

**Rotary**  
Club of Howrah



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**ANNUAL REPORT 2023 2024**

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Reg Emmett  
President

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I present the Annual Report for the year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

This year seemed to not have any major highlights but in looking back we didn't stand still either but completed several worthwhile events and played a very significant role in our local and wider community.

Welcome to new members Debra Austin, Leeanne Benson, Brett Morris, Susanne Morris, Steven Wright, Derryn Work, but unfortunately farewelled PP David Lamb. Anne Sheehan and Sapana Bhusal.

Our Club's management was organised along Rotary International's recommended structure with the Board arranged to increase emphasis on Membership, Public Image and Rotary Foundation. This meant that the Project Portfolio area covered a lot of ground. We supported that by having Social/ Administration and Youth areas groups operated with non-board leaders. The appointment of an Events Administration Director for next year will be an improvement and will help to ensure our goals are realistic.

Many of the major tasks fall onto a few members but it is good to see everyone rallying when needed. Recently we were able to run three projects on the one day. Well done.

### Our Office Bearers were

President	Reg Emmett
Vice President	Ankita Pyakurel
Secretary	Robyn Harrison
Treasurer	Gayle Smith
Project Director	Anne Reeves
Membership Director	Peter Lowery
Public Image Director	Ankita Pyakurel
Foundation/International Director	Terry Evans
Seargent at Arms	Peter Allanby

It was an unrealistic aim to have well-functioning committee meetings operating during Club Assemblies. Perhaps we might do better with different meeting times or using Zoom ..

We need to continue to share out the roles for organising smaller jobs. Mentoring and Rotary education for our newest members should also be a priority.

I think we need to step back, **have realistic goals** and remember that what we do should be **fun and not confronting**

### Acknowledgments

Thanks to the Board members for their continuing support and particularly Robyn Harrison for her Secretary role and to Gayle for her great work in controlling finances and BBQ organisation.

There are many individual members who play a part. Rob continues his great work with the Bulletin., Bob in organising speakers and Shirin, Karin, and Jill in handling admin and social activities. Terry and Susie do great work with the bookshop. It was wonderful to have a newer member Anne Reeve in the Projects role. Thanks to Peter Allanby for stepping into the Seargent's role and providing direction.

## Meetings

Bob Hardy has organised a great range of speakers as diverse as Clarence Mayor Brendon Bromley, Marinas Link, Local History Cyber Crime and a trip to Antarctica and it is encouraging to see members support by regularly attending meetings.

Ankita's suggestion to celebrate Harmony Week by wearing orange colour to our meeting was a great idea. This week was designed to show support and celebrate recognising our diversity and bring together Australians and diverse people from all different backgrounds.

## Support for Rotary District Activities

- We are a member of Group 2 (with Lindisfarne, Sorell, Tasman and Spring Bay). Networking with other groups is important so it was good to have a number of our members attending the Group 2 Forum at Triabunna
- The invitation for us to supply a BBQ at the District Expo and Conference at Princes Wharf meant we had a strong presence at that Event



Chefs Ken, Anne and Terry,



Terry, Reg , Bob and Ishwari at our booth

- The President and President Elect attended the President Elect Seminar (PETS) at Claremont.
- Unfortunately, we were not represented at District Assembly.
- Thanks to the Assistant Governor and District Governor for their support.

We are looking forward to the start of Regionalization and the support it is promising.

## Social Activities

Many of our members attended social events outside our meetings nights. I believe it's important for us to support these types of activities.

Key activities were

- Monthly Coffee mornings at Local Grocer, Cambridge Park and Friday drinks at Bellerive Yacht Club were attended by a core of enthusiastic members. It would be great to see more people at these events.
- Christmas lunch at South Arm RSL is always a highlight and well attended.



Christmas Lunch

- Our final meeting night prior to Christmas turns into Christmas Breakfast at Red Square Café. A good start to the day.
- Karin's German Christmas Feast demonstration was a new venture
- BBQ at Gayle Smith's house in January was a great way to start the year. Thanks to Gayle and her helpers.



Meal at Gayle's - a great spread

- Two social dinners at Mornington Inn.
- Quiz night - thanks Quizmaster Geoge for interesting questions, excellent adjudication and fine organisation and lots of fun.

## Bookshop

Our Pre-Loved Bookshop operated from four different venues this year . While the money generated varied it was a wonderful way to keep in touch with our community who obviously appreciated our presence and our environment awareness by accepting loads of books.

Starting in September at Howrah Point until 16 December local foot traffic was minimal but we were appreciated by a large core of locals. We did well by simultaneously running a week at Glebe Hill Village from 11- 17 November. I'm sure this site will be continuing to be available.

From early May to July we are operating from Shoreline Plaza. The foot traffic is great and again it is apparent we're wanted by the Centre and the Community.

Thanks to particularly Terry, Bob and Susie for their organisation, Anki and Angela for publicity and to all who've helped with staffing. A special thanks to the Shoreline Management Anne and Georgina for the opportunity.



Our Shoreline Plaza Site



Glebe Hill Pop-Up shop

## International Projects

Thanks to Terry and his committee for their continuing effort in this portfolio. Two Rotary District Grants were awarded to support these overseas medical initiatives by our Pakistani and Nepalese members. That meant our \$2000 donation to each project was doubled to \$4000

### **Pakistan Project**

The purpose was to provide a free healthcare facility to those around the country who can't afford to go to Doctors for their health issues. Their December 2023 clinic helped 1100 people providing free medicine and a variety of free tests including hepatitis and thalassemia screening tests.in the Feroze Wattwan, District Sheikhpura, Punjab, Pakistan



Patients awaiting their turn

Their target was to provide one week's free medication. Physiotherapists, Gynaecologists, General Physicians, Nutritionists, Skin Specialist, Child Specialists, Dentists, EMT specialists and Gastroenterologists were present. Numan and Raza were actively involved in running the clinic for the Jad-o-Jehad Foundation. Around four of these clinics are run each year and we are proud to be able to offer some support.



This project has been registered by Rotary World Community Service (RAWCS) which will make funding easier. Project number 69 – 2023-24.

## Nepal Project

Summarised in the words of the local Ilam Rotary Club - -

*Organized by Rotary Club of Howrah members Ishwari Poudel and Ankita Pyakure with the support of the Rotary Club of Ilam, technical support of Mechi Eye Hospital Jhapa and Ilam Municipality Ward. 417 patients with eye problems have taken care. Medicines and glasses were distributed to general patients and 31 serious (cataract) patients will have free surgery performed at Mechi Eye Hospital Jhapa.*

We would like to express our gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who helped to complete this clinic, congratulations to Ankita and Ishwari.



## Participation in Micro Grants Organisation, KIVA



Yuti is a 62 year old member of the Akha tribe living in Wawee Village in the hills of Northern Thailand. She is asking for a loan of \$US 6900 to purchase 850 organic hens

Kiva loans are crowdfunding loans addressing barriers to financial access for students tuition, woman starting businesses, or farmers to invest in equipment

## Other overseas donations

Shelterbox

ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children)

RAMS (Rotarians Against Malaria)

Polio Plus



## Community Projects

Physical support has been provided to a number of local organisations including

- Collecting items for ***Share the Dignity*** Domestic Violence Week..
- Catering for a ***Homely Retreats*** function
- Running Chocolate Wheels for ***Corpus Christi School*** and ***Montague Bay Primary School***
- Breakfast BBQ for ***Rokeby Primary School***.
- Children's books were supplied for distribution for Mission ***Australia Housing*** and ***Clarendon Vale Family Centre***.



Homely Retreat Catering

Our members are continuing to participate in ***One Community Together***, ***26TEN Literacy Support***, and ***Clarendon Vale Landcare*** activities.

Thanks to Numan who arranged our involvement in a BBQ for the end of ex Premier Peter Gutwein's Multicultural Walk in June..



Our BBQ team at Glenorchy for Peter Gutwein's Walk Finish

We're in the final throws of providing a defibrillator for the Meehan Range Bike Trail. Thanks to Terry for the idea and carrying through the project.

Other Community donations were to

Cancer Council,  
One Community Together,  
Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre,  
Bonorong Park,

Salvation Army,  
Colony 47,  
Hobart Woman's Shelter  
City Mission,

## Youth and Vocational Service

Funding was provided for local school students to attend the following activities –

- Isobel Webb to NYSF (National Youth Science Forum) in Brisbane, Isobel also was chosen to attend a prestigious Science Fair in London for which we offered support.
- Clarence High students Kobe Trezize, Deanne Scott and Ella Stops to RYPEN (Rotary Youth Enrichment Programme) at Dysart
- Tiger Somerville to Windward Bound Challenge.

We joined with Lindisfarne in supporting Georgia Claxton for a Professional Development Exchange to New York. We nominated Simon Andrews who unfortunately didn't get chosen.

We're looking forward to Jamie Harris leaving for Japan as an outward exchange student.

Members helped with the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) at Claremont College. Thanks also to all those who attended 10 local schools to present our end of year awards.

We're presently negotiating with Howrah Primary School to install a Peace pole



Peter Allanby presents awards at Howrah Primary School

Bob Hardy, as a Rotarian, worked during the year with a section of the Tranmere-Clarence Plains Land and Coast Care group on the establishment of a tucker garden and the maintenance and growing of an established local community garden (Grow Garden) which is adjacent to the Clarence Plains Primary School.

Each fortnight during term time, he additionally worked with groups from the Primary School, in their exploration of the insect life of the Grow Garden. These sessions were much appreciated by the students involved.

It's always good to hear feedback from students we support in the past, particularly when Ex NYSF students Zane Farnham and Jessica Stephens asked to renew the contact.

Zane now holds a Medical Research Degree with Honours and is currently at the Wicking Dementia Research Centre working on his PhD.

Jess has also been very busy studying Medicine at UTAS for the past four years. Last year was spent completing an Honours Research Project in neuroscience. In 2024 she will be working at the Burnie Hospital.

Both Zane and Jess thanked our Club for sparking their interest in science.

Another of our NYSF students (Hannah Marmion ) was the keynote speaker at Rosny College Achievement night in March.

## Other Fundraising

Bunnings BBQ's were to be few and far between but because of our ability to step in to cover last minute cancellations we provided not 2 but around 9 events. Thanks to Lisa at Bunnings and particularly Gayle and George for their organisation and to our BBQ teams.

A number of people enjoyed handling the Football gate at Blundstone Arena – thanks particularly (but also others) to Sue S, Gaylee, Annette, Jill and Susie.



Gaylee and Sue at Blundstone Arena

## Finance

The Club runs two accounts

**Club Account** for the Club's Day to day administration. The major source of income is member's subscriptions. **Service Account** contains money generated through our fund raising from the public. While this is the source of donations, expenses incurred in raising that money is paid from this account.

**Balances at 20 June 2024**

## Membership

This year has been a good one for the Membership Committee with six new members being inducted to the club and three lost.. We have four Honorary members.

Advertising on face book and increased club profile in the community through our bookshop at a variety of locations and with that face-to-face contact has helped our cause and profile greatly.

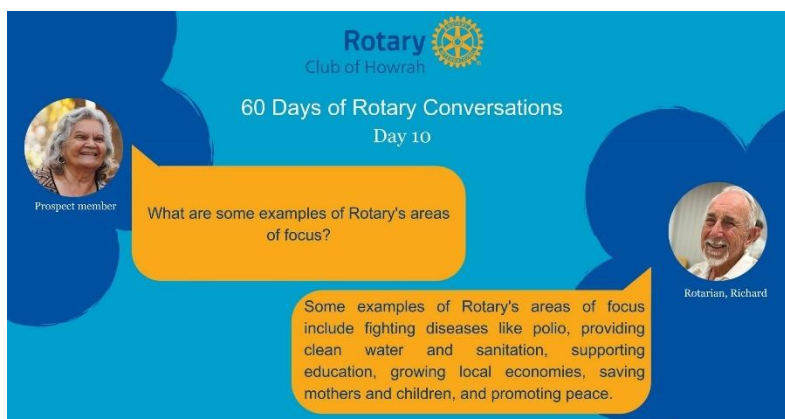
We will need to work hard attracting new members over the next few years to recruit those in a younger age bracket to replace experienced older members.

Thanks to Membership Director Peter Lowery and his committee. Peter is keen to work with someone else to take a lead in this area.

## Public Image

The Rotary Club of Howrah's Public Image Committee has had an impactful year, focusing on enhancing the club's visibility and engagement with the community.

**Social Media Campaigns** Our social media presence on Facebook increased, achieving a reach of 20,800 from July 1, 2023, to June 19, 2024 recording 5000 Facebook page visits, and increased our Facebook followers to 893.



One of our Facebook posts

As well as posting updates on club events, projects, and member achievements, a targeted social media campaign was run to promote Rotary's causes.

**Event Promotion** Bob Hardy secured media coverage from the Eastern Shore Sun interview to highlight the club's bookshops plus enhancing community awareness and engagement. We also created promotional materials for major events, including posters, banners, videos and flyers.

A booth was set up for the club Rotary Expo 2023 -24 showcasing the club's projects and establishing connections with other Rotary clubs enabling conversations with visitors and building connections with other Rotary clubs. Thanks, Ankita, for your organisation.

The 2023-2024 Rotary year was marked by significant progress and increased visibility for the Rotary Club of Howrah. The Public Image Committee's efforts have played a crucial role in this success. We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year. We aim to conduct regular training sessions for members on effective communication and social media strategies to ensure consistent and professional outreach. There is also a need to develop more community-focused content and initiatives to engage with the local population more effectively.

## Thanks

Thanks to all members for your continuing support and thanks also to the Bellerive Yacht Club.