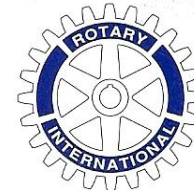


A HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HAWTHORN

THE FIRST 40 YEARS: 1953-1993

BILL JOHNSTONE, STUART HICKMAN,
BERN HAMES, BRUCE SMITH
& GEOFF STEVENS



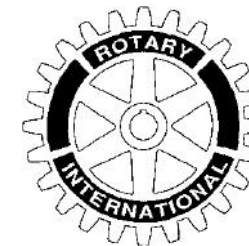
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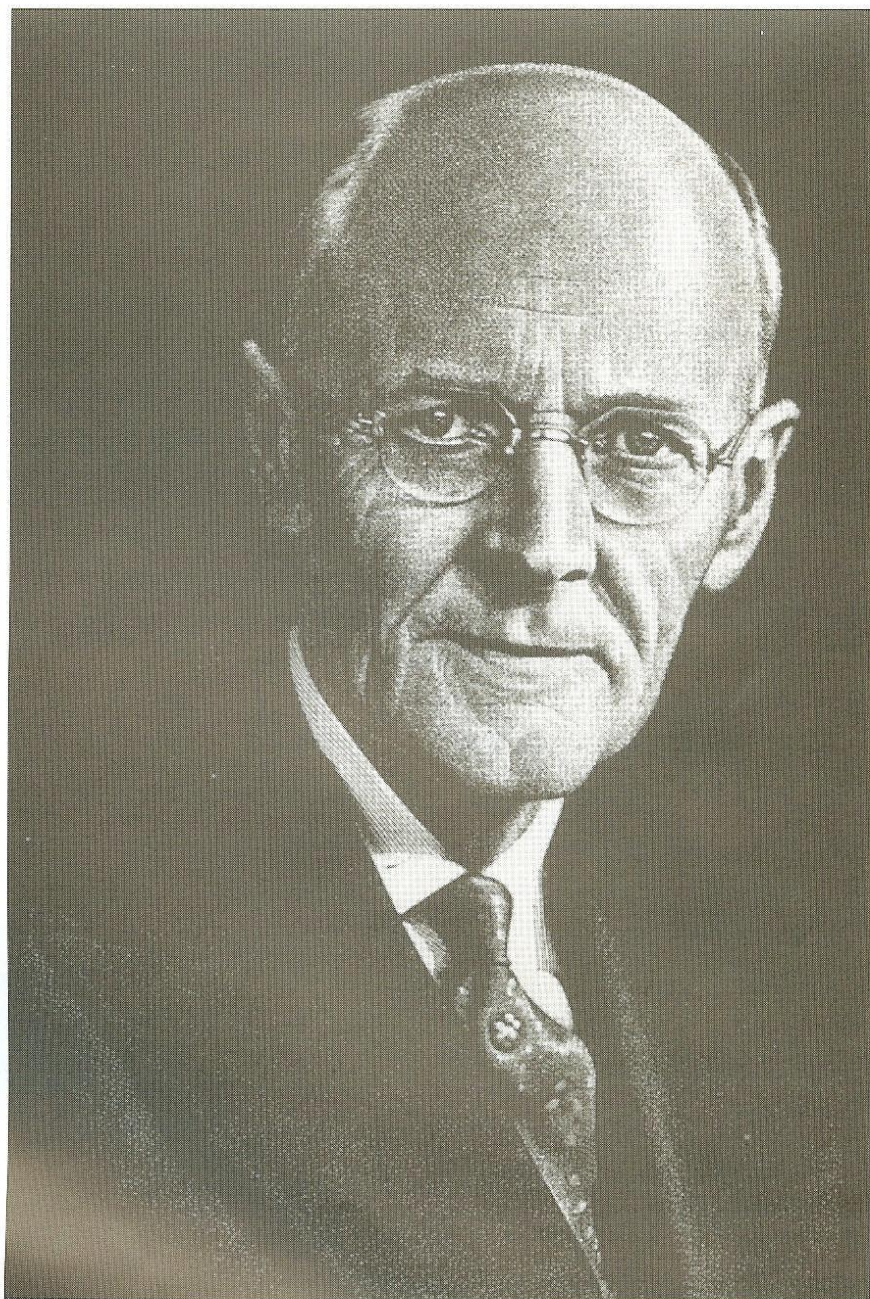
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Paul Harris, founder of Rotary

Foreword

This excellent history of 40 years of Rotary service by the Rotary Club of Hawthorn highlights in a very telling way how contributions by many individuals gradually set a standard of leadership, friendship and service that has become the hallmark of Rotary in Hawthorn today.

The club was fortunate to be moulded into the full meaning of Rotary by men who took Rotary seriously, but not themselves, and who had the right spirit and experience to set a standard on which the club has built so ably. I personally recall many of the Rotarians named and enjoyed their friendship. I also gained much from their knowledge and encouragement.

As you read through this interesting history, it becomes obvious that each term of office and each new year brought to the club a high standard of leadership, with new ideas and initiatives, and, importantly, much pleasure to so many Rotarians. From this environment, Rotary projects and programs developed for the benefit of individuals and communities locally and internationally.

The threads of friendship and service, clearly seen in these pages, will be remembered with affection by those who travelled the road together, and with admiration by those who have joined the club in later years.

Congratulations to all who have been part of the history of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. May this record of achievement help to influence the current membership to continue to set a standard of excellence for many years to come.

A. H. R. (Royce) Abbey, AM, DCM
President Rotary International 1988-89
Essendon, July 1993

Introduction

This report on the activities of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn during its first 40 years has been compiled at the request of President Terry Perree 1993-94, Immediate Past President Bill Troedel, and with the support of each of their boards. For the early years it relies heavily on the club history 1953-67 compiled by charter Treasurer Bill Johnstone, assisted in later years by Past President Stuart Hickman. That valuable account is now out of print. We have also drawn extensively on the 30-year history (also out of print) by Bern Hames. Other sources of information have been presidents' annual reports where, year by year, achievements are summarised; board minutes, which sadly are not complete; committee chairmen's records of the work of their groups; weekly club bulletins; and interviews with various members for whose co-operation thanks are due.

The 1992 talk by charter members Charlie Fryer and Jack Cathie about their recollections of the early days of our club was supplemented by them. We are grateful for their eye-witness news. Our sincere thanks go also to Robert Drewett of the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh for making available on disk the text of the two earlier volumes. This has greatly assisted consolidation, and hopefully the production of the Golden Anniversary edition will be an easy task. Future historians and editors could give more consideration to pictorial history and ensure that suitable sharp contrast black-and-white or colour photos are taken of major events, so that the Golden Anniversary history may be an improvement on this volume. A good relevant picture is still worth a thousand words and writers are aided enormously if they have a selection of photos to illustrate their story.

When decimal currency was introduced into Australia on 15 February 1966 there was a good deal of confusion. At the time of the change, one guinea was equivalent to \$2.10 and £1 equalled \$2. Inflation since has drastically reduced the value of the 1966 dollar. Some comparisons have been included throughout the text. Currency amounts stated can be misleading unless allowance is made for these changes in value. In 1953 a worker earning £1000 a year - £20 a week - was relatively well paid. When average wages exceeded \$400 a week

four decades later, it became hard to compare amounts raised in 1953 with those in 1993. Sadly also annual audited financial accounts have been more conspicuous by their absence than inclusion in presidents' annual reports.

Various sub-editors have helped to verify facts in the text, reading seemingly interminable first, second and subsequent drafts. The final editing was done by Jane Drury, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

Inevitably, some important items will have been overlooked. Slippery memories are an increasing hazard as time goes by. Some presidents have been too modest in recording events of their year. We hope that they feel flattered by understatement rather than damned by faint praise. For such omissions, and for opinions that differ from those of the reader, the historians cheerfully accept responsibility. However, enough has been recorded to show that the Rotary Club of Hawthorn has been, and still is, a lively, active body with a proud record of service, which has been relevant and helpful in its community and very widely beyond it in each of its 40 years. Of course we are getting older, as district governors feel bound to remind us, and the club constantly needs the infusion of young blood. We invite these many newcomers to take a deep dose of history to help them to do better in their day and generation.

Changes must come, but since the basic principle of Rotary is friendship, it is to be hoped that our club will do well in coming years and maintain that spirit of friendliness, that cheerful good fellowship, and that camaraderie that have characterised its first 40 years.

Bruce Smith and Geoff Stevens
Club historians
Hawthorn, December 1993

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THE FORMATIVE YEARS TO 1953

Forty years may not seem long in the context of recorded history, but time is relative. To a leader like Moses and his people, who spent that term in the wilderness, it was a long time. In more modern times the USSR enslaved countries after World War 11 and their people have just been released into freedom again after 40 years, while the USSR has gone out of existence. What matters is what happened in those years. This history attempts to record what happened in the Rotary Club of Hawthorn between 1953 and 1993.

In the early 1950s, Australia was vastly different. Its population of a little over 12 million was almost exclusively of British descent. It had just emerged from almost five years of World War 11 during which hundreds of thousands of its men and women enlisted voluntarily for service in the armed forces. By 1949 Australia was emerging from wartime shortages and rationing. Oil exploration had not started. Mining was a very unsophisticated affair and the pick and shovel were the order of the day. Jet aircraft had not invaded the skies. High-rise building was confined to St Patrick's spire on Eastern Hill, which had to have a light on top to warn aircraft. We had our first Australian car. Petrol was less than 4s 6d a gallon and there were no petrol price wars. We had no freeways but the roads were not choked because few people had cars. Huge suburban parking lots and supermarkets were not even on the drawingboards. We were not long out of the days of the Coolgardie safe and ice chest for preserving food. Arthur Calwell had pioneered our immigration program to meet needs for skilled and unskilled labour for which 'old' Australians had either no talent or no will. Our railways and major construction projects such as the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme could not have proceeded without it. 'Ecology' and 'pollution' were words not heard by the man in the street. Having children was normal; getting married beforehand was usual.

There has been much learning and change in the last 40 years but some vital things have remained. Man has had a need for friends in all generations.

When a New England lawyer settled in Chicago in 1905, his desperate loneliness gave birth to Rotary. It has progressed in the 88 years since by meeting mankind's need for friendship in remarkable ways. Rotary spread first to Canada in 1911, then to Dublin and London, and thus became Rotary International (RI). UK leaders required special provisions and it is known there as Rotary International in the British Isles (RIB I).

Two Canadian commissioners were appointed by RI to establish Rotary in Australia - 1. W. Davidson, FRCS, Past President of the Rotary Club of Calgary, and Lt Col. 1. L. Ralston, CMG, DSO, KC, later Canada's Minister for Defence. They came to Sydney in April 1921, but its leaders were too immersed in the Royal Easter Show to think about a new service movement. The commissioners continued on to Melbourne, and Sydney has still not recovered from the fact that Rotary came to Melbourne first. Just before RI celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1955, the Rotary Club of Hawthorn was formed.

Although differences still exist in RIBI from RI in other countries around the world, these are more cosmetic than real. All clubs worldwide are autonomous and members are at liberty to participate or not in projects as they see fit. Rotary would not start a club unless it knew that the members would be free and the club able to pick their own programs. For that reason, clubs have only recently emerged in Eastern Europe. Since the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, 48 clubs have been formed on what was the other side of it.

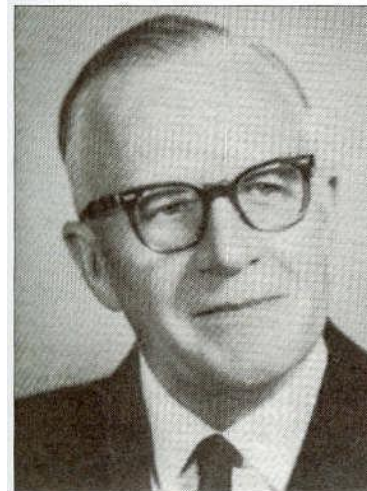
To travel 14,000 kilometres south-west from Chicago to Melbourne took Rotary sixteen years, from 1905-21; to travel 7 kilometres east to Hawthorn took twice that time. Professor Harold Hunt in *The Story of Rotary in Australia* states that, but for war, Rotary might have come sooner to Melbourne than in 1921. It might be claimed that, but for World War 11, Rotary might have come sooner to Hawthorn than in 1953. From 1921 to 1939 the Rotary Club of Melbourne had ceded territory for only three other clubs to be formed in the metropolitan area: Essendon and Dandenong in 1935 and Footscray in 1937. Professor Hunt tells how Angus Mitchell (later Sir Angus) led the movement to persuade the Rotary Club of Melbourne to cede territory for the formation of more new clubs within the large territory of Melbourne. It was quite a fight because conservative members argued that Rotary would be most effective with one strong club of members with great influence in the community. In the end he succeeded, but only after combating a long rearguard action. When Hawthorn was admitted in 1953, it became the tenth metropolitan club in what was then called District 28 - Williamstown (1949); Frankston (1950);

Northcote, Melbourne South and Brunswick (1952) having preceded it in the years after the war.

It is interesting to speculate why Rotary took so long to expand into the eastern suburbs. Perhaps the lack of industrial development was a major factor. At that time membership of Rotary was possible only if one's place of business was within the club's territory; there was no residential qualification. Put Rotary to work where you work was the catchcry. There were many Rotarians living in the eastern suburbs, and other highly desirable residential areas, but they were members of clubs established in the areas where they worked. As Australia had such close ties with the UK, only weakened when the US provided the security we needed in 1941 after Pearl Harbor, British practices prevailed for a long time, including referring to friends by their surnames instead of given names. Knights of the realm were given their titles. The probably apocryphal story persists that Melbourne was slow to cede territory for the formation of suburban clubs as its bankers and company directors, for example, would not be happy meeting branch or regional managers at Rotary functions and being addressed by their given names. Hunt's history records an address by Archdeacon Hancock to the Rotary Club of Melbourne soon after the war entitled 'Why do members call me Bill?'. The point of the title to the address was that before joining the club, the scholarly, dignified cleric had never been anything other than 'Archdeacon Hancock'. Afterwards, he was

'Bill' from oldest to newest member. The scholar recognised more quickly than fellows in other classifications in his club that Australian Rotary clubs were more closely aligned to practices in the US than on the UK.

After World War 11, the extension committee of the Rotary Club of Melbourne had more progressive thinkers who campaigned for more suburban extension. Horace Bedggood was one of them. As no conservative wanted the task of forming a new club, Horace was recommended by the board of the Rotary Club of Melbourne to District Governor Harold Ralph to handle it and was duly



DG Horace Bedggood

appointed Governor's Special Representative (GSR) to form the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. When Harold's term as District Governor (DG) expired on 30 June 1953 incoming DG Eric Stinton renewed Horace's appointment. It is one of Rotary's principles that a DG may pick his own team. Melbourne ceded from its territory the cities of Hawthorn, Camberwell and Kew from which Hawthorn could recruit its members. Melbourne retained the right to draw members from our territory.

The skills needed by a GSR are many and varied. It is not easy to get a team to work together when it is composed of leaders used to giving orders to others. Rotary has the unusual ability to attract people who have established themselves well in family, vocational and community life, and have an inherent desire to use their talents and develop them further in each of these areas. Things at home are tough now and then. At other times there are problems at work. In the community people sometimes wonder how some odd situations arise. Rotary gives us a splendid forum with fellow members who have 'been there and done that' to help us when we go through these testing experiences. How do you pick individuals with that sort of capacity? Horace interviewed a few potential leaders and then, in company with one of them, visited other potential members one by one until he had the required number of accepted invitations from them to apply for charter.

He picked well. Our charter members included 'race horses' and 'Clydesdales'; both are vital in a club that will be confronted with short-burst projects and those involving long, heavy and hard hauls. If all other things are equal, we select the person with the better record in community service. Rotary needs people who are leaders in their vocations but who have sufficient milk of human kindness to make their time and talents available to serve others. Moreover, it is impossible to attract and hold people of ability in a service club that has a poor reputation for service. We have no right to take the time of leaders in our community if we do not use it well in relevant programs.

Often it is easier and more effective to work in a team than trying to work singly in our community. When each member of the team puts in effort according to capacity and sees results that would be impossible alone there is an enormous feeling of achievement and we are encouraged to go on to do more and better.

We should never forget the debt we owe to Horace as the GSR appointed to form our club. Just as we have no say in our parents, we have to put up with the appointed GSR. He can make or mar the club. Horace was a man of great ability and administrative skill but he was not immersed in his own

importance and was friendly to people in all walks of life. He ran a successful manufacturing business, earned the respect and admiration of co-directors, shareholders, contemporaries in related industries, his staff and employees, and in addition had an enviable record of service to worthy causes, such as the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. He had developed his considerable talents by helping where he could in service to his family, his vocation and his community, attaining a remarkable degree of balance in these three areas.

Whatever the causes of delay, once the decision to promote a club in Hawthorn was made, progress was rapid. Tribute to Horace's enthusiasm and effectiveness was paid by the first President of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, Ron Fowler, who wrote in the club's first annual report that

Rotarian Horace L. R. Bedggood ... was present at each of the initial interviews with prospective members and we early learned to appreciate the wisdom of his counsel and the readiness of his co-operation. We respect the tireless energy he brought to his task and are grateful for his skilful leadership and mature Rotary judgement.

Horace's diligent canvassing of leading citizens led to the formation of a team of people, who, at the official organisational meeting in the Camberwell Town Hall on the evening of Thursday 16 July 1953, made the decision to apply to RI for a charter. Five days later the provisional club held its first luncheon meeting at Turner's New Burwood reception rooms in Burwood Rd, opposite the Hawthorn Post Office. Angus Mitchell was the speaker, his topic being 'The founder of Rotary: Paul Harris'. It was six and a half years since Paul had died, and no Australian Rotarian was better fitted to tell the new club about the character, personality and ideals of its founder: Angus and his family had been intimate friends of Paul and Jean Harris since 1934.

The luncheon meeting on 1 September was told by Horace that DO Eric had received a cablegram from RI the previous week stating that Hawthorn's charter had been granted on 24 August. As the Rotary Club of Hawthorn was no longer a provisional club, the 19 members present were issued with their Rotary badges.

The charter was presented on 30 October. The *Hawthorn Standard* reported the occasion as follows:

In the presence of over 400 guests the charter for the newly formed Rotary Club of Hawthorn was presented last Friday evening ... The function took the form of a dinner. Rotarian J. T. Reid, President of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, acted as Chairman. Metropolitan and country Rotary clubs were well represented and there were guests from New South Wales, Queensland, West Australia and Tasmania.

Rotarian Horace L. Bedggood of the Rotary Club of Melbourne reported on the formation of the new club, which was to serve the districts of Hawthorn, Camberwell and Kew. He then invested the Club President who introduced and inducted the charter members.

DG W. Eric Stinton in an inspiring address congratulated the Rotary Club of Hawthorn and said he had every confidence the members would uphold the high traditions of Rotary. Rotarian Harold J. Ralph, Immediate Past District Governor, said he regarded it as a privilege to come from Tasmania especially to present the charter to the new club. Unlike the Hawthorn Football Club, the Rotary Club of Hawthorn would soon make a real impact on the community, for it had great potential. [How unprophectic: the Football Club won the first of many flags soon after.]

President Ron Fowler, in acknowledging the charter, said that they were conscious of the obligations which had been imposed and were grateful for the rights and privileges of Rotary. He paid tribute to the Rotary Club of Melbourne for sponsoring them and said Hawthorn looked forward to taking part in the dissemination of true friendship expressed by the 7,800 Rotary Clubs throughout the world.

So the club was established with the impressive induction of its first 25 members. The 26th member, Lyall Ross, was overseas when the charter was presented, and was not inducted until February, but a thoughtful Horace sent his badge to London for him to use when visiting overseas clubs. After such favoured treatment it is an anticlimax to report that he attended only four meetings before pressure of business compelled his resignation. Nor was he the only early resignation. Within five years more than a third of the original members had left. Of those who remained, five were still there to enjoy the 30th anniversary of the club, and two are still members today: Jack Cathie and



*Charter members still in the club:
Past President Jack Cathie (left) and
Past President Charlie Fryer*

Charlie Fryer. Together with many new recruits, they possessed the determination, zeal and enthusiasm to ensure the development of a strong club. Alan Patterson recalls early keenness to learn Rotary ways in the succinct remark that 'In those early days, at assemblies and conferences, we were forever asking questions'. We later arrivals are proud of the club's pioneers. But it is reassuring, somehow, to read in

early club bulletins how the treasurer had to make repeated appeals for the annual subscription - then 6 guineas. Times change quicker than habits.

Although our basic constitution and by-laws follow strict guidelines from RI, they are just the skeleton frame on which we build. We need the sinews of vocational service and the flesh of club service. A well-pumped circulatory system sets our course in community service. A good set of lungs to oxygenate our system take us out into international service. Above and controlling all of these we have a competent brain and an immortal, indomitable, irrepressible spirit that gives us the spark to get up and go and try to do better things. In the chapters which follow, we have tried to record some of the significant achievements of our first 40 years and the modest men who made it all happen. They found that they could work well in teams, accomplishing infinitely more than each member could have working alone. With each achievement came a deep sense of pride and accomplishment in working together and encouraging one another, and the satisfaction of knowing that others were being helped by their actions.

MEN WHO MADE THINGS HAPPEN 1953-1963

One student of history observed that over a wide span of human endeavour, a handful of people who you could count on the fingers of two hands had made things happen. A greater number watched things happen. A vast number had no idea of what was happening. The following chapters record highlights of the Rotary activities of some rare men who made things happen over the first four decades of our history.

Formed in 1953 when Rotary was two years off its 1955 Golden Anniversary, the Rotary Club of Hawthorn entered a movement of over half a million men, with almost 50 years experience in organising service clubs around the world. RI knew how to avoid the lethargy which assails those clubs, lodges, church congregations and other groups which take an age to do anything. Its *Manual of Procedure* is a document hammered out on the anvil of experience internationally. As in other fields, the supply of talk and written material exceeds the demand: men and women who can get things done with a minimum of fuss are invaluable.

We were greatly helped in the early days by regular visits from members of the Rotary Club of Melbourne - Angus Mitchell, Jock Reid, Frank Ayre, Tom Lothian and many others who supported Horace strongly to ensure that the fledgling club did not lose its way in its first year. So many clubs suffer an early death due to lack of interest and support. It is said that the spirit of Rotary is like the measles - you have to be there to catch it. These men showed us that we could be dignified and have lofty ideals but still relate to practical problems in the everyday world. Effective programs may not receive much publicity, but may meet real needs in our community and beyond. The best Rotary projects head off trouble, on the sound doctrine that an ounce of relatively inexpensive prevention is better than a ton of very expensive cure later. Our friends from Melbourne did not just attend to the big picture. Charter member Charlie Fryer recalls that Horace insisted that the meal price should not exceed 4 shillings as that was the cost at the Rotary Club of Melbourne. Average wages were about £15 a week.

As mentioned earlier, Horace brought considerable experience, skill and painstaking care to the task of selecting our charter members. He interviewed each one personally. His own club had splendid selection procedures to ensure that it found men with the best qualifications to be good Rotarians. He applied the same principles in our area, which at that time comprised the cities of Hawthorn, Camberwell and Kew (and in 1993 is home to 11 Rotary clubs). Although some of his fellow members believed that Rotary standards would drop if many suburban clubs were formed, few could deny that in those three cities, with well over 100,000 people, enough eligible men of the right quality could be found to form a very effective Rotary club.

In picking a charter president, the GSR is confronted with problems. It takes tact to convince twenty-five or more potential leaders of a club that one person has the special characteristics to handle the initial year. Horace put emphasis on building fellowship among the members first. It is hard to get a team of people to work together until they get to know one another fairly well. Ron Fowler had great talent for that. As managing director of Fowlers Vacola Ron was expert in sales and marketing. He could and did rely heavily on his father, Joe, who was one of those 'immortals' with real business acumen who never wanted to stop working. Ron had an enviable record in other activities in the community. His infectious humour and enthusiasm helped to cement the fellowship of the charter group, many of whom did not know others in it. He was obviously the right man for the job.



Charter President Ron Fowler and his wife Mavis

1953-54

As GSR, Horace Bedggood took the chair for the organisational meeting of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn in the Camberwell Town Hall on the evening of 16 July 1953. Ron Fowler was elected first president, Stan Stevens secretary, and Bill Johnstone treasurer. Five days later the 'provisional club' held its first luncheon meeting. The new club was granted its charter by RI on 24 August. The charter night in the Hawthorn Town Hall was a gala affair, despite lounge suits and pre-dinner drinks restricted to sherry on a hot October evening in 1953. Some of the members removed coats to reveal braces, which were commonly worn in those days. Horace had done his work well, and DO Eric Stinton was pleased with the result. Work had commenced before 1 July 1953 under PDO Rev. Harold Ralph from Hobart so it was fitting that Harold, at the invitation of Eric, presented the charter.

Jock Reid, president of the sponsoring club, was in the chair for the occasion and was assisted by Horace Bedggood. Some 440 Rotarians, wives and guests heard a stirring address by DO Eric Stinton. Ron Fowler was inducted president, and he in turn inducted the remaining 24 members. John Goss was elected vice-president. The club's first board of directors comprised Alan Patterson, Harley Kennan and Gardon Woodard. Committee chairmen were appointed as follows: club service - Alan Patterson; vocational service - John Goss; fellowship - Jim Brown; music - Alf Milligan; classification - Alex Steele; Rotary information - Jack Searls; and program - Ern Braithwaite. The complete list of charter members is in the Appendix.

Angus Mitchell, President of RI 1948-49, was a frequent visitor to the club's weekly luncheons during the first year and the succeeding eight years. Horace Bedggood also regularly attended. The club owes a debt of gratitude to them for their friendly advice and example. It was fortunate that men of their calibre were at hand to assist it over its teething period.

The club's first community service project was carried through early in 1954 during a Royal Tour. Club members, together with Rotarians from other metropolitan clubs, manned stands erected near the entrance to Government House for physically disabled and underprivileged people. A little later a flagpole donated by the club was presented to the Kew Scout Group and erected at its camp near Warrandyte. A suitable plaque was attached to the base. Jim Brown, ever ready to assist, arranged the transport.

President Ron led the club in a social program, and on a series of club visits to suburban and country areas to learn from others. Some can recall his side-



President Ron Fowler unveils the presentation flagpole at Kew Scout camp

splitting address to the Rotary Club of Castlemaine on the subject of rabbits. As these had reached plague proportions in the country at that time it was highly relevant. We had great fun in the learning process. Ron's wife Mavis set the right precedent for wives at club social functions.

New members inducted during the year were Stuart Hickman (1 June), Vern Bell (8 June) and Frank Slade (15 June), while the first resignation was Lyall Ross.

1954-55

John Goss was inducted as president. He had already served the club well as vice-president and director of vocational service. Other office-bearers were: vice-president - Alan Patterson; secretary - Stan Stevens; treasurer - Bill Johnstone. Directors were Harley Kennan, Ern Braithwaite, Gordon Woodard, Jim Brown and Gil Hendry. As former mayor of Camberwell, President John helped to further establish the club on a strong course of community service. He needed his good sense of humour as his wife presented him with twins.

The year 1955 was an important one in the history of Rotary - Rotary's 50th year, its Golden Anniversary. A special conference presided over by DG Alex Sellars was held at Albury. Seven members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn attended with their wives. Angus Mitchell again delivered an outstanding address, a tape-recording of which was presented to the club by one of its members.

The club's main project during the year involved helping elderly citizens, and the establishment of an Over 60 Club in Hawthorn. In the early post-war years plenty of things were being done for young people, but the elderly, then increasing as a percentage of our population, with better medical and hospital facilities, needed help to help themselves to a happy lifestyle in retirement. On the initiative of George Alsop, director of community service, and Gordon Woodard a 'monster auction' was held in the Hawthorn Town Hall on 19 March which raised £1508. George and Gordon laboured for many months in advance to obtain donations of goods. This provided initial funding for the

Over 60 Club, and arrangements were made with the Mayor of Hawthorn to form a permanent committee to establish it. Later Hawthorn Council purchased the current site from Tintern Church of England Girls Grammar School when it relocated to Ringwood.

Hawthorn's charter secretary, Stan Stevens, had quickly developed a rapport with charter President Ron Fowler. The board was set on good lines with members accepting the Rotary principle that when asked to do a job, you did not say 'no' unless you could not possibly say 'yes'. Stan's sudden death on 6 March 1955, on the eve of departure for the Golden Anniversary in Chicago, was a tragic loss for the club. He had been a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne since 1934 and had brought to his duties with Hawthorn vast experience and sound counsel. He exemplified all that Rotary stood for. As Bill Johnstone said, those who knew him were richly blessed. Assistant Secretary Jack Cathie, our early rising newsagent, took over as secretary.

As our first fellowship chairman, Jim Brown maintained that a man with a thousand friends did not have one too many. Managing a hospital, office and factory cleaning organisation, he was a man with a big business and a bigger heart. With his wife Muriel, Em started in the 1930s Depression with a bucket, a bike and a mop. They built up a large operation, giving their employees the up-market title 'sanitation engineers'. Jim stressed that until this century more people died because of disease and dirt than from wars and accidents.

The international service committee organised a barbecue picnic at Ferny Creek in April, which ten Asian students and 80 Rotarians and guests attended. In June Asian students were again welcomed at an 'international night' which featured community singing, interesting Australian films and a buffet supper.

The following new members were inducted during the year: Wilfred Minson and Alan Dempster (August), Bert Wridgway (September), Jim Gibson (November), Charles Fraser (December), Cyd Walters (March), Hal Tharratt and Lem Smith (May), Clarrie Williams and Dudley Gay (June). Harry Slater, Alex Steele and Dick Harbig resigned.

1955-56

The induction of Alan Patterson as president was carried out by John Goss at the final luncheon in June. Alan, our footwear retailer, was a Hawthorn councillor for over 40 years, and its representative to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works - now Melbourne Water. He had great knowledge of the history of Hawthorn and its people. He was able enough to be club president and Mayor of Hawthorn in the same year. Other office-bearer

appointed were: vice- president, Ern Braithwaite; secretary, George Heron; and treasurer, Charlie Fryer. Directors for the year were: Gil Hendrie, Dave Prentice, Doug Beeson, Jim Brown and George Alsop.

The following new members were inducted: Frank Glass (July), Reg Harris and Boyard Taft (August), Hap Westcott and Lionel Glenn (October), Bruce Stevens (November), John Gundry (February), Geoff Stevens and Jack Wright (May), Perc Clark and Lyn Tymms (June). Bruce and Geoff are sons of charter Secretary Stan. Clarrie Fryer was the only resignation.

Attention was again focussed on Asian students. At one luncheon six students from various Asian countries gave their impression of life in Australia. These talks were recorded and the tapes despatched to a Rotary club in Malaya, which forwarded them to other Asian clubs. The response from these clubs was pleasing. In June the committee entertained 24 Asian students at an international night. The students sang their national songs and performed national dances. They were delighted with films of inland Australia shown by Dr Frank Tait. Visitors on this occasion included Sir John Latham and Angus Mitchell.

Some of our losses of members were attributed to our very extensive territory of Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew, which made it difficult for some members to attend the lunchtime meetings. As Camberwell was such a large city, DG Frank Ayre suggested that maybe it was time to cede territory to form a Rotary Club of Camberwell. Careful thought was given to it but action was not taken quickly.

1956-57

President for the year was Ern Braithwaite, with Doug Beeson vice-president, Ron Wines secretary and Charlie Fryer treasurer. Ern was a pharmacist with a long record of service to that profession. He was regarded by many early members as the law-giver. He was strong on the constitution and by-laws of RI, and could quote from the *Outline of Classifications* and *Manual of Procedure*. Directors were: Jack Cathie, Jim Gibson, Gil Hendry, Stuart Hickman, Dave Prentice and Jack Searls.

Les Bray, Ray Tranter, Ray Padey, Peter Tait and George Wootton were inducted as new members, while John Goss and Hap Westcott resigned to join the Rotary Club of Camberwell. The death of Alan Dempster, our young and talented organist and pianist, chairman of the music committee, was greatly mourned.

With support from Past President Alan, Ern took up the suggestion of Frank Ayre to cede territory to form a Rotary club in Camberwell. Although

some of our club members thought a three-year-old club was too young to reproduce, President Ern was able to steer the resolution through. That part of our territory falling within the boundaries of the City of Camberwell was ceded during the year so the new Rotary club could be established in that city. We retained the right to draw members from that territory but have rarely used it. The onerous job of GSR for the formation of the Rotary Club of Camberwell fell to Past President Alan Patters on. Alan was selected on the basis that if you want a task done well, you give it to a busy man.

The new club was organised on 28 September, and its charter presented in the Camberwell Town Hall on 8 February. Unlike the members of the Rotary Clubs of Melbourne, Footscray, Melbourne South and Hawthorn, Camberwell's provisional members opted for an evening meeting. Members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn were frequent visitors to meetings of the new club and supplied a number of speakers. Members from Camberwell were, in turn, invited to various functions at Hawthorn in order that they might become accustomed to the ways of Rotary.

In later years many new clubs chose evening meetings, particularly in the 'dormitory' eastern suburbs. Hawthorn had enough industry in addition to quality residential areas to form a club which met for luncheon. Another feature which caused Hawthorn to differ from later clubs surrounding it was the influence of Swinburne Technical College. Technical education was increasing in importance as the machine age progressed and men and women motivated to acquire technical skills and competence were needed to handle the complex machinery being developed. Students in their early teens were encouraged to choose between academic or technically oriented courses for at least the last four years of secondary school. This involved an earlier decision than many of the students would have wished, and led to the development of some senior school courses providing a degree of flexibility in case of a change of mind. Swinburne Secondary School offered a syllabus oriented towards secondary students wishing to enter technical fields. Swinburne Technical College, which later became a TAFE college and gained university status for some of its courses, catered for more advanced technical education with numerous specialties. In its early years our club developed many programs in close consultation with Swinburne Technical College and Secondary School. In this it was helped greatly by Tom Tylee, the innovative Director of Swinburne Technical College, who became a member of our club. Bern Hames and Roy Longworth, who in turn succeeded him in that appointment, were also members.

In the early post-war years, the Colombo Plan was developed on the initiative of Dick Casey, former Governor of Bengal and Foreign Minister in a Menzies government. This imaginative concept enabled students from South-east Asian countries to study in Australian universities and colleges of technical education to assist in the development of these emerging nations. Swinburne was ideally placed to absorb many of these students keen to undertake the technical courses it offered. In 1957, when Malaya was granted independence from the UK, many students came from that country to study in Australia, and Swinburne Technical College received its share. Here was a ready-made opportunity for us to demonstrate international service on our doorstep.

President Ern had picked Boyard Taft as international service director/chairman because he had studied in the UK after gaining his medical degree in Australia and knew what it was to be a student far from home. Boyard saw the opportunity, and planned well to make the best use of it. In February 1958 he learned of a large intake of students from Malaysia to Swinburne Technical College and saw this as a fruitful field for us to offer the hand of friendship to these young new arrivals in our country. Obviously motivated to learn new skills, many of them would be in positions of leadership and be very influential on their return to their homeland with higher qualifications. Boyard knew what friendship could mean to young students away from home and saw that members of our club, representing their host country, could share in helping them to feel welcome.

A night of entertainment at the Holeproof canteen in Deepdene was organised, names of students interested in attending supplied by Swinburne, and members of the club invited to each take a student home for a meal with their families beforehand. A tall, well-built young Malaysian man was reduced to tears when the children of his Rotarian host hugged him and welcomed him like a big brother. One group of students arranged to take over the kitchen and prepare a Malaysian meal, and, to the great relief of the hostess, clean up the kitchen after it. These experiences led on to further family contacts, part-time employment and firm friendships.

When international service is just a name in a book or a program described in a pamphlet, it has nothing like the impact of first-hand experience. Other opportunities came later for individual members of our club to host secondary school students, undergraduates and post-graduates under the Rotary Youth Exchange and Foundation programs.

Under Jim Gibson's chairmanship we decided to try to form a Hawthorn Community Chest modelled on the lines of a very successful one in Geelong.

Many shopkeepers and residents resented repeated doorknocks for a variety of appeals. Although many of these appeals were very worthy, some less reputable joined this course of fund-raising. Persistent callers, earning commission on collections, can be hard to resist. It was hoped that only one official doorknock per year would raise enough money to enable allocations to be made to charities deemed worthy. On 12 June President Ern Braithwaite presented to the Mayor of Hawthorn a cheque for £100 to be paid into a trust fund with the proviso that if a Hawthorn Community Chest were formed within a year with its own independent committee, the amount was to be paid over to this committee.

A golf day at Kew links was so successful that more than £400 was raised. From this fund a television set, complete with antennae, was installed in the adult section of the Kew Mental Home, and another in the Children's Cottages at that home. A further donation of £33 was made to the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club to provide a table-tennis table.

The community service committee normally looked for projects which would benefit a significant number of people in the community but it was also mindful of the special needs of individuals. We provided contact lenses for Miss Valerie Warburton, who in 1937 had contracted polio and whose eyesight had been affected. We were advised that her doctor believed that without the lenses she would lose her sight. This, added to her polio complications, would have been a great hardship, therefore we felt it was a worthy precedent. The lenses gave Valerie 100% vision with her left eye and 95% with the right.

A novel practice was introduced by the fellowship committee, which was continued for over a decade. It lodged with a florist a schedule of luncheon dates for the year together with the dates of members' birthdays. Buttonhole sprays were then delivered on appropriate Tuesdays for presentation to members on or before their birthdays.

The club hosted an overseas Rotary Foundation Scholar, Lou Veres, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. George Heron accepted appointment as his counsellor, looked after his itinerary and visited 25 Rotary clubs in our district with Lou. Some of these were distant from the city but George was unsparing in his efforts on Lou's behalf.

1957-58

President for the year was Harley Kennan. Harley, father of Jim, later Deputy Premier of Victoria and leader of the Opposition, was the quiet, unassuming but efficient club dentist, with a long record of service to the state and national

dental associations. An excellent judge of character, Harley encouraged many potential leaders by his example to serve on the board and develop their talents. To one of them he quipped that he did not seem to be the sort of fellow who would waste his time on lost causes. Harley proceeded to work to ensure that the Rotary Club of Hawthorn never drifted into that category.

Perc Clark took over as secretary and Geoff Stevens as treasurer. Charlie Fryer, Stuart Hickman, Boyard Taft, Jim Gibson, Jack Searls and Jack Wright were appointed directors. New members during the year were Eric Rosen, Ted Towers and Bill Brown (February), Jim Earle and Bib Stillwell (March) and John Young (June), while resignations were Dudley Gay and Cyd Walters. For the first time membership of the club topped 50.

The tragic death of George Alsop, a charter member, was a sad loss. His work as director of community service and for the Over 60 Club had been outstanding.

At the suggestion of future president Gordon Woodard, we initiated, with support from the Rotary Club of Melbourne, our district and beyond, a portrait painted in oils by Sir William Dargie of the first Australian President of RI, Sir Angus Mitchell - 'before it was too late', in Gordon's words. This portrait is now in the dining hall of International House, Parkville. It was presented to Angus in the Hawthorn Town Hall in the presence of DG Les Taylor, Ron



Presentation of his portrait to Sir Angus Mitchell: from left, President Ron Cowan (Melbourne), Sir Angus, DC Les Taylor, President Barley Kennan

Cowan, President of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, President Harley and our members. A copy, also painted by Sir William, is in the boardroom of the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

A highlight of the year was an art show from 28 February to 8 March in the Hawthorn Town Hall, opened by the American Consul General, Graeme Hall. Between 5000 and 6000 people saw the large display of works by prominent Australian artists. Chairman Jack Wright secured the help of Rotarian Norman Cathcart from Belgrave as director, assembling works of art for sale from big- and small-name artists. It was launched with a black-tie gala dinner in the Town Hall, at which the renowned artist Ernest Buckmaster demonstrated how he produced a painting, swiftly sketching in the outlines of gums trees in a rural setting from memory, then proceeding to put finishing touches and having it recognisable as a work of art in half an hour.

All members and wives served on rosters to staff the show. Commissions on sales of paintings and programs totalled over £2300 for projects. This sounds a relatively small sum today, but related to the normal 7s 6d charge for our weekly Rotary two-course luncheon it was a good total for that time. More importantly it awakened interest in art among citizens of Hawthorn, Camberwell, Kew and beyond, sparking off many Rotary art shows since, to the advantage of both the artists and the general community. We were lucky to have Norman's expertise in recording the receipt of paintings: our records convinced one well-known artist that we had not lost his valued painting.

In the best tradition of Rotary, we then looked for other projects instead of degenerating into a one-project club. As a result, the club was able to hand over to Angus Mitchell a cheque for £577 10s to assist the Victorian Society for Crippled Children, and a similar amount to the Hawthorn Community Chest. The response of members to an appeal for Christmas toys enabled the club to donate a car-load to the Lady Huntingfield Free Kindergarten.

The Rotary Club of Fortitude Valley, Queensland, chartered the *Orsova* to bring out a hundred British families who wanted to migrate to Australia. As part of the project, community service chairman Jack Wright obtained permission from the board to sponsor the Os borne family - Ern, his wife Olive, son Paul (7) and daughter Stephanie (18 months). The club leased a five-roomed house in Surrey Hills for them for a year and subsidised the rent by £15 a month. Members of the club gave the family a warm welcome on board the *Orsova* and had stocked the kitchen and refrigerator in their house with food. Bill Pettigrew, of the Rotary Club of Brunswick, gave Em

immediate employment as a painter and decorator (Ern had specialised in paper-hanging). Early in June the family attended the club's weekly luncheon, at which Ern spoke of their joy in the friendships and opportunities Australia had afforded. Jim Brown had also sponsored a British family - Mr and Mrs J. McGlinchy and their children.

The international service committee, under Boyard Taft, undertook several projects. An international night was held to recognise world fellowship in Rotary. It was dedicated also to the International Geophysical Year. Members' wives, friends and some 30 Asian students from Swinburne Technical College were guests and, in addition to Angus Mitchell, members of the Rotary Clubs of Melbourne, Camberwell, Box Hill and Footscray were welcomed. The Mayor of Hawthorn and the Vice-Principal of Swinburne also attended by invitation.

Later in the year, Bill Johnstone suggested that we might arrange a visit in June to the snowfields for Malaysian students who had never seen snow. Recently inducted Bib Stillwell organised it (and when Bill saw his checklist, he observed that there were two kinds of racing drivers - good ones and dead ones). Although Bill never served as president he was a very influential member of the club. Among other 'mistakes' he may have made, he nominated Reg Harris, Bill Brown and Geoff Stevens for membership. As an old-fashioned banker, it was not easy to obtain credit from his bank unless you had a good track record, a well-documented application, and a request for an amount which Bill felt you could handle effectively.

John Bechervaise, leader of the 1953-54 Heard Island and 1955-56 Mawson expeditions, gave an illustrated lecture on both, and Chairman Boyard Taft followed with his technicolour sound film of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

It was the first year in which the Rotary Club of Hawthorn had an opportunity to nominate a Rotary Foundation (RF) Scholar, but its nominee was not successful in the final selection, which went to one from the Rotary Club of Dandenong. At that time, districts were allowed one nomination per year, unless sufficient funds were donated to RF from clubs in the district to fund a second scholarship. Annual costs of such a scholarship were over £6000. Our club and district contributions were far short of that sum. We had to restrict nominations to one per district per year and therefore the competition was intense.

1958-59

The new president was Doug Beeson. Doug was a serious character. He wanted the Rotary Club of Kew formed seven years before our board approved it. Vice-president was Boyard Taft; secretary Hal Tharratt and treasurer Geoff Stevens. The six directors were Ron Wines, Dick Bray, Charlie Fryer, Reg Harris, Vern Bell and Boyard Taft. Boyard was selected as the right man for our year to host the district conference. With his gregarious wife Olive's help, coach trips to social functions became a riot: she was very skilled in the use of the microphone. No one could say that our club was too formal. There were three new members during the year - Clyde Bennett and Ken Williams (October) and Roy Johnson (March) - as against four resignations: Peter Tait, Lyn Tymms, Ron Wines and Jack Gundry.

DG Joe Bradbury discussed with the board the possible extension of Rotary in the club's territory by the formation of a club in the municipality of Kew. A survey was made by President Doug but the board concluded there was insufficient scope at that time for a club in that primarily residential and retail city.

The principal community service project for the year was assistance to Yooralla, the Hawthorn Scout Group, and the Victorian Society for Crippled Children. Under Chairman Reg Harris, a golf day yielded £336 and payments were made to the Yooralla Crippled Children Appeal (£50), Victorian Society for Crippled Children (£10), and 6th Hawthorn Scout Group (£250). A later donation assisted the erection of a new scout hall in Hawthorn. Architect Jim Earle was commended for his community spirit in preparing plans and working drawings for the new building without fee.

Transport for elderly citizens was provided on the occasion of their annual concert. Club members were again generous in their provision of Christmas toys for the Kew Children's Cottages and Yooralla. A gift of 55 pounds of tea was equally divided between the Hawthorn Over 60 Club and the Kew Elderly Citizens' Club.

Under Chairman Dick Bray the international service committee concentrated on welcoming students arriving under the Colombo Plan. Many Asian students were entertained at a barbecue picnic at the Upper Yarra Dam and a number were invited to a club luncheon. Greetings, together with copies of the Federal Government Department of Information booklets *A Look at*

Australia and *Australia in Brief*, were sent to selected Rotary clubs in Asia. Some twelve addresses on international subjects were delivered at weekly luncheons, and films were shown by Boyard Taft.

1959-60

Boyard Taft was installed as president with the onerous responsibility before him of hosting the district conference at Lorne. Vice-president for the year was Jack Wright; secretary Jim Gibson; treasurer Les Brown. Vern Bell, Perc Clark, Geoff Stevens, Bill Brown, Reg Harris and Dick Bray were elected directors.

Membership was restored to 50 with the induction of five new members and the resignation of four. New members were Bill Hopper (September), Bill Edwards and Tom Tylee (October) and Maurie Chenhall-Jones (May). George Heron was re-inducted in June 1960 after a change in classification. As a person's vocation was the first of many criteria for eligibility for membership in a Rotary club, when a member changed vocation, it was necessary for him to relinquish his classification and resign. If in his new vocation the other



Luncheon group in the seventh year
Front: Jack Wright, Geoff Stevens, Ern Braithwaite, Boyard Taft, Alan Patterson, Ray Padey, Frank Glass
Second: Jack Searls, Les Brown, George Wootton, Reg Harris, John Young, Ron Fowler, Frank Slade
Third: Perc Clark, Jim Brown, Bruce Stevens, Bill Brown, Jack Cathie, Harley Kennan, Eric Rosen, Stuart Hickman, Wilt Minson
Back: Bib Stillwell, Ken Williams, Clarrie Williams, George Hall, Doug Beeson, Bill Hopper, Gordon Woodard, Charles Fraser, Dave Prentice, Vern Bell, Charlie Fryer, Gil Hendrie, Ray Tranter

requirements for membership were met - such as being a leader in his field - he could be eligible for re-induction under his new classification. (Alternatively a nomination could be made for someone else for that vacancy if an appropriate candidate could be found.) Although the RI rule remains, some members have questioned how a person could become an instant leader in a completely new field.

The resignations were John Pease (July), George Heron (August), Alf Clark (February) and Lionel Glenn (April). Hal Tharratt was elected to past service and became the first person to hold this type of membership in our club. In December the club became a 100% contributor to RF. In Rotary parlance that means cumulative contributions from a club equivalent to US\$10 for each member.

Late in 1959 extensive amendments to the club's by-laws were adopted. The sum of £200 was raised from a social card night, and a golf-bowls day at Riversdale Golf Links yielded £127 profit. Donations were made to the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club (£250) and the Victorian Society for Crippled Children (£73). Once again toys were distributed at Christmas to the Children's Cottages at Kew and to Yooralla. A gift of books from Jim Brown was sent to St John's Children's Home, Burwood.

The vocational service committee, under Bill Brown, arranged 'job talks' by members of the club, and leading apprentices from Swinburne Technical College were hosted by the committee at a luncheon during Apprenticeship Week, addressed by the Chief Inspector of Technical Schools. Several students were assisted in obtaining part-time employment in factories and offices during the Christmas vacation. This helped them to gain experience in the fields in which they were training. Visits to two interesting engineering projects were organised for technical college engineering students.

The international service committee, chaired by Reg Harris, sent greetings, a copy of the club's bulletin and a copy of the Australian Department of Information booklet *A Look at Australia* to selected overseas clubs. Asian students were guests at weekly luncheons and students from International House were taken for weekend outings by members and their families. Naturalisation ceremonies at Hawthorn Town Hall were attended by members.

The principal project for the year was hosting the district conference at Lorne from 1 to 5 April. Normally the DG's club covets this honour. As the Rotary Club of Melbourne had supplied seven DGs between 1921 and 1959, 1959-60 DG Horace felt it was appropriate to set a precedent and offered the task to the club which he had formed and of which he was very proud. We



*Two greats meet at the Lome conference:
Ed Meierbachtol (on left) and
Sir Angus Mitchell*

regarded it as a great honour to be selected to be host club for his conference. A few days before it started he was hospitalised and former DG Joe Bradbury had to take his place. As a stand-in for Horace, Joe took care to play a less prominent part than in his own year. He had a heavier form of delivery but teamed well with a splendid Special Representative - Ed Meierbachtol from St Paul, Minnesota - from the President of RI. With the use of tape-recordings to take messages to Horace and bring back a message

for the final session, he was able to have considerable input. Ed had a fund of stories and it was not until he had finished that you realised every time we opened our mouths to laugh, he slipped in a good dose of Rotary medicine to make the joke relevant. Those who attended will never forget Big Ben's response to the invitation of Lena - the Leaning Tower of Pisa - to come up and see her some time: 'I have the time if you have the inclination'. We have tapes of these speeches in our archives.

'Build Bridges of Friendship' was the theme of New Zealand born RI President Harold Thomas for the year. Under the direction of club artist Perc Clark, a heavy bridge girder mock-up was made which was suspended for the days of the conference above mock pylons of a bridge under construction. Everyone in the club worked for over a year to put the conference program together. In the days before, a team of our members went to the hill approaching Eastern View to erect an enormous white Rotary wheel, big enough to be seen and recognised as such by motorists approaching from Geelong.

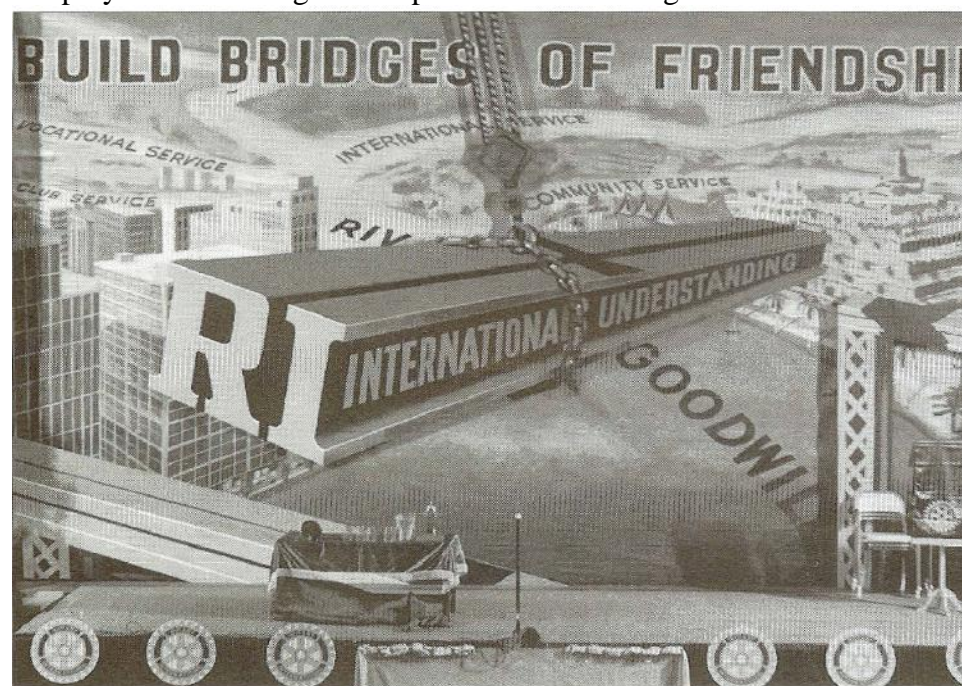
At that time our district included most of Victoria. Attendances at conferences averaged from six to 700, including wives and other guests. We had substantial help from friends in other Rotary clubs in our district. From Camberwell, Henry Tromf made his artistic skills available to help with the backdrop, and Hap Westcott helped with lighting. Keith Hexter from Northcote supervised the amplification and recording of addresses on large reel-to-reel recorders which, in April 1960, was a state-of-the-art method of audio-recording.

The program was kept flowing by John P. Young as session co-ordinator. John was meticulous in having all participants in place on time for their cue to be on stage. There were great speeches - and a few boring ones.

The combined talents of our ladies enabled many important tasks to be completed with finesse. They prepared floral arrangements for the stage and hall, and included suitable gifts in the conference kits for each lady. They also participated in greeting members and guests on arrival and as hostesses during social events.

Erskine House, the main conference venue, did not enjoy a full liquor licence. We had the use of room 98, with a well-stocked refrigerator. At times we adjourned there for much needed spirituous encouragement, and entertainment of VIPs. It also served as conference office with typewriter and duplicator, in those days before photocopy machines. After each evening session a small team produced a lively two-page bulletin on events of the day and the program for the next one.

At the closing session, the girder of the bridge was lowered into place after we played the moving final tape-recorded message from Horace. As 'Auld



Impressive backdrop for the Lame conference

Lang Syne' was sung, there were not many dry eyes in the large gathering. Our enormous effort was well received. Conference Chairman Alan had reminded us that being good hosts involved a great deal more than standing at the door with a welcoming smile. It was worth while. After it was all over we let our hair down a bit and could have drunk beer from a bucket. We knew one another much better after such sustained activity over the long weekend. A week after the conference we produced and circulated to all clubs in the district, a brief but comprehensive racy narrative and pictorial account of it.

1960-61

Jack Wright was installed as president and, for the first time, senior and junior vice-presidents were appointed. This enabled senior members who had made helpful contributions to the club, but who may not have been presidential



material, to be honoured. Several junior vice-presidents went on to serve as club president. Stuart Hickman was appointed senior vice-president and Dave Prentice junior vice-president, with Clyde Bennett as secretary and Les Brown treasurer. The board of directors for the year comprised Wilfred Minson, Bruce Stevens, Bib Stillwell, Bill Brown, Perc Clark and Geoff Stevens.

Although the conference in April before this Rotary year commenced had required an enormous effort from all members, Jack Wright and his team were not out of puff and had an active year. His track record included handling our 1958 art show as described earlier.

The following new members were welcomed: Neale Burgess and Arthur Lawrence (October), Hans Snellman (November), John Head (April) and Arthur Eakins (May). There were three resignations - Frank Glass, Ted Towers and Gil Hendrie.

The community service committee under Chairman Bib Stillwell held several functions. From the proceeds, donations of £150 and £50 were made to the Youth Clubs of Kew and Hawthorn respectively.

On numerous occasions Asian folk, mainly qualified professional people on short-term visits to Australia, were entertained at the initiative of the international service committee under Chairman Bill Brown. Among these were a university professor from Burma, radio broadcasters from Ceylon, journalists from Sarawak and students from the Philippines and Pakistan. A picnic at Maroondah Reservoir and Healesville Sanctuary was attended by about 50 students from various Asian countries. The majority went on to the homes of Rotarians for the evening.

A 'ghost day' to which each member brought an imaginary guest for whom he paid the usual luncheon fee showed a profit of £20, which was donated to the International House Building Fund.

The Rotary information committee under Boyard Taft organised a fireside meeting for new and relatively new members at which the basic aspects of Rotary were discussed informally. Five luncheon programs were also devoted to talks on Rotary.

1961-62

Stuart Hickman, our first member following the granting of the club's charter, was inducted as president, Gordon Woodard was elected senior vice-president and Vern Bell junior vice-president. Ken Williams took over as secretary and Lem Smith as treasurer. George Wootton, Bert Wridgway, Clyde Bennett, Wilf Minson, Bruce Stevens and Bib Stillwell constituted the board of directors.

The year's new members were Viv Lovejoy, Hunter Rogers and Ern Turner. Their admission was balanced by three resignations - Vern Bell, Les Brown and Arthur Lawrence.

Fifteen members attended the district conference at Lorne from 23 to 25 March, 11 being accompanied by their wives. On the eve of the conference, word was received of the death of an esteemed friend of every member of the club and our club's founder, PDG Horace Bedggood.

After surveying the needs of the Hawthorn area, the community service committee under John Head came to the conclusion that the most worthwhile project to support was the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club, and in particular the weight-lifting division, which was carrying out its activities in a small back room at the club's premises. The division had 42 members but because of lack of space there was a long waiting list. The aim was to enable separate accommodation to be erected on land, which the Hawthorn Council made available, adjacent to the Over 60 Club. Plans were prepared by Jim Earle. The estimated cost was £4500. The sum of £360 was raised and set aside for future donation to the project through the Hawthorn Community Chest.

A donation of £25 was made to the Hawthorn Boys' Band to assist with the purchase of instruments. Once again there was an excellent response to the Christmas toy appeal.

A tour of the Altona oil refineries organised by the vocational service committee under George Wootton was attended by 40 final year chemical and engineering students from Swinburne Technical College. Several club members were among 22 speakers on vocational training during the year.

The club's bulletin was registered at the GPO as a periodical to secure concession bulk postage rates. Unlike some clubs which distribute their weekly bulletin at luncheon meetings, ours posts its bulletin to member's homes a few days after each meeting with the aim that the lady of the house is also informed of coming events. The year's bill for production and postage was £11 17s 9d. As this accounted for a substantial proportion of members' annual subscriptions, any cost saving was welcome.

Several social functions were held but the main effort of the fellowship committee, under Maurie Chenhall-Jones, was to help members to get to know one another better - particularly new members and their wives.

1962-63

President for the year was charter member Gordon Woodard, while other appointments were Geoff Stevens, senior vice-president; Jack Cathie, junior vice-president; Neale Burgess, secretary; and Hal Tharratt, treasurer. John Head, Bob McLeish, Maurie Chenhall-Jones, George Wootton, Bert Wridgway and Clyde Bennett constituted the board of directors.

The year saw the induction of 11 new members - Wal Dobson, Geoff Downes, Hubert Gibbs, George Hall, Geoff Ingham, Eric Humphries, Cec Olding, Tom Russell, Gordon Spicer, Keith Wilson and Doug Rogers. We lost Hunter Rogers through resignation, and Dave Prentice and Lem Smith by death.

The community service committee completed the project begun the previous year for the provision of new accommodation for the weight-lifting division of the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club. Over the two-year period, as a result of various functions and direct appeals to members, £650 was raised and handed over.

Donations were also made to the Hawthorn Community Chest (£534), Hawthorn-Kew Girl Guides Group (£125), Hawthorn Meals on Wheels (£25), Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog Appeal (£44), Freedom from Hunger (£20), and Angus Mitchell House for Crippled Children (£10). The Christmas toy appeal was again successful and the toys given to the Children's Cottages at Kew.

The vocational service committee under George Wootton arranged an inspection of the General Motors-Holden's foundry and machine shops at Fisherman's Bend by a group of final year engineering students and their instructors from Swinburne. During Apprenticeship Week, four outstanding lads and their tutors were entertained to lunch.

The international service committee under Clyde Bennett authorised Boyard Taft, during a tour of India, to ascertain the extent of the need for dental hospital equipment. Boyard made contact with the Rotary Club of Gwalior, but the Rotary Club of Melbourne took over the project. It had already established contact with Sir Garfield Barwick, who was personally interested in it.

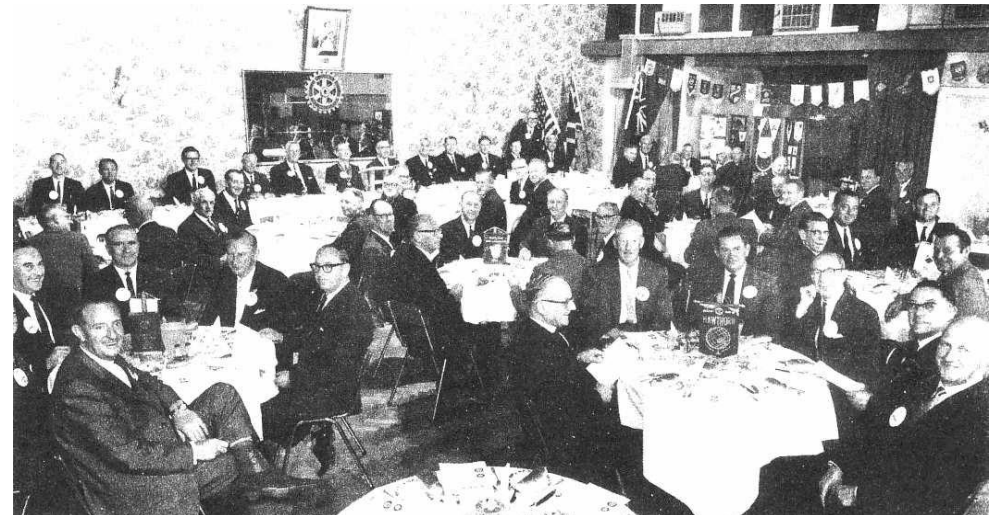
Gordon Woodard was a fitting president for the end of our first decade, by which time the club had established an enviable record. Its members were proud to belong to it. At year end his thoughtfulness was demonstrated by his old-world courtesy in sending a bouquet of flowers to the incoming president's wife on 1 July.

MEN WHO MADE THINGS HAPPEN 1963-1973

1963-64

The induction of Geoff Stevens as president was carried out by Gordon Woodard. Jack Cathie became senior vice-president and Hal Tharratt junior vice-president. Jim Earle was appointed secretary and Doug Rogers treasurer. Directors were Ern Turner, Jim Brown, Maurie Chenhall-Jones, Tom Tylee, John Head and Bob McLeish. Projects of magnitude establish track records that attract new members. Under presidents of the calibre of Harley Kennan (dentist), Boyard Taft (radiologist) and Gordon Woodard (real estate), the club grew strongly but it lost one member in 1963-64. There were four new members - Phi 1 Steer, George Sim, Gerry Gaffney and Alby Dean - and five resignations: Bill Hopper, Arthur Eakins, Ken Williams, Cec alding and Bruce Stevens. The club had a membership of 61 at 30 June 1964.

On 22 October, a 10th anniversary charter lunch was held at Turner's, at



Tenth anniversary luncheon

which charter President Ron Fowler occupied the chair. Among the guests was the Mayor of Hawthorn, Cr T. H. Jackett. Guest speaker was Dr Alex Butement, CBE, DSc, chief scientist in research and development in the Department of Supply. He spoke to us on what was then 'Star Wars stuff' - lasers and computers. Thirteen charter members still with the club were present.

Under the chairmanship of Ern Turner the fellowship committee arranged theatre nights, a dinner dance and a cocktail dinner dance to promote fellowship among members and their wives. Special thanks went to Ern for the high standard of his work for the club as its caterer. The club's weekly luncheons and social functions drew high praise from visiting Rotarians and many guests.

Subjects dealt with by two speakers organised by the information committee under Chairman Harley Kennan were 'Aspects of Rotary' and 'Rotary anniversary: growth and future development'. Official visits to Prahran, Keilor and Altona were arranged by the inter-club committee chaired by Gordon Woodard. The community service committee, under Jim Brown, undertook as its major project further assistance to the Hawthorn Community Chest. Assistance was also given to the Kooyong Low Vision Centre Building Appeal. In all, approximately £285 was donated to various charities including the Yugoslav earthquake appeal, Indian charities, Swinburne student book fund and the Victorian overseas fund.

Charter member Dave Prentice, who died in 1963, left £200 under his will to the club in the form of a trust. This was invested by the directors in an M&MBW 4% loan maturing 19 July 1971.

Vocational service, under the chairmanship of Tom Tylee, arranged job talks by the following members: Geoff Downes - 'Soil conservation'; Russ Brown - 'Refrigeration manufacture and distributing'; and Gordon Woodard - 'Real estate work'. An 'adopted' member of the club, Harry Braithwaite of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, spoke on 'A day in the life of a pharmacist'. Framed copies of 'The 4- W ay Test' were distributed to several schools in the area, and students at Swinburne Technical College were given the opportunity to visit the plant of Pyrotenax. The international service committee under Maurie Chenhall-Jones collected and sent a large number of disused spectacle frames to Dr John Bignell's mobile ophthalmic clinic in India. Frank Slade (optometry) helped with this project.

Sergeant-at-arms Russ Brown extracted a record £100 by way of fines from members at weekly luncheons!

1964-65

Another charter member, Jack Cathie, was installed as president. Hal Tharratt became senior vice-president and George Heron junior vice-president. Tom Russell was appointed secretary and Doug Rogers remained treasurer. Directors were Russ Brown (who resigned on 1 September), Geoff Downes, Charles Fraser, George Hall, Jim Brown, Ern Turner and Tom Tylee. Resignations exceeded new members by one, reducing membership to 60. New members were Ron Hodge (August), Claude Sneddon and David Taylor (January), Rick Nemec (February), Pat Samuel (March) and George Wootton Jnr (April). Those who resigned were Russ Brown, Hans Snellman, Keith Wilson, Phil Steer, George Hall, Ray Tranter and Perc Clark. Ern Braithwaite, Bill Johnstone, Perc Clark, Stuart Hickman and George Wootton Snr became senior active.

The vocational service committee, chaired by Tom Tylee, organised 267 boys from Swinburne Secondary School on Industry Day, 15 August, in groups ranging from two to 22, for inspections of some 32 firms and organisations. It gave the lads an insight into the work involved in occupations of possible appeal to them. This was the forerunner of many programs to help secondary students make intelligent decisions about careers, before closing off options by uninformed choice of subjects at that crucial level. During Apprenticeship Week the club was host to the most successful final year apprentices in each of the four trades at the Swinburne Technical College.

Collection of packets of tea for the Hawthorn Over 60 Club and for the Association of Civilian Widows was arranged by the community service committee under George Hall, and fifty-two members of the Over 60 Club were given an outing by club members to have afternoon tea at Kenloch in the Dandenongs. Toys to the value of £70 were collected from club members and distributed to the Kew Children's Cottages and St Anthony's Home for Children. The sum of £160 raised from a book fair and donations was handed to the National Guide Dogs Training Centre to assist in the training of a guide dog.

International service, under Ern Turner, forwarded a cheque for £50 to the Rotary Club of Gwalior in India to assist the needy in its area. Financial assistance was also given to the Milk for India appeal. Member Bill Edwards presented the club with a cheque for £25 for the international service committee from the Campbell Edwards trust. Gordon Woodard acted as counsellor to Bert Hitchcock, a Rotary Foundation Scholar from Alabama, US, who was studying at the University of Melbourne.

1965-66

Past service member Hal Tharratt, who joined the club in May 1955, received the presidential collar from Jack Cathie. Senior vice-president was Reg Harris, junior vice-president Charlie Fryer; treasurer George Sim, who had to deal with the change to decimal currency; secretary Gerry Gaffney; and directors Alby Dean, Geoff Ingham, Eric Humphries, Charlie Fryer, Geoff Downes and Hubert Gibbs.

An analysis of the membership of the club at this stage shows the following major classifications: animal husbandry 1, automobile industry 3, business services 2, chemical industry 1, clothing industry 2, construction service 3, dry goods and general merchandise 1, education 2, electrical industry 1, engineering 3, finance 3, fruit, vegetable and nut products 1, government 3, hardware 1, horticulture 1, hotels, resorts and restaurants 1, insurance 1, laundry, cleaning and dyeing 1, law 1, leather industry 1, machinery equipment 1, medicine 4, paints, oils and decorations 1, photography 1, physical therapeutics 1, plumbing 1, printing and publishing 3, real estate 2, recreation 2, transportation 2, senior active 10.

We welcomed three new members - John Urquhart, Ron Carr and Gerard Cramer. We lost through resignation Ron Hodge and Viv Lovejoy.

Hal introduced the Youth Exchange program to our club. Many of our members thought that it could be unsettling to take students before the completion of their secondary education, to study for a year in another country. Some were disinclined to have students living in their homes. Despite these cogent reasons against the program, the year saw the sponsoring of our first student exchange candidate, Michele Nicholls, who went to the Philippines under the care of the Rotary Club of Davao. The program proved successful in the majority of cases. Care in selection was paramount. Some students who should not have passed selection panels fuelled the fears of those who did not favour the program.

Inter-club visits were made to Lilydale, Malvern and Collingwood. We had a most enjoyable weekend visit to Yarrowonga-Mulwala. The fellowship committee organised two theatre nights and a convivial card evening.

The most active committee during the year was community service, under Director/Chairman Alby Dean. Among the activities were a plant auction that realised \$111.80; a slide night in conjunction with fellowship that netted \$32.40; and a collection for toys that brought in \$103.70. Toys were distributed to children at Kew Cottages, St Anthony's Home and Yooralla. The

raffling of a Cortina car showed a profit of \$2500, which was distributed among the Association of Civilian Widows (\$1200), War Widows' Guild (\$300), Swinburne Students' Assistance Fund (\$300), Victorian Bureau of Epilepsy (\$250), the Cairnmillar Institute (\$250) and Yooralla (\$200).

In retrospect this was a year of steady consolidation and Rotary service.

1966-67

On 5 July 1966 Reg Harris was inducted as president. He had been nominated for membership by charter Treasurer Bill Johnstone in 1956. After the somewhat laid-back style of Hal, who had been retired for many years, Reg came to the chair in the full vigour of active work in his vocation. No sergeant-at-arms would dare introduce blue elements into the club under his incisive lead. With his wife Cora, he put a very impressive stamp on club activities. In their spacious home, then diagonally opposite Scotch College, they hosted many club functions. Later Reg served notable terms on the Hawthorn Council, including an impressive year as Mayor of Hawthorn.

New office-bearers were: senior vice-president, Charlie Fryer; junior vice-president, Bob McLeish; treasurer, George Sim; secretary, John Head. The directors were Neale Burgess, Jim Earle, Boyard Taft, Alby Dean, Eric Humphries and Geoff Ingham. Losses through resignation were Alf Milligan (charter member), Hubert Gibbs and Doug Beeson. Inductions through the year were: Harry Hopkins, Paul Bruce, Frank Clark, Bern Hames and Ian Shaw.

During the year we were very sad to lose Tom Tylee, after a long illness. Tom with his wife Judy (transplanted Kiwis) had taken a very full role in the life of the club. In the days when touring in the red centre of Australia was most hazardous, they had a four-wheel drive vehicle, specially fitted out by Swinburne students, capable of taking them to remote parts and bringing them back in good order and condition. Tom perfected a way of leaving the front vents open to scoop in clean fresh air before the wheels of the vehicle stirred up the 'bull dust' which put a layer of fine red soil over everything inside a vehicle if windows were opened in the normal way. By having a rear window slightly open, it kept a current of clean air moving through the vehicle.

It was decided to establish a permanent memorial to Tom in the form of an endowment to the library of Swinburne Technical College, of which he had been director (CEO) since 1950.

We co-operated with Lions and Apexians in some projects and were active at naturalisation ceremonies at the Town Hall to welcome newcomers to our

country. With dental surgeon Vie French as DG, we finally agreed to cede territory to form the Rotary Club of Kew. Jack Cathie was appointed GSR as he had lived in Kew for most of his life. Enthusiast Jack completed the preliminary work but soon had to hand over to a rather reluctant Geoff Stevens because of sudden hospitalisation, followed later by a trip overseas to attend the RI world convention in Nice. With Geoff's skilled guidance and hard work a sound foundation was laid, and the first meeting of the provisional Rotary Club of Kew was held in May 1967. More will be said about this later as grant of charter came in the next Rotary year.

Fellowship was strong during the year. A theatre night was attended by 161; at the Christmas cocktail party donations received made it possible to distribute toys again at Kew Cottages, St Anthony's Home and Yooralla. A beach barbecue at Carrum was a day to be remembered. Registrations for the district conference were excellent (31 members); 42 attended the district conference gala dance at the St Kilda Palais. A chartered coach took us from Reg and Cora's home, suitably spirituously charged, to enjoy it.

The community service committee co-operated with the fellowship committee in some of the above activities, but its main project was our second art show organised by Jim Earle and held in the Hawthorn Town Hall from 27 February to 6 March. The opening dinner (with tickets at a modest \$7 a head) brought over 300 people and Lady Curtis opened the show. The profit from the sale of pictures, sculptures and enamels was \$2700, which was donated to the



At the art show, from left, Lady Curtis, Reg Harris, Com Harris and Walter Jona

Hawthorn City Council as a contribution towards the establishment of an art gallery and sculpture court for the citizens of Hawthorn.

The vocational service committee entertained 400 guests at a luncheon to see the film *A Manner of Speaking*. An Apprenticeship Day was another feature of this committee's work.

The international committee made contact with the Rotary Club of Taegu in Korea and that of Hiroshima in Japan. The sum of \$250 was given to Taegu to assist in a community project. Contributions were made to the District 280 Cattle for Korea project, and support was given to the appeal by the Rotary Club of Corrimall, in New South Wales, for trees for the Australian Rotary eucalypt forest in Israel. The committee completed arrangements to host Stuart Romberger, a Rotary exchange student from Pennsylvania. It also arranged a day trip to the snow for 25 Asian students from Swinburne. We were privileged to act as hosts over Easter to our first Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Canada.

Entrepreneur Reg, with his finesse in restoring vintage cars from seeming wrecks, left the chair with a renewed sense of the importance of the dignity of Rotary and its enormous potential. This year saw the completion of the first history of the club, and also the establishment of a club archives section, with the co-operation of the Town Clerk of Hawthorn and club member, Roy Johnson.

1967-68

Charter member Charlie Fryer took the chair and had a very impressive year. His seeding funding help to the fledgling Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club a decade earlier was invaluable. Our modest \$140, given at a time when Sam and Paul Coffa were its enthusiastic leaders, has had a result which could never have been predicted. Now recognised by the Australian Institute of Sport, this club is a powerful influence in the sporting world which can help young people to be more motivated in life. Often an under-achiever in academic circles can find some success in sport, leading to better health and greater self-esteem, which in turn can improve achievement in other fields. Sam went on to be Mayor of Hawthorn and to Olympic and Commonwealth Games heights, providing leadership of a high order to the weight-lifting divisions.

Charlie's year was notable also for the formation of the Rotary Club of Kew. When Doug Beeson reported in 1959 that there was potential in the City of Kew for the formation of a new Rotary club, his board members did not

concur. Kew had many retailers, primary and secondary schools, and professional offices, but lacked, in their view, enough manufacturing for a balanced list of classifications, which was always regarded as one of the bases of a good Rotary club. When Jack Cathie, as president a few years later, said that there were 130 potential classifications in Kew, the board felt that it could no longer act like King Canute and hold back the waves of extension.

Late in the next year, with Hal Tharratt as president, following good precedents the board nominated Jack to be GSR to form the club. He was duly appointed and work commenced during Reg Harris's year as club president. After working on the assignment for some months, Jack suddenly needed hospitalisation. We had to make a fresh appointment. There was little enthusiasm among board members for the formation of the new club and it was hard to find someone with the necessary talent and will to complete the task. Jack had about 12 consents from potential members and needed at least 25 to proceed to advise RI that the club could be formed.

Rotary never leaves members on their own. At that time Frank Gill from Box Hill was district extension chairman. He had gained expertise in handling such specialist tasks over the years, aided by his marketing vocation as CEO of the Model Dairy, Box Hill, and his honorary work on the Box Hill District Hospital committee. Geoff Stevens was finally persuaded to take over and he relied heavily on Frank. For an accountant to have to be a marketer, and recruit new members, was a new experience. A few successes in interviews were punctuated with dismal failures.

When Geoff was almost ready to go back to the board and say that we had made a mistake, Bib Still well, who had been helping him, spoke up and encouraged him to continue. With many business contacts in Kew and his experience in selling cars, Bib felt that the club could succeed. With Gillian he had just set up Ross House in Cotham Rd as a home for their young family. They graciously offered it as the venue for a meeting of the people who had agreed to join the proposed club. The atmosphere in that magnificent home, and the generous hospitality of Bib and Gillian, made a suitable setting for his inspirational address to the 12 prospective members. Before the night was out, they proceeded with great enthusiasm to offer additional names as prospects. Within weeks we were up to and beyond the 25 members required and the provisional meeting was held. With Frank handling the detailed application to RI, the charter was granted within seven days of the cable being sent to Evanston reporting that meeting.

The charter was presented at a district function attended by over 400 in the then new Kew Town Hall, a few weeks before Jack Cathie returned. A tape-

recording was made which Jack was able to play to capture some of the atmosphere. As past president, Reg Harris played an important part, with President Charlie Fryer in the chair. Reg had, and still has, great ability to get things done. He, and Cora, seemed to exemplify the philosophy that Rotary exists to do good in a needy world and our community in a dignified way, but not to be exclusive. Charlie, with his dry wit, began the charter night by saying, as the audience applauded him on the first occasion he rose to speak, that he had done his homework on the Show Day holiday and found that he had to speak seventeen times: if they applauded on each occasion, they would not be home for a long while.

With Camberwell and Kew formed within a decade and a half, and our territory reduced to a fraction of that with which we started in 1953, we demonstrated that in Rotary you divide to multiply. Our club continued to attract quality members. Our classification principle helps to give us the spread of membership to take on a wide variety of tasks over the whole range of human endeavour. Membership development seems to come naturally when a club has an imaginative program. Members feel a sense of pride in belonging to a good Rotary club. We are in Rotary because someone saw some potential in us and wanted to develop it. The success of our club is in direct relation to that development. We are the better for it. We need to ensure that we do not make entrance requirements so strict that if they had been applied to us, we may not have made it.

1968-69

Geoff Ingham had a very heavy year as club president and President of the Printing and Allied Trades Employers Federation of Australia, but with his help we succeeded in having our first nominee for DG appointed - Geoff Stevens.

Singing had been abandoned in many clubs and as President Geoff thought we were not very good at it, we dropped it in his year. He was singularly unimpressed with 'Three Blind Mice' sung as a round, not quite up to the harmony of a Welsh choir, when he had a distinguished guest.

We met some of the emerging 'greenies' when Graham Pizzey gave an informative slide night in the Hawthorn Town Hall. We also helped missionary work through one of President Geoff's World War 11 infantry mates in Pilimung, Papua New Guinea. Our Youth Exchange student, Geoff Toll, went to the US. Fifty needy children were supplied with shoes at no cost from Alan Patterson's shoe store. Cheques went to Legacy and Alexandra for bushfire relief.

Home hosting was initiated. This added considerably to our fellowship program, giving members the opportunity to offer to host small groups of other members and their wives to an evening meal. In later years we added progressive dinners with three courses in different homes capable of holding larger numbers. The task of providing the meal and drinks was shared by the participating members.

1969-70

Neale Burgess was our first 'second-generation' president, as son-in-law of Gordon Woodard. The club clown at that time used to make up a few ditties about events from time to time to add a touch of humour with hopefully not too much corn. For Neale's induction it went to the tune of 'Little Brown Jug', with the chorus 'Haa haa haa, hee hee hee, Neale is now our VIP'.

When Rotary club in Hawthorn town, looked for next to wear the crown,
of president in sixty nine, we all said Neale will do just fine.

His pa-in-law has had the job, and when he quit he didn't sob,
the only thing that made him sore, was dealing with the paper war.

Neale's training has been long and good, as secretary he's held the chair,
for ages he's attended board, and never torn a member's hair.

We wish him well in this his year, and hope it's free from every pain, and
couple with our best regards, his sweetheart darling wifey Jane.

Jane would have helped admirably even without that introduction.

Leo Victorio from the Philippines was hosted as an exchange student with Bill Brown as his counsellor. Bill kept in touch for years afterwards as Leo progressed in his own country, showing much greater potential than he had



Incoming president Neale Burgess (left) is invested with his collar of office by outgoing president Geoff Ingham

when he came to our shores. David Maplestone went to Roxbury, New York, as our outgoing student. Tom Russell, later president, hosted a team of 13 senior engineers from African and Asian countries at the Country Roads Board, later Vic Roads. Collections in the whisky bottle at lunchtime meetings for small change for Rotary Foundation (RF) raised \$100 in Neale's year.

Some of the outstanding speakers included Dr Ainslie Meares, Rabbi John Levi, and John Kennedy, to whom many attribute the rise of

the Hawthorn Football Club at that time. John became a member of our club. For many years his big hands and capable teaching mind made a great contribution. Membership increased from 68 to 76. Neale recalls some fireside meetings which helped give Rotary information in a pleasant way. Attendance averaged 86.4% for his year, which ranked high by district standards in those days. The community service committee undertook the dismantling and re-erection of a pre-fabricated garage for Rossbourne House. Fourth Avenue in Motion (FAIM) was supported financially, and the trip for elderly citizens of Hawthorn to the Dandenongs was repeated, as was attendance at their Christmas luncheon when each of them was presented with a half pound packet of tea.

We could have expected a great year under Royce Abbey as DG and it was not difficult to realise that he had the potential to go on to serve RI as director and president in later years. Royce (Essendon) was the third Australian to hold the office of President of RI. In 1988-89 he followed Angus Mitchell (Melbourne) in 1948-49, and Clem Renouf (Nambour, Queensland) in 1978-79.

In Neale's year, Bib Stillwell flew Geoff Stevens, his wife Norma and a few past presidents from the concluding barbecue luncheon of the district conference in Albury, April 1970, to Mascot for their overseas flight to attend The eight-day intensive international assembly at Lake Placid, New York State, in preparation for Geoff's year of office as DG.

1970-71

Neale was followed by Bib Stillwell. Geoff Stevens was DG. This was also the year of the Sydney international convention. As Hawthorn had hosted the 1960 conference, Camberwell willingly agreed to host the 1971 district conference. Nevertheless Hawthorn did considerable work on the program and arrangements.

At that time the district comprised 66 clubs spread from Finley



Rotary Exchange student David Maplestone is congratulated by President Geoff Ingham on his selection

in New South Wales, north-east Victoria, Goulburn Valley and suburban clubs as far south as Mordialloc and east to Lilydale. Geoff had acquired a private pilot's licence, which enabled him to cover the territory and still give some time to his accounting practice, but he relied very heavily on his young partner, Robert Patterson, who despite considerable involvement in Apex at senior level, came into our club that year.

Bib joined the club in 1958 in time to be part of the Lorne conference. With Jim Gibson, he provided his power boat for water skiing when we visited the bay side homes of Reg and Cora Harris and Ern and Alma Turner with parties of Asian students. Bib planned thoroughly but it was all done with a minimum of fuss. He flew some of our members in his King Air to Warrnambool from Moorabbin for a club visit. Later he spent over a decade in Tucson, Arizona, but he retained his Australian interests and returned to his original club. He continues, with Gillian, to give it strong support.

1971-72

Bib handed over to Tom Russell. The club kept on going from strength to strength. Tom headed the Victorian Country Roads Board, now part of the Transport Department. The program for changeover was hand-drawn with a caricature of Bib and Tom.

1972-73

Historian for our first three decades, Bern Hames, who followed Tom Tylee as Director of Swinburne Technical College, was a suitable president to conclude our second decade. Within two months of the end of his year, each board member received a comprehensive bound report of the year with a financial statement, copies of reports from sub-committee chairmen, a list of the speakers for the year with subjects, and members' attendance records!

We inducted our first honorary member - Walter Jona. Possibly the most notable event of Bern's year was the formation of the Rotaract Club to which Max Graham gave such strong support. With John and Eileen Head's daughter Lachelle vice-president and Geoff and Norma Stevens' son Alan honorary treasurer, it started with high hopes and ambitious plans. It was a bit like the grandfather clock in that just about the time Max died, so did our Rotaract Club.

Noel Hickey organised a day at the Merricks North stud farm of Graham Armstrong's brother-in-law. The famous race horse Kingston Town was a great attraction as he paraded with his strapper for the gathering. Hay rides added to the fun, as did light-aircraft flights from nearby Tyabb. Reg and Cora

organised trips to Alexandra and Eildon where we enjoyed their hospitality with a visit to Rotarians in that resort area.

Our first progressive dinner was held with hostesses Mavis Fowler, Shirley Hickey and Gillian Still well, helped by many assistant hostesses, providing the splendid facilities of their homes which were so well suited to that type of entertaining.

Accounts prepared by Honorary Treasurer Paul Bruce recorded almost \$600 in the charity account, \$200 for RF, and \$5000 in service donations, which was mainly \$1650 for X-ray equipment for India sent with great help from Boyard Taft after enormous difficulties with 'payola' demands (which we ultimately avoided by using Rotary channels).

The dry wit Bern had demonstrated earlier in many offices enlivened luncheon and board meetings. During his year as bulletin editor Bern included a pithy poem to collect dues, which ran, without offence to anyone:

Subs are due, from quite a few,
We know who, and so do you.

The remaining subs were soon paid, indicating that members of our club are mere mortals capable of overlooking such responsibilities, but they read



Fellowship barbeque at Reg Harris' Eildon property: from left, Rex Brady, Geoff Ingham, Tom Russell and Frank Clark

ditties in the weekly bulletin more avidly than sterner stuff of conventional Rotary information. Bern's work in vocational service was aided by his own profession. He encouraged us all to do better in this often neglected avenue of service.

Swinburne Technical College was established early this century in Hawthorn with the help of a very generous benefactor, George Swinburne. The Working Men's College in Melbourne (later RMIT) was so useful in helping to train young men in a variety of trades that it was rapidly followed by similar colleges in Footscray, Collingwood and Hawthorn. Swinburne soon rivalled RMIT and the University of Melbourne in total enrolments, and catered for many part-time students. This tertiary trade school later became part of the TAFE college system, and in recent years some of its courses have been given university status. The name Swinburne is also attached to a secondary school, now known as Swinburne Secondary College, which caters for secondary students oriented towards technical courses.

Swinburne Secondary College, TAFE and university have all benefited greatly from Rotary in Hawthorn, which has in turn benefited greatly from the service of Swinburne's leaders at all levels over the years. After Roy Parsons had an impressive record as chairman of Swinburne's council, Bill Brown held that office with distinction. Tom Tylee, Bern Hames and Roy Longworth were heads of the college. Rotary has helped to ensure that technical education received support and status, at a time when members of university faculties and graduates regarded universities as being reserved for first-class minds, and technical training as being for students with less ability. It is not unlike the scriptural injunction which suggests the eye should not feel superior to the hand, nor the leg inferior to the head. The whole body must be fitly joined together to function efficiently. Rotary emphasises the value and dignity of every worthy vocation and encourages people to do their best in their chosen sphere without feeling envious or judgemental of others.

MEN WHO MADE THINGS HAPPEN 1973-1983

1973-74

President Bill Brown led the club for the first year of its third decade. A civil engineer who was at the forefront of many innovative techniques in his field (including the use of pre-stressed concrete that enabled much lighter structures without sacrificing strength), Bill also served on a wider front, including Chairman of the Victorian Council of Professions, a body that was formed in the 1970s. Bill received an AM in the Order of Australia for his work in and through his vocation. He also served on the Hawthorn City Council and as mayor. His work as Chairman of Swinburne Council for many years is well documented.

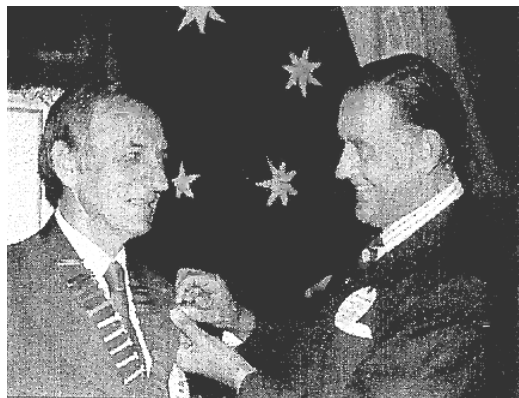
Bill is a canny, generous Scot. Some people confuse canny with mean. Many of the crashes of the 1980s could have been avoided by canny Scots ensuring that adequate money was available for needs but not squandered on wants. Continuing to serve his profession long after many men had 'hung up their boots', Bill was in demand for arbitration work. Bill and his wife Liba gave much to Rotary and also received much from it. He had an impressive 100% attendance record for many years and has given enthusiastic support to club projects over almost 40 years in our club. An international authority in his classification, Bill was effective in the hard to handle vocational service area.

We enjoyed the warmth and leadership of these good Scots for a year which saw, among other projects, provision of emergency lights for elderly people living alone, needy children kitted with winter clothing through the Hawthorn Community Chest, tea for pensioners, planning for retirement and outings for members of the Over 60 Club. A day on the farm at Kingston Park through the courtesy of Graham and Mary Armstrong is also remembered by many who attended.

We hosted Youth Exchange student Karen Hartley from Oregon, and Jeanette Jackson went to Ithaca, New York, as our outgoing student.

1974-75

President John Head, a painter and decorator, was another remarkably modest president. He served in municipal circles, including a term as Mayor of Hawthorn, and as an honorary magistrate in Hawthorn and later Prahran when petty sessions administration was changed. He also served on the council of the private school his three girls attended. His Rotary service included district responsibilities in public relations. The move to form the Rotary Club of Glenferrie started in Bill Brown's year and John was of considerable help to Jack Cathie, who was GSR for its formation. John also went on to spend a year as counsellor to a visiting RF Scholar and continued, despite deteriorating health, until his premature death. At John's funeral service, it was recounted that one of the students at the school where he was property officer had said



DGN Frank Newman presents the president's pin to John Head

That when he arrived at the pearly gates, he would ask St Peter what touching up was needed.

Help was given to the fledgling Rotary clubs in Indonesia following Rotary's reintroduction there in 1971. John, Bill Brown and other members continued with this program by hosting then keeping in touch with civil engineer Tony Sumartono from the Rotary Club of Bandung.

John Head worked tirelessly for RF and was awarded an RF Certificate of Appreciation in 1990. This was accepted by his widow, Eileen, at a combined meeting of the Rotary clubs of Hawthorn and Glenferrie. Following the presentation David Rosback, then president of our club, announced the establishment of the John Head Memorial Foundation. This was instigated by the Rotary clubs of Hawthorn and Glenferrie, and the Hawthorn City Council; its object was to provide assistance to people in Hawthorn who are in poverty, need, ill-health or distress.

1975-76

Noel Hickey was our second dentist president and a worthy follower of Harley Kennan. Noel and Shirley had been active supporters of Youth Exchange and RF, accepting continuing responsibilities for many years in both

these areas. Noel demonstrated great ability in leadership over a wide range of human endeavour. He is also an ardent Hawthorn Football Club fan and kept skiing until well after most men's fetlocks are unsuitable for that high-risk sport. He has a great sense of humour despite looking down in the mouth at his patients for 40 years. Meetings in his office after hours gave us the chance to sample some fine mouthwashes. Noel also recognised the value of using the additional active classification. As well as bringing his professional colleagues to meetings on appropriate occasions, he nominated Alan Dempster, who also practised in the Camberwell area. Two of his partners serve in our club today, Peter Taylor and Bernie Smith.

Paul Bruce joined the board in Noel's year. He began and persevered with a difficult project to get sophisticated medical X-ray equipment to India with great help from Boyard Taft.

1976-77

President Claude Sneddon was our toyman with a great interest in the arts, and a talented musician son who still composes music for television productions. Claude was interested in community safety and he advocated projects to support St John Ambulance. He left us when he and his wife and business partner, Ruth, retired to Mt Eliza.

Rodney Taft joined the board this year and helped to complete the X-ray project Paul Bruce started in the previous year. When Paul's health and hearing deteriorated, he had to tender his resignation after over 30 years in Rotary, first in Preston, but the club has honoured him with a Paul Harris Fellowship and honorary membership. He continues to be an interested and generous supporter of our programs.

Fourth Avenue **In** Motion (FAIM) is an Australian program begun in 1962, which teams up Rotarians and non-Rotarians on projects throughout the Pacific. Claude was our first member to join a F AIM team, which went to Papua New Guinea to help with a building program.

1977-78

President Clyde Bennett was a removalist and taxi-truck operator who had a great ability to get things done. Clyde had been nominated by Bert Wridgway, who headed the removalist company which bore his name until Ansett took it over after a few years public company status. Shortly before Clyde was due to leave for the Tokyo Rotary convention, his premises were badly damaged by fire. He was able to rebuild the depot sufficiently before departure to leave his

network business to his manager and staff and continue with his trip to the convention. Clyde loved fast and powerful cars. At one conference he said that he enjoyed taking off for a 'burn' on some of the country roads where speed limits were not enforced as strictly as in Melbourne. As first-year directors, David Corrigan and John Urquhart learned well from Clyde.

In this year Ray Chambers served as our second DG. Before coming to us from Prahran, where he had served as president, Ray had been nominated for DG, so we cannot claim full credit for nominating him. A strong team helped host his conference in Melbourne, with Boyard Taft in the critical program role. Any club which shoulders a district conference in its year has little room for many other significant programs.

David Bartnik went to Canada as our outbound Youth Exchange student and we hosted Shelley Chapman from Canada.

1978-79

John Ward was our second Scottish president. He was honoured by an MBE for his work in his vocation - contracting in the electrical field at the generation and distribution level. John was a great encourager. Wal Dobson and Sam Coffa joined the board in his year. Wal went on to have a successful year as Mayor of Hawthorn, as did Sam, which showed us a different side of a menswear retailer and a migrant shoemaker and repairer. Rotary helped to bring out their leadership skills and put them to good use.

Our outgoing Youth Exchange student, Craig Fuller, went to Japan and Haruka Yamazaki was hosted in return.

1979-80

John Urquhart followed as our second pharmacist president. He, like Ern Braithwaite, had served on the Pharmacy Board and joined our club on Ern's nomination as additional active. Ron Carr joined the club's board this year.

John introduced some innovations in coach trips to district conferences on the basis that 'getting there and back can be part of the fun'. The conference may be a flop but the journey to and fro can make it all worth while. We travelled to Adelaide via Mildura for the district conference, with Jack Balloul meeting us at Charlton in a very hot restaurant with a very cold bottle. The club clown was active again, stimulated by Cora Harris wondering if the scarf of a scout was fastened with a toggle or a woggle. Frank Wardrop won first prize for some Tyrolean dancing on the tables at Hahndorf; it took Frank back to 'student prince' days at Heidelberg with students downing a stein litre of ale in one draught.

Migrants were coming to our country from Vietnam and we sought a house for some of them after they had spent a short time at migrant reception centres. Caroline Woodley went to the US as our Youth Exchange student.

1980-81

Vic Burns was an outstanding president. Pint-sized but gallon capacity, Vic was often asked to stand up when he was already on his feet. Although in the finance industry, he had the heart of a priest from his early training, and did not fit the usual image of a financier. His artistic skills embraced the manufacture of stained-glass windows. Since his presidency, Vic has been in demand in several years as vice-president to take the chair in the absence of the president. Vic and his wife Betty are held in very high esteem by all



Rodney Taft gives Ron Carr a lift to the 1980 Adelaide conference, watched by Gerry Gaffney

members. Small of stature but large in vision, Vic has been a great counsellor to many presidents.

We were able to buy a house in Survey St, Richmond, for migrants from Vietnam. Although their donations were not tax deductible, many members gave generously and the \$40,000 house was debt free in a few years. It was later sold for a little over \$100,000, which formed the basis for a trust for charitable donations in perpetuity. Our Youth Exchange student, Susan Weissmann, went to Japan, and Lee Childs came in from Washington. Jack Balloul organised a magicians' night in the Hawthorn Town Hall. David Rush was one of the new members inducted, and he went on to have a magnificent year as club president eleven years later.

1981-82

Ron Carr is our only president to have had a project named after him. The annual Ron Carr Enterprise Award honors his efforts to encourage entrepreneurs in our city and beyond. He pioneered work in the field of acoustics, tuning large public buildings for special purposes which often called for highly skilled acoustical treatment. Ron, with his partner, completed major fitting contracts in Victoria and further afield. Work with asbestos before its potential dangers were known may have contributed to his early death.

The club hosted exchange student Yumika Kageyama from Japan.



Hawthorn Rotarians, partners and overseas students in transit to the 1982 Gosford conference

1982-83

David Corrigan was a president with an infectious sense of humour. Often when he had us laughing, a good dose of Rotary medicine went down with the humour. He was a great encourager, believing that 'more flies are caught with molasses than vinegar'. Maybe it is better to say that Rotary also is caught rather than taught. We caught a good deal of the best of it from David and his wife Helen. Alert to the value of additional active in bringing younger men with great potential into Rotary, David had nominated his partner David Rush at the right age for him to go on in turn be one of our finest club presidents.

In this year our Youth Exchange student, Glen Currie, went to Denmark and we hosted Jennifer MacKinnon from Vancouver.

5

MEN WHO MADE THINGS HAPPEN 1983-1993

1983-84

In the first year of the last decade in this 40-year history the club was led by second-generation Rotarian Rodney Taft. We had Mavis Fowler, widow of our popular charter President Ron, and visitors from Melbourne, Camberwell, Kew and Glenferrie at our 30th anniversary dinner on 3 November. Paul Harris Fellowships (PHF) were awarded appropriately on that occasion to Alan Patters on and Boyard Taft. It also marked our first interest in the recently established Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) and production of our 30th anniversary history by Bern Hames, which is incorporated in this volume.

Rodney had appointed Noel Hickey as his special adviser. This led to tennis days, and social events linked with fund-raising activities. Inter-club visits were made to Balwyn and North Camberwell. James Hatherley went to the US on Youth Exchange.

Donations included \$2000 for ARHRF, and \$2000 for a hoist for the Hawthorn community bus. In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Malvern, a survey into diabetes and hypertension was conducted and 2000 people were tested: 75 were revealed as having positive blood glucose and 75 raised blood pressure. This was another example of a project that is of great importance in our community which could be carried out at small dollar cost because members' time devoted to it was donated. Rotary encourages programs which help prevent illness by early detection of health problems. Prevention is always better and cheaper than cure.

Each past president was presented with a certificate of service.

1984-85

Rodney was followed by another second-generation Rotarian, Robert Patterson. Each had his own style but as with Neale Burgess a few years

earlier, these appointments did make way for nominations of men in younger age ranges. Every year our members are one year older. Many clubs do not take advantage of senior active and additional active classifications to free up more opportunities to nominate young people to join Rotary. Some clubs set such high standards that if these had applied when some of their members were nominated, they might not have made it. We are looking for inclination and potential, rather than members who have 'arrived'. As it moved into its fourth decade, Hawthorn avoided that error, recognising that we grow when we develop our ability to help others, as we grow in our ability to handle problems in our families, chosen vocations and communities.

Robert introduced a bulletin cover with a photo of Hawthorn's Town Hall instead of its crest. He also tried to introduce advertising into the bulletin to subsidise its high cost. With a precedent in the Rotary Club of London, he thought it would be easy, but it did not gain acceptance until Gerry Gaffney's year.

Kristin Envig came to us from Norway as our Youth Exchange student.

Alan Dempster initiated a monster book fair, 11 new members were inducted, and fund-raising topped \$25,000 from the book fair, sales of hams and puddings, an austerity lunch, a wine tasting and a new project - Kooyong parking. This enabled significant donations - \$6000 to the Multiple Sclerosis Nursing Home, \$2000 to Life Education centres, a small but significant \$530 to help fund Rotary House in Sydney as a 'home' for *Rotary Down Under (RD U)* and the South-West Pacific office of RI.



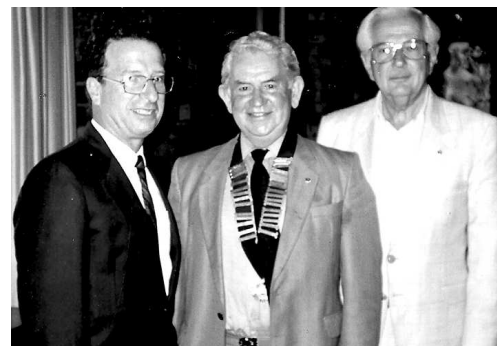
The Hawthorn group at the 1984 Adelaide conference

Other projects included tree planting bordering the H.A. Smith and Mason St Reserves, near Hawthorn West and Auburn South primary schools. As the need for our migrant house in Richmond had passed, we loaned it to the Salvation Army Crossroads project, through the Rotary Club of Melbourne, until it was sold.

1985-86

Gerry Gaffney's year was characterised, as we could have expected, by complete harmony. With the lilt of the Irish and support of Mary and their musical family, our social functions were greatly enriched. Gerry's long record of municipal service fitted him for leadership in Rotary. He exercised a gentle but effective direction. It was his appreciation of the achievements of Ron Carr which led to the introduction of the entrepreneurial award which bears Ron's name. In 1986 we also ran the district assembly for the first time in our 33-year history.

Among inter-club visits, 24 members and wives enjoyed a trip to Kyneton to help plant trees in its territory along the Campaspe River, used for scout and guide camps. We paid official visits to Camberwell and North Balwyn, and to Hawthorn and Glenferrie Rotaract Clubs, and received visits from Melbourne and Kew. Our excursion to Albury for the district conference was enlivened by an overnight stay at the Rich River Country Club on the way and enjoyable coach travel. Mary and other family members supplied some of the first-class musical entertainment at the conference for their friend Norm Moore, who was DG that year. The hospitality of the president of the host club and his wife to



President Gerry Gaffney (centre) with Secretary Terry Perree (left) and President Elect Henry Kingsley

the members of our club was a feature of many conference visits. Gerry and Mary handled this and added a delightful touch when Mary presented each of the ladies with some attractive craft work of her own making.

Fund-raising from sales of hams and Kooyong parking continued, with 42 members logging up 220 man hours to achieve a similar total to the previous year.

1986-87

Henry Kingsley was our first 'migrant' president. Henry brought a Viennese breeze to our meetings and his wife Ingrid undertook the hostess work in support. Previous experience in the Rotary Club of Springvale helped Henry also. He knew how to lead our club and inspire his team.

The US\$120 million PolioPlus RF appeal was launched in Henry's year.

In 1986 David Rush initiated one of our club's most innovative international projects - the Hawthorn Kitchen Project in Phuket, Thailand. While visiting Phuket in 1985 David (then international service director) and his wife Sue learnt that very poor children there were too embarrassed to go to school because their parents could not afford to supply lunches or suitable clothing for them to wear. Their health was poor and they were missing an education. David suggested that our club and the Rotary Club of Phuket raise funds to assist these children. A self-help program was developed. A cashew plantation was established and farmed in Phuket. The children harvested the nuts and from the proceeds purchased chickens and fresh vegetables for a daily hot meal (they were then receiving only one hot meal a week). Simple kitchen facilities at the schools were also provided under the scheme. The children's health improved, they were able to attend school regularly and there was an increase in literacy in the area. The program was designed to ensure that the children felt they were making a worthwhile contribution and were not just the



A Hawthorn Kitchen Project lunch at Phuket

beneficiaries of hand-outs.

In later years two shipments of high-protein biscuits were supplied by our club to the Rotary Club of Phuket with the assistance of two Special Grants from RF. Under this program RF matches the combined contribution of the two Rotary clubs. The Rotary Club of Phuket monitored the progress of the health of the children for six months during the distribution period of the biscuits. The results disclosed an increase in weight and general improvement in the standard of health of the many children who received the biscuits.

In 1987-88 the Thai government gave the program an award for being the best disadvantaged children's project in Thailand.

Another book fair raised \$3500. With Noel Hickey on program we had 17 of our 50 meetings addressed by our members. It was not one too many. Truth is still stranger than fiction and more fascinating. There is a keener interest in what our fellow members do and the steps by which they came to the present day than most of us realise. The issue of women in Rotary started to emerge and talk of the very fast train. The VFT is still in the too-hard basket and we do not have women in our club. Bill Brown and Sam Coffa were awarded well deserved Paul Harris Fellowships.

1987-88

Ian Jones had an active year as president although he was on his run up to presidency of the Commonwealth Golf Club. Ian had inherited a specialist printing business from his family and booted it into the 20th century before selling it to a bigger group. He had a laid-back style of leadership.

PolioPlus was continued as our most successful RF appeal. Our club contributions exceeded \$40,000, including some substantial donations from individual members. Mary Armstrong, wife of club member Graham, helped us with access free of charge to the multiple telephone line facilities of the MS Foundation's Toorak office for a telethon in support of PolioPlus.

1988-89

Charles Morrison followed Ian. Initially a member of the Rotary Club of Camberwell, Charles had an impressive record and built strongly on it. David Rush joined his board and the Hawthorn Kitchen Project with Phuket outlined in Henry's year was further developed. This had a profound effect on the club and many of its members. So often RF is a program in a pamphlet and something to be talked about, but when you see a vital need in a developing country, and try to meet that need, it becomes a personal concern.



Weighing inspection at Phuket

A three-year program, with co-operation from incoming presidents, to establish parkland in Rose St was begun. Among other significant donations, \$1000 went to the Martyrs Memorial Primary School, Popindetta, PNG, made infamous when, as a clearly marked Red Cross hospital, in November 1942 enemy aircraft bombed it, killing two army surgeons. The sum of \$10,000 went to Camp Quality to help young cancer sufferers enjoy the best quality of life available to them, \$2500 to help with special education for a Down syndrome sufferer at Kilmaire College, and \$1000 each to Muscular Dystrophy and Radio 3RPH, for which Mary Armstrong was such a strong worker.

PolioPlus was concluded in Charles' year with almost US\$240 million raised - 200% of the initial target, including almost A\$10 million from Australia. This had a profound effect on Rotary worldwide. Throughout Australia and beyond we saw what we could achieve if we really exercised our capacity to give to a major health program in developing countries, in conjunction with national government-sponsored bodies such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). Rotary was respected enough to gain access to countries not freely open to Western government-sponsored bodies to enter. It demonstrated that if you want to win people's minds and funds, you must first win their hearts. Rotary's goals are infinitely greater than any fund-raising organisation, but it does have enormous capacity in that field.

We sponsored Peer Support, which was designed to help primary and secondary students form helpful peer groups, ran a wow of a DGs change over with the music of bagpipes to set it off to a great start, and had three inter-club visits. We staged a 'new look' businessmen's breakfast which raised \$735. A 'fun day' in Hawthorn Park was an innovation.

Charles and Mary hosted 'Long', our engaging, small of stature, big of heart, gentle Thai Youth Exchange student. Elise Bolza, our outgoing exchange student, went to South Africa.

Charles' description of his year was typically brief and modest. He continues to serve on our 1993-94 district community services committee and has the added responsibility of being chairman of the Probus district committee in recognition of his great expertise in that field. Switching from full speed ahead to a dead stop on terminating full-time employment has sent many people to an early grave. Probus gives capable retirees the opportunity to find a field of fellowship with other professional and business people. A transition which can be so painful is thus less traumatic. It is another Rotary program which does not cost anything in dollars but demands a considerable commitment of

personal time and interest in the formative stages of a new club. We are proud to have a past president with such a record.

Rotary's work is to charter Probus clubs. To do this, we only need to respond to pressure from communities in our area to form additional clubs as many have waiting lists. Probus already has more than twice the number of members that Rotary has in Australia. Its lack of emphasis on service objectives appeals to many people in later life when ability to give and serve may be more limited. Once a new club elects its initial leaders, it enjoys complete autonomy. Rotary House in Parramatta prints its periodic magazine and appoints its supervising body for the South-West Pacific area (SWPA) but does not interfere with the autonomy of each club.

In 1988, to comply with many changes in legislation, the Rotary Club of Hawthorn was made an incorporated body.

1989-90

David Rosback followed Charles, aided by his artistic wife Judi. We had another great year. David and Judi had gone to Phuket to personally present a cheque for \$1000 from us to the Rotary club for the 'lunch and literacy' project. When David and Judi saw the gratitude on the faces of the children and parents, a program which had been words on a sheet of paper became real live people. It is an experience others have had in Rotary. To so many who become nothing more than 'knife and forkers', Rotary is a weekly meal at which you 'meet, eat, burp and go home'. When you are privileged to see one of its programs in action, it suddenly acquires relevance and meaning. We try to give needy people at home and abroad a hand up and not a hand-out. Programs that tactfully help people to help themselves are not easy to find and implement. David showed a remarkable sensitivity in these areas, after exposure to the Phuket program.

With help from John Loutit (who later received the ARHRF Companion Award for this work) and several fellows in other clubs, David also initiated an imaginative art book project to help the ARHRF. Australian artists co-operated to produce a collection of paintings reproduced in book form, suitable for presentation to overseas visitors, libraries and other public places. Profits from the sale of these books were devoted to ARHRF.

On our coach trip to the Adelaide district conference, during a stop at a fine winery, David took photos and a description of a simple water pump that could be used in a developing country. His help to Sir Peter Derham of the Rotary Club of Melbourne with its Vicspan street kids program was vital to its

success. His entrepreneurial flair in organising a public concert of popular music received widespread support, enabling a \$90,000 Vicspan project to be completed successfully. The club's hosting of Rotary Foundation Scholar David Tanner from Florida, US, quickened interest in RF and increased support for it by donations. Bequests leaped to new heights, enabling Paul Harris Fellows to be nominated and sapphire stars awarded to some former PHF recipients.

Camp Quality and Life Education centres each received another \$5000; the Hawthorn Kitchen Project in Phuket received \$2700; the Martyrs School (Popindetta), Rossbourne House and Willsmere each were given \$1000; and there were numerous other minor donations. Exchange student Danielle Jupp went to Japan, and Mark Coghlan came to us from South Africa.

As ladies had been admitted to some Rotary clubs following court action in the US and other countries to give equal opportunity to women, RI gave clubs the freedom to decide for themselves if they would follow that course. We had a vote, by well-publicised secret ballot, on the simply worded but somewhat controversial RI recommended amendment to our by-laws that 'throughout these by-laws pronouns of the masculine gender shall include the female'. When it resulted in a 40-40 tie, the president's casting vote had to preserve the status quo. Since many other clubs in our district and beyond have been more adventurous and admitted suitable female members, we ponder how long it will be before Hawthorn takes the plunge.

1990-91

John Carre Riddell, of famous military family history fame, earned wide support as our president. Some years before, John lost his wife Margot, who had been a great supporter, offering their home to host a progressive dinner course and driving her car for outings for the elderly. We were all helped considerably during his year by her friend and his, Barbara Matthews, on social occasions. John, who was a medical partner of our former member Bill Edwards, and Bill Pick of the Rotary Club of Kew, had the gentle manner of a competent GP. His honorary work for Camp Quality as resident physician at several of their camps for terminally ill children was greatly appreciated. No doubt his experience in giving Margot quality of life during the short illness which preceded her premature death gave him added insight and sympathy for the children. It is not easy to follow such an active president as David Rosback, but Hawthorn is a strong enough club to find new talent able to lead each year and not have to lie fallow, even though some of its leaders are a bit out of puff.

As mentioned earlier, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Glenferrie and the City of Hawthorn, the John Head Memorial Foundation was established to help alleviate poverty and distress in Hawthorn. A total of \$20,000 was given to the Kooyong Low Vision Clinic for audio equipment to enable blind people to hear special descriptions of spectacular stage shows, \$20,000 to the Rose St parkland project (some raised in earlier years), \$5000 each to Camp Quality and Life Education centres and the Phuket project, \$3000 to Peer Support and \$1000 to Rossbourne House. Charles Morrison's sterling work leading the group which formed the Hawthorn Ladies Probus Club, with membership topping 100, marked another great year. As Hawthorn and other clubs assisted in the formation of other Probus clubs, this organisation was able to attract in 10 years over 100,000 members - double the membership Rotary achieved in Australia in 85 years.

Amanda Drury went as our Youth Exchange student to Belgium, and Carla Krygier came to us from Brazil. Six primary students from Bendigo exchanged with six from Hawthorn for three days, and a school children's art exchange was started between Thailand and Hawthorn schools.

A second vote on whether to admit women to the Rotary Club of Hawthorn resulted in a substantial number in favour. In the interest of harmony, no



President John Carre Riddell (second/ram right) presenting a \$2000 cheque to the Kooyong Low Vision Clinic

nominations were submitted but there are signs as we move into our 41st year that this could change.

1991-92

David Rush and his wife Sue earned warm applause for their leadership, which was a different style again. Rotary can take an enormous range of skills and talents, and put them all to work for service to those in need in our communities and all over our world. As partner to David Corrigan, David had a good role model, but proceeded to lead in his own way, which was most effective. It resulted in a record \$20,000 to RF to take us to the top of our district ladder for that year, and \$14,000 for Vicspan. Over 500 attended our business breakfast. We continued support for a wide range of established projects of our club and district.

David was a highly organised and quietly efficient president. When a president stands to lead a meeting, it is obvious if he has done his preparatory work. A well-run meeting does not happen by accident. When you have a group of 70-80 leaders of business and professions coming together for a luncheon meeting, you have a responsibility to see that their time is not wasted. Members will not continue to come to dreary meetings of clubs with small programs. They can be inspired to great heights by well-run meetings and imaginative, relevant programs. Similar principles of leadership are needed from the chief executive in any of the wide ranges of useful human endeavour from managing a big business to running a small social or sporting club.

A president can be distracted if directors and members thrust papers into his hand during the fellowship time before a weekly meeting when he should be free to extend a welcome to visitors and guests. A well-administered club runs smoothly. The considerable thought and work behind the scenes is best appreciated when it is least noticed. It is like the graceful swan gliding over ripple-free water with feet paddling strongly underneath. This involves a good honorary secretary and an alert sergeant-at-arms who is not just concerned with levying fines but fulfilling his major role of seeing that everything is in order before the meeting commences and that it runs without a hitch. The board members and chairmen of committees have their roles too. It all flows down through good leadership from the president, and this is what David provided.

He continues to serve this year on the district membership committee and in 1994-95 when David Rosback is DG, he has agreed to accept the key support role of district honorary secretary.

Youth Exchange student Kasha Singh went to Denmark. Donations of \$5000 each went to Camp Quality and ARHRF, and Sefton Lodge received \$3500. The Life Education mobile unit to which we had been contributing for years with Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy became fully operational in its work against teenage drug abuse. We also commenced an innovative program with Skillshare to help young people find first employment, and participated in DG Greg Ross's campaign 'Paint Your Heart Out' to help maintain the homes of a selected group of needy people.

1992-93

Bill Troedel and his wife Prue have just concluded their year. A splendid changeover night was held at Argenti's on Thursday 1 July 1993 and a record 130 members and guests attended, including some very personable young ladies from behind the former Iron Curtain. Significant achievements were recorded before Bill handed over to incoming President Terry Perree.

Youth Exchange student Peter Johnson went to Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada, and Florian Abbenseth came to us from Germany. Patrick Colbourne took us into a new dimension in international service with a training program for students and executives from the former Eastern bloc countries to help them acquire democratic ways from which they had been shut off for two generations. We sponsored and funded the immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Lublin in Poland, Leszek Gzella, and his wife to come to the RI convention in Melbourne in May. Hundreds of Rotary families around Melbourne hosted 3000 to 4000 convention visitors on one particular night and the scent of roast lamb permeated the suburbs.

The sum of \$5000 each was given to the DG's Bone Marrow Appeal, Vicspan, ARHRF (enabling John Loutit to be named a Companion of that fund), and RP. The Phuket project received \$3200 (which gained a supporting grant from RF), FAIM \$3000, Camp Quality \$2500, Life Education \$2000, Moorfield Aged Care \$2000, Mission for Streets and Lanes \$1500, State School Relief \$1000, and Blind Audio Extensions, seed boxes and Crisis Line \$500 each. After George Loton pioneered the sale of Christmas hams as a major annual fund-raising effort, Bill and others continued it. He had a wealth of experience to bring to his presidential year and he has not disappointed us.

One of Bill's final acts as president was to present a five-star Paul Harris sapphire pin to DGN David Rosback. This was due to our US\$5000 donation to RP.

As we have a DGN for 1994-95, members may ask how are they selected, and what do they do.

Rotary has thrived for almost a century with two main driving forces - the liberty of the individual and the autonomy of the local Rotary club. The 20-man board of RI at Evanston, US, and 260-member permanent secretariat deal with a host of important international issues. Regional offices such as Rotary House, Parramatta, with smaller full-time staffs, handle many national and international matters. The individual club is where all the action occurs and it is the individual Rotarians who do the work. Each club can pick its own program in the four avenues of service, with input from current members, led by its board of directors, which is changed each year. We have some international, national, and district programs, but most projects originate and are carried through at club level. The DG is a link between the RI board, RI secretariat and the clubs in his district.

Our district has a small nominating committee, elected in October annually, from nominations which are called for from clubs each year, and including a few recent PDGs and the current DG, who chairs it. A nominee must have served as club president or honorary secretary to be eligible. The district nominating committee is responsible for selecting and announcing, by the end of December, a nominee for the period 18 months ahead so that the selected candidate has time to prepare for his year of office. Clubs may then make nominations against the committee's candidate if they see fit to do so. If another



Hawthorn welcomers at the 1993 RI convention in Melbourne: from left, Lama Hamilton, Pam and Max O'Brien

nomination is received, a vote is taken at district conference. It is an important task for the board of each club to consider making nominations either to the appointed nominating committee, or against its nomination if it is felt it may have made a mistake. The name of the district nominee is submitted to the RI convention immediately prior to his year of office, following which the DGN becomes the district governor elect (DGE).

One year, when a nomination was considered by many to be unsuitable, a suggestion was made that another candidate should be nominated. When this was canvassed with our president, his wry comment was pertinent - 'It is a long time since DGs have had much influence on our club'.

Many eligible members may be invited to accept nomination for DG, but may not feel able to give the time needed for the task. It is a very demanding one. There is not much time for anything else once the DG has scheduled and carried out visits to each of the clubs in the district. The DG's club visit comprises a meeting with the board of directors, and attendance to speak at the normal weekly breakfast, lunch, or evening meeting of members (some clubs make the occasion a ladies' night), followed by a detailed written report to RI. In addition to these visits, selection of district officers, issue of guidelines before their year, and close supervision of them during the year is needed. The district issues a district directory a few months before the year commences, setting out details of club meeting places and times, presidents, secretaries, major committee chairmen and all district officers, with addresses and telephone and fax numbers. Planning for a district conference in the second half of the year takes a long time and the input of the DG is considerable. Each club president feels he has the right to telephone and speak to the DG of his district. The DG can have a great number of people wishing to claim his attention before and during his year.

Our DGN, with over 500 other DGNs from around the Rotary world, receives a week of intensive training at an international assembly before 'his' year. This year it is to be held in Anaheim, California. The role of DG is nothing more than advisory to the clubs in his district.



Master of Ceremonies Bill Young amuses outgoing President Bill Troedel at the changeover dinner



Happy Hawthorn contingent on the way to the 1993 Ballarat conference dinner

Our district comprises over 60 clubs. He has authority to enlist suitable people from any club in his district to serve on district committees which he may see fit to establish to help him in his big task, but in turn these are advisory and can only expect support in relation to the worth of their advice. They have no authority over either any club or member. He does not have to follow any district committee structure of a previous DG.

We are preparing now for David's conference at Darling Harbour in Sydney in March 1995. DGs, not unlike club presidents, are judged more by those they choose to lead their teams than on their own ability to perform a specific task. If they choose well and plan thoroughly, supervision during the year is easier. If they have not given clear guidelines, or been able to choose the men they prefer as district committee leaders, they may need to spend precious time and effort trying to 'put out fires' which should never have occurred.

Most of our members will be very busy in 1994-95 preparing to host and hosting the Sydney conference. David and his wife Judi can confidently count on our strong support in every respect.

1993-94

Articulate President Terry Perree started in energetic form from changeover night. Our 40th anniversary of grant of charter was celebrated on 24 August 1993 with a luncheon at Leonda, with invited visitors from son and grandson clubs. October 1993 marked the anniversary of charter presentation. A report on the last ten months of Terry's year must await the next club history.

In Terry's early months programs have maintained a high standard. Chairmen for the day are getting the message and rarely take too long to introduce the guest speaker. We have not had to introduce the Rotary Club of Melbourne's practice of members hitting their cups with spoons if the speaker, chairman, sergeant or whoever goes on longer than the members feel is warranted. It is enough that members get restless without making an unseemly noise about it.

One of our most interesting addresses, summarised later in *RDU*, came from Patrick Colbourne after his visit to Bosnia to help in finding ways and means for people with differing religious beliefs to live in harmony. For so long different denominations and religions tended to emphasise their differences. It is good to see church leaders engaged in seriously trying to seek solutions instead of continuing to be part of the problem. We are proud to have Patrick as a member playing such an important role on a global scale and bringing some of it back to us as it happens.

Under the direction of Noel McInnes, John Loutit led a team from our club to Western Samoa, comprising newsagent Graeme Dillon and investment counsellor Graham Armstrong in somewhat unusual roles, with a competent



FAIM team departs for Western Samoa: from left, Graham Dillon, Ludwig Tschrischonig (R.C. of Frankston), Graham Armstrong and John Loutit

tradesman in the team who also made a significant contribution. On arrival, teams from some clubs that shall remain anonymous preferred to undertake projects near the only hotel in the region. As ours was requested to go to a more remote area, where the influence of the church made it a teetotal environment, in keeping with the best traditions of our movement in general and our club in particular they went with a spirit of willingness and helpfulness which was warmly commended by the leaders of the community they served. The people of the community eloquently expressed their gratitude for the work of our team, which was well done under very primitive conditions. As a result they now have more cyclone-resistant buildings than the flimsy former structures which were damaged beyond repair in recent gale-force winds in that Pacific island area.

The project had a sense of déjà vu for Jim Earle, who had some decades earlier made his professional skills available through his church to help the people of that area. Some teams found it hard to understand the feudal laws under which leaders held title to land for public buildings. This can be subject to abuse unless the leaders have adequate regard for their responsibility to the people they have the honour to lead.

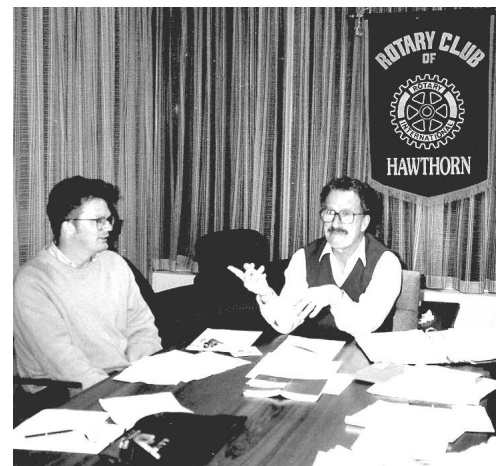
As we dip into the computer age for many of our club records, we are becoming accustomed to keyboard, CPU and VDU at our front desk. The laptop computer is handling registrations for lunch, annual subscriptions,



Construction of anti-cyclone buildings in Western Samoa

attendances, registrations for our 1995 district conference, social functions, make-ups etc. with efficiency as many of our members who were semi-skilled and even unskilled in computer usage become accustomed to this modern method of record keeping. We owe a great debt to John Waters - our accounting member of just over one year in our club - and youngest member Craig Cooksley, his computer whiz colleague, who together with others in their competent team have put much skill and time into the programming needed to make this possible. Other clubs in our district have also shown interest in this program. It has also significantly contributed to the formatting of this history and inclusion of the earlier 'eye-witness news' 15 and 30-year editions from 1967 and 1983 compiled by charter and early members of the club we have inherited.

So we conclude these four chapters on men who have made things happen, and the avenues that we have found fruitful for Rotary service. As they assumed office, many no doubt felt inadequate. Historians also feel inadequate when they attempt to provide, in a relatively small space, a fair record of their work. In Rotary, unlike politics, for example, we are helped by our fellow members and not hindered. Each leader brings a different set of talents to the task. In our nominating procedures, we seem to be able to find the right man for the year. As each performs to the best of his ability, a track record is established which is helpful to following presidents who 'stand on the shoulders' of those who have preceded them, and take us to new heights. Although some members have



President Terry Perree chairs a board meeting.

not stayed the distance and have resigned 'for personal reasons', most of those we have inducted have found that if you really contribute, you receive much more than you give. 'He profits most who serves the best' is as true as when it was adopted as the motto of our international movement almost a century ago. The men who have contributed so much to the history we have recorded can each testify to the truth of that statement.



ROTARY CLUB OF HAWTHORN, 1993

*SITTING: G Stevens (Past District Governor), W Brown, B Taft, T Perree (President),
I Cathie (Charter Member), D Rosback (District Governor Nominee),
I Hamilton (Secretary), R Groom Treasurer)
B Douglas, R Leschen, D Pisterman, Mia Langeland (exchange student),
C Miscamble, A Crow, N McInnes, W Troedel, I Pohl, N Burgess
J Loutit, I Gowers, M Teague, L Jenkins, I Earle, R Harris, P Batrouney,
H Kingsley, A Minter (observed), I Flowers, C Olssen, G Gaffney, S Donnellon,
I Cathels, R Adler, R Bainbridge, B Smith
STANDING: N Roberts, V Burns, J O'Beirne, I Braden, J Rickards, H Drury,
I Devereux, B Young, C Young, S Pomponio
D Shore, I Warren, N Cannon, I Sear, B Reid, G Cramer, W Dobson, R Patterson,
C Morrison, C Hanson, D Corrigan
W Hickey, B Walshe, S Hanbury, D Rush, T Douez, M O'Brien, C Cookesley, I Waters,
D Harrington, G Armstrong, J Carre Riddell*



*FRONT: R Taft, B Smith, B Stillwell, I Gartner
SECOND: B Garnham, I Grigg, P Taylor, G Ingham, S Coffa
BACK: T Jones, B Tonkin, S O'Donoghue, N Tickner, J Skerritt, A Kenworthy*

*ABSENT: J Balloul, P Bruce, G Dillon, C Fryer, A Groom, I Higgins, I Longayroux,
K McNamara, G Nicholls, P Rosen, A Scott, I Young*

6

CLUB SERVICE

Club service, Rotary's 'first avenue of service', has often been called the foundation of the Rotary building. It is upon club service committees - membership, fellowship, program, attendance, information, and other minor ones - that the club's entire structure depends. From the beginning Hawthorn has been well served by the dozen or so small committees which together constitute club service.

Continued careful attention to *membership* is reflected not only in the 199 members inducted into Hawthorn over its first 40 years, but in the hundreds of others who have been inducted over 37 years into the thirteen clubs that have grown from it. The drop in some years in annual membership since 1975 emphasises the increasing difficulty of the task, though it must be admitted that club members' zeal in seeking new members has been more apparent in some years than others. Rotary's policy of determining membership by the classification principle, and so achieving a cross-section of the business and professional life of each club's territory, makes strict demands on their membership and classification committees.

The club has avoided what Past President Bill Brown's report calls 'that preoccupation, which stems from RI, with numbers for their own sake'. But the slow increase, together with the obvious desire of members to retain their membership, led to the ageing of the club, 55% of whom were senior active members by its 30th birthday. At that time, to reduce this to even the high proportion of 40% would have required the induction of 27 young members or the disposal of 17 senior actives! More recently a determined and successful effort has been made to introduce younger members, and by the 40th anniversary the average age of members had been brought down below 60. The club will still have a high proportion of senior actives for many years, however. Better use could have been made of the additional active classification to bring in more younger members. Honorary membership has

been kept to a minimum. If too many members share this honour, it ceases to have the high regard it merits.

From our first year, when Jim Brown's *fellowship* committee won acclaim for the spirit of friendliness and hospitality which developed among members, conscious effort has been made to promote good fellowship. GSR Horace set us on the right course when he chose charter President Ron and advised him to concentrate in the first year on fostering it. If members do not know and trust one another, they will not perform well together in service projects. Singing helped. Less self-conscious then, members felt that making a joyful noise together, 'the one programmed activity in which everyone could take part', was fun - not the embarrassment some consider it today.

Frequent official visits to other clubs, and attendance at district assemblies and conferences, also strengthened bonds of fellowship. High standards maintained by an impressive series of sergeants-at-arms, many of whom were men of unusual wit and spontaneity, gave successive presidents vital support in their attempts to make the meetings interesting and attractive. Consequently, it is not surprising to read in President David Corrigan's report that 'On at least half a dozen occasions during the year, I was approached after the meeting by visiting Rotarians and guests who congratulated me on what they considered was the most interesting, entertaining and best conducted Rotary meeting they had attended. Thanks to George and Peter' (program and sergeant-at-arms respectively). This led to the club soon becoming notable for the number of its visitors each week. Accessibility of the meeting places helped here: the New Burwood in Burwood Rd, opposite the Hawthorn Post Office, for more than 18 years; the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria's Koot restaurant at Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong, until it closed for major renovations, and the Hawthorn Football Club's Social Club ever since.

Accessibility of venue also has been an advantage in the *program* committee's constant search for speakers to cover a wide range of interests. In Bern Hames' words, 'though not all have had the calibre of the club's first lunchtime speaker, Angus Mitchell, so high a standard was soon achieved that excellence became the norm'.

Attendance committees have faithfully performed their sometimes dreary tasks. We can make no startling claim about attendance. The bulletin's proud boast when the club was only three months old that 'Of our 27 members, eight have 100% attendance records' was followed after a few months by a rebuke for a 'poor attendance record'. The 1965-66 claim for an 85-90% attendance has not proved typical.

Provision of *information* has been taken seriously, with consistent efforts being made to educate members, especially those newly inducted, through Rotary information evenings, fireside meetings, the bulletin and other channels.

The bulletin has been particularly successful and has been highly commended from its first year. At Lorne in 1956 our editor Doug Beeson conducted the district conference discussion group explaining how a good bulletin is prepared. This is hard if the club is not performing its role properly and the weekly record is simply much ado about nothing.

There is insufficient room here to comment on every editor in the distinguished line from Alan Patters on in 1953 to Peter Taylor. One remembers Geoff Ingham's anecdotes; John Ward's dry humour, both as editor and as contributor of incomprehensible exercises to complement Lew Jenkins' easy, laid-back style, which was different again from our current incumbent who put answers on page 3 and the questions on page 5 one week; Max Graham's matter-of-fact directness; Bruce Smith's clarity and precision. As word processors took over from typewriters, and laser printers from duplicators, the use of graphics made for interesting innovations, particularly in the two years handled by our travel agent, Trevor Jones. But one secret eluded them all- how to ensure that every member reads his bulletin.

Other small committees have played useful roles in club service as documented in some of the more detailed annual reports. Others again have been set up as needed, for example to revise the by-laws in 1959 and again in 1982. Two appointments are too important not to be referred to here, for on them all committees depend, and without them the most illustrious president would be emasculated: the secretary and the treasurer. By Stan Stevens and Bill Johnstone in the first year, and by all who have followed, the club has been well served. They are roles which enable entrepreneurs to have the necessary back-up to avoid a year of chaos. This shows the value of team work in Rotary, as in other fields, which enables men with a wide variety of talents to work together to be an effective force.

In some clubs the sergeant-at-arms thinks his role is to be the club clown or funny man; some think it needs blue jokes. This course has provoked some fine members to resign from Rotary as their image of it was of something made of better stuff. Our Rotary Club of Melbourne teachers steered us well clear of that trap. They emphasised the importance of the sergeant seeing that everything was in place for the meeting and that it ran smoothly. This did not preclude real wit and humour. Each year RI issues guidelines for each major

office and committee in the club. Although nothing more than guidelines, if these are totally ignored, the club can be in peril and standards can fall.

It would be remiss to conclude this section on club service without acknowledging the importance of the part that has been played by the wives of members, now referred to in our directory as 'partners'. (The club refused to countenance that dreadful Americanism 'Rotaryann' sometimes used to designate the ladies of Rotary.) Posting the bulletin to each member's home address enables their partners to learn what is afoot. Most of the meetings of the board and its committees have been held in turn at a member's home, where the lady of the house perforce has acted as hostess. In many other ways, too, wives of members have made an enormous contribution to the club's welfare. In appreciation, the club has tried with varying enthusiasm to involve the ladies from time to time in special lunchtime and evening meetings, in social events, theatre nights, home hosting, progressive dinners, barbecues, picnics, beach days, days at the farm and the like. As a bonus, many of these functions have raised considerable sums to help finance the club's activities. When we ran the 1958 art show, it would not have been possible to supervise it through the day without help on the rosters from our ladies. This paved the way for many of them to accept leadership positions when all hands were needed to run the 1960 Lorne district conference. As we gear up for another conference in 1995, this will receive further impetus. The essential sense of fellowship is already there.

A number of our members have been selected for district, national and international committees and responsibilities. The following section of this chapter records some of these.

RI Officers

Although each club is autonomous, Rotary is grouped into districts around the world for ease of administration and encouragement by older clubs to new and developing clubs. Currently there are over 500 districts around the world. A DO is appointed to administer each on behalf of the board of RI.



1970-71 District Governor Geoff Stevens and his wife Norma

The DG becomes an officer of RI for his year of office. They are taught that their role is advisory, but some take themselves a bit too seriously. Official visits do not always encourage maximum attendance of members.

Two members of our club have had the responsibility, and enjoyed the honour, of representing RI as governors of our district, now 9800, and one is currently DGN for 1994-95.

In 1970-71 Geoff Stevens was DG when our district was called 280 and extended from Finley as far south as Mordialloc, and from Echuca east to Corryong. He visited each of the 66 clubs in it, often flying light aircraft. Since serving as DG, Geoff has undertaken the following roles on behalf of RI:

1976-77: Rotary information counsellor for districts 269, 275, 279 and 282.

1977-78: Rotary information counsellor for districts 969, 971, 975, 979 and 982.

1979-81: Convenor of the nominating committee for RI director from ANZO (Australia, New Zealand and other places not included in the four other Rotary regions).

1981-82: Following the November 1981 South-West Pacific Area (SWPA) Regional Conference in Melbourne, chairman of the agenda committee for past, present and incoming officers in ANZO.

1988-89: Member of seven-man RI endowment committee charged with promoting bequests to support RF in addition to annual donations. Although this did not appeal to all Rotarians, bequests totalling over \$2 million were obtained in our district in that year.

In 1977-78 Ray Chambers was Governor of District 980, and he galvanised every member of the club into working towards a most successful Melbourne conference. Ray was also a member of the consultative committee of RI in 1979-80. Before joining Hawthorn in 1975, Ray had been for 11 years a member of the Rotary Club of Prahran, where he was president in 1969-70.

David Rosback, after an impressive period of service at club and district level, mainly in the Youth Exchange and RF areas, is already working effectively for 1994-95.



1977-78 District Governor Ray Chambers and his wife Gwen

While loyally supporting DG Rob Dunn, David has visited most clubs in the district to establish contact with those who will be leaders in his year.

National Responsibilities

As Rotary is essentially international, national projects which could be divisive are not encouraged. Since 1983 Australia has had a significant Rotary health research fund (ARHRF) and other Australian initiatives which have attracted varying support from our Rotary clubs.

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund

Alex Kenworthy played a significant part in establishing the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF). In the early 1980s, when Alex conducted his night-time radio program on 3A W, his sensitive advice, for which he was awarded an OAM, was helpful to countless people with problems who phoned in seeking his counsel. One night a bereaved parent who had just suffered the agony of a child's cot death phoned and Alex was able to contact Dr Alan Williams, who headed the section in the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital dealing with this problem, and he was put on the line to counsel the parent. As he pointed out that more research was needed to find the cause, he observed that if the horse-racing industry suffered 'cot death' among its thoroughbreds on the same scale as humans, there would be a hue and cry and an immediate investigation to find the reasons with adequate funding.

A Mornington banker and Rotarian, Ian Scott, heard the broadcast and was deeply moved. He contacted Alan and invited him to speak to the Rotary Club of Mornington, which took up the challenge, enlisted support throughout its district, and brought a proposal to the ANZO institute of DGs, PDGs and DGsN in Melbourne after the SWP A regional conference of RI in November 1981. A small committee was set up, chaired by Royce Abbey, to investigate and report to the next annual meeting of the institute. As a result the ARHRF was incorporated in 1983. Neither Alex Kenworthy nor Ian Scott had served as club president but they



District Governor Nominee/or 1994-95, David Rosback and his wife Judi

could still play a vital part in bringing a national project of considerable magnitude into being. With RI consent, which was needed for any multi-district project, each district in Australia was invited to help and a substantial majority of clubs around the country responded with donations.

Geoff Stevens was invited to become one of ARHRF's directors and honorary secretary from 1983 to 1989, and saw it pass its initial target of \$2 million in endowment funds, with the income devoted to areas of health research chosen by the board from year to year. He was made an honorary life member after his six-year term, and was presented with a Companion of the ARHRF award in 1992 as the result of a \$10,000 gift from a co-director who had originally asked him to join the board.

Although founded on the need for cot death research (seeming to overlap with the existing SIDS Foundation which primarily offered counselling to the bereaved parents) the memorandum and articles of the ARHRF provided for an endowment fund to be set up so that income could be applied through income tax approved research bodies, such as hospitals and universities, to a variety of health research work as needs changed over the years. Royce Abbey and Clem Renouf, both former presidents of RI, also served as initial directors and contributed to securing RI consent for such a large national project. It has already made significant contributions towards reducing cot death by supporting the work of Professor Terry Dwyer in Tasmania, where the incidence was significantly higher than in any mainland state.

Alan Williams headed the initial research committee that made recommendations to the board about research areas which might merit grants and critically appraised the resulting applications from which selections were made. The ARHRF went on to support research into muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer's disease and environmental problems of the aged, and it is now working on addiction problems in youth. A vital part of its program consists of organising relatively inexpensive national conferences where up to 40 key Australian leaders in research in various fields in our country meet with one or two visiting leaders from Europe and the US to sharpen focus on particular areas and pool interim results.

Most of the members of the board of ARHRF are drawn from DGs and PDGs around Australia and one-third of the board is elected for a three-year term. One district cannot insist on support from another district or districts of Rotary without the ongoing consent of the other district/s and RI. Each DG can decide if he wishes ARHRF to be emphasised in his year. Every club is free to decide if it will contribute each year.

The ARHRF capital fund has just passed \$5 million on the way to its next target of \$20 million. As the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) of our Federal Government spends over \$50 million annually, ARHRF is not yet a major fund in its field but it has, as in the case of cot death, provided programs with seed funds before they were recognised by the NH&MRC. As it has grown in a decade to a significant fund in Australia, it demonstrates what a few individuals in Rotary can do.

Rotary Down Under

When *Rotary Down Under (RDU)* obtained consent to be published in ANZO as a regional magazine, members in our region were no longer obliged to subscribe to *The Rotarian* produced in the US. South America and other Spanish-speaking countries, Japan, UK, and other regions also have their own magazines approved by RI. *RDU* is governed by a small management committee responsible to the DGs in Australia and New Zealand, who elect its members for three-year terms. When a change in editor (also CEO) occurred in 1984, Geoff Stevens was invited to become honorary treasurer for 1984-85. At the November 1984 ANZO institute in Christchurch, New Zealand, an appeal for funds to house *RD U* and the SWP A office of RI was undertaken. A former governor purchased suitable premises in Parramatta, New South Wales. Within two years, an enthusiastic team of PDGs had raised from Australian Rotary clubs the three-quarters of a million dollars needed to purchase it from him at cost. It gave Rotary in Australia a new image and provided a home for ARHRF administration and other national projects also.

Geoff was also appointed a member of the committee of management for two three-year terms from 1985-92, culminating as chairman in 1991-92, and leaving it with a modest surplus to prepare for its contribution to the 1993 RI convention year in Melbourne. It moved in December 1993 to its new \$2 million freehold premises with an interest-bearing loan from ARHRF. It now houses *RDU*, and ARHRF, and provides facilities for editorial staff of the bi-monthly *Probus* and monthly *Lions Club* magazines. It is adequate to our needs for the next decade. After nine years in adjoining premises, the SWPA office of RI moved to separate accommodation in Parramatta to the bewilderment of Rotarians in the ANZO region who see their work as inextricably interlinked.

District Responsibilities

Our club has had the responsibility and privilege of hosting two district conferences. On both occasions it earned the right to be proud of its

achievement, made possible by the loyal response of members to the onerous demands made by the DGs and conference chairmen.

1959-60 conference

For the Rotary year 1959-60 DG Horace Bedggood had faith enough in the club he had established six years earlier to entrust it with the responsibility of organising the conference of District 280 at Lome, commencing 1 April 1960. Alan Patters on was conference chairman and Ed Meierbachtol from Minnesota, whose inspirational addresses are still remembered, represented the President of RI - the first Kiwi to hold the office - Harold Thomas. With the help of sound system expert Rotarian Keith Hexter of the Rotary Club of Northcote, tape-recordings were taken of the conference addresses. These are held in our archives and copies have been made on cassettes which members may borrow or copy on request. Regrettably illness prevented DG Horace from attending. His place was taken by immediate PDG Joe Bradbury. The official opening was performed by Sir Angus Mitchell, President of RI in 1948-49.

The organising of this conference, rightly seen by the young club as a formidable task, was made the principal project for the year. Its outstanding



Asian students at the Lome conference who presented messages of good will from their countries

success was a tribute not only to Chairman Alan Patterson, to club President Boyard Taft, to Conference Secretary Geoff Stevens and Conference Treasurer Charlie Fryer, but to the whole club, all of whom, including their wives in vital roles, were involved in one capacity or another. Conference registrations totalled 649.

1977-78 conference

Ray Chambers, when DG, decided the District 980 conference should be held in Melbourne, commencing 14 April 1978, and called on his own club to organise it. Club President Clyde Bennett was conference chairman, Ted Holding secretary, Geoff Stevens treasurer, and Mitch Clarke, from Proserpine, Queensland, represented the President of RI. Again the whole club was involved, with Jack Cathie chairman of the organising committee and Boyard Taft chairman of the program committee.

Hard work, organising ability and meticulous attention to detail again resulted in an eminently successful conference, with registrations numbering 1250. The overheard comment that 'Eighteen years ago, after the Lorne conference, we were told that since there were 39 clubs in District 280, it would be at least 39 years before we would have to organise another' was taken as it was intended - as a wryly humorous rather than a rueful remark. One wonders what would have happened if DG Geoff had asked Hawthorn to handle it again in 1970-71 instead of offering it to the Rotary Club of Camberwell.

Extension

Rotary performs many and varied tasks: none has potential benefits to the community at large more obvious and lasting than thoughtful extension to new localities. Through the dedicated efforts of the few chosen to be the GSR, readily supported by their fellow members, and through its willingness to relinquish territory where necessary, the club has fathered three new clubs, become the grandfather of four others, and the great-grandfather of yet another six. This extended family of hundreds of Rotarians in separate areas of the eastern suburbs provides visible indication that the club, and its progeny, has taken seriously one of the most important of a Rotary club's responsibilities.

Rotary Club of Camberwell In Ern Braithwaite's presidential year the three-year-old club faced its first major step in extension. DG Bill Birch of Korumburra appointed Alan Patterson as his GSR to explore the possibilities of forming a Rotary Club in Camberwell. The formal organisational meeting

of the new club was held on 28 September 1956, it was admitted to RI on 2 November, and its charter was presented in the Camberwell Town Hall on 8 February 1957. Four members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn resigned to join the new club, and others were frequent visitors to its luncheons and supplied several speakers. Camberwell members were invited to many Hawthorn functions so that they might become accustomed to Rotary. In his history of the Rotary Club of Camberwell, Leo Crawford wrote:

The successful inauguration of the Rotary Club of Camberwell was due in no small measure to Rotarian Alan Patterson ... With his characteristics of tact, discretion, organising ability and friendly nature, Alan moulded the Charter Members of Camberwell Rotary into a smooth functioning club. He attended every dinner after charter night for about six months to help guide us. For a busy man like Alan Patterson to give us so much of his time is a grand example of true Rotary Service. We shall always be indebted to him.

Rotary Club of Kew In 1958 at the instigation of DG Joe Bradbury, the board carefully considered the possibility of establishing a Rotary club in Kew. Club President Doug Beeson, the GSR, made several surveys, as a result of which the board in June 1959 resolved that the ceding of the territory of the municipality of Kew be recommended to club members. By November, when the recommendation was put, the club was deeply involved in preliminary work for the 1960 Lorne conference. Though the recommendation was carried, the opposition to it was so strong that DG Horace Bedggood advised President Boyard Taft that the matter be deferred.

Seven years later DG Vic French reopened the question and appointed Jack Cathie GSR. In January 1967, in response to President Reg Harris's letter to members, the club decided by a large majority to cede territory to enable the Rotary Club of Kew to be formed. In March, GSR Jack Cathie underwent an unexpected operation, followed by a trip to the RI convention in Nice, and Geoff Stevens was called on to complete the GSR's task, which he did with customary flair. The organisational meeting was held on 8 June and the club was admitted to RI on 16 June. Until the charter was presented, Hawthorn Rotarians were rostered to make up at the infant club. At the presentation ceremony on 28 September in the Kew Civic Centre, Geoff's standing ovation was thoroughly deserved.

Rotary Club of Glenferrie In October 1974, during John Head's presidency, the membership development committee chaired by Jim Earle set up a sub-committee to consider the formation of a new Rotary club. Detailed investigation led the board to make a favourable report in March 1975 to DG

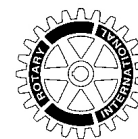
Ted Atkinson, who appointed Jack Cathie as his GSR charged with the formation of the new club. At meetings in May and June the whole club discussed the concept and ultimately resolved that a new club be formed, that no territory be ceded, and that the word 'Hawthorn' should not appear in the new club's title. This was the first time in District 280, and only the fourth in the whole of Australia, that a new club had been formed without ceding territory. At its meeting on 29 July, with Noel Hickey president, the club decided that the new club be called the Rotary Club of Glenferrie and have the right to recruit members from our territory. After the organisational meeting on 14 October, application through DG Frank Newman led to the club's admittance to Rotary on 22 October. Again, wide support from Hawthorn members helped the club get started. Roy Longworth, who followed Bern Hames to head Swinburne Technical College, resigned to join Glenferrie as the evening meeting suited him better. The outstanding success of the charter presentation in the Hawthorn Town Hall on 24 November was a fitting tribute to Jack's industry and devotion.

Grandsons The club was pleased and proud to observe that Camberwell was willing to cede territory to enable the formation of Lilydale in 1965, Balwyn in 1972 and Ashburton in 1979; and that Kew sponsored Kew East in 1986.

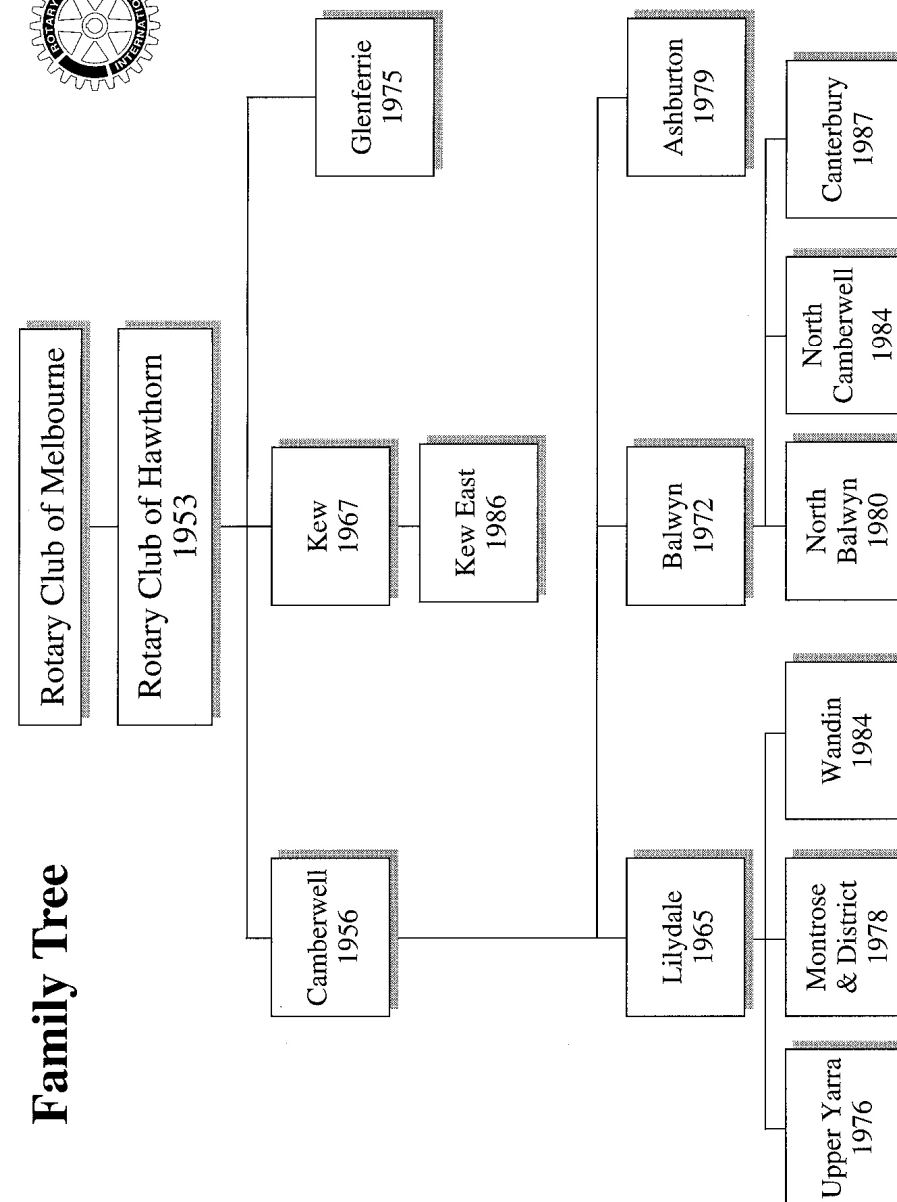
Great-grandsons Lilydale continued the process of expansion by chartering Upper Yarra in 1976, Montrose and District in 1978 and Wandin in 1984. Balwyn chartered North Balwyn in 1980, North Camberwell in 1984 and Canterbury in 1987. Though Lilydale, Upper Yarra, Montrose and District, and Wandin are no longer in District 9800, the club views them with the benign good will of a great-grandfather whose progeny have moved away.

District committees

Often after or before service as club president or another leadership position in a club, opportunities are presented to serve on district committees. This does not confer any authority on the member selected. Over its 40-year history, Hawthorn has had many of its members serving in these roles, notable among them being John Head, commended for his work as chairman of public relations for two years. Service as GSR for Kew 1967-68 and area representative 1968-69 led to Geoff Stevens' nomination as DG for 1970-71. The outstanding service David Rosback gave to the district Youth Exchange and RF committees over many years from 1987 contributed to his appointment as DGN for 1994-95. In recent times, John Waters was appointed district auditor while barely into his second year as a Rotarian, in recognition of the



Family Tree



considerable impact he made in developing a club computer program. Charles Morrison is on the community services committee and is chairman of the Probus committee in recognition of his work in pioneering Probus clubs, which are so relevant in our community today. David Rush is on the membership committee as a run-up to his intense year in 1994-95 assisting David Rosback as secretary.

These opportunities give us the chance to help shape some major programs. Recommendations may be taken by DGs to the annual meetings of the zone institute of governors comprising DGs, PDGs and DGsN around Australia. At these meetings, usually in early January, the director for our ANZO region is in attendance and can refer the recommendations to the board of RI. Over the past decade, we have been able to have a considerable impact on the emphasis in RF programs, moving it away from its original form of almost exclusively tertiary and post-graduate scholarships for students from wealthy countries and towards more Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) programs to help people in developing countries to help themselves. This shift in emphasis was begun by Australia's second World President of RI, Clem Renouf, in 1978-79. It gathered impetus in 1986-89 with the PolioPlus campaign, which lifted RF donations to new heights from a level of about US\$25 million per annum to \$240 million over a three-year period. The board of RI is suitably impressed when substantial sums back up recommendations, and the \$10 million from Australia for PolioPlus helped to give Australia more recognition as a country with generous and willing donors to appeals of such importance and magnitude.

The DG is not able to handle all of the help needed by over 60 clubs in our large district. With all the club presidents wanting to catch his attention, he has a very onerous task. District officers take considerable burdens off his shoulders and provide opportunities for members to gain experience of our worldwide service movement. In addition to specific district committees, approximately ten past presidents each year have responsibility for overseeing a group of about six clubs. We are well served this year by John Meehan from Port Phillip-Melbourne, who has, with his wife Lorraine, attended many of our functions and those of other clubs in his area, thus is a good representative for busy DG Rob Dunn.

When a district becomes too big, neighbouring districts often have related problems and ad hoc inter-district committees are set up to make recommendations for revision of district boundaries. These recommendations often generate more heat than light. Clubs which have been enjoying

fellowship together in a district and a good rapport are often reluctant to be parted. District boundaries are not iron curtains but are sometimes seen as that by some clubs and their members. District 980's boundaries changed in 1972 when it became a primarily metropolitan district. This caused so much heartache that in 1978, our district, in conjunction with neighbouring districts 978, 979, 981 and 982, revised boundaries, which restored to District 980 country clubs west to Bendigo and north to Echuca and Rochester, and shed clubs in eastern suburbs from Box Hill to Mordialloc and beyond. Although a mix of country and metropolitan clubs makes for good fellowship in inter-club visits and Group Study Exchanges, it does cause problems in trying to organise district events because some have to travel so far. A further change was recommended in 1987 but no agreement could be reached between the DGs of that time.

As has been demonstrated in this chapter, the Rotarian allocated to a club service committee has no excuse for claiming that he does not have a very large field of service in which to work.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

The personal nature of vocational service has strictly limited the range of activities which its committees have been able to undertake. Members are expected to represent Rotary ideals to fellow members in their profession or business, and exemplify the spirit of Rotary to non-Rotarians, especially those associated with them in their daily work, their family and community. Consequently vocational service committees have sought to remind individual members, in different ways, of the Rotary ideal of high ethical standards in their vocations, and have been less concerned with undertaking various club activities.

Following a suggestion from RI, one year the club did attempt to investigate how far members actually attained high ethical standards in their business dealings. A questionnaire was issued to all members, half of whom completed it. What to do with the answers proved even more embarrassing than asking the questions. There is a wide range in what members regard as acceptable from time to time. Social changes take time to penetrate. The end of that Rotary year enabled a relieved committee to pass the data on to next year's committee, and so to oblivion by way of the too-hard basket.

Other projects have met with more general approval, some recurring year after year, with changes in emphasis and presentation. These are summarised below.

Representing one's vocation to fellow Rotarians

Representing one's vocation and outlining new methods in it to fellow Rotarians in job talks has been greatly appreciated. At the club's 19th meeting, Harley Kennan initiated a series of these talks which have continued in practically every succeeding year. Consideration is also being given to publicising in the bulletin some such details on our older members so that more recent members may appreciate something of what these senior active members have done. Visits to different members' places of business, though less frequent, were also popular in our early years.

Representing Rotary to others

The first vocational service committee began the endless task of urging members to represent the spirit of Rotary when it suggested that each Rotarian should bring a non-Rotarian member of his vocation to lunch once or twice a year. One popular development from this suggestion was 'secretaries' meetings', where for several years members invited their secretaries to be their luncheon guests. Studies of problems and relationships between employers and employees have been repeated in various ways. In our third year a representative from the Chamber of Manufactures gave his views one week, followed by a representative of the Trade Union Movement the next week. In the third week, management consultant John P. Young, not then a Rotarian, gave his impartial assessment of the validity of the previous speakers' arguments.

The 4-Way Test

Copies of the 4-Way Test, the precepts of which are accepted and promulgated by Rotarians, have been distributed in the club several times, and sent to schools and other institutions. Members have been encouraged to have a framed copy of the Test conspicuously positioned in their places of business.

Vocational training

Advice to young people on choosing a career has been a regular feature. Printed bookmarks with useful advice on them about how to apply for a job were distributed in 1981, mainly to schools. Work experience has been organised frequently to give a clearer idea of what employment in a particular area really involves. Noel Halford initiated a helpful booklet titled *Careerscope* to assist school leavers to plan for their future. Panels have been set up towards the end of the school year to give those hoping to enter the workforce the opportunity to discuss with experts their prospects in a chosen field. In spite of the experts' willingness to help, these ventures have usually had limited success because of school teachers' failure to recognise the need for them.

In 1979 the club assisted students at John Gardiner High School with interviewing techniques. Help has been given to young people learning their jobs, especially those at Swinburne Technical College. Top apprentices were guests of the club for many years during Apprenticeship Week.

Visits to industry

Industry visits organised for the benefit of senior students about to graduate

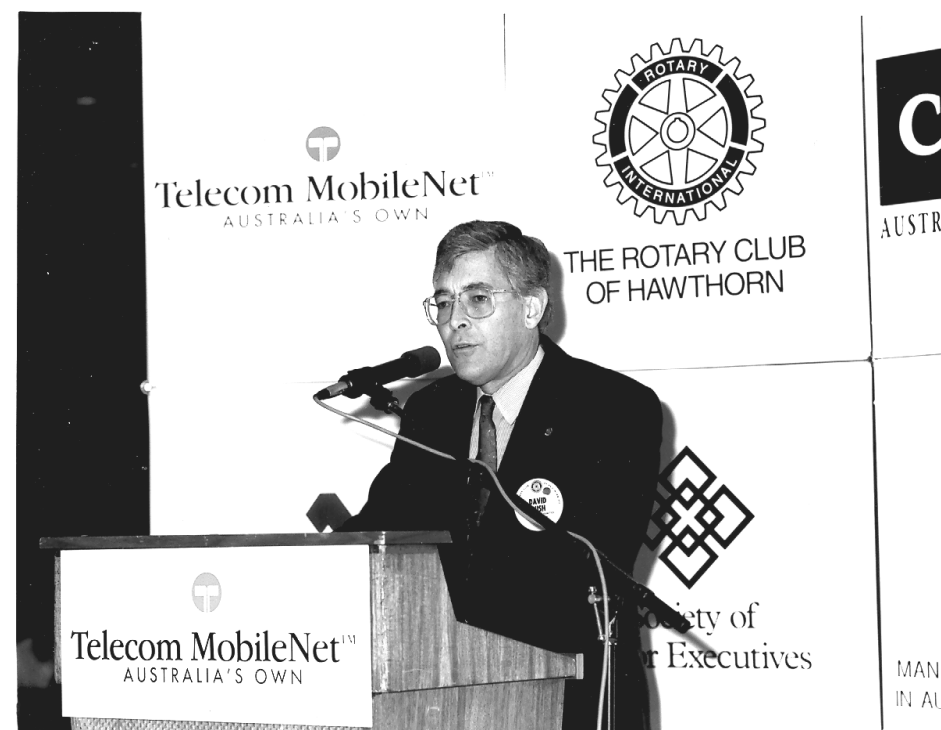
began in our first year with an excursion of Swinburne engineering students to the Shell refinery, and were frequently repeated. In 1965, 32 firms co-operated in explaining their operations to 267 visiting students.

Unemployment

Problems of unemployment among young people have been examined but we have not come up with adequate answers. In 1981 the club co-operated with others in tackling the question through the work of the Hawthorn unemployment liaison committee.

RYLA

The task of choosing representatives to the first seven RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) seminars in which we took part was given to the vocational service committee, for reasons that are now obscure. RYLA is now in the care of community service.



President David Rush chairs a Business Executives Breakfast in 1992

Problems in business

From the 1954 discussion on 'How to humanise my business' to the 1983 seminar on minicomputers for the small business (the irony in the contrast between human and computer is unintentional) and through to the present day, the vocational service committee has given a lead in tackling numerous problems facing those in business. Case studies and films have been used to advantage. Memorable programs have included a film titled *A Manner of Speaking*, shown in 1967 to improve the community's methods of using the telephone, and the Waltons film *Merchandise Security*, shown to Hawthorn businessmen in the Town Hall in 1971.

While tensions between owners, management and employees still abound, Rotary continues in its endeavours to promote dialogue and understanding of the important roles and the interdependence of each. It encourages professional bodies to accept that their members should continue to be more concerned with the people of the community they serve than the welfare of their own members. Our Rotary motto emphasises those basic principles as the recipe for a happy and useful life.

Perhaps our most adventurous step was to introduce the Ron Carr Enterprise Awards in memory of one of our past presidents. Although in some years the entries have not been of a high standard, the objective is to encourage entrepreneurs, without whom our future is bleak. In times of adversity, entrepreneurs are denigrated as business failures mount. Risk-taking is often followed by bold surges forward, punctuated with some miserable failures. The failures underline the risks, but without that adventurous spirit, little progress could be made.

As we enter our fifth decade, we are faced with immense problems of unemployment and all its tragic social consequences. Service to those not as privileged as we are is a fruitful field but it is not easy to find ways and means of expressing this without appearing to patronise those we want to help. Often we try to work for them instead of with them. The work ethic has been a vital part of our culture, and preserving the dignity of those unable to find employment must be part of our task. Rotary also seeks to find ways of preventing problems instead of waiting for catastrophes. In future there will continue to be much to do for members of vocational service committees.

8

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Not every year has the club attained the standard for community service set by RI. Ideally every club should

sponsor a major community service activity each fiscal year, varied from year to year if possible and to be completed if possible before the end of the fiscal year. This activity is to be based upon a real community need and should require the collective co-operation of all its members.

Some of our directors of community service have considered this ideal impracticable, others have just been content to continue with inherited minor exercises, satisfied to have raised sufficient funds to finance them. A considerable number of challenging and imaginative projects have been tackled, several of them described in the section on service to youth, which some consider should be a separate avenue of Rotary service. The total record of achievement is quite impressive. Sadly, copies of financial reports are incomplete so we cannot give a total in dollars raised, but it would be a very large sum.

Major Projects

The first project to meet Rotary's criteria was the promotion of the Hawthorn Over 60 Club in Rotary's Golden Anniversary year, 1954-55. After months of organising, the community service committee, led by Director George Alsop, conducted in March 1955 a monster auction which raised £1508 to get the project started, and arranged with the Mayor of Hawthorn to form a permanent committee to establish an Over 60 Club. Its name has since been changed to the Peppercorn Club and its lower age limit reduced to 55.

The Hawthorn Community Chest also owes its existence in part to the initiative of our club, though it was actually the club service committee under Director Jim Gibson that made the first move. In June 1956, President Ern Braithwaite presented to the mayor a cheque for £100 to be paid into a trust with the proviso that if a Hawthorn Community Chest were formed within one

year this money was to be paid to it. Many subsequent committees have made fund-raising for the Community Chest part of their year's activities and have frequently helped with its annual doorknock appeal.

The sponsorship of the Osborne family was the major task of the fifth year. As described earlier, in association with the Rotary Club of Fortitude Valley, which had organised a Rotary immigration project whereby the *Orsova* brought out 100 British migrant families, Director Jack Wright's committee arranged that the club sponsor Ernest Osborne, his wife, son and daughter. The club leased a house for them, subsidised the rent, gave them a warm welcome from the moment the ship berthed and found employment for him at his own trade.

The establishment of an art gallery and sculpture court for the citizens of Hawthorn was the major project of the 14th year. Director Jim Earle's committee organised an art show which raised \$2700, a significant contribution towards the cost of the gallery.

An investigation of community smoking habits constituted the major project of Director Noel Hickey's committee in our 20th year. A questionnaire devised by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria involved the active



Hawthorn volunteers/or 'Paint Your Heart Out' 1992

participation of most members. We also involved Hawthorn Rotaract Club, Hawthorn Apex and Camberwell Lions Clubs in the project. More than 2000 forms were completed, a sufficiently substantial return to enable Dr Nigel Gray, director of the Council, to arrive at conclusions which would otherwise have cost over \$2000 to obtain: another low-cost health campaign. Further support for the anti-cancer movement has been given in later years, particularly to the Peter Crimmins appeal.

Director Paul Bruce's committee in the 23rd year made their main project the acquisition of a small passenger bus fitted with a lifting device for the transport of the elderly and incapacitated. This was donated to the Hawthorn City Council.

The following year an ambitious first aid project was begun when Graham Armstrong was director. It had the strong support of President Claude Sneddon and succeeded in bringing to public notice the need for training in first aid, but did not achieve its principal objective - to persuade the state government to make first aid a compulsory subject in all teachers' colleges and schools. Wal Dobson's committee persevered with the project the following year, when honorary member Walter Jona, MLA, introduced Claude to other state ministers and aroused the interest and co-operation of government. Confronted, however, by the Goliath of bureaucracy, the committee found itself a David without a sling.

The next year's committee, led by Sam Coffa and with enthusiastic encouragement from former presidents Claude Sneddon and John Head, had the project approved at district level through DG Bruce McKenzie. A spectacular demonstration was organised at the Hawthorn Town Hall, including a mock rescue by St John Ambulance rescue squad, which involved a ride by flying fox across Burwood Rd from the Town Hall tower. As a result of the interest generated by television and press reports, the club was asked to repeat the performance at the district conference in Hobart, where it received an equally enthusiastic reception. Hopes ran high but thereafter the project faded. Goliath survived again.

The major project in the club's 30th year involved the Willsmere hospital, a part of the Kew Psychiatric Hospital. A thought-provoking address by Dr E. F. C. Stamp in June 1982 led President David Corrigan to encourage Director Robert Patterson and his committee to visit Willsmere and examine its needs. Willsmere was an institution that cared for helpless, mainly senile, old people. Such care carries little political clout, for no votes are gained from it. The committee undertook a detailed study of the plight of patients and staff, Noel

Hickey's special projects committee organised a raffle in support, and by April 1983 the club was able to present Dr Stamp with a cheque for \$4000. The Rotary Club of Kew, whom we interested in the project, also gave \$11,000 - the profit from their art show.

The proceeds of the sale of the house in Survey St, Richmond (originally bought to accommodate migrants from Vietnam under our international service program), helped to fund a great number of activities in community service and other areas.

Close involvement with the Hawthorn City Council enabled the club to keep closely in touch with current needs in our city so that we chose relevant projects and had the benefit of a network to help set them up and keep them running. A \$20,000 reserve fund was established for the long-term program to reconstruct the Rose St tip as parkland. This commenced in Charles Morrison's year and was further developed with help from David Rosback and John Carre Riddell. Rather than hand the funds over to the Hawthorn Council without final plans, it is held pending suitable finalisation. Other projects include assisting in citizenship ceremonies and Australia Day celebrations, and persuading the council to tryout the practice of attaching house numbers to SEC and Telecom poles.



Food parcels for the Mission to Streets and Lanes: from left, David Rosback, Sister Hilary, Graeme Dillon

Minor Exercises

The club has conducted numerous minor exercises in community service. It took heed of RI's warning that club programs may warp into a pattern of random do-good activities which would sap morale of members and trivialise the club in the eyes of the community, and ran plenty of major activities as well as minor ones. To list each of these minor exercises is impractical, but some must be mentioned. Early members of the club were mindful that the first community service project in Chicago, where Rotary was started by Paul Harris and his three friends in February 1905, was provision of one public toilet facility in that big, wild, lonely city.

Our very first exercise in community service, as mentioned earlier, was to co-operate with Rotarians from other metropolitan clubs in manning stands erected near the entrance to Government House to make watching the 1954 Royal Tour possible for physically disabled and underprivileged people.

Repeatedly the club has provided equipment and facilities for those in need: a television set in 1956 for adults in the Kew Psychiatric Hospital and



Ian Cathels helps schoolchildren plant trees at the H.A. Smith Reserve

another for the Children's Cottages; contact lenses for a polio victim who without them would lose her sight; urgent help for a distressed immigrant family suffering malnutrition; trips to the hills for afternoon tea and enjoyment of the brilliant colours in autumn for the members of the Hawthorn Over 60 Club (our ladies often helped as drivers for these occasions). Gifts of tea to the Over 60 Club and the Kew Elderly Citizens' Club proved so popular that these were repeated for many years, as was the practice of providing transport for the elderly.

Support in various forms was given to Aborigines, especially before they became as articulate as they are now in expressing their own claims. Examples include tools for the community at Finke, a library for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs camp at Rubicon and funds to enable a young man to complete his tertiary studies.

The provision of medical emergency discs was introduced through the efforts of John Carre Riddell, who later organised financial support for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Camp Quality. The club co-operated with the Toc H organisation in its program to provide warning lights to enable elderly people living alone to signal an emergency, assisted in the promotion of road safety and in the organisation of appeals for the Red Cross and for guide dogs for the blind, and initiated the establishment of several Probus clubs.

The club's consistent policy has been to avoid becoming merely an organisation to raise funds, even for worthy charities. Nevertheless, many of the interminable appeals for help received each year could not be denied. Donations of scores of thousands of dollars have been made to outside organisations. In general, preference has been given to charities operating in Hawthorn, often on the recommendation of the council's social welfare officers.

Not all community service programs involve giving financial help. Rotarians give time and interest to a host of community activities by their service on municipal councils, school and hospital boards, and a wide variety across the whole range of charitable works without which our quality of life would not be so pleasant. This personal involvement exemplifies community service at its best and can be undertaken by those who feel they do not have the funds to support financial appeals.

Finance

Many community projects do require fund-raising to varying degrees. Some of the many methods used to collect the money deserve mention. The wide

variety includes direct giving, especially when tax deductibility is available to donors. A most rewarding method has been an appeal to members for direct gifts for some specific objective. Less efficient but still effective fund-raisers have been raffles, auctions, wine tastings, book fairs, sales of art books, helping to supervise parking at Kooyong, and sales of hams, puddings and chocolates at Christmas. Beneficiaries have also varied widely: the Kooyong Low Vision Clinic, Life Education centres, Vicspan (to help homeless youth), ARHRF, Hawthorn Community Chest, tree-planting projects at schools and public reserves, young people seeking useful employment who have been counselled, and a wide variety of medical and educational charities. In one instance the winner of an air ticket for two to Bali donated the cost to the ARHRF, thus obtaining a pleasant holiday and an income tax deduction towards the cost.

The first major fund-raising effort was the monster auction held in our second year. Auctions on a smaller scale, where goods donated by members are sold back to other members, have become a regular pre-Christmas feature. The quick wit of the auctioneers - Neale Burgess, Bill Young, Richard



Trailer of goods ready to be raffled outside Hawthorn Town Hall

Bainbridge et al. - has turned the sale into an occasion of mirth and good fellowship eagerly looked forward to each year. Golf and bowls days, theatre and social evenings, progressive dinners, special speakers to a wider, paying audience - all have been used. The art shows in 1958 and 1967 were profitable. In recent years Jack Balloul's voluntary raffle each week has been the source of considerable sums and much merriment.

In 1972 the energetic director of community service, Graham Armstrong, introduced a delightful innovation when he organised a visit to Kingston Park, the home of his brother-in-law, David Hains. These 'days on the farm', which were repeated in several subsequent years, proved good methods of raising

money from outsiders as well as Rotarians, and for other committees besides community service. They also became fine avenues of fellowship for club members, their families and guests. In recent years we have had functions at the hobby farms and homes of members: Bill and Jean Young's at Macclesfield, after a morning at a trout farm provided some hilarious videos of parents and young children enjoying it; John and Bev Skerritt's at Taggerty, with trips in a four-wheel drive behind John with the help of a tractor for steep and rugged terrain; and Bib and Gillian Still well's on a beautiful autumn day at Wonga Park with the highlight being a guided tour of the property and a fascinating talk on the flora and fauna by the local ranger.

Service to Youth

Activities to promote the welfare of young people have generally formed a large part of the work of the community service committee, but their distinctive nature earns them a special section in this record.

These began with the donation of the flagpole to the Kew Scout Group camp at Cresco Park, Pound Bend, near Warrandyte in our club's first year. Help for scouts and guides figured prominently in later years too, especially in 1959 when Reg Harris's community service committee helped the 6th Hawthorn Scout Group build its new hall, plans for which were drawn by Jim Earle without fee.

Help for crippled children began in the fifth year, when half the proceeds of the art show was given to Angus Mitchell to assist the Victorian Society for Crippled Children. This was continued in many later years, mostly through Yooralla.

The provision of Christmas toys for underprivileged children began in 1957, when members responded so well to an appeal that the club was able to donate a car-load to the Lady Huntingfield Free Kindergarten. In many years since then similar gifts have been made to children, especially those in the Kew Cottages, St Anthony's Home for Children and the Kildonan Children's Home. On one occasion, with the co-operation of many people, including the Rotary Club of Katherine, we had toys delivered at Christmas to a mission station 175 miles out of Katherine, providing the mission children with a novel experience.

In 1969 George Wootton Jnr's committee organised the club's first group of needy boys and girls in Hawthorn to attend the Lord Mayor's Camp at Portsea. The venture was so successful, and our selected youth leader, Miss Carmel Hore, reported in such glowing terms, that the club made a practice of sending children to this camp for more than ten years, till the cost of our Richmond house for refugee families overshadowed it.

In the same year the club began to provide needy children at state schools in Hawthorn with protective winter clothing and shoes, with the valued material assistance of Wal Dobson and Alan Patterson. The children concerned were nominated by the headmasters of the four schools - Auburn Central, Hawthorn West, Auburn South and Glenferrie - and were approved by the Hawthorn Council's welfare officer. This practice was continued for many years in conjunction with the Community Chest, which later became responsible for funding the venture, while the club continued to organise it.

Notable evidence of the club's interest in youth is provided by the support given to the Hawthorn and Kew Youth Clubs. Initial support from Charlie Fryer, Reg Harris and others for the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club and its weight-lifting division set a fine precedent in community service. We saw it as an existing agency which needed strengthening. Rotary tries to see a need and



move in to meet it without becoming bogged down in keeping it running for ever. This often involves early contact with other groups in the community. It may need a few Rotarians to stay with the project for a number of years to see that it keeps on the rails. Some projects are of such magnitude that members are attracted very strongly and want to continue to give service, even after a responsible community group has taken them up and is handling them well. These principles were apparent particularly in 1962-63 when John Head's committee established the weight-lifting division of the Hawthorn Citizens' Youth Club in its own hall, again designed by Jim Earle, and built on land made available by the council. To add interest and incentive to the effort to raise money for this project, the club entered Sandra Chenhall-Jones, the daughter of member Maurie, as Miss Rotary in a local contest. Though the money raised was paid into the Hawthorn Community Chest, it was earmarked for the youth club's weight-lifting division. Sam Coffa continues to keep closely in touch with this well-established group, which is in world class. Our Rotary club cannot claim sole credit for this, but as Sam and his colleagues readily concede, it did make it possible. It is another example of Rotary at its best with our members' time, support and interest, and at small cost in dollars.

RYLA

The club's involvement with RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) began, at the suggestion of the Rotary Club of Essendon, in 1967-68, our 15th year, when Charlie Fryer was president. RYLA began in Queensland in 1959, the centenary year of that state. For the centenary celebrations, several hundred young people were invited to Brisbane as representatives of youth organisations in all parts of the state. The Rotary Club of Brisbane was officially asked to provide hosts for them, which it did with the help of other clubs. This led the Rotary Club of Brisbane to establish as a Rotary district project an organisation designed specifically to develop leadership skills and good citizenship among outstanding young men and women. (One can only guess at the reaction of Queensland Rotarians to the claim made by RI that RYLA really had its roots in leadership camps founded in the US in 1949.) In 1971, many years after RYLA had become accepted in every district in Australia and New Zealand, it was adopted by RI as a worldwide youth activity. Each year every club in a district is invited to nominate two people, preferably a young man and a young woman, between the ages of 17 and 23 for awards to enable them to attend a youth leadership week at no cost to themselves.

Rotaract

This movement was launched in 1968 to cater for the need of young people between the ages of 18 and 24 for some organisation to help them learn to undertake service activities. Later the age range was extended to 30. Interact had been established to provide a similar field for secondary school students between the ages of 14 and 18, but it did not gain strong support in Australia due to the many other demands on the time of that age group.

Had the club appointed a youth committee before 1968 the doubt as to who should be given the Rotaract portfolio would not have arisen. Actually a special committee for youth affairs was not set up until 1971, when President Tom Russell asked Director Max Graham to lead a group to investigate the possibility of establishing a Rotaract club. This group became our Rotaract committee and later developed into a youth committee, with the Rotary representative on Rotaract as one of its members, if not the chairman.

The initial interest meeting of the Rotaract Club of Hawthorn was held in the Hawthorn Town Hall on 12 May 1972, its organisational meeting on 7 July, and its charter was presented by DG Jock Andrews at the Camberwell Civic Centre on 17 February 1973, when its 30 members received their badges. Despite fluctuations in membership and variable support from its parent Rotary club, the Rotaract Club of Hawthorn maintained a commendable



President John Head with Rotaractors at our club's 21st anniversary dinner

standard, and developed into a useful type of youth service organisation. Highlights of its work included the running of the district Rotaract conference at Lome in March 1981, and the celebration of its tenth anniversary in February 1982, with a barbecue lunch at Wattle Park.

Credit for the Rotaract club's success obviously belongs mainly to the Rotaractors themselves, but the part played by our representatives also deserves praise, for their task was difficult. The hardest part was combating apathy among Rotarians, as Richard Bainbridge, Bill Young and others testified. The relatively narrow age range for membership resulted in a minimum 10% loss each year. As a result of this and our apathy, it sadly lapsed.

Youth Exchange

The Rotary Youth Exchange program involves sponsoring year-long visits of young people, male and female, between the ages of 15 and 18, to and from other countries. Its purpose is to promote international understanding and good will. Until 1978 the club organised this aspect of service to youth through the international service committee. The plan was initiated within the Rotary movement in 1939 and our club first became involved in 1965. Many of our members looked on it with a somewhat jaundiced eye as among other things it had the potential to be unsettling at a critical time in secondary schooling.

The program's success depends greatly on the perspicacity of the committee that chooses the exchange student, the skill of district officers in briefing overseas visitors in Australian ways, and the calibre of the host families who take the incoming students into their homes for up to three months. In general, the club has found hosting a Youth Exchange guest an unusually rewarding experience. Some memorable and fascinating luncheon



*1981-82 Youth Exchange
student Yumiko Kageyama
from Japan*



*1984-85 student
Kristin Envig
from Norway*

addresses have been given by exchange students, both guests from overseas and those we have sponsored on leaving and returning home. The indebtedness of the club to our host families, especially our ladies, is immense for without their generous hospitality the plan could not begin to operate.

District committee officers undertake briefing on the country the student is to visit but of course this cannot extend to a thorough understanding of the significant differences which still exist between cultures, particularly between East and West. Some students from Japan caused consternation when the hostess found water coming from under the bathroom door as they practised their custom of washing and rinsing themselves before entering the bath.

Some of our club's selections for outward exchanges have been exceptional. Amanda Drury has continued her involvement with the program since her return and now serves on our district committee as President of Rotex - the organisation of past exchange students from our district.

Peer Support

Corrective services and the incarceration of offenders currently costs Australia over \$4 billion annually. As most Rotarians would pay appreciably higher rates of tax than average, that means that the annual cost to our 80 plus members (and their average households of say three people) is considerably over \$250,000 a year or \$3000 per household. Put in those terms, our support for youth programs to help prevent at least some of this problem is relatively small. One RF Scholar from the US studied corrective services in our country but we have not yet come up with a suitable program for the problem. It will be interesting to see if moves to privatise institutions to house convicted offenders results in any improvement. More serious than the high dollar cost is the tragic cost to the criminals and their victims in human misery, which is incalculable.

One recent attempt at prevention of these problems recognises that many lives of crime stem from early friendships with under-achievers and others with low self-esteem. The Rotary Peer Support program was designed in 1980 to assist primary and secondary school students to find helpful peer groups. In schools the more senior students are encouraged and taught how to give practical and emotional support to juniors, particularly when transferring from primary to secondary level. Teachers are sponsored by Rotary to training courses to facilitate this. The program supplements the work done in Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and youth groups aiming to raise the self-esteem of primary and secondary students who are more influenced by their own age group than by older people, and hopefully lead to lives of useful service.

Life Education

In conjunction with state education departments, during the 1980s Rotary also developed a program to inform primary and secondary students about the reaction of the human body to smoking, drinking and drug taking. This is done by means of well-equipped and manned motorised vehicles which can be driven from school to school and left on location for some time so that all of the students have the opportunity to obtain factual information. These vehicles are staffed by health workers specially trained in communicating with primary and secondary students, many of whom are surprisingly hostile. Our club has helped with funds in this area also.

There is no doubt that an investment in youth programs can be an efficient way of reducing taxes and human misery. It is also an exercise in inexpensive prevention instead of costly detection, prosecution and correction. As so many inquiries have demonstrated that the latter have not worked, it is a wonder we have not put more into prevention.

As the pace of change accelerates in our country and others, community service initiatives require constant monitoring to ensure that we are pursuing relevant and helpful programs, and not just catering to the problems of former generations which may have paled into insignificance compared with those faced by men, women and children in our communities today. Parents often try to protect their children from problems they suffered in earlier times, without realising that those concerns may not even rank with the next generation.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Since Rotary's full name is Rotary International and part of the affirmed object of Rotary is 'to encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service', it is appropriate that from its inception our club emphasised this international nature of our movement. One early method was by toasting overseas clubs in various Rotary districts, then sending them information about Australia and particularly about our club. Some interesting and appreciative replies were received from the 160 clubs contacted over seven years. After that period the exercise was thought to have lost its relevance because of the sheer number of clubs and the practice was discontinued.

Financial assistance was first given to an international service project with a contribution to building funds for International House. This was inspired by an eloquent bulletin editorial in November 1953 and an address by Rotarian Dr Bert Coates (well known for his work helping prisoners of war in Burma during World War II with Weary Dunlop) in March 1954, seeking support for the establishment of this residential affiliated college of the University of Melbourne for overseas and local students. In many subsequent years the club responded to appeals on behalf of International House for the erection and extension of buildings, the provision of bursaries, improvements to the library and the like. In this it was partly influenced by Angus Mitchell, a supporter of the International House idea. Great men such as Angus Mitchell and Bert Coates epitomised service throughout their lives. They did not 'big note' themselves. They spoke simply and movingly. We 'caught' Rotary from them in a way it could never be 'taught'. President Harley Kennan in 1958 reported his

pleasure that our suggestion that a portrait of Sir Angus Mitchell be painted, found favour in the eyes of the DG, and that we were privileged to be able to arrange the presentation function in the Hawthorn Town Hall in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

Visiting Students

Overseas students have consistently provided outlets for the club's international service aspirations from the very first year when students from the University of Melbourne were entertained at an 'international night'. Such functions remained popular for several years. (This writer's first contact with the club consisted of an invitation in 1959 from the director of international service to take thirty of his Asian students to the Holeproof canteen in Deepdene for an evening's entertainment, including Boyard Taft's colour film of the Olympic Games. Another reason to remember it with pleasure was that Sir Angus Mitchell also attended.)

While overseas students remained something of a novelty, entertaining them, and being entertained by their performance of national songs and dances, appealed to members. At a 1955 picnic Rotarians and their families outnumbered their Asian guests by eight to one. This enthusiasm waned in time, but the club has maintained its interest in and support of Asian students who are enrolled in various educational institutions, such as International House and particularly Swinburne, because of its central location in Hawthorn and the maturity of its students. An especially popular outing has been the annual winter visit to the mountains to give students fresh from the tropics their first experience of snow. Such visits have more recently been organised by the overseas students club at Swinburne, sometimes with our club's financial help.



Entertaining Asian students at the beach (seated: Ran Fowler, on left, and Jim Brown; Geoff Stevens standing)

Asian students have frequently been invited to luncheons, especially when the speaker has had a particularly appropriate topic; they have had tapes of addresses and interviews sent to their home countries, mostly through a local Rotary club; have been taken for drives and other outings; and have been offered hospitality in members' homes and generally made to feel welcome.

As mentioned earlier, the Rotary Youth Exchange program was organised by the international service committee until 1978 but is now under the care of community service.

Visiting Adults

Club members' hospitality was not confined to students. During the Olympic Games in 1956, Jack Cathie's committee organised two extensive Sunday tours of Victoria for overseas visitors in members' cars. In this they co-operated with and were assisted by several Rotary and other clubs. Jack's initiative in this and many other international projects earned him the second Paul Harris Fellowship awarded by our club in 1978 (after the first to charter President Ron in 1976). On numerous occasions in 1960-61 Bill Brown's committee entertained qualified professional people on short-term visits to Australia, including a university professor from Burma, radio broadcasters from Ceylon, and journalists from Sarawak.

In December 1969, the club responded to the request for hosts to two Malaysian nurses on holiday. The generous hospitality of Mizzi and Paul Bruce and of Val and Ian Shaw helped to make their Melbourne visit more pleasant. Over the Christmas vacation in 1970 the club, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Warragul, hosted two primary teachers from Papua New Guinea: Pandapa Undu and Amtu Kizana. Later that year Tom Russell arranged a luncheon visit by sixteen senior engineers from African and Asian countries. In 1971 we were hosts to two Nigerians studying town planning at the University of Melbourne. The main project of Charles Morrison's 1975 committee was to bring Tony Sumartono to Australia for six weeks. A member of the Rotary Club of Bandung with the classification of construction, the chief purpose of his visit was an intensive on-site investigation of Australian methods of constructing roads, bridges and buildings.

Overseas Projects

Support, financial and other, for overseas projects has taken many forms, some examples of which are outlined below.

We contributed in 1964 to the appeal for victims of the earthquake in Yugoslavia. Also that year Maurie Chenhall-Jones' committee collected and

despatched hundreds of disused spectacle frames to a mobile ophthalmic clinic in India.

The following year we co-operated with the Rotary Club of Corrimal, New South Wales, to provide trees for the Australian Rotary forest in Israel.

Miss Elizabeth Hammond of Frankston was financed in 1969 by John Urquhart's committee to spend a year as an Australian Volunteer Abroad teaching in the village of Vanimo in the West Sepik District of Papua New Guinea. Aid was also given a couple of years later to the Kasinik village school in PNG.

After prolonged negotiation with various authorities by Paul Bruce, X-ray equipment was provided in 1972 for a mission hospital in south India.

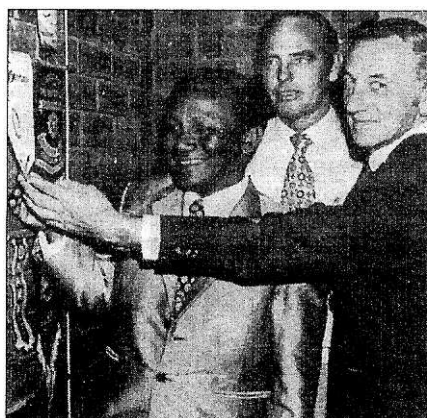
Donations were made in 1973 to the McKean Leprosy Rehabilitation centre at Chiang Mai, Thailand; to the George Brown High School in East New Britain off the coast of PNG; in 1974 to Amtu Kizana of PNG; in 1975 to Father Louis Lachel of Bokaro Steel City in India to provide educational facilities for neighbouring villages; in 1976 to provide medical help in Ethiopia; and repeatedly to the Freedom from Hunger campaign.

In 1986 David Rush initiated one of the most creative international projects our club has been involved in - the Hawthorn Kitchen Project in Phuket, Thailand, which is described earlier in the book, in the 1986-87 year. The project achieved its aim of improving the health and literacy of poor children in the Phuket area, led to excellent communication with the fledgling Rotary

Club of Phuket, and has received Two RF Special Grants and an award from the Thai government.

Matched districts and clubs

World community service provides a Rotary club, faced with a local problem beyond its resources, with a method of enlisting the aid of Rotary clubs abroad. It operates in two ways: through matched districts and clubs and, in Australia, through IPAC, the international projects advisory committee that annually lists projects suitable for clubs to support. Our club has found the



Tony Sumartono being shown Rotary flags by President John Head and Charles Morrison

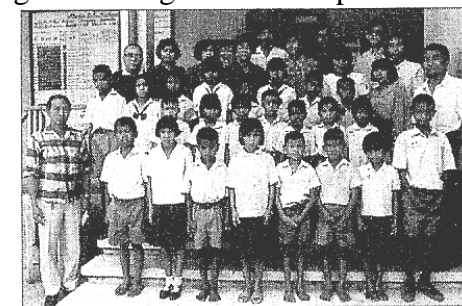
matched districts and clubs program reasonably successful in informing us of overseas needs that we could help meet. With this guidance the club supported the local projects of Rotary clubs in Taegu in Korea, and in Hiroshima in 1966; in Korea and Thailand in 1970; in Kuala Lumpur in 1972; and the 980 matched district in India to help provide an ophthalmic van in 1982.

However, when it came to responding to the appeal to make contact with a prescribed Rotary club in our matched district, the club made no progress at all. Friendly letters were written (in English) to clubs with which we were officially matched in different districts in different years, but none were answered, nor have photographs, literature or tapes been acknowledged. Whether difficulty with language negated the possibility of success, or whether the project just did not appeal, the scheme proved a dismal failure.

IPAC

IPAC has been another story, however. In 1975-76 when Ron Fowler was appointed chairman of IPAC for District 280, Geoff Stevens' committee gave it practical support. In association with the Rotary Club of Ringwood, the club joined the project to supply water tanks in Indonesia which later became known as the 'Save Water Save Lives' project. It also helped the Rotary Club of Sungai Patani to provide an intensive care unit in the Kedah district hospital in west Malaysia. The following year three orphan children were sponsored to attend the Salvation Army school in Medan, Sumatra. That was followed by the donation of funds towards the installation of a tube well for water supply in Bangladesh. In 1979 George Loton's committee organised a club contribution together with a matching RF Special Grant for a centre to house the health services, immunisation facilities and equipment, water supply and primary and nutritional educational literature for the Amgachia village in India supervised by the Rotary Club of Joka.

A refrigerator was supplied to Samgam, Poona, headquarters of the World Association of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, by Alan Dempster's 1982 committee. In 1983 the club's help, through the Rotary Club of Bandung, for victims of the Mt Galunggung eruption amounted to 83,275 Indonesian rupees. (President



Some of the Phuket school children helped by the Hawthorn Kitchen Project

David Corrigan claimed that the \$1000 gift sounded more impressive in rupees!)

FAIM

FAIM is the acronym for Fourth Avenue in Motion, the fourth avenue in Rotary parlance being international service. Begun in 1962, it was an Australian innovation as a district international service project, its aim being the recruitment of voluntary work teams to serve at their own expense usually in remote areas in developing countries in the Pacific. It was adopted by the board of RI in 1978. Our club began supporting FAIM with almost 100% membership in 1972, after an address by PDG Tom Sides, and has maintained its healthy membership. Past President Claude Sneddon and his wife Ruth were members of a FAIM work team in New Guinea in 1978. As described earlier, in 1993 our first club team undertook an intense ten-day project to repair cyclone-damaged buildings in Western Samoa and erect new buildings which should stand up to such extremes. The gratitude of the people and their leaders is testimony to the truth of the Rotary motto 'he profits most who serves the best'.

Rotary Foundation

Educational awards

The initial concept of RF - the acceptance of endowments for educational and



Our FAIM team in front of their anti-cyclone building

other avenues of community progress - was the 1917 brainchild of the sixth President of RI, Arch Klumph. The idea did not really take practical shape until after Paul Harris's death in 1947 when members contributed US\$1.3 million in honour of Rotary's founder. With this, 18 graduate scholarships were granted to highly qualified scholars from seven countries. As the contributions increased year by year, the range of recipients widened. The first scholarship granted to a Melbourne resident was in 1953.

Our club's first opportunity to nominate a Scholar came in 1957, but though our nominee was eminently suitable, he was not successful. The irony of such valuable awards is that they possess the inherent probability of failure: they are so valuable that competition is intense. This is frustrating to club RF committees, who spend many hours each year interviewing candidates, but they accept the position philosophically, hoping the next will succeed. Two of our nominees have been accepted. In 1970 John Docking received a technical training award which enabled him to study for a year at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He was an employee of our plumber member, Charles Fraser. In 1973 Bernard Remnick also received a technical training award. He spent his year studying welding technology at the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire.

The first overseas Scholar to be allotted to our club was Lou 1. Veres of Windsor, Ontario. George Heron was in charge of his itinerary in District 280, accompanying him on his visits to 25 Rotary clubs, involving trips as far afield as Albury, Castlemaine, Sale and Deloraine. George was honoured with the third PHF awarded by our club in recognition of this year of dedicated service.

Next was Bert Hitchcock from Alabama who in 1964-65 studied at the University of Melbourne. His counsellor was Gordon Woodard, with whom he kept in touch till Gordon died. Since then he has maintained contact with the club through Neale Burgess. Gordon's PHF was awarded posthumously.

In 1972-73 Paul Frankhouser and his wife Eileen came from Pennsylvania to study management and production in mechanical engineering at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. His counsellor was Jim Gibson, with whom he too corresponded after returning home. Jim received his PHF after leaving the club.

In 1977 Gary Gillard, a teacher of the deaf, came from Maryland to study at the Burwood State Teachers Training College. Jim Earle was his counsellor. The occasion of his address to the club, with his counsellor as chairman, is remembered as a classic of both oratory and chairmanship. For his dedicated help to Gary during this year Jim Earle earned his PHF in 1988.

Julie Gebron came to us from Portland, Oregon, in 1989. She was a translator for deaf and dumb children but undertook a course in movie studies at Monash University. John Head was her counsellor.

In 1990-91 David Tanner, his wife Pam and son Christopher arrived from Pensacola, Florida. David was completing his master's thesis in history at the University of Melbourne. Noel Hickey was his counsellor.

Group Study Exchange, the second educational program of RF, began in 1965. It enables teams of young business and professional people in different countries to exchange visits of several weeks' duration in order to develop international friendships and learn different ideas, ways of life, and business or professional practices. The members of the team must not be Rotarians, but they are led by a Rotarian. RF pays travelling expenses and members of the team are hosted in homes of Rotarians. Again, how much we owe to the ladies of Rotary!

In March 1966 the club hosted its first team, which came from Ontario. Since then it has hosted teams from South-east Asia in 1968, Nebraska in 1970, Sweden in 1973 and Japan in 1975. Barry Garnham, when a member of the Rotary Club of Camberwell, was the leader of the team from District 280 to Japan in 1976.

Health, Hunger and Humanity

To mark its approaching 75th anniversary, in 1978 RI organised the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program, the most recent development within RF. Its purpose is to 'improve health, alleviate hunger, and enhance the human and social development of needy people' and it emphasises helping people to help themselves.

Our club, led by President John Urquhart and Charles Morrison, chairman of the 75th anniversary committee, in the search for a project that would best harmonise with the 3-H program, finally decided to foster a refugee family from Vietnam. In December 1980 we bought a house in Richmond for the sponsored family to live in until they became accustomed to their new environment. An appeal for donations to meet the cost, \$40,000, did not bring in as much as had been hoped and other means of raising the money had to be devised. In the next two years the debt was substantially reduced and the \$12,000 owing in June 1983 was soon cleared, despite there being no income tax incentive.

Local Uniting Churches joined with the club in the administration of the project in 1981 and the first Vietnamese family, Nguyen Duy Ky and Mai Thi

Thank Hong and their children, moved into the house in May. Their assimilation was greatly facilitated by the interest shown and help given by club members, especially Reg Harris, together with Vic Burns, Bill Brown, Bill Young, George Loton and Rodney Taft. In August 1981 Reg told the club Ky and Hong were learning English at the Collingwood Migration Centre, and keeping fit by walking there and back from Richmond. By June 1982 on their own initiative they had found a flat and so freed this 'half-way' house for its next family. The club wished them well as they made their future in their new community. On the recommendation of the officers of the Ecumenical Migration Centre the next tenant was Huong, a Vietnamese woman with four very young children and a seventeen-year-old student brother-in-law. Huong had been deserted by her husband. Speaking no English when she arrived, she learned very slowly, quite the reverse of her under school-age children whose facility in English was remarkable.

Financial support for RF

The club's first payment to RI funds for RF was made in 1956, when it contributed £80. It took till 1959 to reach the status of a 100% club, one of only sixteen such clubs in District 280 at that time: in non-Rotarian parlance that meant the club contributed a cumulative total of US\$10 per member. Regular contributions came from birthday fines and, for some years, donations to the large, slotted whisky bottle that was passed round the tables. Contributions increased markedly after 1976 when the club, following a practice introduced by RI in 1957, honoured charter President Ran Fowler by giving US\$1000 in his name and so making him a PHF. Our current directory lists 47 present and former members who have been honoured in this way by



*DG Greg Ross presents
President David Rush with the first
Rotary Foundation Award in 1992*

our club. In addition the Rotary Club of Prahran granted a PHF to a former president of that club who later joined ours, Ray Chambers. We have also awarded five-star sapphire pins to PDG Geoff Stevens and DON David Rosback, and a single-star sapphire pin to Jack Cathie in recognition of his remarkable service to RF and our club, including forming the new clubs of Kew and Glenferrie.

PolioPlus

The Rotary world had its eyes turned in a new direction when Clem Renouf, from the relatively small Rotary Club of Nambour in Queensland, was President of RI in 1978-79. Until that time RF had mainly provided scholarships at tertiary level to graduates and undergraduates, with some special categories for teachers of the handicapped and journalists. Clem initiated Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) as his program for the 75th anniversary of Rotary and, by constant persuasion, managed to get it included as an ongoing program of RP. Clem was followed by a Mexican doctor, Carlos Conesco, who was equally persuasive and hammered away to have greater priority accorded to these imaginative 3-H programs aimed at helping the people of developing countries to help themselves. After sensitive negotiations with UNICEF and WHO (World Health Organization), it was agreed that RI would try to raise the sum of US\$120 million by 2005 to mark the centenary of Rotary, and use this money to buy vaccines with a view to completely eradicating polio and other communicable diseases preventable by vaccine right around the world. The ambitious PolioPlus program was launched in 1985-86, and it harnessed Rotary's ability to go to areas where UNICEF and WHO were persona non grata because of government links with major donor countries, which some developing nations viewed with grave suspicion.

As worldwide organisation for the appeal was mounted during 1986, the Rotary world was stunned when PDG Les Whitcroft, and his wife Shirley who had contracted polio 37 years earlier, from the Rotary Club of Ryde, New South Wales, offered to contribute US\$250,000 to the appeal. When Shirley



President Bill Troedel presents Arch Crow with his Paul Harris Fellowship

announced this in a short speech at the SWPA conference in Adelaide in November 1986, in the presence of the President and General Secretary of RI, the gathering of several thousand was electrified. In a few simple phrases Shirley told how she had suffered; her only child at the time had to be cared for by grandparents 1200 kilometres away for two years, and increasing infirmity as years went by were a constant reminder of the crippling disease. If they could save some

children around the world from similar life-long distress it would be well worth their donation, and they were even willing to endure the publicity, distasteful as that is for most people in our country, if it would help others to become committed to the program also.

As this was the first major donation in the world it arrested the attention of wealthy and generous Rotarians in the US, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and other countries, and they responded quickly. PDG Bill Thornton from Perth lobbied the Canberra tax office until he obtained consent for personal donations from Australians to be tax deductible. It was a significant breakthrough as RF contributions previously did not qualify for that incentive. Our club, then led by President Henry Kingsley, took up the challenge and over three years contributed almost \$40,000, a significant part of the almost \$10 million which came from Rotarians around Australia.

At the 1988 RI world convention in Philadelphia the remarkable sums raised were announced with full US razzamatazz, with reports from each country in alphabetical order flashing on to a giant screen to thunderous applause until they finally came to the US, which pushed the total promised way over its \$120 million target to nearly \$240 million. It was Rotary's grandest moment. This back-room service organisation, which did not seek publicity for itself but rather publicised the bodies for which it worked, hit the world spotlight. Things have never been the same since. Thereafter Rotary was known as something much more than a select group of privileged people who met weekly; little else was known of it previously.

Polio has not been completely eliminated but because the total raised exceeded the initial target substantially, considerable progress has been made. Cost increases since then have been able to be covered, therefore the program should not languish for lack of funds from Rotary to purchase the vaccines. There are still a few isolated countries resisting the program although the vaccination is a very simple oral process. It does require a 'cold chain' to keep the vaccines at a low temperature until they are administered. At the recent Melbourne world convention of RI, a demonstration was staged in which a child was given its oral vaccine by Carlos Conesco, chairman of trustees of RF, in front of the gathering of over 10,000 people from around the Rotary world. As the US\$240 million collected will ultimately enable inoculation of over one billion children, the magnitude of this program can scarcely be imagined as something RI could achieve with the support of its 27,000 clubs in over 170 countries and regions with over one million members.

Donations to RF, which had been lifting gradually to about US\$25 million annually, are now running at about three times that sum. Health, Hunger and Humanity's imaginative programs are receiving more attention.

The message in international service as in other avenues of Rotary service is, as succinctly put by Ed Meierbachtol at the Lorne district conference in 1960: 'There are no big shots in Rotary - only a collection of little shots who will never quit shooting'. Whether you joined our club this year, or were a charter member, your membership can be effective. It is only the limits of our imagination which can prevent us from achieving great things for our international service movement.

APPENDIX

Charter Members

George Alsop	George Heron
Doug Beeson	Bill Johnstone
Ern Braithwaite	Harley Kennan
Jim Brown	Alf Milligan
Les Brown	Alan Patterson
Jack Cathie	Dave Prentice
Alf Clark	Lyall Ross
Ron Fowler	Jack Searls
Charlie Fryer	Harry Slater
Clarrie Fryer	Alec Steele
John Goss	Stan Stevens
Dick Harbig	Ron Wines
Gil Hendrie	Gordon Woodard

Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers 1953-93

	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1953-54	Ron Fowler	Stan Stevens	Bill Johnstone
1954-55	John Goss	Stan Stevens/Jack Cathie	Bill Johnstone
1955-56	Alan Patterson	George Heron	Charlie Fryer
1956-57	Ern Braithwaite	Ron Wines	Charlie Fryer
1957-58	Harley Kennan	Perc Clark	Geoff Stevens
1958-59	Doug Beeson	Hal Tharratt	Geoff Stevens
1959-60	Boyard Taft	Jim Gibson	Les Brown
1960-61	Jack Wright	Clyde Bennett	Les Brown
1961-62	Stuart Hickman	Ken Williams	Lem Smith
1962-63	Gordon	Neale Burgess	Hal Tharratt
1963-64	Geoff Stevens	Jim Earle	Doug Rogers
1964-65	Jack Cathie	Tom Russell	Doug Rogers
1965-66	Hal Tharratt	Gerry Gaffney	George Sim

	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1966-67	Reg Harris	John Head	George Sim
1967-68	Charlie Fryer	John Head	Wal Dobson
1968-69	Geoff Ingham	Claude Sneddon	Paul Bruce
1969-70	Neale Burgess	Ian Shaw	Frank Clarke
1970-71	Bib Stillwell	Rex Braddy	Ted Atkins
1971-72	Tom Russell	Geoff Mullins	Reg Hewson
1972-73	Bern Hames	Geoff Mullins	Reg Hewson
1973-74	Bill Brown	Robert Patterson	Reg Hewson
1974-75	John Head	Garth Tapp	Robert Patterson
1975-76	Noel Hickey	Ted Holding	Geoff Longney
1976-77	Claude Sneddon	Vic Burns	Sam Coffa
1977-78	Clyde Bennett	David Corrigan	Lew Jenkins
1978-79	John Ward	Barry Wheatley	Jim Braden
1979-80	John Urquhart	Dick Clyne	Ray Chambers
1980-81	Vic Burns	Brian Green	Graham Francis
1981-82	Ron Carr	David Rosback	John Henden
1982-83	David Corrigan	David Rush	Barry Garnham
1983-84	Rodney Taft	Ron Kaplan	Lew Jenkins
1984-85	Robert Patterson	Noel Halford	Lew Jenkins
1985-86	Gerry Gaffney	Terry Perree	Lew Jenkins
1986-87	Henry Kingsley	Noel McInnes	Jan Hamilton
1987-88	Jan Jones	Ken McNamara	John Duguid
1988-89	Charles Morrison	Peter Taylor	John Duguid
1989-90	David Rosback	John Robinson	Laurie Fehring
1990-91	John Carre	Richard	Barry Garnham
1991-92	David Rush	Paul Hawkesley	Richard Groom
1992-93	Bill Troedel	Jan Cathels	Richard Groom
1993-94	Terry Perree	Jan Hamilton	Richard Groom

Rotary Awards

Paul Harris Fellows

1976 Ron Fowler
 1978 Jack Cathie, Ray Chambers, George Heron
 1980 Geoff Stevens
 1981 John Head
 1982 Bern Hames

1983 Jim Brown, Reg Harris, Bib Stillwell
 1984 Alan Patters on, Boyard Taft
 1985 Neil Roberts
 1987 Bill Brown, Sam Coffa , Alex Kenworthy
 1988 Graham Armstrong, Paul Bruce, Vie Bums, John Carre Riddell, Jim Earle, Jim Gibson, Noel Halford, Terry Perree
 1989 Neale Burgess, David Corrigan, Noel Hickey, Lew Jenkins, Walter Jona, David Rush, Gordon Woodard
 1990 Jack Balloul, Charles Morrison, David Rosback, Bill Troedel
 1991 Charlie Fryer, Gerry Gaffney, Henry Kingsley
 1992 Wal Dobson
 1993 Gerard Cramer, Arch Crow, Bill Young, Ken McNamara, Robert Patterson, Gillian Stillwell

Paul Harris One-Star Sapphire

1986 Jim Braden
 1990 Jack Cathie

Paul Harris Five-Star Sapphire

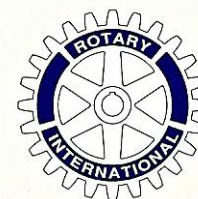
1990 Geoff Stevens
 1993 David Rosback

Rotary Foundation Certificate of Appreciation

1990 John Head

Companion of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund

1992 Geoff Stevens
 1993 John Loutit



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