

ROTARY CLUB OF HOWRAH

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

At the outset I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all members for their involvement in the Club over the past twelve months and to their partners who have supported the Club in its endeavours.

At the beginning of this Rotary year it was my aim to have all members play an active part in the activities of the club.

To do this, members were in one of the five club committees and some time was spent formulating plans for the year. We had frequent committee meetings and regular club assemblies, members were kept informed of progress and had the opportunity to voice opinions. I think this has played a part in the club achieving most of its goals.

The atmosphere in the club is excellent and if the number of members who regularly attend weekly meetings and who volunteer for various tasks is any indication, enthusiasm is high.

We also have a number of people who work every week to keep the Club going.

I refer specifically to Rob Warren, who as bulletin editor produces an informative and entertaining record of what has been done and what is coming every week as well as being secretary.

Treasurer Lindsay Chivers collects our money and pays our bills each week as well as keeping an excellent record of our financial affairs.

Jan Jordan collects information on attendance every week and liaises with the Academy to ensure our relationship remains strong.

June Woolley controls our meetings as sergeant at arms and dispenses a sort of justice.

George Toepfer and now Paul Davidson provide drinks for us before the meeting.

Helen Murray organises raffle prizes and sells the tickets and Basil is always around to see that the meeting is set up properly and we have the things we need.

And most evenings Reg Emmett wrestles with the av equipment to meet the needs of guest speakers and Jacob George takes photos for posterity.

But as well as these people, other members give of their time generously and it is unusual that a request for assistance is knocked back. We have developed a strong team who work

well together and achieve desired outcomes and this includes many of our spouses who see themselves as honorary members of our club.

The Club Service Committee, under Glen Woolley's leadership, has ensured that the club runs effectively. Fundraising has been good with barbeques at K and D and Bunnings and some other venues on demand, both for club funds and as a community service. The work of Basil, Helen, Glen, June and George has been supported by many volunteers throughout the year.

The Fashion Parade, managed by Helen and Glen, made over \$4000 which supported three cancer charities.

Government House Open Day was again a great success with \$2000 going to a charity chosen by the Governor.

Two film nights organised by David Mitchell made a contribution to the "End Polio Now" campaign.

The Cider and Fruit Wine Festival, also organised by David Mitchell, contributed to our funds but suffered from competition from other activities.

Dronefest 2018 was a community service activity at Rosny College and was jointly organised by Bob Hardy and Reg Emmett and raised the club's profile in the community. This was a major undertaking and all available club members were involved in the event.

The Rotary Club Bookshop in the Little Howrah Beach shopping centre has become our major fundraiser, earning almost \$14000 this year, thanks to the generosity of the shop's owner George Spiliopolous and the sterling work of manager Beth Cooke, Lindsay Chivers, David Mitchell and other dedicated helpers. One of the unusual features of the book shop has been Pat Lamb's jams which have been selling like hot cakes.

Beth Cooke has done a tremendous job finding interesting guest speakers and fun activities to lighten the tone of meetings.

George Toepfer has organised two training sessions for club members. Both the Food Handling and Responsible Serving of Alcohol courses were well attended and have ensured that the club is doing things properly.

Gayle Smith has organised new clothing for members which has enhanced our appearance when we work in public.

The social program has been welcomed by members and their partners. "After function" parties at the Horseshoe Inn, Christmas lunch at South Arm and breakfast at Seven Mile Beach, a great quiz night and an inter club visit by Claremont and our return visit to them kept spirits up.

Regular partners' nights have been well attended and I believe partners have appreciated the opportunity to socialise and hear interesting speakers.

The International Service Committee, led by Susie Watton, has provided funds for Food Plant Solutions, Rotarians against Malaria, the Nepal School Appeal, Girls Day Out, Romac and Interplast. The board also approved donations of \$1500 to the Rotary Foundation and \$1000 to Australian Rotary Health.

The Vocational and Youth Service Committee, chaired by Reg Emmett, has again supported young people in our area through personal contact with Bayview College, Clarence High, Rosny College and Eastside Lutheran and primary schools in the Rokeby and Clarendon Vale area.

Zane Farnum was a successful nominee to NYSF and impressed club members with a detailed talk about his experiences when he returned. He also provided a display of his solar powered car at the Dronefest at Rosny College. A past NYSF attendee, Louisa Marmion, visited and gave a comprehensive view of her life after the forum.

Club members assisted at RYDA, Creating My Career and the Science Engineering Challenge.

The “Books in School Project” at Rokeby Primary school was successful and Clarendon Vale Primary benefitted from the District Literacy Support Program.

The club helped at Bayview College’s Careers Day.

As usual, the club provided end of the year prizes at eight primary schools, three secondary schools and one college. These were all presented by club members and while the value of each prize may be small, the reward to the club is large, both in satisfaction and appreciation from those receiving.

We supported a group of students from Clarence High School who travelled to Vietnam to provide help to a school there.

The Membership Committee. Director Gayle Smith has worked hard to recruit new members and ensure existing members remain engaged. Her initiatives of mentoring and developing standard operating procedures for new members have taken place. Two new members have been inducted, Shirin Pickett and Peter Allanby, and both have added to the strength of the club. Existing members have maintained their enthusiasm and membership stands at twenty nine, the same as it was in 2014.

As a means of better knowing each other, four members gave “Behind the Badge” talks and a “Friends of Rotary” category has been added to our membership categories and Jo Siejka, MLC is our first one.

The Community Service Committee, with director Jan Jordan leading, have carried through with the “Buddy Benches” program first proposed by Glen Woolley. This ambitious project to help primary school children make friends and be better accepted at school, has had significant support from the Clarence Plains Community Shed and finance from the Clarence

City Council and our club and benches are now installed in five schools in our area. Community Service has also supported the “End Trachoma Now” campaign, Colony 47, Guide Dogs Tasmania, the Clarence City Eisteddfod and the Clarence Plains Community Shed with cash donations. A tree planting program is in the planning stage.

The Wooden Boat Program. After an approach by the Wooden Boat Festival Committee, the club has agreed to organise a program to renovate a Huon Pine clinker dinghy at the Hobart gaol using skilled supervisors and gaol inmates. This ambitious task is being managed by Glen Woolley who has the task of liaising with several organisations to see the task completed in time for the dinghy to be auctioned at the Wooden Boat Festival in February next year. David Harrison from our club has a significant role in this. The program is in honour of the late Dr. Vanessa Goodwin, a past member of our club and a passionate advocate for the reform of prisoners.

Dr Vanessa Goodwin. The club was saddened by the passing of one of our best loved members, Vanessa Goodwin. Vanessa was president of the Kangaroo Bay Rotary Club when that club dissolved. She then came and joined us and her charm and cheerful personality added greatly to our morale. A seat on the Tranmere walkway is dedicated to her memory. Our thanks go to Rotarian Phil Headlam who brought her to many of our meetings during her illness.

Sponsors. Our club is extremely fortunate to have a number of very valuable sponsors. Jerry Dilger of Dilgers Garage in Tranmere has been supplying us with the gas needed for our barbeques for many years and Andrew Batge of Sothern Air provides us with a portable cool room whenever we need one. More recently, Lisa and John Puglesi of Bakers Delight in Lindisfarne have been providing the bread for our barbeques and George Spiliopolous has made a shop in the Little Howrah Beach shopping centre available for us to use for our bookshop. This is a most generous donation from George and has enabled us to make the bookshop our most profitable fundraiser. Our sponsors certainly share with us the Rotary ideal of making the world a better place.

The Danish Professional Development Exchange Team was hosted by our club recently, thanks to the generosity of Glen and June Woolley, Reg and Annette Emmett, Bob and Elaine Hardy and Basil and Helen Murray. It was good for us to share experiences with people from the other side of the world and see that their aspirations and challenges are similar to ours.

Flinders Island trip. Thanks to the initiative of Gloria Park, eighteen club members and spouses are planning a trip to Flinders Island in November. While this is not a club activity, a group of members have joined together for what we hope will be an enjoyable and interesting experience.

General.

While a number of members have been named above, I do not underestimate the work done by all members of our club and many of their spouses. We are strong because of the strength of the team and the willingness of individuals to help when it is needed. We are a diverse group, but by working together we have achieved a great deal.

I have enjoyed the privilege and challenge of being president this year and wish every success to Ray and all members and friends for the year to come.

Thank you all.

Richard Wyatt
President 2017/18