

## 1. Describe your clubs outstanding fellowship/fun accomplishment this year.

Our event was a birthday party to celebrate our club's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in September 2003. It sounds simple enough, but the planning, preparation and completion of this event required a great deal of work from every member of the club. Our aim was to unite both our present club members, friends and supporters with previous club members and supporters in a celebration of all that Quota International of Beenleigh had achieved over the 30 year period. We also planned to honour our three remaining charter members for their continuing support.

The party was successful far beyond even our expectations. Our guest list of over 100 people included members of the current District board, a past International President, past District Governors, other local service clubs, representatives of our donation recipients, members from 7 District Quota clubs, former Beenleigh Quotarians, friends of Quota and many spouses of our members. Every Beenleigh Quota club member was present except for one lady who was called away for family reasons.

We also celebrated Gwen's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday (one of our club members), which fell on the day of the party and included our club traditions - the presentation of the Friendship bowl to a club member and the reading of the message book (a book recording inspirational thoughts and verses collected by club members).

Our First Vice President Diann made a message quilt, which was the major prize in the raffle. This quilt was designed to reflect ideals that apply to both Quota and the art of living including: the beauty and strength of nature; the importance of our children and kindness to animals; there is always a shining star if you look hard enough, we are all stars in someone's life; smiles are everywhere and its OK to make a mistake. A funny sidelight, when the raffle was drawn, Diann won her own quilt, so she donated it back to the club to be redrawn.

Photographs of attending club members were organized into 5 year groups, and every past club president was asked for the highlight of her term. These comments were collected and included in the history segment for that period.

Our 1970's Fashion Parade added an element of fun, when eight members dressed in the 1970's fashions, including the formal long white gloves. Our current President also became an outrageous hippy and then discarded her flower power to illustrate that Quota encompasses all types of people.

We highlighted the 30 years of club achievements by making placemats for each guests table setting: 8 different placemats illustrating 8 areas of achievement through the 30 years. With 13 tables of guests, this meant we made and laminated over 100 placemats.

## 2. How did your club achieve this success? Please describe the programme in detail, your timeline and program budget.

Our preparations began in July, a committee of eight members established, meeting every fortnight until the event. They were responsible for complete organization of the event and assigning tasks to club members under the following time line:

July: venue arranged; research re addresses of previous members; invitations made and posted; table and room decorations decided; agenda begun; history for the 5 year groups researched; Diann makes the quilt; Jacqui makes the bandanas and the trauma bears are dressed ready for donation, Sylvia makes the lace angels for the tables; the research for the 5 year book begun tracing the history from our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday; fashion parade organized and dresses located.

August: research completed re events and donations through the 30 years; placemats planned and begun; name badges made for guests; pianist organized; plaques for presentations ordered and engraved; club certificates organized and laminated if required; table hostesses and welcome hostesses allocated; agenda confirmed; menu options decided; birthday cake ordered; 5 year history books checked, completed and printed.

Sept: table seating decided; certificates prepared for charter members; 5 year signs for the group photographs made; minor raffle prizes organized; trauma bears packaged and labeled; table agendas made; complete review of event; timeline for agenda checked and modified; organize with the venue for access assistance for our wheelchair bound guests; cheques drawn for donations; change organized for door and raffle sales; Rhyll makes the flowers for the tables; displays organized re Quota International; photographs collected from members; placemats for the table settings completed; folders for photographs designed and completed; special birthday cake for Gwen's birthday purchased.

On the day: decorate room with photos and displays; put photographs on the wall in stairway; display club banner and quilt; lay table decorations and placemats; set room; welcome guests; orders taken for photographs; celebrate and enjoy!

Oct: photographs mounted and sent with thank you notes; report and photograph delivered to local paper; 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday album completed for club records.

No formal budget was drawn, our aim was to self fund the event, with costs for postage, preparation and displays to be covered by admission price and raffle income. Additional income was received from the sale of the angel table decorations and orders for the sets of table placemats. Our aim was achieved and the excess funds were donated to our local youth welfare group Beenleigh Area Youth Service (BAYS).

### 3. How has your fellowship/fun program benefited your club?

The benefits from our party are still being felt within the community and the club, including:

- \* our former and current members came together and new friendships were formed;
- \* the history of our club became known to the current members and a new appreciation was gained of how successful and hard working our club had been through 30 years of service;
- \* our current club members realized it is very hard to summarise 30 years of achievements in 3 hours and 8 placemats;
- \* the current members also gained knowledge of the traditions of their club;
- \* every club member was involved in the organization of the event;
- \* relationships between members were enhanced as they worked together to achieve goals;
- \* the newspaper article about the event generated interest in our club from the community;
- \* our club's main event, the Beenleigh Quota Club Eisteddfod was highlighted, with one of the talented winners playing the background music during dinner;
- \* Quota International was highlighted by a school project completed by one of our Eisteddfod winners and displayed at the event;
- \* the strength of our club spirit was illustrated to the attending charter members who expressed their delight in seeing their club had grown to be such a success and
- \* the event illustrated the talents and professionalism of our club and its members.

One major achievement from the day concerned the reconnection of previous club members who left Beenleigh Club to charter the Quota International of Garden City (now Brisbane South) Club. Some uneasy feelings existed between the two clubs, and this disconnection was not ignored, but covered in our history timeline and it was extremely pleasing to see members from the era of the split reconnecting and enjoying each others company.

Another main benefit was that the talents of our club members were displayed, with all decorations and displays being made within the club. Different members made the lace angels and flower arrangements for the table decorations, the quilt for the raffle, the placemats for the table settings, the invitations, the table agendas, the guests name badges and the 5 year book. Club members also worked in shifts on the morning of the event to decorate the room, set the tables, welcome guests and different members completed all agenda items. Our Vice President Diann chaired the celebrations with her usual professionalism and expertise.

The club worked together as a unit in all areas, from the planning meetings and preparations through to the mechanics of presenting the days activities. During the research for the fashion parade, the older members of the club illustrated how fashions may have changed since our charter night, but the fellowship and comradery of the members remains the same. The younger members also developed a respect for the work the pioneering members did to raise their funds in those fledgling years.

#### 4. What is your best advice to other clubs that want to improve their club's fellowship and fun activities?

As illustrated by the high quality success of our event, we believe the best way to improve fellowship and fun within a club is to work together and involve all members. We worked together towards a common goal and had an enthusiasm and pride in whatever the task required. Every current and some past club members contributed something to the day and so felt a part of it, not just a bystander.

Success is also reflected in the simple act of a 'Thank You' for efforts given. During our event we highlighted the contributions made by all those who helped make the day a success, most importantly, the pioneering women of the Charter group including the Charter President.

The element of fun is a must have for any function, both during the preparation and at the event. Many meeting and preparation nights were filled with storytelling by members and the fashion parade highlighted our club's sense of fun and willingness to share our smiles.

It is also very important to acknowledge the traditions and roots of the club as these dictate where our clubs stands today. We wished to support International President Mary Cotter's theme of "Strengthen Quota's Roots" and our birthday was a perfect opportunity. The event not only highlighted the past traditions and achievements of Quota International of Beenleigh, but also built a base for the current membership to continue these traditions.

Our members wanted to stage a successful event that would show our founders that we are a professional and successful group of women who have a great deal of pride and belief in both ourselves and our club. Our President reflected on this aspect when she said in her thank you speech',

*"To the members of the club now - hold your heads high, our theme this year is "Let Your Music Play' - believe me, everyone can hear you.*

*To the members of the club from previous years, rest easy, your hard work has not been in vain, your club is in the hands of a group of talented and professional women who will guard your traditions with enthusiasm and pride."*

To connect the first charter night dinner and our 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations, we finished the event with the 'End Of A Quota Day' verse, just as they did at the Charter Night 30 years ago.

The key to our success is the acronym for 'TEAM': Together Everyone Achieves More.