



ANNUAL REPORT 2005 - 2006

Celebrate Rotary

Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid-City Inc.

Recalling last year's Changeover Dinner, I was, and still am, firm in the belief that the role of President is largely custodial, and not necessarily an opportunity to be a "star". (If you can be a "star" in this role, well, more power to you!) In this context, I can confidently say that not only have we kept the unique spirit of our special club alive, evidenced by the attraction of five new members this year; but have also as a group, ventured into some new challenges which have tested us all.

Coming into this role as a relatively "unseasoned" member, and as the first woman president, my challenge has been rather unique, and to be honest, I've felt the pressure of a level of scrutiny that my predecessors may not have experienced, but I've also felt supported.

Thankfully, I have had the benefit of robust support from some very experienced and dedicated members; an excellent Past President, 16 years a Rotarian; and a strong and experienced Board. To be honest, without the assistance and friendly advice of Immediate Past President, Shane, Secretary John Lawson, Treasurer Dai Reynolds, and the commitment of a superb Board, it would have been a very rough ride for me. I must also make special mention of Brian McIntyre and Rod Wylie, both of whom have been stalwart in their support of me during the year.

Our club has had a very busy year, and despite the over-arching challenge of staging our district's annual conference, which we confronted head on, we managed to initiate additional projects and do a good amount of fund raising.

None of what we have achieved during the year would have happened without the support of all our members, with each person helping out in their own way. The experience of Rotary has a different relevance to each of us, and we all bring our own unique gift to the club as a whole, which is what makes our club special.

I am looking forward to Keith's leadership of our Club. He will bring fresh energy and a new perspective. Most of our terrific, existing Board will stay on, which is excellent. They have become a finely tuned machine during the year and are chomping at the bit to take up new challenges. I wish Keith and his team a wonderful year ahead as together they lead the way, and I look forward to working with you all.

The outcomes

As I said, it has been a busy year, and there are some highlights which stand out for me:

- The planning and implementation of the District Conference will remain in my memory for years to come as an immense challenge to which our club rose with an inspiring level of commitment.
- The Smith Family Hamper delivery and the Red Shield Appeal. Even though we do these on a regular basis, it is always a humbling experience.
- Our stints at DIK – this is a great fellowship opportunity – I loved getting lost amongst bales of hospital gowns and blankets.
- The inspiring presentation to our club of Kristiana Kilvert, who continues to contribute through regular stories on our website.
- The excellent outcome (nail biting though it was) from our inaugural Lottery fundraiser.
- Our weekly meetings and programme of speakers – which really create the atmosphere of our club and demonstrate our fantastic spirit. Every Friday, I was reminded of why I love this Rotary Club.

Membership

2005-06 Rotary International President, Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, gave all clubs a target of a net increase in membership of one member over the previous year.

It is impressive that due to the efforts of club members, and particularly President Elect Keith Carl, we have reached that target. It sounds easy. However to reach this target, the Membership Director must also take into account the number of resignations received during the course of the year.

As at June 30, 2006, our club had received five resignations. As in the past year, these were largely genuine, and not a result of dissatisfaction with the club. It is excellent that the club was able to attract five new members this Rotary year, with two inducted at the club's Changeover Dinner event on June 30. It is noteworthy that this has been achieved in the context of higher luncheon and membership costs, as well as rising fuel costs.

The club also awarded Honorary Membership this year to one particular resignee, Richard Cameron. Thus, as at June 30, the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid-City had a total of 60 members, plus two Honorary Members, which represents a net increase of one member.

Attendance percentages for the year stand at around 67%. While there is always room for improvement, this figure is consistent with the statistical average for our club over the last couple of years.

Community Service

A balanced programme was offered by David Osborne, and in his absence, by Immediate Past President, Shane Murphy, during the year. The Club's huge effort toward hosting the annual District Conference, diminished to some extent our work in this area. However, we were still able to engage in activities covering a broad range of giving, together with the additional benefit of fellowship which these events were able to provide.

- Blood bank donations
- Red Shield Appeal
- Smith Family Hamper Delivery
- Collection of toiletry items for the Redcliffe Rotaract Club to assist homeless youth.

The incoming Board is committed to refocussing its efforts in Community Service for the coming year.

Club Service

Anne Mundy took over the mantle of Club Service Director with impressive zeal this year. This is undoubtedly the most challenging of all Board portfolios and covers a large and diverse area including the following:

- Club Web Site
- Weekly Newsletter
- Sergeant at Arms
- Fundraising
- Programme
- Photographer
- Used Stamps/Corks
- Club Property/Regalia
- Attendance Officer
- Record Keeper
- Risk Management
- Duty Roster
- Public Relations

Hats off to Paul Sergeant who has kept up our award-winning website. Paul included many new initiatives, particularly for the district conference, which offered a "site within a site" and, for the first time in this District, the ability for Rotarians to register online.

James Sowry has done a wonderful job filling the Monitor each week diligently and reliably. This gambit is being handed over to Bernie McNaught for 2006-07. The club website and our weekly Monitor are essential communication tools, both internally and externally, and have continued to add substantial value to our club.

Our programme of speakers this year has been excellent under the leadership of Dawson Petie. With help from Club members and their wide networks, members have been treated to presentations from numerous noteworthy and dynamic speakers.

International Service

Peter Dixon stepped up to the plate as International Service Director this year, and has doggedly fielded and followed up on an increasing number of requests for funding and advice as well as some "out-of-the-box" ideas which he has received locally and from all over the world. With the internet the communication tool of choice for so many these days, the flow of such requests has been unrelenting.

It is to Peter's credit that our club has successfully participated in the following:

- Donations in Kind
- The Rotary Foundation Money Box Appeal
- Manning the Polio Plus display at Brisbane City Hall as part of Rotary International's Centenary celebrations.
- Ambassadorial speakers invited to our meetings

Particularly with Donations in Kind, Peter has gone beyond organising the Club's two rostered container packing activities at Wacol, and has personally volunteered his time at the Wacol facility. Peter has also managed to organise the delivery of a substantial quantity of donated items from medical books to all manner of office and hospital furniture.

Vocational Service

This has been a relatively quiet year on the Vocational Services front, largely due to Kathryn Draper's monumental efforts in managing the implementation of our annual District Conference. Kathryn has been Vocational Services Director this year, and despite her overwhelming and necessary commitment to the District Conference, has managed to keep the portfolio alive with some excellent ideas which will be taken forward over the coming 12 months.

Youth Service

Thrown into the deep end last year as a new member, Ben Warren continued his directorship and charge of Youth Service. This year, with so much of the Club's resources directed toward supporting the District Conference, Ben's work in the Youth Service portfolio has been more targeted and highly focussed.

The club has been presented with some excellent youth services opportunities this year with the following being the most noteworthy:

- **Kristiana Kilvert** - this has been a wonderful project in many ways. Early in the Rotary year the club received an appeal for support from another club on behalf of Kristiana. Kristiana had been selected to represent Australia at the United Nations World Youth Congress in Scotland. She is a remarkable young woman and very passionate about improving the world around her - she truly lives the World Youth Congress 2006 motto, "Be The Change". Not only was the club able to provide some financial support itself, but we also liaised with other inner-city clubs to garner more support, and Ms Kilvert was able to attend the Congress. Since then, she has kindly kept us informed of her efforts on behalf of those in need, both locally and around the world, and her reports have made a great addition to our club website.
- **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)** - the club was able to sponsor a very deserving, community-minded young man (he is Vice-President of a volunteer organisation that provides over 100 tutors to recent immigrants with English language difficulties), and QUT graduate, Gregory Nelson to RYLA in April 2006.
- **QUT "Business Advantage"** - the club has forged a relationship with QUT's "Business Advantage" program, which is a program aimed (amongst other things) at teaching and promoting community-mindedness in young people. One of our members, Bernie McNaught did a presentation during the year to the students involved, promoting Rotary and Rotary programs for youth. From all reports, it was well received, and we look forward to working with them in the future.

During the year, the club also nominated young local student, Anthony Wu, for NYSF 2006 and sponsored young local students, Eloise Warren and Marcus Pincott, for RYPEN and the Siemens Science Experience respectively.

Major Club Projects

This year, with District Governor Charles a member of our club, we took on the large responsibility of staging the District's annual conference. In view of the huge scope of the project and our Club's determination to set a new benchmark for future District Conferences, planning began in early January 2005.

The outcome of nearly 15 months of planning was a District Conference like no other in District history. Our club, with additional assistance from the Rotary Club of Brisbane High Rise, delivered a highly professional, "sophisticated", engaging, and entertaining conference which attracted more than 500 delegates to Brisbane City's Hilton hotel. The style of the conference was very much a city feel which was appropriate given that we are a city-based club.

It is noteworthy that delegates were able for the first time in District history to register and pay online. It is also important that we raised public awareness of Rotary activities through a series of public entertainment events and displays in the Queen Street Mall.

Post conference research undertaken with delegates indicated that overall satisfaction levels with the Conference were in the 90% range.

Many club members became involved the conference, working on the various committees. All of this work was pulled together by Kathryn Draper, who did an admirable and remarkable job of ensuring the conference was a success. It should also be recognised that Ray Crompton, who was the Conference Chairman, was of great assistance, particularly in the area of raising critical sponsorship funds to make possible the standard of the conference delivered.

General Fund Raising

Fund raising has to be an integral part of our programme and whilst our club credo is not to drive fundraising as a key outcome, nevertheless our activities have enabled us to raise sufficient funds to satisfy our obligations and make generous contributions to the needy in our community.

Successful fundraising efforts this year included:

- Melbourne Cup Trifecta Tickets
- Wine Sales
- QBE Rebates
- Donations
- The Lottery

Introduced to the Club for the first time this year by Anne Mundy, the Lottery proved to be a money earner. Having learned valuable lessons the first time around, next year it is anticipated that this activity will be even more successful. Many thanks to those who supported this project.

The incoming Board is committed to identifying appropriate and creative fund raising initiatives to with a view to engaging more club members and increasing our ability to assist disadvantaged citizens in our community and around the world.

Giving

It has been most satisfying that during the year your club has been in a position to make the following donations;

• Rotary Foundation	\$7772
• District 9600 Tsunami Appeal – Sri Lanka Schools Re-awakening Project	\$1000
• The Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care Centre (Fortitude Valley)	\$1000
• Queensland Institute of Medical Research	\$1000
• Coorparoo Secondary College Hand Bells	\$500

Treasurer's Comments

There have been some important decisions made this year concerning our financial arrangements, with key outcomes being the following:

- **Quarantine Rotary Service funds** - during the year your board recognised that there was no way of distinguishing between retained earnings from club operations and Rotary Service Fundraising. To identify for future years and to keep the required separation of these funds, we resolved to apportion approximately half of the club's retained earnings to a liability account on the balance sheet and to journal any unspent earnings from Rotary service fundraising each year to this account, or draw on this account if Rotary service fundraising is insufficient for 'giving' in any year.

- **Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid City becomes major sponsor of District Conference** - you will know by now that your club has run what was arguably the best District 9600 Conference to date. Although it was not the intention at the outset, the board decided that we would not compromise the integrity of the planned program when sponsorship income fell short, this meant that the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid City became a major sponsor of the District 9600 Conference. The club had sufficient retained earnings from club operations (not Rotary Service funds) to fund this and your board felt that the District Conference was a worthy project for these funds.
- **Subs for next year** - the annual Club membership fee for 2006/07 will rise from \$280 pa to \$320 pa. This represents a significant increase which is made up of a small incremental increase in RI and District subs and the balance (approx \$30pp) is to go towards the running costs of the Changeover Dinner. The Changeover Dinner is an important social and ceremonial club activity and as such needs to be a 'special' event. By adding some of the cost to the annual membership fee, the cost of running the event is not fully borne by the members who attend.
- **Club Operating profit/loss** - there will be a loss in club operations this year due to the funding of the District 9600 Conference. This is detailed above.
- **Rotary Service income;** I expect a useful surplus in fundraising for Rotary projects which will be allocated by the board to statutory and other appropriate recipients before the end of the financial year.

To conclude, it has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid-City, and I thank the Club for its confidence in me. It is hard to believe that the year is over, and that I have made it through the year without doing anything that could undermine the excellence of this club's radiant and seductive spirit. I feel proud of this fact – it is the most important personal outcome for me.

Warm regards

Susan Yates
President 2005-2006