



Rotary Club of Crows Nest Inc ABN 84 785 787 887 PO Box 562, Crows Nest 1585

## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 NOVEMBER 2017

**Venue:** Union Hotel, West St, North Sydney 2060

Meeting Commenced at 1.00pm. Closed 2.05pm.

Welcome to all present from President Alon

**Present:** Members: Alon B, Ian P, John S, Simon B, Angelo R, Sue R, Owen H, Peter C, Celia C, Tom S, Cyril C, Richard C, Howard S, Mark S, Ross G, Phillip S

**Apologies:**

Bill L, Michael M, George C. The attendance satisfied a quorum for the AGM.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2016. Moved/seconded - John/Peter.

Matters arising from those Minutes: Nil

**President Report** Alon Beran

The Rotary club of Crows Nest continues to be a force in the Rotary world, achieving huge amounts relative to our club size and member numbers.

We started the financial year with Michael McQueen chairing multiple meetings regarding what the club needs to move forward and stay relevant. The main themes were that the club wanted to continue to grow and to provide service and that order to that we needed to first focus on our goals and what we want to achieve as a club. The next and important step is to become relevant, accessible and in the face of the members we wish to attract so that we can continue to grow as a club.

As a club, we hold regular meetings where the format has now changed. Members are enjoying fellowship; our core group is very committed and hardworking, and we are clear on what we want to achieve. We now have a speaker every second week and a meeting regarding the club's activities every alternate week. The next step from here is to work on a more accessible meeting format and to increase our exposure to the community through a PR plan and social media plan.

I believe it is the responsibility of each incoming president to decide for themselves whether they are happy with the 5 core areas of work we have set up this year or whether they wish to alter it but for FY17/18 we have focused our service to 5 main categories: Community service, Children's illness, International projects and Grants, youth and domestic violence/women's care.

Our 2 streams of fundraising have increased to 3 with the introduction of the poker night last year along with the BBQs and the Melbourne Cup Trifecta – thanks to the dedicated support of the members involved in those – it is what allows us to support the community and is an integral part of what we do.

Before I highlight the work that we have done as a club in the last 12 months, I want to thank you all for the work that you have done and continue to do. You are a committed and heart strong group of people that selflessly give up your time to do good in this world with very little recognition. You each make the world a slightly better place than it was before by being here and doing the work that you. I will not thank people individually, but I wish to thank my board members, and all members for your continued efforts and support.

#### **Fundraising:**

- Regular BBQ at Bunnings Artarmon
- Melbourne Cup Trifecta
- Poker Night

#### **Community Participation:**

- We continued our stall at the **Crows Nest Fair** - giving away popcorn and staying present in our community.
- The **Tree of Joy** at Chatswood and Crows Nest
- **Pride of Workmanship** awards – this is a reintroduction of this to our community. It recognises those with a commitment to service.

#### **Women and DV:**

- Financial support to local Women's Refuges; **Mary's House** and **Delvena House**.
- The cooking project at **Delvena House**, set up to teach women at risk to prepare/cook nutritious meals and provide them with the tools to do so.

#### **Youth:**

- Sponsorship of **RYLA** Candidates for the upcoming course.
- **Taldumande** – a grant has been awarded and an ongoing project initiated to provide white goods to the emergency accommodation of youths in need across our community.

#### **Children's Illness:**

- We will be the major sponsor of the **Neuroblastoma Australia** Gala Dinner in February.

### **International Projects and Grants:**

- Continued work to achieve A Rotary Foundation Grant with “**So They Can**” in Kenya and possibility of a **Hippo Rollers project** to be discussed after our next meeting.
- Working on adding another Grant this year either through work on a **water project in India** or a joint project in **Timor Leste** with the Sisters of Mercy and Monte Saint Angelo.
- Financial contribution to **Dili Orphan Xmas Party**
- Cost of Schooling for Students **Faith and Victoria**; Sister Genevieve, Kenya

I continue to be proud of the work that we do here and look forward to our continued success in the future.

### **Secretary** Mark Staples

Since Les Walsh moved on, IT has defaulted to the Secretary role. With Club Runner Support, and editorial help from Ian & Phillip we have had a relatively smooth year, but it is reactive, rather than proactive. All this year's key documents have been stored under Club documents in Club Runner. (This includes documents used by Angelo for running trifecta).

Today the club needs to ratify the 2017 financial accounts for the Department of fair trading (A12 form to be submitted). In July the Club's insurances were renewed and in November the BBQ trailer registration was paid.

Correspondence continues to flow in every week, with 95% being requests for donations by worthy causes. Details are in the board minutes, and the President has started requesting a few, that fit his areas of focus, be asked to present to the club, before they are considered for our Giving night.

A side project was the running of the Poker Charity which raised \$875, which was matched by the club before being given Mary's House & Delvina House.

### **Treasurer** Simon Babbage

Financial accounts will be circulated and tabled at next week's weekly & Board Meetings for formal ratification. We have approx. \$90K in funds, of which the board has approved \$40K for PP Peter for next month's Giving night.

Meeting voted that the extra \$20 obtained in July Dues, be given to the Foundation.

### **Community Service** Sue Raveane

At the beginning of this Rotary year I stated that my overall aim for our Club, was to have a raised profile and participation in our local community.

I am pleased report that we are continuing to achieved these goals.

Over this Rotary Year we have

1 Applied for and have been granted a District 9685 Grant to fund White Goods for Taldumande a local youth service organisation. We are in the process of obtaining

and distributing Taldumande's wish list of white goods for three of their Refuge residences.

2 We helped fund cooking classes and provided slow cookers and utensils for a woman's refuge .The feedback was positive from both staff and clients.

3 Crows Nest Rotary was represented at the 2017 Crows Nest Fair. This was a great opportunity to meet, interact and be seen in our local community.

4 Crows Nest Rotary is participating with our neighbouring Rotary Clubs in the Tree of Joy at Chatswood Chase. This year we are responsible for collection and distribution for Phoenix House, Delvena Refuge, Mary's House, Taldumande Youth Services and the Crows Nest Centre.

5 This year we are also collecting hampers for needy families in our local community in collaboration with Catholic Care.

6 Crows Nest Rotary will again be part of Christmas Carols at Crows Nest. We have been asked to coordinate and run the BBQ with proceeds going to Mary's Refuge.

I wish to thank all our Club Members for their support, involvement and assistance.

#### **Membership** Michael McQueen

Membership continues to be a challenge for our club and many clubs. Having lost a number of members throughout 2017 and seeing sporadic attendance at weekly meetings, the focus of recent facilitated group discussions has centred on the importance of ensuring our club gatherings and activities are relevant.

As part of the outcome of these discussions, the clarity around which service areas and causes we are emphasising is already helping us target our efforts and build a compelling value proposition for prospective members. In the words of our current District Governor, people today want to join causes, not clubs. We are getting an ever-clearer sense of the causes that drive and define Crows Nest Rotary Club.

With plans for moving weekly meetings back to Crows Nest in 2018 and changing the meeting format, I suspect we will see our gatherings become more attractive and engaging for busy professionals. The 'formal meeting' is envisaged to run from 12.00-12.45 with an optional lunch afterward for those who want to stick around.

Thanks to Phillip, Angelo and Sue for the creation of our club's DL flyers and business cards. These will be a key way to attract and engage prospective members and communicate the essence of our club to them.

One initiative on the horizon for 2018 will be a Crows Nest Community Summit where we will host an event bringing together various community stakeholders in the area. This could be a great way to position Crows Nest Rotary as being central to and not at the periphery of the Crows Nest Community - positioning that will significantly help us attract new members.

At the meeting it was acknowledged with only 19 active members, we need continued focus on membership, including the possibility of merging with another club.

**Administration:** John Saunders

Looking at Facebook to be more community focused, and promote our club.

**International.** Ian Pocock

**So They Can/Nakuru School Project**

Over the last 12 months or so we have been preparing a Global Grant Application to provide quality and sustainable education for children at the Aberdare Ranges Primary School in Nakuru, Kenya. This school has been designed, built and operated by the NGO 'So They Can' (STC) over the last 7-8 years.

The project involves providing education, healthcare and nutrition to a further 440 disadvantaged children from the New Canaan village whose families were displaced from their original homelands following civil disruption. The facilities at the school can cater for a maximum of 1400 children and there are presently some 960 enrolled, leaving room for 440 new students. In addition, some 36-additional educational and support staff will need to be trained, which also forms part of this project. Our Club will provide about US\$7,000. The Rotary Club of Nakuru Rift Valley is prepared to be the Host Sponsor and are able to provide about \$1,000. STC will implement the project and liaise with the Kenyan Government authorities. They have a private sponsor who is prepared to donate about US\$30,000 through RCCN. Our District 9685 have indicated they can provide about US\$7,000 as District Designated Funds (DDF). Under the GG system TRF will match club funds with an additional 50% and District funds with 100%. If D9212 could provide a DDF amount of US\$5,000 then our project budget would be about US\$80,000; which would enable the project to meet its objectives.

This has been the challenge for this year and while Howard has sent numerous e-mails and recently had telephone conversations with their District people, while they have the best of intentions, coming up with the funding is the real challenge

**Toilet Installation and Sanitation Training in rural Mewat, Haryana, India**

This project was initiated by the Beecroft Club, and they have their GG sorted out with the local Indian club and their relevant District. However they would prefer another Sydney Club to come on board and add USD5000 to make the project financially viable. Essentially the project involves the installation of some 200-300 domestic toilet in a poor, impoverished area just out of New Delhi. A Beecroft member who recently visited the site, Niranjana Deodhar, came and spoke to our Club in November on his Club's involvement. While in some aspects this project seems worthwhile, it does not have sufficient support of our Club members to proceed

**Monte Sant'Angelo/Maliana School Project**

In September, Howard Sullivan was contacted by Sr Carmel of Monte St Angelo who was referred to me by Sr Helen Nolan (Sisters of Mercy) who we have worked with on a couple of water projects in Timor. Sr Carmel is organising a project in Maliana (T\_L) which involves establishing a facility for the training of teachers. The main organiser is a priest who is based in the Maliana region. The project has several different aspects; a building component, educational training, water supply and sanitation, solar power etc. She mentioned an overall project cost of about US\$400,000 and they already have donor(s) for about \$200,000. She seemed aware of the Rotary Global Grant system and is interested to know if Crows Nest

Rotary can assist. As a result, at last week's Rotary Meeting, we had a presentation from the Head, Nicole Christensen, Sr Carmel and Adrian **Johnston** who has been coordinating the College Timor Leste Immersion to **Colegio Infante de Sagres**, Maliana. Our plan is to follow up with Adrian early in the New Year following his net visit to the area.

Commented [MS1]:

Meeting voted to support the Indian Sanitation project. It also agreed to that the SoYouCan project be given 6 months to satisfy the Global Grant requirements.

**Foundation:** George Condell

Polio Update:

Once again The Rotary Foundation has focused on eradicating polio with \$49.5 M in grants. So far in 2017 only 12 confirmed cases worldwide.

Centurion Programme.

Our aim is to have every member become a Rotary Foundation centurion by donating \$100 each year to The Foundation.

Every \$1.00 given to the Rotary Foundation is equal \$3.00 at point of need.

Online donation: [www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotaryfoundation](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotaryfoundation)

February 2018 is Rotary's 113rd birthday

Aim to have a lunch or dinner with soup bowl promotion to raise funds.

Other areas to consider is to look into the new global grants which will now require community assessments.

Currently our club is working on a project in Africa to secure global grant.

Paul Harris Fellows and our clubs ongoing commitment to support the Foundation.

**Youth** Phillip Smith

Lobbying PCYC(Police Youth) for their engagement with us. RYLA nominations are currently being progressed, and we intend to continue our support for MUNA. A new initiative for next year will be more involvement with local schools, with activities like a speech competition.

**Vocational** Tom Sweeney

After a lapse of possibly two years, it was decided to re-launch the "Pride of Workmanship" Awards for 2017.

Starting from scratch was a task in itself however we were joined initially by North Sydney Sunrise Rotary Club and Mosman Rotary Club. Mosman decided to decline and so with only two participating Clubs it seemed doomed. At the last minute North Sydney Rotary came to the party and so we forged ahead.

Thursday 16th November was the date and the Northbridge Golf Club was the venue. We combined to present six worthy candidates with awards and a total of 43 members and guests attended the function. Lessons learnt? Start earlier and mark the date in the Rotary calendar so that more members can attend. This is a worthwhile community event. In 2018, I would like to launch a 'speech' competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 from local government high schools.

## **General Business**

### **Election of Officer Bearers** for 2017-8 Rotary Year:

Election of President: Sue Raveane

Secretary: Mark Staples

Treasurer: Owen Houston

Directors: The following were elected unopposed as directors/board, and President-elect will decide their portfolios before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Peter Coote, Phillip Smith, Ian Pocock, Tom Sweeney, George Condell, John Saunders

## **Other Business**

Nil

**Next Meeting:** 25 November 2018