



ROTARY CLUB OF BOX HILL INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to represent the Rotary Club of Box Hill as President for the 2007 – 2008 Rotary Year.

As most Members are aware I was Club President in 1989 – 1990 and, whilst I was honoured to be invited to act again, it is amazing how the administration of a Rotary Club has changed in the intervening 17 years or so.

In 1989 we were the principal Rotary Club within the City of Box Hill until we sponsored the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central which was chartered in April, 1990.

When I review the activities and projects with which the Club is currently involved it is more akin to conducting a small business rather than being involved in a Service Club.

During the current year the Club's budgeted contributions and donations have approached \$110,000 and have encompassed the following:-

- \$53,000 to Box Hill Hospital to purchase medical equipment and upgrade Mental Health facilities.
- \$15,000 to Family Access Network, Box Hill to assist in the "Life Skills" Program.
- \$2,000 to Family Access network for Emergency Kits.
- \$3,000 to the Biala Early Intervention Centre, Box Hill.
- \$1,000 to the State Schools Relief Committee.
- \$9,142 in local Community Grants.
- \$5,000 to the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund for medical research.
- \$5,000 to the Rotary Foundation for humanitarian projects.
- \$12,000 to International Service Projects through Rotary International.
- \$3,000 plus to the Alan Broadhead Awards.
- \$750 for the Stoll Trust Award.

All Club Members should be proud of these achievements which give an indication of the Club's important presence within the local Community, within District 9810 and various International Projects.

I have been fortunate to have Past President David Tolstrup act as Secretary this Rotary Year.

David is a consummate Rotarian, an excellent administrator and organiser and has a wealth of Rotary knowledge at Club, District and International levels.

We are all aware that David experienced some health problems early in 2007 and I appreciated his commitment to the Club when he agreed to undertake the secretarial duties whilst undergoing treatment. We will never forget the emotion of the Club Meeting when we were able to celebrate the arrival of David's final Health Bulletin email declaring that his oncologist had given him the "all clear".

The 2007-2008 Office Bearers and Board have been productive and supportive and I have appreciated and enjoyed the harmony around the Board table notwithstanding the need for making decisions and furthering the interests of the Club.

Thank you to Vice-President Sue Bishop who has stood in for me on the occasions when I have been unable to attend the regular Club Meeting and congratulations and thanks, also, to Treasurer Greg Paine, Immediate Past President Colin Johnson and President-Elect Carol Pawsey for their assistance and support and for jobs well done.

Congratulations to the Directors for their sterling efforts during the year as it is amazing how much has been achieved within the Club given that we are a voluntary service organisation.

Tim Lynn has been tireless in looking after Community Service, Geoff Swain has been a dynamo in tending to Fellowship and Fund Raising and Clem Joyce and the Opportunity Shop Team have produced record-breaking results.

For various reasons Chris Kelly, Art Show, Don Murray, Vocational & Whitehorse Farmers Market, and Stephen Bell, International, were unable to complete their tenure as Directors and I am grateful to Ray Riehm, Colin Johnson and Mick Matthews who accepted the invitation to take over the respective portfolios and their individual contributions are acknowledged.

I would also thank and congratulate the Club Members for their support in attending the regular Meetings and participating in the various Projects throughout the year thereby contributing greatly to the overall success of the year.

At this point I would acknowledge the efforts of our Charter Members, John Booth and Bruce McKenzie and our other long-serving Member, Merv Agnew, for their commitment to the Club this year.

John Booth has not been in good health and we thank Alison for driving John to Club Meetings and also joining us each week.

The contributions of Merv and his wife, Janet, were marked on Merv's 45th Anniversary of Membership in November with the presentation of a Paul Harris Sapphire to Merv and a Paul Harris Fellow to Janet.

Notwithstanding that separate Directors' Reports are included in this Annual Report, I would like to touch on a few of the highlights of the year in no particular order:-

1. Major Project – Box Hill Hospital

I am grateful for the Club's adoption of the Box Hill Hospital as the Major Project for 2007-2008.

This has culminated in a total of \$53,247 having been allocated to the Hospital to meet:-

a. Contribution to the purchase of a foetal monitoring machine	\$20,000.00
b. Purchase of sleep apnoea monitoring machines	\$13,247.00
c. Purchase of equipment and facilities up-grading for the Upton House Mental Health facility	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
	<u>\$53,247.00</u>

During our recent visit to the Hospital to inspect the equipment and upgrading of facilities we were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hospital which is now on

display at the Club's Opportunity Shop in recognition of the outstanding service and contribution of the volunteers in making this project happen.

Another Project undertaken by the Community Service Committee was to source and supply 750 Welcome Packs for use by patients of the Upton House Mental Health Facility.

These packs comprise toiletries and personal health care items for the use of individual patients and fill a desperate need.

I would hope that the provision of these packs will be a long-term continuing project of the Club.

2. Community Grants

The scope of the 2008 Community Grants is again wide ranging from a Children's Room upgrade, underwriting a Therapy Group, production of a DVD, and purchase of a data projector.

I would acknowledge the efforts of Geoff Swain who, with his associate, Vicki Hatton, was able to obtain an article with accompanying photographs in the "Whitehorse News" community newsletter concerning the Community Grants to Alkira for the "Stepping Out" bus steps and the purchase of playground equipment for the Bennettswood Neighbourhood House.

3. Handbag Theft Prevention Project

One of our newer Club Members, Ray McLeod-Dryden introduced us to the production of a leaflet in association with Neighbourhood House and the Victoria Police on the best methods of thwarting likely handbag theft.

Aside from the positive publicity concerning the project at the official launch at Forest Hill Shopping Centre in November, 2007 the vital message of this project was really brought home in recent weeks when celebrity Patti Newton reported the loss of her handbag containing substantial valuables whilst she was visiting the Chadstone Shopping Centre.

4. Whitehorse Farmers Market

Rotarian Don Murray had been the Club's liaison with the Whitehorse Farmers Market since its establishment in November, 2006.

Unfortunately, Don underwent major foot surgery during the year and felt he was unable to continue to commit to Rotary Membership although he retained a keen interest in the success of the project.

Colin Johnson assumed the liaison role and Club Members are to be congratulated for their continued support of the Market which is a joint project of the six Rotary Clubs in the Whitehorse Cluster together with the Whitehorse Rotaract Club.

During the year a formal License Agreement was entered into between the Whitehorse City Council and the Combined Rotary Clubs of Whitehorse and Past President Michael Kirk from the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central concluded the protracted negotiations with the Council which resulted in the completion of a five year Agreement with a further five year option as from 1st January, 2008.

The Market is also a great time for Fellowship as those who attended the recent Bacon & Egg Breakfast Stall will agree.

5. Club Meetings

Regular Club Meetings have been conducted in good spirit and this is due in no small part to the contributions from Sergeant Robert Bishop, the outstanding Program organised by Geoffrey Weeks and the weekly raffle segment handled by Fellowship Chairman, Geoff Swain.

Rob has been an entertaining Sergeant and yet has kept the Meeting moving, as necessary, and Geoff Weeks has organised a range of interesting Guest Speakers during the year.

Similarly, Geoff Swain has kept us entertained with the raffle segment at the conclusion of each Meeting and has put thought and effort into the selection of the prizes each week.

6. Bulletin

Congratulations to Lloyd Cranwell and Ross McPhail and the other Members of the Bulletin team for an informative and interesting weekly journal.

The Bulletin masthead has recently been up-dated with the assistance of Mersi Mujanic from Geoff Iles' Office and Sara Small and Kara Lowe from Ross McPhail's Office and the result is refreshing and modern and now matches the branding on the Club's new internet website.

7. Opportunity Shop

I have exhausted the range of superlatives that can be attached to the work of Clem Joyce, Past Club Member and valued friend of Rotary, Bill Farrugia and the Opportunity Shop Volunteers in the results they produce from the Club's Opportunity Shop in Canterbury Road, Blackburn South.

Without the cash transfers from the Opportunity Shop the Club would not be able to undertake so many worthwhile projects and activities.

From my recent involvement as a part-time volunteer at the Op-Shop during the week it is not difficult to recognise the dedication of the volunteers in the back room and the feed back from the clientele, both donors and purchasers, is so positive as they are aware the Shop is a 100% voluntary project.

8. Art Show

Art Show Director, Chris Kelly, presided over the 43rd Annual Art Show conducted in August, 2007.

Following the 2007 Show an amount of \$13,000 was transferred across to the Charity Account and I would again convey the Club's appreciation to Chris, the Art Show Committee and all other Club Members who contributed to the success of the 2007 Show.

Chris Kelly is currently on extended Leave of Absence from the Club and I would express the Club's gratitude to Past President Ray Riehm who assumed the Chairmanship of the Art Show Committee and has arrangements for the 44th Annual Show well in hand.

A review of the Art Show organisation and timing was conducted following the 2007 Show and Ray, with particular support from Geoff Swain and the other Members of the Art Show Committee, has implemented a number of innovations that will, hopefully, produce a positive end result to the bottom line of the 2008 Show.

9. Membership

The Club was introduced to the “Two Up” membership development scheme at the 2007 District Conference and this was reinforced when District Membership Development Officer, Jenny Coburn, addressed the Club after the Conference.

Our Club’s Membership Liaison, Past President Tom Thorpe, has been very active over the past twelve months and we are pleased to have welcomed a number of New Members to the Club notably, Vincent Li, Geoff Iles, Paul Wheelton, Rob Fenton, Rae Wilson and Clive Nicholson.

Arrangements are in hand for two additional inductions prior to the conclusion of this current Rotary Year as the names of Trevor Donegan and David D’Silva have already been circulated for membership.

Regrettably we were saddened by the death of Past President Len Venus in November and Rotarian John Lawson was unable to continue Membership for health reasons during the year.

In addition to the resignation of Don Murray, principally for health reasons, Stephen Bell has also indicated his current workload involving frequent interstate travel will preclude him from renewing his Membership from 30th June.

10. Website

Members will recall that one of my objectives at the commencement of my term was the aim of establishing an improved internet website.

Through the assistance and generosity of Rotarian Geoff Iles and his Marketing Director at Décor Stone, Mersi Mujanic, we now have a brilliant new website at www.boxhillrotary.com.au

Club Members are encouraged to liaise with Geoff on items they wish to have incorporated on or deleted from the website as it is imperative that the internet information is kept current.

11. Club Health Check & Club Clinic

District recommended all Clubs in District 9810 undertake the Club Health Check and Club Clinic.

Past President John White from the Rotary Club of Boronia conducted the Club Clinic and the results were very interesting.

Generally, there was a lot of favourable comment concerning the conduct of our Club but initiatives implemented since the Clinic include more extensive reporting to Members on decisions taken by the Board, an Information Sheet for the benefit of New Members and adoption of an alternative invocation at the commencement of regular Club Meeting.

Overall, I considered the process to be very worthwhile and beneficial to the operation of our Club.

12. Relationship With Cluster 6 and District

The Rotary Club of Box Hill has enjoyed a special relationship with the other Member Clubs of District 9810 and I am pleased to note the tradition has continued during 2007-2008.

District Governor Dick Garner, accompanied by his wife, Sue, visited our Club in October and I was proud to receive a glowing letter of appreciation on the work and achievements of the Club from Dick as a consequence.

I have attended the various regular meetings of the Cluster 6 Clubs in the City of Whitehorse and, from my discussions with other President, we can all be proud of the Club's reputation for action and support throughout the District.

In conclusion, I have enjoyed the challenges offered during the past twelve months and I trust Club Members have enjoyed the journey as well.

Naturally, I extend all good wishes to President-Elect Carol Pawsey and her Team for the continued success of the Club during the 2008-2009 Rotary Year.

Robert Leach

President 2007-2008

10th June, 2008