



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2007-2008**

**Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid-City Inc**



## **Introduction**

As a Rotarian with only four and half years experience I accepted the nomination for President in late 2005. I commenced my year as President with a little trepidation but also a great deal of encouragement and support from many members. That support has not faltered throughout the past year and I owe thanks to many people – more on this later.

The year seems to have passed with amazing speed and it is interesting to reflect on what has been achieved. Of particular note are initiatives that will have a long and lasting effect on our Club. These are:

- ◆ Implementation of the Rotary Club Leadership Plan  
- thank you to all Board members for embracing this
- ◆ Overhauling of our Club Constitution & Bylaws  
- thank you to Kevin Hesse for his excellent work
- ◆ Introduction of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid-City Foundation  
- thank you to Keith Carl for his tremendous efforts

It has been a wonderful experience to lead the Club over the past year. It has been challenging at times but always immensely satisfying. To each and every member I extend my thanks for entrusting me with the stewardship of our great Club – it has been a very real privilege.

I especially want to thank our hard working Board. They have put in a huge effort to ensure our many accomplishments in 2007-2008.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank my wife Chris' who has provided stalwart support throughout my year as President.

I look forward to the leadership of John Lawson as incoming President for 2008-2009 and offer my total support to John and his fellow Board members.

Warm regards....

**Paul Sergeant**

President 2007-2008

## Giving

As Rotarians our main objective is to address many of today's most critical issues such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy and violence. We primarily do this by raising funds through a variety of initiatives and giving to a carefully selected list of needy causes.

In the past year we have made a number of donations:

◆ The Rotary Foundation	\$5,600
◆ Adopt a Village program - PNG	\$2,000
◆ Cyclone Guba ( <i>Oro Province</i> ) Appeal	\$1,000
◆ ROMAC	\$1,000
◆ Shelter Box	\$2,000
◆ Port Vila Hospital ( <i>traction bed</i> )	\$250
◆ Polio Plus	\$596
◆ Heather Kinross Rotary Shelter Village	\$1,500
◆ Wesley Hospital East Wing sponsorship	\$2,000*

(\* 1st year of a 3 year sponsorship program)

We also support programmes for youth, educational opportunities and vocational and career development. This year we have:

- ◆ Sponsored outgoing Group Study Exchange team member Francine Riley
- ◆ Sponsored the incoming Group Study Exchange team from Canada
- ◆ Contributed to Queensland Youth Orchestra (*Louise Cottone*) expenses
- ◆ Sponsored three participants in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

In total we have contributed more than \$19,000 towards Rotary objectives which is a wonderful result.

## Fund raising

Fund raising is an essential part of our activities. In the past year we have renewed our efforts with annual initiatives such as the Club Lottery, Melbourne Cup Trifecta, eBay merchandise and wine sales. These efforts were augmented by rebates from QBE (*i.e: third party insurance*), the introduction of the 'Deck of Cards' raffle and the very successful catering for the opening of the Inner Northern Busway.

## **Community Service**

As in previous years we have been active in this area. Specifically we have participated in and contributed to:

- ◆ Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- ◆ Clean Up Australia Day
- ◆ Smith Family Christmas Hamper Delivery

On each occasion the experience was rewarding and the fellowship enjoyed by participating members a great pleasure.

## **International Service**

Though we have been unable to help all those who have requested help we have made worthwhile contributions in a number of areas.

- ◆ Despite the fact that Donations in Kind (DIK) has been wound down whilst they seek a new home, we were able to assist on a couple of occasions by packing containers at Wacol in preparation for shipping
- ◆ We supported Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) by purchasing much need mosquito nets for villages in PNG under the Adopt a Village Program
- ◆ We continue our support for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) with not only funds but also very practical support for the Rasmiddin sisters currently undergoing treatment here in Brisbane

## **Vocational Service**

We have enjoyed a number of guest speakers who have contributed to our understanding of different vocations. Our skills were put to the test in organising appropriate vocational visits for the incoming Group Study Exchange team from Canada. Other initiatives are already in the pipeline for the New Year.

## **Youth Service**

Over the past year, we sponsored three young people to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). We maintain strong connections with Kristiana Kilvert, winner of a Pride of Australia medal recently. We haven now sponsored Kristiana's application for a Rotary World Peace Fellowship, the outcome of which will be known in November 2008.

## Membership

As at 30 June 2008 our Club had received six resignations. These were solely due to members either relocating (*e.g: Richard Mendonca to Brazil and Bjorg Thorsteinsson to the Sunshine Coast*) or severely increased work responsibilities (*e.g: Ken Bell; Dai Reynolds; Shane Murphy; Martin Turner; Tom Hambley*). On a very positive note we were delighted to welcome several new members in the shape of Judy Xavier, David Seamans, Matt Myers and Chris Livesay.

At the close of this Rotary year our membership stands at fifty four including two honorary members which is a reduction of three on last year.

The annual Club membership fees will rise in 2008-2009 from \$160 to \$180 per half year. The increase though regrettable is unavoidable and reflects the increased costs emanating from Rotary International, Rotary Downunder and Rotary District 9600. Only 27% of membership fees are retained at Club.

## Fellowship

Over and above the terrific fellowship that is always apparent at our meetings and Rotary inspired events, we have enjoyed three quite special occasions:

- ◆ Movie & Supper evening – “La Vie En Rose”
- ◆ Dinner & Theatre Evening – “Phantom of the Opera”
- ◆ Barefoot Bowls & Barbecue

The feedback on each of these occasions has been unanimously favourable and there will hopefully be more such events in the year ahead.

## The Program

We have enjoyed a varied and entertaining meeting program. This has included many good speakers on a wide range of topics and some quite special meetings

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancake (*Breakfast*) Luncheon
- ◆ Lunch at Parliament House
- ◆ Big City Barbecue
- ◆ Paul Harris Fellow Luncheon
- ◆ Australia Day Luncheon
- ◆ 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club Dinner

## Communications

Communications play a vital part in any organisation. We have consistently produced our Club bulletin 'The Monitor' with informative content and distributed this via the internet and also in hard copy form.

Our Club website, now in its seventh year, continues to play an important part in showing our 'face' to the world and providing resources for our members. For the third time in four years, the site has just won the award for best web design in Rotary District 9600 for 2007-2008. This is in addition to an international award we secured in 2003.

## District Representation

The skills and experience of our members are well known at a District level. Three of our members have contributed to District activity over and above their contribution to our Club, namely:

- ◆ Charles Guesdon - Chair, World Community Service Committee *and* Chair, Disaster Advisory Committee
- ◆ Judy Xavier - Chair, Family of Rotary Committee
- ◆ Ray Crompton - Chair, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children

These people are all great emissaries for our Club.

## Special Mentions

Congratulations are in order for two of our members who were recognised as Companions of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund during the year. They were Ray Crompton and Rod Thorburn.

And in appreciation for the ways in which their lives exemplify the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" and the objectives of The Rotary Foundation, we recognised two members as Paul Harris Fellows, namely:

- ◆ Dai Reynolds – for his efficient and tireless efforts as Club Treasurer over several years and his continuing practical support today even though work responsibilities prevent him from being an active member
- ◆ Peter Dixon – for selflessly providing transport for the Rasmiddin sister to and from hospital on a very regular basis and assisted the family's wellbeing in many other ways without any financial support from our Club (*not even petrol money*) under the ROMAC program

## Acknowledgements

I started this Annual Report by commenting that I owe thanks to many people. At the risk of omitting someone I shall name names:

- ◆ Keith Carl for wise counsel and generous professional advice
- ◆ John Lawson for constant encouragement and practical support
- ◆ Ben Warren for truly exemplary work as our Club Secretary
- ◆ David Seamans for taking over the Treasury at very short notice
- ◆ Anne Mundy for tireless efforts in managing our Administration
- ◆ Peter Dixon for overseeing our Club Service portfolio
- ◆ Charles Guesdon for sound guidance on all things Rotary
- ◆ Ray Crompton for endless enthusiasm and new ideas
- ◆ Dawson Petie for maximising our support of The Rotary Foundation
- ◆ Andrew Vincent for taking up the challenge of Youth Service
- ◆ Mike Pappalardo for help with Vocational Service and fund raising
- ◆ Chris Livesay for managing the GSE Team visit from Canada
- ◆ Michael Sargent for orchestrating a diverse and entertaining Program
- ◆ Craig Hausler for maintaining Club membership records
- ◆ Bruce Clarke for maintaining Club attendance records
- ◆ Bernie MacNaught for producing The Monitor each and every week
- ◆ Brian McIntyre for ensuring that our meeting space is properly prepared
- ◆ Kevin Hesse for similarly ensuring that our meeting space is always orderly
- ◆ John Roberts for coordinating our participation in the INB opening
- ◆ Seb Messina for frequently being handy with a camera
- ◆ Kathryn Draper – for being event organiser ‘extraordinaire’ and Deputy Treasurer

I would also like to thank Gordana Blazevic, Assistant Governor in District 9600, with responsibility for our Club. Gordana has been a constant mentor and supporter and deserves our appreciation.

Finally, so many people work away quietly in the background to ensure that our great Club runs smoothly. To each and every one of you I offer my thanks on behalf of all our members... you do a wonderful job!