

PRESIDENTS REPORT HOWRAH ROTARY CLUB 2019/2020

I would like to thank my board members for a successful year under interesting circumstances for their continued support and participation.

We at the very start of my year inducted a new member into the club Narender Kumar but due to work circumstances we lost him and his family to Victoria

It would be a miss of me not to thank the club for its support during my knee operation for the many phone calls and visits by members and encouragements afterward.

The first half of the year we sailed along nicely but then covid hit and it has proven that under trying conditions club members can adapt and move forward to continue to hold meetings even though we weren't able to do that face to face. The move to pick up on new technology using phone hook-ups and zoom to conduct meetings as well as board meetings thus not letting social distancing break up the club as it could have been so easy for that to occur .

Due to the covid 19 virus all fund raising had to cease and our normal meeting format had to terminate as of May. This is only just starting to begin again due to Covid 19 restrictions. The decision of a change of venue for our weekly meetings(needed due to the police academy being unavailable) with the club moving forward to a new format of zoom meetings alternating with fortnightly meetings at the midway tavern till we can once again enjoy the police academy as a meeting place .

My belief is we may need to look at this format long term to entice new members proving we are a progressive club and during the winter months using it for safety of our older members so they can participate in normal club social interaction.

Rob Warren for his help in keeping the weekly news bulletin going under trying conditions in this half of the year thus not letting the club members relax

I would like to thank Reg for helping put these electronic meetings together helping explain how to work on it as one to one basis with members and convincing some members that this may be the way forward into the future as well

The club has had the following major fund raising activities

Burning barbeques 1,545 nett

Bookshop at Howrah point shopping centre 21,563 nett

Fashion parade 5,524 nett

Government house open day 3,608 nett

The fruit and wine festival 6,343 nett

Total fund raising 43,723 including bank interest & John Drinkwater donation nett

We donated to

Umojo orphanage Kenya

Royal flying doctor service

The migrant resource centre

Fairway rise headphones for dementia

Science forum

Rotary Bushfire relief fund

Sailability + rotary grant

And many other smaller donations to various organisations and school projects

Total donations 44069.95

I wish to thank Jacki my wonderful wife for listening about the on goings in the club whilst driving to work some mornings together and the wise suggestions she put forward to me.

We set up a loan account system using Kiva and I would like to thank John, Roger and Jacob for being the drivers in this project and managing the account

John for his continued information and updates about the Umoja orphanage Kenya

Gayle our club treasurer has again proven to be very efficient in how the books tallied and kept the club up to date with finances at all times

Robyn for stepping up to take on the role of acting secretary until Glen returned and kept me informed on things I needed to know .

Helen, Glen and there group for the successful running and planning of the fashion parade+ Bunnings barques

Bob and his committee for the fruit and wine festival success+ getting a rain free day for it to happen

All the bookshop volunteers for the many hours, days, weeks they have put in willing to keep this club enterprise fundraiser going.

Lastly, I would like to thank my trusty sergeant George for all the friendly advice and putting up with my quirks and having faith in me to amble through the meetings. I certainly appreciated the occasional prod/whisper in the right direction and help keeping meetings on time with plenty of laughter thrown in and not breaking out into a riot.

I would like to wish the incoming president Ray and his board the very best for next year

Peter Lowery Howrah Rotary Club President 19/20