PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO EHR CLUB FORUM 27 NOVEMBER 2017

In my incoming presidential address, I outlined a number of objective I hoped to implement for the club this year,

I am pleased to say, that with the support of the membership, we have already gone a long way to achieving those objectives

We wanted to see the membership increase, with a particular eye if possible to increasing women among the membership. In the first half year, we have now conducted 6 new members, four of whom are women. I am sure all our new members will add fresh impetus and ideas to our club programmes, and I repeat our club’s welcome to them

I wanted us to take up RI President Ian Risely’s second challenge, to embrace new technology. Thanks to the work of Brian Klee and others, we have a new website up and running. I acknowledge Brian’s open ness to have suggestions for improvements.

It clear we can get a lot more value out of the system yet; Probably fairer to say that our love affair with system has reached the stage of cautious grappling rather than full embrace; but I’m sure as time goes on we will derive even more value from it, as we learn more about its utility

I was keen that the club committees got off to an early start with identification of and planning for their projects, and I have not been disappointed. The directors reports will provide more detail, but a brief mention here is appropriate,. Jan Palmer and her committee were first out of the blocks with their Victoria and Abdul fundraiser, to support the financial commitment the club undertook for its half share of the $5,000 grant for the MUSIC FOR Life Alzheimers project, and they are now following up with the Vera Lynn fundraiser. International Committee has raised the funds it was targeting for a Rotahome in Fiji, Special projects is now well under way with the annual raffle, having had to work hard to overcome some bureaucratic obstacle and establish an ongoing commitment from the new operators of Queensgate.. Our education committee has run a vocational evening at Billy Graham’s Gym, and undertaken the Ryla candidate recruitment... Environment and amenities Committee have organised manpower support from the club for the appeal days of community charities, including the Food Bank appeal. I know that committee is working on a tree planting project for early next year, which I am keen to see, as it will mean we have met all of the challenges raised by RI President Ian Risely in his inaugural address.

Finally, we should not forget the impact of the “smaller’ projects that the club repeats and does so well each year. – The Duffy books, the Usborne dictionaries, the Naenae college scholarship awards, and going out onto the streets in our Rotary T shirts to act as collectors for charitable appeals. These works are their own reward, but they certainly raise the recognition of the good works we do, in the community, and we can fairly conclude that this helps in our own raffle and fundraiser drives.

After initial nervousness in opening months, I am really enjoying my presidential year. The things that have touched me the most, were the attendance at the Duffy books presentation, and the earnest expression of gratitude from the Solo Mum whose son received our Naenae College Scholarship this year. My role has been made more pleasant, and devoid of stress by the strong support I have received from the board this year. . I have certainly been saved from a number of errors and omissions by the ready guidance of our Secetary Judy and Treasurer David.

As I have said to the directors there is still a lot to do in the second half of the year and I am encouraging people not to go into hibernation mode in their planning, between now and resumption of full meetings at the end of January.

We are due for our visit from District Governor Mitch Brown on Monday 19 February. I am sure that building further on our current successes, we will have a lot to tell him, and to demonstrate that we have fulfilled his challenge, “to do good, while having fun.

E