

# The rotary club of Ryde

## Paul Harris Fellows

Mrs Sylvia Abboud	Rtn Brian Hamilton	Rtn Len Parkins *
PP Tony Abboud	Rtn Ian Henderson	PP Bill Payne
PP Martin Aston	Mrs Ruth Henderson	Rtn Val Payne
Mrs Norma Archbold *	PP John Higgins	PP Ashley Peake
Mrs Sylvia Barletta	PP David James	Rtn Gordon Pratt *
PP Bob Beer <sup>c*</sup>	Rtn David Johnston	Mrs Rose Rocca
PP Ed Berlage	PP Bob Kaye-Smith	PP Ross Rocca
PP Eric Bond	PP Charles Kilby	Rtn Don Rutherford
PP George Bouckley	Mrs Gloria Lardelli	PDG Alex Sawyer
PP Geoff Brennan	PP Patrick Longfield	Mrs Olga Sawyer
PP Dick Browne *	Rtn James McLean	Mrs Glad Shute
Rtn Bob Carroll	Mr John Manenti	PP Neville Shute*
Mr Jack Chamberlain	PP Bruce Martin	Rtn Stefan Sojka
PP Peter Cooper	PP Graham Metcalfe	PP Eric Somerville <sup>c*</sup>
PP Leo Crowley *	Mrs Carolyn Metcalfe	Rtn Ron Taffa
PP Jan Cutler	Rtn Harry Mitchell*	PP Duncan Taylor
Mrs Betty Dodd	Mrs Rita Mitchell	PP Lionel Thomas *
Mrs Janelle Dodd	PP Rob Mitchell	PP Doug Thompson
PP John Dodd	PP Arthur Mychael	Mr George Wares
Mrs Faye Dunn	Rtn Perce Nayler *	PDG Les Whitcroft
PP Noel Dunn	PP Mick Nelson	Mrs Shirley Whitcroft *
Rtn Victoria Gouel	Mrs Glad Pacey*	Mr Bill Wilson
PP Chas Jackson <sup>c*</sup>	PP Ron Pacey <sup>c*</sup>	<sup>c</sup> Charter Member * Deceased

## Past Presidents

1946-47 Eric Hearnshaw *	1967-68 Ashley Peake	1989-90 Dick Browne *
1947-48 Eric Somerville *	1968-69 Alan Forrester *	1990-91 Bill Payne
1948-49 Aub Primrose *	1969-70 Harry Willcoxson*	1991-92 Rudi Hanselmann
1949-50 Bob Beer *	1970-71 Bob Satchell	1992-93 John Dodd
1950-51 Sandy Ross *	1971-72 Les Whitcroft (PDG)	1993-94 Tony Abboud
1951-52 Jack Rae *	1972-73 Ray Kelleway *	1994-95 Martin Aston
1952-53 Bob O'Toole *	1973-74 Laurie Larcombe	1995-96 Bob Warburton
1953-54 Chas Jackson *	1974-75 Neville Shute *	1996-97 Ross Rocca
1954-55 Geoff Howe(PDG)	1975-76 Reg Green *	1997-98 John Higgins
1955-56 Lionel Thomas *	1976-77 Eric Bond	1998-99 Peter Cooper
1956-57 Bert Propert *	1977-78 Roy Ellis	1999-00 Noel Dunn
1957-58 Mal Pilcher * /	1978-79 Terry Gibson	2000-01 John Williams
Eric Allars	1979-80 Doug Thompson	2001-02 John Dodd
1958-59 Gordon Christie	1980-81 George Bouckley	2002-03 Patrick Longfield
1959-60 Bob Maze	1981-82 Arthur Mychael	2003-04 Jan Cutler
1960-61 Ron Pacey *	1982-83 Col Brooker *	2004-05 Charles Kilby
1961-62 Bill Stacey *	1983-84 Eric Bond	2005-06 Duncan Taylor
1962-63 John Edmonds *	1984-85 Bruce Martin	2006-07 Geoff Brennan
1963-64 Joe Bannenberg*	1985-86 Alex Sawyer (PDG)	2007-08 Geoff Brennan
1964-65 Jim Carmen *	1986-87 Ed Berlage	2008-09 Steve Thorp
1965-66 Jack Irvine	1987-88 Graham Metcalfe	*Deceased
1966-67 Tom Le Seur *	1988-89 Duncan Taylor	

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RYDE INC, NSW, AUSTRALIA  
Club No. 18039 — District 9680  
Rotary International



# 64<sup>th</sup>

# Change-over Night Programme and Annual Report

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club  
Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009



Outgoing President  
**STEPHEN THORP**

Incoming President  
**BOB CARROLL**



Leadership Awards in January of this year. Four attended – two sponsored by our Club and for the first time nominees from Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club and North Ryde RSL Club, each Club agreeing to pay the RYLA fees. Two members attended the RYLA dinner with the attendees and two Rylarians attended our meeting as guest speakers in February.

Les Whitcroft very enthusiastically agreed to manage **RYDA** - Rotary Youth Driver Awareness for Holy Cross College in November. Club members volunteered assistance on the day at St Ives showground.

David James has been our representative for **Interact** at James Ruse Agricultural High School. Representatives from the school assisted with our 'Christmas Wrapping' at Carlingford Court last December as well as being involved in **MUNA**. Their principle fundraising activities include National Tree Day, Australian Koala Foundation, MS Readathon, The Smith Family, The School of St Jude (Tanzania, Africa), as well as a major effort on Bandaged Bear Day for The Children's Hospital, Westmead. The James Ruse Interact Club meets regularly at lunchtime. They also run the food stall at the annual School Musical.

An inaugural Workshop was held in late April prior to the preliminaries of the **4<sup>th</sup> Ryde District Schools' Public Speaking Competition**. This was a great success Michelle Dodd conducted an excellent programme with 13 students attending who thoroughly enjoyed their time and gained confidence and proficiency in the art of public speaking.

The Preliminary competition was held at Eastwood Heights Primary School Hall in early May. Nine schools and eighteen contestants competed; the use of a microphone was introduced for the first time in the history of the competition. My thanks to Geoff Brennan our MC, for his expertise in making everyone feel at ease, and Val and Bill Payne for their invaluable support.

The Finals were held on Tuesday 19 May at Next Generation Club. Delaney McCrory from Eastwood Public School took first place, Sophie Armstrong from Eastwood Heights Public School second place and Darcy Bowers from Holy Spirit Primary School in third place.

PP Jan Cutler  
YOUTH SERVICE



## Programme

**7:00 p.m.** Be seated – Master of Ceremonies: **PE Bob Carroll**  
**7:05 p.m.** Rotary Grace : **Rtn Ken Allen**  
Loyal Toast: **PP John Dodd**

**Introduction and Welcome to Partners and Guests:**  
**President Steve Thorp**

**Toast to Rotary International: ADG Elwyn Hodges**  
**Response: PDG Les Whitcroft**

**Toast - The Partners: Rtn Allen Horrell**  
**Response: Carolyn Metcalfe**

**Floral Presentation to Julie Thorp - Lorraine Carroll**

### *MAIN COURSE*

**President's Remarks**  
**Presentation of Donations**  
**Awards**

### *DESSERT & MUSICAL INTERLUDE*

**Ron Pacey Award**  
**Recognition of 100% Attendees**  
**Lucky Door Prize**

### *TEA & COFFEE*

**Return of Staff and Charter – Serjeant at Arms PP Peter Cooper**  
**Induction of New President by President Steve Thorp**  
**Presentation to Past President by President Bob Carroll**  
**Passing of Staff and Charter to Sgt at Arms PP David James**  
**Introduction of new Board by President Bob Carroll**  
**Close of Meeting by President Bob Carroll**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008/9



It has been an honour and privilege to be the President of the Ryde Rotary Club for the past year. At every function I attended I was proud to say "Steve Thorp, President, Ryde Rotary" because I was representing a great Club that allowed me to utter those words.

When I joined the Club in 2005 I attended meetings and saw a procession of Rotarians stand up and talk of all manner of activities, which I thought was pretty great.

Over the next three of years I was to experience the work that these Rotarians had done in the past as I became involved in Apprentice nights, Pride of Workmanship, Public Speaking, Birthday and Christmas Parties, Conferences and the odd barbeque.

However it was not until I became President and saw firsthand the level of commitment and dedication of all the fellows in the club, and Rotarians throughout the District, that I started to comprehend the breadth, and depth, of Rotary. I am only now coming to grips with the enormity of Rotary and how much further I have to travel on my Rotary journey.

In the area of membership we have had a bittersweet year. We inducted Rtn Paul Burnett into the club in July and then over the next four months we inducted PP's David James, Bob Kaye Smith, Michael Nelson, Ron Thomson and Rtn Adrian Hallett. It was bittersweet because all five of these fellows came to us following the demise of the Rydalmere club. We also brought PP Ed Berlage back to the fold by bestowing Ed with Honorary membership of the Club in November.

We have worked hard over the year to bring new people into Rotary. Although the results of our work are yet to bear fruit the foundation that has been laid in Membership and Public Relations by our club, and district, will, I'm sure, get us some gains going forward.

In August we handed a cheque for \$20,000 to the Ryde - Hunters Hill Life Education in support of the fantastic work this organisation does in Anti Drug campaigns with school children. The funds we donated went to the refurbishment of their mobile classroom (the Bus). We were also able to deliver the Ultrasound Vein Machine to Ryde Hospital in December. This great project was initiated by IPP Geoff Brennan in 2007/8 and was delivered at a cost of \$36,000, \$25,000 from Geoff's year and the balance out of this year's budget.

Russia. A donation of \$2000 for 2 final year Occupational Therapy students from the University of Sydney to work in Nepal for 3 months providing community based occupational therapy training. The Club is also donating 3 **ShelterBoxes**.

Currently our Matching Grant for the wheelchairs project is being audited by the Foundation. A member of the Foundation from Germany will be visiting Lebanon and the recipients. He will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Baabda, with documentation for the purchase of the chairs being collated by our club.

Victoria Gouel  
INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN



It has been a great year for Youth Service; we have achieved a great deal and have enjoyed ourselves along the way. Thanks to my committee for their assistance, Les Whitcroft, Doug Thompson, Nora Etmekdjian, Ian Henderson, Ron Thompson, Paul Burnett and David Johnston.

As always **Youth Exchange** has been busy, our 'inbound' youth exchange student Genevieve Rubio from the Philippines has entertained us with her delightful personality and we are mutually enjoying her stay with us.

Our 'outbound' student Heidi Sham is greatly enjoying her time in Germany and keeping the Club up to date with regular monthly reports. Last year's 'outbound' student Mary Anne Gold returned from Switzerland and attended the District Youth Exchange Dinner in February, along with Genevieve and three Ryde Rotary members. She visited the Club in early April. Thanks to Allen Horrell our Youth Exchange Councillor for a job well done.

Two applicants from our Club have applied for exchange 2009/2010. Our Club will sponsor James Dodd and the Rotary Club of North Ryde have happily offered Charles (Jnr) Kilby their sponsorship.

Two students, Adriana Bertoni and Henry Deng, from Marsden High School attended the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) at Sydney University in December. Sponsorship for other NYSF programmes were not taken up by local schools

Thanks to Nora Etmekdjian for organizing **RYLA** - Rotary Youth

in particular to Noel Dunn for his leadership and organisational skills on this project.

**Meals on Wheels** happens each month, as it has for some years now, and my personal thanks to those who get out there so regularly.

Our contribution to **National Water Week** was to have guest speakers from Sydney Water come and talk to us about issues Sydney has with water. They presented a fascinating and informative talk on Sydney's water future.

As a new member in our club, Adrian Hallett has brought a new project to us. The club supported the **Anzac Day Service** at Tebbutt Lodge, Dundas. I think it pertinent to make further reference to Adrian Hallett's service to the club. He came to our club with his own contribution to 'marketing Rotary'. He acquired a 'caravan', that he has brought along to events we have run through the year. It acts as a display of the many activities and offerings that Rotary has up its sleeves. It is a great addition to our portfolio of tools.

Lastly, and by no means least, **Circus Quirkus**. Once again this event ran quietly, efficiently and at a profit. This comes with no small thanks to Graham Metcalfe and John Dodd.

**CLOSING REMARKS:** The club's role in the community is fundamental to what Rotary is about. One of the most significant descriptors given to me of Rotary when I joined, was that it is an international organisation with its roots in its communities – a quite unique meeting. It seems therefore beholden on us to ensure we are visible in the community with which we have mutual interests.

It is my belief we have had a year where this visibility has been obvious – people should not have to look hard to see or hear about us.

If we all believe we have achieved such an outcome, then it has been a 'GOOD YEAR'. My thanks to all members.

Patrick Longfield

COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN



International work for the Rotary Club of Ryde for the this year has comprised of the following projects:

Supply and delivery of **Wheelchairs to Lebanon** for distribution by the Rotary Club of Baabda, a **Matching Grant** Donation of US\$3000 to **Moscow East Rotary Club** for the purchase of bus for an orphanage in

Our fellowship weekend in September saw us going to Forster / Tuncurry and, although there was some dispute as to where the tallest tree in NSW really is, all that attended had a marvellous time.

Our signature award nights of Apprentice of the Year, Pride of Workmanship and the Primary School Speaking Competition, as well as our Community and International projects were fantastic successes. You can read more about these activities in the avenue of service reports. Congratulations and thank you to the "Avenues of Service" Chairmen; PP Patrick Longfield, PP Jan Cutler, Rtn Burkhart Foertsch and Rtn Victoria Gouel.

The District Conference at Newcastle was an excellent event. It showcased the best of Rotary both in the House of Friendship and the presentations throughout the conference. The two evening dinner functions were tremendous and although we didn't score a prize in the fancy dress we looked sensational. Our thanks go to Janelle Dodd for her creativity and hard work getting us ready for the night.

I hope you have enjoyed our meetings this year. We have had some excellent speakers and my thanks go to PP John Higgins for the superb job he has done as our Programme Director, and to you all for the contributions you have made to our weekly gatherings.

Thank you to the Board who have been of invaluable support to me and who have steered us through this year. This year we put in place the "Club Leadership Plan" and the Board worked hard at setting the groundwork to align this leadership concept with the needs of the club. As we move forward there will be some fine-tuning so that the club gets the best possible outcomes from its leadership.

Mentoring is one of the cornerstones of success in Rotary and I would like to thank PDG Alex Sawyer, IPP Geoff Brennan and PP Graham Metcalfe for their guidance and keeping me on the straight and narrow.

It has been a very busy year and I have attended many functions and activities that have taken me away from home. Julie has been of fantastic support throughout, only complaining when I came home early from a function.

We now look forward to the next Rotary year, congratulating, and wishing our incoming President PE Bob Carroll every success for next year .

Thank you Ryde Rotary.

Stephen Thorp  
PRESIDENT



My year as Membership director started at District Assembly in May 2008. As the first Membership Director under the new Club Structure, I was interested to find out more about my role. At assembly there was a breakout session where incoming membership directors from around the District workshopped questions about membership issues. We were given a survey for our club members to fill in on the same subject. I surveyed our members and got a few insights into what was expected of the club which would make it appealing to new members.

Note that Ryde is different to other clubs in the District: I don't think we have lost a new member since I joined. Ryde most definitely does NOT have a problem with Retention.

The Membership Survey taught me the folly of trying to do business at a Club Meeting where members are more interested in eating their meals and enjoying the fellowship of their peers. Those who did answer were clear on one point – our Club is doing OK, and should change nothing except the average age of our membership.

My Membership plan for the year was to target the following groups:

1. The District Alumni database – we should try to get our Club's Alumni data and invite them to join. (This is still a work in progress apparently, as I was unable to get any data from District)
2. Teachers – because our Youth Services Chair will be talking to them all the time, and the only practical way to keep Interact clubs going and to start new ones is to have a Rotary member in the School.
3. Tradesmen – because Vocational Service has contacts with TAFE's, Pride of Workmanship, and Apprentice of the Year.
4. Speakers – they were interested enough to visit and share their time with us.
5. Newly Retired business people. 50% of our district is now over sixty, so why target retirees as new members?

The "Demographic Problem" is discussed repeatedly at District level, and it is even mentioned that Clubs are discouraged from signing up over 50's. I disagree: retirees are free of work commitments, are living and remaining more active longer; and we can offer something they need - a worthwhile interest for their retirement. Our club works well with a demographic at least as old as the District average, and the fact that the district has 50% of its membership over 60 and is still achieving so much each year, suggests that maybe we should recruit more of them!

The main intent for Membership was to include a membership component in every club meeting or project, and this is always in cooperation and combination with every public relations effort. The two

to the Dodd family household for being such a large part of the process.

In September we held a BBQ for the Lane Cove Tourist Park's **EcoFamily Day**. It was a great success although we did not take as much through selling drinks as last year; we shall be there next year.

The **Bowel Scan** project succeeded with 446 kits being handed out through 11 pharmacies, the largest number yet. It is worthy noting I think that, while it is not about money, the District did raise in excess of \$6,000 from this project. Particular thanks go to Bill Payne for all the effort he personally put in.

Two **Mental Health Forums** were held this year. The first one held in November 2008, was on the topic 'Stress and Depression'. While the committee felt a bit disappointed that only some 60 or so people turned up, and the questions from the floor were a bit thin on the ground, the general opinion was that it was a success. Certainly the stall holders were happy with the contacts they made.

So when we set out for the next one in May, with the topic, "Managing Self-Harm", we were hoping that with the coverage we had we would bring more people. However, while the numbers may not have been there, the energy clearly was. In the end we had to close off the question time, so we could get away at a reasonable time.

I must note my particular thanks to some people, without whom these two events would not have happened. Robert Erskine from Gladesville, Pat Perrin from North Ryde and Anne Jeffery from Eastwood are the contacts into the other clubs involved in this project. Without these people, and in particular Robert, these evenings would not have happened. Sadly Anne has recently left Rotary and was not there for this last forum.

To our club I must also add a few words - in particular to Stefan Sojka. Stefan added a dimension to these evenings that is certainly unique in this District – that of music. His piano and singing created a distinctive environment that seemed to 'soften the edges' of the evening, one that could have become rather tense. His gift was appreciated by all present.

I also must thank those stalwarts who offer their presence at so many club events, namely the Sawyers, Martin Aston, Ken Allen,

The **Tree of Joy** continued on its most successful way. This year it was run at three centres, Eastwood, West Ryde and Carlingford Court, and in excess of 1250 parcels were distributed. Thanks must go here to Duncan Taylor, Ron Taffa and David James for their efforts.

The **Red Shield Appeal** surprised everyone this year as, even with the 'recession', more money was raised than previously. Thanks here go to all those members of the club that became part of the team, but

In March 2009 we had the presentation of the **Pride of Workmanship Awards**. This major event was kindly sponsored by the Ryde Chamber of Commerce to the tune of \$1,000 - under the Presidentship of our very own PP Charles Kilby. The five recipients were nominated by the Local Area Police Command of Eastwood and Gladesville, Ryde Hospital and the Christian Community Aid. The guest speaker was Maxine McKew, MP, Federal Member for Bennelong, (having replaced the long standing Member and Prime Minister John Howard), Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Both these major events were very well patronised by all our members, their wives, as well as family members and friends of the award recipients. Special thanks go to the members of the Vocational Services committee: Ron Taffa, Bob Carroll, Martin Aston, and Eric Bond, and also to Past President Geoff Brennan, who organised all the printing, table arrangements and seating plans for both these important events.

Burkhart Foertsch  
VOCATIONAL SERVICE CHAIRMAN



Community Service this year set itself quite a busy schedule and although we did not achieve every item on the programme, I believe I can say, that 2008/9 was a 'Good Year'.

The events we ran were without a doubt a great success, and it is worth noting a club is as good as its membership. So it has been, due to the energy, vigour and commitment of all members of the club who worked on a project, supplied material for a project or who came along to support the events, a good year. I believe it reasonable to state an excellent and stimulating time was had by all involved.

It is worth noting that with the arrival into our club of new members, existing projects got a boost, and at least one new activity was introduced to the club; Christmas Gift Wrapping at Carlingford Court.

I would personally like to thank all members of the Community team, and others who took up the cudgels.

#### **REPORTS**

**Father's Day and Mother's Day** were completed successfully, and many thanks must go to Geoff Brennan for supplying a range of gifts that I am sure could be described as unbeatable. And once again, of course,

roles cannot really be considered separately.

We distributed "20 Reasons to Join Rotary" Brochures at the Rotaract Ruby Dinner and addressed the attendees. Thanks to Adrian Hallett and his trailer we have manned a stand at the West Ryde Easter show, and will make further use of this in future years.

It will be immediately apparent to members that I was unsuccessful in recruiting anyone from any of the planned target groups, but through no action of mine, the club ended the year with 41 members, from a starting total of 36. Sadly, Past President, Paul Harris Fellow and long serving Hub Editor Ed Berlage retired at the end of the previous year, but President Steve has been kept busy inducting 6 worthy new members in the current year.

Membership statistics for the year are therefore (36 + 6 - 1 = 41), a membership growth of 13.9%, and a retention rate of 97.6% both of which are probably the envy of the District!

It is worth noting that all members inducted in the past two years were ex-Rotarians - while they are all excellent new members for our club, we need to start attracting new members from the general public to our Rotary club for the Rotary movement to grow.

Allen Horrell  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



During 2008/09 year the Focus was on Polio-Plus, especially with the Gates Foundation Challenge.

I am certain that all members that make regular contribution through our Treasurer will earmark their contributions toward optimising Polio-Plus Fund.

We did not have a great success with the Centurion Club and I hope that next year, a few more members will sign up.

Our donation of US\$3000,00 toward a Matching Grant for the purchase of a bus for an Orphanage near Moscow, by the Rotary Club of Moscow-East has been a success, there has been a delay with the delivery of the bus, and the presentation occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

The Club contribution to the Rotary Foundation this year of \$6,000 will be directed towards Polio-Plus.

During the year we recognised PP Rob Mitchell, with a Sapphire PHF, for his contribution to the District in many and various capacities.

There will be two more recognitions at our Annual Changeover

Dinner, and you will learn who the recipients are, on the evening.

Of course, during the year we hosted our RF Ambassadorial Scholar Ayumi Hira, a young lady from Japan, who has been an excellent Ambassador for her Country and of course the Rotary Foundation.

Our Club for many years has been a very strong supporter of our Foundation, and I am extremely proud to be part of it.

Alex Sawyer

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR



It has been an exciting year for our club, with many activities occurring in all avenues of service and within the club itself. My first year as PR director has been a challenging and exciting one, with much learning taking place, getting runs on the board and slowly but surely building a PR case for the club that I am very proud to say I can pick up and run with into next year, as I retain my current position.

I have to say I have been supported strongly by some members of the club, almost to the point of them taking over my role! My weekly Hub report was on many occasions submitted before I put finger to keyboard. Rtn Adrian Hallett is a one-man publicity machine, carting behind him - as he does to every event - a trailer packed with signage and paraphernalia promoting the club. This was particularly helpful as many weekends I am called to duty in my business. Thank you Adrian for all your support! I have had some discussions with him, and we have some big plans for that trailer and all it contains.

On the media front, I have begun learning the ropes. We have had one or two nice articles in the paper, and I have placed the obligatory accompanying advertisement on one occasion to ensure a nice placement. The Hub is a central tool in the PR arsenal, and my weekly reports have hopefully provided mirth and merriment, as well as informative insights into the calibre of our guests and the high quality of our regular meetings. The district's "Humanity in Motion" magazine is a splendid publication, in which I was proud to have contributed a wonderful two-page spread that is now popping up all over our community.

Since I took on the role of PR director, I have been maintaining an interim Website, in preparation for the imminent launch of our brand new Website. The interim site has been a source of information for anyone searching for the club, and we have had numerous members of the

public approach us directly as a result of finding us in Google. The new site is a big undertaking, and I am very much looking forward to completing it. It is fully branded to Rotary International style guidelines, and is designed to grow with every activity that we undertake. It also has a newsletter mailing list facility for both members and the general public, so that we can send out two different e-news publications. The Website is taking a while to produce, because it is a huge project - and I do need some help - but it will be launching within the next month or so - ready for the new board to marvel over; and take credit for!

Recently I participated in MUNA as video and audio producer. The audio version of the entire event is complete and is of huge benefit to all participants, past, present and future. The promotional video will highlight just how much fun and how rewarding the event is. It will be a good vehicle to promote MUNA and our club, setting a good standard for future publicity. I have already set up a YouTube site for Ryde Rotary, in readiness for the video's completion.

Thank you to everyone who has mentored and supported me all year. I am looking forward very much to the year ahead, as I consolidate a lot of the ground work I have laid down these past 12 months.

Stefan Sojka

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR



In September 2008 we had a guest speaker from the NSW Corrective Services Department, Michael Cassar, speaking about a work release programme for prisoners. A programme, which I thought was very important; worth while and in line with vocational services, but which unfortunately did not have enough support to get off the ground. It is hoped that in the following year it might be reconsidered.

As in past years the club continued with the two very successful projects; the Apprentice of the Year Award and The Pride of Workmanship Awards.

After dedicated hard work by PP Noel Dunn, Rtn Ron Taffa and President Steve Thorp, interviewing all the candidates, the **Apprentice of the Year Award** was presented to Stephan Kartanegara, a plumbing apprentice from Meadowbank TAFE. This major event took place in November 2008, with the guest speaker being the Director of the Ryde Catering College of TAFE Mrs. Elizabeth Smith.