

The Rotary Club of Parkwood



Like every Rotary president in every club, I went into this job with great aspirations and intentions and whilst I did expect the unexpected, what was to come was eye opening, encouraging and inspirational.

I was fortunate in succeeding John Smith, our president in 2005-2006 whose leadership, created stability amongst the members and the club itself, establishing a solid grounding upon which Jan and I could continue to build what had already proven to be a successful Rotary Club.

Having been involved in the administrative side of the club since 2001 and knowing the members as well as we do, Jan and I decided that the most effective method of raising funds, ensuring community involvement and increasing the club profile was to organize events and fundraisers which would encourage the members to attend and bring along any prospective members as well. The ever increasing demands on clubs around the world meant that our main focus was to be on fundraising and whilst these events largely called upon the members to dip into their own pockets, we made every effort to ensure that they felt it was money well spent.

We started with the changeover which traditionally is not necessarily a fundraiser event, so we thought we would break the mould. Through some savvy negotiating by Jan and the commitment of 75 Rotarians and their guests, we managed to raise around \$1000.00 for charity. Just 10 days later we held a Christmas in July and in August the inaugural Presidents Pizza & Pasta Night at Charlie's Restaurant in Labrador saw the members try out their vocal chords. More impressive was the fact that both events raised around \$500.00 between them. The members also enjoyed a breakfast at the Sensory Gardens, a rotary project in Ashmore, and were given a guided tour by one of its organisers and club member Brian Knowles.

One of the most memorable events however was our Black Friday event at CJs Restaurant at Griffith University on 13th October. With a



black theme and fantastic commitment and involvement from the 49 members and their guests, we raised over \$900.00 and immediately donated \$500.00 to the Bras for Cancer breast cancer research fundraising campaign.

Mike and Kay Bottomley then hosted a Calcutta in early November followed by David & Will Rolle eagerly agreeing to host the club Christmas Party in mid December which raised not only around \$250.00 for charity but also around \$1000.00 for the Rotary Foundation through donations by individual members.

In February we saw the resignations of Maxine Cooper and Mike Coghlan which whilst a loss to the club, were causes for fundraising social events-combining Maxine's departure with the Chinese New Year. The two events raised over \$1000.00 between them and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

A visit by the Canadian Rotary Friendship Exchange team of 8 was the catalyst for several events including a restaurant night at the local Italian restaurant, a breakfast at the Kent residence and a farewell event at the Smiths/Knowles residence, the latter raising a further \$300.00 for the coffers.

In addition to these fundraisers were the Indy Barbeque, the boat show barbeque and various council Healthy and Active events all of which contributed a further \$5000.00 for charity.

The club continued with some of its time tested regular functions such as Guess Who's Coming to Dinner again coordinated by Brian Knowles which raised over \$1000.00 for The Rotary Foundation this year. At the beginning of July 2006, every club President was requested to give an indication as to the amount he or she anticipates donating to The Rotary Foundation by the end of their tenure. Ambitiously I decided that an amount of \$3000.00 was achievable. I am pleased to say that this amount was passed on to The Foundation along with individual Christmas donations by members of another \$1000.00 (with a little inspiration from Santa Clause) and further personal contributions by individual members were made giving us a grand total of almost \$10000.00 to our charity this year.



Ultimately, all the work done throughout the year has allowed the club to make donations to:

St Judes school in Africa (Including some personal sponsorship)	\$4500.00
Arundel State School for groundworks (as part of a combined district grant)	\$1300.00
Breast Cancer research (Bras for Cancer)-	\$ 500.00
Blue Care-(in the form of 2 morphine pumps) (Again assisted by a personal donation)	\$5000.00
The Rotary Foundation-	\$3000.00
plus a further donation from the members.	\$1000.00
Jessica Wilson-in support of her trip to South Africa with the National Youth Science Forum	\$2750.00
Vision Inc-for the purchase of chairs for the blind.	\$ 400.00
Kokoda Memorial Cascade Gardens	\$1000.00
Salvation Army-	\$1000.00
ARHRF-	\$ 600.00
Leukemia Foundation	\$1000.00
PCYC support programme-	\$ 300.00
Qld Blue Light Association-camp sponsorship	\$ 360.00
RAWCS Student sponsorship	\$ 110.00

TOTAL **\$22820.00**

If there is one area that I didn't achieve what I had hoped to this year, this is in the area of attracting new members. We started out well inducting Susan Tyrell and Craig Tobler at the changeover and Teresa Dawson and Ron Wilson shortly thereafter. Unfortunately the business and personal commitments of members such as Mark Twyford, Mike Coghlan, Maxine Cooper and Lisa Murdoch meant that their resignations were tendered during the year and whilst throughout the last 12 months we have had a number of functions designed to encourage potential new members, this was not to be. In Rotary circles it is often said that it is the quality of the new member not the quantity that matters, and the last 6 months or so has shown us that all of the new recruits have made excellent Rotarians, with all being chosen by Karyn on her new Board of Directors and Susan



agreeing to undertake the Secretary's role for me from day one. Again as I write this it appears as though Charmaine our permanent visitor from Tasmania is to join us as well as Kim from Bravehearts introduced by David Rolle.

We are continuing with two hands on projects in our community in the upcoming year. Dave Rolle through his business is constructing a new office and accommodation center for the Bravehearts organization, in Arundel and the club has agreed to support in kind for the project which has just commenced. A manpower contribution to the value of around \$35000.00 is expected.

A project initially investigated in early 2007 will continue at the Arundel State School enabling groundwork improvement and landscaping to proceed in 07-08 assisted by a District Matching Grant.

From a club perspective it was important to me that everyone play a role in the club's weekly activities so I abandoned the colour system we had used over a number of years which had proven ineffectual and adopted a 2 person management team for each month whereby a board member and one nominated non-board member would assist with the club meetings each month of the year and the board member would chair the meetings where required. With some minor divergences this worked exceptionally well ensuring that each meeting there were individuals appointed for the regular duties such as sergeant and guest speaker monitor.

Financially we have gone from a sound base to a strong one in the last 12 months as will be shown by the current account balances in this report and the donations made in the past 12 months. This is largely attributed to the support of the members.

It would be great if every member was able to be rewarded at the end of the year for their efforts and in effect we tried to do so with our 2 for 1 night at the last meeting in June to thank everyone for their commitment in 2006-07. I am a firm believer in acknowledging the effort put in by some Rotarians and instigated the Member of the



Month award which over the 12 months saw several of our number receive recognition for their commitment to the club each month. It was also the effort put in by Mike Bottomley particularly at a board level that saw him receive the Achievement Award for this year. Mike was the catalyst and supporter for several Rotary sponsored assistance programmes including the Blue Care morphine pumps donation and the NYSF awardee.

Traditionally our club awards Paul Harris Fellows at the changeover and this year is no exception. I have selected two members who have made long term genuine commitments to the club and whose tireless work over many years right up to present time has enabled us to continue with projects and fundraising efforts with much less hassle and problem than may otherwise be the case.

I personally wish to thank each and every member of the club, past and present, who contributed in their own way to making the year a success, from those who assisted in running the meetings to the barbeque organisers and helpers all the way to Bill Pavey who does a brilliant job with our web site. It would also be remiss of me not to thank the partners of the members who strongly supported all of our fundraising events throughout the year. You are all great supporters of the organization both financially and physically and for that my board and I are extremely appreciative. There is no doubt that without your commitment to Rotary that we would not have had the year we did particularly in the areas of fundraising. Thank You.

As always in any club there are standout members each successive year and 2006-2007 was no exception. The following members made that extra effort to ensure the club ran at its potential:

SUSAN TYRELL

As mentioned, after attending regular meetings for a while, Susan joined us on 1st July 2006 and also took on the role of Secretary as a favour to me, and she performed the task with great ability and commitment. There is no doubt that she made my job significantly easier and dealt efficiently and effectively with the mountains of paperwork that comes with the job. Susan also coordinated registration almost every week at club meetings. Thanks Susan!



JOHN SMITH

John ended his rotary year as President with the dual roles of President and treasurer and at my request agreed to carry on with the latter during '06-'07 in an effort to sort out the confusion which reigned with the club Administration and Community accounts. As a result of the early departure of our previous treasurer, our club record keeping had fallen into "disrepair" and it is only John's commitment to rectifying the problem including a significant sacrifice of both personal and professional time that enabled the club financial records to be brought up to date and to rank with the best, enabling up to the minute balances and ensuring the club complies with its statutory obligations. His financial report included typifies the work put in. Even his son Tim assisted in marshalling duties for the BRW Triathlon in April. In effect, as our incoming treasurer will be absent until August, John has assumed the position for almost 17 months! Thank you John for hanging in there!

KEN BONYTHON

As in previous years, Ken was an absolute workhorse when organizing and operating the major barbeque fundraisers for the year. From buying the food and drinks at the best prices to setting up and running each event, his eagerness never waned-and you have to love that look in his eye when the balances at the end of the day were good (and cringe when they were not). Thanks Ken for all you effort and hard work. It is this commitment that has seen the members award Ken the inaugural Members' Choice Award.

Ken and Susan (and later Ken Smith) also gave of their time for the Musgrave state school breakfasts for students along with Susan's daughter Jasmine.

Thanks also go to my whole board, all of whom assisted with the tougher decisions during the year and supported me with the directions I took with various activities and events in the club. Without their input and constructive comments, the club simply would not have functioned. Thank you one and all for helping us to *Lead the Way*.

Last but by no means least, I want to thank my family. My children Leah and Ryan for their support and understanding during the year



and particularly my wife Jan. Anyone who has been president knows that partner support is absolutely vital for the operation of a successful club. From the inception of the idea through to its culmination, Jan was mine. Every event that we ran this year was her inspiration from the Christmas in July, the Pizza night (and that dreadful singing), the black Friday event, the Christmas function and the 2 for 1 night and all in between, she was an inspiration and motivated me when I was diverted, or stuck for ideas. Even our board meetings enjoyed nibbles and, on special occasions, champagne all organized by her . During my absence for health reasons in May, she not only had to care for me but answered all the calls and kept the members up to date with goings on and with my progress. My thanks and love go to her for her contribution to the success of 2006-2007.

Yours in Rotary

Mark Kent PHF
President
2006-2007

