



# **Morisset Rotary Club Annual Report 2016 – 2017**



## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**President: Craig Johnson      Vice President: Murray Scoble**  
**Past President: Georgina Anderson      Treasurer: Ross Dickson**  
**Secretary: Barbara Walsh      President Elect: Mick Payze**

## **Directorships:**

**Geoff Alderdice   Charlie Phillips**  
**Georgina Anderson   Barbara Walsh**  
**John Rodstrom   Craig Johnson   Mick Payze**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-17**

Morisset Rotary's 2016-17 year was well positioned on the strong foundations of former years as we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year of active engagement with local community & international programmes. Immediate Past President Georgina Anderson had set a high standard for this year's President and Board of Directors. Her skills, enthusiasm & hard work set the club on a new youthful, vibrant path which we've done our best to continue.

The club has continued to develop its own unique, modern signature of the Rotary brand which pays respect historically, but anchors the club's culture and content in the present. In the past year the club's ethos has continued to develop with a larger number of new or transferring members & with two younger people taking on full membership status. The introduction of our Young Member Support Programme has given other members the opportunity to "pay it forward" by helping to fund Young Member's fees. Our fundamental strategy is to draw more young people into the club's modern culture. This creates the twin benefits of providing them with opportunities to develop skills in a nurturing environment while also helping our members to appreciate the value of their input & to learn ways to sustain their interest. The future of the club is in great hands as a result.

Our already special relationship with Morisset High School was developed even further by the introduction of an in house curriculum based ShelterBox Project (including a sleep-out). This added to our existing list of programmes such as student catered dinners, senior scholarships & other awards. Planning to establish a school Interact Club is under way with the Principal's valued support & facilitation. Our relationship continued with many other local schools via the Science and Engineering Challenge & Discovery Days. Attendees from RYLA & RYPEN impressed us with their reports. The club's participation in PCYC's movie making venture will be interesting viewing when it hits the big screen. Youth Exchange students provided some special moments with our incoming exchange students from Hungary & Brazil & our outgoing student to Austria. We look forward to welcoming a young lady from France for the coming year.

The club tackled some substantial fundraising projects to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> year. Among them were numerous port raffles/auctions for various causes & the sale of the #joinrotary tee-shirts infiltrating many conferences & meetings. A Signature 50th Anniversary wine drive was popular. Young members gained experience organizing a movie night fund raiser & sowed the seeds for the development of another meaningful overseas aid project for the future. Our support of the Timor Leste Farm Development project continued with self sufficiency almost in sight. Notably, an unexpected late request came in to manage the Southlakes Christmas Spectacular. The team rallied behind some great project management by our President Elect Mick Payze. This called for seeking engagement & sponsorship from the local business community. The culmination of another successful Christmas trailer raffle highlighted the event for the excited winners.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary has provided the opportunity to remember & to pay respect to what had gone before along with our resolve to continue our commitment to the future. It was truly wonderful to see so many past & present Exchange Students, Members, Friends & former Presidents attend the Nameless Bay Morning Tea held at the Morisset Hospital Recreation Hall. Some 50 years earlier, in February 1967, a group of people came together at that very hall to exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships & give back to their community as a Rotary Club. The morning tea recognized that although some of the club's customs had changed the goals were still the same. During the morning we took the opportunity to celebrate a long list of people who had challenged, developed & defined support, leadership & spirit in our community over the years.

We continued embracing technology this year & it's great to see everyone feeling more comfortable with most of it. The club now supports 3 web sites - main club, Westlake Tidings community/sponsors & #joinrotary Tee-shirt. As well, we run two Facebook pages - the club & #joinrotary Tee-shirt. We've also added a mobile phone App to keep us in the community's eye. Google-Drive has seen good use as a communication tool & the newly adopted App based payment system has helped greatly with mobile tee-shirt sales.

Morisset Rotary Club is a product of the people who support it - friends, members, partners, families, community and Rotary colleagues. I'm very proud of the way that everyone went about business in 2017. It's been very satisfying to see so many people focus & push in a single direction. Gratitude & congratulations to you all & further recognition to Paul Harris recipients of 2016-17 Ross Dickson, Barbara Walsh & Charlie Phillips.

Thank you to the 2016-17 Board of Directors for their tireless efforts & contribution. It's always a pleasure doing business with you all. Best wishes to President Elect Mick Payze for the 2017-18 year. Your strength of focus & enthusiasm will ensure a successful new year.

**CRAIG JOHNSON**  
**PRESIDENT**

~~~~~

## **PROJECT REPORT**

**Christmas Trailer Raffle:** This continues to be our primary fundraiser. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses and individuals the major prizes were of excellent quality. An outstanding effort from members & Friends of Rotary ensured the success of the event.

**Southlakes Christmas Spectacular:** Southlakes Business Chamber & Community Alliance (SBCCA) passed this event to Rotary for 2017. Mick Payze ran the project & gained the corporate funding which was key to the project's success. Rosmairi Dawson ably assisted in the co-ordination.

**50th Anniversary Morning Tea:** Our 50<sup>th</sup> year of service was celebrated with a morning tea at the Morisset Hospital Recreation Hall. Thanks to Hunter & New England Health we were able to use the venue of the club's first meeting 50 years ago. It was a wonderful day of re-acquaintance and fellowship attended by old & current members & alumni.

**Loop the Lake:** The club annually supports this bicycle event. Members & friends manned the muffin stop in Morisset & various roadside check points for more than 1200 cyclists on the day. Running the event is shared by clubs around the shores of Lake Macquarie.

**50th Signature Wine Drive:** A most enthusiastic and committed committee of members sold specially labelled wine for our 50th anniversary. It resulted in good profit for the club & many satisfied consumers.

**Port Collection:** We gratefully acknowledge the donation of a vintage port collection from a deceased estate. This has allowed us to do significant fund raising by raffle or auction in conjunction with local clubs & at District Conferences.

**Movie Night:** Our Younger members identified ShelterBox to support for their movie night fundraiser. More than \$850 was raised. Through their involvement these young people gained confidence in event planning skills & earned funds in the process.

**Super Bicycle Count Days:** Members who volunteered to participate in several of these mornings raised funds for the club account and took the opportunity to watch the world go by on bicycles.

**#JoinRotary Tee Shirt Initiative:** Our #joinrotary tee shirt initiative has grown as a fundraiser for the club as it promotes membership for the organization. In the process the committee learned much about logistics, marketing & sales initiatives at a number of Rotary club & district events.

**Craig Johnson**  
**Director**

~~~~~

## **FUND RAISING REPORT 2016-17**

**Rotary Park Entrance Reconstruction:** An application was made to the NSW Government for a grant of \$5,000 towards the expense of re-building the entrance way to the park which has become damaged following some subsidence in the area. The application was unsuccessful & the damage remains for the time being.

**Funding for the 2016 Southlake Christmas Spectacular:** Following the unfortunate withdrawal of the Southlake Business and Community Alliance from the running of this event the Club felt bound to run it themselves. The event was then supported by a wider array of local businesses than previously, bringing in A\$11,627. These supporters included:

- South Lake Business & Community Council;
- Centennial Coal;
- Eraring Energy;
- Lawsons Real Estate;
- Morisset Country Club;
- Lake Macquarie Hotel;
- Hello world Morisset;
- Mortgage Choice; and
- Lake Macquarie City Council

Unfortunately, the latter choose to reduce its support from previous years and but for the seeding one-off finance provided by SBCCA, the event would have run at a small loss.

A decision has already been made to decline to run the Morisset Spectacular event for Christmas 2017 but rather to support the Wangi Wangi Lions Christmas event.

**MICK PAYZE**  
**DIRECTOR**

~~~~~

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT 2016-17**

In recognizing the value of Rotary brand awareness and also the complexities & opportunities created by social media, we trialed a new Directorship of Public Relations. Rotary has traditionally relied on word of mouth and interpersonal relationships to promote what we do & who we are. It is apparent by the downward trend of membership in western countries that this no longer reaches potential younger members.

**Social Media:** In becoming very proactive by embracing social media, we operate and maintain two Facebook pages (Morisset Rotary & #joinRotary) & three web pages (Morisset Rotary, Westlake Tidings & #joinRotary). We also contribute to the twitter feed of #joinRotary. These avenues target different populations but all have the same aim of promoting Morisset Rotary & the activities we are involved in. Social media will play an increasingly important role in our club in the coming years & it is important we bring all members along into this medium.

**Print Media:** Access to the local Lakes Mail has become more complex since it now covers a far greater region with less capacity for them to accept and print our stories in a timely manner. We are moving more towards the local bulletins with some success.

**Photography:** This year we invited photography students at Morisset High School to take professional photos for us at key events. As well as providing young people with opportunities to practice their craft it enabled us to have print quality photos to publish.

**Business Cards:** Having developed business cards which have a professional look, they allow members to leave their contact details with prospective members.

**#joinRotary Tee -Shirts:** Our most successful form of communication this year has been the use of the bright and bold #joinRotary tee-shirts which present a vibrant, youthful image of Rotary in the community. New sales opportunities are continually being sought. Challenges remain for 2017/18 to keep the word of Rotary as the premier service club in the community. With large new areas of housing development opening up in the area we are well placed to take advantage of this.

**GEORGINA ANDERSON**  
**DIRECTOR**

~~~~~

## **COMMUNITY/INTERNATIONAL REPORT**

This has been an exciting year both in terms of our community connections & our relationship with international programmes. Our 50th anniversary year brought the opportunity to celebrate with others in the community along with past members & past exchange students. Many of these people remain connected to the Morisset area.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** Support was given to the PCYC for their film making event. Together with supporting primary schools & Morisset High it gave us a focus on young people (see Youth Report). The formation of a new Probus club is being researched & this has also brought us into close contact with the local community. At a national level Australian Rotary Health Research with its particular interest in Mental Health Research receives an annual donation.

**INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:** The club always makes significant annual contributions to the Rotary Foundation & PolioPlus. We also support ShelterBox, ROMAC, Interplast & RAWCS annually. There are also two very different international projects on our books:

**Timor Leste - Tibar:** Previously the club had assisted Timor Leste with financial support via other clubs' projects there. Two years ago, through personal contact with Dili Rotarians in the RAWCS office there, we adopted our own project - assisting to establish a model farm at Tibar. Produce from the farm will make two orphanages self sufficient for produce with excess being sold & money reinvested in the project. Employment for local people is part of the plan which will demonstrate a model for maximising production on smaller land holdings. Other villages will be able to visit & learn more about cultivation & nutrition. With the help of a District Grant, individual donations & our club's contribution the project has progressed during the year. Our support will continue for 2017-18 when we expect the farm to become self sustaining & can then cast our eyes to other needs in the area.

**Tanzania - Morogoro:** At the instigation of one of our new & youngest members, one of the most exciting aspects of this year has been the plan to formulate the Morogoro Health Project. Funding for the various stages of the project will be accessed via grants from Rotary International programmes. Its main goal is to assist a range of health workers to better manage local health problems through education, disease prevention & community development. Renovation of the paediatric ward & updating medical equipment is planned to reduce mortality rates & length of patient stay. This has been a time of learning & gaining greater exposure to the workings of Rotary Global Grant programmes. It has opened avenues to liaise with other experienced Rotarians from whom we can learn. Development of this health project will provide the framework for the advancement of a number of truly exciting and rewarding projects in the years ahead.

**KERRY MORRISSEY**  
**DIRECTOR**

~~~~~

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS:** Annual "Community Service " book awards were presented to ten local primary schools by club members at annual award ceremonies.

**MORISSET HIGH SCHOOL:** Our very strong working relationship with the school is based on Hospitality Class dinners & four senior scholarships. The scholarship students come from disadvantaged families & are supported through our school based mentoring programme. Annual Community Service Awards were provided for the four junior years.

**Shelter Box:** A new development was the introduction of a ShelterBox study unit. Students began their research with inspection of an erected ShelterBox & the opportunity to camp in it overnight in the school grounds. They also raised funds to purchase a ShelterBox. This programme is being developed as an annual feature at the school.

**Interact:** There is strong interest from school staff in forming an Interact Club. With a very keen Principal, the Youth team is hopeful it will be up and running in term 3 this year.

**RYPEN:** Our RYPEN student impressed us when she spoke to the club about her new awareness from the camp experiences.

**DISCOVERY DAY/SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE:** A successful 2-day Primary school Discovery Day programme was held with Morisset Rotary providing the BBQ and supervisors, assisted by several Toronto Sunrise members. Planning is underway for this event in the coming Rotary year. Club volunteers also assisted the Science and Engineering Challenge in July.

**POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB:** Our club continues to support the Morisset PCYC and recently we assisted the Zombie film production day by cooking the BBQ and participating as extras in filming. Some of us will be film stars!!

**RYLA:** We again supported a young person to attend RYLA. It is always pleasing to hear about the exciting experiences of the participants, resulting in a more positive & balanced attitude to their future.

**YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMME:** We sponsored a young man from Brazil for six months & also enjoyed the exchange visit of a young lady from Hungary who spent a very successful year with our club. It's been exciting to learn that our outbound student will depart in January 2018 for a year in Switzerland. In July we will welcome a young lady from France who will be our inbound student for 2017-18

**WWCC:** The club maintains & updates its Working With Children Clearance Register which is operated by our Child Protection Officer.

**JOHN RODSTROM/BARBARA WALSH**  
**DIRECTORS**

## **FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2016-17**

Club fellowship has continued to play an important role in maintaining a great team spirit within the club. Partners, Friends of Rotary & other guests have been encouraged to join in our activities. So harmony within the club is at a high level.

**Nameless Bay Morning Tea** To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the club a morning tea was held at the Morisset Hospital Recreation Hall where the club had first met 50 years ago. It was a successful event when many past Morisset Rotarians, club alumni & friends of Morisset Rotary were able to renew acquaintances & see how the club had developed.

**5<sup>th</sup> Week Fellowship** As has been the custom of the club where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> meeting day within the month it has been used as a social night, usually at a restaurant. The evenings have always been enjoyable & friendly.

**Morisset High School Dinner** Once again the club organized these dinners. With a new commercial kitchen they can now be held in the school's own hall with delicious food prepared by the senior hospitality classes. The evenings are always a great success & the students do an exemplary job in the food preparation & catering.

**Movie Night** A movie night was organized by the young associates of the club to raise money for ShelterBox. Once again this was a great night out and resulted in the purchase of a ShelterBox.

**District Conference** Dubbo was the venue for the district conference which was well attended by club members. Fellowship activities played a great part in the club members enjoyment.

**Relay For Life** To support the Cancer Council of Australia the club entered a team in the Relay For Life.

**Other Events** Over the past year members have taken the opportunity to attend a number of other fund raising groups' events including the Stilling Street Singers' annual concert (supporting the Nicholas Trust Foundation), Catalina Players (supporters of many local charities) & the annual performance of the Newcastle University Choir. A guided inspection of the new Morisset Police station was also arranged. Our Members have had the chance of fellowship at numerous club service events & have invited other interested people to hear a range of guest speakers at club meetings.

**CHARLIE PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR**

~~~~~

**TREASURERS REPORT 2016-17**

**MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES:** Members and their guests contributed \$5,790.00 to Morisset High School attending the dinners prepared by the Hospitality students

**COMMUNITY ACCOUNT:** 1. Funds donated are as per the table below:

	<b>Funds Distributed</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Community</b>		3,680.00
Australian Rotary Health	1,000.00	
Bush Fire Relief	1,000.00	
Heaven Can Wait Regatta	500.00	
Morisset Show	500.00	
Relay for Life	130.00	
Southlakes Carers	500.00	
South Lake Mac Sailing Club	50.00	
<b>International</b>		15,202.05
East Timor Farm Project	7,402.05	
Interplast	1,000.00	
Rotary Foundation APF	2,200.00	
Rotary Foundation Polio Plus	1,100.00	
RAWCS	500.00	
ROMAC	1,000.00	
Shelterbox	2,000.00	
<b>Youth</b>		5,055.59
Discovery Days	741.40	
Local School Awards	250.00	
Morisset High School	1,625.24	
PCYC	548.95	
RYLA	680.00	
RYPEN	460.00	
Youth Exchange	750.00	
		<hr/>
		<u>\$23,937.64</u>

2. Gross Community Account income for the year was \$55,897.22 ( \$37,242.09) and costs were \$23,457.73 (\$6,601.69). The cost to income ratio was considerably higher this year due to the nature of two of the fund raising activities, namely Christmas Spectacular \$13,668.02 and Tee Shirts \$3,155.55. Tee Shirt stock at year end is \$1,728.56.

**ROSS DICKSON**  
**TREASURER**

~~~~~  

---