

1881 1233

TO VIK KERRIN

HISTORICAL COMMENT.

APPROXIMATELY 2011

RESURRECTED FROM 1998 CHANGEOVER - WHEN I  
GAVE SOME BOOKS OF RYDENTA ITEMS TO ROB W. REYNOLDS

①

Bal.  
5/1/99

When the club was being formed this building didn't exist. Most of the North Ryde business estate didn't exist as it is now. So you can say that this club has been around while some major changes have occurred in this North Ryde Area.

We've also been involved in many of those changes. From the building of the Coronary Care Unit at Ryde Hospital with other clubs in the area to the inaugural start of the Ryde Business Forum and our own local Radio 2RRR.

Yet the first interest meeting at Wella then on Epping Road gathered some 20 or so local executives from the original companies who set up in this 'hi tech' development area - only the words hi Tech hadn't been put into use then. We sat amongst the Hair dryers in Wella's demonstration room with Frank Herford Smith the prime mover and eventually original president. Frank had been given the task by our mother club Ryde to set up a new club and he had personally canvassed the businesses in the North Ryde area to commence the new club. We spent many an hour at Wella in the Early days - although it didn't do much for either Frank or my hair styling. It was and largely still is a club for North Ryde Business, although in recent years more members have been North Ryde residents as well.

The great day came when we all assembled at Ryde Town Hall as it then was, and the Ryde North Club was chartered. I can remember us all standing on the stage like a row of those clowns at the fun fair when most of us were wondering what it was all about. It was pretty impressive as some 200 other Rotarians were there to welcome us in.

We were a lunch club and met on the balcony at the North Ryde RSL's Main Hall. This was great until the pop group for the evening began rehearsal in the hall. After some time we moved to the North Ryde Golf Club and started eating a Chinese lunch, until that got so popular that again we had meetings interrupted by 'number 32 your lunch is ready' over the loudspeaker. It was at the Golf Club that two events occurred 1) the great debate to admit the other gender into our Rotary club and 2) We needed to change to a breakfast club to allow members to have an uninterrupted day at work - times were competitive. So that is how we became the club 'where business meets for breakfast', and how we obtained more of our best members by women becoming members.

Early on our Bulletin communication was in the hands of Ron Morgan who had a very efficient secretary at Remington, and she would ring up those who failed to give a paragraph to extract updates, I believe she was a Rotaractor. Ron added his usual discreet paras, but I reckon without Ron and his Secretary we would have stumbled in those early years - there was so much to learn about this world wide organisation we had joined and the weekly bulletin was the main communicator.

Our main fund raising was an annual Art Show held at Ethnor (now Johnson and Johnson) where Willi Popper convinced the Board that we wouldn't wreck the place if we took over the impressive entrance and staff dining room for a weekend each year. We had to clear out the furniture, erect the stands and lighting and run the show usually some 500+ paintings and crafts between 5pm Friday and get it all back together before 8am Monday. It took some doing including the security for the nights concerned. At one show we had the Dead Sea Scrolls copies from Barry Dingley's company and he and Grant Walker - who we exported to the UK and he hasn't come back - did much to raise the prestige of the event thanks to their company Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

JUL 31 1999 06:38PM

PHONE NO. : +61 2 45722261

FROM : BOB MAC JOPLIN

I might add that when this was going on that the road beyond Ethnor ran into a field and Macquarie Centre hadn't been commenced. (2)

We also spent a year or so at Macquarie Centre meeting there for Breakfast to try to get the shop owners involved. We weren't very successful at that and as the RSL had around that time been renovated we returned there, but for breakfast and without the pop group.

AS North Ryde has grown and changed so have we. In our own North Ryde business Mail list we have noticed that each year as we update it from our contacts that around one third of the businesses or their executives change. So we reflect the community with a few of the originals still around sometimes under new company names or like our revered founding president retired.

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impression  
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- Smith's  
- Youth Club  
- Youth Hall  
- men +  
- Shadethorn

The friendship of this club has been it's main feature for me. We've always been the larrikin club and I hope that continues. If we can't laugh at and with each other the place would be too deadly serious, yet we all learn from each other also and I've found much to respect in the quality and depth of fellow members. I've also made friendships that have continued both here and in overseas countries thanks to Rotary. If you are not a Rotarian and you live or work in the area you don't know what you are missing.

FROM : BOBMAC JOPLIN

PHONE NO. : +61 2 45722261

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