



## **Scholarships for Australian German Student Exchange WA Inc.**

Patron: Mr Torsten Ketelsen, OAM

President: Pamela Millar

### **President's Report to the SAGSE AGM**

Thank you to all of you who have made the effort to attend this AGM.

As I foreshadowed in my last year's report, this will be my final one as President. It has been pointed out that it is time to plan for succession and allow some of the younger members of SAGSE WA to take a more active role. It is somewhat disappointing that more GASS members are not becoming involved in the Committee as they have so many talents to offer.

This has really been an amazing year as we were able to offer nine scholarships for the first time. We have decided to open the scholarships to schools where German is not taught to year 12 level as there are so few schools with this program.

Thanks to our wonderful patron, Torsten Ketelsen, who is always helping out in the background, we have gained two new sponsorships from German companies, Joest and Neometals. The Rhein-Donau Club has this year also come on board with a full scholarship. These three, when combined with our faithful regular sponsors; Ozgene, Mona Ketelsen, The Biermann family, WAGBA and GMA Garnet Group, meant that we could expand our program and also offer to host nine German STIPIS. You will have observed that I have only mentioned eight sponsors, but the Committee felt that we had accumulated enough funds to sponsor one student ourselves. Unfortunately, we won't be able to continue with this in the future.

The winners for 2024/2025 are:

Shanita Knol of Kelmscott SHS

Sophia Oliveira of Byford SHS

Robert Spicer of Perth Modern School

Zahraa Wan Zainuddin of Rossmoyne SHS

Maya Brincker, Lucy Garratt, Charlotte Swann, Hannah Foley and Maddy Piggott of MLC.

Special thanks go to Shinta Buddhisuharto, who agreed to host a boy in place of Maya Brincker, who is a boarder. One of the German STIPIS was Maya's guest in the boarding house for a couple of weeks and MLC was so pleased at how this worked out that they have offered it as an option for future years.

The German students who have just left us, were once again excellent ambassadors for their country and their schools and there were many tears shed at the airport last week. Some of them encountered problems but they handled it all with a maturity beyond their years. I would like to express my appreciation to the host families who worked so hard to ensure that they all had an unforgettable experience.

There was a change to routine this year, with the group flying in to Perth, so that we had to host those continuing to Melbourne overnight. Our host families proved that we had selected well, as they generously volunteered to help out, including getting them all to the airport on time the next day. The differences in how the Germans organise their flights and the different times the Victorian group and the WA Group are required to stay in Australia continue to be an issue, which at the moment does not seem to have a solution. Independent travel for the Germans is also something that concerns both Dr Martin Schlegel and myself as they all end up meeting together in North Queensland. Martin was planning to meet with the GDANSA President in Germany last month to discuss options, but so far, I have no further information.

The Black and White Dance once again provided an opportunity to present our winners with their certificates and we thank the Rhein-Donau Club for their continuing support by allowing us the free use of the venue. This is not a huge money-making venture and perhaps we need to look at changing the format but it is an excellent way for the new STIPIS to bond with each other and with the members of GASS.

Finally, and most importantly I wish to thank our hard-working Committee for their support and efforts in the past twelve months. Lyn, Anna, Stephanie, Jason, Ian, Patrick, Jessica, Akiho, Gemma, Keeley – without you there would be no SAGSE program.