



2002-2003

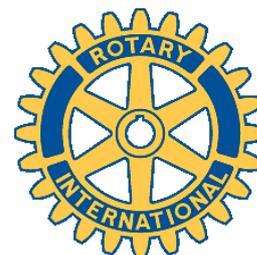
President – Stephen Taylor

Secretary – Shane Smallwood/Kevin Freund

Treasurer – Peter Douglas

District Governor – John Wakefield

RI President - Bhichai Rattakul



RI Theme - Sow the Seeds of Love

This was the year when we made the move from South Strathfield Bowling Club to Strathfield Golf Club. We had been at the Bowling Club for over 20 years after moving from West Strathfield Bowling Club during PP Brian Hennell's year via the Town and Country Motel and the Markets Club. Keith Stockall in his Club Service Report mentions the decision was a difficult one as we had been there a long time. The fellowship around the bar after the meeting was always very good with Greg keeping the bar open as long as there were customers. The catering problems finally forced the issue – a very unsettling and emotional decision for many members.

There were two important initiatives started during this year, the first was the Olympic Park Cycle Challenge which involved a large number of members undertaking marshalling, registration and BBQ duties at Olympic Park. The huge logistical problems to organise this event were undertaken by a very dedicated band led by PP Euan Watson to raise \$6000 for the Children's Medical Research Institute – who will forget the huge hands we carried to direct the riders. The second was the inaugural Youth Achievements Award which was in the words of the organiser and Youth Service Director, Tony Lanzafame, 'a highlight of the year'. A measure of the success of the event is that it continues as an important part of the calendar in conjunction with Strathfield Council.

The two Community Service Directors, Angelo Franco and Allan Teale both reported successful events in their respective portfolios. We finally broke away from the Burwood Community Chest Raffle and adopted a similar method which was originally the concept of

John Watkins. The sale of tickets for the Christmas Stocking in the Plaza had been declining for several years. A Gala night at La Montage was a great success and raised \$35,000 for The Ashfield Infants Home, Children's Medical Research and Westmead Children's Hospital Art for Healing Programme. The second TRISH Golf Day organised by Niall King and Ray Wilson raised \$11,000. The Carols in the Park was organised this year by Joe Campisi and he reported that the job although not easy, was a great success.

International Service was a priority this year with a donation of \$8920 to the Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus. This represents \$US100 per member as our contribution towards the worldwide eradication of polio. We were involved in Group Study Exchange with our nominee Mary Romanous being successful in being selected to join the team to D1230 Glasgow, Scotland.

PP Euan Watson was the Sergeant at Arms with the help of a different Corporal each month. George Helou's generosity and salesmanship helped to raise a considerable amount from raffles each week whilst PP Brian Hennell kept us entertained with an excellent line up of quality guest speakers. We were kept informed about Club activities by Vicki Wybrow and PP Kevin Freund with the weekly Bulletin and PP Raymond McCluskie with our excellent Web Site and Electronic Bulletin. During the year there were several social outings including a Yuletide Weekend to Katoomba. In November 2002 several members attended the funeral of Bob Taylor who was a Past President of our Club and also a Past District Governor.

A visitor to the changeover in 2003 was Tim Lynne the President of the Rotary Club of Moree who came to thank the Club for the donation of \$11000 in cash and kind to the Salvation Army in Moree to help those who had been effected by one of the worst droughts in living memory in the North West of NSW.