

NORTH HARBOUR ROTARY CLUB
20th Anniversary : Changeover 27 June 2009

Rotarians and Friends

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight some of this Club's activities over the last twenty years. You will appreciate, I'm sure, that to cram 20 busy years into 5 minutes is a mission much more difficult than that experienced by Cinderella's sisters.

There are many activities undertaken that have not been able to included because of time constraints, and I apologise in advance to anyone whose favorite has not been included. While it is not my intention to bore you with facts and figures you should be aware that there will be some.

In reviewing past years what has stood out is the fact that this Club has made a difference, a significant difference, in furthering the object of Rotary while at the same time having fun.

The life blood of any organisation is its team. Over the years from the 36 Charter members to the, tonight, 50 members One hundred and fifty three men and women have participated in and contributed to this Club.

To enable us to undertake and complete the many projects fundraising has always been on the agenda. These varied events have included; sausage sizzles, monster book sale, massive garage sale, Milford beach big dig, mountain mania, trivial pursuits evenings, golf days and more. These activities have raised an estimated \$750,000 plus – approximately \$500,000 of which has been raised since 2000 when the Club’s flagship fund raiser – The Annual Charity Dinner and Auction was introduced.

These fundraisers required time, commitment, and effort – but there was always time for socializing and fun.

The major projects undertaken by the Club include;

- Provision of a six metre Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat, plus motors and ancillaries valued at more than \$100,000 for North Harbour Sea Rescue based at Browns Bay.**
- The Arusha project in which the Club’s initial \$9,000 contribution plus a grant from NZ Foreign Affairs, which was then matched by the Rotary Foundation provided \$60,000 to provide a well and water for a school plus a 2 mile pipeline to the nearby hospital.**

- **This was followed over the years with more funding, and collaboration from other Clubs, to provide water storage facilities at the Arusha hospital, and then a covered market place away from the busy main highway.**
- **Provision of a vehicle for the Takapuna based community constable.**
- **Facilitating a new Mercedes mini van for Taipa Area School – after their old had broken down a number of times when bringing a group of students down to Auckland for their vocational experience.**
- **On the instigation of, the then, Constable Stephen Farrell assisting in setting up Operation Untag - the removal of graffiti by in need of diversion youths. Club members were rostered to transport and supervise them. Later a van was provided for Untag.**
- **Provision of Ex Burger King Playground equipment (obtained courtesy Cherry Le Verne) to two decile 1 schools in the far north. They were transported free of charge by Rotarian contacts.**
- **The Disabilities, later renamed YES, Centre in Albany is the most recent project undertaken and this received more than \$60,000 in financial assistance over a three year period. Club**

member Paul Brosnan is a Trustee of that organisation.

Other projects and Club involvement included; Project K, Canteen, Outward Bound, Spirit of Adventure, At Risk Youth (suicide, helpline), Literacy including 30,000 children's books (courtesy Tracey Massam) to schools and 100 plus picture dictionaries to primary students in Northland, Taipa School – computers, vocational experience, Te Hapua School – computers and facilitating an e learning centre, Peace Foundation – translation of Cool Schools material into Te Reo, Rotary programmes such as Science Summer School RYLA, as well as sponsoring outbound students and inbound students from countries including; Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, South Africa, Canada, USA, Germany, Japan, Belgium, and Australia.

We have been involved with North Shore Hospital Cardiac Unit, North Shore Hospice, the Aviary for Wildlife Bird Rescue/Release in Matakana, North Shore Pensioner Flat Garden Seating, Onepoto School Shade Area, Tree planting, Peter Snell Foundation, Brain Injury Trust, Special Olympics, Parent to Parent, and Oral hygiene programme in schools.

We have hosted and provided programmes for visiting Group Study Exchange Teams from Argentina,

Arizona, Arkansas, Turkey, Scotland, Canada, India, USA, and others.

Vocational visits have been undertaken annually, and included Paremoremo Maxim Security Prison, Prime TV Studio in Albany, and Auckland Harbour Bridge.

We have identified recipients and presented Vocation & Business Awards to individuals on the North Shore.

A grant was made towards the building of a TB Ward at the Port Vila Hospital in Vanuatu, with a team of members and one partner assisting in the construction.

As well, water tanks have been provided in Vanuatu. Aqua Boxes have been made available each year and used for emergency relief in the Pacific.

The Club's commitment to Rotary Foundation is evident in that there have been more than 40 Paul Harris Fellow awards made. As well, seven members have lead Group Study Exchange Teams – Denmark, Argentina, Turkey, Canada, Scotland, and the USA (Arkansas & Virginia).

On the social scene we have enjoyed the monthly Sundowners Club, Presidents' Change Over, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, cultural evenings (Chinese

New Year & Devali) progressive dinners, theatre nights, movie & meal, pot luck dinners, wine trails, car rallies, a rolling restaurant meal, and more.

Club members have also been involved in Rotary at higher levels. We have three Past District Governors (Matu Rangiuaia, Stuart Batty & Bill Conaghan) in our ranks, while having up to 20 plus members in any one year either chairing or serving on District Committees.

I can remember a well traveled Rotarian from Arizona doing a make up and, after presenting his Club's banner, saying "this Club isn't the best Club in the world because mine is, and while you're the second best I can say you are the god-damned funnest."

On behalf of the members, past and present, I would like to extend our thanks to our families for supporting us in our involvement in this fantastic Club.