

# Reflections of 70 Years Rotary Hawthorn

1953-2023

“Preserving the Past for our  
Future”



Editor Dorothy Gilmour

*To Members,  
past, present, and future of our wonderful  
Rotary Hawthorn*

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## Foreword

Rotary Hawthorn, established in 1953 celebrates 70 Years in 2023. To help us acknowledge and celebrate this amazing milestone, I have compiled highlights of our 70 years to hopefully provide us the opportunity to reflect and remember some of the considerable achievements of our great Club and its Members. This book is not sequential in its “reflections” just like our memory – non-sequential in processing “reflections”!

While this book could not possibly cover all events and achievements during this time, it provides an insight into some of the significant moments, notable stories, and inspiring personalities of 70 years of Rotary Hawthorn.

I would ask that Members and other Rotarians read it with this caveat in mind and I apologise in advance to those who may remember or be aware of a particular event or moment that is not included.

I hope you enjoy the collection of memories.

*Onwards and Upwards in Rotary fellowship!*

**PE Dorothy Gilmour** – Rotary Hawthorn

## **Preface**

In 2023 Hawthorn Rotary Club marks 70 years as a member of the International Rotary community. This is a significant achievement which will be celebrated in a number of ways during the year by current and past members, including this book which has been edited by Dorothy Gilmour.

Dorothy has compiled the book from several sources including interviews with Club members and research through the Club's records. It is a celebration of major achievements by the Club over its history and a collection of anecdotes about members current and past, with a bit of gossip and humour added in.

As a relatively new member of the Club, I am impressed with the level of dedication members have shown in support of Club projects within the local and international communities, and this level of commitment goes back all the way to our founding members.

Sharing stories is an important part of Rotary, ensuring members understand its history and purpose and looking forward to the next generation of Rotarians.

I am confident the founding members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn would be very pleased to know their vision and passion for supporting the community is still a strongly held value within our Club and will guide us into the future.

I trust you will enjoy reading *Reflections of 70 Years: Rotary Hawthorn 1953-2023*.

**Doug McLean**

President 2023-2024

Rotary Club of Hawthorn

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# **Reflections of 70 Years**

**Rotary Hawthorn  
1953-2023**

**“Preserving the Past for our Future”**

1. In chartering Rotary Hawthorn in 1953, the question was: “How do you pick leaders from community to charter a new Rotary Club?” DG Horace Bedggood was given the task of forming a new club. He interviewed a few potential leaders and then, in company with one of them, duly visited other potential members one by one until he had the required number to apply for charter.

It was told that our charter members included ‘racehorses’ and ‘Clydesdales’, both being vital in a club that would be confronted with short-burst projects and those involving long, heavy, and hard hauls!

We duly became the tenth metropolitan club in what was then called District 28.

2. In 1952, after World War II, there was consideration as to why Rotary was taking so long to expand within the eastern suburbs. At that time, membership of Rotary was possible only if one’s place of business was in the club’s territory; there was no residential qualification.

There is a “story” that Melbourne was slow to cede their 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!

3. In 1953, we were very fortunate that the appointed Governor’s Special Representative Horace Bedggood, was a man of great ability and administrative skill and not immersed in his own importance and was friendly to everyone.

He ran a successful manufacturing business, earned the respect and admiration of co-directors, shareholders, contemporaries in related industries, staff and had a wonderful record of service to worthy causes, such as the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria.

Horace's enthusiasm and effectiveness rapidly progressed the charter of Rotary Hawthorn on 24 August 1953. Our club was established with the impressive induction of 25 members.

4. In early club Bulletins, the Treasurer had to make repeated appeals for the annual subscription to be paid – 6 guineas (\$250 in 2022). Have we changed our habits?
  
5. In the 1950's, we were greatly helped by regular visits from members of Rotary Melbourne who supported Horace Bedggood strongly to ensure our club did not lose its way in its first years. 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 must be there to catch it.
  
6. In 1953, it was Ron Fowler, our first President, who was noted for being able to build fellowship with members and to get a team of people to work well together. As managing director of Fowlers Vacola, Ron was expert in sales and marketing. Ron's infectious humour and enthusiasm helped to cement the fellowship of the club. Thanks Ron.
  
7. In 1953, the Charter Members and Classifications were as follows:
  - President Ron Fowler – Fruits, Vegetables and Nut Products, Canning Fruits & Vegetables
  - Director Harley Kennan – Medicine Dentistry
  - Director Gordon Woodard – Real Estate
  - Club Service Director Alan Patterson – Clothing Industry Shoe Retailing
  - Vocational Service Director John Goss – Automobile Industry – Garage & Service Station
  - Fellowship Director Jim Brown – Laundering, Cleaning & Dyeing Industry
  - Music Director Alf Milligan – Religion Christianity Protestantism
  - Municipal Service Alec Steele – Municipal Administration
  - Rotary Information – Jack Searls
  - Program Director Ern Braithwaite – Chemical Industry, Pharmacy

- George Alsop – Construction Service Architecture
- Doug Beeson – Clothing Industry, Brace & Garter Manufacturing
- Bill Brown – Jewellery, Jewellery Retailing
- Jack Cathie – Printing & Publishing Newsagency
- Alf Clarke – Furniture Fixtures & Fittings, Fixtures Manufacturing
- Charlie Fryer – Horticulture, Nurseries & Growing
- Clarrie Fryer – Municipal Service, Municipal Engineering
- Rick Harbig – Clothing Industry, Millinery Supplies Manufacturing
- Gil Hendrie – Food Industry Baking Retail
- George Heron Recreation – Motion Picture Theatres
- Bill Johnstone – Finance – Commercial Banking
- Stan Stevens – Leather Industry, Leather Specialities Retailing
- Ron Wines – Institutions & Hospitals, Hospitals

8. In 1954, the club's first community service project was expedited 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. In 1953, a flagpole donated by the club was presented to the Kew Scout Group and erected at its camp near Warrandyte.

9. Much endorsement and respect for young people and international students has been embedded in Hawthorn's early days and has continued the past 70 years. Here we are in 2023, with one of Rotary's key focus areas being Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and we commenced being diverse, and inclusive 70 years ago. Equity happened when the Club allowed female members in 1993.

The following are just a few examples of Rotary Hawthorn's respect and support for young people and diversity:

- 1955-56, six students from Asian countries provided their thoughts of life in Australia. These talks were recorded and the tapes sent to a Malaysian Rotary club which forwarded them to other Asian clubs and these were received with a pleasing response.

- Rotary Hawthorn's support and interest in 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.
- Swinburne later became a TAFE college and gained university status for some of its courses. We developed many programs in close consultation with Swinburne Technical College and Secondary School. Tom Tylee, innovative Director of Swinburne Technical College, became a member of our club.
- In 1956, President Ern Braithwaite asked Boyard Taft to be International Service Director 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 met with a large intake of students from Malaysia studying at Swinburne.

Nights of dinner and entertainment and later when club members invited a student home for dinner, some students were reduced to tears from receiving Rotary Hawthorn friendship.

- Over the years, other opportunities occurred to host secondary school students, undergraduates and post-graduates under the Rotary Youth Exchange and Foundation programs.
- In 1957, Members' wives, friends and 30 Asian students from Swinburne Technical College along with Angus Mitchell and other Rotarians were guests at an international night for the International Geophysical Year.
- Vocational Service Committee in 1959-60 arranged 'job talks' at a luncheon organised by members of Hawthorn and leading apprentices from Swinburne Technical College. Several students were assisted in obtaining part-time employment in factories and offices during the Christmas vacation.

- 1960-61 saw several functions when Asians visiting Australia were entertained at the initiative of the International Service Committee.

A university professor from Burma, radio broadcasters from Ceylon, journalists from Sarawak and students from the Philippines and Pakistan were among the many guests of Rotary Hawthorn.

- A picnic at Maroondah Reservoir and Healesville Sanctuary was attended by 50 Asian students who then went on to the homes of Rotarians for the evening.
- 1964-65: the Vocational Service Committee organised 267 boys from Swinburne Secondary School on Industry Day, 15 August, for inspections of 32 businesses. This was the forerunner of many programs to help secondary students make informed decisions about careers.

Our club was host to the most successful final year apprentices in each of the four trades at the Swinburne Technical College.

- In 1988-89, we sponsored a Peer Support program, designed to assist primary and secondary students form helpful peer groups.
- Sometimes there was not enough time to have 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 discovered water from under the bathroom door as the Japanese students practised their custom of washing and rinsing themselves before entering the bath!
- In 1999-2000, in President Anne Scott’s year, The Ron Carr award was presented to students from the Swinburne Graduate Business School for their Cardiac Mapping Systems.
- Chris Hanson and his team in PP David Pisterman’s year (2000-01) provided students with Secondary School Scholarships, visits to Lord Somers Camp, National Youth Science Forum, MUNA.

- In 1979 the Club assisted students of John Gardiner High School with interviewing techniques. 2017 saw the successful continuation of “mock interviews” at Auburn High School providing students a great exercise in development of communication and interview techniques for future employment.

Geoff Wright has developed this initiative successfully for past as Director of Youth till 2023.

- In 2017 Past Presidents Charlotte England, Ngaire Cannon, Noel Halford, David Rush created the Effective Speaking program for Swinburne University students who had English as their second language.

10. The major project for 1958-59 was Rotary Hawthorn’s invitation to host the District Conference at Lorne. DG Horace Bedggood offered the task to Hawthorn as the club he had formed and of which he was very proud. A splendid Rotary Special Representative, Ed Meierbachtol from St Paul, Minnesota added great levity to the conference via tape recordings.

Ed was renowned for his stories and 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 sometime! “I have the time if you have the inclination!”

11. A Fellowship committee was introduced in 1956 and this continued for more than a decade. A list of members’ birthdays and a schedule of luncheon dates was lodged with a florist. Buttonhole sprays were then delivered on appropriate Tuesdays for presentation to members on or before their birthdays.

12. 1962-63: Donations were made for new accommodation for the weight-lifting division of the Hawthorn Citizens’ Youth Club.

Over a two-year period, £650 (\$23,000 in 2022) was raised and handed over to complete the Hawthorn Citizens’ Youth Club project, Hawthorn

Community Chest, Hawthorn-Kew Girl Guides Group, Hawthorn Meals on Wheels, Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog Appeal, Freedom from Hunger and Angus Mitchell House for Crippled Children. A Christmas toy appeal was again successful in providing toys to the Children's Cottages, Kew.

13. It was a great loss for members in 1966-67 when Tom Tylee died. He and his wife Judy took a keen interest in the club. In the days when touring in Australia's "red centre" 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.

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 even if windows were opened in the normal way.

Our club decided to establish a permanent memorial to Tom Tylee in the form of an endowment to the library of Swinburne Technical College of which he had been CEO since 1950.

14. It was in 1968-69 that Rotary Hawthorn succeeded in having our first nominee for DG appointed. PP Geoff Stevens (1963-64), President of the Printing and Allied Trades Employers Federation of Australia was nominated.

Interesting to note that singing had been abandoned in many clubs and as President Geoff thought we (not us in 2023 but our predecessors!) were not very good musically, and singing was dropped in his year.

It appears he was singularly unimpressed with "Three Blind Mice" sung as a round, not quite the harmony of a Welsh choir, when he had a distinguished guest at lunch!

In the 1970's, Jim Brown's Fellowship Committee won acclaim for the fine spirit of friendliness and hospitality which developed among members. Conscious effort was made to promote good fellowship and singing helped.



Less self-conscious then, members felt that making a 'joyful noise' together, "the one programmed activity in which everyone can take part", was fun, not the embarrassment some consider it today!

15. Throughout the history of our club, there are many fantastic members who fly "under the radar" but are the backbone of many projects and events. Denbigh Richards is one of these members.

Denbigh is a highly respected Rotarian since joining Rotary Hawthorn in 2018. He held the position of Chairman (formerly Boroondara Foundation) Boroondara Cares Foundation.

Professionally, Denbigh held many roles in correctional services and was responsible for managing 100 youth offenders at Malmsbury.

He was later recognised for his work as Director of Community Corrections in the newly created Office of Corrections and Head of the Tasmanian Corrections Service.

Denbigh oversaw the development of a state-wide network of Community Corrections Centres and the introduction of new legislation establishing more flexible Community Corrections Orders.

It was at this time the Intensive Corrections Order was introduced as an alternative to imprisonment. His Division also managed a Pre-release Program assisting prisoners to prepare for life after their release.

When working with Boroondara Cares, Denbigh worked alongside Rotary for many years but jestingly described himself as "a reluctant Rotarian" as he did not commit to joining a Club at that time.

Denbigh is appreciated for the support he lends on packing days, deliveries to Upton House (Box Hill Hospital), moving stock to and from DIK. He is part of the recycled playgrounds team and the Christmas lunch for socially isolated which later as a Covid compromise, became the Christmas Gift project.

Did you know Denbigh has a fine singing voice, having participated in choirs since his youth. Unfortunately, he supports the wrong football team. (This is according to Gordon Cheyne!)

16. Our 1980-81 President was Vic Burns who was an outstanding president though 'pint-sized but gallon capacity' in appearance. It was said that Vic was often asked to stand up when he was already on his feet.

Vic and his wife Betty were held in very high esteem by all Rotarians. Small in stature but large in vision, he was a terrific counsellor to many presidents.

17. Bern Hames was our historian for three decades and followed Tom Tylee as Director of Swinburne Technical College and President at Hawthorn in 1972-73. Bern had a dry wit it appears which he demonstrated at our meetings. As Bulletin Editor previous years, Bern included a pithy poem to collect 'dues':

*Subs are due, from quite a fen,  
We know who, and so do you!*

18. A canny, generous Scot, President Bill Brown (1973-74) gave much to Rotary and continued to work hard during the many financial 'crashes' of the 1980s and was in great demand as an arbitrator.

Bill and his wife Liba were effective in the hard to handle Vocational services area. With warmth and friendship, these good Scots worked with the committee to provide emergency lights for elderly people living alone, needy children to be kitted out in winter clothing through the Hawthorn Community Chest, tea for pensioners, planning for retirement and outings for members of the Over 60 Club.

19. In 2023, it is terrific to report that the sterling work behind the scenes of Jane and PP Henry Drury (2003-04), and PP Anne Scott (1999-2000), gave our Club unrivalled expertise in continuing support of our Exchange program.

20. President Claude Sneddon (1976-77) was known as the ‘toy man’ with a great interest in the arts, and a talented musician who composed music for television productions.

Claude was interested in community safety and advocated projects support St John Ambulance. He was our first member to join a FAIM (Fourth Avenue in Motion) team which worked with Rotarians and non-Rotarians throughout the Pacific.

21. PP David Corrigan (1982-83) and PP John Urquhart (1979-80) would remember President Clyde Bennett (1977-78) for his love of ‘fast’ and powerful cars. At one conference he took off for a ‘burn’ on country roads where speed limits were not enforced as strictly as in Melbourne.

As a removalist and taxi-truck operator, he had a great ability to get things done.

Incidentally, PP John Urquhart introduced some innovations in coach trips to district conferences on the basis that ‘getting there and back needs to be part of the fun!’

22. We are proud to have had five District Governors over our 70-year history:

1970-71 Geoff Stevens

1977-78 Ray Chambers

1994-95 David Rosback

2006-07 Bernie Walshe

2012-13 Dennis Shore

The highest recorded membership was 94 Rotarians in 1994.

23. John Ward was our second Scottish President in 1978-79. He was honoured by an MBE for his work in his vocation – contracting in the electrical field. He was a great encourager and helped to bring out leadership skills in our members.

24. PP Ron Carr (1981-82) was up to 1993, our only President to have had a project named after him. The annual Ron Carr Enterprise Award honoured his efforts to encourage entrepreneurs in Melbourne and beyond. Ron pioneered work in the field of acoustics, tuning large public buildings for special purposes.

The concept of the award was to recognise entrepreneurs from the City of Hawthorn and later from Boroondara through an 'Annual Entrepreneur Award'. The award consisted of a specially created bronze statuette (commissioned from artist and former Hawthorn Mayor Lloyd Orton) and \$1000, a significant sum in those days.

Over time, the award morphed into the Ron Carr Enterprise Award and nominations were evaluated on flair, enterprise, innovation, and contribution to community and/or economic development techniques.

There were many very worthy nominations over the quarter century, which highlighted the significant entrepreneurial centre of excellence in Hawthorn/Boroondara and very many worthy winners, including our own Jill Weeks in 2001.

Unfortunately, work with asbestos before its potential dangers were known, may have contributed to Ron's early death just six days prior to the inaugural award.

25. In 1965-66, the Youth Exchange program was introduced to our club. Many members thought it would be "unsettling" to take students overseas for a year when they hadn't completed their studies. The program continued and proved successful with utmost care needed in selection of students.

26. Rotary Hawthorn was very fortunate to have David Corrigan as President in 1982-83. He often made the members laugh with a 'good dose' of Rotary medicine!

He was a great encourager, believing that 'more flies are caught with molasses than vinegar!' Rotary Hawthorn received the best of support from David and his wife Helen. He was very wise to the value of bringing

younger men with great potential to Hawthorn, including David Rush who was in turn President in 1991-92.

David was honoured at Changeover 2023-24 with an extension of his Honorary Membership.

27. Rotary Hawthorn first showed interest in the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) in 1983-84 when our President was Rodney Taft. This has been an ongoing commitment by our Club. It was also the year of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we thank Bern Hames for his work in providing a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history of our club which is incorporated into this book. Thanks Bern.

28. It was 1983-84 and in conjunction with Rotary Malvern, that we orchestrated a survey into diabetes and hypertension. Two thousand people were tested:

- 75 had positive blood glucose
- 75 had raised blood pressure

This is a perfect example how for very little financial cost, and just using members' time, a very important community project can be created.

29. It was noted in the 1980s, many Rotary clubs didn't take advantage of senior active members, and additional active classifications were created for more opportunities to nominate young people to join Rotary.

Rotary Hawthorn sought predisposition and ability and avoided the error of other clubs, by 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.

30. PP David Rush (1991-92) initiated in 1986-87, one of Rotary Hawthorn's most innovative international projects – the Hawthorn Kitchen Project in Phuket, Thailand.

David and his wife Sue visited Phuket in 1985 and they learnt that poor children were too embarrassed to go to school because their parents could not afford to supply lunches or suitable clothing for them. The children's health was poor and they were missing an education.

David suggested that our club and 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 (until then they were receiving just one hot meal a week!)

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 to their futures.

In later years, shipments of high-protein biscuits were supplied by our club to Rotary Club of Phuket with the help of two Special Grants from Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Phuket monitored the progress of the health of the children for six months and the results disclosed an increase in weight and general improvement in the standard of health of the many children who received the biscuits.

**Note:** The Thai Government in 1987-88, gave the program an award for being the best disadvantaged children's project in Thailand.

31. In 1984-85, Alan Dempster initiated a monster book fair, 11 new member inductions, and fund raising that topped \$25,000 (equivalent of \$87,000 in 2022). Fund raising included the book fair, sales of hams and puddings, an austerity lunch, wine tasting and a new project – Kooyong parking.
32. In 1988 Rotary Hawthorn became an incorporated body to comply with many changes in legislation.

33. In 1979, incoming President John Urquhart appointed a committee whose task was to come up with an imaginative project to celebrate 75 years of Rotary. At this time, there was a need for housing and other support for Indo Chinese refugees following the Vietnam war.

The Club bought a house in Survey Street, Richmond for \$40,000. Shortly after, the Luu family moved in and they were given ongoing support to help them establish themselves in Australia.

The family were high achievers and they eventually moved on to take their place in the Australian community.

After the Luu family departed, the house was made available to the Salvation Army to provide accommodation for disadvantaged people.

Expensive maintenance problems arose and the house was sold in 1987 for \$86,500. The house sale proceeds remain with the club as “The Rotary Club of Hawthorn Survey Street Trust Fund”.

Disbursements back to the Club are made on the advice of the Rotary Club Board and these funds have been a source of funding for the Club’s local community service projects.

34. PP David Rosback (1989-90) in his year as President was highly productive and inspirational. Just a snapshot of David’s enlivening work in his year as President included:

- Stopping the coach on the trip to the Adelaide District Conference, at a fine winery. David then took photos and a description of a simple water pump that he knew could be used in a developing country.
- Helping Sir Peter Derham (Rotary Melbourne) with its Vicspan street kids’ program which was a great success.
- Organising a public concert of popular music which raised enough money to enable the successful completion of the \$90,000 Vicspan project.

Note: David was awarded an AM in 2001 for service to the community, particularly through the programs of Rotary International and Australians Against Child Abuse.

He was awarded Honorary Membership in 2023.

35. PP Bill Troedel (1992-93) and his wife Sue, enjoyed a splendid year with significant successes including:

- Changeover night at Argenti's with a record number of 130 members and guests, including some "very personable" young ladies from behind the former Iron curtain.
- Youth Exchange student to Edmonton, Alberta Canada and the hosting of a German student.
- An international service project 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.
- Thousands of dollars were donated to Bone Marrow Appeal, Vicspan, ARHRF, FAIM, Camp Quality, Life Education, Moorfield Aged Care, Mission for Streets and Lanes, State School Relief, Blind Audio Extensions, Crisis Line.

It is also noted that in Bill's year, George Loton pioneered the sale of Christmas hams as a major annual fund-raising effort, and Bill and other members have continued to this day in 2023 to continue selling Christmas hams.

Bill's record is a real example for all Rotarians – ask and it will be done! He has carried out numerous Club tasks with great zeal.

This attitude led to Bill also being active in District responsibilities where he was District New Generations Director and a huge supporter of MUNA and the Portsea Camp.

He was greatly involved in Youth Exchange at District and Club level.



36. It was in 1993 that the club acknowledged the importance of the role played by wives, now referred to as 'partners'. Rotary Hawthorn, thank goodness, refused to apply the dreadful Americanism "Rotaryanne" sometimes used to designate the ladies of Rotary!

In the years prior to 1993, wives were appreciated as the 'ladies of the house' who acted as hostesses to the many home-hosted and club fundraising events. Ladies were even offered leadership positions in 1960 at the highly successful Lorne District Conference!

37. When President in 1982-83, David Corrigan reported that "On a 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.

With the assistance of George and Peter (Program and Sergeant-at-Arms respectively, this led to the club soon becoming notable for the number of visitors each week.

Accessibility of the meeting places helped to attract visitors. These included:

- New Burwood in Burwood Road, opposite the Hawthorn Post Office (18 years)
- Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria's 'Koot' Restaurant at Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, until it closed for major renovations
- Hawthorn Football Club's Social Club at least until 1993
- Hawthorn Receptions in 2006
- Kooyong Lawn Tennis Centre 2011 to the present time

**Editor note:** In 1983, the club's help, via the Rotary Club of Bandung for victims of the Mt Galunggung eruption amounted to 83,275 Indonesian rupees. President David claimed that the \$1,000 gift sounded more impressive in rupees!

38. Alex Kenworthy OAM played a significant part in establishing the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) in the 1980's. He

conducted his night-time radio program on 3AW and was helpful to countless people with problems who sought his counsel.

It was after a particularly heartbreaking phone call one night from a bereaved parent who was grieving the cot death of his child, that he decided that more research was needed to understand and prevent cot deaths.

With help of Ian Scott, Alex was asked to address Rotary Club of Mornington, which then enlisted support throughout its district and a committee was created, headed by Royce Abbey. As a result of their fine work, the ARHRF was incorporated in 1983.

It is noted that the ARHRF went on to support research into muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer's disease, and environmental problems of the aged, and addiction problems in youth.

*Currently, in 2023, Australian Rotary Health is one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia.*

*ARH provides funding towards research grants, fellowships and PhD scholarships focused on finding preventative and curative solutions for mental illness in young Australians. From 2023, their funding focus will narrow to the mental health of children aged 0-12.*

*They provide funding into a broad range of general health areas, provide scholarships for rural medical and nursing students, as well as Indigenous health students. Australian Rotary Health provides funding into areas of health that do not readily attract funding and promotes findings to the community.*

*Australian Rotary Health is a project of the Rotary Districts of Australia and is supported by Rotary Clubs. They have a broad vision to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.*

39. The Lorne Conference venue in 1958-59 did not have a full liquor licence so Room 98 was the "hot spot" with a well-stocked refrigerator.

Much spirituous encouragement and enjoyment occurred in Room 98 and a positive result each evening, was the production of a lively, 'spirited' two-page Bulletin on events of the day and program for the next one!

40. The 1980's saw Rotary Hawthorn's impact in Rotary Foundation programs, moving them from their original form of almost exclusively tertiary and post-graduate scholarships for students from wealthy countries, toward more Health, Hunger and Humanity programs to assist people in developing countries to help themselves.

This shift was commenced by Australia's second World President, Clem Renouf (1978-79) with the gathering of impetus with the PolioPlus campaign.

This lifted RF donations to new heights from a level of about US \$25 million per annum to US \$240 million over the three-year period.

Australia helped by donating \$10 million and gave Australia more recognition as a country with generous and willing donors to appeals of such importance and magnitude.

41. Noel Halford PP (2006-07) initiated a helpful booklet titled "Careerscope" to assist school leavers to plan for their future.

Noel received the Avenues of Service Citation, signed by the World President, Ron Burton. (This is one of the highest awards in Rotary.)

Noel was named Hawthorn Rotarian of the Year in 2004-05 and as PP Simon O'Donoghue wrote in his Annual Report: "Not only was Noel Secretary for the year, where he has excelled as Secretary, but he has further been involved with every activity that benefits Rotary Hawthorn.

He has been there for all members, and whether it was the Centennial project, a matter of membership, or whatever, Noel has always been there to support me, our members and the club."

More examples of Noel's unflinching support for our club were noted by PP Katrina Flinn in 2017-18 where she wrote: "Noel was the lead organiser of the inaugural Golf day raising money for Chances Scholarships.

He is chief organiser of the Christmas lunch for the socially isolated, he is primarily responsible for getting our Thursday group up and running as well

as coming up with the concept of the Boab Foot Care Project plus the trivia night fundraiser, fundraiser car parking, Club Service Director and it goes on. Noel's support and contribution this year has been invaluable."

As President, Noel was one of the driving forces when Hawthorn was host club for the District Conference which was held in Canberra in March 2007.

The unmatched success of this conference was in no small way due to the untiring efforts of Noel and the inspirational Conference Chair, Noel McInnes who rallied the Rotarians to ensure this Conference was attended by the largest record number of Rotarians and partners.

Acknowledgement to PDG, PP Bernie Walshe, PP Ian Warren and Noel's friend, the late Tony Charlton, who organised the most impressive range of Guest Speakers ever seen at any D9800 Conference.

In addition to receiving a Paul Harris Award, Noel Halford was also named President Katrina's choice of Rotarian of the Year for 2017-18 and was presented with the perpetual trophy with his name engraved on it. Well done Noel, this award has been most deserved!

42. Swinburne Secondary College, TAFE and University have all benefited greatly from Rotary Hawthorn, which has in turn benefited greatly from the service of Swinburne's leaders at all levels over the years.

During the 60/70's, Roy Parsons then Bill Brown had an impressive record as Chairman of Swinburne's Council, and 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.

43. Jill Weeks joined us in 2001 and is respected as a Rotary "quiet achiever", a stalwart of Rotary Hawthorn providing tireless skills and energy in many ways. Some of these are ongoing positions and include:

- Publicity officer for the District
- Organiser District Assembly
- Co-Editor the DG's Bulletin
- Instigated our Junior Art Prize
- Created the "Live it Up" seminar
- Speakers' Chair District 9800
- Chair of Club's Speakers' program
- Forged an ongoing sponsorship for fundraising with Belia of Hawthorn, "Shine-On", Ron Carr, Boroondara Business Persons Group etc, while operating a successful professional business
- Created much-needed improvements to our website 2002-03 publicity and promotion of the Club via various social media platforms.

Jill was awarded a well-deserved PHF and recognised in 2003 as Rotarian of the Year!!!

44. President Noel McInnes (1995-96) after completing three big years in Rotary, the Sydney Conference followed by club President, wrote in his Annual Report: "David Pisterman our Club Secretary and for these past years has been my loyal and hardworking deputy.

In his spare time, he works on District Committees. David never says "no" and nothing is ever any trouble. This Club is better for his membership - David, I thank you warmly."

45. The major community service project for 1958-59 was assistance to Yooralla, the Hawthorn Scout Group, and the Victorian Society for Crippled Children (merged with Yooralla in 1977). Rotary Hawthorn donated £646 (\$12,000 in 2022) via a well organised golf day.

46. Ian Warren was our President in 1996-97 and wrote a noteworthy and important introduction on his year as President:

"So often 'one never notices what has been done, one can only see what remains to be done '(Madam Curie). Only in preparing for tonight do I

realise what has been achieved.

I would like to spend a few minutes sharing this with you. In this way, we might appreciate the power of Rotary, the power of a group of like-minded friends who can achieve so much and have fun doing it.

I said in brief talk to you this time last year that we must “continue to have fun at Hawthorn“, and through that fellowship, we would have the energy and desire to achieve much more in community and international service.

What better way to achieve this than through the fun and fellowship of the “Naughty Nineties Night’, and for this I want to pay a special tribute to Dorothy Rickards, Betty Bums, and Neil Roberts. This set the scene for a marvellous year at Hawthorn.”

“Our club is, I believe, second to none in its support for District; our representation at District level is at an all-time high - John Carre Riddell, Henry Drury, Richard Groom, Noel McInnes, Charles Morrison, David Pisterman, David Rosback, Anne Scott, Bill Troedel, and John Waters have all held official District positions this last year - an amazing representation.”

47. PP Noel McInnes (1995-96) and John Loutit led a team for our club to Western Samoa in 1993-94. The team included Graeme Dillon and Graham Armstrong and all had some interesting roles to play. It appears that on arrival, teams from some (not to be named) clubs preferred to undertake projects near the only hotel in the region!

As our team was requested to go to a more remote area, where the influence of the church deemed it a teetotal environment, in keeping with the very best traditions of our movement in general, our team went with a ‘spirit’ of willingness and helpfulness! Bravo Hawthorn!

48. Simon O’Donoghue was Hawthorn Rotary Club President in 2004-05. We include some of his reminiscences from his Annual Report. Simon recalled:

- Changeover in early July 2004, Tony Charlton ran a fantastic night.

- His fortune with his board, especially his Secretary Noel Halford who Simon convinced to re-join Rotary. Simon wrote: “What a coup for our club! We had a great year.”
- The 100 year Auburn Cluster Cocktail party at the Hawthorn Town Hall that raised \$13,000 for Chances for Children.
- We celebrated the appointment of Bernie Walshe as DG for 2006-07.
- Kept close links with Boroondara Council with the Ron Carr Award, Chances for Children and Camcare.

The Members were all in awe of Simon’s ability as an auctioneer. He could draw bids from unexpected places and sell members anything.

Simon had a real talent as a Rotary Sergeant-at-Arms, involving the principles of diversity and inclusion. He would fine members for anything and ensure everybody received a fine!

No one would argue with this man. His quirky sense of humour was sometimes baffling, but new members quickly adjusted to the rules: Don’t argue, it will just cost you more!

If you ever need a Master of Ceremonies, Simon is your man: he can cope with anything.

49. PP Anne Scott (1999-00) was a terrific, proactive President and during her year, Rotary Hawthorn’s International team successfully applied for a Matching Grant from Rotary International for a project in Zambia. This is still ongoing in our District.

This project ran over 2 years training 30 young orphans from the township of Mumbwa in skills in tailoring and raising chickens and basic business skills.

The partners in this project were the Rotary Club of Lusaka Central and the Peoples’ Action Forum an NGO working in education and welfare in rural

communities.

A second project was created in a 3H Literacy program in Turkey for illiterate Kurdish women refugees and children. This project had the potential of opening into parts of adjoining countries where illiteracy is commonplace.

In 2000-01, Anne was the instigator of another International Project matching grants for projects in Lusaka Zambia.

Rotary Hawthorn was part of an international partnership with a district and club in Turkey and the district of Bangladesh.

The project was designed to run over 4 years with the combined contribution of US\$25,000 and Rotary Foundation 3H grant contribution of US \$265,000.

Anne, at the Hobart District Conference 2015, was presented with Rotary's "Service Above Self" award.

A summary of her involvement in club activities cannot hope to do justice to her overall commitment, imaginative can-do attitude, and achievements.

Anne has served on most committees and served as President in 1999/2000.

At District, Anne has been a member of the Youth Exchange Committee and the RYLA Committee and has been Assistant Governor for the Burke Cluster. She introduced the "Shine On Awards" to Victoria.

Anne became actively involved in the "Life After Stroke" project as well as being the driving force behind combining Rotary and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) to establish, with great effect, Guiding and Scouting for girls in Myanmar.

Anne was awarded an OAM in 1986 and named "The City of Boroondara Citizen of the Year" in 2005, both very well-deserved honours.



50. PP Gordon Cheyne (2013-14) has tirelessly supported Rotary Hawthorn and District for 50 years since his induction in 1973.

PP Katrina Flinn in 2017, wrote in her Annual Report: “Gordon Cheyne is at the maximum of Paul Harris awards, (which speaks volumes in itself!).

So, in recognition of his work as Club Secretary, his many, many hours of work at Donations in Kind and in countless other ways he has supported the Club and myself, I presented Gordon with a special award, “Rotary Hawthorn Club Legend”. Gordon was named Rotarian of the Year 2014-15.

It was in Gordon Cheyne’s year as President (2013-14) Rotary Hawthorn celebrated our Diamond Jubilee.

Gordon wrote in his report: “A celebration of sixty years of service was put together by Henry Drury, Anne Scott, and Dennis Shore, and we had an enjoyable evening reminiscing at Scotch College.

Past District Governors David Rosback, Bernie Walshe and Dennis Shore gave a summary of the club’s history, and despite his illness, Neil Roberts entertained us with flair and style.”

Gordon was delighted he said: “... to present long-serving Rotarians with Certificates of Appreciation on a night to remember.

We appreciate the sponsorship of members Simon O’Donoghue, John Higgins, Trevor Jones, Phil Stewart, Norman Hall and John Christoffelsz, for the event.”

51. PP Anne Scott in her Annual Report (1999-2000) referenced the work of versatile poet and Rotary Footscray member, John Granger. (Editor believes Anne was the poet too!) John (and Anne), with tongue in cheek and much candid background information, encapsulated the following lucky candidates to a tee:

TERRY PERREE -Vocation

‘Terry Perree will control’ Vocation”  
And he’s done himself out of a job ~

With his new, relaxed bearded image ‘  
He’s escaped from the ‘coat and tie’ mob.  
But it’s not fair Terry, we’re jealous  
This idleness is such a sin  
Put your life on the line ... be a martyr  
Go out and caddy for Lyn!

SIMON O’DONOGHUE - Youth

Simon O’Donoghue heads up youth  
With a heart that’s bigger than Texas  
A symbol of Rotary at Hawthorn  
With his wife, his house and his Lexus.  
A heavy at First National Real Estate  
He understands markets and timin’  
When he says, “Are you all done and silent”  
I think we are ... thanks, Simon!  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN .....

Our magnificent leaders at Hawthorn  
A group that is noble and fine  
The glow you observe is enthusiasm  
And not tonight's intake of wine.  
And at year's end if we don't raise enough  
When we've struggled and scrimped and clawed  
We'll make up the difference on Change over Night  
With a FULL MONTY from the Board!

BILL TROEDEL – Vice President

Bill Troedel is our VP  
His eye has a wicked glint  
But his long, slow drawl takes forever  
(And sometimes it's quicker to print)

The Doyen of District Directories  
He's been known to have a few reds  
On weekends he's often easy to find  
In a bunker at Barwon Heads!

NORMAN GOWERS - Secretary

Some club secretaries are really 'switched on'  
Others come straight out of the caves.  
Ours likes to roar up hill sides  
(And he's only just starting to shave)  
When "Stormin Norman" was offered the job  
We believed he possessed the knack  
And his chiropractic eyes lit up  
As he said .... "Yes, I'll give it a crack"!

BERNIE WALSH - Treasurer

We've entrusted the funds to Bernie Walshe

A decent experienced bloke  
And he's promised to keep the books in shape  
(When he's not outside for a "smoke")  
But there's one little problem with "Bernie Bucks"

The former radio barker  
Our sound, solid image is shot to bits  
When the treasurer's doing the haka!

MAX O'BRIEN – Club Service

Max O'Brien is our gentle giant  
He's a wiz at Arbitration.  
As our man at the head of Club Service  
He embodies "negotiation"  
He's a rower of some repute  
And he'll make members bend their backs.  
Australia says, "Oarsome Foursome"  
But at Hawthorn we say, "Max"!

ALAN HEGGEN – Community Service

Alan Heggen's Community Service  
He's spit polish, dashing and regal  
As he sweeps along the coastline  
Looking for "Mariners Illegal";  
The projects are many, the need is great  
Much good can be done with a dollar  
The community's got its Vice Marshall!

NGAIRE CANNON - Fellowship

Ngaire heads our thrust in Fellowship

An outstanding fellow she is



Human Resources is her forte  
She's a motivator with fizz,  
A Kiwi, a rugby fanatic  
The Bledisloe Cup is a strain  
But when she says "Its heady stuff:  
She's referring to last night's champagne!

MIKE SABEY – Fund Raising

Mike Sabey's in charge of raising funds  
Now that sounds a very good tack  
He's a public relations grand master  
When the wind is at his back.  
His radio reports across Bass Strait  
You know ... winches and halyards ... all that  
With the beat and jibe of his yachtie tribe  
Mike....in Hobart, ... pass 'round the hat!

BRIAN REID – Foundation & International

International and Foundation  
Are the essence of Rotary's creed  
Who better to pirouette 'round these two  
Than mover and shaker. Brian Reid  
But Brian ... are YOU the problem?  
(As you move between country and town)  
'Cause at Eildon and at Collingwood  
The levels are definitely DOWN!

52. PP John Carre Riddell (1990-91) took on all the work associated with the Ron Carr Award in 2000-01, which was held in conjunction with the City of Boroondara and only open to working women in the Boroondara area. Chris Hanson and Neale Burgess, who both undertook the judging of the nine contestants, all who could have been worthy winners, helped John. The winner was our own Jill Weeks.

John Carre Riddell was also affectionately known as "Dan Murphy" for his work on the highly successful wine sales project.

53. Rotary SAFE Families initiative created by Dorothy Gilmour in 2018 before she joined Rotary Hawthorn in 2022, added a new dimension to the Club's Community Service projects.

'Rotary SAFE Families' was established to help stop all forms of family violence by addressing its underlying causes. It has evolved into a national program with valuable resources and tools including short films on Elder Abuse, Child Abuse, Abuse to Men and Domestic Violence and Its Impact on Children. We promote that family abuse NOT be a "taboo" topic!

Dorothy has promoted SAFE Families at 130 Rotary and Probus clubs throughout Australia the past 3 years and Rotary Clubs are slowly adopting the preventative model for stopping abuse in Australia. It was very encouraging for Rotary Hawthorn to be awarded a District Award 2023 for Rotary SAFE Families.

Australia is known for many diverse cultures and this initiative respects culture whilst working with the inherent trauma that many of our new Australians bring with them to Australia.

In 2022, Rotary Hawthorn endorsed the Inclusive Communities Initiative of SAFE Families, informing our new Australians, many with English as their second language, how to prevent abuse, explanation of Australian laws, and the dialogue needed to support and refer a victim of abuse.

Films have been, and continue to be produced in Swahili, Arabic, Hindi, Farsi, Dari and Mandarin by Dorothy and a small group of Rotary Hawthorn and Melbourne members.

An example of Rotary fellowship and passion is having a young Rotarian, Oscar Lumire from Rotary Club of Kericho (Kenya) translating the film and *Guide for Prevention of Family Abuse in Australia* into Swahili.

Our own Vincent Chen is much appreciated for his translation of the Guide into Mandarin, and support for the Chinese version of our film. Our Inclusive Communities Initiative would not be happening without the help from very generous Rotary and non-Rotary volunteers.

54. Bernie Walshe joined the Club in May 1992 and served on the Board for five years from 1997-98. During this time, he held the positions of Community Service Director, Treasurer, and Secretary, and was Club President in 2001-2002. Bernie served as District Governor in 2006-07 and edited the District newsletter which earned the Club two District Bulletin Awards.

During Bernie's year as President, the club continued to flourish. Its Youth Service activities included hosting inbound student exchanges, supporting volunteers at Lord Somers, funding scholarships for students at Hawthorn Secondary College (now Auburn High School) and Hawthorn Senior Secondary College (now Swinburne Senior Secondary College), and sponsoring students for MUNA and the National Youth Science.'

Among other highlights that year, the Club donated over \$18,000 to the Hawthorn Community House, Camcare, Camp Getaway, Australian Red

Cross, the Cancer Research Institute and other worthy causes.

At a District level, Bernie with the support of other Club members organised the District Conference, the fourth Conference hosted by our Club.

The many memorable aspects of the conference, which was held in Canberra, included a last-minute venue change from the Canberra Convention Centre to the Australian Institute of Sport when the ACT Government closed the former venue for renovations.

Bernie was another worthy recipient of Honorary Membership of the Club for 2023/24.

55. In 1953, Charter member Charlie Fryer recalls that Horace Bedggood insisted that the meal price should not exceed 4 shillings (\$8 in 2022) as that was the cost at Rotary Melbourne. Average wages were about £15 (\$596 in 2022) a week.

56. PP David Rush created a project in 2016: Swinburne Effective Public Speaking Program.

Over the years it was subjected to some refinements and participating students in 2019 benefited from the leadership of PP Charlotte England and PP Ngaire Cannon who were supported by David Rush and PP Noel Halford.

We were delighted to have ten graduates complete the program, with the majority of students travelling from overseas.

The development in confidence and presentation skills was most impressive particularly when most graduates had English as their second language.

This was a valuable project for our Rotary Club and it clearly ignited interest in Rotary from a most impressive group of students and several indicated they would like to be involved in some of our forthcoming projects.

57. PP Andrew Crockett (2021-2023) acknowledged the greatly respected Rotarian Charlotte England in his Changeover 2023 report. He said: "This year Charlotte has served as Vice President and Rotary Foundation Director.

Charlotte is responsible for me becoming President, for which she bears a heavy burden of responsibility. Thankfully, she ensured that I had adequate support, and she has been a source of valued advice to me ever since." This support and care are attributes that Rotary appreciates in Charlotte. Her ability to encourage and provide wisdom is valued.

Charlotte joined the Club in 2016. Her talents were quickly recognised and she was elected to the Board in 2017-18 as Community Service Director. She was President-elect in 2018-19, served as Club President in 2019-20, and was Immediate Past President in 2020-21, a year she also took on the roles of Club Service Director and Rotary Foundation Director.

In 2020-21 and 2021-22, Charlotte was Assistant Governor Bayside. Charlotte retired from the Board after six years of outstanding service to the Club in 2023

58. In President Henry Drury's year (2003-04), Rotary Hawthorn relished and celebrated the Golden milestone of its first 50 years. The year commenced in fine style with a memorable dinner conceived, prepared, and served by the hospitality students at the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy where, and with some humour and ceremony, outgoing President Dennis Shore handed over to Henry.

The evening was a mixture of formality and fun and the catering is remembered as one of the cheapest and best changeover dinners ever!

The guest speaker at the actual 24 August birthday party was the incomparable impersonator and comedian Campbell McComas who generously donated his time as a gesture to Rotary and as a thanks to the Scott family for their donation to the Scotch Foundation fund which Campbell chaired.

The venue was the Scotch College Cardinal Pavilion on the banks of the Yarra River, which was enabled through our member Neil Roberts who was

the long serving Bursar at Scotch College.

The Sergeant's session for the meeting was delivered by Jonathon Sear who wearing his "trademark" tea-cosy royal crown, brought the house down! He caused Campbell to comment in a muttered aside to Henry, "I thought I was the guest comedian here!"

Henry's year also saw Rotary Hawthorn awarded three District Awards: "Lend a Hand Foundation and a Presidential Citation.

59. 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 business, he was a man with a "big business and a bigger heart". With his wife Muriel, Jim started in the 1930's 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 (last century now) more people died because of disease and dirt than from wars and accidents.

60. Home hosting was created in 1968-69 which gave members the opportunity to offer to host small groups of other members and their wives to an evening meal. Later years, it was called the 'progressive dinner' with three food courses in different homes. How the members and wives consumed and imbibed food and alcohol at three different addresses without "loss" of members is anyone's guess!

61. Our Club had one of the first Vocational Service committees in the 1970's that began the endless task of urging members to exemplify the spirit of Rotary. 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 the introduction of secretaries' meetings where members invited their secretaries to be their lunch guests! How times have changed for the better!

62. The years of 1986-87 were noteworthy for the wrong reason as the issue of women in Rotary started to emerge but was quietly placed in the 'too hard basket' and moved to the side.

In 1990, ladies had been admitted to some Rotary clubs following court action in the US and other countries giving equal opportunity to women. RI gave clubs the 'freedom' to decide for themselves.

Rotary Hawthorn 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'.

At the time, it was pondered how long Hawthorn would take before 'taking the plunge'!

However, the following year, (1991) a second vote was taken which resulted in a substantial number in favour of female Rotarians in Rotary Hawthorn.

63. Take a stroll around the gravel walking track, have a picnic, or join the many locals who walk their dogs through this popular native setting. Fritsch Holzer Park features Australian native plants and is a great spot for picnics and dog walking.

The Fritsch Holzer Park was named after Augustus Fritsch and the Holzer brothers who formed the Upper Hawthorn Brick Company in 1883. Council bought the area in 1972 and used it as a landfill site until 1986, then as a temporary waste transfer station until 1989.

Council, together with the Victorian Government and the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, reconstructed the area into a park in 1995.

The Fritsch Holzer Park Project was a joint venture project based on the Commonwealth Government New Work Opportunities program. This venture was between Rotary Hawthorn, DEET (Federal Government Department of Education, Employment & Training) and the new City of Boroondara.

Rotary Hawthorn applied to DEET to undertake this project in February 1995, and after proceeding through the primary and secondary phases of the application process, funds were awarded to Rotary Hawthorn in May 1995.

The new development was ultimately to include:

- Landscaping; planting, grassed areas, playing fields
- Multi-use pathways; including pedestrian, cycle, and fun and fitness tracks
- Picnic areas with barbecue facilities
- Children's playgrounds
- Public amenities
- Wetland conservation area
- On-site historical display of area history (old quarry etc)
- Public lighting and irrigation systems.

Because of Rotary Hawthorn's role initiating this project, PP Ian Warren was invited to represent Rotary on a special community committee whose charter was to oversee the development of the park.

Through that committee, Rotary Hawthorn was publicly acknowledged as being responsible for mobilising the project and creating the financial capacity and management arrangements.

This project would not have proceeded for some years had it not been for the Club's involvement.

The project engaged 12 long term unemployed who were interviewed by the Club and then provided with both work and skills training during their six months of project work.

Federal funding conditions required that participants receive formal training for at least 25% of the time. Ian Warren negotiated with Burnley Horticultural College in nearby Richmond to provide an appropriate formal training program.

Rotary Hawthorn also provided other vocational training, including job interview skills, preparation of personal resumes, and motivational



programs.

The first phase of the Fritsch Holzer Park project was completed Christmas 1995.

All participants were provided with a “job seekers kit” with an individual reference from the City of Boroondara and Warren & Rowe (as project managers), and a personal curriculum vitae.

The success of this project was not only measured by the completion of new urban infrastructure. More importantly, it was measured in the context of unemployed people who received a new purpose in life, a reason to get out of bed in the morning, a rekindling of their dignity and self-esteem, and a new sense of financial self-sufficiency and independence.

Twenty-two years later, in 2018, Rotary Hawthorn held a tree planting day, attended by 200 local citizens.

64. The Polio Plus Rotary Foundation appeal was launched in 1986-87 with a target of US \$120 million, and by 1987-88, Rotary Hawthorn had made contributions that exceeded \$40,000. PolioPlus was concluded in 1988-89 with almost US\$ 240 million raised – 200% of the initial target, including nearly A\$10 million from Australia.

65. It was in President Dennis Shore’s year (2002-03) that on the eve of our Changeover Meeting we were honoured to learn that RI President Bhichai Rattakul awarded our Club his **PRESIDENTIAL CITATION** for our achievements in meeting our goals in each of the Avenues of Service and for our support of The Rotary Foundation in his Rotary Year.

The Hepatitis B Matching Grant with Rotary Club of Bombay project to immunise 4,000 children in the city of Bombay against Hepatitis B was proven to be most successful.

As a result of the cheaper than expected purchase of vaccine more children were immunised than originally intended. Useful publicity material was collected following Dennis’ personal visit to view the project in action.

Dennis wrote in his Annual Report: “We did not set out particularly to win Awards but it is a nice outcome to all who have put in so much effort to “Make a Difference” through Rotary – so take a bow Hawthorn Rotarians!”

The Club received District Recognition by being the recipient of the District Foundation Award. Hawthorn also had the honour of having the highest number of Centurion Members in District 9800. Well done Hawthorn.

66. The Great Aussie Trivia Night was a very successful event in 2014, during Chris Hanson’s year as President. As he wrote in his report on November 20, 2014: “A million thanks must go to Jill Weeks and PP Ngaire Cannon (2012-13) who were the driving forces behind this project.

We had close to 120 people of whom about 75 (app. 60%) were non-Rotarians.

(Incidentally, this was a fantastic way to make people aware of Rotary and possibly increase membership. Chris thanked everyone for a team effort and one to be considered every few years!

67. David Rosback, our President in 1988-89 with the assistance of his wife Judi created another great year for our club.

They travelled to Phuket to personally present a cheque for \$1,000 from us to the Rotary Club of Phuket for the ‘lunch and literacy’ project.

David and Judi said they saw firsthand the gratitude on the faces of the children and parents. The program which had been words on a sheet of paper became reality.

This has been experienced by other Rotarians when they see one of their programs in action. We try to give needy people at home and abroad a ‘hand up’ and not a ‘hand out’.

Programs that discreetly help people to help themselves are not easy to find and implement. David Rosback has always conveyed a remarkable sensitivity in these areas, after the Phuket program.

68. PP Gordon Cheyne (2013-14) is concerningly recognised for creating a fictitious character by the name of Clarice – pronounced “Clareece” as a staff member of the Networker!

This was to increase the readership of the Networker of which he was Editor.

Rumour has it that Clarice was brash, cheeky but efficient and enthusiastic. Gordon believed that Clarice had reddish-brown hair, which changed to black when she had a mid-life makeover. She was competent but retained her allure of mystery.

Rumour (possibly spread by Gordon) also has it that Clarice was kidnapped by the Politically Correct Mafiosi and is now at the bottom of the bay, with her Prada slippers replaced by cement boots. Gordon clung to the hope for years that Clarice is just on long-service leave and that she will return re-invigorated to liven up the Networker again!

Editor’s note: Bit worried about our revered PP Gordon Cheyne who to this current day is our esteemed Bulletin Editor (don’t think he has any other “characters” helping him these days!)

69. Our PP Anne Scott (1999-2000) was known as the ‘Mother of all International Service’ in President Henry Drury’s fantastic year in 2003-04. With Anne’s guidance and Henry’s leadership, Rotary Hawthorn more than filled a container of goods to go to Zambia. The goods were gathered to fill Jennifer Chiwela’s Zambian wish-list and included:

- Educational materials of all sorts – books, pens, pencils, blackboards, chalks, paper, desks, chairs, sporting equipment, thousands of metres of fabric for clothing etc.

At the same we established a Twin Club relationship with the Rotary Club Losaka in Zambia and made significant donations to ROMAC, Interplast and ongoing water and sanitation projects in Zambia.

But most significantly of all, almost entirely through Anne’s personal effort, Jennifer Chiwela was brought here from Zambia to present the human face

of what can be done by her people if given education and useful goods – not just money that so often does not reach its target.

Jennifer spoke to several clubs and schools and gave newspaper interviews but her keynote speech to the District Conference stirred up the whole District to the extent that Hawthorn had to manage a completely new project in handling the promised aid.

Consequently, the District awarded Rotary Hawthorn the “Significant Achievement Award” for 2003-2004.

Editor liked the following endorsement from Henry at Changeover: “Let me acknowledge the unruffled way this Club gets things done in the field of Club Service.

The Bulletin is one of the best, the Program rolls on, the roster just appears (not always observed), the Sergeants are unrivalled in their research and delivery, and ranks close quietly when there is a need to cover errors and omissions.

We are not perfect but we are bloody good!”

70. In 2015-16, Sheridan Brown was named Rotarian of the Year; and President Lawrence Reddaway was very pleased to name Sheridan who without much other assistance, carried through a small, but complex, local project: building two green houses at the Servants Romana House.

Here some of the resident men were thriving and gaining confidence in growing vegetables and herbs.

This project featured in a full-page front cover spread in the local Progress Leader newspaper!

71. PP David Rush (1991-92) member of Rotary Hawthorn for 42 years and to this day in 2023, he has not stopped giving. David has worked tirelessly in the service areas of International and Foundation and led a team that resulted in the Club successfully sponsoring a Rotary Global scholar.

He has given to the Club in myriad of other ways including the Effective Speaking program for Swinburne students. David in his year as President, with his wife Sue, earned hearty applause for the standard of his leadership, leading the club in a very efficient, organised way.

It was in David's year as President that our club held the record \$20,000 (\$44,300 in 2022) given to Rotary Foundation which took us to the top of our district ladder for that year. Also, \$14,000 (\$31,000 in 2022) was donated to Vicspan, an excellent educational program. Our business breakfast had more than 500 guests that year at Leonda.

**Note:** Did you know that the Rush family have contributed five brothers to the highest level of football?

72. Noted this delightful entry in the Rotary Hawthorn *Thirty Years of Service* 1953 - 1983 history is this item: "From the 1954 discussion on 'How to Humanise my Business' to the 1983 seminar on 'Minicomputers for the Small Business', the Vocational Service committee was given a lead in tackling numerous problems facing 'the businessman'. (The irony in the contrast between human and computer is unintentional).

Case studies and films have been used to advantage. Memorable programs have included the film, *A Manner of Speaking*, shown in 1967 to improve the community's methods of using the telephone; and the Waltons Ltd film, *Merchandise Security* shown to businessmen of Hawthorn in the Town Hall in 1971."

Here we are in 2023 and how will our pride and technical "savviness" in computers, internet and social media be depicted in years to come?

73. PP Katrina Flinn (2017-18) in her year as President supported a terrific project "Supporting Salvo Hawks".

(The Salvos Hawks is a local footy team, of both male and female players, mostly who are recovering or have recovered from addiction. The competition is organised by Reclink Australia, who provide sport and art-

based programs to disadvantaged Australians to create socially inclusive, life-changing opportunities.)

Members operate the scoreboard for home games and supply pizzas for the players, but as Katrina wrote in her Annual Report: “Mostly we are a friendship and supporter group. Thanks to Lawrence Reddaway, Henry Drury, Charlotte, Ian Bentley, Mick Tyrell, Anne Scott, and John Pesutto who have been regulars at the games and the dogs Bella and Fred that have been available for pats and chats with players and supporters alike.”

**Editor Note:** In one notable game, that support and encouragement for the Salvo Hawks, extended to PP Katrina joining the team and contributing to a memorable win!

PP Charlotte England (2019-20) captured the indomitable spirit of Katrina when she wrote: “Katrina is a lady of many facets. A brilliant Treasurer who keeps our books in perfect order, and an International Director who visited both Cambodia and Timor Leste to make sure she understood the projects and potential projects that had Club involvement.

But most importantly, Katrina is someone who works every day for the Club making sure that it runs in a professional manner.

Thank you Katrina for the huge amount of work you do for our Club so much of which most people never see. The Rotary Club of Hawthorn is in good shape mainly due to your excellent administration and always being there to make sure that everything is seamlessly done.” (I am sure we all agree with these sentiments.)

74. Peter Lugg, orthopaedic surgeon was inducted in 2015 and has been and continues to be, personally active in upgrading hospital facilities, and training surgeons in Phnom Penh, Cambodia over many years.

Peter was instrumental in the construction of the new surgical wing of the Kampong Speu Referral Hospital 45 minutes from Phnom Peng.

While construction in 2021 was being completed, used equipment was being collected, packed into a container, and dispatched to Cambodia with help

from Peter, Julie Clark and Rotary Hawthorn, Rotary Osborne Park, WA and other Victorian Rotary Clubs.

During the year, the Club purchased a shipping container (later sold in Cambodia to offset costs) together with a considerable amount of medical equipment from the Rotary Club of Belgrave.

After considerable effort by Peter Lugg and PP Gordon Cheyne, this container was transported to the hospital in Cambodia. The effort resulted in an excellent outcome.

This project incorporated two Operating Theatre Annexes and provides operating equipment, surgical supplies, and patient hospital beds to enable orthopaedic surgeons to provide their services to the poor in the local community. Dr Sok Meng, Dr Tim Keenan, Dr Peter Lugg and other visiting surgeons volunteer their time at the hospital to perform surgeries and train local staff.

Chris Keenan was extraordinarily generous in providing the finance to build the infrastructure, but it is the containers from Perth and Melbourne, that provide the resources to perform more surgical procedures, procedures that are of greater complexity, and in greater numbers.

This is so very important to the local people, whose surgical needs have not been addressed well in the past.

In addition, a Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) account has been set up for the Kampong Speu Referral Hospital - Chris Keenan Surgical Complex to enable donations to be tax deductible.

75. We were fortunate in 2019, when Julie Clark and Sue Zidziunas joined Rotary Hawthorn. They have not only been childhood friends but are both pro-active Rotarians. Their work is highly regarded as Committee Members for the Hawthorn Hat Day Lunch, organizing the Auction and helping to run the Raffle, and Christmas Dinner.

The Auction and the Raffle raised significant funds for the Club, Australian Rotary Health, and the Skyhydrant Project for the Karen Community in

Myanmar.

Julie's outstanding organisational skills supported the running of Hawthorn Wednesday Evening Group in 2019-20 and both Julie and Sue have been committed Rotarians from day one and appreciated for their countless days of 'hands on' packing and distributing the hundreds of care packs Hawthorn prepares for donation.

76. Our highly respected PP Dennis Shore (2002-03) continues to contribute to Rotary Hawthorn (in numerous positions), District and RI and holds an outstanding and splendid record number of positions after joining Rotary Hawthorn in 1984.

Dennis was in Apex for nearly 10 years before being invited to join the Rotary Club of Aspley in Queensland in 1980. He was subsequently a member of the Rotary Club of Traralgon in Victoria before joining the Rotary Club of Hawthorn in District 9800. Dennis has held the following positions:

- District Governor District 9800 in 2012-13
- District Foundation Chair and District Council on Legislation and Resolutions Representative for 2 terms
- Dennis served as an Assistant Governor, GSE Team Leader to D5520 (USA) in 2005
- District GSE Chairman for 4 exchanges
- Vice-Governor, Secretary,
- Twice Finance Committee Chair
- Global Grant Scholar Committee Chair
- Club Vision Facilitation Cha
- District Chair for Leader Training
- Rotary Peace Fellowship Committee Chair
- RI President's Representative to D9520 and D3190 (India)
- Endowment and Major Gifts Advisor for Zone 8
- Director of Rotary Australia Foundation Ltd
- Vice-Chair and Promotions Director of the Host Organization Committee for the 2023 Rotary Convention.
- Rotary Foundation Trustee July 2023 - four-year term
- Our Rotarian of the Year in 2022-23



Dennis is a Recipient of the Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, a member of the Paul Harris Society of District 9800 and he and Lynda are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society.

Thank you Dennis and Lynda from all your friends at Rotary.

77. David McNamara was inducted in 2020 and his presence and easy-going nature is a bonus to Hawthorn. David's early life was anchored in Geelong, and Geelong Football Club along with his stellar career of some four decades with Olex and other cable manufacturing companies.

David sold them throughout the Asia Pacific Region. Constantly travelling, always forging and nurturing personal relationships with his customers. His retirement has become our gain.

What we do know is that cricket is his passion. David played at school and continues in the St Joseph's Old Boys team and has travelled overseas in "Golden Oldies" Competitions, Ashes and Test Match Tours to South Africa, New Zealand, UK and the West Indies. He is an active member of the Taverners Club, a charitable organisation which promotes cricket among young people.

David has carried the nick-name "Big Mac" since his schooldays and is fondly known in Rotary Hawthorn. He also undertook the onerous task of being our first on-line guest speaker, using Zoom platform in COVID lockdown. He is also our Club Protection Officer and Salvo Hawks Liaison.

78. In 2018, Club Service Director, PP Noel Halford, had a vision of a project that would benefit remote aboriginal communities. It was determined that the greatest unfunded need was for podiatry footcare packs.

(Treatment of chronic footwear conditions did not have Government funding but supported best practice in the management of foot wounds and ulcers with the aim of preventing unnecessary hospitalisation and loss of limbs.)

The delivery of the Project involved liaising with Boab Health Care to verify and determine needs. Noel and PP Katrina Flinn obtained products from various suppliers, including a significant donation from Rotary Donations-in-Kind.

The project had the positive effect of engaging and involving members and subsequently, we inducted four new members and solidified the relationship with two of our newest members.

Everyone involved expressed great satisfaction in being part of the Boab Foot Care project.

79. In Rotary's early years, most clubs distributed their weekly Bulletin at the weekly meetings, ours was posted to members' homes a few days after each meeting with the aim the 'lady of the house' could also be informed of coming events. That year's bill for production and postage was £11.17s.9d (\$420 in 2022). How life changes, for years now, Bulletin has been emailed weekly to us and we are "computerised, digitalised, televised" in all communications with not a stamp in sight!

80. In 2019, Charles Morrison celebrated 50 years of club service. Charles was President in 1988-89. During the year he was Recognised as a Companion of Australian Rotary Health and named a 'Club Legend' for his consistent service.

Unfortunately, we had to say farewell to two long standing major contributors to our Club the following year. VP and PP Ngaire Cannon and PP Charles Morrison.

They were both stand out members who, over many years, contributed to the strength and wellbeing of Rotary Hawthorn. They will always be remembered fondly and are admired as great Rotarians.

81. Ngaire Cannon was the first female inducted into Rotary Hawthorn in February 1994. She was Club President in 2012-13. After her death in 2020,

PDG Bernie Walshe wrote: “Ngaire left her mark on the Club on the day of her Induction.

As is our practice, once the new Member is inducted, they are given a Standing Ovation. We were still standing when Ngaire approached the microphone to respond and said: ‘You can all sit down now.’

I was up near the front and said out loud, ‘It didn’t take her long to take charge.’ Ngaire immediately responded “I will get you” or something to that effect.

That ‘square up’ happened at the Bledisloe Brunch at the Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne. The New Zealand Ladies Troupe finished performing and came into the audience and selected about 8 of our members to perform the Haka on stage.

When we got there we were told to remove our shirts and we had to do the haka bare top.

It was quite a sight with stomachs jumping up and down and we were unaware that Channel 9 recorded the event and we appeared on National 9 News that night.

To make sure no one had missed it, Ngaire had recorded it on video and played it at a Club meeting.

I will certainly miss Ngaire but wherever she is, I was wondering what changes she would have already made, always for the better.”

82. Mention must be made of a very difficult time in our world when COVID ricocheted us all into a different life of lockdowns and sickness.

It was Tilak Dissanayake’s year as President in 2020-21 and as a doctor himself, he faced the challenge of “masks, social distancing and sickness and created a very successful year as President. Tilak wrote in his Annual Report: “I started my Presidency in lockdown with the virtual Changeover being our first challenge.

Our club confirmed its status as the Club that ‘can make things happen’ and used opened opportunities. With the lockdown and travel restrictions, we resorted to virtual meetings, thanks to PP Katrina Flynn who formed a Zoom team comprising of PP Noel Halford, PE Andrew Crockett and PP Ian Bentley. They all managed meetings consistently with over 80% attendance.

Jill Weeks maintained the energy from each meeting by securing local, national, and international guest speakers at each meeting. PP Gordon Cheyne kept our communication open by maintaining the weekly Bulletins and engaging our members when face to face contact was impossible.”

Despite all the challenges overall it was a remarkably successful year for the club with notable achievements. Rotary Hawthorn was able to remain a strong presence in the community when it needed us most along with growing our club by recruiting eight new capable members including Peter England, Doug McLean, Jane Drury, Pam Crockett, Julie Collette, Vincent Chen, Terry Kitchen, and Rashi Kapoor.

Memberships and fundraising are two determinants of a club’s longevity and as a team the club managed to do that, along with emphasizing the importance of good health during a universal health crisis that hopefully will only happen once in a lifetime.

Another significant Boab project was created in Tilak’s year. Tilak was able through his contacts to secure a donation of \$22,000 worth of diabetic monitoring devices.

In his Annual Report, Tilak said: “We secured through Abbott Pharmaceuticals, a donation for diabetic monitoring devices to the value of \$22,000 for the chronic diabetes epidemic in the Kimberley Health Service (BOAB). Thanks to PP Noel Halford, Denbigh Richards and BOAB Health Services in Kimberly whose involvement contributed to the success.”

Thank you President Tilak for taking Rotary Hawthorn safely through your year of 2020-21 during this life-changing pandemic.

83. PP David Rosback (1989-90) with help from John Loutit (who later received the ARHRF Companion Award for this work) and several other Rotarians, initiated an imaginative art book project to help the ARHRF (Australian Rotary Health Research Fund).

Australian artists co-operated to produce a collection of paintings reproduced in book form, suitable for presentation to overseas visitors, libraries, and other public spaces. Profits from the sale of these books were devoted to ARHRF.

84. PP Ian Macfarlane (2007-08) in Gordon Cheyne's president year (2013-14) was named "Rotarian of the Year" for his outstanding involvement with SecondBite, Bunnings' and Masters' Barbecues, Swinburne Awards, and Post-Graduate Scholarship selection, apart from his involvement in the International and Rotary Foundation Committees. Ian earned the title: "Best and Fairest" award. Ian has continued his commitment and support for Hawthorn at all levels of club programs.

85. In just two years as a Hawthorn Rotarian, Terry Kitchen has been one of the "backbones" of all our major events and lunch meetings. Her vast experience in Event Management has been greatly appreciated. The following are just some of the outstanding events at Hawthorn the past couple of years:

- International Women's Day Breakfast in 2022
- IWD Lunch in 2023 featuring guest speakers and celebrating this important day for women all around the world
- Changeover Dinners in June 2022 and June 2023
- Lift the Lid on Mental Health Lunch in October 2022. We had 150 guests in attendance, including our corporate sponsors. Their support, plus an auction and raffle, raised over \$14,000.
- Joint Christmas Dinner for RC Hawthorn and Glenferrie in December 2022. A night of fellowship for members and friends of the two Clubs to celebrate the festive season together.
- Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser in April 2023. An important fundraising activity for our Club to raise funds to support our local community projects.

- Rotary International Convention Joint Hosting Dinner in May 2023 with a theme of Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club as the spiritual home of the Australian Open. Rotary Hawthorn, Glenferrie, and Camberwell hosted this very special dinner at Kooyong as part of the RI Convention.
- With 70 International delegates, together with 130 Club members, the wonderful event gave our guests an insight into life in Melbourne, our sporting and cultural heritage, our community values and a little of the world view, and of Rotary life glued together from an Australian perspective.

86. What a champion Rotary Hawthorn has in Andrew Crockett AM, who led the club safely through our second year of COVID and then Omicron pandemics as President in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23. Andrew joined Rotary Hawthorn in 2019 and has contributed and supported our club immensely in such a short time.

The Club's two online special interest discussion groups, the book group (the Bookworms) and current affairs group (the Fixers) met monthly by Zoom during the year and have continued, providing our regular participants with social interaction and mental stimulation during periods of lockdown and post lockdown.

In Andrew's years as President, and with thanks to a donation of \$390,000 from a private donor in Perth (via Peter Lugg's medical connections), one of the Club's signature international projects, the rebuilding and equipping of the surgical wing at the Kampong Speu Provincial Hospital project in Cambodia got underway.

The hospital is in an impoverished and poorly serviced province of Cambodia.

The Club's role in the project will focus on the maintenance and long-term support of the facility.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown and social distancing, some of the club's projects needed to be "put on hold". However, Andrew's dedication and

attention to detail, has seen Rotary Hawthorn through the toughest and most difficult years in its history.

We thank Andrew and he will be considered always with great respect and appreciation for giving the club two years of his life as President of Rotary Hawthorn.

The club also acknowledges the work and constant support of his wife Pam who was behind Andrew every step of his service to Rotary.

## **ROTARY HAWTHORN PROJECTS**

Many fantastic projects have been undertaken and continue to emerge, with valuable work by Rotary Hawthorn members over the past 70 years. These projects were successful in engaging our Members via Vocational, Community, Youth, Club Service initiatives.

These local projects include:

- 1953 - Youth Service Committee donated the flagpole to Kew Scout Group camp at Cresco Park, Pound Bend, near Warrandyte.
- 1953 – Financial assistance was first given to an international service project with a contribution to building funds for International House.
- 1954 – Helping elderly citizens and the establishment of an Over 60 Club in Hawthorn.
- 1956 – the club’s first payment of £80 (\$2,920 in 2022) was made to Rotary International.
- 1950s – many programs were developed with Swinburne Technical College and Secondary School. Support continued for many years when Swinburne included TAFE and Swinburne Uni.
- 1950-60s – international school students, postgraduates and undergraduates were supported under Rotary Youth Exchange and Foundation programs.

- 1956 – Hawthorn Community Chest was created. It was Rotary Hawthorn's President Ern Braithwaite who presented the Mayor of Hawthorn with a cheque for £100 (\$3,650 in 2022).
- Late 1950's – Community Service assisted Yooralla, Hawthorn Scout Group, Victorian Society for Crippled Children Appeal, Kew Cottages, Kew Elderly Citizens' Club.
- 1957 – Rotary Hawthorn provided Christmas toys for underprivileged children, especially a carload delivered to the Lady Huntingfield Free Kindergarten.
- 1959 – helped the 6th Hawthorn Scout Group build its new hall.
- 1969-70 – Community Service undertook the dismantling and re-erection of a prefabricated garage for Rossbourne House.
- 1974-75 – PP David Rosback announced the establishment of the John Head Memorial Foundation assisting Hawthorn people who lived in poverty, ill-health, or distress.
- 1980 – the Rotary Peer Support program was designed to assist primary and secondary school students to find helpful peer groups.
- The major project in our 30th year involved the Willesmere Hospital, then part of Kew Psychiatric Hospital. It was President David Corrigan in 1982 accompanied by members, who visited Willesmere to examine its needs and organise a raffle in support. Hawthorn presented the hospital with a cheque for \$4,000 (\$14,500 in 2022) in 1983.
- 1989-90 – President David Rosback with John Loutit, initiated the art book project which assisted the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund.
- The club created a \$20,000 (\$65,000 in 2022) reserve fund for the long-term program to reconstruct the Rose Street tip as parkland. This commenced in Charles Morrison's year and was further developed with help from PP David Rosback (1989-90) and PP John Carre Riddell (1990-91).



- Early 1990s – with the help of PP David Rush (1991-92), donations continued to Camp Quality, ARHRF, Sefton Lodge, Life Education mobile unit (working against teenage drug abuse) and the creation of ‘Paint Your Heart Out’ to help maintain the homes of needy people.
- 1992-93 – President Bill Troedel’s year – saw money donated to the Bone Marrow Appeal, Vicspan, ARHRF, FAIM, Camp Quality, Life Education, Moorfield Aged Care, Mission for Streets and Lanes, State School Relief, Blind Audio Extensions, seed boxes and Crisis Line.
- Hawthorn’s projects included the refurbishing of Youth Hall in Auburn Road. Ian Pohl is to be thanked for his fantastic work in this renovation.
- In 2006-07, we engaged with community partners Camcare and the former Foundation Boroondara (now Boroondara Cares) on a significant community service project. We also played a lead role in the establishment of an inquiry into child poverty and social isolation within Boroondara.
- Noel Halford was President in 2006-07, when we helped organise our first Boroondara Community Christmas Lunch which was a flagship community event until COVID lockdowns.
- Youth Service has been very supportive of the annual District Youth programs: MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly); RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. RYPEN, Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; and Lord Somers Camp.
- Of central importance to many of our international projects is Donations in Kind (DIK) where equipment used in the projects is collected, sorted, and shipped.  
During 2021-22, Julie Collette, as the Club’s representative on the DIK committee set about applying her hospital administration skills to set up a DIK inventory and rationalise the types of equipment and medical supplies received into the facility.

- In PP Andrew Crockett's year, 2021-22: Rotary 100 Year Yarra Bank Reserve Playground Centenary Project came to fruition.

After a collaboration over two years between the Rotary Clubs of Glenferrie, Camberwell, Canterbury, and Hawthorn, the Rotary Foundation, and the City of Boroondara, the playground was officially opened on 21 November 2021. Denbigh Richards was our representative on the project committee.

In June 2022, the project was awarded District Recognition as a successful community project that involved collaboration between partner clubs and the local council, engaged Rotarians and members of the community, was well implemented, and publicised and left a legacy of strengthened relationships.

- 2019 - Alfred Hospital Care Bags - We provide care bags for people being admitted to the Mental Health Unit at the Alfred Hospital, many of whom are homeless and in desperate need. The bags include deodorant, lip balm, moisturiser, journal, pen, socks, and water bottle.

Thanks to PP Katrina Flynn in bringing this project to fruition, and the Rotary Hawthorn members who diligently spend hundreds of hours packing bags.

The Care Bags project has now been extended to the Box Hill Hospital Mental Health Unit. The project was expanded to include more clothing and to cover the new One East Ward at Box Hill Hospital.

Support for Upton House was also increased with the supply of art materials, puzzles, games, and reading glasses for inpatients.

- Gardening assistance at four houses for the Servants Community Housing initiative. In conjunction with some members of Balwyn Rotary, we undertook a successful gardening working bee at Romana House hostel, working alongside some of the residents and joining them for lunch.
- Providing disaster relief for people made homeless by the many natural disasters in Australia including bushfire and flood victims'

relief.

- The Mock Interview Program was and continues to be our most significant program at Auburn High School. These are the culmination of the School's 'Essentials for Life' program for Year 9 and 10 students who spend a term learning about the world of work, resumé preparation and updating, developing an accompanying letter and applying for a job.

The simulated job interviews are conducted by Rotary Hawthorn members, partners, and friends.

- In 2022, Community Service organised a "blood donation" event, and with the blood of members and partners, successfully donated many litres of blood to the Red Cross Life Blood.

This was achieved after "filling up" with food and juices to generate healthy blood cells and a good flow! This is hopefully to be an annual event for the Club.

- In 2023, over 90% of houses and businesses in Rochester, Victoria and surrounding area were flooded and families six months later are still living in caravans and sheds in the most appalling conditions.

Hawthorn Rotary purchased over \$2,000 in blankets and doonas in May to help the local residents prepare for winter.

In June, with \$3,000 raised at Sackville Grange, and a matching donation from our club, we have donated \$6,000 to Rotary Rochester for their disbursement to families having to live in caravans and sheds.

Three specific items were identified that would benefit these residents:

- Battery operated sensor lights to enable people to safely find their way to use external toilet facilities
- Fire blankets
- Small fire extinguishers reducing fire risks in caravans and sheds

These items are being provided via the local Mitre 10 Hardware store.

We are planning to continue supporting Rochester via Rotary Rochester's five members as they work together rebuilding their community and town.

**Our International Projects over the past 70 years, include:**

- 1962 – Fourth Avenue in Motion (FAIM) created to team up Rotarians and non-Rotarians on projects throughout the Pacific.
- We contributed in 1964 to the appeal on behalf of victims of the earthquake in Yugoslavia and collected and despatched hundreds of disused spectacle frames to a mobile ophthalmic clinic in India.
- 1965 – Our club first became involved in Rotary Youth Exchange and we provided trees for the Australian Rotary Forest in Israel.
- 1972-73 – Xray equipment worth \$1650 (\$19,500 in 2022) was sent to India.
- 1975 we joined the project to supply water tanks in Indonesia.
- In the 1970's we helped the Rotary club of Sungai Patani provide an intensive care unit in the Kedah district hospital in West Malaysia
- Three orphan children were sponsored to attend the Salvation Army School in Medan, Sumatra. This was followed by help towards the installation of a tube well for water supply in Bangladesh.
- In 1979 a committee organised a Club contribution together with a matching Special Grant to meet the cost of a centre to house the health services, immunisation facilities, water supply and primary and nutritional educational needs of the village of Amgachia, India. The Rotary club of Joka supervised the work.
- A refrigerator was supplied to Sangam, Poona, headquarters of the World Association of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts by Alan Dempster's 1982 committee.
- 1980 – PolioPlus initiative was created and Rotary Hawthorn led by President Henry Kingsley in 1986-87, took up the challenge to raise

funds.

Over three years, we contributed almost \$40,000 (\$119,500 in 2022), a significant part of the almost \$10 million (\$29.5 million in 2022) which came from Australian Rotarians.

- 1987-88 – Significant donations went to Martyrs Memorial Primary School, Popindetta, PNG, Camp Quality, Radio 3RPH and sponsored Peer Support.
- Rotary Hawthorn’s SkyHydrant project completed late 2020, funded the purchase and installation of a SkyHydrant Max to provide clean drinking water to a community of Karen people in the village of Day Bu Noh in Myanmar (near the border with Thailand).

PP Noel Halford (Rotary Hawthorn Club Service Director 2018-19) heard about the work of John Millington and Rotary Club of Nhill in attracting Karen refugees to Nhill and how they have successfully integrated into the Nhill community.

On a visit to Nhill, they discovered the plight of the Karen refugees, forced to flee their homeland, and live in refugee camps where overcrowding and clean water was a real issue. President Doug McLean (2023-24) commented in his Changeover presentation: “We are looking at a Club road trip to Nhill to meet up with the local Rotary Club and their Myanmar community to look at supplying another SkyHydrant water filtration system to one of the refugee communities.

- 2015 - Support for Baguia, Timor Leste via Student Scholarships and school furniture was provided by Rotary Hawthorn for at least four years has been providing money for student scholarships in Baguia, Timor Leste via Friends of Baguia for the past 4 or so years.

We were very pleased to hear that the students were successful in their studies. Rotary Hawthorn then provided five students with scholarships to St Joseph’s Junior High in Baguia for the three years from 2016 to 2018.

In 2015, a container of school desks and equipment for remote school of Hae Coni Primary School, Baguia was funded by Rotary

Hawthorn. The desks and equipment were supplied by Rotary's Donations in Kind store. In some mountain school classrooms children still sit on the dirt floor or on shaky bamboo poles.

- Supply of materials and labour to rebuild the orphanage run by the Carmelite order near Dili.
- The Tools for Timor project saw the reconditioning of unwanted hand tools packed into 625 toolboxes and shipped to newly independent Timor Leste.
- Setting up a Rotary Cricket Blood Bank in Gujranwala, Pakistan
- Funding for the Immunisation of 4,000 children in the city of Mumbai, India against hepatitis B.
- Our work took us to Zambia and India where various projects were undertaken to improve children and communities:
  - Training of rural villagers in basic hygiene, construction of pit latrines and pump menders' maintenance
  - Money was donated for the purchase of a vehicle
  - Teaching of skills in chicken rearing, tailoring and basic living to rural communities
  - Shipment of a container of badly needed school and kitchen requisites, clothing, children's storybooks and toys, sports equipment
  - Providing funds for the Grandmothers in Zambia for purchase of mattresses for their 75 orphaned grandchildren.
- Matching 3 H Grant (from Rotary Foundation) to set up a literacy project for Kurdish women in remote areas of Turkey.
- Provision of a container of donated goods to the remote northern islands of Vanuatu and local purchase of water tanks for remote villages.
- Provision of funding to equip a much-needed Blood Bank in the city of Gujranwala, Pakistan.

- Provision of two rescue vehicles for The Bayan in Chennai, India. This institution provides shelter and training for destitute women.
- Using a Global Grant, we provided a new toilet block for a school on the outskirts of Durban, South Africa.
- Building of a child-friendly toilet block with the assistance of a local community in a tribal village Barangay Pantikian in far northern Philippines.
- Second Philippines Toilet Block - Rotary Hawthorn was proud to fund the construction of a second toilet block for primary school children in the Philippines. This toilet block is in Pasil Elementary school in the remote Kalinga Province of northern Luzon.
- Rotary Hawthorn's Richard Logan is Project Manager for the Rotary (Australia) World Community Service Program, facilitating transactions to support the Lille Fro Foundation in North India, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hawthorn several years ago. Lille Fro is an Australian charity founded in 2008 by Tamara Cannon.

The project description is “Providing sponsorship for children’s education and support through Lille Fro Foundation. Creation of jobs, food supplies and empowering women in Jammu-Kashmir State, India.” Rotary Hawthorn is proud to be a supporting partner of Lille Fro’s marvellous projects.

- PP David Rush and Robert Ball visited a school for disadvantaged children in Gucheng village outside of Beijing after providing education funding for supplies to the school.
- Rotary SAFE Families was invited to sponsor the Rabbit Farming Program in Uganda in 2022. A new Hawthorn Rotarian, Rebecca Tamasuza is Founder of the Ten Billion Hearts Foundation in Uganda and founded this self-sustainable rabbit farming initiative of farming practices in both urban and rural areas. Via workshops and skill transfers, people living in underserved, poor communities accumulate skills to become self-supportive by breeding rabbits for food, skins, and resale.

SAFE Families sponsored a workshop for families in Jinja, Uganda to learn about rabbit breeding. It is hoped that families that can support themselves, retain dignity, and own a small business, may help to reduce the level of violence that occurs in Uganda.

**Editor Note:** Rotary Hawthorn was honoured to have five wonderful young people from Cambodian Rotaract Club Siem Reap as guests, prior to the RI Convention in Melbourne, May 2023.

Hearing their stories of childhood poverty, difficulty in attending schools, and being given their chance in life by Rotary scholarships to university was humbling

It is a reminder to us all, that all the international projects listed above, have hopefully impacted positively for hundreds and possibly thousands of underprivileged people.

As it was reiterated at that meeting: “Education is the gift of life!” and it was heart-warming to hear these beautiful young Cambodian Rotaractors promise to promote education for young people in Cambodia so they can also receive this gift of life!

87. Our President in our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is Doug McLean. Doug was inducted into the club “virtually” (whilst we were in COVID lockdown) in 2020.

He had thought he was “not quite ready to retire” but had been keen to give back to community for some time. Doug wanted to be involved in social projects and meet new people and we are very fortunate that he landed in Rotary Hawthorn. He hit the ground running, and in just two years he has served as Treasurer and now President.

Originally from Canada and later New Zealand, we are fortunate Australia is now home for Doug. Armed with a passion for social justice, Doug believes the biggest challenges we face as Rotarians, are keeping ourselves relevant to members of society, and ensuring we stay current by reinventing and refreshing ourselves, as well as our membership.



During Doug's inaugural presentation at Changeover Dinner 2023, he gave members and guests a "taste" of what he has planned for this Anniversary year:

"From the recent Rotary Convention, I did see a couple of areas we could investigate for future support.

In particular, the work going on in relation to modern slavery which is an issue both within Australia and in other regions of the world.

The issue is starting to receive some attention but Rotary may have a role in this, like the work we are doing with Rotary SAFE Families.

In summary I see a very busy year coming up for our Club and look forward to working with all members and friends of Rotary Hawthorn to ensure we have a fun and successful year. Now who would like to be chief organiser for our first Bingo Night?"

88. Editor has taken the words PP Ian Bentley (2018-19) prepared in his Annual Report to describe Rotary Hawthorn: "The hallmark of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn is its genuinely friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Before each meeting, there has been a buzz of relaxed and jovial conversation as members gather to catch up with old friends and enjoy time together.

When there has been a call-to-action members have willingly risen to the occasion. Throughout the year members participated actively in projects initiated at Club, Cluster and District levels.

The Club has continued to attract new and talented members and retained the services of very experienced Rotarians.

PP Charlotte England (2019-20) wrote: "Our Club has a history of great Fellowship where new members are welcomed from all walks of life and the collective Fellowship of the Club embraces them so they integrate quickly into our Rotary community.

As times have changed significantly over the past few years, the need for Fellowship is valued a great deal more because so many people have been isolated and often loneliness has been experienced.

We have a wonderful Club with a great culture of inclusiveness that has been harnessed through the Fellowship we offer each other through meeting on Tuesday lunchtimes, supporting local and overseas projects, enjoying vocational and social events, and supporting our fundraising activities.”

Yes, on reading this, I believe you would agree with Ian and Charlotte, Rotary Hawthorn is a club that personifies Rotary at its best.

Onwards and Upwards Rotary Hawthorn!

**Editor greatly appreciates the support from:**

PP Gordon Cheyne

Terry Kitchen

President Doug McLean

PP Andrew Crockett

PP David Rush



PP Noel Halford

PP Henry Drury

PDG, PP Dennis Shore

PP Katrina Flinn

Ari Talantis

## Bibliography

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- *A History of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn – The First Forty Years: 1953-1993* by Bill Johnstone, Stuart Hickman, Bern Hames, Bruce Smith and Geoff Stevens. Printed: William Troedel & Company Pty Ltd, 1993. ISBN 0 958 9065 2 1
- Club Runner
- Networker District 9800
- Members reflections!



Denbigh Richards, a stalwart support for all things Rotary Hawthorn.



Three “Lift the Lidders” PDG, PP Dennis Shore, Sheridan Brown, and PP Ian Macfarlane.



PP Katrina Flinn and below: Entrance to Fritsch Holzer Park, Hawthorn which our Club is proud to have helped create for the residents of Hawthorn.





Enjoyment of Rotary with Julie Collette and PP Lawrence Reddaway



PP Bill Troedel and PP Chris Hanson.



Rotary Hawthorn's Skyhydrant project at work providing clean water for the Karen community, Myanmar.



**From left to right:** Peter England, Vincent Chen, PP Ian Bentley and Kevin Rose 2022 with **below:** “Lift the Lidders” PP Andrew and Pam Crockett



PP Phil Stewart in 2023 with a “pretend” King Charles!



PP Phil Stewart meeting our “real” King Charles



PP David Pisterman displaying his phone



Geoff Wright displaying his Paul Harris pin presented by PP Charlotte England.





Dr Peter Lugg, International Director 2022-23 displaying Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding support (ongoing) in the construction of the new surgical wing of the Kampong Speu Referral Hospital 45 minutes from Phnom Peng.



PP Anne Scott OAM with PDG, PP Bernie Walshe



Fellowship is a key component to our wonderful Rotary Hawthorn.



PP's Charlotte England and David Rush at a meeting.



Changeover with PP Chris Hanson welcoming President Lawrence Reddaway 2015



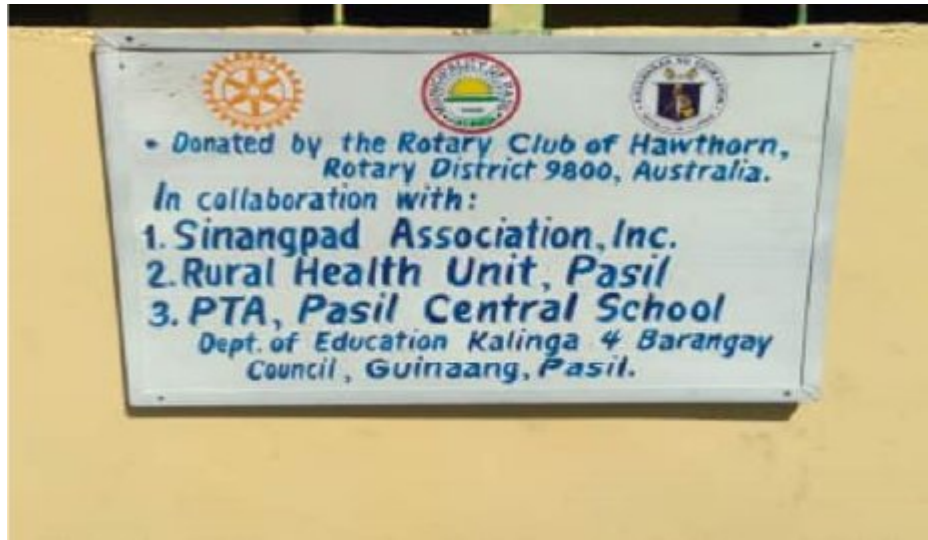
PP Charles Morrison celebrated 50 years of club service 2019.  
Charles was President in 1988-89.



PDG, PP Rotary Hawthorn, Dennis Shore as RI President's Representative to D9520 and D3190 (India). Seen here with his wife Lynda.



Packing CARE bags for Alfred Mental Health Unit on a chilly, wet day in Melbourne 2023.



Sign on toilet block we constructed at Pasil Elementary school in the remote Kalinga Province of northern Luzon, Philippines.



PP Ngaire Cannon and Sheridan Brown with resident Paul Beagle at the opening of two Hot House gardens we funded for the Servants Housing project.





Three wonderful Past Presidents

**Left:** PP David Corrigan (1982-83)

**Below left:** PP Noel McInnes (1995-96)

**Below right:** PP Ian Warren (1996-97)



PP Andrew Crockett proudly displaying the Hawthorn guernsey for PP Simon O'Donoghue's vibrant auctioning, Christmas 2022.



PDG, PP David Rosback, PDG, PP Bernie Walshe



Our President in our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, Doug McLean.



Past Presidents Katrina Flinn and Meredith Hayes



Christmas Toy Drive “extraordinaire” 2022  
L-R: PP Andrew Crockett, Dorothy Gilmour, Brianna Myers  
(FVREE) and PP Katrina Flinn



Photo taken prior to donating our blood in 2022!



The induction of Ari Talantis in 2023 was just one of many new members welcomed to Hawthorn. Seen here with husband Dr Richard Skinner and PP Andrew Crockett AM.





We were assisted by non-Rotarians to successfully complete the Boab Foot Care Project. This saw some volunteers becoming members of Hawthorn.



In 2018, PP Tilak Dissanayake with help from Denbigh Richards and PP Noel Halford, collected 200 glucose monitors which were sent to the Kimberley region.



PP's David Rush, Ngaire Cannon and Noel Halford with students from Swinburne who participated in our Effective Speaking Program.



We gathered for a long-range photo of a February 2023 lunch at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. (Magnifying glass needed!)



Some members (2023) of our Rotary SAFE Families Inclusive Communities Initiative: **L-R:** PE Dorothy Gilmour, Peter Berg and Ahmed Tohow (both Rotary Melbourne) and Shakilah Wesonga.



Refurbishing and upgrading the sensory garden at Box Hill Hospital Adolescent Mental Health ward. Seen here, Sue Zidziunas, PP Noel Halford and Denbigh Richards. Feedback: It was a lot of fun!



Our first Zoom meeting in 2020.



PP Lawrence Reddaway, broadcasting radio 96.5 FM



The House of Friendship, 2023 Rotary International Convention Melbourne. L-R: PP Anne Scott, Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, with Toby Suzuki, Japan, PP Tilak Dissinayake, Terry Kitchen and President Doug McLean.



PP Andrew Crockett's wife Pam (right) is preparing to pin the "President Partner's Brooch" on Terry Kitchen 2023. Rotary Hawthorn tradition!



What! All the red wine gone?





Community Christmas Lunch 2019 Kim D'Arcy and "Santa"  
Richards in disguise!



Much enjoyment and fellowship at the Albury Conference 2013



Kim D'Arcy, Sue Rush and Julie Clark at our RI Convention Dinner,  
Kooyong 2023



They shall remain nameless! Rotary Hawthorn members helped raise \$14,000 (1998) for homeless youth performing the Haka!

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Sir Angus Mitchell wrote to his friend Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, that *“friendliness, understanding, and goodwill were the only lines upon which nations could settle their differences.”*

