

Rotary Club of Howrah



Bulletin

Chartered 5th June, 1976

President: Gayle Smith
Secretary: Robyn Harrison
Bulletin Editor: Rob Warren

People Of Action In And For Our Community.

19th February 2026

“Social Thursday - Club Fellowship and Club Issues”

PEACE AND SOCIAL COHESION - Challenges In Tasmania

More than 100 people attended the *Peace and Social Cohesion – Challenges in Tasmania* forum at the Glenorchy Football Clubrooms on Wednesday, 11th February. Members of the Rotary Club of Howrah were joined by Rotarians from across Hobart, along with District Governor Craig Perkins, who travelled from Launceston. Politicians from the major parties and independents joined representatives from Clarence City Council and Kingborough Council, together with community leaders and local organisations.



Forum Leaders Numan, Pres. Gayle and MC

The panel, moderated by our own George Toepfer, featured Pia Saturno, Grant Twining, Heather Cheong, Aimen Jafri, John Thorne, and Terry Sussmilch. Panelists responded to structured questions, engaged in lively discussion, and shared final reflections.

An open-microphone Q&A session allowed audience members to actively participate, contributing to a thoughtful and constructive evening focused on building mutual understanding, respect, and lasting peace in our community.



Our Panel

MORE FROM THE PEACE AND SOCIAL COHESION FORUM

A fun online Forum Quiz kept the audience engaged, with attendees using their phones to answer light-hearted questions and compete for prizes.

To close the formal program, Rotary Club of Howrah Event Lead and Treasurer Numan Rasul shared his personal story of arriving in Australia from Pakistan, speaking candidly about experiences of racism, hardship, and resilience - challenges that echo the journeys of many new immigrants.



Our friendly Registration Ladies Karin and Anne

The evening finished on a

high note as Club President Gayle Smith cut the impressive Forum cake, before everyone moved next door to enjoy pizza and refreshments.



David Sanzone made beautiful music to welcome our guests.



Lead Numan, Pres. Gayle, our wonderful Panel and the Gigantic Forum Cake



Howrah Rotarian Shohrab was a Lucky Door Winner.



Congratulations to Numan for his initiative and leadership in delivering such a successful event, and thank you to our dedicated Howrah Rotarians, supporters, and generous sponsors.

HERE AND THERE

- This Thursday's meeting will be social gathering with opportunities to discuss Club directions and issues. But not a Club Assembly.
- Pres. Gayle advised that Lou Otto will join the Board as the Youth Services Director. Many thanks Lou.

It was great listen to Howrah Rotarian Numan speaking live on ABC radio last week about the peace forum. After the radio interview Numan was contacted by DonnaWoodleigh Assistant Director – Community Engagement at the Department of Home Affairs. She heard the interview and received positive feedback about our Forum. Donna expressed a genuine interest in learning more about how the event went and acknowledged the important role the Rotary Club of Howrah is playing in bringing communities together. She also shared her strong commitment to working alongside migrants and diverse communities to address challenges and strengthen inclusion across Tasmania. Terrific exposure for our Club, well done Numan.



- **Just in case you missed it, here is an email received from Govt. House.**

On behalf of the Official Secretary, David Hughes, and all here at the Office of the Governor, we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended Government House Family Day on Sunday 8 February 2026.

Despite the variable weather, Her Excellency the Governor was delighted to have been able to welcome so many members of the public to enjoy the gardens at Government House – a day which was made truly special because of your most generous contributions and support, together with your staff, members and volunteers.

Her Excellency has asked that we convey her sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who were involved.

Kind regards,

*Leanne McDougall | Senior Executive Officer
Office of the Governor.*

- **LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNER:** We had two winners from the peace forum last Thursday. Shohrab and Annette Emmett happily accepted a lovely hamper as their prize.

DIARY OF EVENTS ...

FEBRUARY

Thurs. 19th TBA

Thurs. 26th Gina Semmler Youth Services.

MARCH

Thurs. 5th Club Assembly and Guest Mark Anderson RISPO

Thurs. 12th Anne Cameron Cambodia Project.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETING From Pres. Gayle

"Due to the high activity of the club during the last week we have not organised a social event for Thursday night, instead we will have Numan report on the Social Cohesion Forum and then we will have an open discussion for feedback and any suggestions and questions the club members wish to ask in relation to this event. Every event no matter how successful can always be improved, I'm looking forward to the feedback, suggestions and discussion by the club to achieve a positive future."

	DUTY	ROSTER	
Date	Greeter/ Chair	Registration	Duty Officers
Thurs 19th Feb	Gayle	Karin & Lou	Terry & Ken
Thurs 26th	Bob	Anne & Rose	Peter A & Mike
Thurs. 5th	Gayle	Sue & Sally	Reg & Numan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather and acknowledge Elders – past and present of Lutruwita".



