

Rotary Club of Warragul
Celebrating 80 Years of Service above Self

Table of Contents

The President's Message	3
The Club Executive	5
Significant Member Achievements	7
The First President.....	8
In the Beginning	9
The Ensuing Years – Some Club Milestones.....	15
Interesting Days.....	42
The First President's Year	43
Exchange Students.....	51
The Rotary Train and Rotary Park	53
The Christmas Trees Project	55
At work on the Christmas trees	56
A President's year.....	57
The Art Show	59
Redeveloping Rotary Park.....	60
The fruits of their labour - Rotary Park stage 1 completed.....	61
Rotary Park Stage 2 – Playground Complete.....	62

The President's Message



Rotary Board 2018-2019

President Ross Dawson (left) Ian Holdsworth PP PHF, Vaughan Fox IPP, Lyn Bennett-Colls, Chris Morris PHF, Andrew Lewis PP PHF, Diane Carson, Richard Habgood PP PHF, Andrea Klindworth, Rosemary Allica PE

We are honored to be members of the 2018 Board of the Rotary Club of Warragul in this our 80th year of the club's service. The Rotary club of Warragul was chartered on 13 July 1938 and since that date the club has been active serving both the local community and the Rotary International community.

The club has and shall continue to be involved in giving within the local community both through fund raising and members giving their time. "Service above Self". In addition the club has over time been involved in Rotary activities such as Group Study Exchange (GSE), Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) to name but a few; the club has also been witness to two of its members acting in the role of District Governor as well as many others who have served at various levels within the 9820 district.

As President and on behalf of all the Rotary Club of Warragul, I would like to thank members both past and present for the contributions they have made to Rotary and the objectives of Rotary.

This historical document either electronic or hard copy captures the history and the spirit of the club and its service to our local community. Special thanks must go to club member and Historian Don Cumming PP PHF SP, for the time and effort he has put into researching and providing club history for our historical editor and publisher Rotarian Geoff Chilver PP PHF. This updated document carries on from the significant work done on the 75 year book by past Rotarian Paul Howells PP, Richard Habgood PP PHF and Mary Habgood.

I would like to express my thanks to the following Warragul Rotarians for being members of the 80th Birthday Celebration Committee.

Club Historians.	- Don Cumming, Jim Harper and John Morgan
MC for evening	- Chris Major
Invitations and table arrangements	- Lyn and Roger Bennett-Colls
80th Historical publication	- Geoff Chilver
Evening decorations	- Peter and Sally Dell, including a Historical Presentation of Rotary International pre 1938.
Catering arrangements	- Lyn Bennett-Colls, Anthea Dacy and Susie Warenycia
Live entertainment	- Alan Tatlow, musician.

Ross C Dawson President 2018 ~ 2019



The Club Executive

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1938-1939	Hedley Heighway	Howard Elliott	Laurence Friend
1939-1940	Ted Lewis	Howard Elliott	
1940-1941	Ern Harvey	Howard Elliott	
1941-1942	Claude Woodhouse	Les Tratham	
1942-1943	Cecil Skewes	Les Tratham	
1943-1944	Ted Henshall	Les Tratham	
1944-1945	Murray Clyne	Les Tratham	
1945-1946	Murray Clyne	Les Tratham	
1946-1947	Norman Harcourt	Murray Clyne	
1947-1948	Will O MacPherson	Murray Clyne	
1948-1949	Norrie Moonie	Jack Murnane	
1949-1950	Laurie Friend	Jack Murnane	
1950-1951	Alan Randall	Leo McNamara	
1951-1952	Perc Burton	Cliff Dyer	
1952-1953	Perc Burton	Cliff Dyer	
1953-1954	Jack Murnane	Bill Leask	
1954-1955	Jack Howells	Bill Leask	
1955-1956	Ken Hartley	Bill Leask	
1956-1957	Bill Brooks	Bill Leask	
1957-1958	Jack Rielly	Norman Harcourt	
1958-1959	Ron Williams	Norman Harcourt	
1959-1960	Ross Lilley	Norman Harcourt	
1960-1961	Fred Anderson	Evan Hardie	
1961-1962	Allan Doery	Evan Hardie	
1962-1963	Jim Findlay	Evan Hardie	
1963-1964	Carl Tillotson	Barney Mulgrew	
1964-1965	Len Ryan	Barney Mulgrew	Roly Howden
1965-1966	Lin Patison	Barney Mulgrew	Roly Howden
1966-1967	Bill Ryan	Col Cameron	Ray LaPeyre
1967-1968	Don McLennan	Col Cameron	Alister Nolte
1968-1969	Russ Drew	Alister Nolte	Ave Hardie
1969-1970	Ivan Lawson	Ian McNeil	Howard Sharman
1970-1971	Vin Rowe	Ian McNeil	Howard Sharman
1971-1972	Bert Pollard	Evan Hardie	Don McLennan
1972-1973	Gus Lotton	Evan Hardie	Ken Abrecht
1973-1974	Keith Silcock	Bryce Thomson	Ken Abrecht
1974-1975	Arthur Nott	Bryce Thomson	Bruce Wilson
1975-1976	Tinie McAdie	Bryce Thomson	Peter Fowler
1976-1977	Steve Mery	Bryce Thomson	Don Cumming
1977-1978	Bryce Thomson	Graham Sharman	Don Cumming
1978-1979	Roy Berryman	Gus Lotton	Ave Hardie

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1979-1980	Jim Harper	Vin Rowe	Ave Hardie
1980-1981	DonCumming	Robert Armstrong	Bob Smethurst
1981-1982	Bruce Young	Robert Armstrong	Bryan Fitzpatric
1982-1983	Graeme Snape	Wally Christie	Bryan Fitzpatric
1983-1984	Fred Bellamy	Wally Christie	Barney Mulgrew
1984-1985	George Jones	Bob Lewis	Ian Coutts
1985-1986	Tony Van Den Boom	Bob Lewis	Ian Coutts
1986-1987	Darryl Donaldson	Richard Edwards	Geoff Apps
1987-1988	Bob Lewis	Richard Edwards	Bob Armstrong
1988-1989	Bob Amott	Don Cumming	Steve Mery
1989-1990	Bob Smethurst	Don Cumming	Steve Mery
1990-1991	Ron Finalyson	Brian Grist	Peter Gallagher
1991-1992	John Pollard	Brian Grist	Peter Gallagher
1992-1993	Brian Grist	Bob Amott	Bob Smethurst
1993-1994	Colin Brown	Bob Amott	Ian Holdsworth
1994-1995	Warren Turner	Ian Coutts	Ian Holdsworth
1995-1996	Dennis Heslin	Ian Coutts	Con O'Connell
1996-1997	Wally Christie	Richard Willis	Con O'Connell
1997-1998	Brian Kruger	Richard Willis	John Cheesman
1998-1999	Jon Soutar	Geoff Feddersen	John Cheesman
1999-2000	Doug Womersley	Geoff Feddersen	Frank Spiteri
2000-2001	John Cheesman	Ian Coutts	Frank Spiteri
2001-2002	George Farnham	Wally Christie	Doug Womersley
2002-2003	Ted Waghorne	Richard Willis	Doug Womersley
2003-2004	Bill Emslie	John Bibby	John Soutar
2004-2005	Chris Major	Dennis Heslin	John Soutar
2005-2006	Jacquey Turner	Geoff Chilver	Bob Lewis
2006-2007	Chris Fraser	Geoff Chilver	Bob Lewis
2007-2008	Frank Spiteri	Gert Els	Chris Wilkinson
2008-2009	Sally Jones	Geoff Chilver	John Soutar
2009-2010	Geoff Chilver	Christine Holland	Richard Habgood
2010-2011	Ian Holdsworth	Sally Jones	Frankiteri
2011-2012	Andrew Lewis	Gert Els	Geoff Chilver
2012-2013	Shane Smallwood	Rosemary Alica	Geoff Chilver
2013-2014	Chris Major	Barbara Downes	Geoff Chilver
2014-2015	Paul Howells	Barbara Downes	Geoff Chilver
2015-2016	Richard Habgood	Vaughan Fox	Andrew Lewis
2016-2017	Peter Dell	Vaughan Fox	Andrew Lewis
2017-2018	Vaughan Fox	Lyn Bennett-Colls	Andrew Lewis
2018-2019	Ross Dawson	Lyn Bennett-Colls	Andrew Lewis

Significant Member Achievements

District Leadership

Dennis Heslin	PP ¹ PHF ² SP ³	District Governor	2006-07
Colin Brown	PP PHF	District Secretary	2006-07
John Soutar	PP PHF	District Treasurer	2006-07
Don Cumming	PP PHF SP	District Administrator	2006-07
Chris Major	PP PHF SP	District Conference Chair	2006-07
Warren Turner	PP PHF	Assistant District Governor	1995-96
Jim Harper	PP PHF	Assistant District Governor	1981-82
Ted Waghorne	PP	Assistant District Governor	2003-05 (2 years)
Wally Christie	PP PHF SP	Assistant District Governor	2008-10 (2 years)
Sally Dell	PP PHF	Assistant District Governor	2012-13 (2 years)

Our Longest Serving Members

(20 Years or more of Service in 2018)

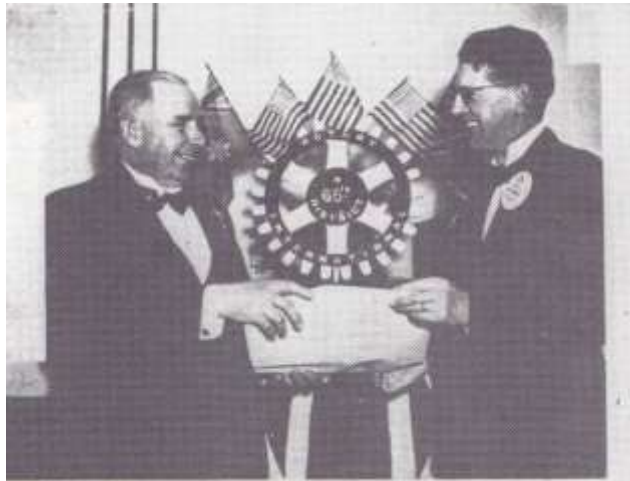
Don Cumming	PP PHF SP	Inducted	14 Nov 1969,	Sponsored by charter member Bill Pettit
Neville Pellit	PHF	Inducted	28 Jan 1971,	Sponsored by Ivan Lawson
Jim Harper	PAG PP PHF	Inducted	28 May 1971,	Sponsored by his father Norm Harper.
Bill Emslie	PP PHF	Inducted	23 Mar 1978,	Sponsored by Graeme Snape
John Morgan	PHF	Inducted	05 Nov 1981,	Sponsored by Philip Collins
Bob Lewis	PP PHF	Inducted	13 May 1982,	Sponsored by George Jones
Colin Brown	PP PHF	Inducted	15 Aug 1985,	Sponsored by Daryl Donaldson
Ian Holdsworth	PP PHF	Inducted	17 Sept 1987,	Sponsored by Daryl Donaldson
Warren Turner	PP PHF	Inducted	12 Oct 1989,	Sponsored by Bob Smethurst
Richard Willis	PHF	Inducted	23 Aug 1990,	Sponsored by Ralph Watson
George Farnham	PP PHF SP	Inducted	05 Nov 1992,	Sponsored by Peter Gallagher
Andrew Lewis	PP PHF	Inducted	25 May 1995,	Sponsored by Dave King
Cleo Sahhar	PHF	Inducted	07 Sep 1995,	Sponsored by John Pollard
Chris Wilkinson	PHF	Inducted	20 Jun 1996,	Sponsored by Ian Coutts
John Gallienne	PHF	Inducted	03 Apr 1997,	Sponsored by Bob Lewis
Geoff Chilver	PP PHF	Inducted	22 May 1997,	Sponsored by Michael Tammes
Frank Spiteri	PP PHF	Inducted	05 Mar 1998,	Sponsored by John Morgan
Chris Major	PP PHF SP	Inducted	27 Aug 1998,	Sponsored by Brian Grist

¹ PP – Past President

² PHF – Paul Harris Fellow

³ SP – Paul Harris Fellow Sapphire Pin

The First President



Hedley Heighway (right) receives the Warragul club charter (September 1938) from J Burgess Watt, Governor of the Rotary 65th district

Hedley Heighway

Classification: Refined Oil Products, Distributing

(He was actually the district manager of an oil distribution company possibly Shell.)

Hedley Aitkin Heighway was born on 17 November 1893 the youngest of six children having two sisters, Lucy born 1883 and Katie born 1894 and three brothers, George born 1885, William born 1887 and Arthur born 1888. His parents were the Rev George Heighway and wife Lucy. Though origins of the family are unclear, records show the two daughters' place of birth to be West Maitland NSW, whilst all the boys were born in Kiama NSW, suggesting that the family originated from that area.

Just how Hedley Heighway came to live in Warragul is unclear though it may well have been to do with his job. Records show he married Katie Neilson Fly in 1915 and they lived in Affleck Street in Warragul where many of the early Rotary board meetings were held. Hedley and Katie had three children Joy, Kay and Chris.

Hedley Heighway was 45 years of age when he became the first President of the Rotary Club of Warragul in 1938 and was a very active Rotarian in his early years. He also became a Justice of the Peace on 9 July 1940. Sadly, shortly after this on 1 October 1940 at the age of only 48, his wife Katie passed away after which Hedley stepped down from the Rotary board but remained active as a Rotarian being instrumental in setting up the Traralgon club in 1942.

Of his three children there appears to be little record of Chris who is listed as deceased in most articles uncovered. Of the others there is little with regards to daughter Joy, however second daughter Kay was married to Laurence William Russell of Drouin possibly in 1941 or 1942, though the only records found show their engagement on 28 May 1941 and birth of a son on 11 August 1943 at West Gippsland Hospital.

Little else is known of the Heighway family save to say that Hedley Heighway passed away in 1966.

In the Beginning



The Rotary Club of Warragul - A potted history

Back in 1938 Australia was not as prosperous as it is today. In those times in some areas of Melbourne the poor were living in what were largely slum areas where unscrupulous landlords took advantage of those in poverty with high rents and high levels of evictions. Many of those people went without whilst those in and out of what jobs were available drifted from slum area to slum area. They sometimes went without and could not always put food on the table.



The slum areas of Melbourne where poverty was rife

By contrast in the country however, things were not that bad as towns like Warragul were starting to prosper with local businesses springing up in the town and most people able to find steady employment.

All this was against a backdrop of an ongoing war between China and Japan, the Spanish Civil War still raging along and much saber rattling in Europe with the prospect of another war something that many just hoped would not come about.

So with the Rotary movement very much in its infancy in Australia it was the Rotary Club of Dandenong with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Melbourne who chose to survey Warragul in late 1937 to look at the possibility of a new Rotary club. Rotarian Dr Alf Oldham was the District Governor's Special Representative.

The first gathering of prospective Warragul Rotarians took place at the Affleck Street home of Hedley Heighway, who was to become the Warragul Club's first President. At that meeting directors were appointed to hold office until 30 September 1939. They were Hedley Heighway, Alick Swan, Ben Boon, Ted Lewis, Howard Elliott and Laurie Friend.

First mention in the press of Rotary in Warragul can be found in the *Melbourne Argus* dated 17 May 1938 where a brief column referred to the formation of a Rotary club in Warragul together with the first office bearers of the club.



Warragul in 1938

The first Directors' Meeting of the Rotary Club of Warragul was held at the home of the , Hedley Heighway on Sunday, 22 May 1938 at 7.30 pm. Directors present Hedley Heighway (President), Alick Swan (Vice President), Howard Elliott (Secretary), Ben Boon and Ted Lewis with an apology from Laurie Friend. A transcript of that meeting is reproduced below.

First meeting of the Directors of the Rotary Club of Warragul held at the home of the President Hedley Heighway 22 May 1938 at 7.30 pm

Directors present

Hedley Heighway (President)

Alick Swan (Vice President)

Howard Elliott (Secretary)

Ben Boon

Ted Lewis

Apology from Laurie Friend (Treasurer)

Invitation card

Resolution that the Secretary order invitation cards.

Stamps / petty cash

Resolution that £1 be drawn for same.

Bank

Resolution that the Bank of Australasia be bankers for the Rotary Club of Warragul.

Auditor

Resolution that this matter be referred to the members at a domestic night.

Fidelity Bond

Resolution that a fidelity bond be taken out to cover the Treasurer for £50 or the minimum rate if over £50.

Stationery

Resolution that the Secretary order all necessary stationery.

A general discussion was held on Rotary.

At this point it would appear that the provisional club was already meeting with the first official record of a meeting found in the *Melbourne Argus* of Thursday 7 July 1938 where an article can be found of the previous evening's meeting indicating that this meeting actually took place on a Wednesday night. A reproduction of the text from the newspaper article is reproduced below.

The President (Lt-Col N.P. Wellington) and 20 officers and members of the Rotary Club of Essendon paid an official visit last night to the newly formed Rotary Club of Warragul. Lt-Col Wellington delivered the address at the dinner his subject being 'Rotary in my Town'.

Considerable correspondence passed between committees of the Dandenong and Melbourne clubs and the provisional office bearers of the Warragul club. It is recorded that the District Governor, J Burgess Watt, in a letter to Hedley Heighway, on 2 August 1938, said a cable had just been received from Rotary International in the U.S.A. saying "Warragul admitted 13 July 1938, No.4791". The District Governor then goes on to say "Naturally you and your fellow members will be pleased to know that, while you have accepted Rotary, so Rotary has accepted you. Mutual responsibility follows mutual acceptance".

From the many letters written and received during the ensuing weeks, one can gather there was great enthusiasm being generated as the charter night approached. This night was referred to in the correspondence as our 'Big Night' which was set down for 24 September 1938.

The 'Big Night' arrived and was celebrated in the Warragul Palais (now the Tattslo to agency and the Priceline chemist) on Saturday 24 September 1938. Over 250 people were present to witness the presentation of the Charter. There was a big contingent from the Rotary Club of Melbourne (1921), with Dandenong (1935), Sale (1928) and Bairnsdale (1938) being well represented along with others from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and many parts of Victoria. The Charter was presented to President Hedley A. Heighway by District Governor J Burgess Watt.



Warragul Palais



The night went well and as it can be seen was again reported in the *Melbourne Argus* that article being reproduced below.

WARRAGUL Sunday - The Rotary Club of Warragul celebrate the handing over of the charter at a dinner held at the Warragul Palais on Saturday night. Two hundred and fifty people were present including representatives from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Melbourne and other parts of Victoria

Shire President (Councilor Len O Teese), Mr. Balfour MLC, Mr. Moncur MLA and many other visitors attended. The President of the Rotary Club of Warragul (Rotarian Hedley Heighway) presided. In presenting the charter Rotarian J Burgess Watt, Governor of the 65th district, outlined the aims and ideals of Rotary. He

said that Rotary stood for service to others, tolerance in dealings, and personal contacts with one's fellow man and integrity in business dealings and international friendships. World peace he said would never be attained by statesmen, diplomats or politicians but only by the application of the ideals of Rotary.

In accepting the charter Rotarian H A Heighway said that he pledged himself and his fellow club members to carry out the ideals of Rotary to the best of their ability. They felt proud and honoured at being admitted to this world fellowship of Rotary.

Congratulatory messages were received from all parts of the world where Rotary is established. These were read to the assembled by the Secretary (Rotarian H A Elliott).

The club was now well and truly on the map and on Saturday 15 July Ern Harvey became the first member of the club to receive a congratulatory birthday telegram, a telegram that is still in the possession of the club.

On 3 November 1938 Oswald Trumpy became the club's first resignation. Oswald Trumpy was the local doctor and the pressure of work and the hours he had to keep made it difficult for him to find time for Rotary.

The second club board meeting took place at 5.30 pm on Thursday 20 July 1938 with the transcript of this meeting being reproduced below:

Second meeting of the Rotary Club of Warragul held at the club rooms, 5.30 pm 20 July 1938.

Present

Hedley Heighway (President)

Alick Swan (Vice President)

Ted Lewis

Howard Elliott

Minutes of meeting held on 22 May 1938 were read and confirmed on motion of Messrs Swan and Lewis

Line from club room to 3UL station

On the motion of Messrs Elliott and Swan arrangements be made with 3UL for telephone from club room to 3UL station at a cost of £1-12s per year with a minimum of 3 years.

Petty cash / stamps

Moved Mr Lewis and seconded by Mr Swan that the Treasurer make out a cheque for £2 for Secretary petty cash and stamps account.

Accounts for payment were made on motion of Messrs Lewis and Swann

<i>T.A. Pellit</i>	<i>£1.12.6</i>	<i>Patrick</i>	<i>£2.16.11</i>
<i>V. Gannon</i>	<i>£4.10.0</i>	<i>Burton</i>	<i>1.9</i>
<i>A. Ryan</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>Coop store</i>	<i>3.6</i>

Classifications new

It was declared that the following be declared open in order of number

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>1. Hardware</i> | <i>5. Banking</i> |
| <i>2. Dept. store</i> | <i>6. Radio</i> |
| <i>3. Hotels</i> | <i>7. Dairy farming</i> |
| <i>4. Cheese manufacturing</i> | <i>8. Refinery services</i> |

With the decision taken to establish a telephone line from the club rooms it was apparent that ideas were turned into actions as can be seen from radio listings for Thursday 20 October 1938 taken from the *Melbourne Argus* and reproduced below

3UL on 333 meters

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| <i>5.30</i> | <i>Cheerio club</i> |
| <i>5.45</i> | <i>Adventures by the smiling pool</i> |
| <i>6.16</i> | <i>Dinner music</i> |
| <i>6.30</i> | <i>Broadcast from to Rotary Club of Warragul dinner</i> |
| <i>7.00</i> | <i>Argus market report</i> |
| <i>7.10</i> | <i>Melbourne rhythm</i> |
| <i>8.00</i> | <i>Hotspots from history</i> |

From this radio listing it would suggest that meetings were now established on a Thursday night. Little more can be found in the press with regards to those early days of the club and the next article found in the press was with regards to the election of a President for the second year of Rotary and again that brief article is reproduced below from the *Melbourne Argus* of 24 May 1939.

Mr. E J Lewis manager of 3UL Warragul the Argus station has been elected President of the Warragul branch of the Rotary Club for the ensuing year.

From here information is sketchy but an article found again in the *Melbourne Argus* dated Thursday 10 October 1940 clearly indicates that meetings were at this point of time being held on a Wednesday night with that article being reproduced below.

At the weekly dinner of the Warragul Rotary Club on Wednesday night, Mr. E A Harvey was installed as President of the club for the ensuing year.

In those early years the club had very close connections with the boy scouts and also local schools and it can be seen from the article found in the *Melbourne Argus* of 5 December 1940 the club was indeed active in this area.

A pleasing ceremony took place at the Warragul High School on Friday afternoon last, when Mr. E. A. Harvey (President. of the Warragul Rotary Club) made a presentation on behalf of the club of a large Australian flag to the school. For the occasion the pupils were formed around the flag pole, and members of the staff and Rotary Club were also present. Before handing the flag over formally, the school President asked Padre Claude Woodhouse to dedicate the flag, which was done. The gift was then handed to Miss Jean McCauley, who passed it on to Dougal Moyes, and with a roll of drums the flag was hoisted to the mast head. Mr. Harvey then unfurled the flag and the children recited the oath of allegiance.

The Ensuing Years – Some Club Milestones



The Rotary Club of Warragul - A potted history

In 1941 the club took the decision to become involved in chartering a new club and an extract below from board meeting minutes clearly indicate that Hedley Heighway would take on the role of extension officer.

New club Res that in the general remarks the District Governor be asked to consider appointing Hedley Heighway (our first President) as extension officer with a view of forming a club at Traralgon.

From 9 November 1942 and 10 May 1944 records show only one Rotary board meeting took place and it would appear that during this time the club was quite inactive. This may well have been due to the fact that during this period war had arrived on the doorstep of Australia. There was the very much publicized bombing of Darwin by the Japanese on 19 February 1942 being followed by many more raids on the town as well as places such as Broome, Townsville and Katherine. These actions resulted in many Australians fleeing south on fear of an imminent Japanese invasion. Added to this was the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney harbour on 31 May 1942 and the shelling of Newcastle a week later on 8 June 1942. All these issues may have resulted in the war effort being at the forefront of the mind.



The years 1944-45 and 1945-46 saw Murray Clyne serve two years as President though it is not clear why this was so and it could only be assumed that the end of the war years may have had something to do with this. However Murray Clyne departed the Rotary Club of Warragul as he moved to Shepparton to become the manager of the 3SR radio station. He remained in Rotary and went on to be President of the Rotary Club of Shepparton in 1951-52. Whilst in Shepparton he was also instrumental in setting our own Neville Pellitt on his broadcasting career.

On 17 March 1946 the club voted to make its first ever contribution to the Rotary Foundation with the sum of five pounds.

About 1948 a hospital visitation roster came into existence and continued to run for some time.

Also in 1948 Warragul Rotary President W.O. MacPherson was appointed the District Governor's representative in the establishment of the Rotary Club of Korumburra culminating in over 20 Warragul Rotary Club members attending the charter night.

This year also saw Rotary have its first Rotary International President's theme in the shape of a simple message 'Enter to learn, go forth to serve'.

The year 1949 saw fines of £15 (\$30) being contributed to the West Gippsland Hospital whilst elsewhere in Australia 1949 also saw the commencement of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme.

In 1950 the club annual subscription stood at £3 13s 6d (\$7.36) and the attendance of individual members was to be published for the first time on a six monthly basis in order to boost attendance at club meetings.

Elsewhere in the town the opening of the new Warragul police station on Palmerston Street was the big news.



The year 1951 saw the first move towards having ornamental gates constructed for the show grounds to commemorate the royal visit planned for 1954. Unfortunately in 1951 shortly after establishing the Mayfair Café in the Smith Street theatre complex as the club's new meeting place, a fire broke out in the kitchen which saw the original club charter destroyed. Not to be overcome by this adversity the club held their next three meetings at the Blue Gum Café in Drouin opposite the post office. The goal of this venture being to generate interest in Rotary in Drouin as it was felt it would only be a matter of time before a club would be established in the town.

In 1952 the new showground gates were completed. A bank guarantee had to be obtained as monies raised to cover the cost showed a shortfall. There were a number of organizations that felt they were not in a financial position to contribute as the article below reproduced from the *Melbourne Argus* of 17 January 1952 clearly shows.

When Warragul Rotary Club wrote to the Warragul sub-branch of the RSL requesting a subscription towards the erection of wrought iron gates, turnstiles and a ticket box at the show grounds to commemorate the Royal visit, the sub-branch tabled the letter for a month. General opinion was that the branch had had a severe drain on its resources recently as a result of subscriptions and donations.

The Warragul Football Club donated 25 guineas to the appeal.

Interestingly club minutes show that the bank guarantee was only gained as a result of a number of Rotarians personally taking on the guarantee.

Elsewhere in Australia housewives were not happy as milk prices rose from 7d a pint to 8d a pint or in today's measures approximately 8 cents a litre.

In 1953 Perc Burton became the second Warragul President to serve a second year as President but this may have had much to do with the fact that the Rotary year was changed from a changeover in October to a changeover in June.

Also in 1953 the club donated £10 (\$20) to local flood victims.

In 1953 Norrie Mooney was appointed as the Governor's special representative with the goal of chartering a new club in Drouin and an 'organizational meeting' held on 5 March 1954 finally brought this to fruition with the club being chartered on 29 March 1954. The charter meeting was held at the Palais on 26 May 1954 with 274 Rotarians attending the meeting.

Back in 1954 if you wanted to fill your car with petrol it would have set you back to the tune of 3/3d a gallon or in today's prices about 33 cents a litre.

Warragul in 1954 was gripped with royal fever when the Queen visited the town on 3 March. Though the visit was brief over 50,000 were in attendance at the show grounds in Warragul.



The Queen visits Warragul



Whilst Rotary had no direct role on the day of the Queen's visit somewhere in there marching is Rotarian Don Cumming (6th from left)



The Memorial gates at the showgrounds took a long time to actually come to fruition but remain in place to this day.

In 1955 club directors suggested a period of 4 months should elapse between nomination for membership and admittance of membership.



Warragul clock tower demolished by truck in 1955



On the morning of 16 December 1955 at 6.00 am a truck carrying a house from Melbourne struck and demolished the clock tower in Warragul at Cromie's Corner. Whilst this would seemingly have little or nothing to do with Rotary, it had a far reaching effect as the truck driver indicated that he did not have a clear view. This led to a Vic Roads ruling on no major obstructions to sight being constructed there in the future. That meant the Rotary clock in Warragul at that very corner today is far more conspicuous than Rotary clocks that can be seen elsewhere.

It has to be said however that it is unlikely we will see many houses travelling through the town on a truck today and the question of how someone cannot notice a 30 foot clock tower is a little hard to fathom.

In 1956 club membership stood at 42 though there were some concerns regarding the attendance of some members and a decision was taken to write to these members. The club was now meeting at the Masonic Hall and during this year the club initiated a bus trip for the elderly and some Rotarians also hosted and entertained some visitors during the Melbourne Olympic Games of 1956.

In 1957 it was decided that a proper club Bulletin would be printed on a regular basis though there had been periodic newsletters published prior to this.

After having nine meeting places the club moved home again, the new meeting place being the Orient Hotel. A dinner meeting this year was also held at West Gippsland Hospital.

Annual fee for Rotary now stood at £4 14/6d (\$9.46) with the price of dinner on club nights standing at 6/6d (66 cents) per head. Also during the year the club purchased a metal Rotary wheel whilst one of the big fund raisers was a 'Talent Quest' night which raised £132 6/9d (\$264.67).

During the year the club donated £ 600 (\$ 1,200) to the scout movement with a further £ 50 (\$100) donated to bush fire relief.

In 1957-58 50 bannerettes were purchased. The cow head in the design caused a good deal of discussion.

The year 1958-59 saw Rotary in Warragul planning for 21st anniversary celebrations which would take place early in the following Rotary year.

The year also saw the club hold a range of activities, a careers night, another talent night and also being instrumental in providing assistance to needy high school students.

The year 1959-60 saw Rotary reach 21 years in Warragul and on 10 October 1959 the club celebrated this milestone with an inter-city meeting held at the Drill Hall. The theme for the year was 'Building Bridges of Friendship'. The hall was suitably furnished with a bridge across a fern decked stream with the bridge being crossed by over two hundred guests on the night including District Governor Horace Bedggood of the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

The theme graphics were often quite wordy bits of information back then, unlike today where the themes are much simpler and with a very easily recognized theme symbol or badge.



The year also saw the club donate £25 (\$50) to Tasmanian flood relief and another talent night was held this time raising just short of £120 (\$240).

Another big step this year saw the decision to post the club Bulletin out to members instead of being hand delivered usually on the next club night.

In 1960-61 the club raised almost £120 (\$240) with a White Elephant Sale and a further £343 (\$686) being raised with a Trade Fair that ran over three days.



In 1961-62 club membership had reached 44 and a push was on during the year with the goal of reaching a membership of 50. Unfortunately the club fell two short by the end of the year.

Another successful Trade Fair saw the club bring in £398 (\$796) with £50 (\$100) donated to bush fire relief during the course of the year

The Rotary theme for the year was

**Act
Aim for Action
Communicate for Understanding
Test for Leadership**

Also during the course of 1962 the Warragul velodrome was constructed and in 1964 was used for selection trials for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.



In 1962-63 new up to date signs were erected at the entrance to the town with Rotary and other service clubs' signs being prominent.

Club membership hit that magical 50 mark with donations given during the year to, amongst others, the High School and the Technical School.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'kindle the spark within' with an annual theme now being very much part of Rotary.



The 25th anniversary of the club was celebrated in 1963-64 with another inter-city meeting and the club by now was going from strength to strength.

Donations during the year were made to the Ambulance Service and also to the 'Freedom from Hunger' campaign.

Interestingly the theme for the Rotary year was 'Meeting Rotary's Challenge in the Space Age'.





In 1964-65 the club hosted its very first exchange student when Anne Marie Jansen (see photo right) arrived from Norway and the club held a special Ladies Night to commemorate Norway's National Day.



The club conducted a very successful appeal for old reading glasses for India. The Rotary theme for the year was a very simple 'Live Rotary'.

In 1965-66 the club managed to send over 850 pairs of glasses to India. This year the club did not partake in youth exchange. Indeed it would be a number of years before the club would again take part in youth exchange.

Elsewhere the nation was gearing up for the introduction of decimal currency.

This year's Rotary theme was 'Action, Consolidation and Continuity'.



In 1966-67 the club was instrumental in forming the Warragul Historical Society. The club saw over 4,000 visitors to a very successful Trade Fair with \$1,161.36 being raised.

Elsewhere in the town the big news in 1967 was the opening of the new Post Office.



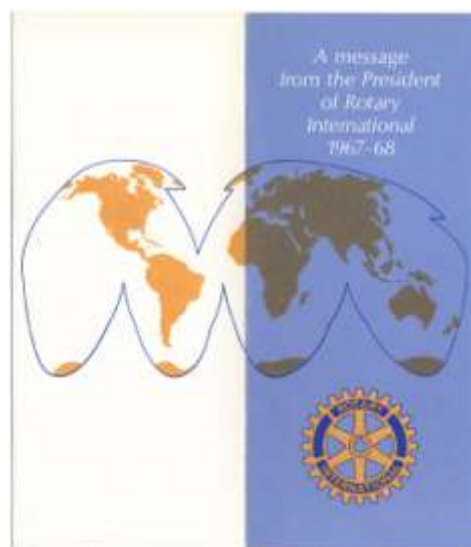
'A Better World through Rotary' was the theme for the year



During 1967-68 the club distributed 24 tons of firewood to 24 homes and became involved in supporting student scholarships at secondary schools.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'Make Your Rotary Membership Effective'.

In Australia however things Rotary were perhaps overshadowed with the disappearance of Prime Minister Harold Holt.





In 1968-69 the club sponsored Diane Risely to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and hosted the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Northern Alabama.

The Rotary theme for the year was a simple one in 'Participate'.

1969-70 saw the club deliver 40 tons of firewood to widows and the club hosted aboriginal footballers from the Northern Territory.

The Rotary theme was again very simple 'Review and Renew'.





1970-71 saw the club host a group of teachers from New Guinea for two weeks and a number of club members attended the Rotary convention in Sydney.

The club also held a car rally which raised \$1,105.

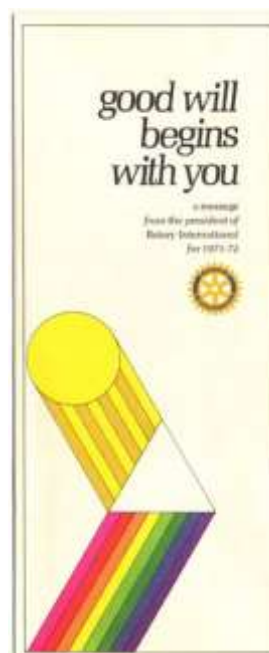
The Rotary theme this year was 'Bridge the Gaps' and of course this year saw the club spend \$725 on a class A2 locomotive.

In 1971-72 the club again ventured into youth exchange and hosted Barbara Park from the USA and also sponsored their first outbound exchange student with Graeme Jackson heading in the opposite direction across to the USA.

The club held a joint meeting when the Collingwood club came to Warragul and Past President Lin Patison was nominated for District Governor for 1973-74.

The club staged an inter club visiting program with Leongatha, Traralgon, Collingwood and Mirboo North all visited during the course of the year.

The theme for the year was 'good will begins with you'.





1972-73 was a sad year when Bill Pettit one of the club's charter members was killed in a car accident.

The club was now very much involved in youth exchange with both inbound and outbound students.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'Let's take a New Look – and Act'.

1973-74 was a big year for the club with Lindsay Patison being the first Warragul Rotarian to become District Governor (DG). The club now had a membership of 70 and things were really moving forward for the club.

This year also saw the 'Art Show' appear for the first time and with 325 entries and a \$200 donation from the Shire, the club showed a profit of \$900 on the venture. A donation of \$809 was made to West Gippsland Hospital (the proceeds from a Rotary ball) and the club continued its involvement with youth exchange.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'A Time for Action' and given how things were going in the club, Warragul was responding!





1974-75 saw the Rotary theme of 'Renew the Spirit of Rotary' and given the way things were going in Warragul that spirit was very much in evidence.

The second Art Show raised \$620.62 and a street stall also netted the club \$118.60.

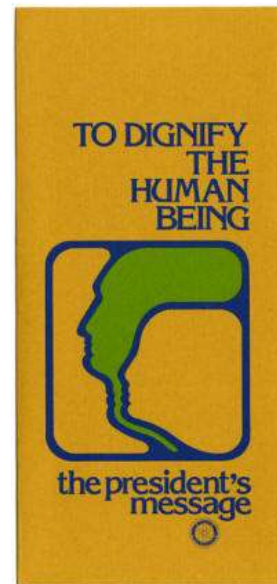
The Warragul Club sponsored the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp for the year and Bruce Armstrong OAM was elected as a very worth Honorary Member of the club.

'To Dignify the Human Being' was something of an interesting theme for the year 1975-76.

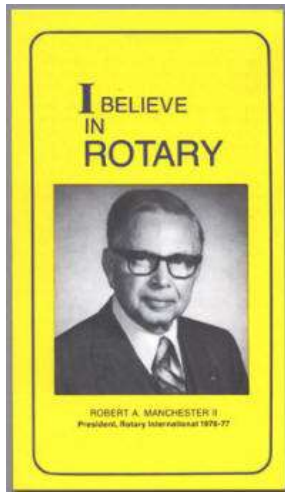
The club saw a profit from the Art Show of \$961.76 and continued to be involved with youth exchange.

However it was politics that dominated the news in Australia when in November 1975 the Governor General Sir John Kerr, took the steps to dismiss Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister with Australia in something of political turmoil.

Warragul, having hosted the Queen in 1954, saw a second royal visitor to the town on 27 October 1975 with the arrival of Princess Margaret. She arrived by rail and travelled to Civic Park and met local council members before planting a tree to commemorate her visit.



Jim Balfour MLA and Shire President Arthur Hewson meet Princess Margaret



In 1976-77 the Art Show was coming along nicely. The club was still heavily involved with youth exchange and everything now just appeared to be happening year on year.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'I Believe in Rotary' something very much in evidence the way the Warragul club was going along.

In 1977-78 the club saw a number of resignations including that of former DG Lindsay Patison. Eight Rotarians represented the club on a FAIM (Fourth Avenue in Motion) trip to Papua New Guinea. The project was the building of a twelve bed sub-centre hospital and two nurses' quarters at Ubaigubin in the New Guinea mountains. The Warragul club was the first to supply a full team for such a venture with two of our current Rotarians Graeme Snape and Roy Berryman OAM being part of the team.



Arthur Nott, Jim Sinnett, Dorothy & John Keogh [from Bayswater] Graeme Snape, Shirley & Steve Mery, Gus & Audrey Lotton, Edna & Alan Randall, Barney Mulgrew, Roy Berryman

Meanwhile 'back at the ranch' the club would host a team a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team of six from District 611 and during the year would also contribute \$50 to the Bairnsdale Fire Relief and \$500 to West Gippsland Hospital.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'serve to unite mankind'.





1978-79 saw the Tourist Information Board erected at the junction of Princes Highway and Latrobe Street as Rotary Park continued to develop.

The club had a very successful 40th birthday celebration.

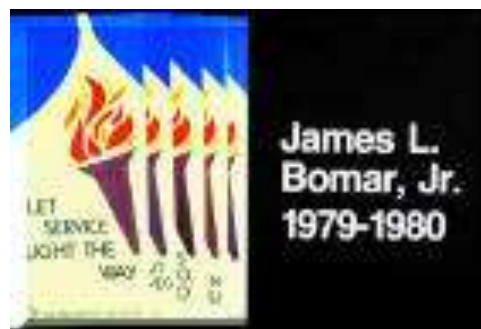
The Art Show continued to do well with a profit now in excess of \$1,000. The club also entertained a Malaccan good will exchange tour during the year.

The Rotary theme this year was 'Reach Out'.

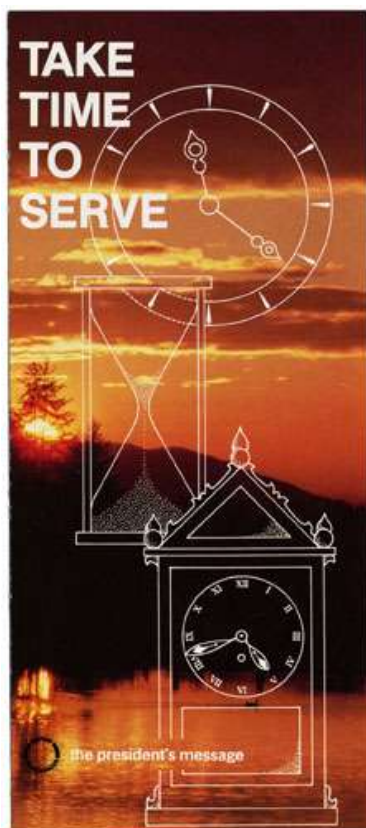
In 1979-80 there was an interclub visit from the Wonthaggi club and the Art Show was now showing a profit of \$2,333 and with the arrival of Christmas tree sales returning a further \$884.

The year also finally saw the club's A2 locomotive moved to Rotary Park as the park continued to develop.

Don and Marie Cumming hosted the club Christmas party out at Shady Creek and the Rotary theme this year was 'Let Service Light the Way'.



1980-81 saw the Rotary theme of 'Take Time to Serve'. The Art Show and the Christmas tree profits dip a little but still both returned a tidy sum. Past exchange student Mieko Uchida from Japan paid a visit to the club with her father. The sum of \$500 was donated to Rotary Foundation but more about this year later from a President's perspective.



In Warragul the redevelopment of Williams Square was completed and Warragul now looked very different.



Williams Street 1979



Williams Square 1981

In 1981-82 the club played a big part in the centenary celebrations of the Shire of Warragul.

Eleven new members joined the club and \$500 was donated to the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'World Understanding & Peace through Rotary'.

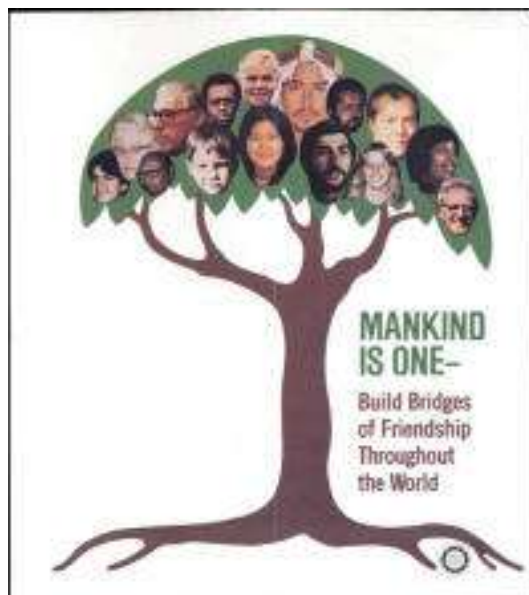


The Rotary theme for 1982-83 was 'Mankind is One -- Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World'.

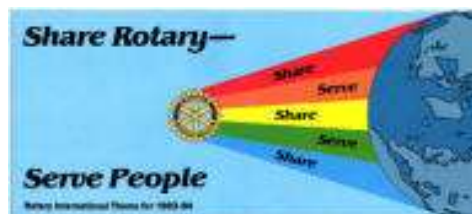
Both the Art Show and the Christmas trees project were now in full swing and the club also raised \$237 with a food stall at the bush market.

There were lots of ins and outs with exchange students as the club was now very prominent in this area.

The year also saw 28 club members head to Korumburra for the 21st anniversary celebrations of the club.



In 1983-84 the club was able to pay the cost of a mini bus for the blind centre as well as contribute \$9,530 towards the cost of land for the centre. All these proceeds came from the raffle of a trailer of valuable goods.



Back row: Trevor Renshaw, Tony Van Den Boom, Darryl Donaldson, Jim Harper

Front row: John Morgan, Ian Worth, Wally Christie, Fred Bellamy

The club embarked on a second FAIM trip, this time to Watum Island four miles off Rabaul. Seven members of the club plus one Rotary Youth Leadership awardee participated and their job was to erect living quarters for a medical officer alongside a four ward hospital that had already been built.

The Rotary theme for this year was 'Share Rotary – Serve People'.

One of the highlights of 1984-85 was a visit from seven of the Melbourne clubs who with Rotarians from Warragul met at Lardner Park with approximately 400 members in attendance.

The club made a donation of \$500 towards the purchase of a motor vehicle for the St. John Ambulance Service. Also during the year some 750 people attended a sausage sizzle in Williams Square as part of the Shire's participation in Victoria's 150th celebrations.

Other donations within the club included \$1,000 to the Rotary House appeal and \$1,400 to Rotary Foundation.



The Rotary theme for the year was 'Discover a New World of Service'.



In 1985-86 the club raised a considerable sum with the raffle of a trailer full of goods resulting in \$7,000 being donated to the West Gippsland Hospital towards the cost of a Helipad for the Hospital Services Helicopter.

The A2 steam train disappeared this year and was replaced by a "J" class as Steam Rail sought to refurbish the A2. The Mawarra Centre had involvement with Rotary as they were responsible for ensuring the weekly Bulletin was posted out.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'You are the Key'.

All the usual activities going on in 1986-87 with the Art Show and Christmas trees project progressing well and the club continued with youth exchange inbound and outbound students.

The Rotary theme for the year was 'Rotary Brings Hope'.



1987-88 saw the club reach the fifty year milestone so as well as normal activities extra functions were planned and coordinated by the 50 year anniversary committee. All this culminated in July 1988 with a 'Back to Warragul' weekend.

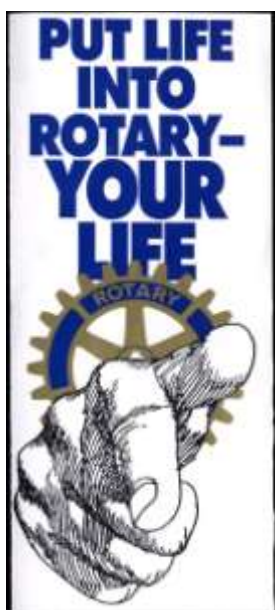
As part of celebrating 50 years a 'Meeting House' was planned and Rotarian Colin Brown was charged with coming up with a design for what is now the Rotunda in Rotary Park.



In addition to all these celebrations the club hosted the GSE team from the Netherlands for 4 days.

The Rotary theme for this the club's 50th year was 'Rotarians - United in Service – Dedicated to Peace'.





A year after the high point of the 50 year anniversary celebrations, the club in 1988-89 experienced both highs and lows in that 800 Christmas trees were sold giving a tidy profit. However the tree crop planted for the future was slashed by an over enthusiastic VLine contractor leaving a few barren years ahead for Christmas tree sales.

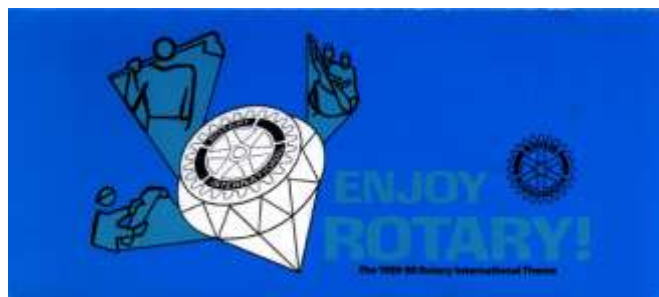
Ian Gawler represented Warragul on the GSE team spending time in the Netherlands, whilst Rotarian Fred Bellamy was selected as team leader for the forthcoming GSE team that would be heading for the UK.

The Rotary theme for 1988-89 was 'Put Life into Rotary – Your Life'.

1989-90 saw the new rotunda showcased on the front of the Bulletin for a year and the club held two BBQ meetings there.

The club hosted the GSE team from district 429 in Columbia but unfortunately no team could reciprocate due to unrest in Colombia and major problems with the currency of the country.

Rotary Park was worked on constantly throughout the year under the chairmanship of Graeme Snape.



On 12 June 1990 the toilet block at Rotary Park was completed and handed over to the Shire. The Rotary theme for the year was 'Enjoy Rotary'.



In 1990-91 club membership reached 74. The Warragul Rotaract club with 26 members was the largest Rotaract club in the District.

The Skate Park in Burke Street was completed and the Rotary theme for the year was 'Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm'.

As 1991-92 arrived the club hosted District Assembly with over 300 Rotarians from 51 clubs in attendance.

In addition two applicants out of three from Warragul, were successful in obtaining a place on the GSE team that would be heading for Mississippi.

The Rotary theme this year was 'Look Beyond Yourself'.





In 1992-93 the district conference in Bendigo was attended by nine members from the Warragul club.

Children of Chernobyl visited the club as they were being hosted by the local scouts.

On 16 June the Probus club of Warragul was chartered mainly thanks to the efforts of Bob Lewis.

The Rotary theme was 'Real Happiness is Helping Others'.

In 1993-94 it was noted that Rotaract numbers had fallen to 13, though the actual Rotary club was now heralded as the largest club in the district. The year also saw 14 of the club's members attend the district conference in Echuca.

BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO

The year saw Neville Pellitt perform a terrific role as Public Relations Director with a weekly column in the Warragul Gazette.

DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

It is also worth noting that Warragul was well represented on district committees.

This year's Rotary theme was 'Believe in what you Do – Do what you Believe in'.



The year 1994-95 again saw Neville Pellitt performing a great job as Public Relations Director, keeping Rotary in the public eye.

There were seven Rotarians in attendance at the District Conference which was held in Albury.

The club again hosted the GSE team, this time the team being from Michigan USA. Warragul was also the club chosen to host the farewell dinner for the group.

This year's Rotary theme was 'Be a Friend'.

In 1995-96 the Board decided to conduct a survey of members as it was felt that many things in the club were taken for granted and maybe needed to be brought out into the open. The survey generally went very well and would act as a good reference point for future Boards.

On 4 November the 'Inner Wheel' club of Warragul was chartered and started life with 35 members.

On 22 February Graeme Snape was completely wrong footed by Wally Christie when he was the subject of a 'This is Your Life' night at the club.

It was a busy year for new clubs with Bob Lewis again instrumental in chartering the Probus Club of Baw Baw, though on a somewhat disappointing note the Rotoract club in the town was now down to only seven members.



The theme for the year was:

'Act with Integrity
Serve with Love
Work for Peace'



In 1996-97 the Warragul to Drouin cycle track was said to be in the preliminary planning stage, though as members will be aware, it took a little while to actually happen.

Neville Pellitt was still acting as Public Relations director and with the aid of Dennis Heslin the two were hosting a 10 minute weekly spot on 3BBR radio.

This year's Rotary theme was 'Build the Future With Action and Vision'.

As 1997-98 arrived the Rotary theme for the year was 'Show Rotary Cares for your community for our world for its people'.

Rotary continued with their 10 minute weekly spot on radio. The Board resolved to put \$2,000 aside for the installation of a Rotary clock at the Queen Street roundabout as part of the club's 60 year celebrations.

The club made a decision not to partake further in the short term youth exchange with New Zealand instead focussing solely on the one year exchange program.

Another point worthy of mention is the selection of current club President Chris Major to become part of the GSE team that would be heading for Nevada and California in the USA.



Show Rotary Cares



Rotary International



1998-99 saw the student exchange program still going strong within the club on both the inbound and the outbound fronts.

The Art Show was again a huge success being the club's major fundraiser. The Christmas trees were still profitable with a new site on Landsborough Street opposite the Hospital being prepared for planting additional trees.

The year saw the release of the 60 year anniversary booklet, the club hosted the GSE welcome home dinner and a family Christmas was celebrated at Rotary Park.

1999-2000 was the year that the club decided to admit women members. The annual report outlined this issue had caused much pain and debate but went on to say the move could only broaden the horizons of Rotary and in reality it was but a minor step.

The clock on the Queen Street roundabout designed by Past President (PP) Colin Brown was funded. The approval of the Warragul to Drouin walking track was said to be imminent and Wally Christie continued to lead the charge in this area.

President Doug Womersley inducted the first women members, Rev. Rosalind Terry and Jacquey Turner, into the club on 18 May 2000.

The new Christmas tree plantation saw 1,000 trees planted and was coming along well.



The Rotary theme for the year was 'Rotary 2000: Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity'.





In 2000-01 concern was being expressed with the limited number of new members.

The club again hosted GSE, this time the team coming from district 3160 in India.

Dennis Heslin and Chris Fraser presented a paper at district conference in Shepparton on the tangible benefits of humanitarian projects.

Club donations during the year included the Mawarra Centre \$1,000 and the West Gippsland Health Care Group \$1,035.



Following the concerns about attracting new members, in 2001-02 the club inducted 11 new members with John Morgan claiming major honours introducing three of those members.

The district conference was at Bairnsdale and the club obtained a certificate of merit for efforts on the Bulletin.

A new concept was introduced at meetings with a new chairman each week as it was felt that this gave all club members a greater involvement.





In 2002-03 the club had a number of inter club visits to Melbourne, Morwell and La Trobe (now Traralgon Central).

The club again hosted GSE, this time a team from Alabama. Interestingly the cost of producing the club Bulletin was \$3,552.21 a year.

However after the previous year's jump in membership, this year saw nine resignations from the club again bringing to the fore concerns over retaining members.

After outlining the costs of the Bulletin last year 2003-04 saw a major push, driven by Dennis Heslin and John Morgan, to get the Bulletin delivered by email and the year's accounts show savings of \$3,000 with moving into the electronic age.

A considerable amount of effort was being devoted to the development of a suitable project for the forthcoming 100 years of Rotary International celebrations, a project for which the club had set aside considerable funds.

A bequest was received from the estate of Ivan Lawson and was used for an upgrade of the information bay at Rotary Park.

The club hosted the welcome home dinner for the GSE group from district 1030 in North East England and also hosted the incoming group jointly with Drouin.





The year 2004-05 saw Rotary International celebrate 100 years and Graeme Snape was chairperson for the bandstand works in Civic Park which was to be the centennial project.

Dennis Heslin was nominated for DG and received endorsement and would be DG for the Rotary year 2006-07. In so doing he became the second club member to fulfil the role of DG.

Probus clubs in the district were growing strongly with over 10,000 members.



The Rotary year 2005-06 was the year that saw the establishment of the club's website.

Again the GSE team, this time from district 1440 in Denmark, were co-hosted with Drouin.

The District conference was held in Geelong with 15 Rotarians and their partners in attendance.



SERVICE Above Self



2006-07 saw membership still fluctuating with three new members but four resignations.

This year saw club member Dennis Heslin as DG and Chris Major took on the role of chair of the district conference organising committee for the conference held on Phillip Island.

Warragul and Drouin held two joint meetings after setting a goal at the start of the year to forge closer ties between the two clubs.

The club's youth exchange program was still going well. The club also sponsor students from the regional college to attend the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA).

As the current club President knows too well the club also held the wedding of the year!

In 2007-08 the Rotary club leadership model of management was introduced and was the source of some debate.

Neville Pellitt in the role of Public Relations Director continued his knack of getting support from local media.

Again the club along with Drouin co-hosted the visiting GSE team and during the course of the year four new members were inducted taking club membership to 57.



Past President George Farnham and President Frank Spiteri



2008-09 saw the club increase its numbers with the induction of five new members.

The club co-hosted with the Rotary Club of Phillip Island San Remo the GSE team from Ontario, Canada.

A FAIM trip was organised by Wally Christie to Shipton Flat in North Queensland to build accommodation for aboriginal families.

The year was however overshadowed when the region was struck with serious bushfires with nearby Labertouche badly affected and at one stage Warragul also being under threat.

In 2009-10 the Art Show and the Christmas trees continued to bring in revenue to the club. This year also saw the club involved with the 'Visioning' process whereby clubs were asked to look five years into the future at what kind of club may exist. This was all being done to re-examine the workings of Rotary in the face of declining numbers.

On the GSE front Deanne Smith, who would later become a member of the club, was successful in her application and would be heading for Germany.

On the social front the pancake joust was a huge success as ever organised by Rotarian Barb Downes. The club also held the first 'Pride of Workmanship' awards, this was an initiative of Rotarian Shane Smallwood. Sally J also threw her doors open to the club on bonfire night, for a night that was well attended.



The Rotary theme for the year was 'The Future of Rotary is in your hands'.





Lorna and Wally Christie

2010-11 was a year that was very much focussed on membership and during the course of the year the club inducted eight new members.

The Gourmet Dinner project ran with a Christmas in July theme and raised \$5,000 that was donated to Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support (GARDS).

The year again had a very social theme with the 'Pride of Workmanship' awards running for a second year, and the pancake joust again proving to be a good evening. Though perhaps the highlight of the social calendar was the Melbourne Cup night where everyone got into the spirit and the club even ran a 'Fashions on the Field' competition.

On a sad note the club lost Wally Christie who was very much an integral part of the club and a man who found nothing too much trouble and was always willing to lend a hand to those who needed it most.

2010-11 saw a terrific exchange student at the club in the shape of TJ Mincer from the USA. The year also saw the return of Debbie Caires from South Africa who had been an exchange student with the club in 1992.

The club saw Herald Sun cartoonist Mark Knight as a guest speaker on a night that went down very well.

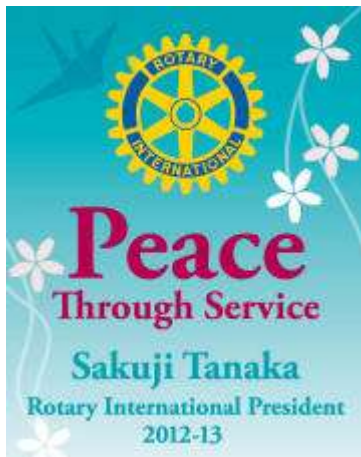
The pancake joust was again a huge success and was taken out by the 'Rotary Rajas' who really got into the spirit of things though rumour had it they had been practising for some time before the big night.

As ever the Art Show went well and the Christmas trees appear to deliver greater revenue to the club year on year.

This year saw the cluster meeting held at the Rotary Club of Hazelwood.



Bhavna and Sunil Bhatt with Past President Frank Beavis and Vaughan Fox



Deanne Smith with Dutch GSE member Hugo van Leeuwen

In 2012-13 the club very much focussed on the 75th anniversary of the club with the 75th project being the upgrading of Rotary Park under the chairmanship of Graeme Snape. The year saw numerous working bees on the park showing considerable changes as things moved on.

Sadly we also the departure of the 'J' class train engine that had resided in the park since 1985 and it is now in its new home at Noojee.

There were a number of vocational visits during the course of the year including a joint visit with the Mirboo North Club to Gippsland Aero and also an interesting visit to Warragul police station.

During the year the club also played host to the GSE team from Holland for three days and Raelene Miller was also successful in gaining a place on the GSE outbound team for Holland.

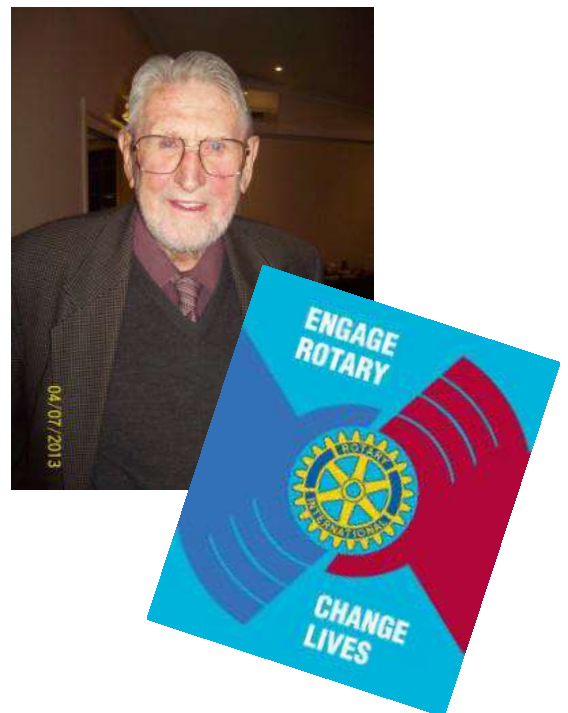
The club sponsored two students from the Regional College to take part in MUNA and we had an inbound exchange student in Kim Bigler from Switzerland.

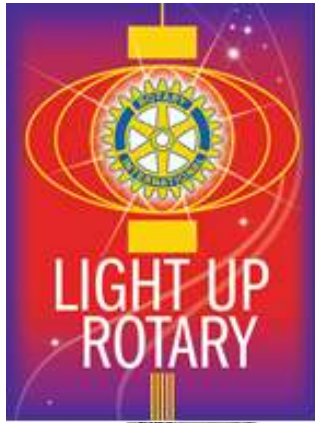
13 July 2013 was the club's 75th anniversary. Rotarian Chris Major took on a second term as president for the auspicious 2013-14 year. The year saw the competition of Stage 1 of the Rotary Park redevelopment, most capably led by Graeme Snape. The upgrade included a tribute garden in honour of past Rotarians Ivan Lawson and Wally Christie who both dedicated so much of their lives to their local community.

The celebration of the anniversary of the original Charter Night was a memorable night that also recognised George Farnham with a Sapphire Pin acknowledging his long standing commitment to our Pine Tree Project.

The year saw many new initiatives including assistance at the Motofest and Farm World at Lardner Park, education grants in Tanzania and TAC Breathometers.

Sadly, we also saw the passing of one of our longest serving members Roy Berryman OAM PP PHF.





The 2014-15 President, Paul Howells and exchange student Ophelie Masquelier laid a wreath on behalf of the club to mark the 100th year of the Anzac spirit. The club also hosted a GSE team from Turkey in this significant year for the two countries.

The club sadly saw the passing of Bruce Armstrong OAM PHF on 5 May 2015. Local identity and Warragul Rotarian for 40 years, Bruce was best known as the band master with Warragul municipal band and played the national anthem on his cornet at the conclusion of every Rotary dinner meeting.

Stage 2 of Rotary Park redevelopment was opened on 31 May 2015 by local member Gary Blackwood. The project was a fitting tribute to the drive and dedication of Project manager, Rotarian Graeme Snape.



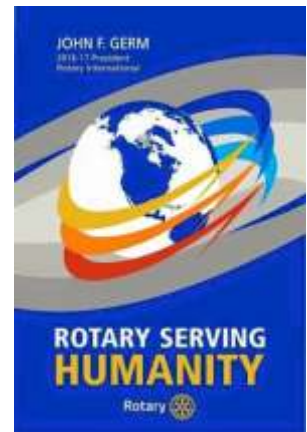
In 2015-16 with President Richard Habgood the club delivered another significant project to the community. 'In the Presence of Giants' was the work of artist James Guerts. The club donated \$15,000 towards the art installation and put a lot of time into helping with the construction. Rotarian Chris Major brought his passion to the management of project as the Club worked through the construction phase.

There was a touch of sadness early in the year with the passing of long serving and much valued club member Graeme Snape PP PHF RP. Graeme's contribution to the club and the community was recognised with high award of a PHF, Ruby Pin.



The highlight of the 2016-17 year was the return of the A2 986 Steam Engine to Warragul after approximately 30 years of restoration work by Steamrail Victoria at the Newport Rail Yards.

On May 13th the Engine and several vintage carriages pulled into Warragul Station to be met by several thousand spectators. The Engine was officially named “The Spirit of Warragul” and a plaque was unveiled by former Rotarian Bruce Young PP PHF and Greig Wilson of the Warragul and District Railway Club. Several former and longstanding Rotarians had tears in their eyes as this very long standing project reached fulfilment. President Peter Dell worked tirelessly on behalf of Rotary in helping to coordinate the day’s festivities.



President Vaughan Fox headed up the 2017-18 year. The international theme was “Rotary: Making a Difference” and the Club once again embraced the workers from Vanuatu visiting Warragul as part of a government aid program. The men attended Rotary meetings and on one occasion gave the members a memorable taste of traditional music.

At the time of compiling this 80 Year book the Club was embarking on a further stage of our Vanuatu project raising the necessary funds to send a container carrying educational and medical supplies to Port Vila. The container will also have supplies on-board to be used in re-painting / refurbishment of the Children’s Ward at Port Vila hospital. The project is also being made possible with support from the Rotary Club of Moe and the Warragul Uniting Church.



Interesting Days



The First President's Year

(What was in the news in Australia and beyond in 1938-39)



As 1938 dawned, Rotary in Warragul was little more than an idea waiting to get off the ground, but in Warragul the local press were heralding the announcement that 'Woolworths' was coming to the town and should be open for November 1939. Burton's stores in the town advertised men's shirts at 3/11d (40 cents) with trousers at 13/11d (\$1.40), a new Humber Sceptre was £498 (\$996) and a cruise to New Zealand was 31 guineas (\$64.10) travelling first class. In Melbourne the Metropolitan Gas Company was advertising the new gas fridge for a one third deposit and a rental of 3/- (30 cents) a week.

The Warragul Theatre was showing 'The Prisoner of Zenda' but the eagerly awaited film was 'The Adventures of Robin Hood' starring Errol Flynn and indeed the following year the *Warragul Guardian* would run a serialised written version of the film in the newspaper complete with photographs from the film.

Warragul High School student numbers had jumped by 50 to 252 and a bus was now being run for 20 pupils in the Strzelecki area. On the academic front though, concern was being expressed regards the lack of a bus service to the Technical School at Yallourn and whether there was scope for a Technical School to be established in Warragul.

Australia was home to the Empire Games in Sydney and with 15 countries competing Australia topped the medals table. The star of the games was Decima Norman who won five gold medals on the track whilst Margaret Dovey (the future wife of Gough Whitlam) finished 6th in the 200 yards breaststroke. The games had been timed to coincide with sesqui-centenary (150 years) since the foundation of a British settlement in Sydney.

Plans were being made for a visit to Australia from the King possibly in 1940 or 1941, though as yet nothing had been firmly put into place.

Newspapers were awash with war or the prospect of it, be it the China-Japan conflict, the Spanish Civil War or the major unrest in Europe. Hitler was making demands of Austria to add Nazi Party representatives to the cabinet in that country and Britain and France were protesting against this action but no one was coming to the aid of Austria. The press in Australia followed developments in Europe very closely. There appeared to be little else in the news with major disagreements in Britain at cabinet level about the situation in Germany resulting in a number of ministers, including Foreign Secretary Eden, resigning as they felt that Britain should be taking a much harder line in supporting Austria.

With the rest of Europe standing by, German forces eventually moved into Austria on the basis of 'that is what the Austrian people wanted'. What followed was a sham referendum in the two countries where people were asked if they wanted a combined 'Reich' under the control of Germany, needless to say the vote was an overwhelming 'yes' and the Austrian Chancellor, whose nine year old son was being held in a concentration camp in Germany 'voluntarily' signed over control to Hitler who declared that he was destined to lead Austria into the Reich.

As the year progressed the Australian cricket team were in England to defend the ashes and Bradman opened his account in the first touring match against Worcestershire with a double century, just as he had done in 1930 and 1934 against the same opposition.

The press were marvelling at flight officers A.E Coulson and V.A Ricketts who flew from Britain to Australia and returned in an incredible ten and a half days, though their first attempt had resulted in their being arrested in Turkey following a forced landing due to mechanical issues.

An announcement was made in Melbourne with regard to the building of a new 500 bed Royal Melbourne Hospital on an 11 acre site at Parkville at a cost of £800,000 (\$1.6 million). In Sydney the Chief of Police had his car stolen from outside a hall where he was giving a talk on crime in the city.

Problems rolled on in Europe with Germany laying claim to the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, this being German speaking, Germany therefore believed it should be part of the 'Reich'.

Amidst all this the first test started at Trent Bridge in England where the home side got off to a good start and Australia struggled. In the end Australia managed to salvage a draw from the game though they were on the back foot for most of the game. Closer to home the Yallourn power station was on strike with workers claiming a 6/- (60 cents) per week pay rise.

In late June the second test started in England at Lords and was the first test ever to be televised though at the time it is unlikely that many people owned a television set. Never the less the game made history for that reason, though the game itself finished in a fairly mundane draw.

The third cricket test in England was washed out without a ball being bowled and the workers at Yallourn settled for a reduced 4/- (40 cents) a week rise.

On 13 July, the day the Rotary club was chartered it was bitterly cold in Warragul, to such an extent many in the town were without water until late into the afternoon as the towns water supply pipes were frozen, certainly an event that was quite a talking point in the town.



Life and living conditions in Melbourne were not good for many

The state budget was shown to be in surplus though this surplus would have been much greater had it not been for large losses made at the state coal mine in Wonthaggi. The state budget proposed a twenty

percent reduction in train fares and gave the housing commission sweeping powers on rents and minimum living conditions which would effectively abolish slum dwelling and see these areas cleared.

In England, Australia took out the fourth test to retain the Ashes following a batting collapse by England when they were in a good position. The fifth and final test was the infamous timeless test and England declared their first innings at 903 for 7 and eventually took out the game with an innings victory. The result was academic in terms of the Ashes though it squared the series at one test all.

Germany was now giving ultimatums to Czechoslovakia with regards to their claims over the Sudetenland and whilst Britain and France protested no-one really took any decisive action. In fact Australia sent a trade delegation to Germany with a view to establishing trade between the two countries.

Wonthaggi miners joined a national mining workers strike over pay and conditions. Given the Wonthaggi state coal mine was making a huge loss the wisdom of this could be questioned. A shoe shop owner was shot dead trying to defend his store in Ivanhoe, Melbourne where bandits escaped with £130 (\$260).



As the Rotary charter night arrived, in Warragul conversation must have been very much on Europe as Britain and France were now trying to mediate with Germany regards their demands on Czechoslovakia. Things were not going well and many feared that war was looming on the horizon. However the upshot was that much of Czechoslovakia was ceded to Germany, a move which effectively handed most of Czechoslovakia's heavy industry over to Germany.

Following this however worse was to come as both Poland and Hungary laid claim to parts of Czechoslovakia for the same language speaking issues that Germany cited. Thus parts of the country were also ceded to these countries. This saw a much smaller Czechoslovakia with the German border now only 40 miles from the capital Prague.

Hitler having gained more territory for the 'Reich' went on a triumphant tour of the Sudetenland which Britain and France had helped him gain with their 'mediation efforts'.

In Warragul ratepayers were asked in October to vote on whether the town needed a new sewerage system. The answer was yes with the vote going through on a count of 585 for a new system and 265 against. Perhaps those voting 'No' were concerned with how this would affect rates as the new system was set to cost in excess of £45,000 (\$90,000).

A black and white photograph of a large stadium filled with spectators. In the background, a building with a prominent dome and a flagpole is visible against a clear sky.



The Argus.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1935.

PRICE 3d.

18 DIE IN TERRIBLE PLANE DISASTER

AIRLINER WRECKED ON MT. DANDENONG

CRASHES INTO HILLSIDE

LEADING MEN AMONG VICTIMS

Eighteen persons, among whom were Mr. Henshaw, M.P., and other leading Australians, were killed instantly when the Douglas airliner, carrying 18 passengers, crashed on the western slopes of Mt. Dandenong. It was the worst disaster in the history of aviation in Australia.

The victims were the 17 passengers and four members of the crew of the plane, which was flying from Adelaide to Melbourne in the "Southern Cross" service.

The plane, which had crashed the twenty-fourth day of the year, is now being investigated by the Department of Transport and the Department of Civil Aviation.

The crash occurred at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, October 25, when the plane was flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

The plane was flying from Adelaide to Melbourne in the "Southern Cross" service, and was carrying 17 passengers and four crew members.

The plane was flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet when it crashed into the hillsides of Mt. Dandenong.

WITNESSES DESCRIBE CRASH

Witnesses described the crash as a "terrible disaster" and said that the plane was flying at a high altitude when it crashed.

The plane was flying from Adelaide to Melbourne in the "Southern Cross" service, and was carrying 17 passengers and four crew members.

The plane was flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet when it crashed into the hillsides of Mt. Dandenong.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER'S AID

The Police Commissioner has offered his aid to the investigation of the crash, and has said that the Department of Transport and the Department of Civil Aviation should be kept advised of the progress of the investigation.

The plane was flying from Adelaide to Melbourne in the "Southern Cross" service, and was carrying 17 passengers and four crew members.

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WORST DISASTER IN HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN AVIATION

Wreckage of the airliner, which crashed yesterday at Mount Dandenong. The mist shrouding the scene at the background shows the bad visibility at the time.

VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER

Following are the names of the 18 persons who were killed when the Douglas crashed yesterday afternoon. Nine of the passengers had been in Melbourne for the day before, and were in the city.

PASSENGERS

CHARLES HENRY HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

LAWRENCE EDWARD HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

EDWARD HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

ALBERT HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

EDWARD HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

ALBERT HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

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EDWARD HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

ALBERT HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

EDWARD HENRY, aged 45, of Melbourne.

ABSENCE OF BEAM

STRONG ATTACK BY COMPANY

The company has been accused of neglecting the maintenance of the beam, and of not having a proper system of inspection.

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PENNY A MILE MOTORING!

FOR REAL ECONOMY IN—
PETROL AND OIL CONSUMPTION—
TIRES—DEPRECIATION—
REGISTRATION & MAINTENANCE

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MORRIS
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LANE'S MOTORS LTD.
100, Victoria Street, Melbourne.

At 1.45 pm on 25 October, 18 people lost their lives in what was Australia's worst plane crash when the aircraft 'Kyeema' overshot the airport at Essendon and due to low cloud ploughed into the slopes of Mount Dandenong. Immediate demands were made for greater 'safety in the air' and a major investigation was ordered which, in time, was heavily critical of the aviation administration authorities with regards to how they managed aviation in Australia.

As 1938 came to a close, taxi drivers mounted a protest in Melbourne against unlicensed drivers operating in the city and it was mooted that buses would replace trams on some routes in the city but this was not well received in many quarters.

The Warragul CWA ran a competition in the town amongst the ladies entitled 'How to make him happy' with a prize given to the best idea. Some of the entries are listed below.

'First and foremost do not nag, be tolerant of his untidy habits.'

'Be interested in his interests.'

'Be a good listener.'

'Cook the dishes he likes best.'

'Do tell him how important he is and do not forget to praise him when he helps.'

'Don't complain if there is no chopped wood, cut a pile yourself.'

As 1939 dawned Europe appeared to disappear from the front pages of the paper as Victoria was struck with devastating bush fires including the loss of 43 houses at Dromana. Closer to home people were taking refuge by lying in the Bunyip river until the fire passed.

People in Erica and Walhalla were forced to flee as fire approached whilst the town of Warrandyte was devastated. Police warned looters and Australia received a message of sympathy from the King.

A relief centre where food and clothing could be sent was established. Warragul Rotarian E J Lewis through the 3UL radio station set up an appeal fund that in total brought in £507 (\$1,014) as well as food and clothing for those most in need.

Following the fires a Royal Commission was promised to prevent anything like this ever happening again.



Just as quickly as it had disappeared, Europe reappeared in the headlines with France seeking public assurance from Britain that she would be supported if attacked, as Italy now started to make claims over French territories. Britain however was somewhat non-committal stating it wished to be a friend to both France and Italy and offered instead to mediate in any dispute between the two countries.

In Gippsland farmers who a week before were in serious drought conditions suddenly found themselves fearing floods as the hot bush fire conditions were replaced with heavy continuous rain with many rivers rising rapidly.

Meanwhile with the advancement of television broadcasting in Britain, an announcement was made by the Postmaster General in Australia that television was merely an expensive luxury that Australia could not afford.

The Victorian State Government revealed plans to extract oil from brown coal mined in the Latrobe Valley. Interestingly they are still looking to do this today some 75 years later, however to date no real progress has been made.

In Europe there was political unrest in Czechoslovakia and Germany hinted at military intervention if the matter was not resolved as it may have a destabilizing impact on Europe. Obviously Germany was very concerned as two days after the announcement German troops marched into Prague, a move that saw Rumania and Hungary immediately claim further Czech territory.

In Warragul the town had a visit from State Premier Albert Dunstan who was in the town as part of the foundation stone being laid at the new West Gippsland Hospital.

Back to Europe and Poland was put on a war footing fearing German aggression though perhaps more importantly was Britain's pledge of support to Poland in the face of any such aggression, a move which saw a campaign of hate in the German press towards Britain.



Australia was stunned however when on 6 April Prime Minister Joseph Lyons suffered a heart attack and was admitted to hospital in a serious condition. Sadly Mr. Lyons lost his fight for life and died at 10.40 am on Friday 7 April just fifteen days short of becoming Australia's longest serving Prime Minister at the time.

Joseph Lyons a Tasmanian was originally a teacher and was only 49 when he died being the first Prime Minister to win three consecutive elections

A state funeral was held on 12 April and on 26 April Robert Menzies was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Australia.

As turmoil in Europe grew ever worse Hitler renounced the Anglo-German naval treaty which restricted the size of ships in the German navy. At the same time Hitler renounced the non aggression pact between Germany and Poland and immediately demands the return of Danzig in Poland to German control.

Back home the bushfire Royal Commission announced its findings. While it stated that the fires could not have been prevented, more could have been done to stop them spreading and amongst the recommendations was the introduction of fire containment lines as a first step towards the prevention of bush fires spreading.

Melbourne saw the first introduction of parking restrictions with a maximum two hour limit to be enforced in many parts of the city including Flinders Street, Collins Street and Lonsdale Street.

Whilst the problems rolled on in Europe the police in Melbourne introduced a new measure against people riding bikes at night with no lights. Anyone caught had to report to their local police station the next day with their bike, showing that lights had been fitted.

Whilst Germany persisted in claims over Danzig in Poland the Poles stood firm. The news in Australia was around the new Douglas airliner that had flown from Perth to Essendon in Melbourne in the time of 13 hours and 10 minutes.

Meanwhile in Britain after a campaign by the press, Winston Churchill was added to the cabinet. There were those for and against as Churchill had very strong views about the situation in Europe.

With anxiety in Poland growing and Germany and Russia signing a non-aggression pact, the USA warned American tourists in Britain to waste no time in returning home. With Japan now blockading Hong Kong and the British embassy being attacked in Tokyo matters appeared to be starting to boil over.

As September approached Hitler announced that the situation regarding Danzig in Poland would be resolved 'one way or another'. Britain reiterated its position in supporting Poland and asked Germany to explain their comments. The answer came within days as Germany launched an offensive on Poland.



Following the declaration of war in Europe after only four months in office Robert Menzies made the following announcement.

"Fellow Australians it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that in the consequence of persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her and that, as a result Australia is also at war."

So ended the Rotary Club of Warragul's first year, a year that had started with the Spanish Civil War, the Japan-China war, took in devastating bush fires in Victoria and ended with Australia also now at war. It has to be said that the first year of Rotary in Warragul was without doubt the most eventful.

Exchange Students



Janelle Weiderman
1985-86
(to Denmark)



Louise Dahlberg-Nummert
2002-03
(from Sweden)



Daniel Linhares
2005-06
(from Brazil)



Mathais Glahn
2002-03
(from Denmark)



Glenn Methven
2009-10
(to Germany)



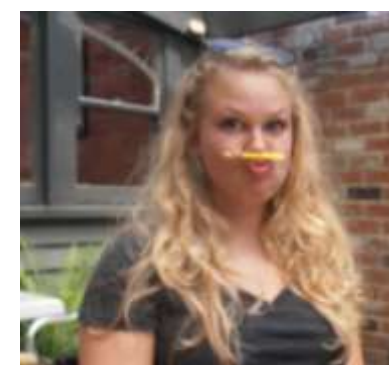
Michael Zersch
2009-10
(from Germany)



Agathe Remond (left)
2010-11
(from France)



TJ Mincer
2011-12
(from USA)



Kim Bigler
2012-13
(from Switzerland)



Astrid Ostergaard
2013-2014
(from Denmark)



Ophelie Masquiel
2014-2015
(from Belgium)



Lisa Stefely
2015-2016
(from Austria)



Vivien Eshuis
2016-2017
(from The Netherlands)



Charlotte Nagel
2017-18
(from Germany)

The Rotary Train and Rotary Park

With Vin Rowe as club President in 1970-71 a decision was made on 8 February 1971 to purchase an A2 railway engine for the princely sum of \$725, the idea being to present it to the people of Warragul. The engine was delivered by rail and stored prior to the old Noojee rail line being closed. However the engine remained in Normanby Street until the decision was taken in 1979-80 to relocate the engine to Rotary Park at a cost of \$3,108.

The engine was transported through the town to its new home where it was planned it would remain.



However in 1985-86 the club was approached by Steam Rail with a view to swapping the A2 locomotive for a “J” class locomotive as Steam Rail wanted to refurbish the A2 as very few remained. The idea was that this engine could then eventually be put back into service. Consequently a deal was done that would also give the Rotary club use of the refurbished engine for one day per year.

Finally... the A2 locomotive being transported down Queen Street en-route to Rotary park



The A2 moving into place



1985 the “J” class locomotive arrives in Rotary Park

The train was located in Rotary Park for the club's 50th anniversary. However in 2012 the train was relocated to its new home in Noojee, a sad loss for the club and the people of Warragul but the redevelopment of Rotary Park is well underway as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations.



The “J” class in 1985 really looked the part



The “J” class departs in 2012 for new pastures at Noojee

To complete the picture on Rotary Park the rotunda was built at a cost of \$7,096.92 as part of the 50th year celebrations and later in 1988-89 the toilet block was built in the park.

In 1991-92 \$7,500 was spent on playground equipment, a new shelter designed by Colin Brown and an extension to the rotunda and BBQ. A footbridge was added at a cost of \$1,000 in 1993-94. Works for the 75th anniversary are well underway with the first phase completed and opened by District Governor Tim Moore on the club's 75th birthday, 13 July 2013.

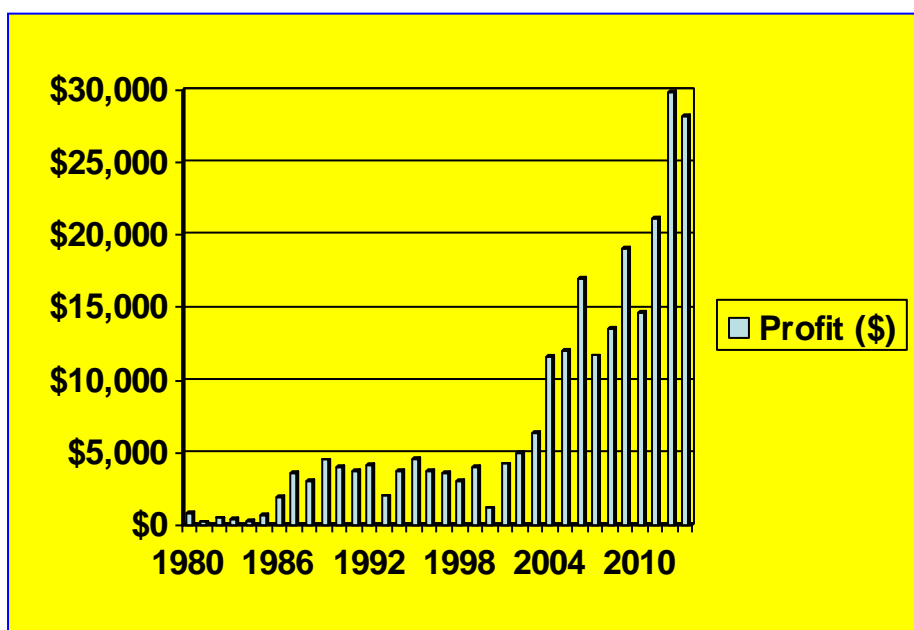
The Christmas Trees Project

The club began the Christmas tree project in 1979-80, though at this stage the club did not grow its own trees and was in the business of purchasing and then selling on. These sales were bringing a nice if not spectacular profit to the club and as a consequence in 1983 the club took the decision to go into the growing and harvesting of Christmas trees with the first crop being ready for the Christmas of 1985.

The decision to grow and harvest was clearly a good one as from that point profits have grown steadily year on year. The club started growing trees adjacent to the railway line near Endeavour Street. The trees are now grown on two sites, one at Landsborough Street opposite the hospital and one up at Gulwarra Heights.

Sales in the first year amounted to \$884 and until the club decided to go into the growing and harvesting business profit stayed fairly static. Profits jumped after the club started harvesting its own trees and has gone from strength to strength since that time with this year's profit exceeding \$28,000.

In total the Christmas trees have brought in \$382,728.00 over 39 years



At work on the Christmas trees

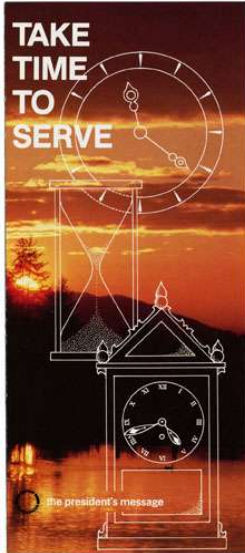


A President's year

Don Cumming 1980-81

In September 1978 Marie and I were homeless, renting a house in Warragul waiting on Graeme Snape with Bill Emslie building us a new home at Shady Creek. We had sold a farm property with our home.

President of the year Roy Berryman rang me and asked me to be the President of the Rotary Club of Warragul for 1980-1981. When I told Marie her reply was, 'No way with your nerves'.



There was an unwritten belief that a person was asked to join Rotary, being successful in business, to join the business leaders of the community that formed a Rotary Club and so you were expected to accept any position you were asked to do. With this in my mind my comment to Marie was 'I will have to change and accept my responsibility as a member of the club', so this nervous farm boy accepted and began a journey in Rotary that is continuing and the nerves are still there.



Don takes on the role of President following Jim Harper



Don pictured with 1978-79 Rotary International President Clem Renouf during his year as President

With a year of planning, a theme of 'Take Time to Serve', a membership of 59 and a supportive board, the Art Show was to be a major effort. The West Gippsland Arts Centre was being built and we wanted to have an Art Show that was suitable for the new building. The aim of running a quality Art Show was to give local artists an opportunity to show and sell their work, if there was a surplus it was a bonus. This year the total income was \$11,881.13 (including sale of art \$7,858.00) and expenses of \$9,987.91. Members constructed art display stands that would be suitable for the new Art Centre and they were donated to the Centre. Some years later when the Arts Centre management proposed they would sell the art stands to Rotary as we were using them the most, and store them elsewhere, they were suitably informed of their origin.

Christmas trees were purchased from APM, for some reason owing to new regulations members were not permitted to cut trees, sales total \$242.40

The Business Dinner speaker was Sir Arvi Parbo chairman of Western Mining a very high profile member of the business world who gave his time freely and shared his experience.

A major Community Service was an annual Senior Citizens Bus Trip, originated with PP Carl Tillotson who owned the Warragul Bus Lines. Each member was given 3 or 4 names of elderly people, perhaps living alone, to make contact and bring them to a central point where there would be three busses to take them for an outing. This year it was to Rowse Brothers Flower Farm, the club members and partners provided 'Afternoon Tea' served at St Andrews Hall. This was appreciated by the seniors especially as the business people of the town took 'Time to Serve'.

The entry floor of the St John Ambulance building was replaced under the direction of Graeme Snape. Sue Rowse, Simon Hookey and Russell Decker were sponsored to attend RYLA.

There was an active Rotaract Club which we supported, a member of our club was rostered to attend each time they met.

Michael Doyle was our student in Japan and we hosted Ken Onda from Japan who was quite a character. Paul Morgan was selected to go to Japan and Fiona Saltmarsh went to South Africa, a rewarding youth exchange commitment. Martin Kent received a Rotary Foundation Scholarship that enabled him to spend a year at Sussex University, Brighton, UK. We hosted a GSE team from Sweden, a very interesting international program.



Don seen here with outbound student Fiona Saltmarsh and her parents Jean and Neil

The club had a Christmas barbecue, an annual event at the home of Jean and Ivan Lawson and a new venue for a family Christmas barbecue was 'Lake Cumming' where Ken Price was Santa, Graeme Snape's yacht was sabotaged and the draining plugs disappeared. This Christmas function continued at our property for twenty five years.

This is some of what took part 'In My Year'.

Don Cumming - Past President, Paul Harris Fellow & Sapphire Pin

The Art Show

The Art Show project was first conducted in 1973-74 when the Shire of Warragul expressed the view that they would like to run a Festival of Arts and invited service clubs in the town to become involved. By the time Rotary decided to become involved all that remained to be conducted was an art show and hence the Rotary Art Show came into being.

The first show was 25 to 29 October 1973. With 325 entries and \$200 from the Shire the club netted a profit of \$900. The Art Show continued to bring in a steady profit and in 1979-80 twenty art display stands were constructed and presented to the shire for use in the new art centre. They were originally stored at the West Gippsland Arts Centre until a new manager at the Centre tried to sell them to Rotary as they were the group that utilized them most, consequently they were 'repossessed' and stored in the Rotary shed.



At a later time the Art Show moved to the March Labor Day weekend but due to clashes with other events in the district reverted back to October in 2011, which resulted in no Art Show in Rotary year 2010-11. Over the years the Art Show has grown and is now a steady profit source and an integral part of the Rotary calendar. In total the Art Show has brought \$393,381.00 in 45 years



Redeveloping Rotary Park

Doing the hard work



The fruits of their labour - Rotary Park stage 1 completed



Carmen & Lorna Christie, Julie Reilly



DG Tim Moore, PP Graeme Snape



**DG Tim & Jane Moore, Don Barrett,
PP Graeme Snape**



**Ivan Lawson Garden - Great grandchildren
Tom Stern, Charlie Stern, Lucy Lockwood
and Alice Stern**



DG Tim Moore



President Chris Major

Rotary Park Stage 2 – Playground Complete



Stage 2 - Playground Equipment installed



Stage 2 – Official Opening

The Rotary Club of Warragul

