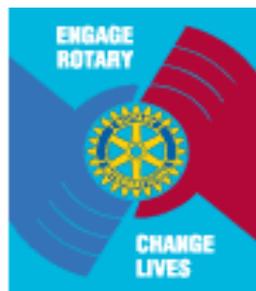




The Rotary Club of Morisset Annual Report 2013 - 2014



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President: Kerry Morrissey

Vice President: Murray Scoble

President Elect: Charles Phillips

Secretary: Barbara Walsh

President Nominee: Georgina Anderson

Treasurer: Ross Dickson

Immediate Past President: John Olive

Directors:

Club Administration: Marie Nelson

Membership: Allen Hattaway

New Generations: Georgina Anderson

The Rotary Foundation: Charles Phillips

Project Management: Trevor Earney & Phillip Kesterton

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was always going to be an exciting year to be president with an International Convention in our own back yard, but the year proved to be about much more than the Convention. I put together a Year in Review for our final meeting, and I was genuinely astonished at just how much the club has achieved, and how much activity there has been. I believe that we have embraced and fulfilled RI President Ron Burton's theme of Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

We have certainly touched the lives of people here in Morisset, particularly young people; throughout other parts of our District supporting projects like the hay drop for the farmers out west; and in places like Timor Leste, Namibia and the Philippines where we've supported projects.

I think one of the highlights of the year was hosting the Group Study Exchange Team, a group of young professional people from Virginia. And one of the main reasons I saw this as a highlight, apart from the fact that it was a lot of fun, was that almost everyone in the club was involved in that activity one way or another. So that has been the highlight of this year for me; the high level of participation of club members and their partners and families in the various activities. I want to thank all of the members for making this such a successful and fun year.

Another aspect of the year which I have found particularly positive was our high level of engagement with our community partners and Friends of Rotary. We had so much support from others this year, particularly around the Christmas Raffle and our school dinners. We value these partnerships and thank them for their participation.

I want to thank members of the board for their commitment and support. This was the first year that the club ran under the new Directorship titles, and project teams, and while there are still some bugs to iron out, I think it worked well and has established a pattern for future operations.

In the past year we've inducted 5 new members, participated in 5 major dinners, awarded 3 Paul Harris Fellows plus a Sapphire Pin. We've had social activities, promotions and fundraisers. We've had a range of guest speakers from the community, and from within our own club. We've maintained our push to modernise the club, and make ourselves relevant to younger people.

We've had a higher profile in the media, and that's thanks to the efforts of Phillip Kesterton in his work with both the Lakes Mail and local publications, the Cooranbong Gazette and Peninsula Bulletin. We've been dragged kicking and screaming into the world of social media under the "newby" influence of Georgina Anderson. Understanding and participating in social media is imperative if we are to engage younger people in Rotary.

We continue to work at modernising our club and making it more relevant to new and younger members. In doing this however it is important that we don't throw the baby out

with the bathwater, and some traditions are important. We continue to value the presence of our Charter Member, Lyal Lee, who assists us in maintaining some of the traditions, and provides invaluable “corporate memory”.

As we enter the new year of 2014-15 I hope that the momentum we have built up over the past year continues and that Morisset Rotary continues to build on our achievements. A big thank you to all members and families for contributing to our success, and best wishes to Charlie and his board for the coming year.

Kerry Morrissey
PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLUB ADMINISTRATION: (Marie Nelson, Director)

Programs: Our Board meets monthly and “Project Meetings” (read Club Assemblies) also occur on a monthly basis. Guest speakers, members’ “Career” talks & information sessions on a range of worldwide Rotary topics complete our regular meeting activities. We continue to explore various meeting models to better meet contemporary expectations in an Australian environment.

Social Media: This has become the key to promoting our club both internally & externally. Photos, weekly news & links to activities are all receiving increased interest. Our Website address & Facebook page are now included in all published material & advertising boards.

District Conference: A number of club members were able to enjoy the conference program. As hosts of the visiting Group Study Exchange Team from USA at the time, the few days were quite busy but added to our enjoyment and our understanding of how Rotary clubs function in “the American way”.

Rotary International Convention: Attendees described this as an enormous learning experience, being exposed to 18,000 Rotarians from all around the world. The House of Friendship displays as well as keynote speakers and breakout groups have all brought new ideas for the further development of our club as we seek to become more relevant to the social environment in the twenty first century.

Promotion: Club brochures have been produced and funds have been allocated for monthly articles in local community bulletins. Replacement of our pull-up signs is in the planning stage.

Website: The club took an important step forward when we set up our first webpage some 4 years ago. Now it's time to do some fine tuning. With growing support available from the Rotary International website and ideas gained from sessions at the International Convention we are ready to go through the process of updating to achieve a more attention catching approach. Our newly formed Technology Committee will go into creative mode as we move into a new Rotary year.

District Assembly/President Elect Training: Members of the incoming Board were well represented at these annual "inservice" sessions in preparation for taking on leadership responsibilities in 2014-15.

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MEMBERSHIP: (Allen Hattaway, Director)

Recruitment: Interested people are welcome to attend meetings to explore the possibility of becoming members. In late 2013 we welcomed one new member. The success of our Information Night in January was largely due to the club's Facebook page. As a result we have inducted a further four new members in 2014.

Mentoring: A new Mentoring Program is being developed, together with a Club Information Package in order to better introduce new members to club practices and the wider world of Rotary.

Social: Involvement of families is encouraged not only at Rotary social events but also at our meetings. High School dinners, the Easter family BBQ, Sunset bowls, our Christmas party and outings with GSE guests from USA were just some of the social highlights.

"The Young Ones": Although not fully developed, the club is exploring ways to involve a group of young adult students who have shown some interest in Rotary activities. It is hoped that they may form a core group to attract other young people who may eventually become full members of the club.

Rotary International Convention: Our members who attended the recent Sydney convention were impressed with the guidelines available on the use of our own website & the amazing amount of material on the RI website. In addition insights were gained into making our club more attractive and relevant to 21st century prospective members in all age groups.

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NEW GENERATIONS: (Georgina Anderson, Director)

Morisset Children’s Centre: Completion of Sustainable Environment Project with grant funding from Lake Macquarie City Council– rainwater tank, fenced vegetable garden, shadecloth & kindy sized garden tools.

Primary Schools Liaison: Annual “Service Above Self” Book Voucher Awards to twelve local primary schools. Hunter Life Education Program was funded at Morisset Primary School. “Boards for Learning” were funded at Wangi Wangi Primary School.

Morisset High School Liaison: The club rallies about 100 people to support the biannual dinners catered for by Senior Hospitality Classes as part of their annual assessment. The school thanked us by providing a luncheon for GSE visitors & members.

Four Senior Scholarships are provided through Yrs 11 and 12 for students from financially disadvantaged families & Annual Service Above Self Awards for Yrs 7, 8 and 9. Five teachers are selected by the Principal for Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards: Our candidate to RYLA reported a marked increase in her confidence & a readiness to accept more responsibilities in the workplace. Her employer was delighted with the outcome.

Police Citizens Youth Club: Doing “Time 4 Kids” created interest in the local shopping mall with a Rotarian “behind bars” in prison garb. Donations of “bail” money assist PCYC with their projects.

Science & Engineering Challenge: Each year we assist with the supervision at these inter-school competitions. With the loss of their major sponsor this year the club is also donating towards the cost of running this program.

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ROTARY FOUNDATION/INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS: Charlie Phillips (Director)

Donations to Rotary International Funds: Annual donations are made to Polio Plus and The Rotary Foundation. In addition several club members also donate privately via the Centurion program or through the Bequest Society.

Group Study Exchange: The study group from USA was hosted by the club this year with a “full on” experience co-incidentally timed with the District Conference.

Member Training: Two members have successfully completed the Rotary International Leadership Institute course. The club also qualified to apply for district & global grants with three members having completed the required training.

Support for International Projects

Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC): Seriously ill and deformed children are brought to Australia for treatment and surgery which cannot be provided in their country. Specialists make assessment visits to the country to assess suitability patients.

Interplast: Less complicated corrective surgical intervention is provided in countries of origin overseas.

Rotary Australian World Community Service- RAWCS: Financial support for Farol School building project in Dili, Timor Leste.

Timor Leste: *Fundu Isin-Di'ak* (“Good Health Fund”): The aim is to eradicate lymphatic filariasis and intestinal hook worm infections in Timor Leste. Managed by the Rotary Club of Sydney, the Chairman of the project is Prof. Peter McMinn, infectious disease specialist from Sydney University. Our club assists the Rotary Club of Sydney with funding support for this programme.

Philippines - Gentle Hands Orphanage: Donations in kind, skin care, wound dressings, care bears etc. are sent direct to the orphanage. Funds for inoculations for all the children were also donated.

Namibia - Oonte Village: Contributions were made towards the construction of an indoor kitchen and a feeding shelter for children. This was completed this year under the oversight of a Rotarians daughter who has been living in the area.

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## **PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT: (Trevor Earney/Phillip Kesterton)**

**Christmas Trailer Raffle:** Our successful major fund raiser for the year was due to the generous donations from local businesses and the support of many volunteers including our Friends of Rotary team. Thanks to Morisset Plaza management who gives us regular support & welcome for this event where we receive considerable exposure to the wide community.

**Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) Dinner:** Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre kindly made their dining room available for this fund raising event. Guest speakers from the ROMAC team gave heart-warming accounts of the children they help. We were able to make a substantial donation as a result.

**Loop the Lake:** Frenetic is the best description for the 5-6 hours spent at Morisset's Rotary Park to water and feed some 2000 plus cyclists who take part in the "Loop the Lake" bike ride. Run annually in conjunction with other Rotary Clubs around Lake Macquarie, this event raises significant funds for the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

**Morisset Community Festival:** The ever popular Community Festival Day held at the Morisset Showground was again a great success with several thousand locals enjoying what turned into a perfect spring day. Our BBQ team with volunteers served food from eight o'clock in the morning till mid-afternoon. Another great effort and a worthwhile day of fun.

**"Good Neighbour" Programme:** Although not generally known by the Morisset community, we have a number of refugees who speak little English living locally. A small group of our Rotary ladies are assisting with their English tuition, medical appointments, new baby needs and generally helping them to adjust to our customs and conditions. Both the Anglican & the Uniting churches are also supporting this programme.

**Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS):** It is the club's policy to support certain core beneficiaries each year. One of these is RAWCS. Our donation goes towards the acquisition of a storage shed for more effective distribution of donated goods within the district.

**Australian Rotary Health:** This Rotary organization which supports medical research is also on our annual list of core beneficiaries.

**District Hay Drop:** Our club was among the many clubs that supported the "Hay Drop" in the west of NSW to support Dubbo clubs to help out farmers in crisis from the drought.

**First Aid Training:** Ten club members have recently completed this training so that we can be responsible citizens and quick to act when a problem arises at club activities.

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## TREASURERS REPORT 2013-2014

### MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

1. Members and their guests contributed \$5,490.00 to Morisset High School in payment for the dinners prepared by the Hospitality students.

**COMMUNITY ACCOUNT:** Funds donated are as per the table below:

|                                    | <b>Funds<br/>Distributed</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Community</b>                   |                              | 9,427.90      |
| Australian Rotary Health           | 1,000.00                     |               |
| Refugee Project                    | 290.80                       |               |
| South Lakes Business Chamber       | 500.00                       |               |
| South Lakes Carers                 | 500.00                       |               |
| Heaven Can Wait Regatta            | 500.00                       |               |
| Mark Vickery Appeal                | 5,188.10                     |               |
| Women's Refuge                     | 399.00                       |               |
| SLMASC                             | 50.00                        |               |
| Farm Families Hay Drop             | 1,000.00                     |               |
| <br><b>International</b>           |                              | <br>14,540.00 |
| Shelterbox                         | 4,000.00                     |               |
| Rotary Foundation APF              | 2,000.00                     |               |
| Rotary Foundation Polio Plus       | 1,000.00                     |               |
| ROMAC                              | 2,000.00                     |               |
| Interplast                         | 2,000.00                     |               |
| RAWCS                              | 1,000.00                     |               |
| Gentle Hands Orphanage             | 490.00                       |               |
| East Timor Health Fund             | 2,050.00                     |               |
| <br><b>New Generations</b>         |                              | <br>6,309.00  |
| RYLA                               | 650.00                       |               |
| PCYC                               | 500.00                       |               |
| Science & Engineering<br>Challenge | 1,000.00                     |               |
| Hunter Life Adopt A Class          | 450.00                       |               |
| Local School awards                | 363.00                       |               |
| Wangi Public School                | 1,000.00                     |               |
| Morisset High School               | 2,346.00                     |               |
|                                    |                              | \$ 30,276.90  |

2. Gross Community Account income for the year was \$27,076.08 and costs were \$6,537.00.

3. The Community Volunteer Grant of \$4,380.00 received in August has been fully expended on training.

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