

1979 - 1980

Lew Wilson, who was Secretary to past President Merv Perry during this year of office was now President. Brian Hennell was Secretary and Jim Stanford was District Governor.

It has been recorded that there were some attendance problems, at the outset, but there was a 'marginal improvement' during the latter part of the year.

However this was another year of great fellowship. The Fellowship Committee was under the direction of the late Les Pierce, and several social functions were organized. These were not only profitable, but highly enjoyable, as members who were in the Club at this time will recall. These were held at City Tatts, the Theatre Royal and the Bankstown Theatre Restaurant. An excellent dinner-dance at the Concord Golf Club was organized by Barry Green and John Elvy. A most enjoyable picnic was held at Cabarita Park. This was arranged by George Hallworth and David Driver.

An ANZAC Day function was held at Dr Tony and Desley Neaverson's home. This was organized by the late Ken Mountford, a most popular rotarian. No one could tell a joke, with appropriate actions, better than Ken. The ANZAC Day Breakfast has been a feature of the Club ever since.

The President of the year reported that Past President Merv Perry, in addition to his other duties, made an excellent job of Rotary Information.

The 75th Anniversary Committee, again under the chairmanship of Past President Merv Perry, held several meetings and presented two programmes in honour of Rotary's 75th Anniversary.

Brian Cullen-Ward was the historian at this stage and with the assistance of his artistic wife, Betty, gave a major overhaul to the Club's banner display. The Club owes a debt of gratitude to these two fine people.

International Service was directed by past President Merv Perry. This section of the Club's endeavours was very active and the Rotary Foundation plateau was raised to 500%, with \$1,000 donation, and at the same time it gave the Club the opportunity to honour Charter President Bill Boyce with recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow - the Club's first. Bill was subsequently made an Honourary Member.

Under Rotary Youth Exchange the Club hosted for a time Kim Dodd from the USA. The Club's



outgoing student, Kathy Lawrence, was in South Africa during this period and maintained regular contact with Past President Merv.

The Club, in this Rotary year, sent three candidates to the RYLA camp at Blue Gum Lodge, Springwood.

During Education Week in August, a Teachers' Night was held at the Club. More than twenty headmasters and headmistresses and senior teachers attended. Past President Maurie Moroney arranged for the Under Secretary, Minister of Education, to address the assembly.

An inter-school Debating Competition was introduced this year. A suitably engraved shield was donated by President Lew, to the Club, to be presented each year, to the winning team. This Strathfield Rotary Club Inter-School Debating Competition has taken place each year since. The chairman of the debates over most of this period, Past President Maurie Moroney, always considered the debates, involving as they do intelligent and enthusiastic young men and women, a refreshing highlight of the Rotary year.

Another interesting feature of this year was the Auction. Rotarian David Croft, who was later to become a President of the Club and Geoff Brooks organized it. Articles came from far and wide and the storing of these created some interesting moments. The late Ken Mountford, of happy memory did a magnificent job as Auctioneer.