

Good evening on this special occasion. Welcome to all.

Recently I heard the phrase "I joined Rotary to make a difference". I stayed because of how wonderful it is to belong to a club where the greater good and not the individual is the inspiration for all.

I have been most fortunate to be secretary with Ted Moore, 2 years with Derek Ryan where he held the club together during Covid, and for the last 12 months with Brian Stacey.

I have never seen a harder worker. Rotary was his full-time job and at times his health was in jeopardy. He has given his heart and soul to Rotary Sorrento.

If he wasn't weeding the Sorrento Community Centre, he was putting up signs, working on the sausage sizzle nonstop or visiting car shows to hand out flyers.

He didn't ask you to do anything that he wasn't doing himself. Focused, versatile, ambitious and so busy.

We can thank Brian for so many achievements of the Rotary year. His enthusiasm with the car show. What an exciting day with a wonderful outcome. Such an ambitious venture where weather was critical and thank God the sun did shine on us.....

Twice a month I wait with bated breath to see what he writes for the Bulletin. Personally, I think he missed his calling he could have been a writer. His chatty manner and updates on all things Rotary are essential reading. We also always get a laugh.

His goal of structure is coming into place. The website is being revamped. Our approach to disbursements is more professional. Our disbursements ambitious. A most successful year for fundraising.

When I attend a Board Meeting I never know what's next. We might buy a bus, we may fix Coppins Lookout, or plan for opera at the art show.

But we definitely say YES to almost everything. Full steam ahead.

As secretary I had reason to communicate often with Brian and I found him to be courteous and a gentleman at all times. It was a privilege for me and all our members to work with you.

Mate, we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. You have made a difference

I have been nominated by the Rotary Club of Sorrento to make a presentation to you and present you with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow.

For our visitors, Rotary was established by Paul Harris. This award is in his honour and presented to those Rotarians who have shown they are prepared to go that extra mile in support of people in need. This award is an emphatic acknowledgement of the appreciation shown for tangible and significant assistance given by you Brian for the better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world.

Brian Stacey you are being recognised today as a Paul Harris Fellow. We appreciate the ways in which your life exemplifies the objectives of the Rotary Club of Sorrento.

We thank you for demonstrating in your life a commitment to helping persons in need here and around the world.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to present to you on behalf of the Rotary Club of Sorrento and Rotary Foundation the emblems of a Paul Harris Fellow, the certificate and lapel pin.

Please accept our congratulations and sincere appreciation for your commitment to our common goals of world understanding and peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen please be upstanding and congratulate and recognise the newest Paul Harris Fellow, Brian Stacey.