

President's Report 2015-16

It has been a privilege to have served as president of the Rotary Club of Southern Districts this year and I can reflect on a year in which I was able to complete a busy schedule, to enjoy the participation of all members, to have pride in the achievements we have made as a Club and to experience the emotions generated by the serious, sad and fun parts of each meeting.

Apart from the great programs that were run throughout the year by our Avenues of Service committees these are just some of the other milestones achieved this year:

- Extensive renovations to the toilet block at Bring n Buy without having to dip into our market protection financial reserves;
- Chartered the E-WA Club;
- Built closer ties with the Rotoract Club City of Gosnells ;
- Provided final funding for the Sri Lanka Pathology Laboratory project to obtain a global grant and become a reality;
- We helped the E-WA Club to gain a District Grant to commence the Wheatbelt Literacy Project;
- Re-energised the club's web site and loaded it with up to date information and reporting;
- Hosted the Gosnells Business Network at this venue; and
- Found time to conduct a review of our entire Club programs and to list recommendations which will be put to the members of this club for their consideration early in the new rotary year.

It does not matter how busy a club president is, nothing can happen without the support of the members, directors and the board. In recognition of this, I thank my board members for their diligence, for the quality of debate and the professional processes used to make decisions on behalf of the club.

A most grateful thanks to my Directors who engaged with their committees to deliver the outcomes we have come to expect as a club.

My thanks also to Doug Parker for another outstanding year as Secretary, to Jannet Coniglio for her hard work as a professional and diligent Treasurer, to Ric McDonald for being the driving force for structural change in our web site and transparency in our reporting. Phil Cordery, what a tremendous year of quality and interesting speakers; a great mix of the serious, surreal and downright funny. Lloyd Dungey for tackling attendance once again and finally delivering the percentages that made me happy.

And, as always, Colin Waters did a great job with the Club communications and BnB Market report. He also found the time and energy to present a comprehensive and well researched document regarding Club programs and direction to me. This document formed the basis of a complete Club programs review and directions as to how the avenues of service can be used to make the club better for members and more impactful on our local and wider communities.

Whilst I believe that every member of the Club deserves recognition the task of a president is to award those who have gone the extra to make the Club better or to make a difference. It was my most pleasant task to award Paul Harris Fellowships to Sandra Baraiolo and Donald King and to present the President's Award for Best Club Person of the Year to John Stockbridge.

I had the good fortune to have welcomed more people to the club than we farewelled but the saddest moment was having to farewell John Simpson when he was called to higher service. All of us showed him the honour he deserved as a legend of this club mixed with a sense of playful humour that he would have enjoyed very much.

To all members and partners of this Club I appreciate your support throughout the year and thank you all for being gifts to our community and to the world, you have much to be proud of but what has been really exciting for me this year is that we are now thinking more ambitiously about what we can achieve as a Club.

Mike Raspa
President Rotary Club of Southern Districts 2015-16