

International Service 2004-2005

The role of the International Service Director if carried out as intended would be a little like having Rotarians experience a world trip, visiting many places one has heard or read about and others discovered and appreciated after a journey outside one's comfort zone.

The District training for the role is expansive and encouraging with the options for clubs to consider in the forthcoming year, to continue the analogy, like dipping in to a number of travel brochures. Which program to elect to undertake, which ones would best suit the interests of the travelling Rotarians from Parramatta Club and which ones would the Director, taking members on the trip, be capable of leading?

In the International Director's "travel brochure" are many activities some for the energetic others requiring less energy yet matching commitment. The Rotary Club of Parramatta could consider to support international humanitarian projects, immunisation projects, support Group Study Exchange, be involved in Donations in Kind, in Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), Rotary/Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM), Rotary Overseas Aid for Children (ROMAC) and Youth Exchange all that without reading the entire brochure!

Now while your 2004-2005 Director did not take you on that journey the brochure remains brimful with wonderful opportunities for the ensuing Rotary year. The Club has agreed to support an outgoing Youth Exchange student in the forthcoming year which will involve the President and members of the 2006-2007 Rotary year as we support an inbound student.

I have enjoyed the year despite not having taken members on the promised journey. Upon reflection it would seem that after District training each director could consider presenting the breadth of their Directorship, the goals she/he has for the year and ask members the areas of service they feel they would like to learn more about and which projects they would support. Out of that initial survey could be developed a list of possible Club "journeys". The director in conjunction with the Club programmer could arrange relevant speakers to present to the Club their area of knowledge in service. The speakers' program would be enhanced and members better informed of extent of Rotary programs within and beyond Australia.

Perhaps worthy of consideration would be to have each director with and understudy or my preference and "after-study," a volunteer to support the director in the area of informing and enthusing members in the Club's chosen fields of endeavour. The "after-study" person would be the former Director who having at last grasped the enormity of the task could well assist the incoming director!

President Liz has undertaken her role this year with the enthusiasm of a well prepared traveller. She has kept members up to date with the latest travel news, alerted us to possible side journeys as well as having taken us on a

number of excursions. While we may not be tipping her at the end of this year long journey we do lift our "lids" to her in praise and hearty thanks for a year well lead.

Christene McSeveny