

Special Edition



ROTARY CLUB OF PORT FAIRY INC.

Rotary International District 9780

Registered Club Number A002126/C

50th Anniversary 1961 - 2011

**A celebration of 50 years of
active service to the community**

Celebration Dinner: 28th March 2011

Rotary's founder

Paul Harris



Extract from Rotary Down Under – RI History

Rotary's first day and the years that followed...

February 23, 1905

The airplane had yet to stay aloft more than a few minutes. The first motion picture theatre had not yet opened. Norway and Sweden were peacefully terminating their union.

On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had in mind was a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community.

It was an idea that grew from his desire to find within the large city the kind of friendly spirit that he knew in the villages where he had grown up.

The four businessmen didn't decide then and there to call themselves a Rotary club, but their get-together was, in fact, the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club. As they continued to meet, adding others to the group, they rotated their meetings among the members' places of business, hence the name. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem now worn by Rotarians around the world. By the end of 1905, the club had 30 members.

The second Rotary club was formed in 1908 half a continent away from Chicago in San Francisco, California. It was a much shorter leap across San Francisco Bay to Oakland, California, where the third club was formed. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and New York City, New York. Rotary became international in 1910 when a club was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. By 1921 the organization was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

What is now The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International grew from a small endowment fund started in 1917. It became the Rotary Foundation in 1928 but grew only modestly until 1947 when it received a number of gifts in memory of Paul Harris upon his death on Jan. 27 of that year. Accelerated growth in recent years has made it a major source of activities to provide humanitarian assistance, to enhance education and promote international understanding and peace. Since 1917, contributions to the foundation total \$824.3 million including \$61.7 million in 1994-95.

A major source of the Foundation's recent growth, and of Rotary's increasing membership, has been the burgeoning of the Rotary movement in Asia. Also growing is the number of new Rotary clubs in countries formerly in the Communist-governed bloc of Eastern Europe. Countries where there were no Rotary clubs in 1987 now have more than 220.

Among programs that Rotary has undertaken in recent years, the largest is PolioPlus, whose goal is the eradication of the disease polio throughout the world. To achieve that goal, Rotary is working in coalition with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, supplying funds for vaccine purchase and manpower for polio immunization campaigns in polio-endemic countries. If the disease is eradicated by the year 2000, the achievement will be certified in time for Rotary to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its birth in a polio-free world.

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Acknowledgements

The Rotary Club of Port Fairy is particularly grateful for the invaluable support of the **Moyne Shire Council** in providing assistance in the printing of this commemorative booklet.

The input from various Rotary Club members who provided material and photographs that have gone into the production of the booklet is also acknowledged as well as those who did the proof reading of the document.

The authors would also like to thank the Port Fairy Men's Shed and the Lions Club of Port Fairy-Belfast for the use of their premises during the early stages when we were researching the archives. The use of the table and space at the "Shed" enabled us to spread around the vast amounts of archival material that has been collected over the years.

Some historical and other information was researched from various Rotary-linked Internet sites:

- Rotary Global History Fellowship (<http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/history/>)
- Rotary International (<http://www.rotary.org/en/Pages/ridefault.aspx>)
- Rotary Down Under (<http://rotarydownunder.com.au/index.asp>)
- Rotary District 9780 (<http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?accountid=50058>)

Derek Southey & Harry Bracegirdle

Special Note: *This is a special edition of the commemorative booklet produced to include valued Rotarian, Pauline Shirrefs, in our list of Paul Harris Fellows. Pauline was awarded her Paul Harris Fellowship at the Commemorative Dinner to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy on 28th March 2011.*

Preamble

The **Rotary Club of Port Fairy** held its Charter meeting on **Saturday, 25th March 1961** in the Port Fairy Drill Hall (now part of the Victoria Hotel). The presentation of the Charter was conducted by Arch Ramsay, the Governor of District 250 of Rotary International. The Club's beginnings, however, actually started in 1960 when provisional meetings were held towards establishment of the Club.

There were 22 charter members at the inauguration and our membership over the 50 year history has typically been around this number, with an overall average of 21 members. Over this period the Club has had over 170 members many of whom were prominent members of the Port Fairy community.

This report attempts to document the Club's activities, decade by decade, and it soon became obvious when reviewing the Club's archives that there are many recurring themes and activities common to all decades. Membership numbers were always an issue and attempts to boost membership are an ever-present challenge for the Rotary Club of Port Fairy as much as it does for Rotary worldwide.

Undoubtedly, the Rotary Club of Port Fairy can be proud of its achievements in the community, not the least being its *adoption* of the Charles Mills Reserve on the eastern side of the Moyne River. This reserve is now, with good cause, affectionately known as Rotary Park and even today we continue our work in maintaining this valuable community facility. A special grant in 2005, to celebrate the Rotary Centennial year, provided funds to upgrade the park which reflects our close association with the facility – as the Rotary Club has developed, so has Rotary Park.

Over our fifty years, support, both in-kind and financial, has been provided to many local organisations and worthy causes which reflect our members' commitment to the **Objects of Rotary** and **Four Way Test** that is very much part of the Rotary creed:

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of a worthy enterprise and in particular to encourage and foster -

- *The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service*
- *High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by every Rotarian of their occupation as an opportunity to serve society.*
- *The application of the ideal service by every Rotarian to their personal, business and community life.*
- *The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional people united in the ideal of service.*

The Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Finally, this report was compiled after reviewing many of our archival records and we are very grateful for the material assembled over the years. Bulletins and records from the early 60s and 70s were an invaluable source of information but, surprisingly, details became less abundant in later years. There are obviously some gaps, and therefore some errors, in the information but we could only write up what we could find. In this regard, we apologise for any omissions or inaccuracies.

We hope you find this resume – “**A celebration of 50 years of active service to the community**” - both an interesting read and a valuable record.

*Authors - Derek Southey & Harry Bracegirdle
Rotary Club of Port Fairy*

Club statistics & membership

Membership of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy

Maintaining membership has always been the biggest challenge facing the Club in its 50 year history. Bulletins and reports from the 1960s and 1970s frequently focused on the issue of membership numbers and also attendance at meetings – a recurring theme that is still paramount in 2011.

Over our history, the **average membership is approximately 20** and the graph below charts the fluctuations that saw a decline from the peak of 33 in 1969/70 to a low that was reportedly around 6. There were understandably gaps in our records and the numbers extracted are based on picking up membership numbers in annual reports and bulletins. It is pleasing that as we celebrate our 50th year our membership in 2011 has reached a healthy level of 29 members proving that the Club is still active and relevant to the Port Fairy community.

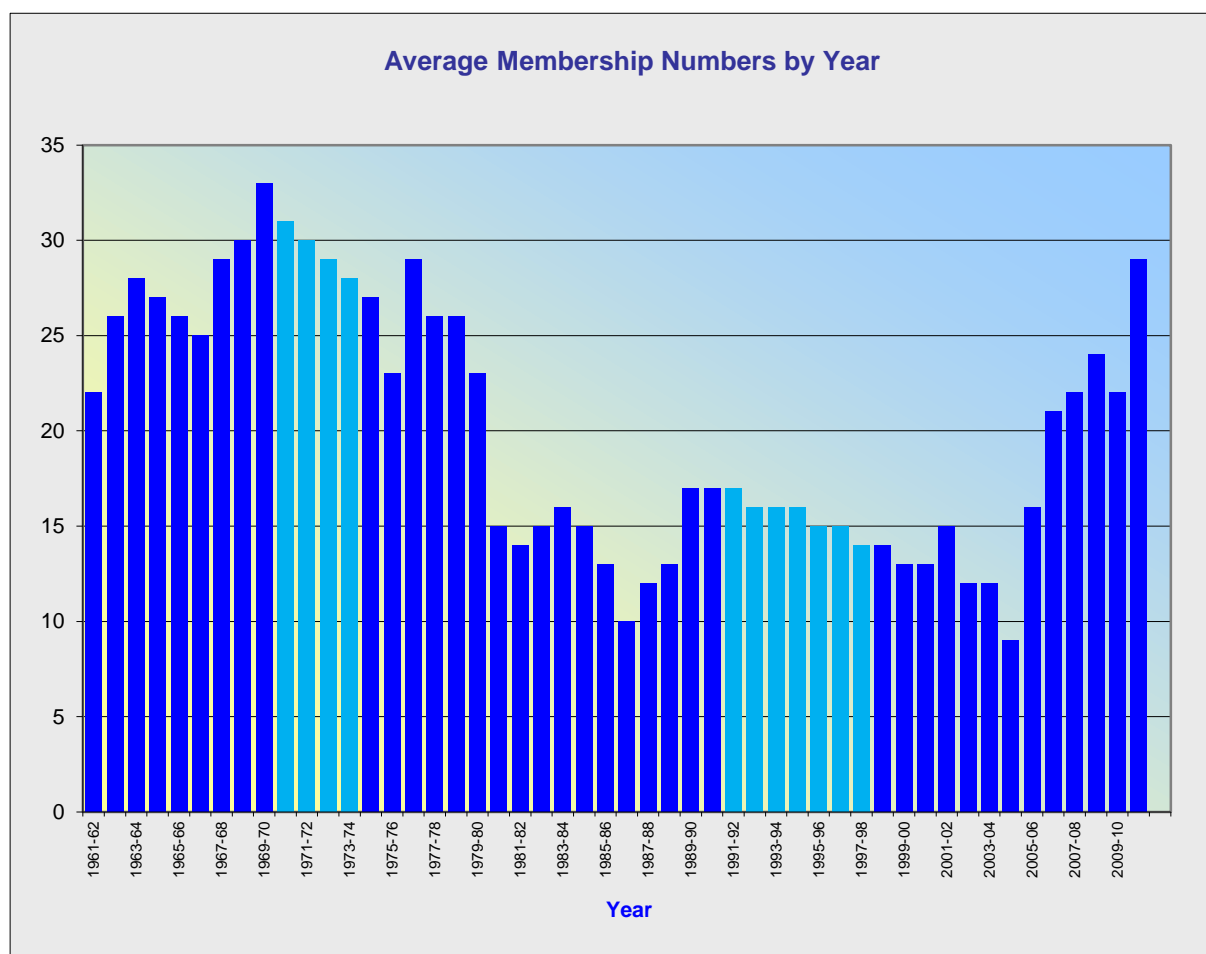
In the absence of a specific and thorough membership register, the accuracy of the numbers cannot be verified but should be read as being indicative for each year. Memberships from a number of years were not found so some numbers depicted below simply contain guessed (interpolated) figures (**these are depicted lighter blue**).

Attendance figures varied from the times when the Club was pleased to see a 100% roll-up but typical averages were more around 70% reflecting that Rotarians try to attend weekly meetings but occasionally have other commitments. In the early days, a 100% attendance was marked by the President handing out cigars!

The challenge to recruit members is an issue for Rotary world-wide as the organisation tries to position itself as a vibrant and active community appealing to young and old alike. Sadly, however, if average ages in Port Fairy were recorded over the years (which they were not), then it is suspected that the average age would be 50+.

Despite the age profile of Rotarians in Port Fairy the quality of its members cannot be under-estimated and some very well-known and distinguished Rotarians formed our ranks. **A scan of membership listings from the early years reads like a street map for Port Fairy!** Many of our current street names bear the name of some of our early members.

Membership Numbers



List of Club Presidents

Note: The Year listed below represents the year elected to President and the term of office usually covers the 12 months from year elected through to the following year before passing on to the next President.

1961Tony Worley	1978... Clifford Sharp	1995 ...Steven Pritchard
1962Jack Powling	1979... Alan Clark	1996 ..Don Reardon
1963Fred Rogers	1980... John Jordan	1997 ...Don Reardon/Jack Dellavedova
1964George Nichols	1981 ... Adrian Smits	1998 ...John Pepperdine
1965Bill Harris	1982... Alan Peart	1999 ...Ern Bishop
1966Len Nightingale	1983... Russell Clark	2000 ...Ken Lemke
1967Len Watts	1984... Ken Lemke	2001 ...Col Martin
1968Os Steele	1985... Ian Morgan / Ken Lemke	2002 ...Geoff Campbell
1969John Phillips	1986... Russell Marriott	2003 ...Pauline Shirrefs
1970John Watts	1987... Russell Marriott / Ian Webster	2004 ...Gordon Harman
1971John Wade	1988... Graeme Jehu	2005 ...Alan Rasmussen
1972Donald Wallis	1989... Arthur Hoey	2006 ...Rob Baker
1973Leslie Robertson	1990... John Pepperdine	2007 ...Bernie Waixel
1974Oswald Dyson	1991 ... Lewis Frost	2008 ...Julie Suter
1975John Jordan	1992... Darryl Jago	2009 ...Jill Gleeson
1976Kevin Parkinson	1993... Jim Chambers	2010 ...Neville Suter
1977Peter O'Dwyer	1994... Geoff Shirreffs	

Paul Harris Fellowships bestowed on members of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy

The following Club members have been honoured with the awarding of a **Paul Harris Fellowship**.

Geoff Campbell	Russell Clark	Bob Hanby	Ken Lemke	Col Martin
Alan Rasmussen	Don Reardon	Geoff Shirrefs	Pauline Shirrefs	

Charter Members of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy

The following is a listing of the original Charter members when the Club was formed in 1961 and were present at the Charter Meeting held 25th March 1961.

Name	Classification	Name	Classification
Russell Clark	<i>Building Construction</i>	Leo Osmond	<i>Auctioneering Services</i>
Garry Grist	<i>Pharmaceutical Manufacturer</i>	John Phillips	<i>Municipal Government Administration</i>
Kevin Guyett	<i>Furniture Retailer</i>	Stan Porter	<i>Stud Sheep Breeding</i>
Bill Harris	<i>Cattle Raising</i>	Jack Powling	<i>General Law Practice</i>
Syd Jensen	<i>Baking Retail</i>	Fred Rogers	<i>Harbour Services</i>
Nobby King	<i>Fruit & Vegetable Retailing</i>	Finlay Skinner	<i>Hospital Services</i>
Harold Lemke	<i>Electrical Rewinding Service</i>	Os Steele	<i>Insurance General</i>
Wally Logan	<i>Groceries Retailing</i>	Kevin Stevens	<i>Plumbing Services</i>
Wilf Murphy	<i>Education, Consolidated School</i>	Donald Wallis	<i>Hardware Retailing</i>
Len Nightingale	<i>Electrical Contracting Services</i>	John Watts	<i>Fat Lamb Raising</i>
Roy Ogle	<i>Radio Retailing</i>	Tony Worley	<i>Pharmaceutical Chemical Manufacturing</i>

Meeting venues for Rotary Club of Port Fairy

In the early days meetings were mainly held at Seacombe House in Sackville Street Port Fairy. The Charter and other occasional meetings were held in the Drill Hall in Bank Street. Meetings were also conducted in Fletcher Jones's holiday house in Port Fairy and at Bourke's hotel in Koroit.

Meetings continued to be held at Seacombe House through to the late 80s until 1988/89 when there was a switch to the current venue at The Star of the West Hotel.

Formation of Rotary in Australia

Rotary commenced in Australia in 1921 with the formation of two clubs - one in Melbourne and one in Sydney - with a total membership of 72.

The charter members of these first two clubs were among the leading business and professional men of the "old school" e.g. Sir John Monash (SECV) and Harold Clapp (VR).

1921 was in an era where communication was by letter (or in an emergency, by telegram) gas lighting was prevalent, aviation was in its infancy, Billy Hughes was Prime Minister and into the establishment culture of this period the first Rotary secretary was appointed - Walter Drummond.

Walter Drummond was an architect who had suggested during a visit to Chicago seven years earlier that the Rotary movement be extended to Australia.

However even after his valuable work to help form the first Rotary Club, he was not considered to have sufficient seniority in his firm to be invited as a charter member of Rotary. He gained membership a number of months later.

How times have changed!

Governor's Visit in November 1967



(L-R) Back Row: Keith Vickerman, Chas Rooney, Ron Jago, Eric Gilpin, Stuart Scott, Kevin Stevens, Don Wallis, Ron Reed

2nd Row: Jim Fitzwilliam, Rus Clark, Arch Youl, Leo Osmond, George Nicholls, Ron Harkness, Wal Logan, Ron Crow

1st row: Fred Webster, Brian Thomas, Bill Sones (Governor), Len Watts (Pres.), Jack Watts, Harold Lemke (Sec.), Bill Harris, Os Steele

General Rotary information & statistics

- 11 The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on **23 February 1905** by Paul Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.
- 11 The first official Rotary club outside the United States was chartered in 1912 when the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, received its charter on 13 April, two years after its first meeting. Also in 1912, the Rotary Club of London was the first European club to be chartered.
- 11 The Rotary International Magazine began as a 12 page newspaper in January 1911 and therefore turned 50 in 1961 around the time the Rotary Club in Port Fairy was formed.
- 11 In 1921, Rotary changed its name to the International Association of Rotary Clubs to reflect its new membership.
- 11 The Rotary Club of Havana, Cuba, was the first Rotary club in a non-English-speaking country and was chartered in 1916.
- 11 The first International Assembly was held in March 1919 in Chicago.
- 11 By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later.
- 11 The 1,000th Rotary club was chartered in January 1921 in York, England.
- 11 The Rotary club of Melbourne, Victoria, was the first Australian club admitted to Rotary in 1921.
- 11 The organisation adopted the **Rotary International** name in 1922.
- 11 By 1925, Rotary had grown to 2000 clubs with more than 20,000 members. The organization's distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers, and a host of other luminaries to its ranks.
- 11 In 1932, Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created **The Four-Way Test**, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary some eleven years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The above Four-way test was adopted by Rotary in January 1943.

- 11 Rotary reached 5,000 clubs in 1939.
- 11 During World War II, many clubs were forced to disband, while others stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the post-war era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO.
- 11 After a many years of ill health, Rotary founder Paul Harris died in January 1947.
- 11 In 1961 the Rotary International Convention in Tokyo attracted 23,000 people from 74 countries.
- 11 By June 1964 the number of Rotary Clubs worldwide had grown to 11,799 covering 123 countries.
- 11 In 1967 the English edition of the *Rotarian* had 430,000 subscribers and 43,000 subscribers for the Spanish edition and the magazine travelled to 143 countries.
- 11 In 1985 Rotary announced *PolioPlus* programme to immunize all the children of the world against polio.
- 11 Following a US Supreme Court ruling in 1987 that women could be members of Rotary, the organisation voted in 1989 to admit women into clubs worldwide and now claims more than 145,000 female members in its ranks.
- 11 For the first time in the 80 years of its existence Rotary went public to raise funds for the *PolioPlus* programme.
- 11 As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society's changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk.
- 11 Rotary celebrated its centennial year in 2005.
- 11 More than a century after Paul Harris and his colleagues chartered the club that eventually led to Rotary International; Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honour of that first club, Rotarians have

preserved its original meeting place, Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by re-creating the office as it existed in 1905.

- 🕒 In 2008, Rotary officially launched its effort to match a US\$100 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help eradicate polio.
- 🕒 In 2009, Rotary received another grant of \$255 million from the Gates Foundation and launched Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge to match a portion of the grants and further support efforts to End Polio Now.
- 🕒 Today, **1.2 million Rotarians** belong to over **32,000 Rotary clubs** in more than **200 countries** and geographical areas.

The Rotary Themes

Rotary themes were first adopted and linked to a Rotary International President in 1959.

Each year, a theme is used to mark the goals of the incoming President and defines the objectives to which Rotary aspires in that year.

The themes and associated logos covering the period from 1961, when the Rotary Club of Port Fairy was established, are presented, decade by decade, in each of the following pages marking the history of our club.

The Rotary Foundation

The "Endowment Fund for Rotary" was established by RI President Arch Klumph in 1917. In 1928 the fund was renamed the **Rotary Foundation**.

Over the history of our Club we have donated on an annual basis to support the programmes carried out by the Foundation such as **Polio Plus**, **Ambassadorial Scholarships**, **Programme Grants** and **Group Study Exchanges**.

Our contributions are recognised by the presentation of **Paul Harris Fellowships** to Club members. Over a number of years our records show we have contributed to the Rotary Foundation in conjunction with other District 9780 clubs and Rotary clubs worldwide.

These contributions are managed by the Rotary Foundation to assist in the Rotary mission to achieve world peace through local, national and international humanitarian, educational and cultural programmes.

In 2002-03 the Foundation received contributions totalling US\$133 million of which US\$94 million was spent in support of programmes implemented by clubs and districts through grants from the Foundation. The balance of the contributions is allocated to the **Permanent Fund** from which only the earnings are spent thus ensuring the long-time viability of the Foundation.

The **PolioPlus** programme is on-going as a major initiative of the Foundation with well over US\$600 million having been spent in their endeavours to the global eradication of polio.

Our previous contributions and future contributions can help with this world-wide campaign.

Years 1961 to 1971

General Information

1961 was the Charter Year for the **Rotary Club of Port Fairy**. The Charter meeting was held on **Saturday, 25th March 1961** in the Port Fairy Drill Hall (now part of the Victoria Hotel) and the presentation of the Charter was conducted by Arch Ramsay, Governor of District 250 of Rotary International. Prior to Charter, provisional meetings were held in 1960. Congratulations on our Charter were received from as far away as San Francisco.

Port Fairy was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Warrnambool and in its founding year had 22 members. **Tony Worley** was the Charter President.

Finances

In its foundation year (1961) members were charged an annual subscription of 5/- for the publication of the Bulletin. The typical membership fee in 1960s grew to around £8/8/- pa (~\$17.60 per annum). When Australia converted to decimal currency in 1966 the fee was established as \$8.40 per half year.

Membership

Membership in the 1960s appeared to peak around 29 in 1967.

Some interesting Membership categories included "Electrical re-winding service", radio retailing and a re-opening of the category of "Hotel-keeper". Farming and related industries dominated the membership categories in the 60s.

Notable guests and speaker

Malcolm Fraser, later to become Prime Minister of Australia, was a guest speaker (1962 & 1964)

Pastor Doug Nicholls spoke in Nov 1960 (before Charter)

Frank Hopkins - American Consul General (1962)

Prof. Kevin Westfold - founding Professor of Mathematics at Monash University (1962)

Fletcher Jones also spoke on a number of occasions

Local Rotarian, Jack Powling, gave a talk on the *Mahogany Ship*.

Community projects, working bees and activities

The Club was involved in a variety of projects and activities. In this period, the Rotary Club of Port Fairy:

Manned the gate at the Port Fairy Show, painted the Tourist Information Centre and restored the roof of the scout boat house (1962).

Conducted the "Henley on the Moyne" regatta on New Year's Day (1963)

Erected Rotary signs on three of the local roads leading into Port Fairy (1963)

Manned a Port Fairy Tourist display in Melbourne

Held working bees to restore the Bullock Wagon (1964).

Opened and commenced maintenance of Charles Mills Park in 1964. This was a common activity for working bees in the 1960s. It included building a brick BBQ and planting trees.

Took out hospital patients for day trips.

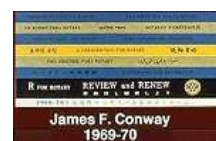
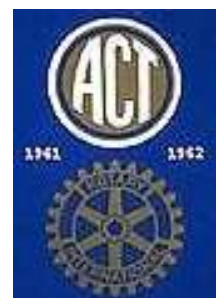
Visited the Geelong Shell Refinery and didn't get home to Port Fairy until 1.30am!

First entered a float in the Moyneyana Festival in 1963.

In 70/71 the Club launched the Fred Rogers Memorial Foundation that was used to provide donations to youth and sporting organisations to be used for the development of their leaders. Fletcher Jones was a regular benefactor to the Foundation by providing an initial pledge of \$200 and on-going support, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to supplement the donations made by the Club. The foundation persisted for a number of years

Inter-club visits and activities

The club occasionally conducted joint meetings with the Apex Club during the early years. The Club engaged in a group study exchange with Rotary Club 676 from Tennessee.



Sponsorship and support provided by the Club

The Club supported / sponsored the following organisations:

- Anti-Cancer Council
- A symphony concert in the Theatre
- An Asthma Appeal in 1964
- Entrant from Port Fairy and region in the "Sun Show Girl Competition"
- Gift parcels sent to the troops in the Vietnam war
- Relief parcels to assist victims of floods in Bahir India
- An appeal raised £600 to purchase a surf boat (1962). The boat, named the *John Mills*, was launched in June 1963.

Anecdotes, facts and humorous bits

After the manning of the gate at the Port Fairy Show in 1962 members discussed ways and sought suggestions for improving the system. Obviously they didn't come up with too many ideas as this topic was also discussed in 2008!

In 1961, Rotary International service programmes were conducted by short wave radio.

Helen Denham from Codrington designed the first Club banner which was eventually presented to the Rotary Club of Warrnambool for being the sponsor of the Port Fairy club.

In 1963, in order to liven up meetings it was suggested that songs be introduced to the meetings. An induction song was introduced in September 1963.

In the 1960s the publication of the Club Bulletin, circulated weekly, was done on an old typewriter and reproduced on a Gestetner machine. In the 1966 to 1969 era in particular, the Bulletins made for very interesting and often amusing reading as they were interspersed with great humour which is believed to be attributable to the editor of the day, Harold Lemke.

A 100% attendance record at meetings was first achieved in August 1963. This obviously inspired the membership who then racked up a "hat-trick" of perfect scores over the ensuing two weeks!

In November 1966 the Club hit "rock bottom" in the District attendance records when it fell to 76%. Attendance records were obviously a driving factor for Presidents of the era as the highs and lows of attendance records were often discussed with much gusto in the weekly Bulletin. So much so that one President offered cigars all round if they ever reached a 100% attendance figure!

Visual presentations at meetings, like those conducted by film in the 60s and on a data projector today, are often fraught with problems and a good deal of humour emerged in the weekly Bulletin about the competence (or lack of competence) of the projectionist. *Imagine having to get a film going at our meetings today!*

No meeting was held on 25th February 1963 due to the visit of the Queen.

In the early 60s the club held a weekly luncheon at Seacombe House.

The Club held its first *Ladies Night* in July 1963. Partners of Rotarians were referred to as *Rotariannes*.

A trip to Nelson for a picnic in 1962 was notable for the group hitting a wallaby on the way home.

From the Club Historian

The first bulletin produced was dated the 17th October 1960 and noted that the weekly meeting was held at 6pm at Seacombe House. This bulletin mentions earlier meetings which were held on the 3rd and 10th of October 1960 with 100% and 91% attendance respectively.

These meetings represented the formation of a Provisional Rotary Club at Port Fairy with the charter night still to be established. In the early months of 1961 it was established that on the 25/3/1961 Port Fairy would be granted its charter. The occasion was reported in the Port Fairy Gazette and Warrnambool Standard with the major address by District Governor Arch Ramsey.

Congratulations were received by air-mail from Warren Mathews (Service to Clubs-Eastern Hemisphere) and the following extract is quoted

"Reading the account of this evening in the monthly letter of District Governor Arch Ramsey for April 1961 leaves no doubt that it was an evening which will long be remembered by all those fortunate enough to attend. It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to add our congratulations to those of the many Rotarians and guests present at this charter night"

Letters of congratulations were received also from Rotary Clubs of Pacific Beach, San Anselmo, Washington, St. John, Alice Springs, Corrimall and San Francisco.

During June of 1961 Port Fairy conducted a competition for the school children within the Rotary district for the design of a club banner.

The International President, Joseph Abey, visited Port Fairy during July of 1961 and planted a tree in the Botanic Gardens in the section set aside for Rotary.

The first official visit of a District Governor (Leo De Garis) to Port Fairy took place on the 31/8/1961

Years 1972 to 1981

General Information

After the energetic start in the 60s it is possible that there was a general turnover in membership from the early enthusiasts that were part of the foundation membership and got the Club started. This is reflected in the fact that little information or records could be found for years 1971 to 1974. However, to be fair to the members of that era the absence of any current information doesn't necessarily reflect that there was poor record keeping as it could just be that the records were lost or are stored elsewhere.

The Club celebrated its 15th Anniversary on 27th March 1976.

Finances

The records show that there was a turnover of some \$3,500 in 1977/78. Onion pickling was a big fund raiser for the Club through the back half of this decade.

The **Fred Rogers Memorial Foundation** funds were down to \$127 in 78/79.

Membership

Despite the loss of records the membership data, albeit with some interpolation for lost years, indicated a solid membership base with an average over the decade of around 25 members. Six members were apparently "lost" when membership fell from 23 in 1979/80 to 17 in 1980/81.

In 76/77 the Club lost a long serving member in Ron Jago who had been part of Rotary for 15 years. Club records note that the average age of members in 76/77 was 50.86 years.

Notable guests and speaker

Colin Leishman spoke in 1975 regarding Legacy in Australia.

Community projects, working bees and activities

Maintenance of Mills Reserve was a constant throughout the decade.

Antiques & Artefacts Fair was held in 1976 and 1982.

Restoration of life saving boat commenced in 1974/75 and was still on-going in 76/77.

Support for Meals on Wheels was prominent in this period.

The Club held its 78/79 Christmas function at the Port Fairy Golf Club

Sponsorship and support provided by the Club

In 78/79 the Club donated \$100 towards the restoration of the St John's Church as well as other funds collectively totalling nearly \$600 to the Port Fairy Fire Brigade, the Surf Club, the Port Fairy Library, the Citizens' Band, the Soccer Club and the Salvation Army.

Inter-club visits and activities

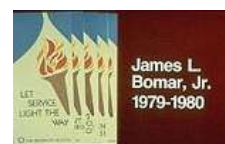
A Rodeo was held in 1978/79 in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Cobden from which each club received \$1200 from the gate takings of \$12,000.

A Golf Day was held in 76/77 in partnership with the Warrnambool East Rotary Club.

Anecdotes, facts and humorous bits

Fundraising in 1974/75 was \$1,140 mainly raised through the sale of pickled onions!

The "Thought for the Week" in a 1980's Bulletin was *"The place for a knocker is outside the door"*.



Some interesting statistics from 1976/77

It is interesting to look at some statistics and activities that the Rotary Club recorded for year 76/77. Although we do not have direct, comparative statistics for 2010/11 the authors suspect that the membership data would not be too dissimilar.

In 1976/77 it was recorded that:

Club Membership	28
Average age of members	50.86
Attendance	78.63%
Monthly board meetings	11

Club Service:

Members attended the Annual District conference in Melbourne as well as inter-club visits with Warrnambool East and Portland.

A Bulletin was produced on a regular basis and a permanent Sergeant-at-Arms conducted the fines sessions.

Community Service:

Fund raising included two manure drives (?), a street stall and pear and peach sales; working bees took place in the onion fields, at the Youth Centre and at Mills Reserve.

Donations were provided to various organizations - Port Fairy Scouts, Band, Surf Club and hospital.

Assistance was also provided for fire relief in the form of donated hay bales.

International Service:

The club was involved with projects in Bangladesh, assisting with the purchase of powdered milk, and in Fiji, by providing a hearing aid for the Crippled Children's Society.

Vocational Service:

Guidance was provided at an instructional evening advising school leavers on appropriate methods that should be adopted when preparing employment applications.

Simulated interviews were also conducted during the evening.

Financial in 76/77:

Receipts - \$4267.64	Expenses - \$4203.26
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Years 1982 to 1991

General Information

The club celebrated its 25th Anniversary on the 21st March 1986.

Finances

In 1990/91 \$22 out of club membership fees went towards the Rotary Foundation. In the 90s the Club kept two bank accounts – a General account and a Charity account.

Membership

Membership in this decade was on the decline and varied from 16 down to 9 with an average around 14. Membership at the 25th Anniversary date (21/3/86) was a lowly nine members. It had recovered somewhat to around 17 by 1990/91 when the Club's 30th Anniversary was celebrated. Having hit a lowly membership in 1986 the Club received an award for boosting its membership by 10% in 1987.

Notable guests and speaker

1986/87 was a stand-out year for guest speakers when 31 speakers addressed the club members at meetings.

Community projects, working bees and activities

Working Bees continued at Mills Reserve and a good deal of effort went into restoring the wagon on the Reserve.

An Antiques Fair was held in 1983, 1986 and 1990. The Fair in 1986 was recorded as raising \$850.

A Progressive dinner was held in 85/86

An in-ground watering system was provided for the Port Fairy Hospital in 1990/91.

Sponsorship and support provided by the Club

Donations in 1984/85 were made to the Elderly Citizens Club (\$600), the Salvation Army per the Red Shield Appeal (\$50), Southcombe Park (\$250), Port Fairy Hospital (\$50) and Rotary Health (\$200).

\$1,000 was donated to the Hostel Appeal Committee in 1986, \$1,000 to the Port Fairy Elderly Persons Hostel and \$826 for Polio Plus. In 86/87 we received an award for making an outstanding contribution to the Rotary Health Foundation.

A perpetual sporting trophy was provided to a tiny school in Kiribati.

The club sponsored exchange student, Marcus Shirrefs, in 1990/91.

The Club helped establish the Probus Club in 1990/91.

In 1985 the Club donated \$250, through the Nukualofa Rotary Club, Tonga, to the primary school to purchase a tank to collect drinking water from the school roof.

Anecdotes, facts and humorous bits

In 1983 the Port Fairy Golfing Rotarians challenged the Warrnambool Club to a competitive golf day with the condition that it not be played in the still atmosphere of Warrnambool but at the links of Port Fairy – home ground advantage!

The Christmas party in 1984 was held at the Golf club in conjunction with the Warrnambool East Club.

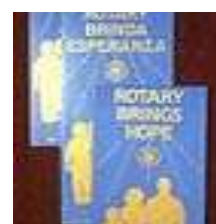
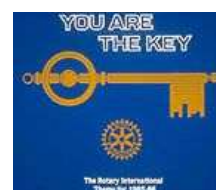
1986/87 saw the Club start up a weekly column in the local newspaper.

The Club switched to monthly bulletins in 1990/91 rather than a weekly format.

The Club was incorporated in 1990.

In 1990/91 there were 3 occasions where 100% attendance was noted by the President having to supply port!

Also in 1990/91 a "young" Col Martin spoke to the Club about his maritime experiences.



Rodeo – January 1979

The first ever rodeo meeting was held in Port Fairy during the Moyneyana Festival under the organisation of the Port Fairy & Cobden Rotary Clubs and conducted under the auspices of the Australian Rough Riders Association.

In conjunction with the Rodeo weekend **HMAS Tarakan** was moored at Fisherman's Wharf in the Moyne River. The vessel was open for inspection on both days and attracted over 10,000 visitors. Gate takings at the rodeo were \$6,500 with a rodeo audience of 4,000 visitors.

Editor's Note: Current public liability responsibilities would make such a venture almost impossible in 2011!

RAM: Adopt-a-Village Program

In this period, the Port Fairy Rotary Club donated to the Adopt-A-Village programme conducted by **Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM)**.

We were allocated the village of Mangakiki, Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands. Recently PDG Peter Thomas (Programme Co-Ordinator) visited the Solomon Islands to attend the annual malaria conference and was able to advise some information regarding our village.

Mangakiki is a small community with a population of about 125 and is situated on the north-west of Honiara. Our donation provided funds to allow RAM to distribute bed nets to everyone in Mangakiki.

Peter was able to confirm that the use of bed nets is a most effective method of reducing contact with malaria carrying mosquitoes during the evening in this tropical environment.

Years 1992 to 2001

General Information

Paul Harris Fellowships awarded to date went to Russell Clarke, Ken Lemke and Bob Hanby.

In 1999/2000 consideration was given to renaming the Club the “Port Fairy / Moyne Rotary Club”.

Finances

Subs in this period were typically \$60 for six months.

Membership

Average membership through this decade was 13.3 members. There was not a lot of evidence on actual membership numbers and from 91/92 to 97/98 the membership numbers were estimated in the graph depicted on page 5.

The annual report of 1998/99 states: “*our numbers are seriously down and for the club to survive we will have to recruit new members*”. The 1990s appear to be in some ways a low point for the Port Fairy Rotary Club with survival being a major issue.

Community projects, working bees and activities

Fundraising in 98/99 saw the Xmas in July Dinner raise \$290, a Car Raffle \$600, Club Dinners \$160 and other Club activities \$1,000.

In 1998/99 the club provided assistance for Tanya Hadden, born with *Epidermolysis Bullosa*, who has been described as a “cotton wool baby”. The Club assisted in building Tanya a self-contained unit to assist with her quality of life.

We also provided support to Meals on Wheels, Bowelscan, and Red Shield Appeal and were involved in “Adopt a Road” project in 1999/2000 in conjunction with the Lions Club. Rotary donated \$300 to this cause.

The Club started running an annual Trivia Night in 1999 assisted by Pauline McDonald from the Port Fairy Police.

The Club planted 300 native trees at the Consolidated School.

The Club established the annual barbeque fundraiser outside the Reardon Theatre on Folk Festival Weekend in 2000.

In 2000/2001 a teapot exhibition was held as well as a quilting exhibition.

Sponsorship and support provided by the Club

In 98/99 donations were made to New Guinea Appeal (Tidal wave) \$142, Warrnambool Daybreak \$100, CFA \$1,200.

In 1999/2000 a Rotary stamps collection was used to fund Rotary projects in PNG. The Club also provided support to the Citizens Band \$2,000, Port Fairy Hospital \$200, RSL \$100, Polio \$50, PF Show Society \$50, CFA \$850 and RI Foundation \$146.

Anecdotes, facts and humorous bits

Jobs in Rotary are for life. It is noted that at the July 2000 Change – Over Dinner Jeff McLean was in charge of the raffle. Jeff has conducted the raffle every year since.

Club Service activities included a bus trip to the Ford factory, an internet night at the TAFE college, meals on wheels deliveries, Ballarat South car raffle, inter club dinners, BAM factory visit.

We made a donation to Phyllis Miller to supply cakes to the elderly citizens – we assume at Christmas.

Our secretary, Maureen O’Keefe, worked in Alice Springs and broke the news that one of the local clubs had decided to allow women members. This resolution caused such trauma on the committee that when the blocking members were outvoted they resigned from the club.

A tradition in the club (but not extended to today) was that if the club achieved 100% attendance at a meeting then the President bought the drinks.



Shelter Boxes

Port Fairy Rotary Club has been involved with the ShelterBox programme for a number of years and the recent events - floods in Pakistan, earthquakes in China - and other places affected by natural disasters have illustrated the need for a continuing contribution to this disaster relief organization.

Although China is an evolving country, it still needs international assistance with the emergency aid required in the earthquake area. With the assistance of the Rotary clubs in China, ShelterBox teams are on the ground to co-ordinate the distribution of the 800 ShelterBox containers already delivered to the affected area.

With this and past requirements for disaster relief it demonstrates the value of past, present and possibly future contributions from our club.



Each ShelterBox normally holds a 10-person tent and a range of other equipment, such as:

- Thermal blankets, insulated ground sheets & insecticide treated mosquito nets
- A wood burning stove, or
- A multi-fuel stove that can burn anything from diesel to old paint!
- Cooking pans, utensils, bowls and mugs
- Collapsible water containers and water purification tablets
- Basic tool kit: hammer, axe, saw, pliers, hoe head, trenching shovel, rope etc.
- A small, children's pack containing drawing books, crayons, pens etc.

International support

Since the establishment of the club in 1961 we have been involved in various activities with an international perspective. These are a few examples:

1967-68	Pump to India, Gift parcels to Vietnam
1976-77	Dried milk for Bangladesh
1978-79	Communication with an African club
1986-87	South African group exchange team hosted Awarded a perpetual sporting trophy to a school in Kiribati
1987-88	Entertained Indian visitors
1990-91	Sponsored an exchange student to Norway
1998-99	Contributed to the New Guinea tidal wave appeal
2000-01	Acted as host to the Zimbabwe Group Study Tour
2002-03	Donations in kind
2006-07	Shelter box for the Solomon Islands

It is a strength of our organisation that as well as being active in local issues, Rotary encourages members to assist with initiatives on an international basis.

Years 2002 to 2011

General Information

In 2003/04 **Pauline Shirrefs** became the first female President of the Club and in that year won an Administration Award for Group 5 in District 9780. This award was for the timely return of information required by the District Administration.

The Club celebrated the Rotary Centenary in 2005 with a special dinner and the Rotary Centennial Project at Charles Mills Reserve.

Finances

In 2002-03 the Club adopted the policy of donating \$1 from each member per meeting to go to the Rotary Foundation.

In 2007-08 we received a federal grant of \$2,200 to buy a computer and printer and in 2008-09 funding to buy a data projector and screen.

Subs were initially \$60 then increased to \$70 for six months in the latter part of this period.

Membership

Membership in 2003/04 was 12 but slumped to an all-time low of 8 in 04/05 before recovering later that year to around 13. Average membership during this decade was 17.

Notable guests and speaker

In 2004-05 the Club hosted a party of young Belgians on a group study exchange from Rotary District 1630.

Community projects, working bees and activities

2003/04 saw the start of planning for the Rotary Centennial project to ensure that the proposed project at Charles Mills Park fitted the timeframe and guidelines. The project had to fulfil a clearly identifiable community need, provide a solution that had measurable results, involve the active participation of Rotarians and feature a permanent sign or plaque identifying the Rotary Club and Rotary Centennial.

We ran successful exhibitions during the Moyneyana Festival period in 2009 (Embroidery exhibition) and 2010 (Collectables exhibition). The Club began its support of the Port Fairy Folk Festival by manning the gates during the Festival and also raised funds by conducting the barbecue outside the ticketing venue. The Club became actively involved in promoting the *Bowel Scan* kits during this era.

Sponsorship and support provided by the Club

In 2003/04 the Club supported a number of Youth programmes including the Solar Car Challenge, the Public Speaking Competitions and Citizenship & sporting awards at the local primary schools. We also provided assistance to the Police Charity Golf Day.

In 2007 the Club introduced a Literacy Program to provide a book to each child born in Port Fairy and attending the Child Health Centre. The Rotary Pride of Workmanship Awards was introduced during this period.

Inter-club visits and activities

In 2009 we actively supported the Griffith Island Project and held working bees in conjunction with the Warrnambool Daybreak Club and supported by a \$50,000 grant. Both clubs received a Rotary award for this valuable work.

Anecdotes, facts and humorous bits

In February 2002 Col Martin took over the presentation of Grace and the Loyal Toast at weekly meetings, a task he has faithfully continued to the present day.

The first "coloured" version of the Bulletin was distributed in July 2003.

In 03/04 the Club reintroduced the Christmas in July function after an absence of some 6 years. In 04-05 we held a bumper Xmas in July function which was attended by 109 Rotarians and guests! Perhaps this number was conjured up because we had a magician for entertainment.

The Moyne Gazette of the 17th of February 2005 recorded four Rotarians carrying a flag pole down Cox Street. On close examination it can be seen that Col Martin has one end while the other three tackle the lighter end (see picture in Photo Gallery).



Literacy Program

Port Fairy Ahead of the Rest!

Port Fairy Rotary's initiative with the donation of infants' books to new babies and their families in our community is focused on a different group of young Australians than those served by the state government's new Young Readers Program, announced in *The Age* on 7th March 2008.

The government's program targets two-year-olds, and will also be utilising the assistance of the Maternal and Child Health centres to distribute the books.

What is important is the reinforcement of the issue of advancing and materially supporting literacy in the young of the community at a very early age. *The Age* article quoted a senior lecturer in education studies at Deakin University who emphasised that all studies showed that children exposed to books and stories at home found the acquisition of literacy skills at school a much easier task.

Sean Burman, our Maternal and Child Health nurse at Port Fairy, said that the books from our Rotary branch had been received with delight by the families of local newborns.

It really is satisfying to have such a worthwhile program appreciated by our community. This program continues today.



Pride of Workmanship Awards

Pride of Workmanship is an approved Rotary project instigated in 1975 by the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills to recognise community members who excel at their trade.

The Rotary Club of Port Fairy has awarded Pride of Workmanship to the following Port Fairy identities:

2005	Gary Stewart	(Wooden boat builder)
2006	Ben Druitt	(IT Consultant)
2007	Kathryn Weatherly	(Artist)
2009	Rebecca Nelson	(Café proprietor)



Gary Stewart receives his Pride of Workmanship Award from Club President Alan Rasmussen in September 2005.

Photo Gallery

Brien Trenery (DGE), and former President, Jill Gleeson help induct Neville Suter as new President in 2010.



2010/11 President, Neville Suter promotes his cause to reduce child hunger at his inauguration ceremony.



The Club's newest member, in our 50th year, is Brendan Donahoo, who is pictured here being inducted by President Neville Suter in February 2011.



Col Martin leads the way in carrying the Centenary flagpole ably assisted by Alan Rasmussen, Geoff Shirrefs and Gordon Harman.



Port Fairy's first female President, Pauline Shirrefs, shows why she was such a star! (photo from Xmas in July 2008)



Former President and Paul Harris Fellow, Don Reardon.



Five new inductees in February 2011:

Lyn & Trafford Morgan-Payler, Diana Bracegirdle and Maureen & Reg Beattie photographed with President Neville Suter (3rd from left) and DG – Jessie Harman (far right).

Rotary Footy Trip 2007

In 2007, Port Fairy Rotary Club celebrated Round 15 of the AFL season with a bus trip to the MCG for primary school children from the Consolidated School and St. Patrick's, accompanied by Rotarians Rob Baker, Brian Atkins and Derek Southey, to see Collingwood play the Adelaide Crows.

With the help of parents and school teachers, we were able to cater for 38 girls and boys, many of them on their first visit to the MCG.

Julie McErlain arranged with the Collingwood Football Club to provide us with free passes to Collingwood Members' section of the ground and after a brief delay in locating the correct entrance we were able to establish our seating in the front rows of the upper deck at the city end of the ground. It is a perfect viewing position to bring into perspective the entire ground, enabling you to gain a clearer understanding of the tactics adopted by the teams. Collingwood, to Julie's delight, were the ultimate winners.

After a delay with the return to Port Fairy from the MCG, we were still able to stop for the much-anticipated homeward dinner break at McDonalds, with the children well versed in ordering their favourite item from the menu.



Rob Baker, Derek Southey and Brian Atkins in 2007 when they sponsored local schoolchildren to a day at the footy in Melbourne.

Rob Baker jokes with Maggie supporter and fellow Rotarian, Julie McErlain.





President, Gordon Harman rings the District Centennial bell in 2005 (above)

Past President, Ken Lemke, enjoys a BBQ at Rotary Park (right)



Local schoolchildren who competed in the Rotary sponsored "Public Speaking Competition".

Julie Suter –
our second female President in 2008/09



From the Club Historian

Our weekly and monthly bulletins have featured on their front pages a range of black and white scenes from Port Fairy i.e.

The Caledonian Inn (The Stump)
Moyne River
Lighthouse
Lifeboat
Wharf (Oldest port in Victoria)
Seacombe House

We are currently displaying a beach motif. To keep the rotation going perhaps we could consider showing other Port Fairy landmarks such as....

Star of the West Pub
Original Post Office
New swimming pool
Sackville Street
Rotary Park
The hospital

Food for thought!

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)



The Rotary Youth Leadership Award Scheme is conducted by Rotary districts with the active participation of individual Rotary Clubs. Its objects are to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, to provide youth training experience, to encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth and to publicly recognise the high qualities of the many young people who are rendering service to the community as youth leaders.

Sophie O'Keeffe received a RYLA award from the Rotary Club of Port Fairy in 2006.

**Photos from the Rotary Centenary ceremony at Charles Mills Reserve
(Rotary Park)**



The Rotary Centenary Year - Charles Mills Reserve

During the Rotary Centenary Year, The Port Fairy Rotary Club decided that a great project would be the enhancement of a small park situated on the eastern bank of the Moyne River at Port Fairy. This park has long been unofficially known as the Rotary Park, as, years ago, the Club had installed a wishing well there, plus an old wagon, depicting Port Fairy's early years.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that we would erect a flagpole with suitable blue-stone surround, plus bollards at a point close to the river, and opposite the main Port Fairy wharf. It was also decided to erect covers over the existing barbecues and picnic tables at the park.

After the members had recovered from the shock of learning the cost of a new flag-pole, it was discovered by Rotarian Geoff Shirrefs and retired Police Sergeant that the local Police Station had recently replaced its flagpole, and the old one was no longer required. Negotiations were made, and shortly afterwards, four elderly Rotarians were observed staggering along Campbell Street bearing their ill-gotten gains with Rotarian Col Martin, 92 years old, leading the way. The flagpole was conveyed around the corner to the home of Rotarian. Gordon Harman, former secondary teacher, carpenter and keen mariner. Over the following few months, the flag pole was transformed by Gordon and others into a splendidly finished masterpiece, with several new attachments. It was now a flagstaff, and closely resembled the mast of a sailing ship, complete with rigging.

The question then arose as to how we could get it from Gordon's home to the opposite side of the river. It was suggested that it could be floated across but grave doubts were held as to its flotation abilities. Then Rotarian, Rob Baker "borrowed" a truck from the local hardware store, and the mission was accomplished.

Various local firms were approached and soon we had supplies of blue stone pavers, courtesy of BAM Stone, screenings, cement, treated pine poles, iron roofing and bollards.



Numerous working bees were then conducted, under the supervision of Rob Baker and Gordon Harman.

Refreshments were provided at each working bee by the ladies of Rotary, and in no time the park was resplendent with red and white bollards, covered barbecues and picnic tables with crazy paving surrounds, and the centrepiece of the area being the flagstaff. This was mounted in bluestone paving, with a marine motif also mounted in bluestone which also proudly displayed the Rotary insignia.

In due course the refurbished park was officially opened by the Moyne Shire Mayor at a ceremony attended by District Governor Wayne Barrett, Councillors from the Moyne Shire, other dignitaries, and numerous Rotarians and partners.

Now, nearly every day, the park facilities are being used by the public with barbecues being enjoyed and impromptu cricket and football matches being conducted by parents and children. Above them all, the Rotary flag proudly flies in the ever-present breeze.

Bullock Wagon at Charles Mills Reserve

Over the last 20 to 30 years Port Fairy Rotary Club has been involved with the upkeep of the bullock wagon displayed in Charles Mills Park. Recently it has been possible to have the privilege to speak to George Dyson (Brian Atkins' father in law) about the history of this wagon.

To better understand about the wagon you first have to know something about George Dyson, the 85 year old former bullock driver and the 5th generation in his family to be associated with the use of bullocks and wagons as a means of transport. George was born in Port Fairy with his early schooling taking place at Yambuk and St. Helens and as was the custom for children in the country, George rode his pony the 3 miles to school each day. The 1930s in country Victoria were difficult, with employment hard to come by and the rigours of living uncertain. George looked forward to his 18th birthday when it was possible for him to join the army, where you were paid and fed to fight for your country.

With this background of working in rural Victoria and with a family history associated with bullock wagons, George not only was familiar with use of bullock wagons but he was once the driver of the wagon in Charles Mills Park.

George used the wagon in conjunction with a team of horses (not bullocks) to cart posts and firewood. These wagons were adjusted by means of the harnessing to allow for the use of horses rather than the slower bullocks (4 miles per hour compared to 2). But it is in the use of the bullock teams and the love the driver has for his animals that the history of this wagon is most interesting.

Each bullock had a name and when the driver issued a command the designated bullock would respond to the given instruction. The bullocks would be trained to understand a number of commands and responded when their name was used. To yoke them up at the commencement of the working day, the driver would lay out the chains and yokes on the ground and then call up each individual bullock to their position to be connected up. No leads or halters were used, just the voice command of the driver for the bullock to take its place.

The Port Fairy wagon was donated to the community by the last owner of the wagon, Mr Frank Forrest. This wagon together with a number of others would have been used in the Mallee and Wimmera to cart wheat to Thomas's flour mill in Warracknabeal or to a buyer at the rail head.

Each wagon could hold 70 to 80 bags of wheat weighing up to 8 tons. The wagon would be loaded and unloaded by hand by the teamster. Payment by the buyer to the farmer would be made once the bags of grain were on the train whereas the mill would forward their cheque to the farmer's bank. The bank would credit the payment against the farmer's overdraft thus leaving the farmer with little or no money to pay the bullock driver. The bullock driver might work the whole season for very little, which might only amount to food provisions. At the completion of the season, and to pay for the return trip to Port Fairy, it was common practice to bring a load of wheat from the Wimmera and sell to the flour mills. The flour was then transported to Melbourne on the coastal trader the "Casino".



George with his bullock team

The wagon displayed at Port

Fairy was built about 1900 from undressed hardwood for the frame and shaft with the naves out of red gum and the spokes from messmate. A blacksmith would have produced the steel brackets and standards to enable the frame to be assembled in conjunction with the steel-tyred wheels.

Our wagon has 6 inch wide steel tyred wheels which allowed it to comply with the relevant bridge regulations for general cartage of materials and grain. The wagon has had a number of repairs carried out over the years, some not returning it to its original condition. The brake system that would have been mounted at the rear of the wagon has been removed probably because of the timbers rotting out and makeshift bearers being installed.

With George's knowledge it will be possible to carry out some restoration work to replicate the original wagon which represents an important part of Port Fairy's history. Although we will not be able to offer free cart rides around Port Fairy as George has done in the past, we can ensure the wagon remains on display for future generations.

Members of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy (1961 – 2011)

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
1	Douglas	Allan		Fine Chemicals				
2	Carl	Armstrong	20-Aug-73	Aquarium Services				
3	Brian	Atkins		Building Services				
4	Rob	Baker		Farming			President	2006
5	Donald	Barlett		Architectural Stone Mason				
6	Trevor	Barlett						
7	Tom	Bartlett						
8	James	Barton						
9	Bill	Barton		Motel				
10	Maureen	Beattie	07-Feb-11					
11	Reg	Beattie						
12	Reg	Beattie	07-Feb-11					
13	Ern	Bishop					President	1999
14	John	Boromeo	15-Nov-10	Aged Care Management				
15	Diana	Bracegirdle	07-Feb-11	Local Government				
16	Harry	Bracegirdle	20-Oct-08	University Administration				
17	Margaret	Broers		Wool: Fine Merino				
18	Owen	Brookes						
19	Claude	Brown		Real Estate				
20	Robert	Caernarvon-Smith		Anglican Minister				
21	Geoff	Campbell		Farming		Paul Harris Fellow	President	2002
22	Fiona	Chambers						
23	Hugh	Chambers						

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
24	Jim	Chambers		Building Services			President	1993
25	Les	Christie		Education Private				
26	Alan	Clark	20-Dec-76	Antique Dealing			President	1979
27	Claude	Clark	15-Dec-75	Lab Chemicals Mfg				
28	Russell	Clark	01-Jul-61	Building Construction	Charter	Paul Harris Fellow	President	1983
29	John	Colledge		Agricultural Chemicals				
30	Donald	Cooper		Local Government Engineer				
31	Geoffrey	Cordell		Carpenter				
32	Geoff	Coxall		Primary Teaching				
33	Adrian	Crosier	01-Dec-10	Hospitality				
34	Ron	Crow	67/68					
35	Kerin	Crowe		Mixed Business				
36	Leo	Crowe	24-Jun-74	Housing Finance				
37	David	Crutch						
38	Jim	Delany		Education Consultant				
39	Jack	Dellavedova					President	1998
40	Brendan	Donahoo	21-Feb-11	Teaching - Music				
41	D.E.	Dyson						
42	Oswald	Dyson	19-Jun-72	Woolgrowing			President	1974
43	Rupert	Edward						
44	John	Ellard		Manufacturing				
45	Geoff	Fisk						
46	Jim	Fitzwilliam	01-Oct-62	Cordial Manufacturing				
47	Lewis	Frost					President	1991
48	Donald	Fry	31-May-76	Fine Wool growing				
49	Arch	Furmedge						

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
50	Eric	Gilpin	64/65					
51	Jill	Gleeson		Accommodation Services				2009
52	Terry	Gleeson						
53	Garry	Grist	01-Jul-61	Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Charter			
54	Kevin	Guyett	01-Jul-61	House Cladding Service	Charter			
55	Gilbert	Hadden	29-May-75	Panel Beating				
56	Bob	Hanby		<i>NB. May not have been a Rotary member but awarded PH F'ship</i>		Paul Harris Fellow		
57	Arthur	Hare		Electricity Supplier				
58	Ron	Harkness	65/66					
59	Gordon	Harman		Accommodation			President	2004
60	Bill	Harris	01-Jul-61	Cattle Raising	Charter		President	1965
61	Eric	Haylock	26-Apr-76	General Transport				
62	Gerald (Clem)	Healey	31-May-76	Caravan Park Serv.				
63	Arthur	Hoey					President	1989
64	Victor	Irving						
65	Darryl	Jago					President	1992
66	Ronald	Jago		Garage and Service Station				
67	Ron	Jarrad						
68	Graeme	Jehu					President	1988
69	Sydney	Jensen		Baking Retail	Charter			
70	John	Jordan	24-Jan-72	Electricity Supplier			President	1975, 80
71	John	Kearney	14-Apr-75	Postal Service				
72	Adam	Kempton						
73	Michael	Keyburn						
74	Shiro	Kikuchi						
75	Noppy	King	01-Jul-61	Fruit and Vegetable	Charter			

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
76	Harold	Lemke	01-Jul-61	Electrical Contractor	Charter			
77	Ken	Lemke	16-Sep-74	Electrical Contractor		Paul Harris Fellow	President	1984, 2000
78	Malcolm	Lindsay		Religion - Anglican				
79	Wally	Logan	01-Jul-61	Groceries Retailing	Charter			
80	John	Marriott						
81	Russell	Marriott		Museum Services			President	1986, 87
82	Col	Martin		Mariner		Paul Harris Fellow	President	2001
83	Colin	Matthews		Electrical Contractor				
84	Richard	Matthews		Wholesale Fuel				
85	Wayne	McCosh						
86	Julie	McErlain		Boarding Kennels				
87	Harry	McGregor		Motel Operator				
88	Bob	McLaren						
89	Jack	McLaren	65/66					
90	Jeff	McLean		Newsagent				
91	Stanley	McPherson		Travel Agency				
92	Ron	Midgley	64/65					
93	Walter	Minter	64/65					
94	Trevor	Moody						
95	Ian	Morgan		Caravan Park Proprietor			President	1985
96	Lyn	Morgan-Payler	07-Feb-11					
97	Trafford	Morgan-Payler	07-Feb-11					
98	Gus	Mugavin	63/64					
99	Wilf	Murphy	01-Jul-61	Education - Primary	Charter			
100	Brett	Murray		Retail Sales				
101	Brian	Newman		Fishing				

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
102	George	Nichols		Electrical Services			President	1964
103	Len	Nightingale	01-Jul-61	Electrical Contracting	Charter		President	1966
104	Robert	Oakley						
105	Peter	O'Dwyer	29-Mar-71	Banking			President	1977
106	Roy	Ogle	01-Jul-61	Radio Retailing	Charter			
107	Maureen	O'Keefe						
108	John	O'Meara		Fishing				
109	Leo	Osmond	01-Jul-61	Auctioneering	Charter			
110	Fred	Packer		Banking				
111	Kevin	Parkinson	29-Oct-73	Dairy Farming			President	1976
112	Alan	Peart		Bricklaying Contractor			President	1982
113	John	Pepperdine					President	1990
114	John	Phillips	01-Jul-61	Municipal Government	Charter		President	1969
115	Chris	Pole						
116	Stan	Porter	01-Jul-61	Stud Sheep Breeding	Charter			
117	Jack	Powling	01-Jul-61	General Law Practice	Charter		President	1962
118	Don	Prentice						
119	Wilma	Preston		Artist				
120	Steven	Pritchard					President	1995
121	Alan	Rasmussen		Concrete Supplies		Paul Harris Fellow	President	2005
122	Don	Reardon				Paul Harris Fellow	President	1996, 97
123	Ron	Reed	67/68					
124	Sylvia	Reiter		Grazing				
125	Leslie	Robertson	09-Apr-70	Fine Woolgrowing			President	1973
126	Jim	Robinson	2008	Farming				
127	Fred	Rogers	01-Jul-61	Harbour Services	Charter		President	1963

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
128	Charles	Rooney	31-May-67	Automotive Retailing				
129	Keith	Ross		Banking				
130	John	Ryan	67/68					
131	Les	Ryan		Food Retailing				
132	John	Scarlett						
133	Stuart	Scott	63/64					
134	Lar	Shanley		Dairy Farming				
135	Clifford	Sharp	20-Dec-76	Crayfishing			President	1978
136	William	Sheehan		Potato and Onion Growing				
137	Geoff	Shirrefs		Police		Paul Harris Fellow	President	1994
138	Pauline	Shirrefs		Nursing			President	2003
139	Vern	Simmons		Accountancy				
140	Finlay	Skinner	01-Jul-61	Hospital Services	Charter			
141	Ray	Smith	08-Dec-75	Butchery				
142	Adrian	Smits		Engineering			President	1981
143	Derek	Southey		Contracts Management				
144	Robin	Southey		Primary Education				
145	Sid	Sproal	64/65					
146	Os	Steele	01-Jul-61	Insurance	Charter		President	1968
147	Kevin	Stevens	01-Jul-61	Plumbing	Charter			
148	Julie	Suter		Special Education			President	2008
149	Neville	Suter		Gardening Services			President	2010
150	Brian	Thomas	64/63					
151	Andrew	Veitch		Pharmaceutical Mfg.				
152	Keith	Vickerman	62/63					
153	John	Wade					President	1971

Count	FirstName	Surname	Joined	Classification	Charter Member	Paul Harris Fellow	President	Year
154	Bernie	Waixel		Health Administration			President	2007
155	James	Walker	24-Jan-72	Banking				
156	Donald	Wallis	01-Jul-61	Hardware Retailing	Charter		President	1972
157	Eric	Walsh						
158	George	Wantuch	20-Oct-75	Alkaloids Manufacturing				
159	Edward	Watts		Fat Lamb Raising				
160	John (Jack)	Watts	01-Jul-61	Fat Lamb Raising	Charter		President	1970
161	Len	Watts					President	1967
162	Fred	Webster						
163	Ian	Webster		Education - Primary				
164	Margaret	Whitehead		Company Administration				
165	Harold	Wilcock		Antique Dealing				
166	Brian	Wiley		Drain Laying				
167	Alan	Williams						
168	Francis	Williams		Investing				
169	John	Williams		Wholesale Clothing				
170	Tony	Worley	01-Jul-61	Pharmaceutical Mfg.	Charter		President	1961
171	Tom	Yates	22-Nov-76	Youth Assn.				
172	Arch	Youl	66/67					
173	Kelvin	Young	23-Aug-73	Station Master Port Fairy				

NB. The authors apologise if the above membership listing has omitted any person. The records were compiled in good faith from available archives and records.



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