Mayor Anderson

Thank you for your kind words.

We very much value Council support of our endeavours to contribute to our local community, which Council has readily given for many years, particularly regarding the use of Council facilities.

I remember nearly 30 years ago establishing, with Turramurra Club the Gordon Markets and requesting the use of Wade Lane carpark. Over the years Council facilities have also been used for other fundraising activities such as:

* art shows and trivia nights in Ku-ring-gai Town Hall,
* our Garden Festival at St Ives Showground,
* not to forget of course our annual Bobbin Head Cycle Classic which uses a variety of Council facilities.

But our club’s work is not only about Fundraising. Over the years we have contributed to our community in a variety of ways:

Perhaps a great example of the power and diversity of Rotary is the **Achievement Workshop** we conducted annually for 15 years until 2001. It was a three-day workshop to help businesses by helping their young leaders, to advance their understanding of business, of the workplace and of themselves.

Over 1,250 young leaders took back to the 250 companies they represented throughout Australia and New Zealand, new and innovative ideas and approaches to their jobs. Many successful past participants sent their own staff to the workshop in later years.

Our Club has supported for over 13 years **Clarke Road School** in Hornsby for students with an intellectual disability, either by just reading stories to the kids, raising funds, or doing the more physical things for the school that their busy parents cannot do.

12 years ago we built a barbeque with outdoor meeting area. We helped them move stored stuff into their new school a couple of years later. And currently we are building a chicken coup and gardening area for them. We were even there in the rain last week tramping through the mud to the calls of our team leader David – he never lets up.

We also do our bit in the **fight against youth suicide**. We support Lifeline in Gordon in many ways and Eagles RAPS, located in Doonside.

Eagles RAPS is like an unofficial school dedicated to the prevention of youth suicide by giving opportunities to young people from disadvantaged / dysfunctional backgrounds.

In 2014 they told us that without our financial support, they would have been “dead in the water” and would have closed. Besides financial support, each Christmas we give the kids a special Christmas lunch. It brought tears to my eyes last December when one of the teenage kids asked why we, so far away were interested in them –

she told me she had never had a Christmas dinner before.

But we ensure we have fun while we busy ourselves helping those less fortunate, whether it’s just the camaraderie while we play in the mud, or enjoying the use of our new Clarke Road BBQ on its opening day – or at a special function like tonight.

We are doing great things.

Having fun while Making a Difference is a great addictive drug

It gives us that ‘**feel good**’ feeling. That is what we are about.

And we would find it so much harder without Council support

Thank you!