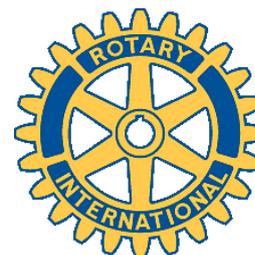


1996/97**President: Peter Manenti****Secretary: Janelle Watson****Treasurer: Rod McDougall****District Governor: Bob Aitken****RI President: Luis Giay****RI Theme****Build the Future with Action and Vision**

1996/97 was a year in which the members enjoyed coming to Rotary. President Peter Manenti led the club with easy confidence and a friendly attitude that was communicated to all the members. It was a year in which the esprit de corps flourished. The only blemish for such a Rugby aficionado as Peter was the scheduling of changeover on the same night as a Rugby test.

Although fund raising was hampered by the washout of Carols by Candlelight and the cancellation of the Christmas Stocking due to the refurbishment of Strathfield Plaza, in excess of \$43,500 was raised for service projects with the main beneficiaries being Canteen (\$15,000), Camp Quality (\$4,000), The Rotary Foundation (\$3,800) and Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (\$3,000).

Event highlights included the Gala Auction and Dinner which raised the funds for Canteen, the Pickles Auction at Penrith which catered for thousands of people in an atmosphere of great fellowship, the Fashion Spectacular organised by Connie Galletta, Brian McGuigan's Wine Appreciation night, the golf day organised by Ray Wilson and the Paul Harris Commemorative Dinner.

The club was successful in having its candidate, Sharon Robson, selected as a GSE team member to District 3070 in India with another of its candidates, Matthew Hammond, a reserve. The club also had two successful candidates for Youth Exchange – Felicity Lee and Jehan Hiranmanek- and received Massaya Ogiwara from Japan.

The club's candidates also achieved great success in Teenager of the Year with Sanushka Mudaliar of Meriden winning the senior title and Raymond Travers of St. Patrick's taking out the junior title. Strathfield also sponsored Maria Vieira to National Youth Science School and Alexandra Sommer to Adventure in Citizenship. Also, five young leaders were sponsored for RYLA.

Seven new members were inducted during the year and two members – Bert Houston and Euan Watson – were awarded Paul Harris Fellowship recognition and, in a first for the club, David Croft and Harley Tarrant were presented with PHF sapphire pins.