

P R E S I D E N T ' S     R E P O R T

I would think that, as we come to the end of another Rotary year, we should recall the theme, "YOU ARE THE KEY", given to us by our R.I. President, Ed Cadman, and, rather than ask ourselves what we achieved as a club, perhaps each of us should ask what we, as individuals, achieved in the furtherance of the ideals of Rotary, especially in relation to our fellow human beings.



Did we, in fact, use "the key" to open up any of those doors that encase us in prejudice or disregard for our fellow travellers on this spaceship we call earth, or were we content to leave "the key" in mothballs in some remote area of our sub-conscious along with all those new-year and other good resolutions we adopt from time to time? This observation is not meant to imply that we should disregard our achievements as a club. Indeed, at the commencement of this Rotary year, I was quite apprehensive as to whether or not I would be able to maintain the status quo as I have always believed that Strathfield had a dynamic, indeed one might say a top, club and I felt it was a challenge in itself to maintain this status.

On looking through the reports of our directors, however, I do believe we had a most successful year, although there were some areas which were a disappointment; namely, the overall loss in membership, our poor attendance and, what is to me the most disappointing aspect of all, the lack of apologies for non-attendance at meetings. As regards the lack of apologies, I am amazed that many members cannot spare what must be a minute at the most to phone Eric Khu, or more usually his secretary, to advise of non-attendance.

However, on the positive side of the ledger, although we had an overall loss of membership, I believe the members who were inducted during the year have made an outstanding contribution to Rotary and I refer, of course, to Bob Moller, Max Douglas, Gary Pearce and Bert Houston.

I also believe the achievements of the club, as set out in the various directors' reports, do show we had a successful and worthwhile year in Rotary service.

Our successes could not have been achieved without the co-operation and support of the individual members and, indeed, the most gratifying aspect of my presidency has been the enthusiastic support and advice received from all (ladies included). This came through loud and clear in our catering efforts at Strathfield Park and Hudson Park which, whilst they did not draw a Bell take-over offer, nevertheless, in my view, proved a huge success from a fellowship point of view.

However, a special vote of thanks must be given to Bob and Jan Templeman for making their home available for the Anzac Day Breakfast and for the evening when we hosted the South African Friendship Team. Also, let us not forget Brian and Jenny Hennell for their hard work in organising and running the fund raising dinner at their home to support the Australian Rotary Research Health Fund.

At club level, I would like to extend a special thanks to Don Killip for his untiring work in our fund raising activities. Thanks to Don, we have had a record year in this area. Thanks are also due to our Sgt-at-arms George, who kept us amused but broke during the year, to Gary Kerr (Bulletin editor) who kept us informed and to Harley Tarrant (Programme Chairman) who kept up the supply of guest speakers.

Congratulations are extended to our own David Croft who had the distinction of being chosen as team leader for the G.S.E. Team to visit New Brunswick (Canada) earlier this year.

Finally, as I said earlier in this report, it is perhaps more fitting if we each reconsider our own commitment to Ed Cadman's theme, "You are the Key" and if, being honest with ourself, we have to admit that we could have done better then let us not dwell too much on what we failed to accomplish but aspire to the ideal that in Rotary lies hope and that, with a firmer resolve, we can achieve in the future that which we have hoped for, but failed to achieve, in the past, and so make the forthcoming year a truly memorable one for Terry and his team.

PAUL LEHMANN

President, 1985 - 86.

