



2008 – 2009

President – Grahame True

Secretary – Allan Petersen

Treasurer – Charles Pitt

District Governor – Paul Erikson

RI President – Dong Kurn Lee

RI Theme – Make Dreams Real

In Grahame's changeover report he wrote he could not believe how much fun and enjoyment he had during the year and his desire at the start of his year to put fellowship back into Rotary. The RI President D.K. Lee asked Rotary Clubs around the world to consider children who never have a chance to dream because of problems with health, hunger, water and literacy. Janelle Watson, International Service Director and the Board with the help of the Meriden Interact Club purchased 3 Shelterboxes and contributed to the cost of insecticide treated mosquito nets to several villages in Papua New Guinea under the RAM (Rotarians against Malaria} programme. Rotarians and friends of the Club also organised books and literacy material to be sent to Pacific Island destinations under the Rotary Ranfurly Library Service. A serious membership drive organised by Ray Wilson during the year resulted in the induction of three new members.

Under the leadership of Club Service Director Trevor Duxbury several well attended dining out nights were organised by PP Steve Taylor. A very enjoyable car rally was also organised by PP Keith Byrn to John Leftwich's home at Kiama. A memorable Valentine's Day dinner was also held at the Duxbury's lovely home in Homebush. One of the most onerous jobs is the production of the weekly Bulletin to keep members informed and this was carried out with great efficiency by PP Angelo Franco and his team of scribes.

For the second year running Niall King as Community Service Director lead a dedicated team in a very busy year. The standout fundraising event was again the Trish MS Research Foundation Golf Day which raised \$51400. The District Golf Day saw Strathfield win the John Taylor Memorial Shield with only a small representation from District. The Club also supported a golf day to raise \$11000 for junior golf at Strathfield. A great Trivia evening organised by PP Bert Houston raised in excess of \$3000 to be used towards maintaining the Chalmers Road Special School bus. Tony Lanzafame with great support from Club members had a successful Carols by Candlelight

evening as did Peter Smith with the help of 29 Rotarians and partners who helped raise \$24000 for the Red Shield appeal.

There was a time when Vocational Service was an easy option for a Director but not anymore as attested by Peter Smith who organised very successfully, the Police Officer of the Year and Pride of Workmanship Award with the help of Keith and Sue Byrn, PP Jo Saad and PP Bert Houston. We were very fortunate this year to sponsor Deborah Ng as candidate at the very prestigious National Youth Science Forum in Canberra and be accepted for the 12 day live in course. Another highlight was a visit with dinner and fellowship by 39 Rotarians and partners to OTEN in Strathfield to hear about the distance learning of some 35000 students.

Again Strathfield under Youth Service Director Peter van der Sleesen had another successful year with great support of the Rotary Youth programmes – RYPEN, RYLA, MUNA, RYDA and Interact as well as our own Youth Achievement Awards in conjunction with Strathfield Council. The Literary Extension Programme evening the girls from Strathfield Girls High School organised was a great success. As in previous years the help given by Rotarians at the Meriden Interact dance to raise funds for their projects was greatly appreciated by the girls.

One very important position on the Board is the Club Secretary who works behind the scenes to make sure the administration of the Club runs smoothly. The task this year was carried out very efficiently by PP Allan Petersen as he did the previous year.