



# Morisset Rotary Club Annual Report 2017 – 2018



## Board of Management

President:	Mick Payze	Vice President:	John Rodstrom
Past President:	Craig Johnson	Treasurer	Ross Dickson
Secretary:	Geoff Alderdice	President Elect:	John Rodstrom

## Directors

Georgina Anderson	Barbara Walsh
Craig Johnson	Ross McDonald



At the inspiring District Conference at Nelson Bay in March our Club was awarded the Doug Matthews Trophy for the Club that “most promotes and fosters the ideals of Rotary and Rotary Service in its community and the advancement of goodwill and understanding” a testament to the action of previous Boards to modernize our club!

This year one of the Clubs primary goals this year was to add to its membership so as to give added capacity to deliver Rotary’s objectives and achieved a credible six new members, including another “young member”, Thysje. Fortuitously, no members were lost, taking us to twenty-nine members. Another goal was to establish an additional Probus Club in the area and this was achieved with the formation of the Cooranbong Combined Probus Club.

We also endeavored to bring to the attention of State and Local Government the lack of publicly available facilities in the town and those at the Morisset Hospital site which continue to decay. We set about getting a new direction to the use of those facilities by approaching the NSW Government through our Honorary Member and local MP, Greg Piper. Initial attempts were thwarted but the subsequent debacle when the Hunter New England Health Services set about restricting access to the whole area to protect tourists from kangaroos brought about a widely televised rebuttal. Everyone now knows of the issue.

The future of our society is all about youth so there was a continued and growing involvement with Morisset High School, coordinated by Barbara as Youth Director and assisted by John R. and Cheri in her dual role of Principal and Rotarian supported with great energy by husband Ross. Their wide-ranging successes are detailed in the Director’s reports.

The club has again tackled some substantial general fundraising projects and International Projects in Morogoro, Tanzania and Tibar, Timor Lesté. These successes are detailed in the Director’s Reports.

To ensure that we remained connected with the local community we continued with an assortment of other projects including collection of gifts for those unfortunate women and children obliged to spend Christmas in the protective surrounds of the Allira House Refuge. A local food aid programme, Southlakes Food Care, was also assisted.

Christmas Day celebrations for the elderly at the Multi-Purpose Centre in Morisset were also assisted by a team of eight Rotarians and family members who supplemented the current caterers.

Co-operation with other Clubs continued with our Club helping Warners Bay by manning the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> legs of the revised “Loop the Lake” bike event in February. Support was also given to that Club for events supporting the MHERV van with attendance at the new van launch and a fund-raiser staged by Toronto-Sunrise Club.



With the support of Craig and Ross we continued embrace technology this year but this will be a continuing challenge to ensure that past work can be efficiently shared on Google Drive in the future.

The best news of the year was of course the recovery of both Lyal and Georgina from their medical challenges which they bravely faced and overcame.

My personal thanks go to the Board and the whole club for its members' untiring support.



*MICK PAYZE - PRESIDENT 2017-18*

### **PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2017-18**

**Gravel Grit Bike Event: Sept 2017** This inaugural event saw Morisset Rotary cater for a large contingent of road and off-road bike enthusiasts at Cooranbong. By all accounts it will be on again this year due to the great feedback given by those that had participated. It was a great day with a fair monetary return

**Catalina Festival: October 2017** End of October saw the annual Catalina Festival staged at Rathmines once again. It was a great event to kick start our Christmas Trailer Raffle. Many members of our club manned one of the gate entries which provided great publicity for the club. A ShelterBox display was also featured.

**Christmas Trailer Raffle: Nov Dec 2017** As our primary fundraiser our thanks go to generous donations from both local businesses and individuals with the major prizes of excellent quality. Over several weeks, another outstanding effort from members and Friends of Rotary ensured the success of the event.

**Chinese Lantern walk: February 2018** Another resounding success both financially and socially. Thanks to Georgina for organizing the Chinese Fortune Cookies and to everyone that participated. It was a great for Morisset Rotary to be part of this multi-club event.

**Loop the Lake: March 2018** The club can be justifiably proud of the support that we gave Loop the Lake as it was an event in damage control due to circumstance outside the control of Warners Bay Rotary. This meant a whole change to the event route. It involved extra travelling and time investment for members as we supervised several sections in unfamiliar locations.

**Port Collection:** Again 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 at numerous events through the year.

**Golf Day:** Preparation for our upcoming inaugural Golf Day in August commenced early in the year with our sights set on raising funds for Adolescent Metal Health. Hours of committee activity has ensued under the guidance of Pam and Ross McD. Sponsorships recruited thus far have been quite impressive. By all indications we can predict it will be a very successful event that will set up a precedent for more such events in the future.

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

**#JoinRotary Tee Shirt Initiative:** Our #joinrotary tee shirt initiative has grown as a fund-raiser for the club as it promotes membership for the organization. The tee's are now reported in sightings around the world. This initiative can only grow from strength to strength.



*JOHN RODSTROM - DIRECTOR*

### **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Significant annual donations go to the Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus, ROMAC and Interplast. We also support ShelterBox financially in addition to the school ShelterBox study project.

**Morogoro Health Project - Tanzania.** This project combines four components working together to improve health facilities, health education and health standards in the region of Morogoro. Some \$14,000 has been raised towards the \$22,000 goal. Project manager, Eleni Comino, has actively raised most of the funds and she will visit the area in July 2018 to improve connections there with the local Rotary club, the hospital and the council.

The project's four main components include equipment upgrades and repairs to the paediatric ward at the local hospital plus maternal education in the community. As well, malaria prevention will be addressed by distributing mosquito nets to the hospital and several other health centres. This aims to reduce the number of malaria cases and should result in a reduction in the overcrowding in hospital wards.

Children will therefore miss less schooling with illness and parents will continue to work their gardens and care for their children. In addition Health Educators will work with the local health professionals to provide specific training on nutritional issues for pregnant women and children. Community groups will receive theatre based exposure to health education programmes. These will commence during Eleni's visit. She will have a busy two weeks in

Morogoro with the goal of building relationships and connections with local authorities and the Morogoro Rotary Club.

*ELENI COMINO, PROJECT MANAGER*

**Tibar Farm Development - Timore Leste** Morisset Club has been involved with Timor Leste projects since 2013 when we supported construction of school classrooms and a disease prevention project in conjunction with other clubs. The development of the farm at Tibar in the Liquica District has been the club's focus over the last 3 years, assisted by District Matching Grants. Produce from the farm will significantly reduce the annual food bills for local orphanages (currently AUS\$75,000 p.a). When completed the farm will employ local village women, learning new skills to supplement the family food supply.

To date, perimeter fencing for the whole property has been erected, a water bore and water reticulation have been installed. Fruit trees, melons and root vegetables have been planted and a duck pond has been added. Large areas still require development for planting. Next stage will involve further cultivation use of local coffee bean husks to fertilize the soil.

Barbara Walsh has been managing Timor Leste projects since her original visit there in 2013. A more recent visit was made in September 2017. The project is overseen locally by a paid NGO team registered as "Rotarians Helping Timor". This team was originally set up by RAWCS Australia. Young Timor Leste Rotarians are employed to run this office where they also manage the project funding. The Tibar Farm project has been supported with District Matching Grants each year. Last year the Club contributed \$2000. Other donations were \$2000 plus a Matching Grant of \$3500.



*BARBARA WALSH - PROJECT MANAGER*



## YOUTH DIRECTORS REPORT

**MORISSET HIGH SCHOOL:** Two Hospitality Class dinners and the Senior Scholarships programme have remained the focal part of our connection with the school. During the year seven senior students from financially disadvantaged families are negotiating Year 11 and Year 12 with Rotary scholarships. These students receive our school based mentoring programme. In addition Community Service Awards are provided for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

**INTERACT:** There is very strong interest from Morisset High School teachers in forming an Interact Club. Staff changes have deferred the plan a little but with a very keen Principal, the Youth team is hopeful that Interact will be up and running in term 3 of 2018.

**MUNA:** Two teams were sponsored, representing Syria and Italy. Students enjoyed their learning from engaging with the political, social, cultural and religious views of other nations and their alliances. Preparation for the event promoted friendships and further developed significant negotiation practice and co-operative experiences.

**RYPEN:** Our goal is to sponsor four students to attend RYPEN at Myuna Bay each year. We continue to be impressed by the positive feedback from the attendees.

**WWCC:** The club maintains and regularly updates its Working With Children Clearance Register. Currently all our club members have clearances.

**SHELTERBOX:** Uniquely, we have provided Morisset High with a ShelterBox for study units for the last two years. Club members visit the school and present introductory information. After some 8 weeks, very successful student project presentations are made based on inspection of an erected ShelterBox, students' chosen research areas and for some a ShelterBox overnight camp out in the school grounds. Funds raised by the students go directly to ShelterBox Australia in the school's name. The programme continues annually with recently updated equipment which has kindly been donated by ShelterBox.

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS:** Each year "Community Service" book awards are presented to ten local primary schools. Annual awards ceremonies are attended by club representatives who do the presentations.

**DISCOVERY DAY/SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE:** In August a successful Primary School Discovery Day programme was held over two days at Avondale School with Morisset Rotary serving the food for the helpers. Several Toronto Sunrise members assisted Morisset Club to supervise the students as they worked on the challenges. Planning is underway for this event in the coming Rotary year. Our volunteers also assisted supervising at the Science and Engineering Challenge held at University of Newcastle in July - August.

**POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB:** Our club continues to support the Morisset PCYC and recently we viewed their "Zombie" film production which we had earlier supported. During production we had provided a sausage sizzle for the actors and the production team members.

**YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMME:** This year we have enjoyed the visit of a young lady from France who, after spending a very successful year with our club, has recently returned home. We are now in the process of preparing an outbound student who will depart in January 2019 for a year in The Netherlands. Our inbound student for 2018-19 is a young lady from Belgium, arriving in July.



*BARBARA WALSH - YOUTH DIRECTOR/ CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER*

**CLUB SERVICE:** *TECHNOLOGY (Craig Johnson) FELLOWSHIP( Georgina Anderson) MEMBERSHIP (Peter Comino)*

**TECHNOLOGY** - Modern internet communications play a significant role in club activities and our relationship with members, especially our younger members and also the wider community. In recognizing the value of Rotary brand awareness and also the complexities and opportunities created by social media and other modern technologies Board Director, Craig Johnson, promotes who we are & what we do. Through this medium we also manage #joinrotary, tee-shirt sales and upcoming projects, in particular our huge Golf Day extravaganza. New brochures were developed and access to good graphic design is a particular benefit to the club's promotional profile through our several web pages, local news bulletins and various brochures. Booking sites are utilized for event planning.

We forge our fellowship with other clubs and the local community by maintaining two Facebook pages (Morisset Rotary and #joinRotary), three web pages (Morisset Rotary, Westlake Tidings & #joinRotary) plus contributing to the twitter feed of #joinRotary. Via electronic medium we also distribute the President's weekly bulletin

**FELLOWSHIP:** Along with "Making a Difference" in the world, building better relationships with members and their families has been a high priority. Social activities are regularly scheduled and we make a point of including "enjoyment" as a feature of all the Rotary roles we fulfill. Consolidation of relationships with District Rotarians occurs through attendance at district meetings and conferences.

A large area of our community was without a Probus Club . This was successfully addressed through the special efforts of a team headed by Charlie Phillips and the helpful support of District Rotarian Ray Davies. We celebrated the successful launch of the Cooranbong Combined Probus Club in the latter part of the year .

Our most successful form of connecting with people this year continues to be the sale of the bright and bold #joinRotary tee-shirts which present a youthful image of Rotary in the community. Attracting young people is essential to the future of our organization across the world. An photo album is being compiled where our shirts have been sighted in international

settings, even one from Antarctica! New sales opportunities are continually being sought, skillfully promoted by Craig Johnson. With the growth of local housing development we will be challenged to take advantage of this for attracting members.

**MEMBERSHIP:** A successful membership information evening was conducted late in 2017. During the year our membership increased by five with three new, one resuming and one transferring member. The "Introducing Morisset Rotary" Booklet is given to people showing initial interest. It includes basic structure and function of the club and the Board plus a summary of district and international aspects of Rotary. Also included is information on Rotary web pages plus social media connections for prospects to explore. Member Application Forms include information about WWCC requirement for members.



On joining, our "Welcome to Membership" Booklet expands on the introductory booklet giving more descriptive information on functions and roles at Club, District and International levels. Our Membership Support Officer oversees mentoring where experienced members check in with new members providing additional information and encouragement. The goal is to help them to feel included and valued and to recognize the resources and skills they have and the unique perspectives they can bring to the club.

It is pleasing to note also that Foundation member, Lyal Lee, continues to participate in club activities after some 52 years membership of our Club. That we now also have younger members, starting at 20 years old, speaks volumes to the modernized approach the club has been taking which resulted in the District Governor's award of the Doug Matthews trophy, mentioned earlier in the Presidents report.

## **ROTARY CLUB OF MORISSET - TREASURERS REPORT 2017-18**

### **MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES**

1. Members and their guests contributed \$5,310.00 to Morisset High School attending the dinners prepared by the Hospitality students and Members also contributed \$3,500.00 to the Rotary Foundation, \$1,000.00 to Polio Plus and \$2,500.00 to the Annual Program Fund.

### **COMMUNITY ACCOUNT:**

1. Funds donated are as per the table below:

	<b>Funds Distributed</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Approved Donations</b>
<b>Community</b>		6,146.00	
Aust Rotary Health	1,000.00		
Relay for Life	400.00		
South Lakes Market Place	500.00		
Wangi Lions	1,496.00		

South Lakes Carers	500.00		
Heaven Can Wait Regatta	500.00		
SLMASC	50.00		
Seafarers Mission	200.00		
Armidale Cycling Club	1,000.00		
Morisset Show	500.00		
Probus			300.00
<b>International</b>		12,814.63	
Rotary Foundation APF	644.00		
ROMAC	1,000.00		
Interplast	1,000.00		
RAWCS	500.00		
Morogoro Hospital	2,170.63		9,487.66
Timor Leste Farm	7,500.00		2,065.00
<b>Youth</b>		7,472.30	
MUNA	500.00		
RYPEN	690.00		
PCYC	500.00		
Youth Exchange	2,332.30		
RYSTAR	300.00		
Science & Engineering Challenge	1,000.00		
Local School Awards	250.00		
Morisset High School	1,900.00		
		<u>\$26,432.93</u>	<u>\$11,852.66</u>

2. Gross Community Account income for the year was \$38,609.87 ( \$55,897.22) and costs were \$8,914.92 (\$23,457.73). The income amount included a Rotary Matching Grant of \$3,500.00.

3. The Club's cash position is as follows :-

	2018	2017
<b>Members Funds</b>		
General Account	7,843.87	8,969.91
<b>Fundraising Accounts</b>		
Community Account	10,671.92	1,100.19
Morogoro Hospital Appeal	9,580.21	6,943.51
Timor Leste Appeal	2,315.00	
ING Direct Investment Account	10,232.90	10,105.31

These balances include the sum of \$11,400.00 that has been received for sponsorships for the Hit 4 Youth Mental Health Golf Day on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

*ROSS DICKSON, TREASURER*