

Rotary Club of Kidman Park

2014-15 President's Report

Although the circumstances of my taking up the position of President were not optimal, I think that the year has been successful. At the outset I said that our Club “has fun doing good” and clearly this has been the case. We have had plenty of fun together and have contributed a lot of good locally and around the world. Our membership number has remained at 50, with 4 new members replacing 4 departures.

The Fellowship Committee, ably led by Ian Roberts and with a happy band of cohorts has taken us to Adelaide Oval, the annual golf weekend and “Guess Who is coming to Dinner” along with other events through the year.

Fundraising has been steady through participation with Henley Beach in Saturday sausage sizzle and the Semaphore Carousel. The West Lakes Library Bookmart continues to be a substantial source of income and Yvonne, Stuart and the volunteers do a great job of sorting and displaying the books. More hands are needed!

The funds have gone to great causes to make a difference in peoples' lives. Our main local focus has been Backpacks for SA kids which provides for some basic necessities for children as they are taken from neglected or abusive environments to foster care. We paid for and members assisted in the installation of new shelving for the backpack supplies. A new batch of backpacks was sourced from China and our Club contributed to this purchase, along with 100 sets of children's pyjamas. We purchased and assembled 10 sets of artificial hands which Frank Bunnik then went with a team to Sri Lanka to fit on people who had lost their hands mainly during the civil war. Frank says that the gratitude was overwhelming. Speaking of Frank another way we had fun and did a lot of good was the quiz night that he and his family arranged, along with other generous sponsors. A total of \$20,000 was raised for the Fred Hollows Foundation and this will allow around 800 eye surgery procedures. Through West Beach Lifesaving Club we contributed to Breast Cancer research and also we contributed to the Nazareth College East Timor work. We gave money to purchase 2 cows for Cossie's Cows for

Cambodia project and purchased dictionaries for African students. A further contribution was made to the Tonga HEARS project and we continued our support for the Rotary Foundation and RYLA/RYPEN. In total over \$27000 has been given from Club funds during this year. In addition to this money members have put in many valuable hours work both in the fundraising activities and in helping with Meals on Wheels and Kickstart for kids.

The Financial reports are currently in the hands of the Auditor and will be disseminated to members when complete. Sufficient to say that the Club is in a very strong financial position.

Work is under way to bring our web site up to speed and Wayne Comley has done great things with our weekly Kidman Krier. Through the year we have been treated to an interesting and informative range of Guest Speakers and Dinner Meeting attendance has usually hovered around the 35 mark. Some initiatives have been proposed to streamline our meetings and Warren will have more to say about these.

Thanks to all members who have contributed throughout the year and special thanks to all of the Board who have supported me so well. Best wishes to Warren and his incoming team.

Let me say in conclusion that it has been a privilege to have served as President of this Rotary Club this year and I am confident that it is in good hands for the future.

Ron Harris

30/6/2015