

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018- 2019

Thank you all. This has been an amazing year as Club President. A lot has happened, and it went quickly though sometimes it did present some challenges.

I would like to say a big thank you to my wife and fellow Rotarian Shirin. Without her great organisational skills and support, the year for me would have been significantly more difficult.

Thanks to the Board. Whatever came our way from the first board meeting with budget changes and approval, to the challenges of some of our projects, everyone on this year's board, have met those challenges and delivered at a high standard achieving great outcomes. I am grateful to you all, as is the Club.

The Club has a capable and enthusiastic team of Committee Directors and project managers.

From Membership to International, Vocational and Youth, Club to Community Service, together we have done our best to ensure that the Rotary Club of Howrah has continued to support the local and international communities and promote the Club in the best possible way.

I would like to acknowledge the project managers who headed up our key projects for the year:

- Bob Hardy for the Fruit Wine and Cider Show and Festival
- Helen, Basil and Glen for the Fashion Parade
- Glen for the restoration of the dingy the Vanessa G and for the Clarendon Vale Bus Project

Without the hard work expertise and commitment of these people we would not have achieved the great success we were able to in delivering our projects this year. A big thank you to the committee members and club members for supporting these projects. Long hours and support made the great outcomes we achieved possible.

Our **fundraising** for charitable giving has been good. With around **\$49,726** raised for the year.

The **Rotary Bookshop** continues to be our major fundraiser with the shop raising around \$27000 this year. Special thanks must go to Bookshop Manager Beth for her efforts in coordinating the rosters and workforce to keep this venture sustainable. The club continues to enjoy the generosity of George Spiropoulos, who provides the space to run the bookshop within the Little Howrah Beach shopping complex. The club is also indebted to Pat Lamb who provides home-cooked jam for sale at the bookshop. We thank Pat for her commitment and generosity.

Our **donations** for the year are around **\$41,140**

Full financial details of fundraising and contributions will be provided in the Treasurer's audited report at the December AGM.

Thank you to **Treasurer Gayle**. Following on from Lindsay's successful 6 years as treasurer Gayle took on this role and has transformed our financial system from paper based to electronic and established a number of protocols and systems that meet current financial obligations.

Thank you **Sergeant George**. You have made our meetings fun, provided great support to me and contributed significantly to the positive character of the Club.

Thanks to **Bulletin Editor Rob** who continues to produce a wonderful bulletin each week with not only the facts but incorporating great humour.

The **Community Service Committee** under Robyn's guidance has participated in various activities this year including the following:

- Buddy Benches – The installation of these was finalized with some publicity at Clarendon Vale Primary School.
- Tree Planting at Bayview College – Following a request by RI President 2017/18 a donation towards this event was made of \$700 (35 members x \$2 each) paid in the previous year and members enjoyed helping some students plant the trees.
- Fruit Wine & Cider Festival led by Bob Hardy involved two events – the Show and the Festival both of which involved members of the club working hard to make them successful.
- Fathers' Day Barbeque Breakfast at Rokeby Primary School

**Membership** continues to be a challenge. Peter and his team implemented a number of strategies including door knocks and letterbox drops with no response. Our website engendered a couple of enquiries but follow-up to those enquiries was fruitless. Our membership has not increased and at the end of this Rotary we lost Rotarian Val as a fulltime member but are lucky to retain her as a Friend of Rotary. We also saw Rotarian Jan resign but hopefully we will retain her as a friend of Rotary. On a very positive note, we are looking forward to inducting Narender Kumar as a new member.

On a sad note, former club members Doug Nettleship, Harold James and Norm Cooper passed away.

**Youth and Vocational Service** remains a considerable focus for us with Reg and his team ensuring continuing contact with Clarence High, Eastside Lutheran College, Emmanuel College and Rokeby Primary. Secondary schools were circulated with Rotary promotional materials as appropriate.

Support was provided to students attending a number of District programs including: **RYLA**- we supported Sandy Bay Rotaract member Abdul (Dan) Durrani, **RYPEN**- We supported two students from Clarence High School Charlotte Perrin, Nina Jackson; **NYSF** – We supported Jessica Stephens, Collegiate and Demi Smith Rosny. **Science Experience** –We supported two students from Emmanuel College, Micah Roberts and Zane Farnum to the Australian Solar Car Challenge.

Club members helped with District events,

- Creating my career event at Warrane TAFE
- Science Engineering Challenge
- Rotary Youth Driver Awareness RYDA
- School prizes Rotary members attended 12 schools and presented awards

Six Club members hosted team members and five arranged visits for the visiting Professional Development Exchange incoming New Zealand team.

We Sponsored Graham Freeman as part of the Professional Development Exchange outgoing New Zealand team

The focus on **International service** was ramped up this year with Roger and his team providing strong support for; Rotary Foundation, Polio – Plus and Interplast. Increasing club member awareness of multi-cultural/international issues. Aiming to lift Howrah membership of community members from the recent refugee/newly arrived in the Australian community.

The committee invested significant time and effort into trying to support one overseas RAWCS project with the priority being to help South Pacific neighbours or help in the New Guinea/ SE Asian region. Factors outside of the control of the Committee proved a barrier to achieving this objective.

Investigated and are considering participation in a micro lending organisation named KIVA.

The **Club Service Committee**, under the leadership of Rotarian Helen has ensured the club has run effectively and efficiently and with club members and partners enjoying their Rotary experiences.

The Bunning's BBQ's are coordinated on a monthly basis by Helen and Basil and they have been supported by many volunteers both within the club and other volunteers.

The Fashion Parade, managed by Helen and Glen was once again a huge success, with over 200 people paying to attend this function. A review of the 2018 Fashion Parade allowed the committee to develop a mixture of the old and the new, which appears to be working well.

The organisation of weekly meals by Glen and June, and Club formal events always pose a challenge. Helen organising the raffle and prizes every week so thank you to the committee for the great effort to keep our program ticking along.

The club has also enjoyed a number of social outings throughout the year and on each occasion we have enjoyed a meal at a number of local eateries within our area. Regular partner's nights have been well attended and the Club appreciates the positive impact our partners have on our club activities and we thank them for all they do to make our club be an inspirational club within our community.

This year the club has enjoyed a number of new and interesting speakers, thanks to the tremendous job of Beth Cooke. These speakers have spoken on a range of interesting and varied topics.

**The Club enjoyed events and things that provided great fellowship. Some of these include:**

- A fun filled trip to Flinders Island organised by Gloria. Seventeen intrepid Rotarians ventured to the Island looking for fun and adventure and found both. Too many laughs to put into this report and one unfortunate accident leaving Rotarian Jacob with a broken leg. Thank you so much Gloria.
- A summer quiz night enjoyed by one and all
- Christmas lunch at the South Arm RSL with Glen as Santa Clause
- Christmas breakfast at the Three Little Ducks restaurant
- A fun outdoor event (quiz) and BBQ at the Sandford Chapel
- Meals at the Wooley's and Pickett's residence during the Christmas Break
- Mock Police Cadet Interviews at the Academy
- The many BBQ's done for both fundraising and for community service events

- The Vanessa G project – the restoration, the launching, the official naming, the showing at the wooden boat festival and the auction.
- Graham Farrell providing yummy cakes each Friday to bookshop volunteers

Can I say a big thank you to all club members for doing what you do so well, which is rise to the occasion when called upon to do so to make our community and the world a better place for all.

To Peter and his incoming board I wish you well in the year ahead. I know it will be challenging but also a fun journey and you will have the support of all our members as you move forward.

In closing, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. My personal goals for the year were for all of us to have fun, to foster a positive culture of respect for one another, to promote our Club and to continue the great work of others before me to ensure that we are an outstanding Rotary Club.

I hope that I was able to deliver on those goals.

Thank you

RAY PICKETT  
PRESIDENT ROTARY CLUB OF HOWRAH 2018-2019