wish him every success. Dick, I hope you enjoy your year as president as much as I have. Congratulations and good luck

**G F WOOLLEY, CLUB PRESIDENT Rotary Club of Howrah**