

Annual Report 2011

Purpose

The purpose of the International Marathon Fellowship of Rotarians is to promote long distance running among Rotarians and to raise funds for Rotary projects, mostly focusing on the Rotary Foundation's aim to eradicate polio. Each year, IMFR nominates an international marathon where members gather to have fellowship and take part in the running event.

Number of Members

The current number of members of the IMFR is 120 people from 15 different countries. The cost of membership is 20 Euros per annum. We have also recently established a 100 Euro life membership fee.

Participation in International Marathons

In August 2011, our annual fellowship event occurred at the Townsville Marathon in Queensland Australia. Almost 40 runners – Rotarians and their family members - took part in four events of the Townsville Running Festival, which included the Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km and 5km runs. All completed their runs successfully and two won their age categories!

The weekend program for the IMFR members included a trip to Magnetic Island, a tour of Townsville, the Pasta Party at the Picnic Bay Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday August 7 and a celebration dinner after the Running Festival on Sunday August 8 at the Townsville Yacht Club. The whole weekend was very successful, with a total of 58 people from four nations taking part.

The funds raised from the event were AUD 2,350.00 and these will be transferred to "endpolionow" by the Rotary Club of Caloundra which co-ordinated the administration and financial aspects of the weekend.

For 45 Rotarians the weekend was embedded in a highly successful 19-day tour of Australia. This was an incredible experience for all who took part and emphasised again the internationality of Rotary.

In addition to seeing many different parts of Australia, from the coast to the Outback, from very isolated areas to the major cities, Rotarians were able to meet with at least three different Australian Rotary Clubs, exchanging fellowship and stories of Rotary activities. The tour group departed from Sydney on August 19 with many, many firm and lasting friendships having been made. Our sincere thanks to Jo Bekedorf who used his professional skill in organising this major undertaking, and to Mark Ward of the Rotary Club of Caloundra who provided much assistance.

From Australia to Austria!

The next IMFR event at an international marathon is planned in Graz, Austria in October 2012. This weekend will be organised by DG Herbert Ederer of the District 1910 in Austria and we look forward to it.

Homepage of the IMFR

The homepage of our fellowship is:

www.rotary-run.de

Annual Meeting

The 2011 annual meeting was held on Sunday, August 7, 2011 in Townsville. A Board Meeting was held in August 17, 2011 in Sydney. The next annual meeting will be held in October, 2012 in Graz, Austria. Please note that as this will be after the annual cut-off date for Rotary Fellowship Annual reports, our report next year may be rather limited.

Board

The IMFR Board consists of Ralf Ludewig (Secretary), Jo Bekedorf (Treasurer), George Chasseuil (President Elect), Joseph Zech (Immediate Past President) and Keith Fagg (President).

I would like to record my deep appreciation to the Board members for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work during this busy, but very successful year for our Fellowship.

Keith Fagg

President - IMFR

R.C. Highton-Kardinia, District 9780