

# **ROTARY CLUB OF HIGHER UPTOWN**

## **TESTIMONIALS FROM CURRENT ROTARIANS**

### **ANDY ACADEMIC – Teaching Secondary**

Rotary International – Rotary National – Rotary Local: At all levels Rotary has been enjoyable for me, not just with community service but with fellowship as well. The common bond that Rotarians have throughout the world is wonderful when travelling and meeting people. I have just spent two years teaching in England and my Rotary membership was a wonderful springboard for social and professional contacts – and the “make ups” were very enjoyable. The world is a better place for Rotary International.

### **COL CLAIM – Insurance Management**

I joined a service club when I was in my early 20s. I immediately gained many friendships and the real satisfaction of having created a service ethic – that sense of doing something for others which I can achieve through banding together with other likeminded people. The friendships I gained were through club meetings, fellowship and service work.

In my early career, I was relocated throughout the state on several occasions and the benefits of belonging to a service club were very personal and very real. My wife and I were immediately accepted into our new community and were given opportunities to make new friends and continue to help others.

I joined Rotary eight years ago and have served in two clubs – again because I was relocated. I have benefited from being a Rotarian by my self-development; the support I receive from friends when I need it; and from the enormous satisfaction in giving of myself to others. It is also a real advantage to be able to meet with businessmen and women from all walks of life each week, and have the opportunity to discuss common business problems and successes.

My community has benefited from my being a Rotarian because I am lucky to get involved in projects like Clean up Australia; painting a Guide Hall and Soccer Club House; Young at Heart Concerts; Australia Day celebrations; and various other fundraising activities for local causes.

The world has benefited through the work we do and funds generated towards international projects both large and small. This, too, gives me a great feeling of satisfaction to know I can make a difference.

I can make a difference as well to individual people, as my family gets involved with Rotary Youth Exchange. We have sent our two children overseas with Rotary and we have hosted eight students in our home, as well as some short-term cultural exchanges. These exchanges provide benefits both ways through world and community understanding of other diverse cultures and they give us a lifelong friendship base across the globe.

I think it is important to serve your community because the governments of the world can do less and less these days. My community benefits from my being a Rotarian, and I benefit from Rotary, so it is a true win/win situation.

## **JADE JARRAH – Coffee Manufacturing**

Like many people, I have a demanding job. Living in Higher Uptown and travelling into the city, often means early starts and long days. Yes – I enjoy my job but I realised that I was losing touch with the very reason I moved to Higher Uptown in the first place – the real sense of community that exists here.

Then a neighbour who was a Rotarian suggested I go along to a Rotary meeting. It was a little daunting at first, meeting people who seemed to come from a whole range of different vocations and occupations, not just accounting and finance types that I was used to mixing with at work. But everyone was friendly and the meeting had a guest speaker on a topic that was really interesting. After attending a few meetings I was asked if I would like to join and, for the past 18 months, I have been proud to be a Rotarian.

There is a whole range of projects to get involved in. Soon after I joined, the club put on a melodrama to raise funds for a Rotary International Project aimed at eradicating polio in the world – and I was asked to take part! I had not been ‘on stage’ since school, but the three small parts I had were a lot of fun and in the rehearsals I got to make a whole lot of new friends. It was good to know that the money we raised will really make a difference.

Since then I have organised a street parade on Australia Day; joined with my fellow Rotarians in conducting a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner; participated in a 24 hour walk for Cancer Research Fund Raising; served at an untold number of sausage sizzles; enjoyed many social functions and outings with a wonderful group of friends; and much, much more.

As Rotarians, we meet weekly and sometimes it is difficult to make the time available. However, I find now I really look forward to meeting nights. Of course there is no compulsion to attend every week and you can ‘make up’ by participating in a project or just miss the meeting. I was really proud to be among the 25% or so of members who achieved 100% attendance last year – but no-one is asked to give more time than they can afford. If you can make 60% of the meetings, that’s fine.

If you would like to know more about Rotary, why not do what I did and come along to a few meetings and maybe a project. If you find it’s not for you, that’s fine and everyone understands. But maybe, like me, you will find the sense of community by doing something for others that really adds to the joy of living in Higher Uptown.

## **MARY MAKKERS – Catering Products Marketing**

One of the best decisions I have made in my lifetime was joining Rotary. I was divorced, my children were all adults and going about their own lives. I needed something to fill the void. A chance meeting with a few people from Higher Uptown Rotary saw me invited to attend a few meetings to see what Rotary was all about. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I was then invited to join the club.

Rotary has enabled me to give back to my own community through many varied projects. The ones closest to my heart are the Youth Programs. I have had skills I didn't realise I had, nurtured and brought to the fore via Rotary. I have also been blessed with many new and interesting friends, my fellow Rotarians. It is like a large extended family – everyone always there, not only for the community but also to help and support each other.

All I can say is, if you have the opportunity come along to our club – meet the people, see what we do – and I am sure you will never regret one moment. The feeling you get doing something positive for your community is your reward.

## **NAN NIGHTINGALE – Nurse Specialist**

Rotary is an organisation I joined 14 months ago with the intention of doing aid work. That is still one of my goals, but I have learnt that the Rotary community is a stimulating and rewarding group to belong to at the local level.

My knowledge of Rotary before becoming a member was that it was an organisation of mainly men who raised large amounts of money for various charities and communities through local events and business contacts. Of course, I now know that there are many women members and that the money raised is through enjoyable service and dedication and it is always fun!

I am a registered nurse in a haematology unit specialising in bone marrow transplants and, even though I have a very busy life, the weekly meetings have become a very important part of my schedule – fun, informative and great company.