



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

**2017-2018**

**President - Rick Vosila**

**Secretary - Rod McDougall**

**Treasurer - Charles Pitt**

**District Governor -  
RI President - Ian H.S. Riseley**

RI Theme: Rotary: Making a Difference

Let's reflect on the year that's been.

As far as our **objectives** are concerned, I believe we have strengthened our club fundamentals, with the recent addition of many new, energetic, and some very young, members, and our capacity to serve has certainly improved as a result. The culture of the club is really good, very supportive and inclusive, with everyone showing great unity for our common causes.

In modernising our club, well... perhaps the more 'relaxed' and interactive meeting formats is the most significant change. I think it has encouraged membership amongst our visitors and guests, and positioned us as an energetic, modern club.

And lastly, setting the foundation for sustainable success I believe is assured. As well as being financially healthy, we did focus most of our efforts on local Strathfield community needs. As well as securing a President Elect (thanks PP Joseph Saad for facilitating this), we also now have a President Nominee – Arie Pappas locked in.

Let's take a look now at our **goals**.

Did we double membership? No. That would have required adding net 33 new members in the year. So why did we try for that? Well, big results can only be achieved by setting big goals; it makes you think differently about the challenge. We did however add 12 new members this year! Would we have done this without this BHAG (big hairy audacious goal)? Probably not. This was a great result, taking our membership back up to 45, in an environment where Rotary in general is slowly losing members. My special thanks to **Gulian Vaccari**, Membership Development Chair and **Arie Pappas**, Director Youth Service, who together were responsible for nominating almost every new member. Great effort!

We didn't end up establishing a club sponsorship program this year. I still believe it's a good idea; perhaps we can achieve this in the coming year?

And, are we the best club in the district (as measured by the Rotary Club Health Check?) We won't know until we complete our last survey and compare this to other clubs in the District. Does it really matter however what the score says? Not really. It's about paying attention to the elements

of what makes a good club and trying to continuously improve. I believe it's 'mission accomplished' in this regard.

Through several great events we raised a total of \$14,700 for **Australian Rotary Health**, in support of their youth mental health research efforts.

Partnering with **The Catherine Sullivan Centre** to host and run a gala dinner event, together we raised the \$50,000 needed to establish and run a new phonemic awareness program for their hearing-impaired students. A great result! This was in addition to \$2,350 raised at the Strathfield Spring Fair BBQ.

And finally, with a Carols BBQ, and then later with the help of Superman, as a club we raised a total of \$10,000 for **Chalmers Road School**, to go towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible bus for their more physically disabled students.

Of course, as a club we did so much more, including: many other BBQs in support of various causes, graffiti removal days, Red Shield Appeal support, Bowelscan kit distribution and collection, Interact and Rotaract club support, interschool debate, RYPEN, RYLA and NYSF student sponsoring, and much, much more. What's truly amazing is that Mr Perpetual Motion, **PP Peter Smith** has been at the centre of almost all of these.

Perhaps our highlight club event was the **Indian Cultural Night**, organised by **Prabhat Sinha** – Director International Service – and his lovely wife, Neena. It was a great, fun night, where we raised significant funds for distribution to two charities. Oh, and I can't forget our Christmas Party, where we played some party games most likely never played in a Rotary club ever before!

I'd like to wrap up by making some special mentions. **PP Raymond McCluskie** has been fantastic this year as a Programs Chair. We had great and entertaining speakers every week, as well as excellent transfer meetings arranged, including twice to the Ryde TAFE training restaurant, and a visit to Old Government House in Parramatta for a ghost tour. Thanks so much, Raymond – great stuff!

I'd like to also thank the person many of us refer to as the glue of the club – **Secretary Rod McDougall**. Rod is the consummate 'behind the scenes' guy that make's sure that everything just works. Whether it's board agendas and minutes, or new member packs, or direction on protocol and procedure, or just general advice, Rod is always there.

In fact, it was the board that achieved all that we did this year, not me. So, let me acknowledge each member: **Bradley Ayers** (Club Service); **Andrew Aravanis** (Community Service); **Arie Pappas** (Youth Service); **Prabhat Sinha** (International Service); **Paolo Giammarco** (Vocational Service); **Charles Pitt** (Treasurer); and **Rod McDougall** (Secretary). Invited to all board meetings we also had **Gulian Vaccari** (Chair, Membership Development) and **Ed Dunlop** (Chair, Public Relations, and Child Protection Officer). Thanks to you all, you carried me and this club, this year!

I must offer my special thanks to our Sergeant at Arms – 'Aunty' **Anu Kamkolkar** – who brought much grace and style to this role. Thanks, Anu!

I really want to thank all our club members and their partners