

## WATAC SAYS “ACT NOW TO CHANGE THE FUTURE”

It would be hard to imagine a more beautiful day or venue to celebrate our 16<sup>th</sup> WATAC Luncheon on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. This year's theme was *'Acting Now to Change the Future'* and Rosemary Breen, our enthusiastic and gifted speaker captured it perfectly, as you will see when you read her talk in this Newsletter.

Parliament House is a great venue in which to gather; the staff provides wonderful support and as usual the meal was very enjoyable. WATAC was much enriched by the presence of students from Mount St. Benedict College Pennant Hills, OLMC Parramatta, OLSH Kensington, Rosebank College Five Dock, St Mary Star of the Sea College Wollongong and St Scholastica's College Glebe. Our Parliamentary host is Sophie Cotsis MLC, who is very supportive of WATAC, however because of Parliamentary business she was only able to be briefly present, Sophie welcomed us to 'OUR House' and wished us well for the event before she had to rush off to more Parliamentary business. Marg Day facilitated the Luncheon programme and because of her it flowed seamlessly. WATAC is much indebted to the students from St Scholastica's, Sheridan Clark and Mariah Watkin who so meaningfully welcomed us to land and Jocelyn Bechara from Rosebank College who blessed our gathering. Thank you so much to them and the teachers who support them and our WATAC functions.

Thanks also to Martin Brannan who generously stepped up to be the photographer at our Luncheon when our 'regular resident photographer' Maureen Short was unable to be with us. Martin's photos bring added life to the Newsletter and will soon feature on our WATAC website.

Could there ever be a major WATAC event without a significant raffle? And could there be a raffle without generous, gifted donors whose contributions encourage us all to drop our dollars into the baskets? Unusually, Sheila Quonoey was not able to be present at this Luncheon, but she, as ever, was with us through her beautiful quilted hanging. Rosemary Breen gifted us with an original painting from Burma and an etching by an Indigenous artist, lovely, lovely! And Jan Ryan donated two bottles of wine beautifully presented in gift bags, while Danny Long contributed a Fair Trade Package!!! How could you resist, and all those present didn't.

This annual WATAC Celebration is both life-giving and challenging. Our thanks to all who enabled it to happen this year, 'the future is in our hands'.

Bernice Moore