



Morisset Rotary Club Annual Report 2015 – 2016



Be a gift to the world

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

**President: Georgina Anderson
President Elect: Craig Johnson
Past President: Charlie Phillips**

**Vice President: Murray Scoble
Secretary: Barbara Walsh
Treasurer: Ross Dickson**

Directors:

**Club Administration: Geoff Alderdice
Membership: Kerry Morrissey
Youth: John Rodstrom/Barbara Walsh
Project Management: Craig Johnson
The Rotary Foundation/International: Charlie Phillips**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year we have explored how to position ourselves as vibrant club which embraces the ideas and energy of the younger Rotarians as well as acknowledging the history and years of service of more experienced Rotarians. I would like to thank my Board and the all our club members who have been prepared to take risks with new ideas, embrace new technology and consider new methods of working. Please see Directors Reports for specific club achievements.

Morisset Rotary has always had a focus on the youth of the area and this year was no exception. We have continued to support the PCYC, the local Primary and High Schools through a variety of programs and of course had the wonderful experience of hosting Anna from Hungary. This year was the first for many years that the club hosted an inbound Youth Exchange student and put forward Hayley for the outbound team. Hayley and her family have made a significant contribution to the club as host parents as well as hosting Anna's family. I would like to thank Craig and Margaret who have opened their home to Anna for six months. I know she and her family have really felt a strong connection to the Johnson family and I am sure we will see much more of Anna in the future.

The value of investing in our young people has become evident with two of the four Associate Members being past Rotary Youth Exchange Students. This year saw the expansion of the Associate Membership for under 30's. As a group they arranged a movie night which successfully raised \$1500 for Buy-A-Bale rural support programme and they have plans for more projects for the second half of this year.

This has been a year where we have used technology and social media to guide and open up new opportunities for us. The involvement of a number of younger people in the club has been the driving force behind this and the #joinRotary tee-shirt project. This project was a spin off from selling Chinese Fortune Cookies at the Light Up Newcastle Chinese New Year event. It gave us the opportunity to join with other clubs and participate in a wonderful multi-cultural community event. Whilst the Fortune Cookie stock seemed to never end, we did make some money, and had a huge amount of fun whilst fundraising and promoting Rotary to the community. From production to on-line sales and marketing Kerry, Craig and Ross have put hours of work into establishing the #joinRotary tee-shirt project. Great job!

We are now operating two Facebook sites, one for the club and one for tee-shirt sales. In addition we have three webpages, one for the club, one to sell the tee-shirts and Westlake Tidings, a community webpage. These along with on-line booking systems, weekly online club updates and a presence on the social connection site MeetUp have taken what was once a fringe activity into a mainstream means of communicating between ourselves, other Rotarians and the community.

We have inducted four new members by transfer and two Associate Members. Attracting and engaging members will continue as an ongoing area of challenge for next year's Board.

The ground work which has been done by the changes brought in by successive Boards over the past few years and with a focus now on publicity I am confident we have the basis for growing the club to meet the needs of its members, attract new members and be relevant to community needs.

At an International level the club continues to support many of Rotary's larger programs such as the Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus, Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children and Interplast. Club Accreditation to apply for District Grants is current. With a recent District Grant and in partnership with Wangi Wangi Uniting Church we have contributed to the Tibar Model Farm Project in Timor Leste. This project aims to assist two orphanages run by Dominican sisters to be self sufficient with food production and to provide training for locals in the development of modern farming skills. I would like to acknowledge the work by Barbara and Charlie in actioning this project.

MyRotary website has enabled us to collate our range of project involvements. Not including the tee-shirt project, in over sixteen projects we have collectively given 1200 volunteer hours and raised \$26,000. This is a huge effort from everyone and has enabled us to support the Australian Rotary Health, BlazeAid, schools and many local organizations as well as the larger international programs noted above. The Christmas Trailer continues to be our main fundraiser and I thank Craig for his brilliant organizational skills in managing this and also our volunteers who spent hours selling tickets plus club members, partners and children who gave up their time. John Olive continued his fine form with a successful grant application enabling us to purchase a public address system and provide additional support to developing Associate Membership.

I would like to thank Ross for his incredible patience and diligence in ensuring our club remains in a financially secure position and to Barbara for all she does to ensure the smooth running of the club. To each and every Board member I have appreciated their dedication, support of me and commitment to Rotary. This club is well placed to thrive under the Presidency of Craig and his Board. I wish him all the best for 2016-17 and thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the Rotary Club of Morisset. This club will celebrate its 50th in February 2017 and I am sure it will continue to serve its members, our community and humanity for the next 50 years.

Georgina Anderson
President
Rotary Club of Morisset.

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## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2015 -16**

**Arrivals:** The club has embarked on a programme of wider exposure and informing people about Rotary, our club and the activities we undertake. The acquisition of new club banners and the review of the club brochures as well as other promotional material has assisted in reaching into new areas of the community. Additionally the changes to our meeting practices over recent years have enhanced our reputation as a modern club, and attracted the interest of younger people including two new Associate Members, both former exchange students.

This year we have welcomed four new members who have transferred from other clubs ie. Gosford City, Toronto and Coonamble.

**Departures:** Two members who were moving north for retirement were farewelled .

**Mentoring:** The Mentoring Programme is still under development, along with the revised Club Information Package.

**Social:** The club continues the practice of holding a social evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. We have encouraged family and social involvement in these evenings. As well we take opportunities to involve friends and family in other activities such as Christmas party, High School dinners and events associated with our exchange student.

**Associate Members:** Our associate membership has expanded this year and despite the challenges associated with gathering together a small band of diverse and extraordinarily busy young people, the programme has been successful in engaging the club with a younger audience and creating new opportunities for service. These associate members had significant input into the development of the Chinese New Year Lantern Walk and the #joinrotary tee shirt project. There were also instrumental in running the film night which raised money for Buy A Bale.

**Kerry Morrissey (Director)**

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## YOUTH REPORT 2015-16

**Primary Schools Liaison:** Annual "Service Above Self" book awards were presented to ten local primary schools by club members at annual awards ceremonies. The Hunter Life Education Program was funded at Morisset Primary School.

**Morisset High School Liaison:** Hospitality Class dinners and senior scholarships have remained the focal part of our connection with Morisset High School where we have a very strong working relationship. Senior Scholarships were provided for Year 11 and Year 12 students from financially disadvantaged families. These students are supported through our school based mentoring program. Annual Service Above Self Awards are provided for Years 7, 8 and 9. A new principal arrived this year & with her history of Rotary membership. we look forward to her enthusiastic support in the coming years.

**Science and Engineering Challenge:** The senior format of this programme has been supported with volunteers at the event and \$1000 donation

**Discovery Day:** A successful Primary school Discovery Day was held at Avondale School with Morisset Rotary providing the BBQ and supervisors. Planning is underway for a Two Day Program in August 2016. Other local clubs will assist us.

**Police Citizens Youth Club:** Our club continues to support the Morisset PCYC and this year we supported the Graffiti for Boys program.

**Youth Exchange Program:** This year we supported an outbound student to Austria. Our Inbound Hungarian Exchange Student Anna arrived in July 2015, staying with 3 Morisset Rotary families and our outgoing Exchange Student's family through the year, we have all enjoyed Anna's time with us immensely.

**Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment:** 4 Students attended this weekend camp at Myuna Bay in May.

**WWCC:** The club maintains & updates its Working With Children Clearance Register.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:** In conjunction with Newcastle University we are supporting a student under the "iLead" scholarship program to participate in this "RYLA" personal development experience.

John Rodstrom / Barbara Walsh ( Directors)

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## **CLUB ADMINISTRATION REPORT 2015-16**

**Social Media and the Internet:** The year has seen great progress in the use of social media for promotion and participation in club activities for both young and old.

The Club Facebook page has frequent updates on Club and our exchange student activities.

The Facebook #JoinRotary page has updates from around the world.

The website [www.#joinrotary.com.au](http://www.#joinrotary.com.au) has been set up by the Club to promote the #joinrotary tee shirts has created much interest.

The website "Westlake Tidings", [www.morissetrotary.club](http://www.morissetrotary.club) has been developed to link with the Morisset business community and provides business promotional opportunities.

The Club's website, [www.morissetrotary.org.au](http://www.morissetrotary.org.au) provides a core platform for informing the community about events and achievements.

The contribution of a number of Club members have made this possible, in particular Craig Johnson, Georgina Anderson and Kerry Morrissey.

**District Conference:** The Club was well represented at the Mudgee conference in March winning the award for the Club with the highest percentage representation. The promotion of #joinrotary tee shirts at the conference created an exciting picture of the Club's tee shirt project.

**District Assembly/President Elect Training:** Members of the incoming Board were well presented at these annual "in-service" sessions in preparation for taking leadership responsibilities in 2016-17.

**Programmes:** The Club meets weekly with guest speakers or information sessions on a range of worldwide Rotary topics. Planning meetings complete our regular meeting activities.

The Club Board meets monthly to plan events and activities.

Efforts continue to explore meeting variations to widen membership appeal to a greater range of potential members in the Morisset area. There are regular social events also to mix "Work with Play".

**Geoff Alderdice (Director)**

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## ROTARY FOUNDATION/INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2015-16

### Rotary International Contributions

**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 programme or through the Bequest Society.

### Support for International Projects

**ShelterBox:** Money was donated to ShelterBox to relieve the effects of several disasters such as the ones experienced in Vanuatu, Nepal and Fiji.

**Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC):** Children in need of major surgery are brought to Australia for treatment which cannot be provided in their country. Specialists visit the country to assess suitability patients. Surgeons often donate their time.

**Interplast:** Less complicated corrective surgical intervention is provided by visiting volunteer specialists in countries of origin overseas.

**Timor Leste:** A Model Farm project is under construction at Tibar, ten kilometres west of Dili. With a donation from Wangi Wangi Uniting Church & a District Grant a contribution has been made to the water pumping equipment & fencing for this project. The farm will help two orphanages to be self sufficient for food & will provide training in modern farming techniques for local people.

### Accreditation:

**District Grants:** The club has signed off on the MOU. Training was updated on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and the club has now been requalified to apply for District Grants.

### Charlie Phillips (Director)

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## PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015-16

**Rotary Park Signage:** New signage incorporating current Rotary branding was completed for Rotary Park in Morisset after the original sign suffered damage from storms.

**Christmas Trailer Raffle:** Thanks to generous donations from local businesses and individuals, the major prizes were of excellent quality. An outstanding effort from club members and “Friends of Rotary” ensured the success of the event. A presentation evening was held to show our appreciation to the “Friends” who help out each year.

**Loop the Lake:** The club annually handles this event in the western lake area. More than 1500 cyclists were assisted with marshalling, food, drinks and general support. Funds raised are allocated to various local & international charities.

**Buy-A-Bale:** Associate Members chose this organization as a worthy local group to support. A movie night raised \$1500 for the cause. This provided a great opportunity for our younger members to grow their event skills and support a wonderful local cause.

**Chinese New Year Lantern Walk:** Choosing the sale of fortune cookies as a fund raising opportunity we joined other clubs in this initiative. Being an important part of the larger project was enjoyable and satisfying.

**Hunter Show Jumping Carnival:** We seized the invitation to cater for this district event. The weather didn’t attract the intended numbers but nonetheless we made a good profit.

**Super Bike Count Days:** Opportunities arose for members to be paid to participate on several bicycle counts days. While watching the world go by we earn money for club development activities.

**#JoinRotary Tee Shirt Sales:** This initiative grew from a need to diversify our club’s approach to fund raising. The visibility of the tees aims to assist clubs to promote membership. Rotary tees have been sold at several district events to date, but future targeted marketing in other districts holds significant income opportunities for our club.

Craig Johnson (Director)

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## TREASURERS REPORT 2015-16

**MEMBER ACTIVITIES:** Members and their guests contributed \$2,130.00 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<br/>Distributed</b> | <b>Totals</b> | <b>Commitments</b> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <b>Community</b>                       |                              | 6,650.80      |                    |
| Australian Rotary Health               | 1,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Awaba RFS                              | 420.00                       |               |                    |
| BuyABale                               | 1,500.00                     |               |                    |
| Blaze Aid                              | 1,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Armidale Hospital (TBA)                |                              |               | 1000.00            |
| Emergency Medical Information<br>Books | 616.00                       |               |                    |
| South Lakes Carers                     | 500.00                       |               |                    |
| Heaven Can Wait Regatta                | 500.00                       |               |                    |
| Mission for Seafarers                  | 100.00                       |               |                    |
| Rotary Park                            | 514.80                       |               |                    |
| Morisset Show                          | 500.00                       |               |                    |
| <b>International</b>                   |                              | 16,966.60     |                    |
| Shelterbox                             | 2,613.60                     |               |                    |
| Rotary Foundation APF                  | 2,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Rotary Foundation Polio Plus           | 1,100.00                     |               |                    |
| ROMAC                                  | 2,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Interplast                             | 2,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Morogoro Hospital                      | 53.00                        |               |                    |
| East Timor Water Project               | 7,200.00                     |               |                    |
| <b>New Generations</b>                 |                              | 6,023.00      |                    |
| Adopt A Class                          | 450.00                       |               |                    |
| RYPEN                                  | 920.00                       |               |                    |
| PCYC                                   | 700.00                       |               |                    |
| Youth Exchange                         | 2,126.00                     |               |                    |
| Science & Engineering<br>Challenge     | 1,000.00                     |               |                    |
| Local School Awards                    | 250.00                       |               |                    |
| Morisset High School                   | 577.00                       |               |                    |
|                                        |                              | \$29,640.40   | \$ 1,000.00        |

2. Gross Community Account income for the year was \$37,242.09 and costs were \$6601.69.