

Rotary Club of Howrah PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020- 2021

Thank you all. This Rotary year certainly has presented us with some interesting challenges and for me has proven to be a rewarding year as Club President. As always a lot has happened, and it went quickly.

We emerged from past president Peter's mainly COVID year during which we embraced the Zooming trend into my year as president which started with a blend of zooming and back to face-to-face meetings.

The return to face to face meetings was a revelation. It seemed like the release from COVID solitary confinement gave us all a new level of enthusiasm to reconnect.

We zoomed one week then met at the Midway Point Tavern the next until our return to the academy in August.

I would like to say a big thank you to Shirin. Without her support, the year for me would have been much more difficult.

Thanks to the Board. The team managed to achieve great things despite the constraints of COVID. Everyone on this year's Board, has met the challenges and helped guide the club to achieve the great outcomes it has. I am grateful to you all, as is the Club.

The Club has a capable and enthusiastic team of Committees.

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.

Fundraising has again been outstanding. With around **\$39,129** raised this year. **Donations** for the year are around **\$16,459**.

The Rotary Bookshop continued to be our major fundraiser despite the COVID intervention raising around \$32,000 this year. Special thanks to all those volunteers that have kept the bookshop operating at such a high standard.

Sadly however after four years the bookshop will close at the end of July and we are making preparations to relocate our stock to the Sandford Chapel by that deadline and wish the owner George all the best for his future ventures.

I thank Pat Lamb who provides home-cooked jam for sale at the bookshop. We thank Pat for her commitment and generosity. Pat, along with Robyn's help did the difficult job of putting together the bookshop roster.

Thanks to Bob who worked hard to organise our successful book sales.

I have been advised that our volunteers have put in around 1800 hours for the book shop over 12 months this amount is excluding the 8 weeks shut due to covid19 otherwise it would have been 2142 hours. This is a fantastic effort by everyone.

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

Thank you **Sergeant June**. 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 our bulletin each week with not only the facts but incorporating great humour. He also documents the key points of our Club meetings and this year was Secretary.

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

- Football at Richmond. Big thanks to the 'gatekeepers', Glen, June, Annette, Gayle, Jill, Shirin and Susie.
- Football at Blundstone arena with the same 'gatekeepers' as the previous season with the addition of Sue and Gaylee.
- Greatest Shave under Bob's management and Paul's fantastic contribution of both his precious beard and the \$2,363 he personally raised. The event raised a total of \$5153
- We were proud to be the first Club to be asked to do the Bunning's BBQ post COVID in November.
- We supported One Community by running a BBQ
- We catered for a YMCA Christmas Dinner organised by Glen.
- Fathers' Day Barbeque Breakfast at Rokeby Primary School
- BBQ for the Howrah Special School organised by Reg
- Supported the newly established COVID-19 vaccination program at the Rosny Bowls Club in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Lindisfarne and Bellerive.

Membership This year has been the most successful in quite a few years for increasing club membership which now includes seeing some younger member joining our ranks.

Four new members were inducted in September in Karin, Wolfgang, Jill and Paul and three more tonight to be inducted to make 7 for the year. We have more prospective members in the wings.

We have had 6 months of radio spot on Hobart FM pushing membership which is a first for the club and it has been successful in achieving its goal which is now ongoing.

The bookshop has been a valuable source of attracting new members thanks to the quick thinking of volunteers and information passing to the Membership Director for follow-up.

Youth and Vocational Service remains an important focus. During the year the committee achieved the following:

- Donated a Fridge for Rokeby Primary School Canteen
- In discussion with Beacon Foundation Officers re their participation at Bayview College
- Three of our members assisted with the Science Engineering Challenge at the City Hall in March
- Supported end of year awards to the usual 12 schools and Colleges, Only Clarence invited us to attend their end of year function.
- Promoted Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) and National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in our schools with no response.
- Two of our members offered to become tutors in the 26TEN adult literacy project.
- Several members provided Mock Job interviews Eastside Lutheran College in December
- We donated 6 sets of Science, Maths reading books to local primary schools in October
- Donated a 100 Year Rotary Commemoration Peace Pole to Rokeby Primary School.
- Donated to a Clarence High School prefects building project.
- Attended a Community Career Conversation workshop at Bayview College

A Mentor Resources, Bayview College report suggested Rotary Club of Howrah may support their project through the avenues below.

- Support for our Student Wellbeing Team projects that students will be developing throughout the rest of the year. This could look like supporting a wellbeing event helping with fundraising.
- Help with careers education (mentoring, skills development, work experience/placement, site visits) these sessions will be run throughout the remainder of the year.
- Breakfast Club – Currently running Wednesday & Thursday mornings 8-9am. Any volunteers welcome to help on these mornings and if there was an opportunity to do a fundraising event for supplies for Breakfast Club?
- Other projects to improve the look and functionality of the school (murals, drinking fountains) Help with labour and/or fundraising for these projects.
- Volunteering opportunities for students to build life & employability skills, connection and giving back to their community.
- Support with the development of our Sustainability Hub – Aquaculture, Agriculture & Horticulture. Fundraising support and manual labour to help fit out the existing shed?
- Building a stronger connection between Rotary and Bayview.

Promotions Committee, this new committee was formed recently and is chaired by Reg. The overarching objective of the committee is to build the Club's image.

Every activity and every personal contact should be an opportunity to spread our message either to lift our profile in the community or to provide opportunities for increased membership. Some of the current activities include:

- Tear drop banners received, one in use at Bookshop, other is stored in shipping container
- Audit of Club Clothing and its brand correctness
- Some Community Facebook promotion provided for Bookshop Sale
- Members photo list upgraded

International service continued this year with Roger and his team providing support for Rotary Foundation, Polio – Plus and Interplast.

Special thanks to Jacob George for his capable administration and reporting on the successful Kiva micro loans programme.

In 2020-2021 the Board modified the Committees' International Service budget plans because of the expectation of a reduction in club income resulting from COVID- 19.

A result is, expenditure in 2021 has been less than in the previous Rotary year (2020/21 less than \$8000 versus 2019/20 \$12000+).

None the less:

- By March 2021 the committee had fully completed the International Service expenditure from the austerity budget plan.

Contributions were made to:

- The Rotary Foundation
- Polio Plus
- RAMS
- ROMAC
- Interplast
- Provision of capital of \$1000 for the financing of our Kiva micro loans program. (Note; all loans are being repaid or are repaid in full.)
- Concluded a pledged support for the Umoja Orphanage in Kenya.

In addition the Board approved:

- A donation of \$1000A to the Rotary New Zealand Oceania Office (NZWCS) Fiji Cyclone Yasa Appeal. Special thanks to Treasurer Gayle Smith for her diligence in successful delivery of this donation, which was difficult because of international exchange and currency regulations, associated with COVID.

- A donation of \$1000A through RAWCS, for rebuilding after the floods in Timor L'este and West Timor.

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.

Sadly our famous Fashion Parade was cancelled because of COVID.

The organisation of firstly, fortnightly meals at the Midway Tavern then onto the weekly meals back at the Academy by Helen, Glen and June.

Christmas in July at the South Arm RSL was a big hit with Santa making an appearance.

With the able assistance of Robyn, Roger, Reg, Glen, Gayle, Helen, Peter Lowery and AG Peter, we delivered what was described as an 'excellent' Group 2 Forum in October.

In December the Committee organised a Christmas breakfast at three little ducks and a very fun Christmas Lunch at the Sandford RSL

In January, Glen and June hosted Pie and Pav evening at their home which was attended by the District Governor.

In March we had a great social quiz night organised by Richard. Fun was had by all over a BBQ and a fabulous outdoor setting at the Club's Sandford Hall.

April saw us at the Claremont Golf Club for a combined meeting with the Rotary Club of Glenorchy.

Also in April and big thanks to George who organised another Responsible Serving of Alcohol course that included our members, Rotary Club of Lindisfarne members and a staff member from the Academy.

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 help make our club as good as it is.

Helen organising the raffle and prizes every week so thank you to the committee for the great effort to keep our program ticking along.

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

Sponsors

I would very much like to thank our sponsors.

- Dilgers Caltex Howrah who have for many years refilled our LP Gas cylinders.
- Bakers Delight who provide whatever bread we require for our BBQ's and other events.
- George Spiriopolous who has provided rent free for four years our Bookshop in the Howrah Point complex.
- Southern Air who support us by providing a trailer cool room when required.

Summary

Can I say a big thank you to all club members and partners for doing what you do so well, which is rise to the occasion when called upon to do so to make our club as good as it is.

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

My personal goals for the coming year will be to build on our success this year and by listening to you to and with your help:

- Establish a plan with achievable goals that will provide us with a purpose and direction.
- Continue to make our meetings and activities a rewarding experience.
- Provide an environment where we have fun and do things that make a difference.
- Continue to foster a positive culture of respect for one another,
- Promote our Club and to continue our great work to ensure that we continue to be an outstanding Rotary Club.

In closing, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve another year as your president.

Thank you

RAY PICKETT
PRESIDENT ROTARY CLUB OF HOWRAH