



TOM's Rotary Club



District 9650
Chartered 20th April, 1991



Board 2007 – 2008

Richard Johnson, Meagan Buckley, Paul Tollis, Maurie Stack,
Carolyn Wilson, John Parker, Alan Tickle
Front: Elizabeth Tollis

Seventeenth Annual Report

2007 - 2008

Board of Directors and Committees 2007-2008

President	Maurie Stack
President Elect / Treasurer	Elizabeth Tollis
Secretary	John Parker
Immediate Past President / Club Service	Carolyn Wilson
Community Service	Richard Johnson
Youth Vocational	Meagan Buckley
International	Alan Tickle
Club Speakers	Paul Tollis
Sergeant at Arms	Geoff Fuller
Corporal	Spencer Davies
Historian	Wendy McKeough
Bowel Scan Program	Geoff Fuller
Games Night	Richard Johnson
Business House Relay	Carolyn Wilson
YEP Inbound Student Counsellor	Mary-Ann Nowland
International Youth Exchange Outbound	Amelia McCallum
International Youth Exchange Inbound	Rayane Oliveira Ramos
International Youth Exchange Inbound	Hannah Schneider



Amelia McCallum

Rayane Oliveira Ramos

Hannah Schneider

TOM's Rotary Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008



Yours truly was dragooned into the position of President, being the last one standing when everyone else took a back step at the Volunteers for President meeting. Despite that, I have greatly enjoyed my year as President and really appreciate the support of the Board and the Club generally.

The main reason for my hesitation in accepting the honour of Presidency of our Club is that I knew I would be overseas for two significant periods during the year. Fortunately President Elect Elizabeth Tollis and Vice President Alan Tickle have readily covered for me during those absences.

Your Board adopted a plan at the start of the year setting quite an ambitious program for the year. With one exception we have adhered to each of the goals that we set for ourselves.

Our main objective at the start of the year was to combine with the other Rotary Clubs in Taree and Wingham under the banner of "Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley" to promote the Manning River Discovery Day. There are three parts to this program.

The first part involved hosting an annual Discovery Day on the Manning River, effectively a community picnic at a different site on the banks of the Manning River each year, with music provided during the day by local musicians, funded as necessary by a local business house. The idea was and is to encourage as many people as possible to travel by boat and in the process to "discover" each year another great picnic spot on the Manning River. Sadly we picked the wrong year to launch this initiative.

Despite widespread publicity and community support, the event had to be postponed on each occasion that it was to be held because of heavy rain. I would like to particularly thank Paul Tollis who in conjunction with Larry Belton from Taree Rotary Club organised a musical program for each day – which will not be entirely wasted because this will provide the framework for the proposed event in later this year. My understanding is that President Elizabeth will be trying again in November of this year – usually a month of low rainfall according to longstanding bureau of meteorology records.

The second part of the program was to replace the T-Wharf at Taree with a floating pontoon and build a floating pontoon at Wingham. We met with representatives of the Greater Taree City Council early in the year and it was agreed that if the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley could raise \$50,000 then the Council would match that in cash or kind and we would seek support from the State Government to achieve an overall budget of \$200,000. Our application to the State Government was successful and Minister Jo Triopdi announced whilst in Taree that the State Government would contribute \$125,000 to the program.

The combined Rotary Clubs agreed to set a target of raising \$30,000 at a gaming night and auction and to seek to raise \$10,000 in respect of each facility by means of a sponsor. A great deal of preparatory work by members of each of the four Rotary Clubs including in particular our own Director Richard Johnson resulted in a very successful Gaming Night and Auction. The Auction depended upon obtaining donations of various items such as framed football jerseys etc. I would like to thank all club members and those from the other Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley who enthusiastically set about obtaining the necessary goods for auction, in particular thanks are due to

Val Good who personally talked business houses into contributing something like 60 separate items which were used both as auction items and as giveaways in return for the contributions of our gamblers (sorry gamers!). Not only was it a fun evening but it raised in excess of \$30,000. Two families have put their hands up to contribute \$10,000 each on the basis that the Council grant naming rights to the two facilities. This is currently the subject of an application to the Council to vary its normal Policy and it will involve advertising so that anyone in the community wishing to apply can do so. In any event we are confident that the remaining \$20,000 will be raised thus achieving our target of \$50,000.

The third part of the program involved the preparation of a plan of the Manning Valley showing tourist destinations. This was achieved in conjunction with Sunne Printing who managed the production at no cost to Rotary by raising funds from advertisers. 5,000 maps have been prepared and are in course of circulation. They have been well received particularly by the Council itself.

Our other major objective for the year was to seek to increase membership from 25 to 35. We approached this using the "Club within a Club" developed by other Rotary Clubs. This involved Club members preparing a list of prospective Rotarians, who were then invited to drinks at the new Bean Bar at which Club members told them something about Rotary. Those attending were invited to complete a form at the end indicating whether they remained interested and those who were interested were then invited to a lunch, separate from our ordinary Rotary meetings. Of 17 people who attended that lunch, 15 indicated an interest in joining the Club and ultimately 13 of those members were inducted as members and two, being partners of those inducted, were inducted as the first Tom's supporters. We lost one member during the year but replaced that member so that the net result was a 52% increase in membership from 25 to 38.



Induction Lunch



Greg Gibson



Dennis Brown
Role of Paul Harris



Scott Pyne



Group Inductees 2008 minus Greg & Scott (above) (inducted later)

I would like to pay particular thanks to Geoff Fuller for his assistance with that program.

In 2005, following the Boxing Day, 2004 Tsunami in South East Asia, our Club agreed to sponsor a community effort to build a medical centre in Nias, Indonesia. Fundraising for that activity was conducted locally during the 2004/2005, 2005/2006 years. Our club was a significant supporter of the internet auction dinner parties which together with other activities raised in excess of \$150,000. The task since then has been to actually finalise the project and build what has turned into a small hospital at Gunung Sitoli on the island of Nias - just to the west of the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. The actual building of the small hospital has in fact been harder than the raising of the funds and would have been impossible without the support of the Rotarians in District 3400 in Indonesia including in particular those from Jakarta and the Rotary Club of Medan Sudirman.



Sunardi from Rotary Club of Medan Sudirman, Betty from Rotary Club of Jakarta and Maurie from TOM's Rotary Club



Mini Hospital

Even with their support, it has been a big effort and has involved no less than four trips to Indonesia by different combinations of myself, Rod Illidge, Jill Illidge and Grant Armstrong – nine individual trips. The final visit on 4 April was a pure delight when the completed building was formally opened at quite an amazing ceremony at The Convent of the Sisters of St Francis – jointly by the Mother Superior, the local Bishop, the Head of the local Civil Authority and yours truly. It is a great facility providing accommodation for 20 patients and operated by the local sisters with the assistance of volunteers and help from the medical staff at the local public hospital. The project proceeded under the auspices of Rotary Australia World Community Service and has provided the writer with a real insight into the many worthwhile overseas projects of Rotarians in Australia.



The Taree Reps at the Opening

The monies raised locally have basically been expended – subject to payment of a retention allowance of 5% on completion of some minor repairs. Fortunately donations by other Rotary

Clubs mean that there are funds available to proceed with a planned second stage of the hospital, providing additional patient beds as well as much needed laundry and storage facilities.



The Opening

The Plaque



Signing the Plaque

This is a project which our Club can be very proud of sponsoring. Every cent of the money raised locally has gone directly into the building because costs are much lower in Indonesia, we estimate that the small hospital built would have cost the best part of \$1million in Australia. It has been a great project for a small club such as ours, working in conjunction with the local community and Rotary Australia World Community Service.

The Peace Scholar nominated by our Club, Trent Newman, is now completing his two years of study at the University of California in Berkley. His regular reports show that it has been a most rewarding experience. Not only has Trent learnt a great deal, he set out on a significant mission in Africa during his summer vacation last year and in conjunction with one of the lecturers at the University has been instrumental in developing the curriculum for a formal Peace Studies course at the University of California. Trent will be returning to Australia this month and we look forward to having him as a guest at our Club and learning of his future plans. There is no doubt that those plans will be greatly enriched by his experiences as a Rotary Peace Scholar and he has expressed many times his gratitude to our Club and to District 9650 for its support.

At the start of this Rotary year it seemed that we would have no inbound exchange students. However some enthusiastic activity by our Director Alan Tickle resulted in the arrival earlier this year of the delightful Rayane (pronounced Hyernie!) Oliveira Ramos from Iturama in Brazil. Rayane is a true ray of sunshine in our Club and is obviously enjoying her stay. In return we have sent Amilia McCallum away as an outbound exchange student to Belgium. We have in fact now adopted a second exchange student, Hannah Schneider from Germany. Hannah and Rayane were last seen very excitedly climbing on the bus for their one month trip around Australia with the other exchange students.

At the start of this year we committed ourselves to contributing \$100 per club member to the Rotary Foundation, a target of \$2,500. The Board has recently resolved to meet that commitment and as soon as some outstanding funds are received a cheque will be on its way. In addition

President Elect, Elizabeth Tollis, persuaded the Board that we should support District Governor Ian's challenge to raise funds for the Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus Appeal. Using District funds, funds from the Foundation itself and a contribution from the Gates Foundation, DG Ian was able to demonstrate that there is a large multiplier effect for every dollar raised by local Clubs. Accordingly the Board has resolved to contribute \$3,000 from our Club reserves to this project.

We committed ourselves at the start of the year to buy a Shelter Box at a cost of \$1,200 and again the Board has resolved to meet that commitment as soon as outstanding funds are received.



Our other regular Club activities continued as usual:

- Business House Relay – raised \$1,360 for local surf clubs as well as being as usual a fun night.
- Bowel Scan – as well as distributing the kits to help reduce the incidents of bowel cancer, our club continued to test those kits under the supervision of our pathologist, Geoff Fuller resulting in tidy profit of in excess o \$1,000.
- Australia Day Morning Tea – again we provided tea and coffee for those attending the festivities organised by Greater Taree City Council on the riverbank thanks to the organisation of Val Good
- Red Shield Appeal – Judith Northam took charge of this activity, raising much needed funds for the Salvation Army.
- Film Night – a premier film night to see Indiana Jones organised by Elizabeth Tollis was a fun night and raised \$550 for the Club
- Upper Lansdowne Players catering - raised \$1,500.

We have had great support from the media in particular the Manning River Times and 2RE/Max FM radio. As a result our Club has had quite a high profile during the year.



Toni Bell
Manning River Times

Anthony Zanos
2RE/Max FM

It has been a busy and productive year and I would like to thank my Board and the Club generally for its support. One of the delights of the year has been to work with and get to know the representatives of the other three Rotary Clubs in the Manning Valley, in particular President Noreida Fotheringham of the Wingham Rotary Clug, President Phil Streatfeild of Taree Rotary Club and President Kevin Haigh of Taree North Rotary Club.

I wish incoming President Elizabeth and her Board every success in the 2008/2009 year.

Your in Rotary

Maurie Stack
President

TOM's Rotary Club



TREASURERS REPORT 2007 – 2008

Treasurer's Report 2007-2008

This year our Club successfully switched over to the Holiday Coast Credit Union as previously endorsed at the AGM.

The main financial objective for 2007-2008 was to establish the Manning River Discovery Day as an ongoing community activity encouraging greater usage of the extensive Manning River waterways. A massive fund-raising undertaking was initiated by President Maurie Stack that involved all the local Rotary Clubs with a target of \$50,000 for the installation of pontoons at various locations along the river. This figure then attracted further funding from the Greater Taree City Council, which in turn will be added to by State government grants.

The Gaming Night realized over \$30,000 dollars, and together with private donation in the form of "naming rights" for the major pontoons the target will be reached. Congratulations to President Maurie and the Presidents of Taree, Taree North and Wingham for such a tremendous effort.

Within the Club there has been only three fundraising events. The Business House relay entry money raised \$1360.00 which will be divided between the supporting surf lifesaving clubs (Crowdy Head and Old Bar) plus the Taree Swim Club. Catering for the Upper Lansdowne Players netted over \$1500 which was much needed for Club funds, and provided a lot of fun, and hard work, for those who assisted. The recent movie premiere raised over \$550.00 which also provided funds to support club projects.

We thank Gary and Marie Rollings for their on-going generosity in allowing a refund on every bottle top returned at club meetings, which again helps with club funds.

Donations for the year have included \$50.00 for Rotarians Against Malaria, \$100 for the Science and Engineering Challenge, \$1250 to date for YEP programmes, \$269 for the Cancer Council by holding a "Morning Tea", \$887.50 for the National Youth Science Forum with our excellent candidate Georgia Ladmore, and support of the visiting GSE team at a special dinner.

District Governor Ian Dyball especially emphasized the push for funds under the Polio Plus Partners programme to match the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant of USD 1 million. By using Designated District Funds and Foundation Grants club support could be multiplied ten times. Our club voted to release \$3000 from our Common Account plus \$250.00 donated from club members so altogether this will make a significant contribution to the programme.

As yet the final analysis of income and expenditure is yet to come and depending on how much is left over we hope to forward funding for a Shelter Box and to the Rotary Foundation.

Finally, I would like to thank those club members who gave generously with personal donations towards Bob Young's plea for assistance after the devastation in Oro province in PNG, with YEP contributions and support for RAWCS in Vanuatu.

Yours in Rotary Service
Elizabeth Tollis
Treasurer 2007-2008

TOM's Rotary Club



CLUB SERVICE 2007 - 2008

It is with pleasure that I submit the Club Service report to my Rotary colleagues in the RC of Taree on Manning for 2007/08. As one of the six avenues of service, Club Service encompasses the areas of Club Leadership, Membership, Technology, Rotary Information, Fellowship and the Rotary Family.

The year held many blessings for our Club in that we increased our membership by 13 members and introduced a supporters club with 2 inaugural members. This was an overall increase in excess of 50% and President Maurie and his committee should be commended for their huge effort. The major beneficiary of this member injection is the members themselves as Club fellowship has increased as a result of the new faces. There seems to be so many details to exchange and discoveries to be made about each other that the decibel level of chatter is almost deafening each week! More please!

I would like to offer personal thanks to the dedicated Club members who arrive early each week and stay back after meetings to make sure we are ready and then packed safely away. They are: Paul Tollis, Charlie LeLean and Tony Holland. A special thanks also to Val Good who makes sure one and all are warmly greeted upon arrival each Wednesday. Val also assisted me to complete the monthly attendance reports by her diligent attention to the weekly attendance sheets.

I was also most ably assisted this year by our previous Director of Club Service – Paul Tollis in the areas of Club information, website updates, calendar updates and most importantly guest speaker coordination. These areas are usually the most time consuming in the portfolio, and being a person with very little spare time I was so grateful for Paul's help this year.

With regard to attendance in the 2007/08 year, as at 31 May 2008 the Club has recorded an overall attendance percentage of 65%, with one member achieving a 100% attendance for the year. I will leave it to President Maurie to make this announcement at Changeover.

Club Service experienced a relatively quiet year in 2007/08 and the Directorship is still vacant for 2008/09. I would encourage fellow members to consider Club Service, particularly if they feel they have a talent for organisation and order. It would most especially suit a retired Club member who is not scared of a computer or the internet.

Meanwhile I am transferring to the Treasurer's portfolio for the 2008/09 year. I would like to thank President Maurie for his leadership, understanding and good humour this year and wish our new President – Elizabeth Tollis and her board a year full of enrichment, learning, laughing and most of all enjoying Rotary!!

Kind Regards,
Carolyn Wilson
Director of Club Service – RC TOM 2007/2008

The outgoing Board Welcomes the Incoming Board

TOM's Rotary Club



DIRECTOR OF YOUTH/VOCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT 2007 – 2008

The Pride of Workmanship Awards presented by the combined Rotary Clubs of Taree was held on Monday, 12th May 2008. A very successful night with our club being actively involved in nominating candidates and a high attendance from club members on the night. Twenty-one local employees were recognised on the night for their workplace excellence, witnessed by their employers. These award nights not only recognise the work of many dedicated employees in a public arena, but also a chance for the community to see Rotary in action.

Club members again assisted with the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) programme. The unique road safety program was presented to approximately 600 year 11 students from local high schools. The program has six modules – focusing on police accident awareness, car finance, stopping distances, hazard perception, accident victim talks and drug and alcohol related discussions. Specialist professionals including members of the police force and district health deliver the modules. RYDA provides students with sometimes confronting advice to ensure the safety of themselves and others on the road.

Georgia Ladmore was successful in being selected as one of 300 students Australia wide selected to participate in the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), which was held at the Australian National University, Canberra in January 2008. When reporting back to the club, Georgia said that she had a great time and learnt so much about different sciences and career paths in science that she will pursue once completing her year 12 studies.

Four students from St. Clare High School competed at a club level in the District Public Speaking competition. Georgia Ladmore was the selected to proceed to zone level where she spoke confidently and clearly. Unfortunately she did not proceed to the semi-final but Georgia can be proud of her achievement.

Our club did not have any students participating in the various RYAG programs due to lack of interest from students. St. Clares did wish to participate in MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) but as the event was held in Narrabri this year, felt the costs of travelling etc were too high.

I would like to thank the staff of St. Clare's High School who is keen to be involved with the various Rotary youth programs and encourage the students to participate.

Yours in Rotary Service

Meagan Buckley

TOM's Rotary Club



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2007 –2008

Manning River Discovery

Our clubs annual gaming night was this year expanded with the assistance and support of the members of the other Rotary Club's of the Manning Valley – Taree, Taree North and Wingham to include holding an auction to contribute funds to build a Pontoon to replace the T Wharf at Taree, and a Pontoon to adjoin the historic Wharf at Wingham and gateway to the magnificent Wingham Brush Nature Reserve. Construction of the two Pontoons are in support of the promotion and use of the Manning River by locals and visitors to our area.

Raising community funds was a prerequisite to committed support from the Greater Taree City Council and principally the New South Wales Government.

As in past years the generosity and assistance of local businesses and individuals in providing numerous auction items, from sporting memorabilia to weekends away, and their time and expertise, in addition to the support of local Rotary members, was nothing less than outstanding. Such assistance culminated in a fun filled evening commencing with gaming including Black Jack, Roulette, Two-Up and Dice with donated prizes for the lucky winners followed by a monster auction being fantastically supported to raise a total sum in excess of \$30,000.00. Such a community effort can only increase awareness of the magnificent Manning River system and surrounds.

Upper Lansdowne Hall Catering

On Saturday 24th November a number of our club members, including family members and even one visitor, assisted to provide catering at a local theatre group production at the Upper Lansdowne Hall. The catering involved the midweek obtaining of the pre-planned menu, followed by the necessary shopping and a full day, for some members, of meal preparation, cooking, setting up of tables with supplied cutlery and the like, followed by the serving of meals to each table by appropriately dressed waiters, mostly carried out at theatre intermissions so as not to disturb enjoyment of the local production.

Of course the end of the evening saw members faced with a large dishwashing task carried out with usual humorous bantering. All in all a successful fellowship and fundraising event.

Film Night – Indiana Jones

On the evening of Thursday 22nd May members and guests attended the premiere screening of "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" at Fays Twin Cinema Taree. The evening commenced with wine and finger food donated by members, with the usual chit chat followed by the film. Most members agreed that Indiana Jones had not aged at all since his previous two films, obviously due to the expertise of director Stephen Spielberg.

It is with pleasure that I present my first report as Community Service Director and take this opportunity to profoundly thank the club members and President Maurie, for their friendship and assistance.

I look forward to a second term as Community Service Director with incoming President Elizabeth and her Board for the forthcoming year.

Yours in Rotary
Richard Johnson

TOM's Rotary Club



DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES REPORT 2007 - 2008

Youth Exchange Program

The year commenced with exchange student Sophie Genin from the Rotary Club of Charleroi Belgium being farewelled rather tearfully at Sydney Airport by Libby Johnson, Victoria Bromhead, Mary-Ann Nowland and myself.

Sophie, after several attempts to walk down the departure tunnel only to turn and run back for more tears and hugs finally turned her back in a physical sense anyway, and commenced another chapter of her life, when she returned home to Belgium.



A teary eyed Sophie says goodbye to one of her three Australian "Dads"

As has been the case with other students, Sophie has maintained communication with her host families.

Amelia McCallum, who was a host sister when her parents John and Gemma hosted Sophie, became our outbound exchange student and was delighted to be hosted in return by Sophie's Belgium Club.

Sophie has plenty of parties organised to welcome "Meels" and a great time was had by all from all reports!!

In February Rayane Ramos (pronounced Hiernie Hamos) joined the club on exchange from Brazil and in the past last few weeks, Hannah Schneider from Germany also joined the club on exchange.

After a period of time with her counsellor (Mary-Ann Nowland) and myself, Rayane is well settled with the McCallum's.

Hannah's counsellor is Carolyn Wilson and her present host family which just happens to be my family, find Hannah an absolute delight, who fits so easily into the household.

At the time of writing both girls, who have become firm friends, are on Safari with the districts exchange students.

This Safari is very much the highlight for most of the students, as they take in more of Australia than most Aussies will see in their life time.

From the delights of the Qld Gold Coast and the tropical far north of Cairns, the students then observe the contrast of the centre of Australia, taking in the Olgas, Alice, Adelaide, the Southern Coastline, Melbourne, Canberra before heading north to home clubs.

Rayane and Hannah are pictured below with big smiles while at St Clare's High School.



St Clare's High School have continued to be a great partner with Rotary in the international exchange as well as other Rotary Programs.

For this we thank them in as much as they have thanked Rotary for our contribution to their school.

During the year, we were also blessed to have a visit from two of our former exchange students.

Elise Bajart (Belgium) and Laura Mattila (Finland) returned "home" for a visit as did Soren Louv – Jansen (Belgium).

It is also worth mentioning that Patricia Arabe (Brazil) who was on exchange four years ago, made contact with Rayann before she left Brazil, to wish her well and share some of her experiences.

Some of our members have been welcome guests overseas on visits to some of our former exchange students and the ties that bind children to parents, whether the parents happen to be temporary hosts from our club, in many cases will be a life time attachment.

In essence this attachment is also an international relationship that even in such a small way, also binds our country to another.

World Community Service.

Our club is in its 10 years of sponsorship of Depi Permatasari, an Indonesian orphan supported by a joint Rotary/Salvation Army project "Sponsoring Education for Children."

The club also remained active in supporting post Tsunami reconstruction in that same region as well as the funding of 'survival kits' for dispatch to disaster areas.

These have been used in Iraq as well as in the Asian area after recent earth quakes left people homeless.

The survival kits are amazing and very much now an international project that Rotary and this club can be well proud.

In closing I wish to congratulate President Maurie and his board for what will be acknowledged in our club's history as a year of great significance in service to the community both locally and internationally.

Finally I wish to also acknowledge the contribution of Mary-Ann Nowland in her role as Counsellor and in particular being a very reliable "side kick" in assisting me when needed with the student exchange program.

My best wishes go to incoming President Elizabeth and her board for the ensuing year.

Yours in Rotary

Alan Tickle

TOM's Rotary Club



WELCOME TO THE INCOMING BOARD 2008 – 2009

President	Elizabeth Tollis
President Elect /	Spencer Davies
Secretary	John Parker
Treasurer	Carolyn Wilson
Immediate Past President	Maurie Stack
Club Service	Murray Relf
Community Service	Richard Johnson
Youth Vocational	Paul Tollis
International Youth Exchange Outbound	Amelia McCallum
International Youth Exchange Inbound	Rayane Oliveira Ramos
International Youth Exchange Inbound	Hannah Schneider



Board 2008 – 2009

Richard Johnson, Spencer Davies, John Parker, Murray Relf
Carolyn Wilson, Elizabeth Tollis, Maurie Stack, Paul Tollis
Below: Alan Tickle

