

INTERACT HISTORY

As developed by the Rotary Club of Strathfield

Through Interact youth learn the values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership, the core values of Rotary which enable them to contribute in a significant way to the community.

The Interact Club at Meriden School was chartered on 23rd September 1987 in the late PP George Hanlon's year. 30 foundation members governed by an enthusiastic committee with the help of Mrs Christine Hughes and our own dedicated Interact Chair the late PP Max Douglas got the Meriden Interact Club off to a flying start. The enthusiasm generated has not faltered over the years and the Club has remained strong. Currently they have over 50 enthusiastic members under the guidance of Mr Kuhan Rajalingam and their dedicated Committee led by President Sandra He. Many worthwhile causes and charities have benefited from the fund raising and hands on activities of the members. Last year and this year have been difficult with COVID19 but they managed to hold a very successful dance this year raising funds for their chosen charity Mission Australia. Several Rotarians helped with security at the dance held in May.

The Interact Club at Homebush Boys' High School was originally chartered by the Rotary Club of Lidcombe, who unfortunately had their Charter terminated in 1975-76 due to dwindling membership. The Rotary Club of Strathfield came to the rescue and helped the Interactors hold two dances in the School auditorium that year. In PP Brian Hennell's year, 1980-81 he mentions a thriving Interact Club but the HBHS Interact Club did not survive until being resurrected in PP Ray Wilson's year 2012-13 under the guidance of New Gen. Director PP Allan Teale.

Since 2013 the HBHS Interact Club was mentored by our PP Peter Smith who led the boys every Monday at lunchtime during term time. Over the past few years several boys have volunteered to help the Rotary Club of Concord at their market day held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month. This entailed Peter picking up 4 boys in the morning and dropping them home and picking 4 more up later in the morning to help clean up.

During 2021 they have been ably led by their current President Titus Charoensri and coordinator Ms Georgia Anton who overcame the difficulties presented by COVID19 for another successful year. The pandemic also effected the 42 international students who were separated from their families for several months. The World's greatest shave was held on 11th March raising over \$1000 for the leukaemia foundation and ROMAC and this was boosted by the bucket collections at the 'concord markets'. Prior to shut down the club was able to run the pizza day, a BBQ, the world's greatest shave and the Red Shield door knock appeal.

Past President Roger Vince
Chair – Interact Committee