

# The 90's



# 1 July 1990 – 30 June 1991

**President Geoff Gibbs**



**Roy Austin** was introduced as a member of Remuera Rotary in July 1990 by David Manson and formally inducted by President Geoff Gibbs. At the time he was described as a keen yachting and one of those participants who was also a gentleman. One of Roy's two daughters **Mika**, then aged 13 years of age was a diabetic. She gave a forthright address to the club on what diabetes was and was followed by her younger sister **Kristy** who gave a talk she had already given to her classmates on what it was like to have a sister who had this illness.

## **William's Challenge.**

William Tan, then a 33 year old doctoral student from Singapore, and from 1991 at Auckland University, had been a paraplegic polio victim since the age of two. He wrote to Remuera Rotary as follows:

"Dear Sirs,

I have read your brochure on prevention of Diabetes & it touched the strings of my heart as I am now confined to a wheelchair due to the lack of receiving a Polio vaccine when young. I would like to volunteer to push my wheelchair from Wellington to Auckland to

raise funds.” William had raised in 1987 and 1988 more than Singapore \$200,000 for kidney patients in similar ventures.

**WILLIAM'S CHALLENGE**

**TO BEAT DIABETES**

Plan a Top Hat Day for your community and raise valuable funds for Children's Diabetes Prevention. Organise a special day (at school or at a special event), and you will be provided with free sausages to ensure sizzling sales returns.

9 Mount Street, Auckland.  
P.O. Box 6450,  
Telephone (09) 735-026,  
Fax (09) 303-2106.

Child Health Research Foundation

With William's Challenge and your help,  
Child Diabetes can now be beaten.

parachuting, paragliding, horse riding, sailing, canoeing, swimming, wheelchair racing

Rotary Club of Rotorua

This resulted in what was called William's Challenge. Masterminded by Roy Austin it was a huge logistics exercise which resulted in raising some \$400,000.

Roy Austin co-ordinated a massive exercise. He firstly found Top Hat Bacon, Ham & Speciality Foods as a sponsor. Roy then organised the trip, then to be labelled 'WILLIAM'S CHALLENGE'. Most North Island schools held "Top Hat" Days with sausages provided by TOP HAT.

Rotary Clubs on the route assisted with bucket collections.

Charles Goldie was Project Controller for the whole three weeks and displayed remarkable ability in getting free entry to various events.

William's Challenge took a total of 21 days and included:

- Masterton,
- Palmerston North,
- Dannevirke,
- Hastings,
- Napier-Taupo Road,
- parachuting over Taupo airfield,
- Rotorua with paragliding on Lake Rotorua,
- Tauranga,
- Tirau,
- Hamilton with waterskiing on Lake Karapiro,
- canoeing on the Waikato from Hamilton to Ngaruawahia,
- Papakura and a yacht trip on the Manukau Harbour,
- the Children's Hospital in Auckland,
- and finishing with a Civic reception in Aotea Square.

TVNZ sponsored a series of advertisements on TV1 and TV2 promoting William's ride. ANZ Bank acted as official collection points for the appeal, Top Hat Bacon, Ham and speciality foods donated 100,000 sausages and Stormont Bakeries donated 20,000

loaves of Tip Top bread. Olympic gold medallists Ian Ferguson and Paul McDonald accompanied William. Ministry of Transport vehicles accompanied William throughout his ride.



Roy Austin & William Tan

Every school in the north Island was sent an information package asking them to hold a 'Top Hat Day' at school by holding a BBQ to raise funds.

Among Remuera Rotary members four were heavily involved - Roy Austin as Project Chairman, Roger and Judith Bridgeman and Colin Wilson as Lead Drivers, ie drivers of following cars and Charles Goldie as trip co-ordinator. Also Trevor Bringans quietly provided backroom assistance.

William had a remarkable presence at schools. Speaking quietly, the children were completely captivated and completely silent. Even tough old businessmen like Roger Bridgman were seen to have tears in their eyes.

William's Challenge raised a total of \$300,000 after deducting expenses. For the next few years six monthly or annual newsletters produced some \$10,000 to \$20,000 each time.

## Presidential Award of Honour

The club received the Presidential Award of Honour in the youth category. Remuera was selected from 25,000 clubs worldwide. Colin Wilson, accompanied by his wife Dawn, travelled to Rotary International's convention in Mexico City to receive the award. Results to date showed that in the tested group no children or group of children had developed diabetes, whereas in the untested and untreated group 11 children had so far contracted the disease.

At the club's weekly meeting on 17th June 1991 Colin Wilson was able to report as follows;"

"We started this programme with nothing but faith and enthusiasm.

We have exceeded our original target.

We have enormously increased the awareness of Diabetes Prevention both nationally and internationally.



The profile of the Rotary Club of Remuera was now in New Zealand and overseas, significant culminating in the Rotary International Presidential Award of Honour for Services to Youth (a New Zealand First).

Specifically:

- To date, \$409,766 had been raised with more to come. The Diabetes Prevention Trust was disbanded in the year 1998/1999. Some \$50,000 surplus was donated to Bob Elliott to enable him to continue with his diabetes research.
- 25,000 children in Auckland and 2000 in Hawke' Bay had been tested for antibodies and the positive reactors treated. In the tested and treated group, none had developed Diabetes. In the Untested (and therefore untreated) 11 have developed diabetes so far.
- William's Challenge was initiated as a separate project, but with Diabetes Prevention as the objective. Combined the two Projects raised about \$700,000
- Club members have visited 70 other Rotary Clubs, Tony Williams had visited 20 of these himself and Bob Elliott a similar number.
- Districts 993 and 994 had been very supportive; 994 had contributed \$46,000.
- The wheels were in motion for future national testing.
- Six other countries were adopting the programme"

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of club members, many of whom have given extraordinary amounts of time, and they were thanked most profusely. It was probably not only the largest project undertaken by a club of 60 members, but a project that was going to have continuing benefits into the future.





**For his devoted services in connection with children's health Bob Elliott was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.**

### **Tree Planting Waiata Reserve**

Leigh Marshall organised with City Council Parks Department for club members to plant 300 native trees on the south boundary of Waiata Reserve. A park bench was installed overlooking the trees and stream. A plaque commemorating the planting, noting the date and with the Rotary emblem was fixed to the concrete pad beneath the seat.



### **VIP Camp**

This year was organised by Bruce Walker. Activities included assembling model racing cars which VIPs were able to take home through the generosity of Trevor Bringans



**Exchange Student Cathy Travers from Washington State was hosted by the club. Her Counsellor was Ken Littlejohn**



# 1 July 1991 – 30 June 1992

## President Tony Fortune



**Tony with DG Bob Jollands**



## Dilworth School and Murray Wilton

Once again the club had the use of Dilworth's facilities for the Christmas function, for the Art Auction, for monthly board meetings and numerous other activities. The club was extremely fortunate to have access through Murray Wilton to such marvellous facilities.

Murray was an old boy of Dilworth and was its headmaster from 1979. Murray was club secretary for both Tony Fortune and John Simpson.

## Membership

Six new members were inducted into the club during the year thanks to the efforts of the membership team John Simpson, Colin Hill, Graeme Martin and Leigh Marshall.



## Food

The standard of the food provided at the Grammar Club for our club meetings was very poor based around a staple dish of beetroot a staple part of most club meals. It was not uncommon for the food provided to run out before all those at the meeting had been fed. This combined with a very substandard carpark led president elect John Simpson to look for a new venue for the club which resulted in a move to Clifford House (now Orakei Bay) at Orakei Basin which proved to be a great venue for club meetings for a number of years with plentiful food of excellent quality!

## Sir Edmund and Lady Hillary

Visited the club in February and spoke of the work that was being done to assist the people of Nepal through the Himalaya Trust.

Following the visit Garth Harris, Colin Beckwith, Iain Valentine and Tony Fortune formed the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation with approval from Sir Edmund to assist the work of the Himalaya Trust.

The Trust organised and promoted a number of well attended fund raising dinners at Clifford House. The first was with Sir Edmund as speaker, subsequently one with Chris Dickson, and one with Graeme Dingle, both with Sir Edmund in attendance. The proceeds from this fundraising were in part used to purchase a number of mint \$5 notes which were signed by Sir Edmund, and subsequently sold at auction to raise further funds.

A number of these \$5 notes are still held. The intention is that they are sold at fundraising auctions from time to time and the proceeds transferred to the Himalaya Trust. When the cheque account for the Foundation was closed the balance of funds on hand was handed over by Garth and Iain at an annual meeting of Himalayan Trust held at Sir Edmund's family home on Remuera Road.



The trust's name was changed to the Remuera Hillary Foundation in 2002.



John Simpson hosted Sir Edmund Hillary and Tom Scott at a fundraising dinner held at Clifford House the following Rotary year.

### **Visit to Starship Children's Hospital**

The Vocational committee organised a visit to the hospital combined with a talk by Bob Elliott in the Child Health Laboratory about his latest diabetes research. This was fascinating. The Hospital was presented with \$500 for textbooks.



**A Vocational Service Award was presented to Ernie Newman and Buy New Zealand Made - organised by Richard Veber and the Vocational Service Committee.**

Richard advised – "Charles asked me to organise selling Sausages, at a market day for Newmarket, at Buy NZ in Newmarket Station about 1991. Roger Bridgman was great –

pushed and cajoled everyone to the Newmarket station - with cooking Sausages on the platform.

Then Roger got the Remuera Fire Service fire engine brought down to the station and used hoses to clean the station!

I thought 2500 sausages would last 2 days? I had to play tennis on Saturday afternoon - then there was a call – "Richard we need more sausages, we have sold all we had".

I went to 277 Woolworths - *can we buy some sausages - they said - how many?*  
*I said "about 2500"*

*Ok, let's get a deal - about 0.25cents per sausage??*

We sold the last sausage at 4pm. All told we sold 5000 sausages.

Funds raised contributed funding \$5000 to Dilworth scholarships, via Murray Wilton."



**Hugh Garlick was commodore of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians - New Zealand Fleet**





**Exchange Student Pernille Skipper from Denmark was hosted by the club.**



**Beau Sayes**, here with Peggy, was presented with a framed club banner by Past President Tony Williams acknowledging all the years Beau had spent taking dozens of photos of club members and club activities during the first 12 years of the club. Beau provided colour prints of all the photos to the club without charge.



# 1 July 1992 – 30 June 1993

**President John Simpson**



**Exchange Student Sasha Archer** was hosted by the club August 1991 to July 1992. Her counsellor was Wayne Brewer and hosts were the Valentines, Walkers, Austins and Fortunes. She attended St Cuthbert's College, went to District Conference in Fiji and said this in her fair well address to the club: *"I had a few preconceived ideas that all Rotarians would be boring old fossils who would show little interest in me – boy was I wrong, none of it turned out true – as I have said before and will say it again and again I find it wonderful how the club takes such care with your students.."*

Early in 1993 the club shifted its meetings to **Clifford House** on Orakei Road – a significantly better venue than the Grammar Club! (Clifford House is now known as Orakei Bay).



### **Remuera Rotary Art Sale at Dilworth School April 1993**

In John Simpson's year as President 1992/1993 he organised a **charity art exhibition** at Dilworth School with over 200 paintings and other artwork on display and for sale. Proceeds from the sales were to go to the club's comma city projects, in particular the Macpherson Centre for the elderly in Meadowbank Road.

Every dollar raised was to be from the \$10 admission charge and from sales of art works were to be matched by two locally administered charitable trusts, the Chenery Memorial Trust and the Lois Dalley memorial Trust. The 49 artists exhibiting included Peter Jacka and Hary Sangi. In addition, there was pottery by Peter Collis, glasswork by Gary Nash, photography, patchwork and jewellery.



**A St. Andrews Night Dinner** was held by Rotary Remuera on 30th November 1992. John Hawthorn of Clan McDonald was the Chief for the evening and Master of Ceremonies. Proclamations came from John Simpson of Clan Fraser, Murray Wilton, (alleged to be the Procurator Fiscal or Attorney General in plain Sassenach English ) and Angus O Rogers of Aberdeen and Angus. A ceilidh, Auld Lang Syne, Flower of Scotland a Gaelic Blessing and Chief's Farewell were among the festivities of the night. This author (who was not on the scene at the time ), is from Clan McDougall. His late

wife Margaret was a McGregor and claimed descent from Rob Roy McGregor)

**Rotary quiz.** Congratulations to Bob Hay, Ken Littlejohn and Ken Neighbours who won the final of the Canadian Airlines Rotary Quiz. They were off to Canada to take on the World – the prize was 3 double return tickets to Canada. Robyn Annals from Canadian Airlines presented Remuera Rotary with three double return tickets to Toronto plus a magnificent trophy, a North American Indian hand-carved totem pole to take pride of place in Remuera Rotary for one year

The resignation of Bruce Tantrum having been received with regret in February, 17 May 1993, the club presented Bruce with a Paul Harris Fellowship. He had joined the club shortly after it started in 1980 and served as President in the 1989/1990 year. Bruce had been involved in the provision of facilities at the Royal Oak Disability Centre. He also instigated the Auckland wide Children's 'WATERWISE' Programme which was still running at Okahu Bay. Bruce also had been instrumental in the on-going work in the Macpherson Centre for the confused elderly. At the time he was involved also in organising 14 NZ youngsters to compete in Pacific Area Optimist and P-class yachting races at Fukuoka, Auckland's Japanese sister city

At the Monday meeting 21st June 1993 it was proposed by Keith Fraser and seconded by Iain Valentine that "the Constitution of the Rotary Club of Remuera be amended so that the Club can be incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act. The motion was carried.

### **Diabetes Project – Part 3**

Unfortunately it appeared in late 1992 that further extension of the programme, aimed at testing all NZ five year olds, was not then possible. Basically there were three areas of concern. These were:

- The possible potential toxicity of niacinamide. There was no real evidence of this.
- that it was too early to be extending the programme nationally. Some people felt that more time should elapse.
- that the design of the study should be "double blind placebo"

The problems were not seen as a result of any lack of commitment on the part Of Bob Elliott's team or the Rotary Diabetes Trust, but rather with the health Research Council and the numerous Ethics Committees. The opinion of members of the club at the time was that in time this cautionary approach would be seen as having been unnecessarily cautious.

The campaign did not receive universal acclamation among the Medical Profession. Several doctors called into question the validity of William's Challenge, on TV3 making the following points:

- Professor Elliott's work in the prediction and prevention of Child Diabetes was unproven.
- The preventative Niacinamide was an unknown quantity in the dosages that might be required to prevent diabetes in children.
- The money would be better spent upon identifying adult diabetics who were unaware they had the disease.

Bob Elliott was able to easily refute these suggestions. He made various points including his view that the Medical Profession were right to be cautious, the results of his research to date all pointed in the right direction and that the William's Challenge was geared with the aim of promoting further research. His research to date had been accepted by five countries and his scientific paper on his studies had been accepted for publication by a leading publication specialising in diabetes.



# 1 July 1993 – 30 June 1994

**President Keith Fraser**



1 July 1993 Charles Goldie became District Governor of District 9920 of Rotary International for the 1993/94 Rotary year celebrated 5 July 1993 at a Champagne breakfast at the Hyatt Hotel with full house attendance. The RI President was Bob Barth. The Motto for the year was "Believe in what you do. Do what you believe in."

Charles Goldie recalled:

"In 1991 I was asked by Tony Fortune (for which I am most grateful) on behalf of the Club if I would agree to my name being put to the Club for their support and agreement to my making a run at this appointment, which would be announced at the District Conference being held in Fiji under DG Bob Jollands in 1992. I was deeply honoured that he accepted my proposal and nomination. Bob was a great mentor answering numerous questions as they arose, in spite of many manuals available to help build up for The Year.

When the full realisation hits you that there are numerous decisions and appointments to be made as well as putting together a District Directory and Administration Manual it very quickly dawns upon you that there is no time to waste. Firstly there is the District Officers to recruit to help with the administration of the DG's activities: Tony Fortune – District Secretary, Ken Neighbours- DG's Treasurer, Colin Allcock - Manual and Directory, Trevor Bringans - Newsletter Editor until taken over by Tony Fortune, Roger Bridgman - attendance returns, Roy Austin along with John Boyens - District Conference at Karaka



- a fantastic event. RI Director Howard Vann in attendance on behalf of President Bob Barth.

In addition to the year's highlight Conference, also organised was PETS, District Assembly, Pacific Islands Conference & Assembly, District Changeover RYLA, RYPEN seminars, Handicamp, Fletcher Challenge Science Summer School & HALSS. Another 34 District Committees were formed too, covering all the activities at District level. All 39 clubs in District were visited starting with Takanini /Clevedon on July 12 and finishing with Remuera on November 1 1993. Quite a mammoth task and reporting to RI on each club visit. All District Committees were visited too.

I am most grateful to all the Remuera Team who gave of their time and energies to make what I believe to be a highly successful year in every aspect and in spite of the concerted efforts by some DGs following, we still hold the record for Conference attendances/registrations, no mean feat - my sincere thanks and huge gratitude to the team and Club, the enormous experience was simply outstanding for Rosemary and me, never to be forgotten, even without a computer." The Conference was held in the unlikely venue of a horse auction ring at the Karaka Bloodstock Centre from 8th to 10th April 1994. It was organised by Roy Austin and was the largest and best conference on record. It made a substantial profit.

The conference coincided with the International Year of the Family. Guest speakers included Betsy Elliott, Alison Ross, and Barbara Hawthorn who spoke on family life past and present, at once serious and amusing, sad and happy poignant memories of learning to coexist and changing aspirations from one generation of mothers to the next. The conference was concluded by visiting speaker Christine Taylor with a background to, and a worldwide perspective on the International Year of the Family.



**Fred Angus has presented Charles the District Governor Chain.**

## **NZ Children's Transplant Support Trust**

7 July 1993 while Charles Goldie was District Governor, The Andrew Ngatuakana Liver Transplant Trust was set up with Charles, Roger Bridgman, Ross Craig (also a past Governor and member of the Newmarket Rotary Club) and Cook Islands Community appointees as trustees as a result of a request from a senior paediatric surgeon at Auckland Starship Hospital. Its purpose was to provide support for a New Zealand family whose child was in need of a liver transplant overseas.

At that time, it was necessary for children to be moved with supporting family members, to Brisbane for their transplant operations. The length of stay in Brisbane varied from 6 to 18 months.

Originally liver transplants for infants were undertaken at the Children's Hospital in Brisbane with limited NZ Health Department funding instead of at Starship Hospital in Auckland

The trust became the New Zealand Children's Transplant Support Trust in 1995 when Tony Fortune and late club member Keith Fraser were appointed trustees replacing Ross Craig and the Cook Islands community trustees. Roger Bridgman spent countless hours on trust affairs, very frugally managing its funds, and very successfully extracting money from the Health Department.

Through the efforts of Charles and Roger Bridgman the trust developed a wonderful lasting association with a past president of Brisbane Rotary Lionel Hendy and his wife Pam both of whom did a fantastic job administering the finances, finding accommodation, meeting and greeting inward and outgoing families and solving issues for families as they arose. They both did an amazing job looking after the trust's clients, finding them a place to live and equipping their accommodation with basic furniture, cutlery, linen, bedding and other essentials. 33 Families were supported in Brisbane by the Trust and the Hendys over the next 7 years.

David Searle became a Trustee in 1998 taking responsibility for the financial management of the Trust. Susan Searle has supported Sue Curlett and other administrators of the Trust.

With strong Remuera Club support, the Trust undertook the 1999 Christmas in the Park collection. The Trust received a portion of the proceeds from the collection.

This Brisbane aspect of the trust operation continued until the Auckland District Health Board was awarded the licence to perform liver transplants in 2002, stopping the need for youngsters and their families to travel to Brisbane for treatment. Up to that situation some 36 clients had been sent to Brisbane.

The Trust provided half the funding for the setting up of the paediatric liver transplant unit in 2002 paying \$240,000 towards the training of doctors and nurses for the unit and the equipment required.

With transplants being undertaken in Auckland the Trust developed a close ongoing association with Ronald McDonald House Auckland ("RMH") contributing \$100,000 funding towards the establishment of separate Transplant rooms which enable transplant patients to stay in isolation. The Trust subsequently provided \$20,000 towards the furnishing of transplant rooms in the new Grafton Mews RMH adjacent to the main Auckland RMH.

The Trust provides ongoing funding annually to RMH to assist transplant families and also to Kids Foundation which supports transplant families once the family returns home.

\$20,000 was contributed by the Trust to the Fiji Oxygen project (see 2019).

The current (November 2019) trustees of the Trust are Tony Fortune, David Searle, and appointed in August 2019, Jo Drillien and Rosemary Goldie. Susan Searle still acts as the Trust's secretary



Roger Brigman



Pam & Lionel Hendy



Hamish Crossan – liver transplant



David Searle



Jo Drillien



Rosemary Goldie

### **Fitness Trail at Remuera Intermediate School**

This was well on the way to completion in November 1993, supported by Remuera Rotary with a donation of \$5,000. The Public were permitted to use this trail outside school hours, with access to the school track from St Vincent Avenue.



APM (Tony) Williams died on 31st October, 1993 at aged 63. His funeral was held in St. Marks Anglican Church Remuera on 3rd November 1993. The pallbearers were Russell Williams (brother), Lawrence Morton, Den Woodward, Garth Harris, Nigel Brown and David Belcher. In June 1998 President Iain Valentine was pleased to receive the framed citation for meritorious service conferred upon Tony Williams.

At the 1994 Club Change President Keith Fraser declared that the **District Conference** had been a great success, and put this down to the efforts of all those from Remuera Rotary who did their part to help, under the able direction of Chairman Roy Austin.

The Conference Golf had succeeded in producing a surplus of \$5,000, a major portion of this was to go to Dilworth scholarships. The Remuera Rotary Quiz Team of Murray Weatherston, Tony Fortune and Bob Mitchell won the Quiz final at Conference – the third year in a row that a team from Remuera won the District quiz.

Attending his last meeting as District Governor, Charles Goldie paid tribute to Club members for their vital support during his time in office. Charles looked back on a very productive year with positive gains in membership and a record attendance at the Conference. President Keith Fraser presented Charles with a suitably engraved pewter beer mug as a gesture from the club, congratulating him on a job well done.



# 1 July 1994 – 30 June 1995

**President Colin Hill**



## **Business is Awesome**

This was developed by senior professionals in the Remuera Club as a one day event (9am to 3pm) with lunch included ) aimed at high performing young people considering careers other than in medicine and law, for example It was designed to provide a view of business life of today's entrepreneur, self- employed business person or corporative executive. The program was/is a mixture of keynote speeches by prominent and successful business leaders, together with group exercises and business puzzles to simulate challenges and realities of business life.

It was set up in 1995 with Iain Valentine largely responsible. This programme is still taking place each year.

A seminar at Dilworth was set down for 26th March 1999. By this time 45 students had applied for membership. Late entries from St. Kentigern, Penrose High. Edgewater and Pakuranga Colleges boosted this number to 55.

Richard Higham, Director of the New Ventures Programme at Auckland University Business School was the director of the Business is Awesome course – a role he repeated for numerous years for the club.

The director of the course is currently Brett Murray a former member of the club.

At a presentation to St. Cuthbert's College on 21st July 2008 George Valentine gave a brief report to Remuera Rotary on this presentation. Attached is the photograph of the plaque he presented to the St. Cuthbert's headmistress Lynda Reid [see Remoires 2008/2009 Vol. 29 Copy No. 4]

Lynda spoke of the great things that Rotary does for the community. The headmistress introduced the winner of the Rotary Business Simulation as a great example of the achievements of the College students.

In November 2014 Leigh Marshall reminded the club that this was a Remuera Rotary initiative to introduce senior secondary school students to the concepts of business and entrepreneurship.

\$65,000 was donated to the club in 2004 primarily to fund Business is Awesome and similar business education programmes. These funds came from the termination of the Auckland New Venture Foundation which Tony Fortune and Murray Weatherston were involved with.

Ian Valentine, John Cowan and Leigh Marshall have had significant involvement with Business is awesome over the years.

Business is Awesome has been held annually since 1994 usually attracting more than 110 participants each year.





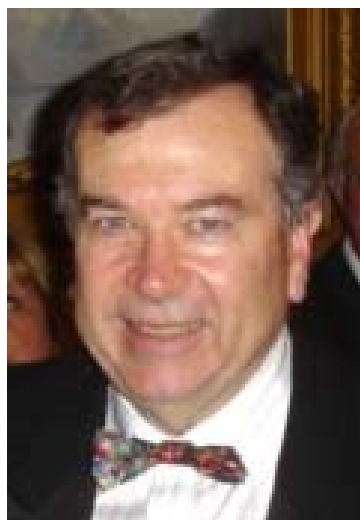
Iain Valentine



Richard Higham



Brett Murray



John Cowan



Leigh Marshall

## William Tan

Not content with simply a PhD, William Tan decided to enter the Medical Profession. He was eventually accepted into Brisbane University and qualified as a General Practitioner. He still practises as such and remains heavily involved in disability marathons and other similar activities.

In August 1994 William Tan fulfilled a long standing commitment when he came back to New Zealand and visited Dilworth School to speak to the students at Assembly about his life and experiences. The title of his address was "Meeting Life's Challenges". He continued to do course work at the Auckland University medical School and had accepted a Research Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

He was then about to leave in a couple of months to work on methods of reducing trauma in brain surgery. Following formal assembly William spent an hour talking to seventh



formers at Dilworth and answering their questions.



By December 1994 William had become an honorary member of Remuera Rotary and revealed to the club a sorry tale of unforgivable bungling on the part of the Auckland Medical School authorities. In 1993 William's third attempt gain entry to the school was successful and he turned down two other offers places in such other places as the Mayo Clinic, only to be informed by the Medical School that they had made an "administrative error" and that he would not after all be admitted in 1994.

A lengthy legal battle ensued with the Medical School promising to get William into the Mayo Clinic (since it was their error that caused William to turn down the Mayo offer). He was then told that his next application for the Auckland Medical School would be seriously considered. William then duly applied for the 1995 entry.

William paid a surprise visit to the club in September 2007. He told the assembly of some of the things he had been up to since leaving Auckland. He completed a postdoctoral study of the

brain during neurosurgery. This study took some 18 months all of which was spent on hotel accommodation. He mentioned also a wheelchair journey between Penang and Singapore and a canoe crossing between Singapore and Indonesia. At the time of his address he was based in Newcastle, Australia and hoped to make it to the 1998 Olympics.

William Tan wrote a book called "No Journey Too Tough" which was published by the National University of Singapore in 2006. It is a story of his record-breaking attempt to race in 10 marathons in 65 days cross seven continents. It is a most inspiring work setting out William's struggle against almost overwhelming odds and his commitment to fund raise for various charities. .





On 23rd August 1994 the club mourned the sudden death of **David Clayton East** at a relatively young age of 57, completely without any warning signs while exercising at his gym. He had been a member of Remuera Rotary for only eight years but had enjoyed an impressive Rotary membership in other directions. He had joined the Tokorara Rotary Club at age 26 in 1963. At the time David was managing the surveying company of Harrison Grierson as the firm planned the establishment of this pioneer milling town. In 1968 David undertook new surveying challenges in Fiji and became an active member of the Rotary Club of Suva occupying various offices including a term as President in 1979-1980. One of his notable achievements was the construction of a workshop/gymnasium for the Fijian School for the Blind. During his presidency David was instrumental in

the formation of a new Rotary Club called Suva East. Following his presidential year David was the District Governor's representative to the island clubs and his association with the Suva club continued until his return to Auckland in 1986 when he joined Remuera Rotary. It was said at the time that Remuera Rotary and Rotary International has lost a highly respected and much admired member. His gentlemanly behaviour and unswerving integrity were freely mentioned.

At the meeting of Rotary Remuera on 3rd October 1994 delight was expressed at the selection of Rosemary Goldie to be made a Paul Harris Fellow. (Repeated)

Three other members received Paul Harris Fellowships in 1994: Pam Garlick, Tony Fortune and Anne Fortune. Pam was honoured for her work on behalf of the club at the District Conference. She was District Chairman of Inner Wheel and in that capacity she was responsible for the strong support Remuera Rotary enjoyed from Inner Wheel members.

Tony and Anne were recognized for their work with the Rotary Student Exchange Scheme, and as generous hosts to students - Tony was District Youth Exchange Chairman for three years from 1 July 1992 and both of them as generous hosts to students. He was also recognised for his work in the past year as District Secretary to Charles Goldie.



### Death of Warren McLean

At the time he was the most senior member of Remuera Rotary when he died in November 1994, aged 72 years. He combined devotion to duty with giving and taking ribbing in good humour, particularly duelling with the Sergeant at Arms, at the time Hugh Garlick. Warren's wife Margaret had died some thirteen years previously which meant that Rotary came to mean a lot to Warren and vice versa.

Warren frequently entertained members of the club with his piano playing skills.

In his earlier years he turned down an offer to embark on a career as a concert pianist. Instead, he qualified as a professional electric engineer and operated W.P. McLean Ltd



from which he quickly developed a reputation as a New Zealand leader in the field of Electronic Scientific Test equipment.

Warren was a kind gentle man with a compassion to help those less fortunate. This was frequently reflected in both his Rotary and his church work. For example, he took time out every week to distribute food to families in St. Michael's Caring Community.

In Remoires 22August 1994 there was mention of the **Ellerslie Flower Show** taking place at Ellerslie Racecourse from 17th to 20th November 1994. This annual event was promoted by Auckland Rotary. Remuera Rotary was to be involved in the project by selling catalogues and generating funds for the clubs coffers.

A number of members of the club volunteered at the event assisting with parking control and other duties.

In 1998 the Flower Show moved to the Auckland Botanic Gardens in [Manurewa, South Auckland](#), where it was held each year until the final show November 2007.



Exchange Student **Ulrike Caspar** from Germany was hosted by the club for the year. Ulrike stayed with the Austin Family, Isabella Tedcastle (a Rotarian from St Johns Club) and Anne & Tony Fortune.

In January 1995 **Pili** arrived from Argentina. Her Counsellor was Iain Valentine.

### **Pili and Ulrike are pictured with Tony Fortune**

Ulrike is now married with one son and works as a psychologist.

At this time **Leigh Marshall** was the District Chairman of **Rota Pacific** and in an address to the club explained the aim of this branch of Rotary enterprise brings a small number of RYLA age young Pacific Islanders to New Zealand, and at the same time encourages interaction between clubs in NZ and in the Islands.

The selected group is billeted with Rotarians and spends three weeks in New Zealand, one week of orientation in Auckland, another week on vocational training in various parts of the country and final week as participants in RYLA.



# 1 July 1995 – 30 June 1996

**President Colin Wilson**



## **Middle Ear Project *aka* The Glue Ear Project**

Preliminary investigation was undertaken into a pilot study of Middle Ear infection was undertaken during the year. Middle Ear infection affected a large number of children from age three and upwards and caused hearing difficulty. A side effect was to decrease learning effectiveness at school and at home

The project was accepted by the Community Committees as a suitable project to arrange funding for.

## Clubmate

In 1995/1996 Remuera Rotary was one of the first clubs to become computerised, with **Clubmate**. Treasurer John Hanson set the program up and achieved 30 June accounts by 4 July.

Roger Bridgman, Kees Wester and Leigh Marshall erected a **Community Notice Board** outside the BNZ in Remuera.

The **Golf Committee** comprising Roger Bridgman, Geoff Hope, Keith Fraser, Ken Taylor, Colin Beckwith, Bill McCready and Trevor Bringans made a large contribution to club funds with their very successful Golf Tournament.

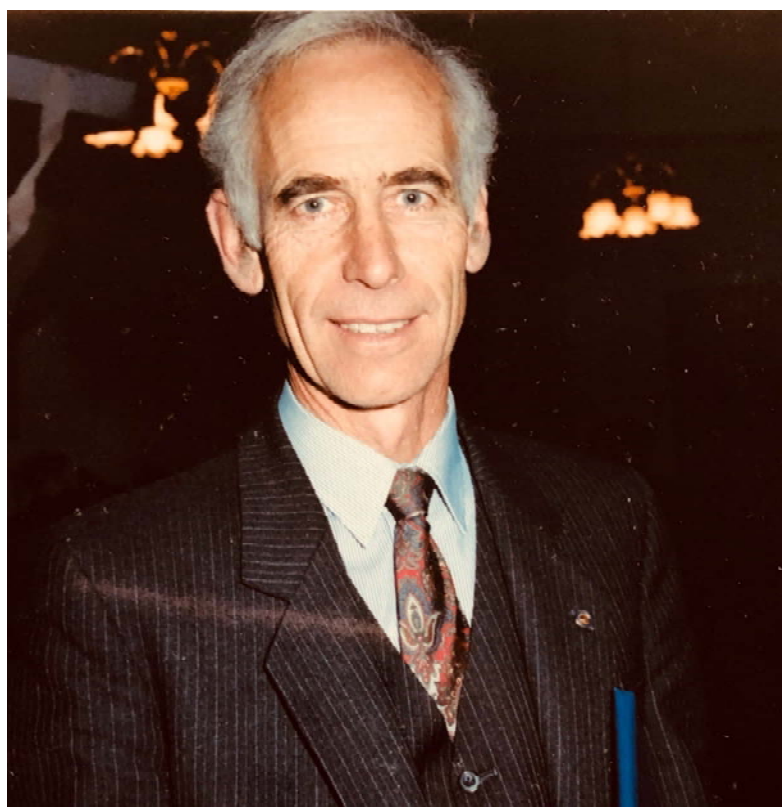
The **NZ Children's Transplant Support Trustees** Roger Bridgman, Tony Fortune, Charles Goldie, Keith Fraser and David Searle had assistance from members of the Club in the charity collection at Coca Cola Christmas in the Park. The Trust received \$50,000 from the collection.

President Colin changed the calendar for the club operation for the year from the traditional 1 July – 30 June year adopted by Rotary International **to the calendar year 1 January to 31 December**. This process proved to be confusing for club members and despite Colin's efforts the system was abandoned by incoming president Trevor Bringans the following year.

**Volunteer Ophthalmic Services Project Tonga** on the recommendation of Colin Beckwith. The broad concept was to involve the local Tongan Community to help with the fund raising. John Simpson contacted Air New Zealand to organise special fares.

# 1 July 1996 – 30 June 1997

## President Trevor Bringans



Trevor was a businessman who engaged in Model and Hobby importing. He set high standards, loved to converse with his customers and was held in high regard by suppliers in England, Japan and New Zealand. Both his adult sons worked for him, describing him as "our best friend".

Trevor was a man committed to offering service to the wider community. He spent years on PTAs and school boards - Sunny Hills, Primary, Pakuranga Intermediate and at St. Kentigern College. He also gave many years service as a member of Remuera Rotary. He was generous with his

time and support.

Trevor was also a sportsman, a keen golfer, a skier, a swimmer a windsurfer and tramper.

He was highly regarded as a man of principle, family man, community serving and sportsman.

Trevor joined Remuera Rotary about 1987, having been a member of a Rotary Club in the Wellington area. He was an active member and supported many of our youth projects with much generosity, being in the business of importing and distributing serious motorised hobby toys

He spent years on PTAs and school cards - at Sunny hills Primary, Pakuranga Intermediate and at St. Kentigern College. He also gave many years' service as a member of Remuera Rotary, including a year as President in the year 1996/1997. He was generous with his time and support.



## Duffy Books in Homes part 1

This was the brainchild of Alan Duff, the author of best sellers including *Once Were Warriors*, *One Night Out Stealing*, *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted* and *Both Sides of the Moon*. The story of his life is set out in his autobiography *Out of the Mist and Steam*, a memoir published in 1999. It is the story of a talented but tormented child with a European father and a Maori Mother. He was surrounded by violence and abuse of alcohol. He rebelled against authority, ran away from a broken home, experienced incarceration in a boys' home, borstal and eventually imprisonment. He made a remarkable recovery from this unhappy foundation and became not only New Zealand's bestselling novelist but also a spokesman for underprivileged New Zealanders.



Better known as the Duffy Books in Homes Charitable Foundation the programme was conceived in 1992 when Alan Duff, by now a well-known current NZ Herald columnist, was visiting a school in Hastings where he was appalled to find so many children had come from bookless homes. Following a meeting with philanthropist Christine Fernyhough in 1994, the Books in Homes Foundation was legally formed.

The programme began with 80 schools, 16,000 students and 14 sponsors. Among the latter was Rotary Remuera who 'adopted' Tamaki Primary School in 1995 when Colin Wilson was the club's President.

Trevor Bringans personally sponsored four small schools without wanting anyone to know. He did many things like that on condition it was kept confidential. All these schools were up in remote Northland. In about September 1998 Trevor, representing Remuera Rotary, attended Tamaki Primary School when Craig Innes talked to the children and presented two books to each child. Panmure Rotary members also attended, to show how clearly Remuera Rotary is a critical success factor for the scheme. Already, the signs were present of the children enjoying the books, expanding their knowledge, straining the resources of the school, improved writing skills, developing responsible attitudes, encouraging each other to learn and showing pride in their achievements. Absenteeism was then running at zero.

In 1996 Roy Austin, together with the Rotary Club of Rotorua was working to promote Books in Homes to Rotary Clubs New Zealand wide.

Raewyn James, then Principal of Tamaki Primary School spoke to the club in July 1997 on the topic Books in Homes, Tamaki style: just what it means to the school. In 20 spell binding minutes she detailed the changes wrought by this programme. Parents were unable to believe the books were free, wanting to send them back because they would be unaffordable. Book assemblies that were like 10 Christmases to children who could not stop hugging their books afterwards. They were astounded by the sports and media stars who came and told them how important it was to read. They included Angela D'Audney, Zinzan Brooke and Dame Susan Devoy. Average reading age was vastly

improved. Ethnic proportions were then 44% Maori, 46% Pacific Islands, 9% Asian and 1% white (i.e. three) in number)

The Vocational Committee reported in June 1997 that the Government donated \$250,000 in 1996 and \$750,000 in 1997 towards this project.

On 5th August 1997 the World President of Rotary International Glen Kinross and his wife Heather visited Tamaki Primary School to see for themselves the success of the Books in Homes project sponsored by Remuera Rotary. They were accompanied by Alison Mau and Simon Dallow (a former pupil of Tamaki Primary). He and Alison spoke to the pupils on the importance of reading. Other guests included Sir Peter Elworthy representing the Duffy Books in Homes.

### **Dental Volunteer Project in Mauke, Cook Islands, 1997**

The team was led by Dr. Johnston Luen from the Rotary Club of Pukekohe, assisted by Ken Taylor of the Remuera Club and Lloyd McIvor from the Rotary Club of Panmure. All were practising dentists and the project was jointly arranged by all three rotary clubs. In addition the Rotary Club of Rarotonga acted as the local liaison club from which Paul Wilson greeted the visitors on arrival and arranged their onward passage to the Island of Mauke. This flight took about 50 minutes and they were greeted enthusiastically by the local dignitaries who put leis around their necks and other forms of greeting. They were taken straight to the "Dental Clinic" and immediately realised they had done the wise thing in bringing their own dental equipment. With their equipment, that of the dental team and a bit of "Kiwi Ingenuity" the clinic was up and running that afternoon.

The Dental Clinic in Rarotonga provided them with a dental nurse named Terri Au who proved invaluable. The team soon realised they had an insurmountable work on their hands. The two schools on the island with about 200 pupils who exhibited poor oral hygiene and associated decay. There, adults, at first reluctant, then willingly exhibited similar dental problems. The periodontal situation was a nightmare, gross deposits of calcium, poor oral hygiene and heavy smoking were the normal findings.

Different villages hosted the team on different nights in local village halls with excellent hospitality

Dental supply companies surpassed themselves in the provision of dental equipment and donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste to the inhabitants of the island.

The team was indebted to the New Zealand Army for lending it a mobile dental unit along with other accessory equipment, also to Air New Zealand and Air Rarotonga for their support with airfares and excess baggage allowances.

#### **Treatment Statistics:**

Examinations	400
Extractions	127
Restorations	407

Root Canal Treatment	5
Periodontal Treatment	48
Denture Repairs	8
Simple Orthodontic	3

An amazing effort for a volunteer team.

The team said they hammered the locals with their ideas of prevention and reinforced these ideas at every opportunity. On several occasions they were allowed to enter classrooms to show the children how to clean their teeth and discuss sensible diet and the need for regular cleaning.

Through the schools every child was provided with a toothbrush and provided each family with toothpaste. Sponsors provided the toothbrushes and toothpaste.

### **Tonga Diabetes Project**

The annual accounts for June 1998 showed a donation of \$4,000, together with refund of travel expenses for Bob Elliott for return travel to Tonga on this project

This included a Training College Hostel project in Tonga for which our club required about \$8,000. In March 1998 only about \$US5000 had been raised which was not quite enough. Bob Elliott was due to arrive back from Tonga hopefully with an additional sum of \$US 1,000. This latter sum was initially provided from Remuera Rotary Club funds and hopefully to be repaid.

#### **Liaison between Remuera Rotary and the Tongan Community**

In 1996/1997 Remuera Rotary and the Tongan Community established a trust to provide funding mechanisms for future Tongan projects. Special thanks were given to Tony Fortune for setting up the Trust. The trustees from the World Community Service Committee were to be John Simpson, Don Hawke and Ken Taylor.

At about the same time and after many months of communication Remuera Rotary established an official Sister Club relationship with the Nuku'alofa Rotary Club. To commemorate this event two identical certificates were established; one was sent to the Nuku'alofa Club and the other framed and presented to the Remuera Club. The object of this was to facilitate funding options from Rotary International for future island projection.

The trust was wound up after a few years.

The **Remuera Rotary Diabetes Prevention Trust** report for the year ended 30th June 1997 pointed out that the first study was to end in April 1999 by which time the subject of the trial would have been followed for at least eight years.



The effectiveness of nicotinamide had been compromised a little because it was not possible to guarantee the consumption of medication. Nevertheless, advances continued to be made in the areas of related research. Total funds raised by this time by the Trust amounted to over \$1.3 Million, thanks in large part due to Rotary Clubs of New Zealand.



The Rotary Club of Ellerslie Sunrise organised the sale of more than 13,000 **Christmas Puddings** throughout New Zealand, from which \$62,400 was raised by New Zealand Rotary Clubs. Throughout District 9920, 3756 puddings were sold from which \$18,000 was raised to distribute. Trevor Bringans and Barrie Ross co-ordinated this project for our club.

For each Pudding sold by members of Rotary Remuera the club received \$5. Barrie Ross has continued this project every year since including in December 2019.

Well done Barrie!

**Exchange Student Francisco Almeida Prado** (Chico) from Brazil was hosted by the club in 1996. His Hosts included John & Carol Cowan.

Chico has a law office in Sao Paulo specialising in Electoral Law, is married to a State Attorney and has two children.

An unusual member of Remuera Rotary was Mr. Jong Shik Kim the **Korean Trade Commissioner to New Zealand** for three years from 1995 to 1998. During this time he was a member of Remuera Rotary and resigned only because of his forthcoming return to the Republic of Korea. The club was pleased to give him a reference to enable him to join a rotary club in Korea.

# 1 July 1997 – 30 June 1998

## President Iain Valentine



## Takeo Teachers Training College in Cambodia

When this project was originally conceived there were 100 students requiring accommodation. By February 1998 the number of students had increased to 370, all housed in the original hostel. With the increase of numbers there was great shortage of teachers. The EU (European Union) had commenced building two new hostels which would take 150 students once building had been completed. At the time the cost of completing the building was estimated at \$US 9060 plus an additional \$US 11200 for labour.

In June 1997, a cheque for \$2,500 to Remuera Rotary from the Washington DC Rotary Club was received for the building of a new teacher's dormitory in Takeo, Cambodia. A cheque for a similar mount from the Rotary Club of Des Moines was received about a month later. The club delayed presentation of these cheques owing to the then current political situation at the time.

Past president Garth Harris has been an enthusiastic supporter of this project.

## Books in Homes – Part 2

All Whitcoulls stores in New Zealand were promoting Books in Homes for the Christmas season in December 1997. Specially selected books for children on the Duffy program were to be available to shoppers to take to the counter and purchase. The books would then be put into a container for gifting to Duffy children.

By about this time also, students were getting to choose at least six books every year to

add to their existing collection at home which they were able to share with their families, thus increasing parental involvement in reading. Maori and Pasifika books were also included. Parents reading these stories to their children got a chance to share stories from their own culture in their own language.

At about this time Mrs. Margaret Hay visited the schools libraries once a week and read stories to students during lunch time. The club's gratitude was also expressed to supporters from Remuera Rotary, in particular Elaine Ebbett, Jo Drillien and Colin Wilson.

At that time and about twice a year we had Duffy Role model assemblies on the value of reading books and how books help to become famous. Sponsors include Remuera Rotary club members were invited for this special assembly. All new entrants at this school were given a Starters' Activity Book, a lovely book with simple activities for students just starting school.

In March 1999, Remuera Rotary members, particularly from the New Generations Committee attended a books presentation programme at Tamaki Primary and Tamaki Intermediate.

### **Middle Ear Infection in Preschool Children (Glue Ear Project) Pilot Study:**

In September 1997 Bob Elliott explained to the Community Services Committee the basis of the pilot study.

Total funds required were \$21,650, to be funded by the Harold Thomas Trust and the Blackwell Bequests in a combined sum of \$19,000 and up to \$3,000 from Rotary Remuera. A recommendation was forwarded to the directors accordingly.

The club eventually approved an initial donation of \$3,000.

In May 1998 it was reported that a Haggit piping (not a haggis but the **victorious Quiz Team from Remuera Rotary**, carrying in the Fred Beattie Cup ), a new trophy awarded at District Convention to the club that wins the District Quiz and to commemorate Fred's 50 years of rotary service. PDG Fred Beattie expressed his pleasure at being able to attain his 50 years in Rotary, which began on 4th May 1948.

The team members of Brian Cooper, Murray Lander, Ken Taylor were now gratefully passing into retirement. Retirement for the team was short lived however - a playoff had been arranged for 15th June 1998 against District 9910 champions Dargaville.

The Club congratulated Norman Brookes at its meeting on 10th November 1997 upon being inducted as **Head of the Methodist Church in New Zealand**. In recognition Norman was to be excused all invocation duties for the balance of the year.

At the formal part of the evening during the club's **Christmas Party** was the presentation of four Paul Harris fellowships to:

- Raewyn James, the Principal of Tamaki Primary School for her commitment to the Books in Homes project;
- Sue Curlett, the only non-Rotarian trustee of the NZ Children's Transplant Support Trust for her work with the trust;
- Hugh Garlick, to acknowledge his substantial contribution to Rotary, in addition to the fellowship conferred on him by the Rotary Club of Auckland in 1996;
- Annabelle Valentine, to acknowledge her active involvement in supporting this club and the Inner Wheel movement.

**Changeover** from Ian Valentine was held at Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World where everyone was served fish and chips in paper. It was a very unique occasion. Wayne Brewer was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his previous services, particularly the Keith Donghi Project.

### **Keith Donghi Project**

President Iain Valentine was approached by social services to assist a family to move house from Glen Innes to Point Chevalier.

It turned out Keith Donghi was a Polio victim confined to a wheelchair, a solo father with a 12 year old son about to start secondary school. They were living in an upstairs state flat with no lift access. Housing New Zealand had found a suitable house with amenities for a disabled occupant. The family had only essentials in the way of furnishings and household items.

Several members assisted with the shift then set about donating furniture, linen and items to make Keith and his son comfortable, even providing new curtains.

Keith's son wanted to attend Selwyn College with his peers whom he had been with at primary school but Point Chevalier is a long way from Selwyn College. As Keith held a drivers licence a member, the late Kees Wester who owned Shell Remuera obtained and modified a suitable car which was donated to Keith to enable more independence.

The family were supported by many members for a period of time. Keith died some time later.

Exchange Student Timo Harju from Finland was hosted by the club. Hosts: Gordon & Janet Cuthbert, Carol & John Cowan, Don Hawke & Brigitta Windhager, Bob & Betsy Elliott



# 1 July 1998 – 30 June 1999

## President Roy Austin



In the words of former President Colin Wilson:

"I don't know anyone who has put more work into Rotary than Roy Austin.

I don't know anyone who has more work into various charities

I don't know anyone who works the hours that he does.

Frequently still in his office at 10 pm."

In February 1998 Rex Clapp celebrated 40 years of Rotary membership and stood pre-dinner drinks for those attending

Des Buckner became a member in February 1998. At the time he was officer in charge of the Salvation Army Epsom Lodge and had previously been a member of nine Rotary Clubs, a District Governor of 9930 and had been presented with a Paul Harris fellowship.

In 1998 a South Pacific Dental Project was set up. More commonly known as the Fiji dental Project that subsequently included Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands. Neil Ewart and Ken Taylor were the Remuera club stalwarts for this project which involved the transporting equipment to remote islands to provide dental care to local villagers for three weeks each year.

## Rotary Support for Teacher Training College in Cambodia

In May 1999 Past President Garth Harris, was the NZ representative on Rotary New

Zealand in assisting to raise funds towards the improvement of living conditions, health and hygiene for trainees at the Primary Teacher Training College in Takeo, Cambodia by the construction of the college itself. The construction project was financed mainly by the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok, supported by the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh, contributed a large proportion of funds, assisted by 3 US Rotary Clubs and 3 NZ Rotary Clubs (including Remuera Rotary) among them, in a total of funds raised in the sum of \$US15,964.

Specifically Garth Harris was responsible for raising \$US 6,000 from the Rotary Clubs of Washington and Des Moines in USA, \$NZ 2721 from the Rotary Clubs of Hornby and Wellington Central in New Zealand, \$NZ16,000 from the NZ Embassy in Bangkok and \$NZ2,000 from the Remuera Rotary Club. Total contributions were about \$30,000. This built a 100 bed hostel in brick and concrete using a local contractor and was complete in about February 1999.

**Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust** sent a letter of appreciation to Remuera Rotary on 8th July 1998 for the Club's donation of \$3,000 to the Trust.

The Vocational Committee for 1998/1999 reported that **Business is Awesome** was their major project for that year. 85 students from 10 colleges enrolled for the one day seminar which was held at Dilworth School on 26th March 1999. The event included a "diverse and sometimes provocative" selection of speakers, a brain teaser session, a business session.

Three Diocesan Year 13 girls were sponsored by the club to the Genesis Science and Technology Forum - a 14 day residential course at a cost per individual of \$900 for which the Club sponsored each to the extent of \$500 each. All three students conveyed their grateful thanks and confirmed the seminar was a great success and a real inspiration to them.

# 1 July 1999 – 30 June 2000

## President Ken Taylor



Changeover of the presidency to Ken Taylor in July 1999, was held at Roy Austin arranged for club members to attend a play at the Maidment Theatre called **"Mrs. Krishnan's Dairy"** by the Indian Ink Theatre Company which is still going. Club members and guests enjoyed the play and once it was finished Roy and Ken disappeared back stage and shortly afterward came back on stage with Ken wearing the Presidents Chain – changeover having taken place!

**Exchange Student Eduardo Callegarro** from Brazil was hosted by the club in 2000. His Counsellor was Brian Cooper and his Hosts included Gloria Poupard-Walbridge and Sharon & Wayne Brewer.

Club member **Gloria Poupard-Walbridge** owned **Cotter House** at the top of St Vincent Avenue next door to the Remuera Library. Remuera Heritage record: The house is a brick and concrete Victorian residence in the Gothic revival style built in the early 1860s. In 1995, Gloria Poupard-Walbridge bought and restored Cotter House to be a five star luxury retreat.

A former club member John Stenberg had previously owned the house and spent many hours painstakingly repainting the ornate interior.

The house has an impressive ballroom attached which was the venue for a number of chamber music afternoons organised by the club during the late 90's and early 200's.

Gloria was a charming enthusiastic hostess and in particular enjoyed hosting for Club



members the beginning and finish of "guess who's coming to dinner" for many years. On one of those dinner occasions 60 club members met in the ballroom at Cotter House for pre-dinner drinks and then like the Pied Piper Wayne led everyone outside to what they thought were waiting buses. Instead they walked into the Remuera Library next door for dinner and entertainment by a Kapa Haka group from Aorere College who were very entertaining.

The changeover from Ken Taylor to Colin Beckwith and the Christmas Party at the end of 2002 were held in the Cotter House Ballroom.

Gloria ran Cotter House as a private retreat and famously housed Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards at Cotter House Luxury retreat, after he fell out of a palm tree at an exclusive Fiji resort in 2006.



New Zealand Herald 2014



**Hostess Gloria at her best!**





After resigning from the club Gloria sold Cotter House and moved to Wellington.

Sadly Gloria died in Hong Kong in January 2020 while travelling.