



2013-14

President - Suzanne Freund

Secretary - Allan Petersen

Treasurer – Rod McDougall

District Governor -

RI President - Ron Burton

RI Theme – *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*

Just over twelve months ago I took on the role as President of Strathfield Rotary club with a genuine commitment to both the ideals of Rotary, my fellow Rotarians and to the Strathfield community.

In retrospect I may not have been prepared for the amount of time that it takes to learn the role, understand the structure of Rotary and respond to the many demands of the role as President. I commend each of the forty two Rotarians who have gone before me, now that I understand the role for their achievements and generosity in giving so willingly, during their years as previous Presidents.

The outcomes for this year have been the result of the team efforts of board members Ray Wilson, Allan Petersen, Rod McDougall, Grahame True, Tony Lanzafame, Allan Teale, Paul White, Janelle Watson, Paolo Giammarco and Kevin Freund – and I sincerely thank them for their individual contributions and support.

I also sincerely thank Peter Smith for his commitment to the Graffiti Removal Project and the Weekly Speakers program - you have entertained and informed us regularly. On behalf of the entire club I also thank Roger Vince for his continued support of Meriden Interact, and both Allan Teale and Peter Smith for their support of Homebush Boys Interact club.

My year would not have concluded on the positive note that it has if it were not for Keith Stockall's production of our weekly newsletter.

On the periphery of each Rotary club is the circle of support given by wives and partners of Rotarians, and our club is lucky to have this too. I thank them for their friendship and support and sometimes their patience.

Strathfield Rotary has a proud history of regular projects and again these continued to build our profile in various sections of the community and included, The Police Officer of the Year Awards, Pride of Workmanship, The Youth Awards, the Cabarita ANZAC Day ceremony and special evenings which include representative's of Meriden and Homebush Boys High School Interact club members.

In my first speech I said that I hoped to build new partnerships within the community and work towards supporting Education, Literacy and Numeracy. We made contributions to Strathfield Library, a number of school projects and Symphony Jubilate for musical instruments. In support of education I have also allocated funds to introducing resources aimed at increasing the literacy of young people on Mental Health and Resilience.

It was also my dream to try to identify and work toward establishing a signature event, which would build the fund raising capacity of the club, and give members a project that could harness their individual skills and give them the opportunity to work together. Although undertaken during just the last months of my role, I hope that the Horizon Music Festival is something that can be developed and becomes an important event in the Strathfield Community calendar. I believe that because of our many schools and diverse cultural population this will showcase the best of our Strathfield. My secretary Allan Petersen was my anchor in this undertaking and I cannot thank you enough, for your insight and stability in sailing through unchartered waters. Both you and Welwyn balanced me in difficult times.

Lastly I wish our President Elect, Allan Teale a successful year and commend him for projects already initiated, including the successful display of Indigenous Art at the International Convention and other projects already in the planning stage.