

## GUEST REPORTER - SUZANNE WATTON

I was born in Port Fairy in 1943 to Mary and Raymond Hutchinson. My ancestors were Mary and John Hutchinson, Superintendent and Matron of the Female Factory in South Hobart. My mother was born in Hokitika, NZ. She was sent to Tasmania at the age of four after her mother died. I am proud to be half a Kiwi! Raymond was born in Hobart, where he was educated at Albuera Street School and Hobart High School. After studying at the University of Tasmania he eventually earned a Doctor of Science degree. He was employed as a Defence food scientist and later as an agricultural chemist. During this time he won a Fullbright scholarship to Yale University.

My schooling was in Victoria, where I attended Firkbank in Junior School and then Toorak College at Mt Eliza. At the completion there I attended The Emily McPherson College in the Melbourne CBD. I have since discovered that Annette Emmett also attended this school, but not at the same time when I was there. It was a very good school. While there I did a pre-nursing course. I then enrolled at the St Gabriel's Babies' Home to do mothercraft nursing. During this course we lived in and were allocated a child to care for while we studied. My little girl was called Jolene. This was followed by a period of looking after babies in private homes. I spent a year working at the Clarendon Children's Home at Kingston, Tasmania, working in the House of Mercy with young babies. In 1964 I moved to Canberra, where my parents were living and decided to work at the Canberra Public Library Service.



**Suzanne has travelled overseas several times as Rotarian. A Friendship Exchange to Sweden on the right and to an Eye Clinic in Nepal were two highlights.**

It was about this time my father suggested that I should apply to join Australian Volunteers Abroad so that I could spend some time overseas using my mothercraft skills. I was thrilled to be selected to go to Papua/New Guinea to help with delivering babies in the Highlands. However, it was around this time that Tony proposed and asked me to marry him. I decided to forego my overseas voluntary work. We were married in Canberra on 18 June 1966 and travelled to England when his posting came to an end in 1967.

For a few weeks we stayed with Tony's parents in Eastleigh (near Southampton) prior to travelling overnight to Darlington on his newly-acquired BSA motorbike with sidecar. Almost immediately on reporting for duty at RAF Catterick he was told he was to be sent to Aden to help with the British withdrawal in November 1967. By this time I had bought a yellow moped and travelled 22 miles each day over tank roads from Leyburn to Darlington where I was employed at the Darlington Public Library Service. We had some great times travelling around the Yorkshire Dales when Tony returned to England. Soon after that we were offered a married quarters house in Darlington.

I worked at the Darlington Library for two years until Matthew was born on 4th March 1969. This virtually stopped all our travelling until Tony left the RAF after nine years and decided he wanted to come back to Australia to live. We applied for Assisted Passage to Australia and, when our application was approved, flew back to Australia in October 1970 – to Tasmania, where my parents were living. I applied for, and was successful in getting, a job at Calvary Hospital and worked there for one year as a mothercraft nurse. However, my love of books meant that I needed to again work in a library. At the Bellerive Library I became Acting Children's Librarian then, when the Bellerive Library closed, moved to Rosny. I was employed at the library for 25 years and retired in 1999.



**Susie doesn't tell anyone but she was a famous gymnast, as evidenced in this impromptu display much to the surprise and delight of everyone.**

## **SUZANNE'S STORY cont.**

My plan on retiring was to do volunteer work. I have worked at the Royal Hobart Hospital for the past 24 years, doing various different duties. My other voluntary work has been in the Red Cross Bookshop, Red Cross Emergency Services, Arthritis Tasmania, Good Beginnings, RSPCA, Hobart Private Hospital and Seven Mile Beach Cancer Group. In 2008 Tony suggested that I join a Rotary club as I felt I needed to meet more new people and to contribute to my local community. Since then have been very happy in the Rotary Club of Howrah. During my time with Rotary I have many special memories, including two trips to Nepal and Bhutan to help with cataract surgery and two trips to Fiji helping in the kindergarten at Lautoka. There have also been exchange trips to New Zealand, Norfolk Island and Sweden and some five organised Rotary holidays to various overseas destinations. Some high points were volunteering for the 2014 Rotary International Conference in Sydney, and the pleasure I get from Rotary work.

My other special interests include collecting books, activities involving dogs, teaching myself to play the organ and doing jigsaws.



**She's also a CRAZY  
Sydney Swans fan!  
In the nicest way!**



**Such has been Suzanne's outstanding service  
over many year and not just to Rotary, she  
was awarded the Red Cross Medal in 2017.**