

Excerpts from Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise Club History 1990-2000

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“As promised, President Paul acted quickly to establish a sister club relationship with the Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise. Christchurch Rotarian Ian Thomas was present at the 29 July 1992 meeting and presented the Club with the gavel from his home club. Sunrise returned the compliment and gavels were exchanged with due ceremony. Best wishes were sent back with Ian to all members of Christchurch Sunrise. The Sunrise Sister Club relationship was born. The relationship grew and came to maturity in May 1993 when several Christchurch Sunrise Rotarians and their wives attended the Melbourne Rotary International Convention. Frankston Sunrise was quick to capitalize on the opportunity for strengthening the Sister Club bond and invited the Christchurch group to an International Breakfast. On Wednesday 26 May 1993, 96 members and partners from 11 different countries attended the breakfast - the meeting was a huge highlight for all present and for the Club, the most successful International Service activity conducted up to that date. The Frankston Sunrise members were overwhelmed when the Christchurch Club presented a magnificent gift of polished New Zealand greenstone mounted and engraved as a token of their friendship. This was seen by all attendees as the establishment of a solid foundation between the two sister clubs; one based on mutual respect and admiration and sharing the common ideals of Rotary and its world-wide fellowship. The greenstone was placed in a hand crafted box and has become a treasured memento symbolizing the bond between the clubs. As such, the stone is held and safeguarded by successive Club Presidents and handed on at the changeover function annually.”

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“The highlight of year for many club members was the visit to the Sister Club in New Zealand, the Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise. Much planning, liaison and trans-Tasman communication was necessary for the visit to proceed. Much of this hard work was done by Chris Angerer whose efforts as a planner and coordinator were greatly appreciated. The report of the visit which appeared in the Bulletin follows:

Christchurch Visit: 29 April - 4 May 1999

For 9 Frankston Sunrise Rotarians, 3 wives and a casual hanger-on (Charter President Bluey) it was indeed a great pleasure to pay a visit to the sister club, Christchurch Sunrise, during the above period. From the first warm welcome and the fellowship at the Copthorne Hotel, right through six days of fun and frivolity, to the heartfelt farewell at the airport, the Australian visitors had a truly memorable time.

The Friday morning Rotary meeting where affirmations of friendship and representative gifts were exchanged set the scene for less formal social activities which followed. The Trans Alpine Train trip, combined community garden project, off-road car rally, winery luncheon and host dinners were unanimously enjoyed by all members. Individual activities of a light plane trip, golf, scenic drive, casual lunches, tourism, shopping expeditions and a jet boat ride packed an already full day program.

The nights were even more exciting with late night restaurant visits, sumptuous formal dinners, Irish pub sessions and the occasional game of chance at the local casino. A good time was had by all. The highlight was undoubtedly the instant rapport and fellowship established between the members of the two clubs and the realisation that they all had so much in common - even the sense of irreverence and offbeat humour was the same. The Kiwi hosts went to a great amount of trouble to ensure the visitors' stay was as pleasurable as possible and their efforts were greatly appreciated by all the Aussies. The visit proved without a doubt that the friendships developed across the Tasman are well founded and secure. The Sister Club relationship between Frankston Sunrise and Christchurch Sunrise was seen to be well established and based on mutual respect and admiration. The exchange of gifts between clubs symbolized the strength of the association. At the conclusion of the visit, members of both Club's affirmed their intention of pursuing and further developing the relationship in the years ahead. The visit to New Zealand, although perhaps the highlight, was not the end of the Club's activities for the year."

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“International goodwill was successfully improved however by a visit by several members to New Zealand. In February, Ian Stapleton, John Albery, Ross Augustine, Laurie Warfe and peter Anthony travelled to Christchurch to meet up with some Christchurch Sunrise members and strengthen the sister club inter-relationship. The trip was physically and mentally demanding and taxed the stamina of the Australian visitors. This was outweighed by the satisfaction received at reinforcing the Trans-Tasman bonds of friendship developed years before. A future trip by Christchurch Rotarians to Melbourne is being planned to enjoy reciprocal hospitality.”