

2022 - 2023



ANNUAL REPORT

Toowoomba Metropolitan
Rotary
Club





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Board

President:	Jamie Smith
Past President:	Leroy Palmer
President Elect:	Wendy Byron
Secretary:	Wendy Byron
Treasurer:	Corin Sankey

Directors:

Club Admin:	Glenn Skerman
Projects	Tressa Thompson
Fundraising:	Leroy Palmer
Youth Service:	Jamie Smith
Governance & Compliance:	Mark Betts
Membership:	Annmaree Jackson
International:	Glenn Gatehouse
Rotary Foundation:	Jamie Smith

Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club Members

Mark Betts
Wendy Byron
Mary Egan
Barry Fagg
Heather Fearby-Roberts
Glenn Gatehouse
Lesley Henry
Craig Hess
Robyn Hintz
Jillian Huth
Annmaree Jackson
David Jutsum
Rob Keanalley
Jahna Koehler
Bill Mason
Jamie McMillan

Graham Newnham
John Olive
Corin Sankey
Glenn Skerman
Jamie Smith
Leroy Palmer
Rojin Rash
Waheed Rash
Brendan Ryan
Paul Schmidt-Lee
Fiona Schmidt - Lee
Miriam Spina
Tressa Thompson
Rasheed Waheed
Wayne Wright



Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club members and families after the Carnival of Flowers

President's Report

Jamie Smith

President 2022/2023

Following in the shoes of our illustrious Past President Leroy, I was honoured to take up the post of President of this fine, new club at a wonderful change over dinner at the Toowoomba Golf Club. We were treated to a great night with family, friends and a rousing performance from Shane Webcke as our guest speaker. He gave us the inspiration to do what we do and I think there were a few moist eyes in the crowd.

It's important that at the beginning of this report, I acknowledge the fantastic work of Leroy Palmer, from whom I took over from. Not only did Leroy do a fantastic job starting the club, but at the very beginning, at the Chartering of the Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary club, he **stepped into the breach** (if you've heard this term, but don't really know the true history of it, look it up and you will see that it's the very definition of gallantry and courage). Leroy took the reins in a moment of huge challenge and uncertainty and led the organisation forward. Thank you mate.



Every President's dream is to leave the place even better than he found it. This was a tall order, because the previous Board had done a fine job with the club and there was literally nothing left to "fix up" or do. It was purely steaming ahead and looking for ways to achieve.

From day one, the Board was involved, helpful, positive and provided robust critique when needed. Couldn't have asked for more.

This year saw our International Service commitment taken to another level with thanks to Brendan and Glenn G. At the time of writing this report, we have just transferred \$1017 through to the Friends of the Teresa Orsini Clinic. Please read our international service report and have a look at this wonderful organisation who we support:
<http://www.fottoc.com>

Our first major project/challenge was the Carnival of Flowers and our float.

This is a high energy and high output project for the club that we all love. Once again, it went off without a hitch - apart from our usual hitching challenges... A good day had by all and we made a profit of one dollar too. It is a project we love. Long may it continue.



Wendy quietly, but effectively worked behind-the-scenes to get a significant grant for those people who were affected by the last round of flooding and inundation in the Lockyer Valley. More about this in the Secretary's report. But it was an understated, yet significant outcome for our club, to provide something of such magnitude.

Our Christmas party was spearheaded by Barry and turned out to be one of the best social events that we have done. It was very well attended, well organised and more about this in Barry's report. Looking forward to the next one.

The first of our major projects was the Monte Carlo night which unfortunately didn't transpire at the time, due to a lack of numbers. But we learned a lot from this and the event is scheduled to be held in August this year (23). Many thanks to Corin and his team for not only organising one event, but two - considering what's happened. Get your tickets [here](#) (wink wink, nudge, nudge)

Run The Range was the next cab off the rank and was an absolute success. Tress, Graham, Lesley and the whole club pulled together for one of the best editions of that event, that we've ever done. It was extremely well attended, the beneficiaries got everything they wanted and we as a club finished the day smiling and in the black.

Some of our other achievements this year have been a continuation of high-quality guest speakers. These have brought a very good vibe to the meetings on Wednesdays and have provided us with inspiration and professional development alike.



This year was the Centennial year for Rotary in Queensland. 100 years marked a huge milestone for the organisation, and to celebrate it, the DG put out a challenge to all clubs to plant 100 trees. This was fantastic timing, because I had some thoughts about donating some of our time and getting involved with some treeplanting or working with Landcare.

Essentially, our club being instrumental in something that grows. So all the stars aligned. This became a bit of a pet project and a personal holy grail. Not a big one, in the grand scheme of things, but one that would be most satisfying if we got it done. Sure enough, we got it done. Glenn Gatehouse, our member, Board member, and Principal of Toowoomba West Special School, organised a fantastic plot of land within the boundaries of his school and from there, we had a blank canvas. We organised the trees through Council and on the Sunday morning in February, a big group of us got in and planted just over 100 trees. That's a decent amount of trees! They are being lovingly tended to this day by the ground staff at Toowoomba West Special School. It was also a great opportunity to work with our mates at the Rotaract Club of the Darling Downs who gave freely of their time and turned it into a joint project.

It was such a meaningful and productive morning, and the smiles were from ear to ear. It was also great to have my daughter, Jemimah, join us and she loved it. The picture of that great morning is the cover of this report.

I would like to say a big thank you to Graham and Dorothy Newnham. A little history: in 2007, when we moved into our new home, Graham crossed the road to introduce himself to his new neighbour and welcome me/us to the neighbourhood (as I was mowing the lawns). It wasn't long after that, that Graham floated the idea of me joining Rotary, which I did. Over the next 15/16 years, he's been constantly mentoring and guiding me to become a good Rotarian and by association, the guiding principles of being a good man. I have made him proud at times and I've let him down at other times. But he's always guided me, assisted me and looked out for me consistently, no matter what. There's a beautiful poem by Rudyard Kipling called "If". I've had it in my bedside table since I was young and if and when you read it, you can imagine Graham being that fellow who lives by those virtues and just as importantly, imparts them on those around him. I'd like to think that I've acquitted this post with a small degree of competence and honour, and all that started with this good man. Thank you Graham and Dorothy.



Every member has played a part this year in one way, shape or form. My heartfelt thanks goes out to every single one of you who has contributed - and every contribution is valuable. This is also the perfect opportunity to thank those partners, family members and loved ones who stand by and join in with their Rotarians. Whether it be coming along for a drink on the Friday night, helping out on Run the Range, getting involved in behind-the-scenes work. Or just as importantly, providing the encouragement and support so their Rotarian can go out and do what they do. Thanks to those partners and families for being the vital cog in the wheel.

As simple as it sounds, when I look back at the year that was, and despite the fantastic events, functions and consolidation that we've achieved, I think the thing that I'm most proud of is the cohesiveness of our group. Firstly, the Board. Whilst we engaged in robust discussions and not always agreed, it was always healthy, respectful and proactive. We started the year very well and we finished even better. The club as a whole has also got a wonderful sense of camaraderie, where we enjoy each other's fellowship and take pride in what we do. But just as importantly, we take pride in what our mates do.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Smith Women for everything they do. They do a lot. Like an iceberg, you only just see a fraction of the whole. Like an iceberg, there is this robust base, just under the surface, that provides ballast for what is seen. But unlike an iceberg, there is warmth and forgiveness. Thank you for your balance of all things good, my beloved girls.

So, I now hand the reins over to Wendy Byron, who, with her energy, sense of enthusiasm, and wonderful knowledge about Rotary will move the club ahead into its next chapter.

Thank you once again.
President Jamie Smith.



Secretary Report

Wendy Byron

In consultation with the Withcott Progress Association and the Lockyer Valley Disaster Recovery Committee including the mayor, and a local advocate for a group of International Seasonal Workers at Grantham impacted severely by the flooding, 16 members of this cohort were identified as needing support to provide school uniforms, school supplies, and food/household supplies.

Thirteen families were identified as requiring support, inclusive of two young children requiring school uniforms, bags, and shoes to commence the new school year in 2023. This was achieved by the club and funds were expended in the local community of Gatton to support the local economy. This promoted Rotary in Action in the community, through our visibility in our Rotary shirts, our interactions with the public and suppliers in what we were desiring to achieve and word of mouth from the grateful recipients.



It was very satisfying to be able to demonstrate to all our members the value of Rotary International Grants through the support for local community alongside international community needs.

The Secretary role has very much been a team effort. We have used several mediums for me to be able to support the Board and the meetings, whilst I was located remotely in Kingaroy in the first half of Jamie's year. This proved challenging for all concerned. Acknowledgement to Glenn Skerman for his determination in successfully utilising Zoom for engaging and meeting the needs of all members. Acknowledgement to Fiona Schmidt-Lee for providing minute secretarial support at meetings in the last few months. To all of our members, it is a privilege to belong to this team of exceptional individuals who are always enthusiastic, positive and have the can-do attitude. I am humbled to be your part of our Club. I look forward to serving you in this coming year.

Financial Report

Corin Sankey Treasurer

It is great to see the club in a strong financial position and being able to raise much needed funds for the community within the first two years of chartering.

Our major fundraising event for the year was the TMRC Run The Range event that was held on 7 May 2023. The event raised \$12,904 which is being distributed to a range of community organisations including:

- Autistic Angels;
- Base Services;
- Clifford Park Special School P&C;
- Eva's Place;
- Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation;
- Momentum Mental Health;
- Protea Place;
- RACQ Lifeflight Rescue;
- The Great White Foundation;
- Tony's Kitchen;
- Toowoomba Anglican School P&F; and
- Withcott P & C.

In addition to the above, the Club has also sponsored a student award for Centenary Heights High School and has been successful in securing and acquitting a grant of \$2,000 to assist the people of the Lockyer Valley to assist with their recovery from the recent floods.



TMRC was also the recipient of a number of grants through the year which included district grants to assist those in need, Grants for Run The Range and for the Carnival project. All grant money was used efficiently, effectively and fully acquitted upon.

The Club has also approved the funding to contribute to the cost of a water filter for the Sisters of Mercy in East Timor, which is a great project that is being driven by member Brendan Ryan and supported by Glenn Gatehouse. The Club is also holding just over \$1,200 to be contributed to the Rotary Foundation for worthy causes in the future.

After distribution of the funds referred to above, the Club is holding just over \$12,500 in the Service Account which will be used to either distribute to worthy charitable organisations in the future or to assist with the funding of future fundraising events to be hosted by the Club.

Club Administration Report

Glenn Skerman Director

This year has primarily focused on consolidating the Club Admin, Communications & IT portfolio. We have continued using the core tools implemented when the Club was established. These include:

- **Google ecosystem:** We utilise Drive for document storage, mail for club emails, and Meet for broadcasting our fortnightly breakfast meetings.
- **ClubRunner:** We aim to utilise more of this tool's capabilities to streamline club processes, including document storage. Jamie has successfully trialled a club bulletin, and we are seeking a volunteer to take charge of this moving forward.
- **WhatsApp:** We continue to use this platform for easy intra-club communications.
- **Canva:** Annemarie and Miriam have effectively utilised this tool to create outstanding marketing material.

In addition to this, we have organised several events throughout the year that required ticketing. Traditionally, we have used two products, RegisterNow and ToowoombaTickets, to cater to the different requirements of each event.

Our largest event, Run the Range, requires integration of the ticketing system with the timing system. For the past few years, RegisterNow has met all our requirements for this. However, we recently learned that RegisterNow has been acquired by another company called Race Roster, a division of Asics. As a result, RegisterNow will not be available for next year's event.



A In the coming months, we will assess the capabilities of Race Roster to determine its suitability for the event. For simpler events like Monte Carlo Night and the Run The Range Beneficiary evening, we have traditionally relied on ToowoombaTickets. However, the ToowoombaTickets platform underwent a rewrite resulting in significant changes, prompting us to explore alternative ticketing options.

After evaluating Humantix, we found that it met our needs and was more cost-effective than ToowoombaTickets.

Additionally, all profits from Humanitix go to charity. Consequently, we have chosen to use Humanitix for ticketing the Change Over dinner and the Monte Carlo evening on August 26th.

Although we initially planned to hold a Monte Carlo Evening event in March, it had to be postponed until August.

Throughout the committee's organisation efforts, Miriam and Fiona have done an exceptional job creating marketing materials, imagery, and sponsorship prospectuses.

Looking ahead to the next Rotary year, our focus will be on expanding the utilisation of these tools to further streamline club processes.

Run the Range 2023

Tressa Thompson

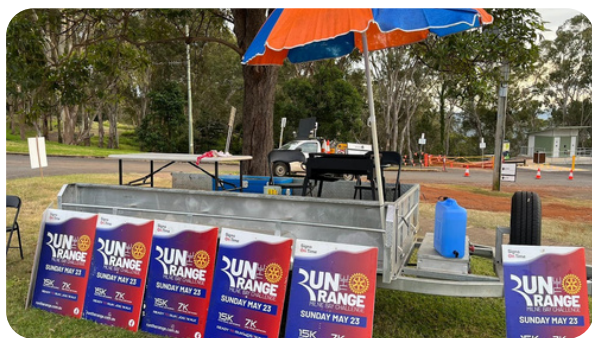
Run Director

7th May 2023 was the perfect running day - vastly different from last year where we came very close to cancelling the event because of the weather.

The decision was made to bring the event two weeks earlier as we would have clashed with much larger trail events in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

For the 9th year in a row, Hutchinson Builders came on board as our major sponsor and as always, they were active and very much involved in the running of the event.

Sean Lees and his team from Hutchies have certainly become part of the fabric that make up Rotary Run the Range.



This year we had 17 beneficiaries - some old and some new. One of our new beneficiaries, Protea Place, did an amazing job and raised almost \$7,000 and took out the prize of \$1,000 for the largest team entry.

Having peer to peer fundraising has helped enormously and many of the teams raised a lot of money for charity. The entries were slow to come in, but by the last week, we managed to get just over 500 starters. Again, this year we started the event on the road, and I do believe it creates a great atmosphere. The feedback from the stall holders and beneficiaries was excellent and they will be back next year.



Ricky Swindale and his team were excellent in organising the timing, social media, commentating and photographing, they also had great things to say about the event, one of which was that it is "local community focused" and this should always be our target market, and growth will happen quickly.



Next year is our 10th year. I don't think we need to change the way we do things and I do believe we now have the right formula to make this a very big and enjoyable event for the Toowoomba community with the bonus of raising much needed funds for all involved.

Rotary Run the Range this year raised almost \$40,000; I think we can be very proud of this!

Thank you to all our sponsors and to the Metropolitan Rotary Club for making this such a successful event.

Fundraising Report

Leroy Palmer

Director and Past President

I enjoyed my role as Fundraising Director for the 2022 / 2023 year for Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club.

The fundraising objectives for 2022 – 2023 were to:

- Organise and run a few events with the view of raising well-needed funds for the club.
- Engage the club membership, have some fun and build comradeship, during the organisation and running of the fund raising activities.
- Run another Bunnings BBQ.
- Help out and assist with planning and running of the Rotary Run the Range.
- Organise and plan for another major fund-raising event for the club.

Bunnings BBQ

We hosted our Bunnings BBQ early on in the New Year (Sunday 29th January). A nice hot day for a snag and a drink. Being a hot day, a lot of people opted for a drink only. The proceeds from the day were the best result yet for a Bunnings BBQ for the club. Bunnings had recently increased the price of its community sausage sizzle for the first time in fifteen years – from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for a sausage in bread, with or without onions. The price of drinks remained unchanged at \$1.50.

On the day we sold an estimated 606 sausages and 252 drinks. Once again payment was evenly split between the Square eftpos system and cash sales.

Under the stewardship of BBQ Captain Bill, we ran three shifts. Morning, afternoon, and the count money at the pub shift.

All shifts were well attended and thanks to everyone who organised supplies, worked the stalls and ran errands on the day.



Monte Carlo

Following on from the success of the 2022 Trivia night, it was decided to plan for a Monte Carlo night for 2023. The night is set for Saturday 26th August. Planning started last September but the night will be worth the wait. We are pleased to be planning and holding the event in partnership with Rotaract Darling Downs. Final arrangements are well underway, and tickets are on sale!

The Monte Carlo Night will be held at the Iconic Cobb and Co Museum in the heart of Toowoomba. Funds from the night will be donated to Momentum Mental Health – a local mental health and wellbeing service which offers free and professional services to all members of the community.

Thanks to Corin for heading up the planning committee. And thanks to everybody else in the club and Rotaract Darling Downs who have helped out with the organisation and planning for the event.

Membership Report

Annmaree Jackson
Director

The Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club has continued to grow in our second year of operation in 2022/2023. Graham Newnham achieved an excellent foundation on which to build and handed over the membership portfolio in good standing in July 2022.

This year we welcomed seven new members since the change over dinner in July 2022. Due to work and personal commitments, we also farewelled four members. Our membership currently stands at 31 members.

New Members

- Jahna Koehler
- Miriam Spina
- Paul Schmidt-Lee
- Fiona Schmidt-Lee
- Rojin Rash
- Waheed Rash

Exiting Members

- Sally Coleburn
- Angus Chapel
- Brian Alderton
- Delena Farmer

Our Club held one formal recruitment event at Laurel Bank Park this year. Our members were asked to invite friends, colleagues and acquaintances along to the evening for a glass of wine or beer and a BBQ dinner.



Whilst we had limited potential members come along, it proved a great time for our members to connect and swat the mozzies together. A number of our fundraising events also proved great opportunities for members to invite others along to see our club in action and create some interest.

Member Fellowship

The last Friday of the month is our designated social evening, which has included drinks and nibbles at Fitzy's and other Toowoomba establishments, picnics in the park, and pinball. For the second year, a Christmas car rally and BBQ lunch were organised by Barry Fagg and his team of helpers. This is a great event that brings our members together and a lovely close the year.

A number of members shared their story in the "Member behind the badge" segment of our breakfast meetings. Thanks to:

- Wendy Byron
- Glenn Gatehouse
- Mark Betts
- Paul Schmidt-Lee
- Miriam Spina

Member Education

A big thank you to Mark Betts for continuing to apprise TMRC members with Rotary education topics at a number of our breakfast meetings. The club also had a raft of invited speakers to update us on topics of interest to us, with a focus on local organisations, businesses, and individuals and how they support those in our local community.

- Nate Taiaroe, CEO Adventure Outbound
- Clayton Menyweather, Little Pig Consulting
- Stephen Little, CPL
- Karen McDonald-Smith, Midwifery Lecturer
- Matthew Gregg, Lifeline
- Libby, Good Samaritan School
- Bill Cowell, Toowoomba Garden City Rotary Club
- Miriam Spina, Momentum Health Everest Base Camp
- James O'Shea, TRC Councillor
- Lena Nabizada, Fairholme College Student

Membership induction

The TMRC welcome letter has updated to include new members to complete the "Rotary Basics" course and other free training programs.

A handy two-page Instruction Sheet for completing the Rotary Basics Course was also developed and distributed at a breakfast meeting in September 2022.

Club Evaluation

A review of Rotary resources provided useful information through the membership assessment tools booklet.

This highlighted how assessment tools can be used as opportunities to add value to our club experience so that more people will join and fewer members will leave. We kicked off this strategy by conducting a classification assessment. A survey tool based on the "representing your community's professions" tool was modified for TMRC members and deployed in October 2022. Results from the survey revealed the multitude of our members' expertise and skills and an insight into where our future club membership efforts can be targeted to address highlighted skill gaps. Further activities are planned to be undertaken in future years to diversify our club, find new members, improve our member retention, enhance the club experience (member satisfaction survey) and understand why members leave (exit survey).

In conclusion, I have been privileged to work with President Jamie and the 2022/2023 Board Directors. This has been a great experience to extend my Rotary knowledge, together with some great company and many laughs along the way. I would like to extend my congratulations to President Elect Wendy Byron, and welcome the incoming Director for Membership, Corin Sankey.



International Report

Glenn Gatehouse

Director

The Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club (TMRC) has continued its work in two key areas of international work – Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE) and Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. (RAWCS).

RARE

TMRC initiated a project in 2022, to source surplus school furniture from local Toowoomba schools and excess linen from local companies to distribute through RARE. We were fortunate to be able to fill a shipping container thanks to generous contributions from local school communities and local business houses.

RAWCS

Our signature international project comes to a close at the end of June 2023. The Teresa Orsini Clinic is a maternity and health facility located in the sub district of Maucatar, Cova Lima Province south west of Suai in Timor Leste.



Hospitalier Sisters of Mercy operate this isolated and vital health facility which provides care to immediate villages and those who live nearby. Geographically isolated and rugged country is just another element to the list of challenges which are faced on a daily basis by the locals.



The intent of the project was to provide a reliable and sustainable electricity supply to the clinic, boarding house and local village. This has been achieved. In addition to meeting the original intent of the project, TMRC also funded a water filtration system.

Having a reliable electricity supply and safe drinking water has been life changing for those who live in the village and access the health facility.

Acknowledgement for his tireless efforts and commitment to both projects is Brendan Ryan – the man who “gets stuff done.”



Education and Nurturing (Governance)

Mark Betts

Director

Why does Rotary go from strength to strength? It's because of Clubs like Metropolitan. We are very lucky to have members who are prepared to soak up new information. This improves the lives of others and gives us new ways to get the job done. Enthusiasm in our Club makes you tingle at meetings and allows all contributions to be aired and group evaluated. Congratulations to President Jamie and his Board for a wonderful year of learning, service and fun.

We started the year with a one sheet of Rotary information as a take away and review at meetings. Hopefully we can expand on this in coming years to all grow our knowledge of Rotary.

Congratulations to all members and keep up the enthusiasm for service and having fun.



Toowoomba Metropolitan Rotary Club Members and families enjoying a well earned drink after a very successful Hutchinson Builders Run the Range 2023.



Our RYPEN Delegate 2022 - Jemimah Smith - On the left.



Glenn and Glenn, doing what Glenn and Glenn do best.



"Our" electrical switchboard and battery bank in East Timor.



Spot the Ring Leader.



Brad and Jo Hogan at the Christmas Car Rally.



The Rash's. Our newer members and wonderful guests speakers.



The East Timor Solar Project Crew.

2022 - 2023



Toowoomba Metropolitan
Rotary
Club

