



The History
of the
ROTARY CLUB
of
BRISBANE
1974 - 2003

**Published on the occasion
of the
80th Anniversary of the club**

**Charter granted by
Rotary International
29th May 1923**



**Researched and written by Professor Graeme L. Wilson
Compiled by Bill Cunningham**



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FOREWARD

In 1973 The Rotary Club of Brisbane published *History of the Rotary Club of Brisbane 1923-1973*. For our 80th anniversary, the Board of Directors felt it was important to record the Club's History for the period 1974 to 2003. We are extremely grateful and indebted to Past President Professor Graeme Wilson who volunteered to undertake the painstaking task.

As you will read in the introduction, the record is not entirely complete due to the fact that reports and information for some years are missing. The format is similar to that for the earlier publication and we have a well-presented document that allows us to understand what the club was doing and the major projects it undertook over the past 30 years. It is a document, which, for some members, will bring back memories of the special experiences and fellowship enjoyed. For our more recent members the document will provide a background to the current culture of the club and its values.

Past President Graeme has also provided some personal reflections on the club's operations and activities over the 30-year period and I'm sure that these will be read with interest and will also serve to provide guidance to the Club in future years.

As for any organisation, the Rotary Club of Brisbane has had a range of issues to manage over time in a continually changing environment but as reported in this document, today "it thrives: and particularly so in anticipation of what is perhaps is the highlight of its whole history, being Host Club for the 2003 Rotary International Convention".

I do hope you enjoy reading this publication that captures the spirit of the Rotary Club of Brisbane and its members over the past 30 years in service to the community.

Yours in Rotary Service,



Allan Gillespie
President 2002-03

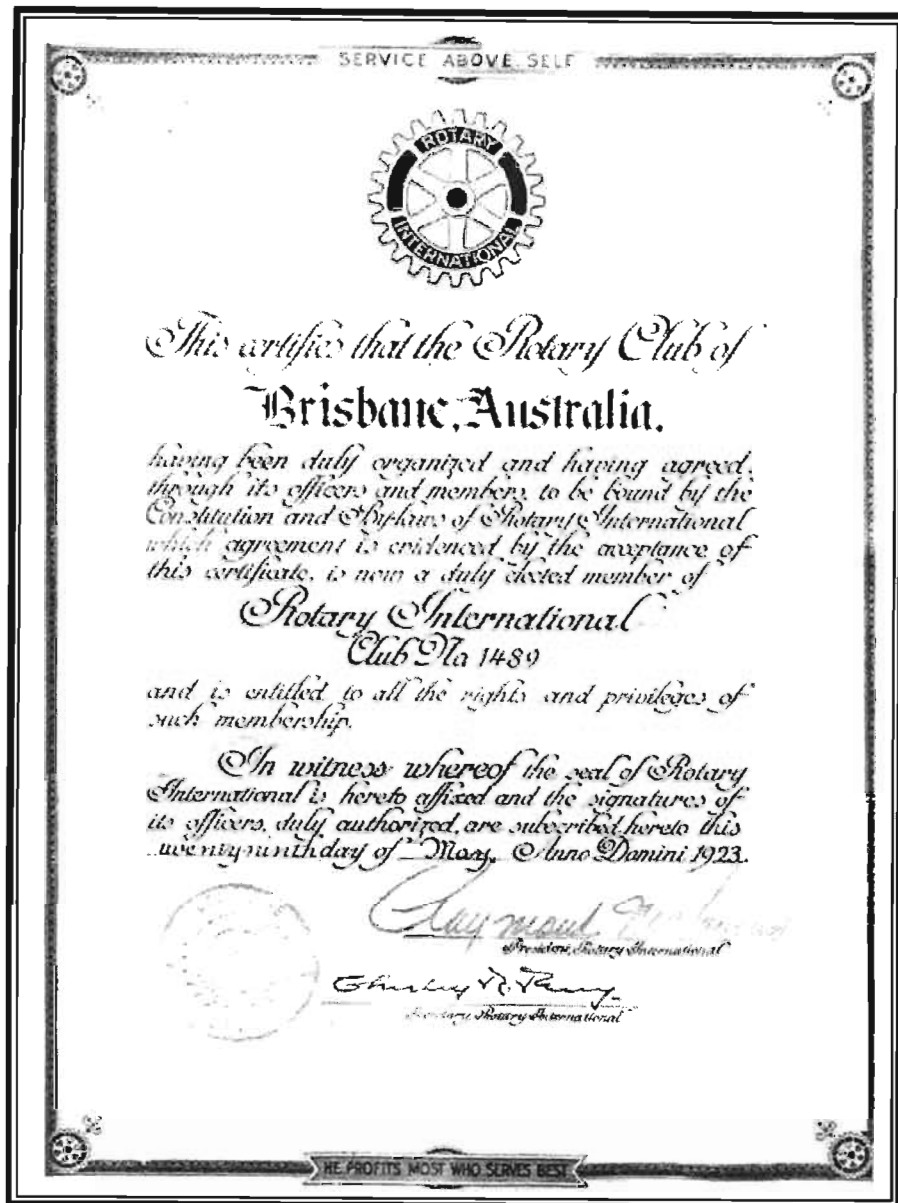
THE PRESIDENTS

1923-24		1963-64	
1924-25	P.B. MACGREGOR, KC.	1964-65	A. R. TRITTON
1925-26	P.B. MACGREGOR, KC.	1965-66	A.H. BLACKMAN
1926-27	T.M. Mc WILLIAM	1966-67	H. S. GRESHAM
1927-26	PROF. H.C. RICHARDS	1967-68	D.W. PICKING
1928-29	F. de WITT BARRY	1968-69	W.R.A. McALPINE, O.A.M.
1929-30	R.C. HANCOCK*	1969-70	W.H.G. BEST, C.B.E.
1930-31	J.K. CANNAN	1970-71	I. A. WILSON
1931-32	RJ. ALLEN*	1971-72	B.D. EGGLETON
1932-33	T.J. BARRY	1972-73	F.J. KENNEDY, M.B.E.
1933-34	W.K. McLUCKIE*	1973-74	K.J. BARRY
1934-35	W.A. JOLLY	1974-75	W.A. BUETTEL
1935-36	W..B. DARKER*	1975-76	P.J. SELF, M.B.E.
1936-37	S. WILLMOTT	1976-77	A.R. KRUGER
1937-38	R.L.H. PETERSON	1977-78	A.H. BRABY
1938-39	REV. P WATSON	1978-79	W. BISHOP
1939-40	DR. A.V. MEEHAN	1979-80	L.T. PADMAN, O.B.E.
1940-41	C.R. CHRISTMAS	1980-81	M.A.K. THOMPSON
1941-42	L.G. HINWOOD	1981-82	I.G. ENGLISH, O.B.E.
1942-43	M.S. HERRING, O.B.E.	1982-83	R.G. CONLEY. A.M.
1943-44	J.H. BUCKLE	1983-84	N.V. HELLEN
1944-45	H.W. BROAD	1984-85	H. F. MITCHELL
1945-46	H.W. WATSON. O.B.E	1985-86	D.J. KNIGHT
1946-47	J.E. PEDEN'	1986-87	J. WOODHEAD
1947-48	F.J. MORGAN	1987-88	S.D. JOLLY
1948-49	H. BRYDEN	1988-89	R.C. PALMER
1949-50	A.A. JACKSON. C.B.E.	1989-90	PROF. G.L. WILSON
1950-51	P. R. T. WILLS	1990-91	F. A. MCKAY
1951-52	B.FLEWELL-SMITH, C.B.E.	1991-92	R.K. HAMBURGER, A.M.
1952-53	B. MARTIN, O.B.E.'	1992-93	R. BARNWELL
1953-54	F.L. BONNEY	1993-94	R. BOUGHEN, O.B.E.
1954-55	DR. N.L. SHERWOOD	1994-95	J. P. WORRELL
1955-56	W.R. GILBERT	1995-96	J. BLAKE
1956-57	G.H. NELSON *	1996-97	J. PUTTICK
1957-58	C.W. BISHOP*	1997-98	Y. E. LEVIEN
1958-59	W.R. MCDONALD	1998-	Dr. G. I. ALEXANDER, A.O.
1959-60	H.T. LEWIS	1998-99	Dr. P. E. ULRICH
1960-61	SIR ARNOLD BENNET, Q.C. *	1999-00	Dr. G. I. ALEXANDER, A.O.
1961-62	H. J. BROAD	2000-01	W. D. HAMPTON
1962-63	E. F. ROUTER M. B. E.*	2001-02	Dr. B. CARSS
	A. R. TRIST	2002-03	Dr. K.W. Watts

A. Gillespie
*District Governor

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

1976		C. W. Bishop		P Tikleas
		M. W. Davies		J. W. Warham
		G. W. Martin	1990	M. L. McAlpie (Mrs)
		G. M. Martin (Mrs)		A. M. Sellars (Mrs)
1977	P.D G.	J. W. Peden		P J Goldston
		H. S. Gresham		G. L Wilson
	P.D G.	C. Brand		A. R. White
	P.D G.	Sir Arnold Bennett		R. K. Boughen
		E. L. Walpole		W. Bremner
		H. C. Jenyns		L. Forde (Mrs)
		L. W. Finney		R. T. Francis
1978		A. H. Blackman		F. A. McKay
		J. F. Love		K. B. Ward
		J. Berry	1991	S. Francis
1979		W. Bishop		F. Evans
		L. J. H. Takle		J Furry
		W. R. A. McAlpine	1992	L. Suggars (Mrs)
	P.D G.	V. H. French		D. Ealding (Mrs)
		A. J. Campbell		C. Manning
1980		W. A. Buettel		M. Humfress
		G. D. Martin		K. Hamburger
		A. A. Jackson		T. J. Carter
1981		H. J. Broad	1993	R. Barnwell
		H. F. Lewis		K. Benson
		D. W. Picking		D. Charlton
1982		J. D. Router (Mrs)		R Dent
		W. G. H. Best		C. Mann
	P.D G.	I. A. Wilson		W. D. Cunningham
1983		H. E. Sir James Ramsey	1994	J. Delahunty
		C. Comie	1995	R. A. Bland
1984		A. H. Braby		J. Jones (Mrs) J P
		M. B. Hoare		J. P. Worrell
1985		A. R. Kruger		K. Watts
		L. T. Padman	1996	J. Blake
		M. A. K. Thompson		P. Ulrich
1986		M. F. Peden (Mrs)		G. Zeitsch (Mrs)
		A. Gillespie	1997	N. Dickson
1987		Lady Bennett		J. Puttick
		K. J. Barry		G. D. Mulligan
		B. W. Carss	1998	Y. Levien
		M. Carss		J. Tortance
1988		P. T. Barry		R. Barnwell (PHF +I)
		S. D. Jolly	1999	G. Alexander
		W. J. E. Kerrison		M. Barnwell (Mrs)
1988		J. D. Knight		J.F. Chartton
		H. F. Mitchell	2000	R.J. Esler
		J. A Wilson (Mrs)		S.E. MacNish
		J. Woodhead		T.N. Rigby
1989		A. J. Love	2001	W. D. Hampton
		J. A. Menzies		H. Milne
		D. L. Murchison		M. Scott
		R. C. Palmer		T. Walker
		D. P. R. Sellars	2002	R. W. Mathers
		K. M. Shaw		W. A. Tod
				R. K. Aldred



Club Charter dated 29th May, 1923

INTRODUCTION

In 1958 PP and PDG Bert Broad wrote *The History of the Rotary Club of Brisbane*. In writing a Foreword, PP Maurice Herring-the only surviving Charter Member-concluded with "It will now be for the Club to ensure that regular additions are made in the future so that the history of the Club is kept up to date." His hopes were met by Bert's son, PP John, who did so up to 1973, the result being published on the occasion of the Club's 50th anniversary. Thereafter John continued writing an annual record for some 10 years until his death. Regrettably, that material was not published and has been lost.

Now I have been asked to write about the 30 years which have passed since 1973 and which would bring us up to our 80th year.

Bert Broad said in his Preface "I have tried to place on record the doings of the Club from the date of its formation, a 35 year period, and more particularly the highlights of each President's year of office." And John, in his addition said "I have endeavoured to continue in the style of my late father", which he did. The result is a series of discrete year-by-year statements, simply brief lists of facts. But while that is a most useful reference if someone should wish to know what happened in a particular year, it fails to convey a continuity, to draw attention to change, to remind us that there is a future towards which we must look and for which we have some responsibility in what we do now. Nor does it suggest where it might have been better to do some things differently, from which we might have learned something useful. I decided therefore to write this addition in a different way; not so much chronologically as thematically. Alas, that could not be done!

A basic requirement was factual information as contained in Annual Reports, which until a few years ago comprised a document containing reports from the President, the Secretary and the Service Directors, together with Financial Statements. And such Annual Reports were to be placed in our archives. On going there a full set was found for the remaining 70's, there were seven for the 80's, while for the last 12 years there was only one. To what extent the absence resulted from losses in changes of location or failure to lodge them, is not known; nor would knowing that be any help. As a result, time has been lost in searching for missing material among

members. Some has been found but with no one year having the full record.

I now find myself in the position of having neither a satisfactory basis of fact nor the time to do what I had intended. (The idea of going through Board Minutes for the many missing or incomplete years was out of the question.) I have had to go back to something like the format of the earlier history but only where there is enough information. In doing so, however, I have not provided the precise catalogues as done by the Broads. I have tended to pick out some things to show what the Club was doing, and to interpolate comments of mine. Having done that, I added a short section, Reflections, which deals briefly with a few themes which, on going through the years, seemed to be of some interest.

In doing these things, I have not had the opportunity to pursue a number of our activities, especially ongoing ones in both Community (in the broad sense) and Club Service. They are important and have depended on the efforts of many people. I can only apologize for the omissions.

Professor Graeme L. Wilson
May 2003

THE YEARS

1973-74

At the start of this year, and of this record, the Club was meeting in the Canberra Hotel where it also rented rooms which served both as an office and a meeting place for our and other Clubs in the District. We also maintained a salaried person in a position described for many years as Receptionist.

Membership was 227(excluding Honorary Members-as is done for all subsequent counts), having fallen from a peak of 243 in 1969. There is no mention of concern about this trend, probably because there had in fact been an increase of four. Losses were to occur in most years to a low of 84 in the year 2000-01, becoming an increasing worry to the Club.

The year was marked by the disastrous flood of Jan. 1974 which must have had an unsettling influence on activities towards the end of the Rotary year.

The Income and Expenditure Statement (which then dealt with operations rather than projects) for the year, showed early signs of difficulties. Subscriptions and profit on luncheon charges, together comprising the great bulk of income, amounted to some \$11,000, which equalled administrative expenses, dominated by salaries and rent which were likely to escalate.. Meanwhile, if there were to be declining membership, the main source of income would decrease. However, District was now persuaded to begin contributing, on the basis that our rooms were effectively a Rotary Information Office for Queensland and were used by District and other Clubs, giving this year about \$2,000, a source of income which kept us reasonably in balance and continued to do so for some years ahead.

No reason is given for there having been no major project planned for this year, as there were in both the previous and following years, but the Brisbane Flood led to equivalent activity. The Club raised over \$3,000 from within, and through external appeals, handled \$20,000 which was passed over to District for application to needs. There had been no particular fund raising planned for the year.

There were the usual involvements: Youth Exchange, hosting one person while sending out two, these being the first we had sent; a GSE team; counselling two RF Graduate Awardees while successfully nominating two such; and sending four persons to RYLA.

Vocational Service was marked by a highly successful 2-day Youth Seminar with 124 participants; successful also financially with a net surplus of \$1,500, of which \$1,000 was given to International House, something of great interest to the Club which had initiated and sponsored the project in 1954/55.

The Community Service Fund records little activity, a result of there having been no special project, flood relief having gone into the General Activity Fund. There was however a donation to Help Industries, mentioned here because it was one of our very successful projects, set up in 1968 with the then large funding of over \$6,000, and it continues today under the new name Help Enterprises.

International Service funded a PNG indigene to attend tertiary education in Brisbane. And there is this comment in relation to FAIM, where we had shown some interest in a project being undertaken by another Club—"It would seem that our Club is not in a position to support projects of this kind with manpower..."; which has remained so through all the years since. Nevertheless, we continued to make donations to that particular project at least until 1979-80.

1974-75

A too brief President's report for the year makes it difficult to identify what may have been important issues. He did however point to two problems. One was inflation, running high at that time. It was raising operating expenses while income would not be affected. The second relates to that; declining membership, and thus subscriptions, reducing income. Membership figures for the year were: (start of year)234 +(intake)15 – (loss)33=(end of year)209. (Membership figures for future years will be given in this format). It can be noted that the net loss of 15 in the one year is exceptionally high, and that the observation was made that "many industries and offices are moving out of the city, thus decreasing potential members."

The Brisbane office was officially recognized as the Rotary Information Office.

The major project was the provision of a Mobile Canteen to the Salvation Army.

(We shall see in the last two years of this record that we were party to providing a replacement.) A sum of \$6203 was given, apparently

found by way of substantial Group support, about \$1,000 from the Rotaryannes and direct donations.

A contribution of \$2,269 was made to Darwin Cyclone relief, this too evidently depending on member donation. Thus we see in this year a heavy dependence on members putting their hands in their own pockets, an issue which remains controversial today.

An ongoing failure to reach the desired RF support was noted, as it was to be in many future years.

Vocational Service expressed some frustration in ability to achieve much. This is to be a recurring problem, not least because there has not been a consistently clear appreciation of what it means.

An interesting inclusion is this: A Stamp Committee, which functioned for many years collecting used postage stamps for sale raised a usual amount of \$350. This was donated to Help Industries, getting a Commonwealth Government 4:1 subsidy, making the value of their effort \$1,750. Do we remain alert to such possibilities and gain added value to seemingly small and humble efforts by Members?

1975-76

Membership figures were $209+35-31=213$. That was an increase of four for the year but by no means compensating for the previous year's large loss. The President noted in his report the possibility of ongoing decline with its consequent harmful effects.

He took up the RI President's theme "Dignify the Human Being" as the inspiration for a major project. It was the "adoption" of a school community in a relatively underprivileged area nearby; the Petrie Terrace State School. Rotarians and Rotaryannes worked with the Parents and Citizens Association to run a School Fete, which contributed funds, self-confidence within the PCA and standing for it in the local community. The funds, with Government subsidy, provided for amenities, uniforms for representative sporting teams and visits by children to industrial and cultural activities.

The only comment here on financial matters is to note the importance of contributions by Groups and Rotaryannes, about equal and totalling \$5,000.

The first Paul Harris Fellowship was awarded; to PDG & PP Carl Bishop.

In order to have more effective welcome to visitors at Meetings, a few selected persons were rostered to the task.

1976-77

Membership-213+19-23=209

It was decided that rather than undertake a large project, financial help would be given to some of our past projects. Those benefited were Help Industries, Petrie Terrace State School, Montrose Home and Australian Red Cross Society (Qld.), by a total of \$4616.

A new fundraiser was the Brisbane Rotary Art Show, held in the MLC Building and opened by the Governor. It raised \$3,000 and Art Shows in various forms, at various locations but not every year, were to continue up to the present.

The only new and possibly significant venture of the year was an initiative of the Vocational Service Committee. It established contact with the Trades and Labour Council with a view to developing jointly with the Council a programme directed to improving communications between employees, union representatives and lower level management. It is said that a cordial relationship was established and work would be continued in the following year, and though that began, the thing died out.

Over the years our Rotaract program has had something of a roller-coaster life. In this year it reported vigorous activity, which shows that it can be made to work well.

Copper Pots, the scheme for collecting small donations from Members at their tables, and to be given to the RF Fund, was introduced, and continues.

And to give credit to an individual who quietly does something useful over many years: Group 4 reported that Keith Benson had again run the Wine Promotion Scheme (when did he start?) which only in 2002 was handed over, some 25 years later, to someone else.

1977-78

Membership: 209+25-26=208

This was one of our most outstanding years in terms of major achievement. The Queensland Surf Life Saving Association had been for decades providing an invaluable community service while living from hand to mouth in terms of finances.

President Wal Bishop decided that we should and could establish a Foundation which would provide a sound financial base; one with sufficient capital to earn some regular income beyond what they

depended on. This was pursued with vigour and success, resulting in the establishment of a Q.S.L.S. Foundation with an initial investment of \$107,000. This was achieved through a public appeal (\$28,450), a Motor Car Art Union (\$8,221), and a Miss Brisbane Rotary Quest (\$21,669). There was a generous State Government subsidy of 75c. in the dollar.

There were sufficient funds raised through the more usual channels to allow Community Service distribution of some \$11,000, which included \$5,000 to the new Foundation. The continuing Art Show had raised \$2,500 but the Spring Hill Fair had apparently (from the accounts) merely cut even.

In this year, the new Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid City was chartered, sharing our territory. (At that time Clubs had defined territories from which they could draw membership.)

1978-79

Membership: 208+17-30=195

A major project was undertaken on the inspiration of this being The Year of the Child., and attention directed to children with behavioural problems. The Early Childhood Drama Programme pioneered in Queensland by Brisbane Repetory Theatre was seen as a vehicle and the Club provided TV equipment enabling that program to be extended to schools for the handicapped, and to country and remote schools and centres throughout Queensland.

The President sought a focus on Vocational Service, rightly pointing out that it is our least obvious activity because results are not clearly seen. Some of our Members undertook to take young men in to their businesses for training. We-thanks to John Woodhead who was very active in this and other things-established the National Association for Disabled Office Workers (NADOW, which had arisen in Sydney), here in Brisbane. It has continued successfully and we still provide some financial support.

Some projects have disappointing outcomes. A lot of work went in to a proposed Rotary River Walk along the north bank from William Jolly Bridge to the Domain, but notwithstanding what seemed to be undertakings from BCC and Qld. Government, it did not proceed, at least in the way we had intended. There is perhaps a lesson for us in that.

The Community Service Fund had a substantial income. Between the River Rail Link (shared activity with some other Clubs on the

opening of the Merivale Bridge), Spring Hill Fair, the Art Show and donations from Groups and Rotaryannes, about \$18,000 was raised.

1979-80

Membership: $195+10-37=168$

Clearly, the membership (numbers) problem was getting worse. Last year it fell by 13, this year by 27. It will be suggested later in this record that a serious weakness is the poor retention of new members in the first two years after they are inducted. The figures about this time can not be particularly supportive of that so much as too low an intake to offset it. The intake for the two preceding years and this are 25, 17 and 10, and these are associated with losses of 26, 30 and 37. Surprisingly, no alarm is expressed in the Annual Report although the following year saw a renewal of emphasis on recruitment with a large improvement, and for no apparent reason, a reduction in loss. The lesson here is that there can be no easing off on both sides of the equation.

The year's major project was the establishment of the Queensland organization of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia. The Club gave \$10,000 to this while individual Rotarians helped in raising an additional \$60,000.

The increasing administrative costs had again become too high compared with member subscription (in fact that was falling with membership), leading to a significant increase in the rate. It was to put us reasonably ahead for a while but it is an area in which we were to be continually "chasing our own tail" until years later we admitted that we could not afford to maintain a rented office and paid staff.

We might note again the importance to income of the quiet and sustained efforts of Groups and Rotaryannes, this year providing a total of \$7,500. Again, with some alertness to an opportunity, we joined in with Lions and Apex at the opening of the Ferny Grove to Darra Rail Electrification Link, which earned us \$1,643. Every little helps.

1980-81

Membership: $168+21-26=163$

The year was marked by an outstanding project in both what was done and how it was achieved. The Pony Riding for the Disabled

Association at Moggill had land and horses but not the means of keeping the place in good order. Equipment was provided for the maintenance of the land, together with a shed in which to house it. For this the club gave \$2,500, which was subsidized 4:1 by the Commonwealth. An additional \$2,500 was given towards the cost of operating, subsidised 1:1. Thus a total of \$17,500 went to the association. More than 20 years on, the Association and its activities are in good shape.

The total effective contribution to various causes for the year, including subsidies, exceeded \$30,000.

To aid the running of the office, both Districts now contributed. Without that, the Operational income and expenditure would have been over \$2,000 in deficit in spite of the increase in member subscription the previous year.

During the year, John Woodhead who had worked so hard for NADOW, became its President, linking us more strongly to its activities.

1981-82

Membership: $163+19-14=168$

The decision was made in this year to have one major fund raising effort and apply the proceeds to a number of worthy causes. Apparently that effort was the Speedway Night at the RNA Grounds. (Among our members was Bill Goode, Classification-Speedway Racing Promotion.) Something over \$7,000 came from that while the contributions from the usual things including the Art Show, Groups and the Spring Hill Fair brought a total of about \$18,000. The result was a rather generous distribution, led by \$5,000 to St. Vincent de Paul Society for the purchase of a vehicle while six other organizations received \$1,000 or more. That does of course raise the question of the relative merits of an emphasis on supporting bodies which are up and running (admittedly in need of funds) as against doing what we are capable of; taking the initiative in filling gaps in community needs.

As so often, the problem of funding to support Club administration was discussed, leading to the usual conclusion that increased membership was the key; which it was to some extent when subscriptions were the main income. But again, thinking focussed on recruitment alone, without looking at retention. It was also decided to

approach Districts for a greater contribution but that was unsuccessful. That problem was examined more carefully some years later when the merit of our request was established, without our making any progress until later again when the decision was taken to solve the income-expense imbalance by removing practically all of the latter; by closing the office and dispensing with paid staff.

1982-83

This is the first of the years covered here for which Annual Reports are missing, while no other readily accessible documentation can provide relevant information.

1983-84

Again, the Annual Report is missing. The Financial records for the following year have useful comparisons only in the Community Service Fund. There is no indication of a major fundraising activity nor of a large project. Surprisingly, a large balance of \$19,000 remained in that account, providing a most comfortable start for the following year.

1984-85

Membership: 163+21-21=163

Although membership had been falling throughout the period of this report, it was doing so in a most erratic way, and we pause to have a look at that. From the beginning of the period we started with, 1973, to the end of the year following that under this heading, numbers fell from 223 to 142. In those 11 years, seven were negative but only four badly so, those averaging over 18 annually compared with three for the other three negative years. A striking feature is that those four bad years had both the lowest intakes and the highest losses of all 11 years. This writer has some recollection of only the last of these bad years and retains an impression of a quite vigorous Rotary year under an active President. Is it possible that enthusiasm for some things can distract us from essentials?

Overall, this would have to be one of our most successful years. One aspect of that was useful activity in all Areas of Service, attention to which is a useful guide to achievement. Community Service fund raising was successful with main inputs from the Golf Day and Spring Hill Fair together bringing in over \$10,000 to a total

of more than \$19,000. With a similar carryover from the previous year, \$27,000 was distributed, with nine items in the \$1,000-6,000 range. Various projects included the introduction (from Melbourne) of the highly successful Bridging the Gap-Job Help program; Videos for Children which put video equipment in to Royal Brisbane and Mater Children Hospitals to show suitable programs available from TV stations; the establishment of a Safety House Association to coordinate the activities of the several local groups in Queensland; and assistance to several projects with which we had been associated for some time.

The rather difficult area of Vocational Service was tackled seriously, and allowing a broad view of what that means, we established the ongoing and most useful Work Observation Program. International Service was dominated by gifts to the value of over \$7,000 to some PNG hospitals. Back home, some upgrading of a modestly equipped office began and a modern typewriter acquired; small things but important.

1985-86

(This year's report consists of a draft only; the final printing is not in our archives.)

Membership: 163+9-30=142

Our old "home", the Canberra Hotel, was sold and became the Capital. It was apparent the site was destined for redevelopment, a warning to us that we should take steps to protect our financial interests in the event of having to move to new premises; which became so in the following year.

The major project in this year was the extreme in undertaking something very expensive at what appears from the records to have been at no cost to us. It was the upgrading of walking trails in Mt. Coot-tha Reserve, and in particular the development of one through to Gap Creek Rd. The work was carried out via the Commonwealth Community Employment Program with substantial support from Brisbane City Council which also provided supervision. It employed 15 young workers and is estimated to have cost \$235,000. The motivation to do this was not just the physical outcome but also the opportunity given to the workers.

The Community Service Fund benefited to the extent of \$11,000 from our reliable sources, with a further \$2,000 resulting from our assistance at yet another public transport "opening", the Gateway

Bridge, and of course additional input from various other activities-smallish in themselves but important in total. Having a good carry-over from the previous year, it was possible to make donations to many good causes, some of them our projects, totalling over \$19,000.

It was noted that Bridging the Gap was now well under way with a full time coordinator and had dealt with 820 applications leading to 360 persons having been placed in employment. Work Observation was going well and a good example of what we can do simply by using our people, not money.

And after so many years, we withdrew from the Spring Hill Fair.

1986-87

Membership: $142+15-22=135$

The anticipated move from the Capital Hotel took place, involving amongst other things, tense negotiations over the loss of our lease. Thanks to our President Stan Jolly-who really enjoyed this-we came out of it well. He said that the windfall "put the Club in a sound financial position for many years to come". That proved not to be so for long, for while the interest on the net proceeds (compensation less establishment costs of \$57,620) would meet the additional rent in our new office in Lennons Hotel for a time, costs were rising fast. That hotel also became our new meeting place and we met there for the first time in November 1986.

Our major project was to provide financial assistance to Montrose Home for Crippled Children (which our Club had been instrumental in founding many years ago) in building a heated therapeutic pool complex. We gave \$20,000, the work was finished and the complex opened late in 1987.

Apart from the new source of income from the compensation interest, income, running expenses and donations were much as they had been recently, except that contributions from the two Districts had risen to some \$6,000 while we had run a quite successful Fair at Montrose.

The Polio Plus program was under way and we made our first contribution (\$2,840), but were committed to much larger sums in the next few years.

Bridging the Gap was going apace, now boasting 1,700 persons interviewed and 750 helped to find full-time employment.

Other things a little different in the year: Our member PP Ian A Wilson became District Governor Elect for 1988-89, and our Club was incorporated.

1987-88

Reports for this year are missing and it is not possible to trace back some information from the following year's financial reports which were prepared in a way which does not allow that. It is however known from the 1988-89 Annual Report that the major project was the provision of a Caretaker's House/Reception Centre for the Shaftsbury Citizenship Centre, for which \$20,000 was put aside awaiting completion. The handover was made next year at a well attended ceremony.

1988-89

Membership: $130+19-16=133$

In spite of a slight gain in members, resignations were especially harmful, taking out five Directors, four moving their business or their position in it away from the city and one retiring; reflecting the business turmoil at the time. They left little done while replacements had scant opportunity to do much for us.

No major project was attempted because of a decision to clear some financial commitments. One was to finish, as far as we could, the commitment to PolioPlus in this year, rather than take the extra year originally intended, and so reduce the burden on it. To that end, a total of over \$11,000 was paid. That left something over \$5,000 to be found in the following year. The other was that last year's Shaftsbury project had a cost overrun of some \$5,000 which we had to meet.

Club income remained at recent levels but administrative costs were rising rapidly enough to show that our cushion of income from the invested lump-sum coming from our lost lease at the Capital Hotel would disappear in a few years. Further, a study of the Information Office showed that about half of the work done there was for Districts and Rotary generally. Thus it was costing us about \$20,000 a year to provide a service for which we were recovering only some \$8,000. A decision was made, to be reversed a few years later, to retain the Centre in spite of the cost to us, to increase our annual subscription, and to ask Districts for greater contributions.

The Community Service Fund had the usual sources of income, now supplemented by the substantial Luncheon Raffle proceeds, but the commitments referred to above did not allow much further distribution. It was possible to support Bridging the Gap, Camp Quality and NADOW to the total extent of \$3,500.

Looking ahead we decided on two new initiatives. One was to establish Business in the Community here following its success in Sydney. It had originated in UK with the objective of greater involvement of industry and commerce in their communities. It operated through the formation of local partnerships, in which large businesses would have a major role, with the main outcome being support for small businesses in their effective establishment and operations. Notwithstanding ongoing efforts by us over the next couple of years and much progress being made, it foundered. It is thought that a major obstacle was Brisbane's "branch office" status in terms of big business, that not allowing required decisions to be made here. Moreover, it was a low point in time for business initiatives.

The other was a scheme to provide a place, a length of the Alice St. fence of the Botanic Gardens, where artists could display and sell their work, renting the space from us. It was seen as a possible useful, long-going source of revenue. Although opening with promise, it soon died. We had underestimated the overwhelming competitive presence of the Riverside Markets in close proximity.

Knowing that the Rotary International Convention for 1995 was scheduled for the Australia-New Zealand Region, we put in a bid but Melbourne outbid us.

1988 being Australia's bicentennial, we arranged for the placement of a time-capsule near the Edward St. entrance to the Botanic Gardens. It contains both Club records and artefacts given by members appropriate to their classifications.

With the upcoming RI Council on Legislation, we responded to the request for Club opinions on the admission of women to membership of Rotary, to which we replied that we would not object. The outcome for us appears in the next year.

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1989-90

The record shows $129+27-10=146$. The initial figure does not agree with the final figure for the previous year. Probably the 129 came from the Members Booklet which is not compiled until some time after the Rotary year commences, during which changes occur. At least the 27 in and at the most 14 out for the period used are remarkable compared with those for the preceding years of this record; and indeed for those which follow. Clearly something different was happening in this year.

The Secretary said in his Report "President Fred has been a vital, capable, demanding leader who has got things done." And looking back through the years, that is seen to have been so. One particular aspect of that is that all Avenues of Service were given serious attention. Moreover, the Annual Report is a model of what we should get.

Following the recommendation from last year that approval be given to the admission of women to our Club, a decision to do so was made without dissent at a meeting on 25 Sept., and four were inducted by the end of the Rotary year.

Aspects of attendance at meetings were firmly addressed. Overall, attendance had been falling but some sort of persuasion led to an increase such that the year average was 81%, a figure we can only

dream of now! Further, there had been a conspicuous number of early leavers from meetings. Again, that was spoken about strongly and a special table set aside for those needing to do so. A distinct improvement followed.

A serious start was made on the establishment of a RCOB Foundation which had been discussed for some time. It arose particularly now because we were a substantial beneficiary of the Will of our late member Lionel Walpole, which had the condition that it be used for community service projects. A decision was made to establish a Foundation which could attract donations, and the funds be invested to provide income for community and international projects. A draft constitution was prepared.

The investigation last year of the disparity between District contributions to the Rotary Information Centre and what it was costing us to operate it was pointed out with the result that such contribution rose from \$8,000 to \$15,000. Notwithstanding that and the now significant income from the Capital Hotel compensation windfall, the Operating Fund remained a problem because of increase in salaries plus superannuation, together by \$9,000.

International Service was determined to carry out an international project, finishing with three; one in India and two in PNG, at a total cost of \$7,600.

On the local scene there was an innovative proposal. It was to establish a community service club at the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre, a club consisting of prisoners to encourage them to participate in constructive activities within the prison and improve their social functioning.

1990-91

For this year and thereafter there is no longer a detailed record of changes in membership. It is however a generally downward trend with fluctuation in the relative sizes of intake and loss of the same kind as shown for earlier years, which suffice for a brief discussion later of the issue.

It was one of those particularly successful years and included a wide spread of activity. Fund raising generated over \$45,000 with the Christmas Art Union again making a large contribution, some \$11,000. The magnitude of income in this account does however vary greatly between years because of what is placed in it, particularly Proceeds of Luncheons, which in this year, together with

Weekly Raffles totalled \$15,000. The only special event in this was a fund raising dinner donated by the Heritage Hotel whose manager was a Club member, providing over \$5,000.

The main beneficiaries included the Abused Child Trust (\$6,000, to fund a research project), Drug Arm (\$15,800) and Red Hill Special School (\$7,000 for computers-and we were to give the School substantial assistance again the next year). Going overseas, we supported a FAIM project in PNG (financially, not hands-on) and a Literacy Project in Thailand. And \$5,000 was given to Rotary Foundation, a substantially larger amount than usual.

There was much activity in the area of youth (with some of those supported perhaps seeing themselves as beyond youth, though still young!). We hosted an Exchange Student and sent one out, successfully nominated a member of a Group Study Exchange Team, a young woman for a Rotary Foundation Scholarship, and two High School students for the Science Summer School.

Last year's proposal to establish a Community Service group at Sir David Longland Correctional Centre was carried through, although it was not to survive; again probably a case of our not being able to provide useful ongoing support.

1991-92

The President took the view that local Community Service is an area in which we should and could do well. There is great need and we have the people, our members, with the ability to meet it, the only difficulty being to marshall them to do so. His enthusiasm led to success. That result depended on fundraising, at which we are frequently not highly successful, to the extent that we perhaps come to the conclusion that it is scarcely worth trying too hard.

We were in that period running the annual Christmas Art Union which brought in \$13,000. A Garage Sale raised some \$8,000 while an opportunistic association with the opening of the Wacol Remand Centre netted over \$19,000. As a result, combined with our usual contributions from Groups, the Golf day, Luncheon Raffle proceeds and other lesser sources, we had over \$66,000 for distribution. That was \$22,000 above the previous year, thanks to two initiatives. It is noteworthy that these two latter, and most other main sources of income in this category, depended on the hands-on activities of members, which is relevant to later comments on both fundraising and finding worthwhile things for members to do.

The main beneficiaries in the distribution of these funds were: Teen Challenge, \$16,000 for the provision of a van to help homeless street children; Red Hill Special School, \$13,000 towards the purchase of a bus to give outings to severely handicapped children; Victims of Crime Association, \$10,000; and Wesley Rotary Lodge, \$7,000. In the latter, we joined 20 other Rotary Clubs in providing accommodation at Wesley Hospital for the use of country people requiring medical treatment over time, accompanied by their families. In addition, eight other bodies received amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500, most of these being activities with which we had been associated in one way or another over the years. In this year we sponsored the formation of the Brisbane City Probus Club.

1992-93

Again, Reports of the hitherto standard kind are missing.

It was another year in which no major project was undertaken but like last year, there was the intention of supporting various causes although with more emphasis on off-shore recipients. There was however less money to do these things than in the previous which had the two "abnormal" fundraisers, less by \$20,000. Nevertheless there was again a special event associated with the prison system, a Prison Open Day which gave us \$6,000.

The main beneficiaries in a distribution of \$39,000 were in Australia, Prince Charles Hospital, Halwyn Centre and Rotary West Family Assistance Fund. A hospital in PNG was provided with equipment to the value of \$5,000, while also in that country a tank was given to a village with problems in getting clean drinking water. An interesting gift was that of Death Adder anti-veneme to Aitape, supplies of which have since been maintained, and in consequence of that, apparently many lives have been saved.

And finally, to make a physical mark of our presence in the city (we did not really have one, in spite of our many years here), a historical plaque was placed in South Bank, engraved with a view of the city skyline of 100 years earlier, to be seen in the direction of ones view over it to the present.

It is noted here that the contributions by the two Districts to running the Information Office had risen to \$20,000, and although large that may appear, rent alone was costing \$11,000, to which had to be added salaries. This observation is made as a prelude to next year's decision to face reality in the never-ending struggle to pay our way.

1993-94

The significant events of this year were not so much in the Community Service area which has usually been central to activity, as in management, with decisions made which were to change our ways greatly. Perhaps those changes were not particularly apparent at the general membership level but they were for the Board and its main committees.

There was dispute with Districts over what they got from the Rotary Information Office for what they paid. It was clear that we were going to receive much less financial support. Add to this that with declining membership, our administration income from subscriptions was falling. It was decided to transfer the Office to Bridging the Gap, with which a number of Clubs were associated, and would be seen rather as belonging there rather than to our Club. Thus we would now be directly paying our fair share towards maintaining the service, which would in any case be in total less costly because of its shared facilities with Bridging the Gap. A corollary of this was that we were dispensing with our own paid staff after decades of having such. Denise Ealding, who had been with us for some 10 years, had progressively assumed responsibility for attending to things which had been overlooked and providing coordination where it was missing. It took what seemed years for us to recover.

The other decision was to remodel our corporate structure. The longstanding Directorates corresponding to the Avenues of Service were replaced by Marketing, Operations & Administration, Human Resources, Treasury & Finance, and Community Projects. Presumably the old objectives are embedded in these new names. We were told that the new structures will spread the workload better and close the gaps which appeared when we lost our office secretary.

Returning to the usual facts of annual activity, things were similar to those of the previous year; no major project and no special fundraising-just the usual Christmas Art Union, Groups, Golf Day, Luncheon Raffle, donations from Rotaryannes and some smaller things. There was, however, again an opportunity which came our way: the Australia Post Project, assistance in a survey which returned to us \$4,000. Such things are valuable to us, but depend on vigilance among members to alert us to them.

We transferred assets associated with our office, now closed, and estimated to be worth about \$16,000, to Bridging the Gap- the new Information Office. There were no large donations to charitable organizations, the most being \$3,000 to the Abused Child Trust.

We hosted the launch of People Helping People, a project supported by a number of Rotary Districts and churches, aimed at helping people start new small businesses.

There was an unusual event which lifted spirits greatly. An elderly woman who had come to Australia post-war as a refugee from Poland and had lost contact with her sister in the chaos before leaving but had recently located her, had come to our attention. Knowing that she was in modest financial circumstances, our Club gave her two return air tickets (one for a companion-nurse) which allowed her to visit her sister and homeland.

1994-95

Writing something about this year was an instructive experience. It was one of the last 12 years which, with the exception of one, were not represented in our records with a full account (written report plus financial records). And for this one, there was nothing at all except a half-yearly financial report, which helps little in seeing what happened in a year. Thus, and partly as a test of what use it could be, the weekly Bulletins for the year were read; albeit briefly. They proved a valuable source. This is mentioned as an incentive to the Club to ensure that past copies are recovered as thoroughly as possible and together with future ones, safely stored; at least until such time as we institute a system of effective annual recording of activity which we have never had in our 80 years.

Accordingly, something can be said of this year rather than its being recorded as a void in our knowledge as had to be done with some.

Much of the activity appears to have been centred in the Board and appeals to the membership to participate. The new administrative arrangements were "completed", though of course to be modified later on the basis of experience. Attempts were made to make better contact with members on what was happening- a theme raised later under Reflections- by having committees report at some weekly meetings. The unusual practice of putting out a half-yearly Financial Report served that same purpose, though also seen as

something which could be used in explaining us in recruitment activities.

There was no special fundraising, while the Christmas Art Union proceeds were down to half what they had been for some years. Thus scope for community projects seemed limited. It was however decided to provide a First Aid Caravan on Moreton Island, where a person had been offering such a service, with limited facilities. That was done (at a cost of \$22,600) by using some of our reserves of over \$85,000, it being argued that our operations are of a kind which do not require such holdings.

While also in the mood of getting rid of funds which had not been currently raised: The Club was holding the Router Donation of \$15,000, which it had intended be added to a RCOB Foundation should it be established, as was being discussed over recent years. A decision was however made not to proceed with that-to be reversed a few years later when a Benevolent Fund was established-and the Router Donation was applied to International House, one of our great projects from long back.

Hitherto, RI had through its Matching Grants scheme, helped us with our costs of shipping DIK containers to PNG. It was now advised that it would no longer support maintenance but only initiation of projects; and so we now have to meet the full cost- at this time, \$2,000 per container.

1995-96

This is another year for which there is scant record. Membership is said to have increased from 104 to 118. That is the first mention of numbers for a long time, but without the firm basis of calculation we formerly had. At least it shows that there was a distinct rise for the first time in years; but also that our membership had been on the point of falling below 100.

All we know of Services income is that it totalled over \$30,000, thanks largely to the Christmas Art Union, while \$38,000 was paid out. We assisted in establishing Vision Queensland to help vision-impaired people and raised \$4,500 towards that. \$6,000 was used for computer facilities designed to assist schools in behavioural management, and \$10,000 was granted to the People Helping People project launched in 1993-94. Unfortunately, this project eventually foundered, and probably for the same reasons as did some others with which we have been associated, of which more

later. Further support was given to equipping the new office at Bridging the Gap.

It was in this year that we made a bid for the 2003 World Rotary Convention, and set up a Host Organising Committee, to be called World Convention (WC) 2003 to deal with this; and should it be successful, to operate on our behalf independently of normal Club activity. For the time being however it was a difficult year for John Puttick, who in addition to being President, was the main driving force behind the bid; such a strong one that it led eventually to success.

1996-97

This was a landmark year in that we had, for the first time, a woman as President, an office she filled with great dedication. She was, unfortunately, limited in what she could do because of financial difficulties at that time. The administrative side was operating satisfactorily under the new office arrangements although Members Club Dues had again fallen significantly while \$7,000 was transferred out of that account to the Services Fund. That transfer helped Services, which had now lost the usual large income (over \$10,000) from the Christmas Art Union which was no longer to be held, to maintain income at about that of recent years. Expenditure from that towards Community Service was greatly limited by the provision of a large sum as a loan to the Your Move project. Also, there was the transfer of some \$7,000 out of the account in relation to the provision last year of the Moreton Island First Aid Caravan. In the end, about \$14,500 could be distributed to the usual sort of recipients.

We were instrumental in establishing, in cooperation with a number of other bodies, The Queensland Youth Future Focus Network, a vehicle to enable local communities across Queensland to benefit from support and resources of a variety of community and government networks and programs aimed at assisting young people at risk. This initiative did not survive long, as seems to have been the fate of many things which depended substantially on the commitment of others.

We were to learn that our bid to host the 2003 World Rotary Convention was unsuccessful, but were advised that RI Board looked with favour on the 2006 convention being held in Australia,

Donations in Kind (to assist with transport costs), and over \$3,000 to a wider appeal aimed at providing a special computer for a disabled person.

We were associated with the provision of a Men's Health Caravan at Fishermen Islands. The funding was sourced mainly from a \$25,000 donation from the Port of Brisbane Authority.

In this year, a start was made on establishment (to be subsequently achieved) of a Sister-Club relationship with the Rotary Club of Tsim-Sha-Tsui East in Hong Kong.

2000-01

Although we have not been following membership figures for some years-details have not been included in Annual Reports- the Member's Booklet for the beginning of the following year shows that numbers had fallen down to the 80's. Worldwide, Rotary membership had begun to decline leading to a campaign to reverse that and District had asked all Clubs to aim for a 10% increase. Although we had an intake of that size there were the usual losses, leaving a net gain of five members i.e. 5%. The Annual Report does note what has not been in the past recognised, at least explicitly, that a problem exists in retention of new members and should be addressed by way of getting them involved in our activities.

With regard to our other ongoing annual problem, that of fundraising, the Report proposes that the large "one off" event, which we have sometimes undertaken, is too demanding on members' time and effort. Rather, it is suggested, we should depend on the summation of smaller but regular sources. In fact in this year, what it is hoped will become regular- though not so small- was an arrangement with the Queensland Antique Dealers Association to assist at their Annual Fair. That brought us \$10,000. Together with the usual ongoing sources, we had \$26,000 for distribution.

Support was given mainly to Rotary based activities; \$3,500 to the Health Research Fund and over \$2,000 to DIK. The Rotary Foundation received well above the usual; \$8,900. And for the first time, a substantial allocation was made to our Benevolent Foundation. The \$36,000 held over from last year was paid into the Benevolent fund, which had by the end of the year passed \$200,000. The President was looking forward to the attainment of \$500,000,

the income from which would go a long way towards sustaining the income level necessary for Community projects.

And at last, the 2003 RI Convention was formally allotted to us as Host Club.

2001-02

This was a year of great activity. For a start, the problem of Member recruitment was attacked more forcefully than usual. A "Club within a Club" scheme was devised. In this, instead of obtaining a list of persons who might be approached but then not quite knowing how to proceed, a large list was compiled, members of which were invited in groups to presentations about Rotary in general and our Club in particular. The outcome was 27 inductions and the year ending with a membership (excluding Honorary) of just over 100. A proposal was put at a weekly meeting- but not for the purpose of decision making- that if large numbers are required for effective performance, then the CBD Clubs should merge. Nothing more was heard of this, although it is interesting to note that several major activities in the year were based on Club cooperation.

Recent restructuring of Club management had led to a directorate of Special Projects. A priority list of special projects was drawn up; although it should be noted that by this time there was an acceptance of the unlikelihood that some projects can be completed in a year, but will carry over to the next. The top priority included two items. One was the provision of cold-boxes and trailers for Foodbank Queensland, carried through jointly with the three other CBD Clubs. The other addressed the need for a shelter for homeless women and girls in the CBD and some preliminary plans were put in place, but this was overtaken by an agreement between the Government and Salvation Army whereby a floor in a Men's Hostel run by the latter would be made available for the need. We then agreed to support this and again jointly with the other CBD Clubs undertook to provide furnishing. By year's end we had given \$8,400 and the project is ongoing.

Another priority was the replacement for the Salvation Army's mobile kitchen, which we had given them in 1974. This is under way, largely as a result of our joining in with other Clubs, including Stones Corner, in the Rotary Art Spectacular; with an agreement that the mobile kitchen will be a major beneficiary. As a result, \$23,356 went

to the project which also is ongoing. It is noted here that further proceeds of that event came to us for discretionary use.

Another project decided on was to work with Brisbane Mid City Club and the 2003 Convention Committee to ensure that some of the Rotary symbols remaining from the Convention will remain at major entry and assembly points in Brisbane.

Fundraising plus donations totalled \$49,000, aided by income again from the Antique Fair, and the same amount was paid out. That included \$5,000 to DIK for transport costs and the same in sponsorship of the Drug and Alcohol Foundation's Alternative High Big Night Out.

Other things from the year included: We joined with our Sister Club in Hong Kong in support of a Vocational School in PNG; we joined our matched Club of Port Moresby in the provision of school equipment; signing another Sister-Club agreement- this with Taipei Tatung in Taiwan; and carrying out a review of Club operations, to be incorporated in a Manual of Procedure.

And it was in this year that we changed our Meeting venue to The Brisbane Club.

2002-03

This Rotary year is incomplete at the time of writing and so a final account of what was achieved can not be written. Nevertheless, just as it was possible to begin by reporting that in 1973-74 we had a vigorous Club, it is gratifying to be able to write that 30 years on, it thrives; and particularly so in its anticipation of what is perhaps the highlight of its whole history, being Host Club for the 2003 Convention.

Having started this record with an emphasis on membership we should come back to the subject. The reversal of the long-term decline has us with 98 Active Members, plus nine Honorary and two Honorary Life Members. And with the Convention coming up we have, at least for the time being, been able to solve the problem of finding something useful for members to do.

A list of what has been and is being done this year is impressive. In fund raising, our reliable Golf Day, the proceeds of which continue to go largely to the Queensland Branch of Diabetes Australia, has been more successful than usual. Our association with the Antique Dealers' Fair continues, the event to have taken place by the time this is published. We were again participants in organizing the

Rotary Art Spectacular, from which one half of the proceeds go to Drug Arm, the rest divided amongst the Clubs involved to be used at their own discretion.

As to the use of the funds: With the need for further money to complete PolioPlus, we have undertaken to contribute \$12,000 over two years. We continue with support of the Salvation Army in furnishing their Women's Shelter, as we do with the provision of a new Mobile Kitchen. And we have again given DIK the cost of shipping a container to PNG. There will of course be further distribution at the end of the year.

We began the 30 year record with satisfactory activities in the Youth area, and in spite of ups and downs through the years we conclude by doing fairly well. There is an Exchange Student going out and one coming in, we sent a person to the RYLA Camp and successfully nominated a student for the National Youth Science Forum. Our Club is responsible for Brisbane Rotaract Club which we were instrumental in forming, and it is pleasing to note that it is running particularly well with 15 members. On the other hand we are no longer associated with an Interact club, while Work Observation has lapsed this year.

REFLECTIONS

In the Introduction I referred to an initial wish to write a history of a more thematic kind, but in which I was thwarted. This section is not intended to be a belated coverage along those lines. It arises because looking at records through 30 years inevitably leads to questions. It might be useful to ask some of these, even though they lack the substance of anything like a careful study of the issues, and are tainted by subjectivity. Further, the opportunity is taken under this heading to comment on a few other matters.

Membership numbers

Rotary depends greatly on size; the number of countries in which it is established and within them, the number of members, this latter requiring both numbers of Clubs to expand territorial coverage and then their individual membership. We as a Club are concerned with the latter, which is perhaps an ongoing problem for most Clubs but has become a particular worry for us in the period dealt with here. From a membership of 23 in 1923 it reached a peak of 248 in 1969 and then declined slightly to 223 in 1973 where we start this record. By 2001, one year before we close, it was down to 82, an average loss of about five per year. There were a few years of small increase, one much larger, but many of loss, usually small, sometimes large.

In attempting to reverse this unfavourable balance between recruitment and loss we have put great emphasis on the former. There has only occasionally been anything much said of the latter. But in the losses there is a disturbing pattern. Taking samples throughout the years, something approaching one half of those inducted in a year have left within two years, those remaining staying on for at least several more years. In the last large-intake year examined, 1992-93, 16 members were inducted but only seven remained by the end of the second year (with some gone in the first and no doubt some others not lasting all of the second). The most recent two years of intake which can be considered had small recruitment; six in 1998-99 and five in 1999-2000. Numbers for these are pooled because small numbers are not reliable indicators, and show that only three of the 11 had gone in the two years. Whether this indicates that we are now doing better with retention or that large intakes are associated with less careful recruitment, time

will tell. We wait to see what happens to the 27 inducted in the last complete year.

Attrition due to normal causes such as poor health and movement away from CBD work or place of residence should give a more even loss over years; in fact one could expect a bias towards later rather than early loss. Clearly we recruit people who do not wish to stay on.

It may be too difficult to ascertain causes but we can speculate on them and take action to minimize them as possibilities. Do we fully explain to potential members what Rotary offers them and what we expect of them as members? But there is perhaps an additional factor; do we fail to meet their expectation that they will be doing something useful because of a special opportunity in Rotary? Do we give them something real to do, explain its importance to us (even though trivial compared with their workplace responsibilities) and express appreciation for its being done? (As an extension of that, do we sufficiently advise, on a regular basis, all members, not merely the new ones, what we are doing and propose doing, and invite contribution on the basis of individual capabilities?)

These questions lead to others. If we are not occupying members, do we need many more as our Strategic Plan of a couple years back declared? Are numbers a means to an end or an end in itself, and if the latter, why? Surely we do not require numbers for its own sake.

Finally on this subject, if members leave because of disappointment it is not just a waste of our time in recruitment (it does occupy much of our effort) but people are put back in to the community with negative attitudes to Rotary.

Women

Membership was opened to women in 1989 and there has been a regular but small intake since. Nevertheless, there were at the start of the present year only eight. We need far more to make us representative. They have perceptions and aptitudes not generally held by men, and a reputation for getting things done. There are already here, and others who have passed through, some whose contributions put many of us to shame. It is perplexing that we are not getting so many in nor retaining them well. There is surely some problem here which the Club must address.

Projects/Community Service

Most of the achievements of Rotary are perceived in what we do for others, wherever that may lie in the various categories we have created; Community, International, Youth and (even though as discussed later, mistakenly) Vocational Service. Broadly, this is all service to some part or other of the world community. And we achieve it through what we usually refer to as projects (and hence the heading).

A particular strength of Rotary is its ability to provide, and its record of doing so, community needs which are not being met. Some of these depend largely on financial input, some on our ability to organize and of course often on a combination of both. Some are intended to be ongoing while others provide immediate support.

The ongoing are rarely other than the establishment of something which is intended to be thereafter self-sustaining, even though we may occasionally make donations to its current activities. Examples are International House, Montrose Home and Help Enterprises. But there are exceptions to that, such as DIK which is operated by us, would disappear without that but is quite cheap to maintain in comparison with its enormous value.

The immediate support projects vary among themselves to the extent that some give a lift to something which already exists in the hope that it will thereafter be able to continue at a higher level. Successful examples of that are Qld. Surf Life Saving and Pony Riding for the Disabled. Again, we may make donations in subsequent years but not in the sense of having to maintain them. Also, as immediate support, we have given great help to groups such as Red Hill Special and Petrie Terrace Schools where there is no particular expectation of long-term benefits, except of course individuals there who participated at the time or soon thereafter.

All this is said to make it clear that our projects can take quite different forms, with varying intentions. But it does lead to another type of support, to which a question might attach. Over the years we make numerous donations to existing organizations, not having been initiated by us, which certainly need funds but are not dependent on us for them. A person could support these more effectively by doing so directly than through Rotary. If such donations by us are in sum trivial compared with what we achieve overall, this is no problem; but it brings us back to the proposition that Rotary generally does what individuals can not do, and we must

ensure that it is in doing so, we establish our image. This is not to deny that some cautious distribution to existing, independent (of us) charities may be of some benefit to us in that it earns community goodwill.

There is another aspect of projects which is of some concern; initiatives which fail. There have been quite a few, such as River Walk, Business in the Community, Sir David Longland Correctional Centre Community Service Club, People Helping People and Qld. Youth Future Focus Network. There is a common thread running through most. It is that we have set up things which, valuable though they would have been if successful, depended substantially on groups outside Rotary who did not share our enthusiasm. It will save us much planning and some expenditure if we learn from our experience.

Fund raising

Much of what we do requires money and thus fund raising has long been a particular preoccupation; and it seems to have become in recent years a problem. Earlier in this period (since 1973) there was an acceptance that dependence on special and some regular annual events requiring hands-on participation by a number of members could be relied on. Thus we took part in the annual Spring Hill Fair and later ran for some years a very rewarding Christmas Art Union; both now gone. There was a Fair associated with the gift of a pool to Montrose home, and a successful Garage Sale. We got involved in the openings of a number of public facilities and similar events. We organized special fund raisers in support of the Surf Life Saving project. And there were the occasional Art Shows. These things not only raised substantial money but also brought members together in a way for which there are fewer opportunities now; and it did find things for members to do.

Now there seems to be an acceptance that we are not particularly capable of doing these things, and we have not attempted such in the last 10 years or so-except for some quite new ventures recently (below). We have come to depend increasingly on longstanding annual activity based usually on internal groups, e.g. The Golf Day and donations from Groups and Rotaryannes, and the weekly raffle. These however fall far short of the service incomes we enjoyed in the past. Another loss, and following the move to our new Meeting venue, was Proceeds of Luncheons, a quite large income.

Notwithstanding an attitude that we can no longer undertake some of the sort of things that we once depended on, it would seem unwise to close our eyes to exploiting events, such as was done with the opening of the Wacol Remand Centre, that returning a large sum in relation to the range within which we usually operate. To be able to do such things depends on the alertness of members, and is one area in which number of members is useful.

What is wanted is at least one large annual event which we know how to run or at least where we can be reliably useful. Progress towards that end has been made by our involvement, jointly with other Clubs, in the Rotary Art Spectacular and the Antique Dealers Fair. Hopefully these events will continue and that we can provide reliable support. Perhaps even, we can develop a reputation for doing this sort of thing, which could lead to further events.

The new Benevolent Foundation is seen as an eventual long term regular source of funds. That may be so when a much larger capital has accumulated. It now stands at about \$200,000, and a figure of \$500,000 is seen as a reasonable target. The problem is of course to get there. If we are to depend substantially on our own contributions to it, and at the same time engage in something like our past support of community projects, how are we to do it?

Vocational Service

Vocational Service is one of Rotary's longstanding Avenues of Service and until our recent restructuring, we had a Director for it. It has now been placed in the Human Resources Directorate along with International Service.

In practice, the implementation of Vocational Service has been, and is evidently intended to continue being, the initiation and /or support of programs associated with vocations of persons outside Rotary. Examples of successful ventures are Help Industries, Bridging the Gap, Work Observation and NADOW. And there were failures, too.

The problem is that Vocational Service was never intended to be that. It follows from the Second Objective of Rotary: "High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as an opportunity to serve society". Based on that is our Four Way Test. The ability to translate these requirements to action has been a problem to most Rotary Clubs

and has no doubt been an encouragement to label community projects of the kind mentioned above as being Vocational Service.

Youth

Rotary has always had a strong interest in youth. In our Club, activities have been of two kinds. One of these is Club initiatives, most of which have been one-off projects ranging from the very large to the small, and within these some to provide immediate short-term support while others had long-term objectives. Outstanding examples of the long-term, and from an earlier period, are Montrose Home and International House while in the last 30 years there was the addition of the pool complex at Montrose Home, the establishment of Child Accident Foundation Qld., Safety House Association and perhaps to be included here, Work Observation. Projects with essentially short-term objectives include the support given to Petrie Terrace and Red Hill Special Schools and to Pony Riding for the Disabled. If anything, there seems to have been declining interest through the years in youth support of the kind discussed here. The last significant venture seems to have been that of six years ago, the establishment, in conjunction with other bodies, of the Queensland Youth Future Focus Network; which unfortunately did not survive.

The other youth activities are those of Rotary-at-large, in particular Rotaract, RYLA, Student Exchange, Interact, Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange; and with which we are in various ways involved.

This whole subject is raised in relation to where responsibility lies in the Club for them; which is important, for without responsibility things are likely not to be done well or even at all.

As for projects we initiate, the Club should decide whether they come within a Youth category or are to be seen as Community Service, where they easily belong. The at-large programs are quite different and have drifted around over the years. At the beginning of this record, Rotaract, RYLA and a separate category of Youth were placed in Community Service. A few years later Interact joined the first two there, Youth had gone to Vocational Service, and Student Exchange had arrived, to be placed in International Service. In 1979-80 however a whole new Directorate of Youth Service was formed, surviving until the recent restructure of management. Youth has now

been completely written out of stated responsibilities of the Directorates!

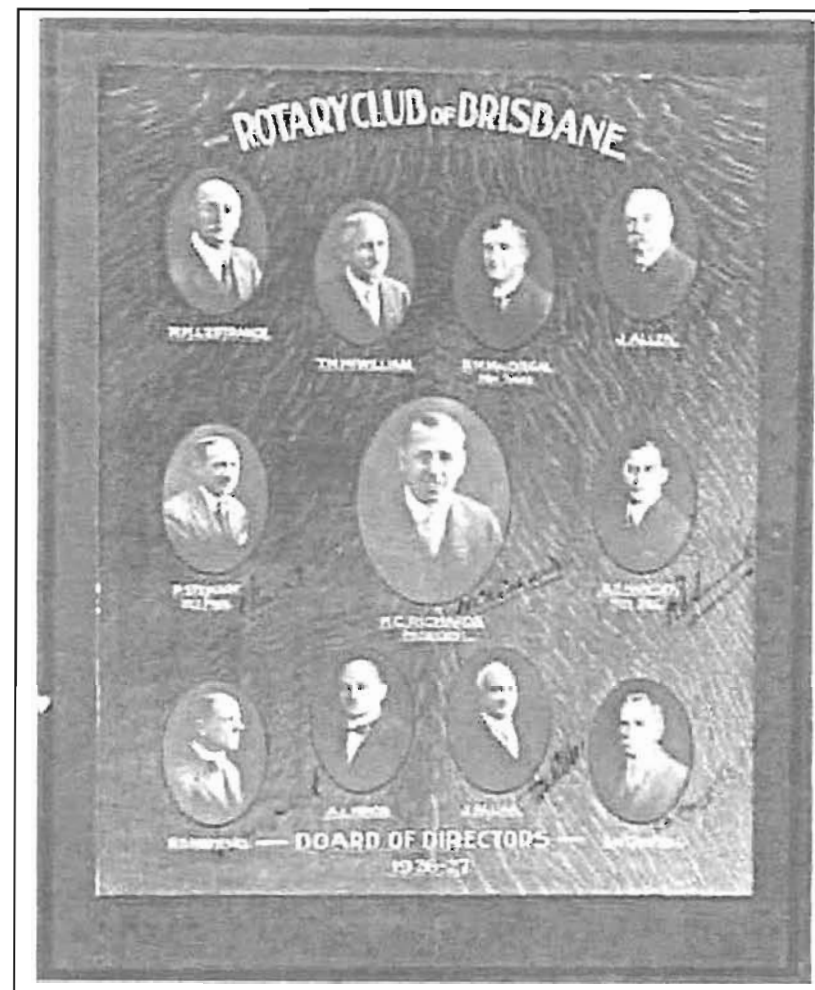
These ongoing changes may have something to do with uneven Club performance over the years in relation to Rotaract, RYLA, Student Exchange and Interact, although we do require a few members with strong commitments to the programs and responsibilities extending over longer periods than a single Rotary year; a problem not restricted to youth.

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THE GALLERY

Following are an assortment of photographs and other items of interest from the Club Archive.

The early days..



OFF TO MELBOURNE



Mr. Paul Harris, of Chicago, founder of the Rotary International movement (left), discusses matters of moment with Mr. W. B. Darker, president of the Brisbane Rotary Club, just prior to leaving by the Kyogle Mail to-day to attend the Rotary Conference in Melbourne.



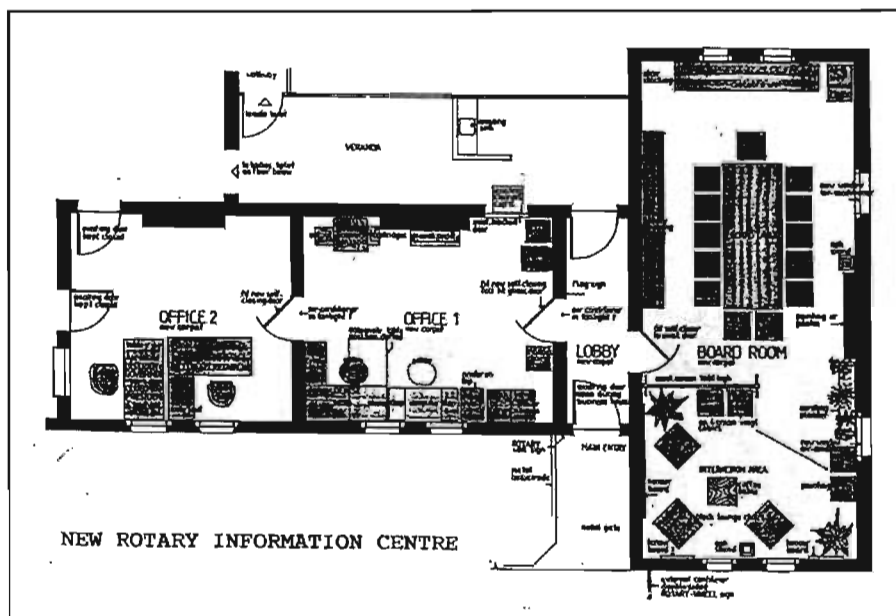
President F. Kennedy with D. Barry welcoming guests



Past District Governors from RCOB and Billie Router at presentation of PDG plaque



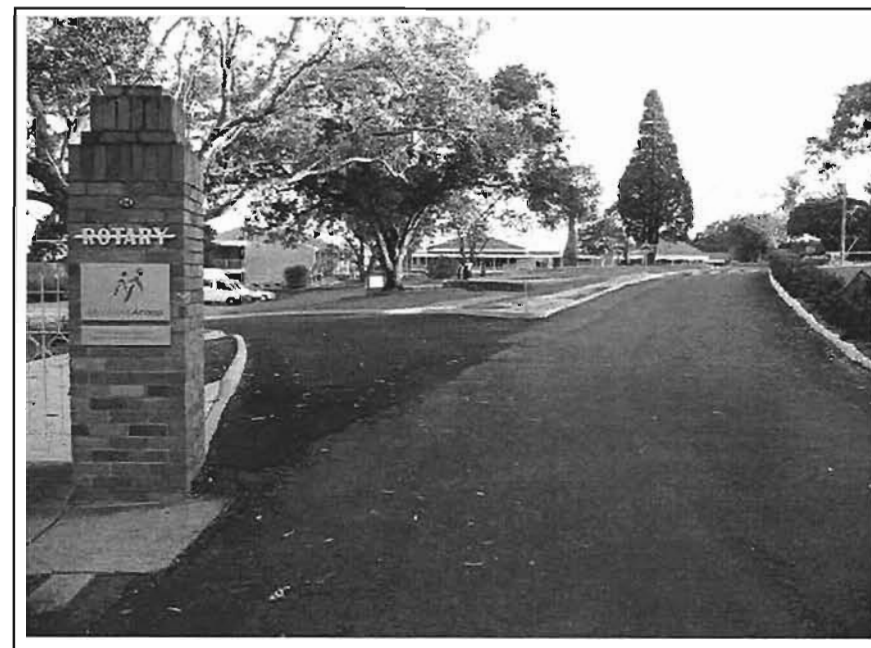
73 74 Changeover K. Barry to W. Buettel



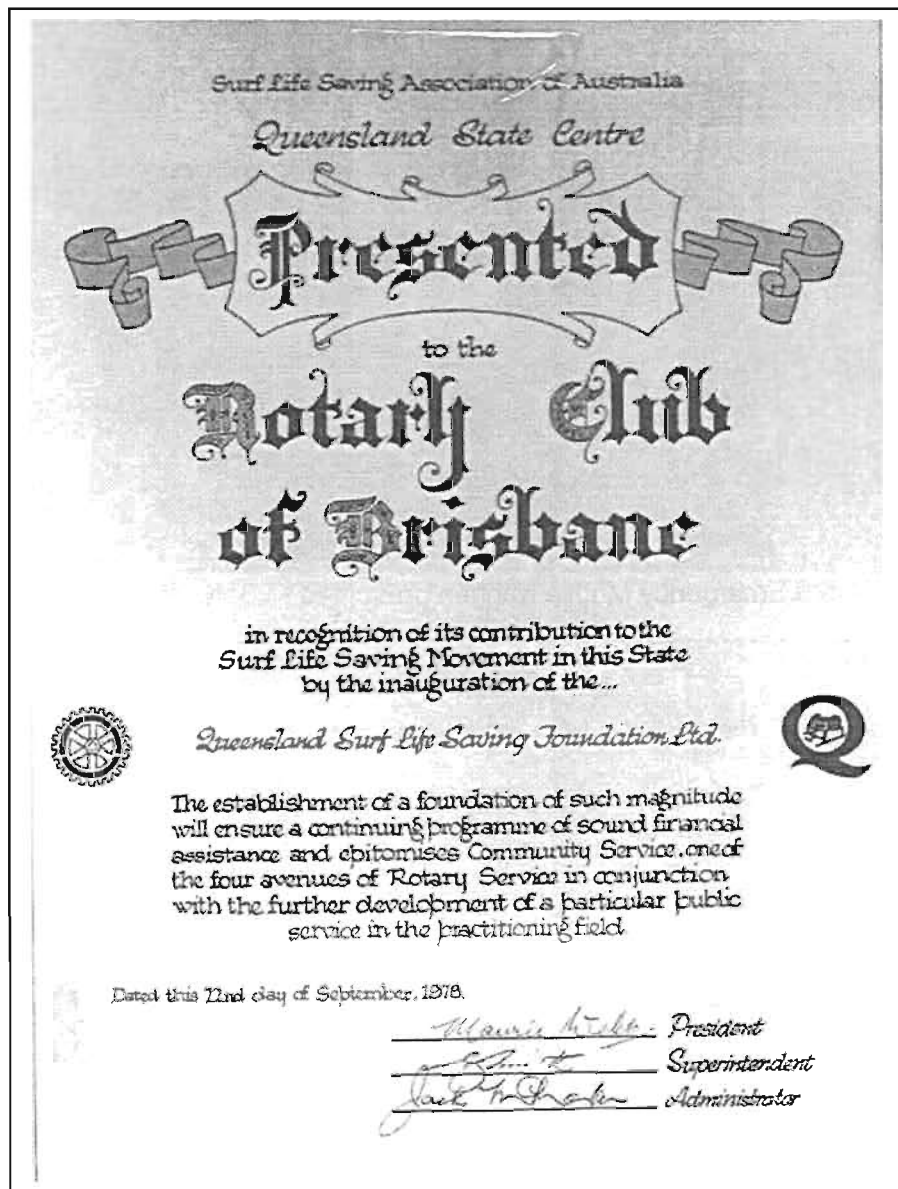
73 74 Rotary Information Centre Canberra Hotel



74 75 Emergency Mobile Kitchen presented to Salvation Army



76 77 Montrose Home for Crippled Children a major ongoing project for the Club.



77 78 Club establishes Queensland Surf Life Saving Foundation



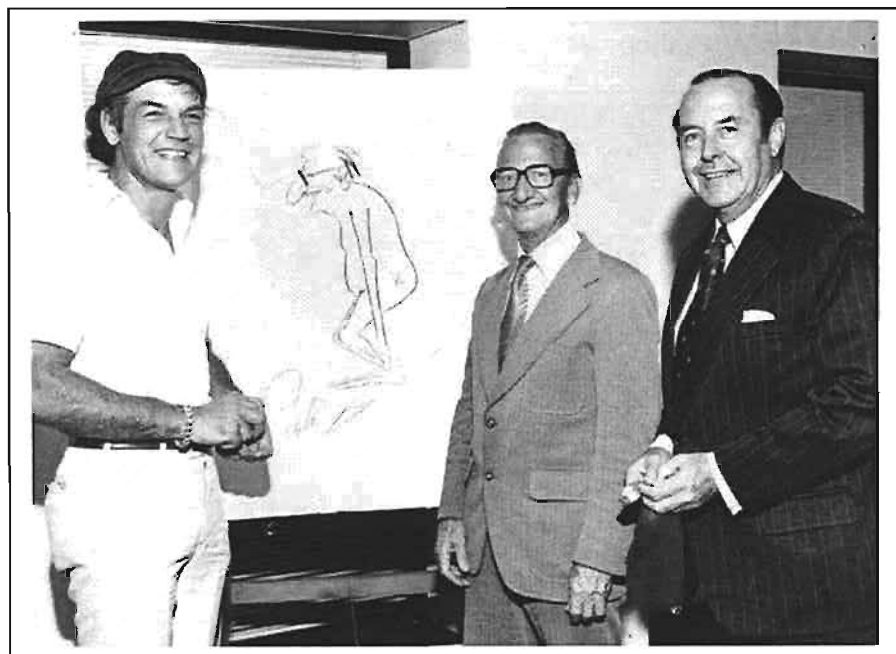
78 79 Miss Brisbane Rotary Quest. A Major fundraiser.
Pres. W. Bishop



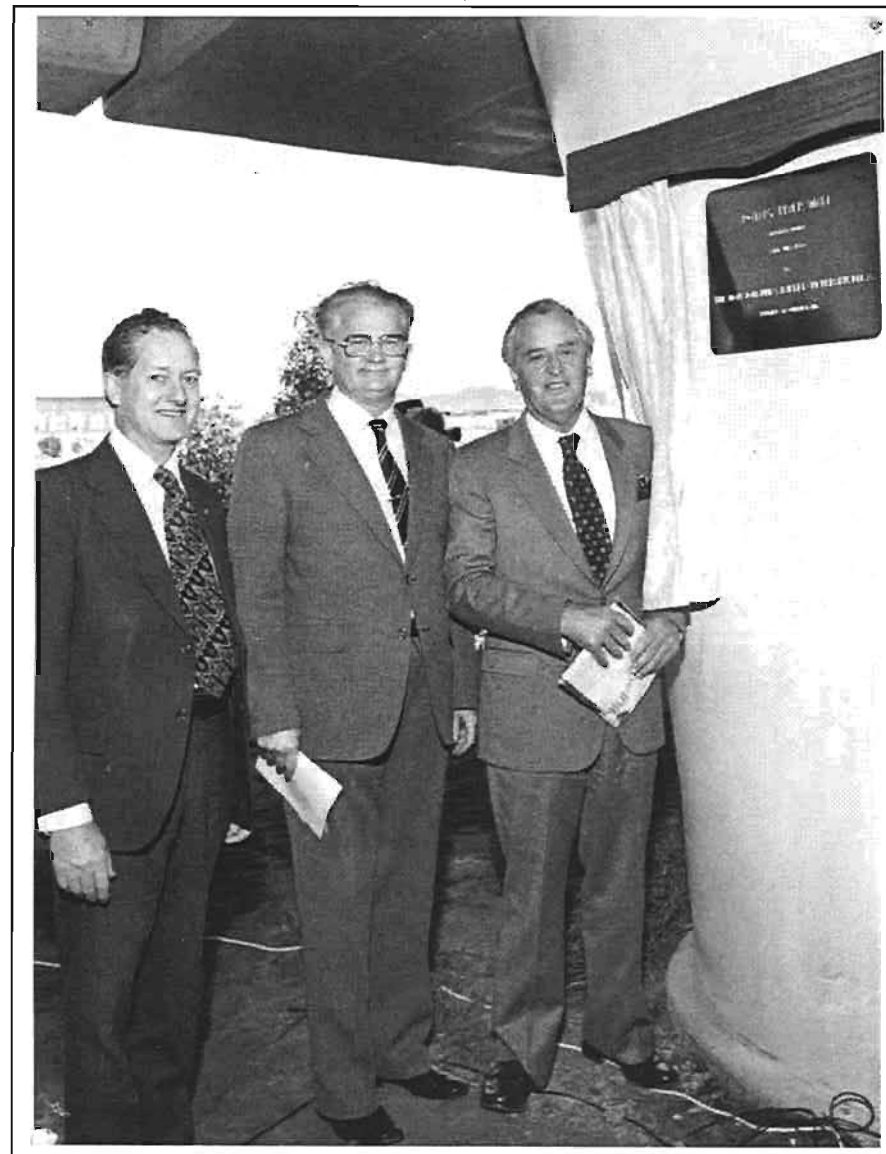
78 79 Pres. W. Bishop hands over to incoming Pres. L. Padman



79 Club officially welcomes State Governor Sir J. Ramsay



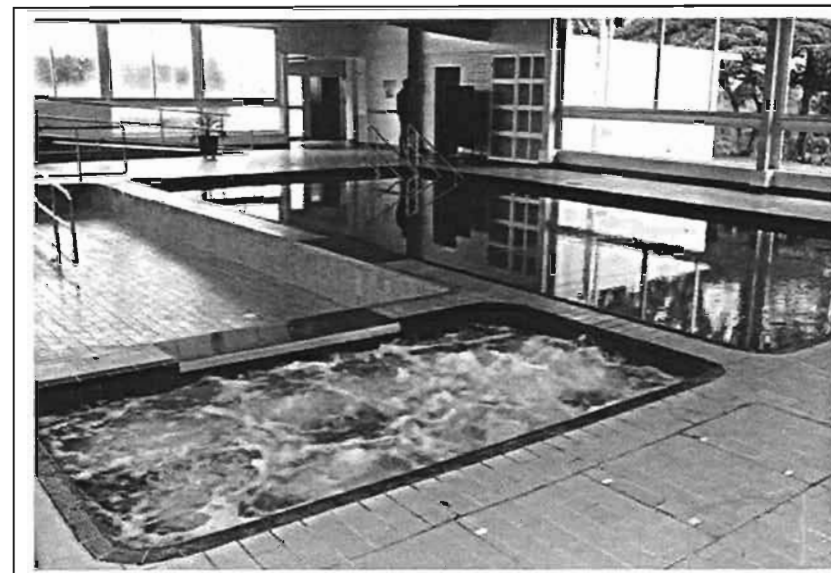
79 Rotary Art Show opening with Mayor F. Sleeman and Larry Pickering with Pres. L. Padman



80 81 Opening of Rotary River Walk by Premier Sir J. Bjelke-Peterson with Pres. Tony English and I. P. P Mak Thompson



84 Pres. N. Hellen and DG R. Skilbeck present PHF to Governor Sir J. Ramsay



87 Montrose Home Therapeutic Spa Pool project



86 87 Pres. S. Jolly presents 50 year Service Award to W. Cormie with DG. G. Meyer



88 Bi-centennial Time capsule project open by Mayor Sally-Anne Atkins and DG I. A. Wilson



90 Indian Orphanage Project with Project Director Dr Ajay Jain
W. Bishop, B. Veal, and Pres. F. Mac Kay



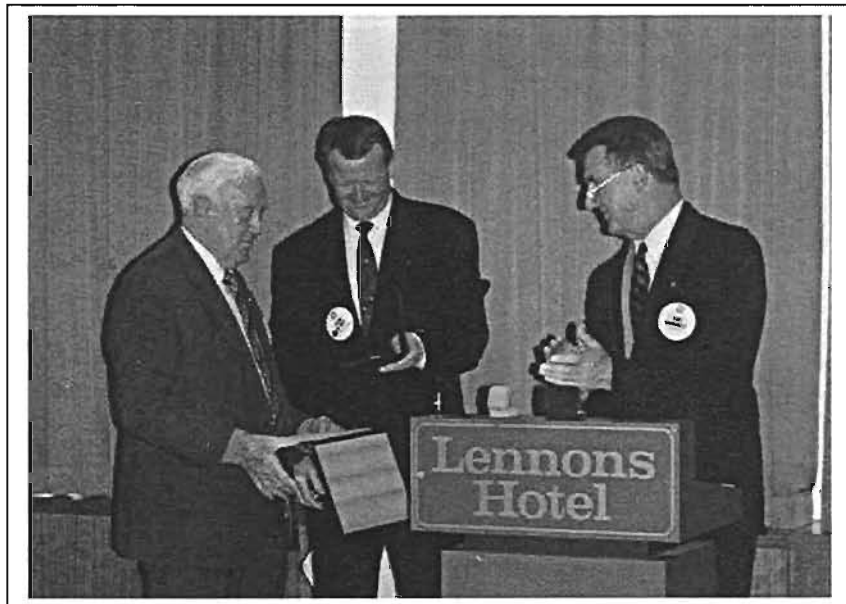
91 D. Knight and Pres. K. Hamburger welcome Fred Hollows to
Rotary Club of Brisbane



89 First women members admitted to Rotary Club of Brisbane



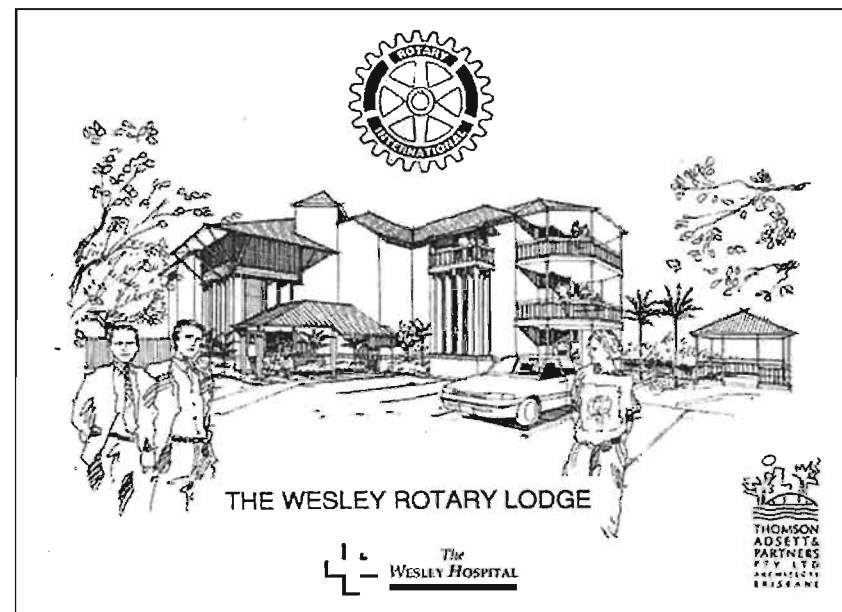
91 Pres. K. Hamburger DG R. McLeod and Mayor F. Sleeman
welcome Premier W. Goss



92 M. Humfress receives PHF from Pres. R. Barnwell with A. McCray



92 Pres. R. Barnwell presents mobile outreach vehicle to Teen Challenge representative Jean-Claude



92 Wesley Rotary Lodge major combined Rotary Club project



93 Unveiling of Cityscape plaque at Southbank by Pres. R. Boughen



93 Major annual fundraiser the Christmas Art Union



Rotary Club of Brisbane Charity Garden stall



Your Move Safety Video program presentation with IPP J. Puttick and Pr. Y. Levien



97 Club birthday celebration with W. MacAlpine Pr. Y. Levien PDG I. A. Wilson and B. Hoare

Board of the Rotary Club of Brisbane
1998-1999



Pres. G. Alexander and Board of Rotary Club of Brisbane



2001 RCOB Mothers Day lunch at Parliament House. IPP W. Hampton Lt Gen. P. Cosgrove and Pres. B. Carss



99 RI Pres. Elect Frank Devlyn welcomed by Pres. W. Hampton DG J. Gabb past RI Dir. B. Knowles past RI Presidents C. Renouf and G. Kinross and Pres. N. Watson of Hamilton Rotary



02 IPP W. Hampton extends greeting to members of sister club Tsim Tsa Tsui in Hong Kong



02 Pres. K. Watts and club members welcome delegation from sister club Taipei Tatung



02 Pres. K. Watts receives R2003 painting assisted by PP's W. Hampton and W. Bishop



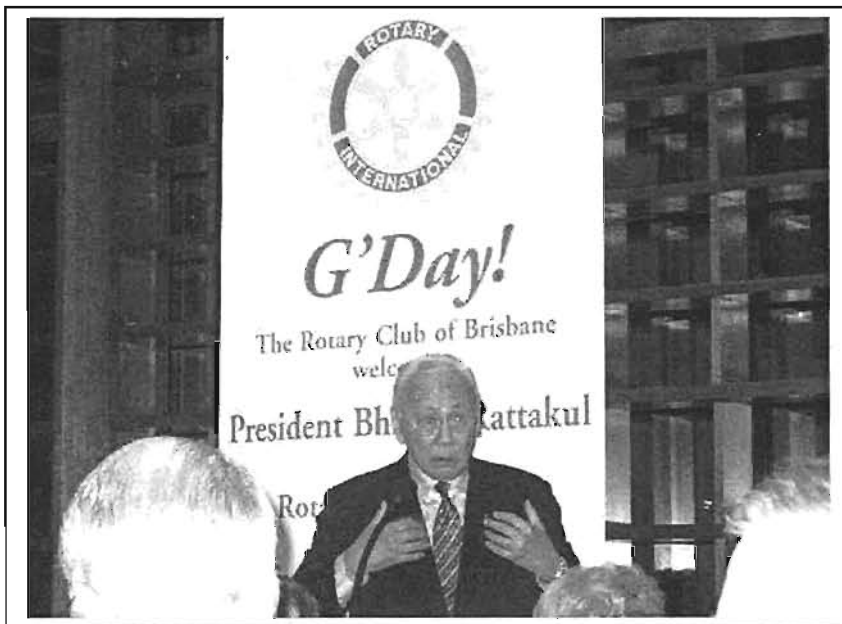
02 Antique Dealers Fair fund raising project of Rotary Club of Brisbane



02 R. Dixon officiates at RCOB Diabetes Qld Charity Golf Day



02 Pres. A. Gillespie H. Milne and PP K. Watts at RI Pres. Bichai Rattakul club welcome



Address by RI President Bhaichai Rattakul at Rotary Club of Brisbane function.