

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.

5th MARCH 2026

CLUB ASSEMBLY and GUEST MARK ANDERSON

ALL THE WAY TO TURKIYE

Remember Orhan Pacaçi from District 2430 in Türkiye, he was our guest when he visited us in early February. Now back home Ohran presented our Howrah Rotary Club banner to his Club in Ankara. It was gratefully accepted by his Club President Sibel Tonguç. Ohran just managed another Club visit after us, in Auckland, New Zealand before travelling home. This taking his tally of 102 Clubs visited so far in his worldwide Rotary adventures. We were one of the special ones.



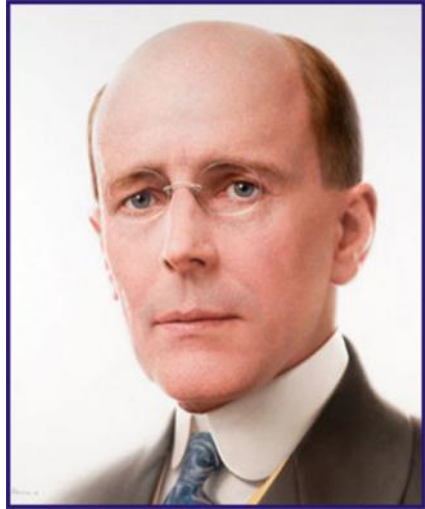
WHO WAS PAUL HARRIS - FOUNDER OF ROTARY? (especially for our newer members)

Paul Harris was born in Racine, Wisconsin and at age 3, when his family fell on hard times, they moved to Vermont to live with Harris' paternal grandparents. In his early working life he worked odd jobs for a newspaper as a salesman and a reporter, on fruit farms, as an actor and cowboy, and on cattle ships that travelled to Europe. He attended Princeton University, the University of Vermont, and the University of Iowa where he completed a law degree. Harris settled in the Beverly neighbourhood of Chicago, where he lived until his death in 1947.

He began his law practice in 1896 in Chicago.

While in Chicago, he felt a lack of genuine friendships and camaraderie among local businessmen, reminiscent of the closeknit community he had known in Vermont. This inspired him to create a space for professionals to connect and support one another. In 1905, Harris organised the first Rotary Club "in fellowship and friendship" with three clients, Silvester Schele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey. His initial goal was to create a club of professional and businessmen for friendship and fellowship. Early on, Harris realised that Rotary needed a greater purpose. While Harris served as President of the Chicago Rotary Club in 1907, the club initiated its first public service project, the construction of public toilets in Chicago. This step transformed Rotary into the world's first Service Club. Harris had great ambitions for the growth of Rotary and very early in the organisation's history new clubs were started, first on the west coast, and then all over the US and in Europe and then across the world on all six Continents and there is the occasional gathering on Antarctica, be it zoom or a face to face together.

While Rotary Clubs provide a venue for both business and social networking, the primary focus is on local and international service projects. As of 2025, there are about 1.5 million members worldwide in 45 000 clubs.



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

With quite a few apologies last week, a reduced number of members were present. Our guest speaker, Gina Semmler unfortunately didn't arrive, so it became an open meeting. Questions were asked as to "where to now?" post the Peace Summit. Could we organise a less formal setting to mingle and have a greater understanding of one another? Food for thought down the track! Some very positive and constructive points were raised. We need to explore just what we mean by the word "Peace" - it is so, far reaching.

HERE AND THERE

- Bunnings BBQ team For Sunday 8th March sought and almost accomplished to BBQ Boss Gayle's satisfaction . Check if you can help.
- Our Bookshop is still ongoing but there are current location closure whispers in the air.
- We have received a Red Cross appeal email sent to the Club. President Gayle is sending information to Club members for their input. Please have a look and send your thoughts back to our Pres. Gayle.
- Rotarian Lou Otto has accepted the position of Youth Director and will attend his first Board meeting in March. Well done Lou!!!
- The District Assembly to be held on 19th April at Deloraine is a worthwhile Rotary event. This year our Club is trying for a bigger Club commitment from members. Watch this space.

- **Apologies:** Rob W, David T, Sandra & Riley, Shirin & Ray, Terry, Lou, Karin & Peter A.
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- **RAFFLE WINNERS:** Rose did not hesitate in taking the "Red", nor did Judy in asking for the "White"!

NEXT WEEK'S GUEST SPEAKER - MARK ANDERSON Mark is the Senior Coordinator, Fund Development for The Rotary Foundation at the South Pacific and Philippines Office in Norwest. He has been a Rotarian for over 35 years, being a member in Clubs in Victoria, New South Wales and South Africa. Since joining Rotary in 1987, Mark has served as President of two clubs, led a GSE Team to Germany, and held numerous District leadership roles.



Professionally, he built a broad career in Sales and Marketing with Johnson & Johnson, Mars Petcare, and Bayer, including a seven-year assignment in South Africa as Launch Manager for Mars Petcare, where he had the privilege of meeting Nelson Mandela.

Mark lives in West Pennant Hills with his wife, Lynne. They have three children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Beecroft. Outside work, he enjoys travel, gardening, spending time with his grandchildren, and is a malt whisky collector.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE ...

The best way to “understand Rotary” is by going to a State Conference. Immerse yourself in Rotary!

Awesome speakers: Keynotes & Entertainment including:

Rob Pennicott, Dr Kirk Williams (*Interplast*),

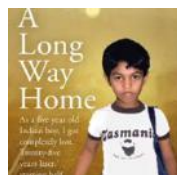
Emily Williamson (*REACH Siem Reap Cambodia project*),

Saroo Brierley (*of A Long Way Home to India fame*), Simon Tyrell (*AI*) &

Katy Cooper (*futurist*).

It's not too late to put the date in your calendar to register

to attend the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart for these interesting speakers.



ROTARY 9815 & 9830 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
13th-15th March 2026
Hobart Tasmania



DIARY OF EVENTS ...

MARCH

Thurs. 5th Club Assembly and Guest Mark Anderson RISPO

Thurs. 12th Anne Cameron Cambodia Project.

Thurs.19th TBA

	DUTY	ROSTER	
Date	Greeter/ Chair	Registration	Duty Officers
Thurs. 5th	Gayle	Sue & Sally	Reg & Numan
Thurs. 12th	Peter A.	Karin & Lou	Terry & Ken

A LITTLE HUMOUR



My Kid: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.
Me: Like what?
My Kid: Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.
Me: Well that's what happened to your older brother.
My Kid: What older brother?
Me: Exactly.



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".

