

Chapter 10

Fundraising

	Page
<i>Christmas Stocking Raffle</i>	240
<i>Cash-a-Can</i>	242
<i>Fashion Parades</i>	244
<i>Charity Auctions</i>	247
<i>The Rotary Diary</i>	248
<i>Ladies Card Luncheons</i>	249
<i>Christmas Fair</i>	251
<i>Smoked Salmon Sales</i>	252
<i>Toss the Coin</i>	253
<i>The Copper Pot</i>	253
<i>Lap the Track</i>	254
<i>Riverdance</i>	255
<i>Freeway Golf</i>	256
<i>RCNB – the Caterers</i>	261
<i>Catering – the Story Continues</i>	261
<i>Aeromodellers Displays</i>	262
<i>The Grand Prix</i>	264
<i>The Olympic Team</i>	268
<i>Jazz at the Farm</i>	276
<i>Rotary River Ride</i>	277
<i>Werribee Equestrian Centre</i>	280
<i>Trivial Pursuit Nights</i>	282
<i>Community Café</i>	283

Christmas Stocking Raffle

When the decision was made to organise a Christmas Stocking Raffle as an annual major fund-raiser, it was felt that we should do this by having a stocking filled with “goodies” for everyone to see. This would attract the attention of the general public and help establish the place of our Club in its community.

It was Glen Walmsley, in his special entrepreneurial style, who, in 1990, saw this as a challenge to produce the “biggest Christmas Stocking in the world”. Unfortunately, the Guinness Book of Records advised that they did not have a suitable category for this so we abandoned the idea at that level. Despite this, a 10ft high stocking was produced, mounted on a trailer and in the first year filled with packages “containing” the \$5,000 worth of prizes. The result was a record profit, at that stage, of \$12,000 for the club’s service funds.



PP John Etkins with Glen Walmsley display their handiwork.

The Christmas stocking raffle has played a continuing major role in our fund raising and in our community relations. Selling raffle tickets at our venues at our local Coles or Safeway, Greythorn, North Balwyn Village or Boroondara, Camberwell Safeway / Target, and the Balwyn Sunday market, to name but a few of “our” sites, has created fun and fellowship. Special “spruiking” skills have been evident, the tales surrounding Ron Liner’s efforts are legendary and the fitness freaks who were regulars at the Kew Recreation Centre could not escape David Goldsmith in the mornings. We have all faced the

challenge of trying to sell tickets to “new Australians” and no matter how much we have complained, we have all enjoyed the experience of cajoling our friends and neighbours into supporting our efforts.

Regrettably the towing of the trailer on which our “goodies” were stacked became a difficult logistics problem since the responsibility fell to fewer and fewer members and our selling times extended into Thursdays as well.



Glen Walmsley and Tom Wing Young sell raffle tickets assisted by a Rotaract “Santa”

But in the years in which we still had the stocking on the trailer it certainly attracted attention. Many are the times on which the cover was not sufficiently secured and it flapped in the breeze around North Balwyn streets! Members will remember the occasions on which we had to hurriedly cover the trailer to keep the presents dry.

No one who was present will ever forget the sheer embarrassment of Clive Hughes when the raffle was drawn in his year as President and his ticket was drawn for the first prize, and Clive generously accepted second prize instead!

The Christmas raffle could not have been as successful as it has been without the support of all club members and their wives, partners and families who have year after year sold tickets and braved the elements. It is strange how, in more recent



*A junior admirer draws the raffle while
club members await the result*

years, the organisation of the raffle has fallen to relatively new members but, without the wonderful efforts put in by the all those responsible for its organisation, this important fund raising project would not continue to be the success that it is.

The Christmas raffle has now contributed over \$180,000 to our Service Account.

Cash-a-Can

This project required a roster of members to man the cage in the car park in Camberwell near the Target store and was commenced in 1987. The results from the first cage were \$592.80 for 7780kg. The profit on this was \$167 which was matched dollar for dollar by Comalco, so the Club earned \$334. Over the six years that we "manned the cage", we raised \$20,068 for the Service Account to help support our program of giving to charitable organisations.

It was the opinion of many Club members this was the best fellowship opportunity we had. It allowed you to really get to know your "cans partner" and solve all the problems of the world while waiting for cars laden with cans and children, and some adults, eager for the \$ reward for their collection activities.

It was noted on a number of occasions, that parents were standing aside to let a son or daughter, who had done all the hard work, reap the rewards. In fact, it was an excellent training ground in that respect.

On other occasions when incoming cans were a little slow, wagers on car parking accidents became the order of the day.

Many members had fascinating experiences as they tried to “re-arrange” the can load in the cage!! We were chased by wasps and frequently had great difficulty getting out again. The fun and joys of extracting “blue metal” from the bags presented by would-be Christopher Skase schoolboys hopeful of having a greater weight recognised, presented quite a challenge, even to Ron Liner.

Here is a “Grapevine” extract from July, 1988 describing a “cans” duty.

“Very typical winter morning. Started with some sunshine, then rain during which it became busy with customers. Cage over three-quarters full, climbed on top, raked like mad. Then Glen developed the ramp idea, took the side door off hinges and laid it on existing cans making a stand platform to push cans to the top of the cage to make it easier for next week’s crew. Discussed family and Rotary while waiting for the next bingle. Got thoroughly wet and smelly in the process. Had two morning teas, old hands you see, but not much of a result today handing out \$111.70 for 155kg. The things we do in the name of Rotary!!”



“Correct weight?”

Cash-a-can “Sights to Behold”.

Clive Hughes clambering up the ladder and standing on top of the cage, unable to get down without guidance!!

Lew Lustig in the cage to move cans across, and unable to get out without help!!

David Morris, on a bad day, calculating the hourly rate of return on labour charge-out rates!!



John Thwaites and Bob Ballantyne awaiting the next client

Fashion Parades

Fund raising is always a matter of key concern for any service club and in this we were no different, particularly in the early years. The Fashion Parade concept actually began in the Club with a do-it-yourself parade organised by Dorothy Clark and Judy Reddish at the Auburn Heights Bowling Club in 1982.

The “think big” concept was led by Ron Liner who, during the 1982-83 year, suggested a Fashion Parade as THE vehicle for fund raising. The Bra Shop organisation had offered to put on a Fashion Parade consisting of swimwear, lingerie, night wear, cover-ups and sportswear, free of charge, if the Club could organise the venue and the program around it. In February 1983 Fund Raising Director Paul Fitz put the proposal the Board for acceptance. A committee was formed and preparations made for the parade and dinner to be held at the Camberwell Civic Centre on 10 Nov 1983.

On the night, 597 people attended and, following hors d'oeuvre in the foyer, sat down to dinner. Comperes were Paula Duncan and John Orcsik and six Big M girls modelled the garments in a 50-minute presentation produced by David Book and Bryan Zukar of the Bra Shop. Following the parade, pianist and singer, Peter Sullivan, provided the audience with classical, popular and sing-a-long music. There were lucky door prizes and raffles and after it was all over the Club netted \$6,932, a little disappointing for the amount of effort but sufficiently successful to try again the following year.

A very effective debriefing session led to a proposal for a “Fashion Spectacular” that was accepted by the Board in March, 1984 with the “Spectacular” to be held on two nights, 10 and 11 August again at the Camberwell Centre and produced by Maurice Rinaldi.

A report in the “Doncaster Mirror” of 10 April 1984 was headed “Ron’s running – for fashion and Rotary” and started off “Ron Liner is a captivating man. He bubbles at North Balwyn Rotary meetings with talk of the Club’s coming fashion spectacular.”

Ron, of course had visited everyone of importance at Westfield’s Doncaster Shoppingtown, and gained commitments from many of the boutiques to participate and for Promotions Manager, Athena Gekas, to lead the way and compere the event.

Max Walker also agreed to assist with compereing. It was billed as an evening of entertainment and the fact that profits would support the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and other community service projects gave a great impetus.

Over the two nights some 600 people had excellent meals, plenty to drink, raffles with very generously donated prizes, valuable door prizes, an outstanding compere and entertainment, an exhausting segment from the Nautilus Aerobatics Dance Team and a really spectacular parade

An Evening of Glamour
Elegance, Gourmet 3 Course
Dinner, Wine and Music

**FASHION
SPECTACULAR**

Presented by

Westfield Shoppingtown Doncaster
And North Balwyn Rotary Club.

Where

Camberwell Civic Centre

When

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th August
1984 at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

The parade itself consisted of men’s and women’s summer fashions, ranging from swimwear to outerwear/sportswear to evening wear, all supplied by 16 boutiques from Shoppingtown.

With some 15 models and special lighting effects everyone was well satisfied with their night out. Yes, there were a couple of hitches on the Saturday night but they could not detract from the success of the event and the excellent work put in by the committee and the large team of members who supported them.



Ron Liner, in his prime, with some of the girls!

Under Paul Fitz, as Chairman and Ron Liner, as Sponsor coordinator, the committee comprised David Cheney, Peter Cleary, David Goldsmith, Kevin Maunder, John Reddish, Morry Rubenstein, Roger Wiggill, Tom Wing Young and David Wornell, with many others assisting particularly in the lead up preparation. Final profits were \$6092 of which \$1225 was contributed to ARHRF.

In 1985, our Fashion Parade was at Marwal Avenue, on 14 September, before an audience of 170 members, their partners and friends and raised \$1,420. "Avante" Boutique, "Match and Set" of Kooyong (Pauline Benallack) and "Sportsman" of Glenferrie provided garments with a great range modelled by our members and their wives.



Some of the "models" – Di McLean, Sue Fitz, Geoff Clark, Jan Cheney, Gloria & Morry Rubenstein, Carmel Hughes & compere David Goldsmith.

Our own Carmel Hughes and David Goldsmith compered the evening with catering by Bob Johnson's Spit Roasts. The Smitherines Aerobics Team led by Anne Muntwyler and Gloria Rubenstein provided the additional entertainment for the evening. The evening was very relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Since then we have modelled gear at various fellowship nights and when involved in Rotaract functions and, on that score, P.P. Tony McLean holds the perpetual award as "male model of the year"!

Charity Auctions

Without a substantial income from various forms of fund raising we would be unable to support the many organisations, individuals and Rotary programs that we have.

Resulting from three Charity Auctions held in 1993, 1995 and again in 1997, our beneficiaries have shared in the \$68,400 that these occasions have raised.

Our first Charity Auction was held at the Camberwell Civic Centre on 9 October 1993 and was organised by a committee chaired by David Cheney. His team included Peter Elliott, Geoff Griffiths, Max Hunter, Imre Lele, John Mollison and Terry Keyhoe who put in many hours of work preparing for the occasion. More than 330 people attended our "Rotary Meeting" under the chairmanship of PDG Greg Ross. President Roger Benallack told the assembled guests a little about Rotary and indicated that the bulk of the funds raised would go to Kidcare, the Bone Marrow Institute and the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. Peter Elliott and Keith Glover very professionally auctioned approximately \$40,000 worth of donated "Goods and Services". Later in the evening David Goldsmith and John Thwaites effectively "worked" the desk to collect the results of the auctioneers' efforts.

The "silent auction" was a major attraction and added to the wonderful fun and fellowship of the evening. Between the three auction segments the Xavier College Band entertained us and it was not only the ladies who showed great interest in the Lingerie Parade presented by Liz Sullivan! A great meal was served and all present had a most enjoyable and effective fund raising evening.

Our next Charity Auction was held Saturday, 13th May 1995 and was also our Club Birthday night. Under the joint chairmanship of Stan Hibbert and Clive Hughes a strong committee, including Chris Howell from Rotaract, organised an excellent night. With Greg Ross again as compere and an excellent performance from the Wesley College Big Band, we were all thoroughly and enjoyably entertained. There were excellent efforts from our joint auctioneers Peter Elliott and Jim Studebaker, making a 100% clearance of the many goods donated.

Our Rotaractors excelled by taking four tables and assisting as auctioneers' runners throughout the evening, and our ladies' committee again did a sterling job with decorations and ensuring that we were well fed. Our two target charities the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and the Bone Marrow Institute shared the greater part of the \$23,600 raised.

The third Charity Auction was planned to be held during the 1996-97 Rotary year but was held over into 1997-98 to ensure a good spread of Service income over the two years. Approximately 360 people attended a dinner and Charity Auction at the Camberwell Civic Centre on 23rd August 1997 when over 400 items, canvassed from business houses by our members and by members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury, were auctioned.

Our Fund Raising Chairperson, Ian Taylor, was supported both by an extremely hard-working committee and by members and ladies from the rest of the Club. Again, we were supported of our Rotaractors and many of our friends. The night was a spectacular success with good food, dancing and entertainment. Jim Studebaker was an excellent MC and our auctioneers, Peter Elliott and Findley Cornell caught everyone's eye at all the wrong moments! Trevor Donkin led the Canterbury team, and personally was of great assistance, and Liz Hirons provided strong Rotaract support. A terrific evening on which our specially named charity, the Royal Children's Hospital Hormone Research Unit, was the major beneficiary.

The Rotary Diary

In 1991, Glen Walmsley introduced the idea of the annual production of a Rotary Diary that could be sold to all clubs in Australia. This was a major event and had the potential for a once ever Australia wide project. The diary was planned to match diaries that are available commercially but to have Rotary themes and superior photographs of Australia's natural features with an emphasis on Melbourne and Victoria. After tireless work by Glen and his committee, agreement to proceed was obtained from the Rotary South West Pacific Office and all 23 District Governors to be able to sell in every Rotary District – no mean feat!

Production proceeded, with all necessary copyright conditions being met and the permission of R.I. related to the payment of a substantial commission. After much heartache and hard work and an immense commitment from the originator, the diary was produced in each of the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 and sold throughout the country. Endorsement was received from Past R.I. President Royce Abbey and from Bob Aitken (RDU). With the support of all Club members in contacting clubs and in soliciting orders, 4,285 diaries were sold in 1991-92 to 293 Rotary Clubs.

However, many clubs showed an excessively parochial attitude and saw this only as a fund-raiser from a club other than their own, and could not accept the aim of something that could unify Rotary clubs throughout Australia in a common effort.

Under a royalty agreement R.I. received \$3,852 and, also under agreement, donations were made to Rotary Foundation of \$3,782 and Australian Rotary Health Research Fund of \$4,247 leaving the Club with a deficit of \$508. The following year 3155 diaries were sold but the operating loss was \$1,050 with, in addition, royalties to R.I. of \$2,946.

Everyone in our Club admired Glen Walmsley for his enthusiasm and effort and we were disappointed when we found it impossible to establish the diary as a profitable on-going Club project.

Our Ladies' Direct Fund Raising

Throughout our Club's history we have enjoyed the support of our wives and partners in all our activities and that has made so many of our projects successful. In addition there have been two fund raising activities run entirely by our ladies.

Card Luncheon

In 1991 a small group of wives of North Balwyn Rotarians, who enjoyed a game of Solo (cards) were invited to a Charity Fund Raising Card Luncheon at the M.C.G. We all enjoyed the day so much that the next time we met to play cards, always on a night when our men were at Rotary, we decided we could arrange a Card Luncheon – proceeds to go to a worthy cause.

So in October 1991 the Rotary Club of North Balwyn Ladies Card Luncheon commenced. The M.C.G. was happy to allow us the use of the John Landy room, for the first few years free of charge, but then at the charity rate. Initially Noma Wing Young took charge of the catering and all our ladies have helped by baking “slices” or providing donations and raffle prizes and help on the day, and all their friends to make up the numbers to play cards. Initially we had 100 players but at times this has reached 180.



Norma Wing Young presents the cheque from the 1991 Card Luncheon to President Ron Phillips

In the first nine years, over \$22,500 was raised with proceeds being donated to various charities such as the Bone Marrow Institute, Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Association for the Blind.

The “girls” who started playing cards and were the original organisers of the Card Luncheon were: Carol Carr, Jan Cheney, Pat Cleary, Bev Hibbert, Anthea Mollison, June Phillips, Judy Reddish and Norma Wing Young.

The Luncheon was held at the MCG for the last time in the year 2000. as the re-building of the members stand made it unviable to continue at the MCG.

So, in 2001, the luncheon moved to the Kew Golf Club. This has proven to be a very popular venue with easy travel and parking. The Golf Club attends to all catering and generally handles the function very well. There are consistently 150 ladies attending and playing bridge, solo or mah-jong. The raffle is very well supported by the ladies and the local traders who donate superb prizes.

In order to raise more funds for the nominated charity – Ovarian Cancer Research – the organisers enlisted the support of the sewers, knitters and craftswomen associated with the Rotary Club. This group was formed in 2006 and became known as the “Crafty Ladies”.

This enabled the ladies to have a hospitality table at the Card Lunch, stocked with the wonderful items made by the ‘Crafty Ladies’. This has been very popular with the card players who also like to shop.



The Ladies in full concentration at The Kew Golf Club

The committee also held a Christmas Craft Fair in 2008 which was very successful and boosted the proceeds. Since 2001, \$29,708.00 has been donated to the Ovarian Cancer Foundation at the Royal Women’s Hospital in support of their research projects. In the 18 years the Luncheon has been held, \$52,351.00 has been raised. This function demonstrates the enormous value generated by the involvement of the partners of our Club members.



Dr. Michael Quinn accepting a cheque for the proceeds of the Ladies Card Luncheon from June Phillips and Anthea Mollison

Christmas Craft Fair

On 6th August, 2009, a small group of North Balwyn Rotary ladies gathered at the home of Jo Wells for soup and rolls to discuss a possible Christmas Fair, and chose the Eva Tilley Memorial Home as its beneficiary.

After being most fortunate in obtaining some wonderful fabrics from Saker fabrics in East Hawthorn, the sewers set to work. They met every three weeks for more soup and rolls, “show and tell”, encouragement and chatter.

A marvellous array of furnishings, children’s clothing, gifts, Christmas decorations and food was produced for sale at Trinity Uniting Church, North Balwyn on 21st November, 2009.

The week immediately prior to the fair had produced the highest maximum and minimum temperatures ever recorded in Melbourne for the month of November but, come the Saturday of the fair, the day was overcast and cool – to the enormous relief of a wonderful group of workers and friends, as many members of the public turned up to see the most impressive display.

The work and efforts of all concerned was rewarded with \$6,500 being raised.

How lucky were we, as shortly after the fair was closed, North Balwyn was awash as two days of heavy rain arrived.

The proceeds were spent on purchasing a new digital piano, and the furnishing of one of the respite rooms in Eva Tilley’s new building.



The wonderful display of items at the Christmas Craft Fair, 2009

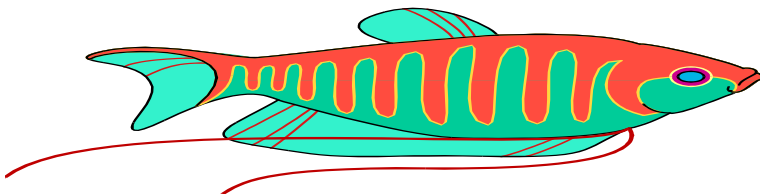
Participants in the Christmas Fair (Sewers, Cooks, Helpers and Friends):-

Alison Adams, Ivy Angleton, Michael Barden, Carmel Bott, Brenda Bowden, Heather and Bob Bromley, Jan Cheney, Pat Cleary, Findley Cornell, Barry Cummings, Robyn Elliott, Sue Fitz, Carmel Francis, Mary George, Diane and Hugo Goetze, Jessica and Terry Gretton, Ailsa Head, Areta and Brian Hurnard, Rosemary Kelly, Lorna Lee, Heather Matthews, Kristine McDonell, Anthea Mollison, Mary O'Connor, Bill Oakley, Jane Pauli, Jane Pennington, June Phillips, Helen Rennie, Lyn Schwartz, Ursula Smith, Bev Sofra, Judy Steinicke, Pat Taylor, Jo and Tony Wells, and Margaret and Ted Wilkins

Smoked Salmon Sales

This fund raising activity was commenced in 1992 following a suggestion from the Ladies Support Group that was formed to help run the Adelaide District Conference in Greg Ross' year as District Governor. The group was given the responsibility to design a conference outfit (not a uniform) for all men and ladies in our team and to raise funds to help defray the cost of the outfits.

Pauline Benallack, with the able support of Roger, instigated and ran the Smoked Salmon fund raising project and in the Conference year \$1,050 was raised.



The project was well supported and considered to be a fairly painless way of raising funds as well as providing a tasty morsel at favourable prices to our members and friends.

Successive Presidents requested that the project be continued. Up until June 2000, a total of \$9,645 had been successfully “caught”.

Toss The Coin

This was a raffle fundraising initiative, commenced by the Rotary Club of Maribyrnong Highpoint, the prize for which was the opportunity to ‘Toss The Coin’ at the AFL Grand Final and the retention of the specially minted gold coin valued at \$10,000, front row seats at the Grand final and a return trip for two to Wimbledon.

Proceeds from the project were donated to the then Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (now Australian Rotary Health), the Rotary Club of Maribyrnong Highpoint and The Victorian Olympic Council.

Advertising material and/or raffle tickets together with ticket mail order facilities were mailed to every Rotary Club in Australia and over the nine year life of the project, the net return was in excess of \$1 million.

The “Copper Pot” (Now the “Silver Pot”)

This is the pewter mug circulated at each weekly meeting in to which members deposit any loose copper coins (now silver coins) they have in their pockets or hand bags. Such a great idea was this that it subsequently became a District Coordinated Project.

For many years, the money collected has been allocated to Australian Rotary Health. From 2001 - 2002 to 2008 – 2009, funds raised through this weekly meeting collection system have averaged \$991 each year resulting in \$7926 being given to the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (now known as Australian Rotary Health).

NBTT

Ian Richardson: We’ve got another great opportunity next month for some more easy pickings down at Werribee. All we have to do is take money from cars.

Lap The Track

After a lengthy absence, the Formula One Grand Prix returned to the Albert Park racetrack in March 1996.

In December 1995, following discussion between Phil Francis and Judith Griggs, the CEO of the Grand Prix Corporation, our Club was given permission to conduct a raffle the prize for which would be a lap around the track on the main race day. This would be in a Super V8 Holden Dealer Team vehicle, fully prepared for competitive racing, with Peter Brock at the wheel.

"Lap The Track" raffle tickets went on sale in January 1996 through the D9800 Rotary clubs, Mobil service stations throughout Victoria, Holden dealers, car clubs, and the general public.

At the Melbourne Motor Show 10 days prior to the Grand Prix, Peter Brock drew the winning ticket, which had been bought by a racing car enthusiast from Frankston.

In the first year the raffle raised \$19,819 (net) and in the following two years raised a further \$18,128.



Peter Brock draws the winning ticket while Phil Francis and Bernie Smith act as scrutineers.

NBTT

Ian Richardson: "I need someone to fill next Saturday afternoon's timeslot outside Dan Murphy's for the Christmas raffle. No takers?...No?"

Chris Flavelle-Smith (of Le Pines Funeral Directors): "I could change my Saturday morning timeslot to the afternoon if that would help, Ian"

Ian: "Thanks, Chris, but no! What I really want is a body...Still no offers?...Well, I'll have to think and before I leave here tonight, we'll just have to see who we can dig up!"

Riverdance

The Riverdance show toured Australia in the second half of 1997 and through into 1998 and it was our entrepreneurial Terry Keyhoe who generated the idea that we should try to gain access to a show for charity purposes. The Board approved and through his many contacts, Terry set the wheels in motion.

The result was that we were granted rights to a share of the ticket cost for each ticket sold for the final performance in Melbourne on 28 February 1998. Through his own and Rotary channels, the show was advertised extensively and was displayed on our newly established web site.

A vast amount of hard work by Terry and the members of his committee saw approximately 3,500 tickets sold for an income to the Club of \$62,000.

Our selected charities of the Royal Children's Hospital, Very Special Kids and the Variety Club benefited by receiving \$18,000 each, and \$8,000 went into our Service Account

This great effort also laid the foundation for a similar charity performance in Sydney.

Prior to this, of course, the international Riverdance group had made such an impression internationally that many local groups used the opportunity to display their skills in the area of Irish dancing. One such group, shown below with Hazel Thackray, was the Cosgriff Irish Dancers who gave a spectacular performance on the opening night of our "Melbourne on Yarra" conference in 1997.



Hazel Thackray and the 1997 Cosgriff Irish Dancers

Freeway Golf

Since the 1987-88 Rotary year, a major focus of the Club's fund raising has been the interest of so many of our members in golf. However, interest in golf itself and green fees paid to participate in a round of golf or a "Hole-in-One" competition can only raise limited amounts of money.

It is sponsorship that is the major fundraiser and the efforts of successive Fund Raising Chairman have been strongly directed to this aspect. Campaigns have involved approaches to many of our business associates and major companies based around a specially produced brochure specifying Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships.

These brochures have lauded our Club's, and Rotary's, support of the needy in the national and international communities and have offered advertising on billboards on the Freeway and signage on the course.

The first event, a "Hole-in-One" competition held over the two weekends of 17/18 and 24/25 October 1987, was organised by a committee chaired by David Cheney and this set the pattern for our continuing successes. And, for the most part, they have been great successes, with over \$160,000 raised to support our Service program.

None of this could have been possible without an immense amount of effort from successive Chairmen and their committees and from Club members, their wives and families, our Rotaractors and a host of other friends of the Club.



*The three 1987 finalists, including David Cheney (left)
and ultimate winner, Stephen Silvagni (right)*

The support of the professionals and greens staff at the Freeway Golf Course and of the Camberwell / Boroondara Councils has been essential and this has been made available to us, albeit sometimes with a little coercion.

In the early years, prior to the weekend on which the golf was being run, we saturated North Balwyn, East Kew and all surrounding areas with notices on stakes and on lampposts advertising the event. This may not have done us much good as protagonists for the environment, but it certainly attracted attention and brought in some “punters”.

A great deal of voluntary labour is needed to run the event. Sponsorship has to be sought and confirmed. Signs advertising sponsors had to be prepared and our signs maintained by our in-house construction team. The signs have to be erected overlooking the Freeway and this has involved some delicate negotiations with appropriate authorities.

A large net was required around the hole for the "Hole-in-One" to protect other golfers, a large tent erected as a hospitality centre, customer bays placed on the tee and bunting lavishly employed to advertise the location.

The Donvale Rotary Club's catering caravan was borrowed and towed to the site and in some years was used for sleeping accommodation for the Rotaractors who supervised the site overnight. A range of “appetising” food was prepared, usually under Tom Wing Young's supervision with the assistance of our ladies, and sold to competitors and passing golfers. Money had to be collected, results monitored, golf balls collected, cleaned and distributed and so the list goes on.

While many of our members do their bit in attracting sponsorship, it was Clive Hughes who was our specialist, almost telling six firms in his field to “cough up” the necessary \$3,000 each to be classed as a major sponsor. However, the recession of the early 90s, the one we had to have, made the gaining of sponsorship far more difficult.

The vagaries too of spring weather marring the event caused some reluctance and in the early 90s we moved our competition to the February / March / April period and in 1992-93 we ran our first Pro-Am competition in association with the “Hole-in-One”. 1994-95 saw the introduction of a one round tournament format alongside the “Hole-in-One” and 1996-97 saw our golf fund raising become a Charity Golf Day.

The amount of work required a large group of volunteers and this led to great fellowship. The event culminated each year with a barbecue and presentations, after which the gear had to be packed up and stored, storage always being a problem, with the use of a shipping container as one of the solutions.

The whole activity is remembered as a significant social event for the Club and, in spite of all the hard work, one which brings a great deal of enjoyment.

NBTT

Supermarket Manager: The presence of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn selling raffle tickets at our front door, is not helpful to the image of Leo's Fine Food and Wines.

In the inaugural year of 1987, the competition was eventually won after a “shoot-out” between five successful and skilful competitors who had each achieved the perfect shot. One of them was David Cheney, the event organiser that year, who as a Club member was ineligible for the main prize. It was Steven Silvagni, a neighbour of the Cheneyes, and better known for his football prowess, who was the eventual winner being closest to the pin after a number of shots.

The winner’s prize has usually been cash although in one year the small car offered was won by the previous year’s winner who used to spend hours hitting hundreds of balls with a low punched 5-iron shot to the hole. In some years there were no major successes but interest was maintained by distributing “closest to the pin” prizes each day.



*Imre Lele, Greg Ross, Clive Hughes, and Bernie Smith
clean and prepare the next set of missiles!*

John Gartlan Recalls:

The occasion when it was decided very late that we could proceed without the particular guest speaker organised when it turned out that she was a “lady of the night” who expected business or a suitable fee!

ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS

HOLE-IN-ONE

COMPETITION.

FROM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

6 - 7, 13 - 14 MARCH 1993

AT THE CAMBERWELL GOLF COURSE,

COLUMBA STREET, NORTH BALWYN.

PLAY OUR

PRO AM TOURNAMENT

ON SUNDAY 14 MARCH 1993,

ALSO AT THE

CAMBERWELL GOLF COURSE.

BOTH THESE EVENTS ARE

IN AID OF CANTEEN

(TEENAGE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP)

AND OTHER

ROTARY PROJECTS.



The golf day is now held in April and is very successful from a fellowship point of view and moderately so from the fund raising angle. The hospitality tent has been well patronised and the golf, from some participants, has been of a high standard. The competition is a Stableford being played in men's, women's and non-handicap sections. The men's non-handicap section has produced some very good scores as infrequent golfers reveal their high level of "inherent ability".

Trophies are in the form of vouchers redeemable at the Pro shop except for the hole in one prize which has yet to be won. It is for two people to enjoy a week at a Sheraton hotel in Bali with air travel arranged through Traveland courtesy of Ian Mollison. The "bookmaker" on the last hole offering odds on hitting into circles has been a nice little earner as expectations fail to match results.

Over the years many of our members have honed their driving skills in the golf carts as they drove back and forth from the hit off bays to the ball retrieval areas and others have learned how to dodge wayward golf balls! People like John Magor can now give excellent advice on the techniques involved in the pitching of tents and it's always interesting to reminisce with David Cheney on the art of scoring a hole-in-one and having to forsake the opportunity for a reward for skill!

Responsibility for organising this important fundraiser has been shared by several club members and they deserve the gratitude of all of us together with that of the charities such as Canteen, the Microsurgery Foundation and Bone Marrow Research Institute we have supported. But over the last few years it has been Ian Taylor who has shouldered the major burden and he deserves special thanks and praise for his efforts.

Special memories from David Robertson

- 1. Tree planting with local school children along the Freeway reserve.*
- 2. Hole in One Tournaments – being in the receiving area when the winner hit the hole in one to win the car and the atmosphere afterwards.*
- 3. 1988-90 - Tom Wing Young's special Chinese feasts for Club members and the 100 year old eggs, which I couldn't eat !!*

NBTT

Paul Fitz: Correction, Mr. President. I am Vice-President of The Kew Golf Club, not Vice-Captain.

Peter Courtney: I'm sorry. Paul. I've demoted you.

Paul: Not really, because there is no such position as Vice-Captain.

Peter: In that case, even worse. I have cast you into oblivion.

RCNB – The Caterers

Where did it all start? How have we progressed? Do we have fun?

From the outset the Club gained experience in the art of catering. In our first year the Club undertook its own catering for meals at its meetings, and it was not unusual when visitors arrived to meetings unexpectedly that a quick visit was made to the local “chicken bar” to acquire sufficient supplies for the night.

Over the years we progressed with BBQs, Christmas breakfasts, special occasions at District Conferences and for special outings such as taking disabled children to the Winneke Dam. We became experts in providing spit roast meals and in operating the Club's own BBQ, with Don Haycraft, of course, providing the meat, and we now boast many barbecue chefs supreme.

Our first major experience of providing for others was at the Aeromodellers displays. Under the supervision of Tom Wing Young and with the help of many members and their ladies, Geoff Steinicke's special contributions, and the banana pancake man, Wally Murray, we fed all of those who came to the many shows at which we assisted.

After such experiences, and the on-going occasional functions at Marwal Avenue, it was not too much of a leap to start our real activities at the Grand Prix in 1996 under the leadership of Terry Keyhoe and Phil Francis. The pressure became so great that it became necessary for a large number of our members to gain their “Food Handlers” certificate.

The catering at the 2000 Olympics followed and what an experience that was for the large number who participated. Mind you working for a catering company whose management and personnel left us aghast was no mean feat but we made it.

So where did we go from there? The Olympics in Athens in 2004 were a consideration, as were the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006. Unfortunately, neither eventuated.

One thing was for sure. Whatever we do, we will do well and we will have fun and great fellowship doing it. And maybe, yes, just maybe, will make lots of money for the Service Account. To December 2009, our public catering efforts alone have raised over \$250,000.

Catering - The Story Continues

Our history shows that as a club we have been in catering from the beginning. A mainstay of our catering efforts has been the breakfasts for the officials at the Formula One Grand Prix. For 14 years now our members have been dragging themselves out of bed around 4.00 am to get to Albert Park to cook eggs and bacon for the officials' breakfasts

Over the past ten years our catering efforts have blossomed to where we support a range of our own events like the Rotary River Rides and the Charity Golf Days with catering.

Around 2005 saw the commencement of Bill's (Oakley) jams, starting out just with tomato relish, but now supplying a range of jams, relishes and chutneys, to members and others and supplied by the steady contribution of fruit and cleaned empty jars coming back! ("£3 for the small size; £4 for the middle size; and £5 for the large size jars. Put your money in the Ovaltine Tin!")

Recent years have seen the growth in catering functions we provide for groups and organisations outside Rotary - everything from the ubiquitous sausage sizzles for cyclists and runners and archers and footballers, to sandwiches and soup and Devonshire teas for the craft makers.

The last year or two have seen us hone our skills as baristas through the supply of "real coffee" and snacks at the community cafe at Macleay Park on Saturday mornings

In all its various guises, catering now contributes well over \$20,000 per year to our various fundraising efforts

Aeromodellers Displays

Resulting from a business relationship between the President of the Doncaster Aeromodellers Club, Cliff McIver, and Peter Cleary, we embarked on our first public catering activity in March 1984. The Aeromodellers Display at Bulleen Park was a special event that on a good day attracted thousands of spectators. In addition to catering we became responsible for gate-takings, car parking and other general logistical arrangements.

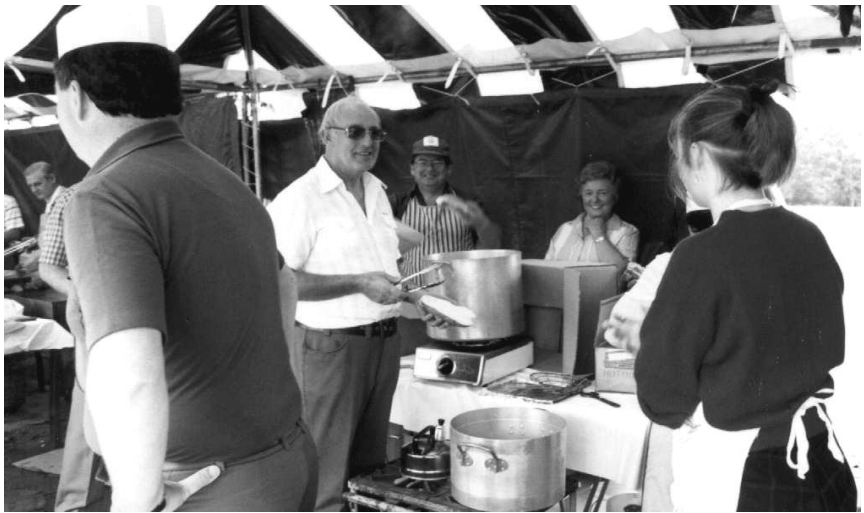
The first Aeromodellers Display was on a cold windy Sunday resulting in poor attendances, few sales, a muddy car park and an abundance of supplies. Tim Fletcher very effectively auctioned off the excess food to the public, from the rear of a tray truck.

The air display always ran well to schedule, offering plenty of interest to spectators of all ages and included, unintentionally, the occasional mid-air collision. Throughout the day aircraft zoomed every-other-which-way and parents gazed while kids, given the opportunity, scrambled for air-dropped lollies.

Glen Walmsley organised a publicity display at Doncaster Shopping town and somehow appeared to include an "extra-light" fresh in from a flight from UK.

Over the years, we quickly became experts in the many tasks involved and, regardless of weather, the club spirit and fellowship were tremendous. Some years the weather was excellent and we sold everything that we had.

Tom Wing Young took charge of catering and dim sims were always very popular. Geoff Steinicke provided a truck decked out as a giant Bisleri bottle selling soft drinks and ice creams. Ron Coates used a blow torch to boil the water for the hotdogs on a day when the cook-top failed, and no one who was present will forget the wonderful efforts of Stan and Bev Hibbert assisting Wally Murray with the cooking of banana crepes! Power supplies and PA systems were always questionable but we managed, and we had fun. Our ladies and families gave us marvellous support and it almost became a Club picnic day.



Clive Hughes, Stan Hibbert, David Cheney and Betty Carnell in action



The aeromodellers display at "Shoppingtown"

Some members became superior "car parking" attendants and skilled in crowd control at the entrance gates, but surprisingly none sought to change to this skilled occupation as a regular replacement job! And those on the "outside" became little boys again playing with the "walky-talkies" supplied for communication purposes.

Our last year for the Aeromodellers was 1992-93 but over the ten-year period we had raised nearly \$29,000 for the charities supported by our service account.

The Grand Prix

About four weeks before the Grand Prix in March 1996, the Club, through Phil Francis, was asked, and accepted the challenge to prepare and serve breakfast for the 1,200 race marshals, security and medical staff on each of the four days of the Grand Prix meeting. Terry Keyhoe made an outstanding contribution.

Using his entrepreneurial skills and bartering expertise, he organised marquees, mobile kitchens, generators, plumbers, cold storage, handling equipment and all the food required to serve and feed 5,000 people over four days.

All that was required of general Club members was to make themselves available on a roster to work at our Albert Park venue. Arrangements were made for the use of the Senior Citizens van with lead driver John Moyle, and the early team met each morning at 5:30am at Marwal Avenue to be transported to Albert Park. Identity tags caused some concerns but everything remained "under control".

Of course, the early starters were already getting things moving and we are most grateful not only to our own members but to the many willing associates, partners and Rotaractors without whom the activities would not have succeeded.



Part of our "team" ready for action

Over the years, the quality of our breakfasts became legend with our clientele and we were rushed off our feet to keep up with supplies from our kitchen staff. Many are the stories relating to cooking and cleaning in the kitchens and some of the practices, in our first years, would not have gained us praise from registered food handlers!

Catering activities continued on the same basis in 1997 and 1998. Subsequently, we were also invited to provide a sausage sizzle for the thousands of patrons who earn the right to walk pit straight early on race day.



A young Terry Keyhoe before he started the fund raising "spree"!



It's 1996 and PDG John and Judy do battle with the snags!

From 1999 onwards the Corporation allowed us to expand our catering activities by allowing us to sell food to the general public in the National Support Paddock and compete against the major contract caterers. This was previously forbidden and was recognition and a significant achievement for the Club.

Each year the Grand Prix Corporation nominates Victorian charities that are to share in the proceeds generated from peripheral fund-raising activities directly associated with the Grand Prix. As a direct result of our Club's efforts, many substantial donations have been made to nominated charities, generally at a special club meeting.

The Club's Annual Reports provide much greater detail of our involvement with the Grand Prix but it has really been the commitment of virtually every member and their families and friends and our Rotaractors that has made this an outstanding success.

However, although it is always dangerous to single people out, it is people like Terry Keyhoe, Phillip Francis, Ian Taylor, Ron Phillips, and John Moyle who have continuously given so much to ensure the success of our Grand Prix activities. One would almost think that Terry's business must run more successfully when he is not there!



It's 1999 and Bernie Smith serves the hungry public while Terry Keyhoe keeps a watchful eye on proceedings

Grand Prix Snippets

In 1996

John Moyle, with Geoff Steinicke as hired help, driving Terry's Dolphin Pools van first to Lorimer Street at 4.30am. They pick up rolls, sausages and eggs and drive very gingerly to the Fitzroy Street gate and into our area. They are met by a large contingent from the "early" shift anxiously awaiting to get the show on the road for the CAMS (Confederation of Motor Sports) crews who claim that our breakfasts are the best and best value of any they get anywhere in the country!

In 1998

The Rotaractors rostered members on each day to wash official cars and made \$750.

Our cooking marathon consumed 500kgs of sausages and 150 dozen eggs all hygienically handled by 500 pairs of gloves.

Special thanks to Carmel Hughes. Areta Hurnard and Jane Pennington who worked tirelessly in the kitchen, among many others, and to Christopher Goetze for his knack of being in the right place at the right time and getting recalcitrant equipment to work.

In 1999

Friday - 1,000 sausages in 35 minutes – Saturday - 1,100 sausages in 42 minutes! The retail outlet was good. Numbers and takings were down at breakfast and on Saturday night. Had a visit from a Health Inspector who said that some things could have been better and the food van was not up to requirements! But, we were allowed to continue!



From the "Progress Leader" – John Magor, Don Taylor and Peter Elliott.

In 2000

Bill Oakley led the Fund Raising team and didn't he do well! Turnover of over \$28,000 with gross profits at close to \$15,000. Great Club support but once again Terry's effort was tremendous!

In 2001

Ian Adams was in the hot seat with Jim Studebaker organising the roster. The top sales were made as our reputation keeps us to the forefront.



It's 2001, but where are the customers?



*Everyone looks too relaxed;
have they really been working?*

North Balwyn Rotary Olympic Team

From the contacts made and the experience gained at the Australian Grand Prix, our Club set about looking at how we could become involved in the Olympic dream and use this opportunity as a major fund raising event and a memorable fellowship experience for our members and their friends.

The end result, again organised by Terry Keyhoe, was a contract with the Olympic Stadium caterers, Sodexho, where our Club would provide approximately 150 people to work in its catering outlets with the wages earned being donated to Rotary. Thus was born the North Balwyn Rotary Olympic Team as we became affectionately known.



A small team consisting of Terry Keyhoe, Bob Adams, Bill Oakley and Lindsay Pegg was established to attend to the various organisational aspects of the project. It soon became evident that the logistics of pulling this task together were considerable.

Firstly, we needed to recruit 150 Rotarians and friends who were in a position to donate their time during the busy Olympic period.

Secondly, we needed to secure transport and accommodation for the team. Bearing in mind the high demand on buses and accommodation in Sydney over the Olympic period, it was necessary to restrict the number of volunteers working in Sydney at any one time to a maximum of 50. A roster involving three shifts of 4/5 days achieved this.

Fortunately, we were able to secure luxury coach transport to move our volunteers between Sydney and Melbourne and also to the Olympic Stadium on workdays. However, the jewel in the crown was the accommodation.

A large Scout Hall set in the leafy north-shore suburb of Lindfield was to become our home for the period of the Olympics. By Scout Hall standards, Lindfield is an excellent venue – large and with many rooms and a recently renovated and well appointed kitchen. This "4 star" accommodation was named "The Lindfield Hilton" by the volunteers and will be fondly remembered for years to come by all who slept there and dined in the silver service "Bill Oakley Restaurant".

Strong support was received from other Rotary Clubs with the 150 volunteers being made up of members from our club, Albert Park and Canterbury, Rotaractors from North Balwyn, Canterbury and Altona as well as family and friends of Rotarians.

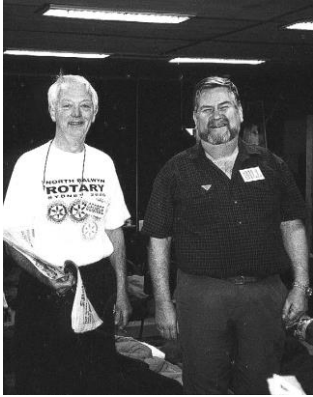
On Sunday 10 September 2000, Greg and Heather Matthews and Paul and Sue Fitz drove to Sydney to prepare the Lindfield Scout Hall for the arrival of the first group at the "Lindfield Hilton" the following Tuesday evening. Their immediate reaction was that of the five star rating of the accommodation four and a half stars had got lost somewhere!

On arrival at the hall, the keys were eventually located and our inspection commenced. The hall was beautifully located in natural bushland and was quite large. However, it was found to be filthy and contained only two showers, one of which didn't work, and a couple of toilets, with the urinal exposed to passing traffic! The kitchen looked adequate, and somehow we had to make the hall habitable in just two days.

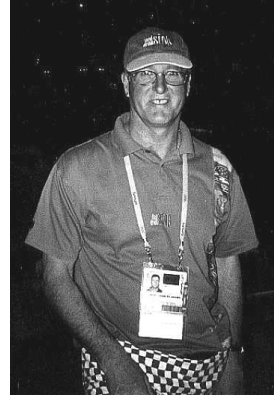
Later, with the arrival of Bob Adams (Den Mother), Bill Oakley (Chef Extraordinaire) and George Selkrig (General Handyman), and after dinner at a local Italian restaurant, we made plans for the next day. The Venturers based at the hall were as surprised to see us as we were them but they soon packed up and left, without cleaning the bathroom!

Firstly, the whole Scout Hall was cleaned and vacuumed throughout. The main room was divided into two, with one half being designated as the dining room and set up with 13 trestle tables. The other half was to accommodate 24 men together with the seven side rooms for the snorers in the pious hope that their isolation may allow others to enjoy a "good night's sleep".. Two rooms used by the Venturers were allocated to the ladies. Arriving with the bus would be foam rubber mattresses and sleeping bags. Working on a presumption that the mattress width would be 2'6" and with the help of chalk, adequate

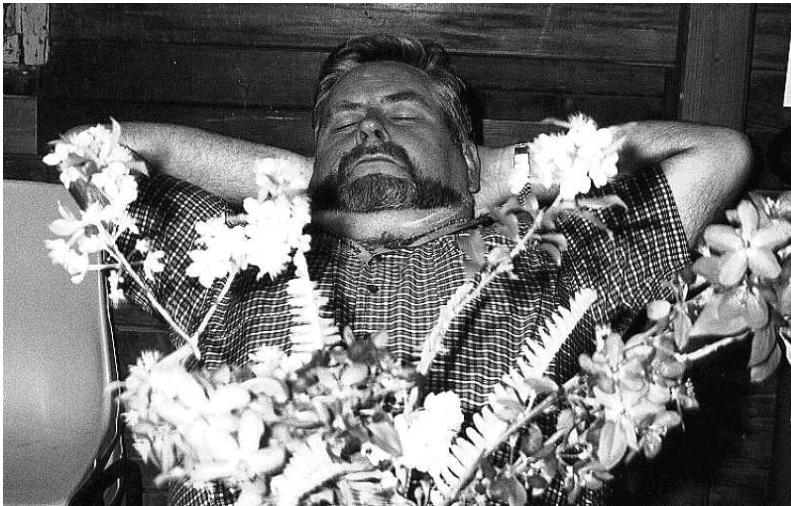
space was available. This space became quite intimate when it was found that the mattresses were 3'!



*(Left)
Handyman,
George Selkrig,
and Chef, Bill
Oakley.*



*(Right) Den
Mother, Bob
Adams*



Do not disturb! Chef asleep!

As time went on, the dulcet tones from our treasured chef made us wonder how Bill actually slept through his own snoring. Others were soon to experience this magnificent phenomenon. Bill, out of sheer exhaustion, or habit, or the need to rise early to prepare breakfast, was able to fall asleep almost the moment his head touched the pillow. By the time the third of our groups arrived, Bill had been moved to sleep in a tent on the lawn out side the hall.

Portable shower and toilet blocks were delivered and hooked up to the sewerage on the Monday. Paul assisted the driver in unloading the blocks in a very tight space. When completed, the driver, with shaved head and arms covered with tattoos, inquired as to what was going on.

Paul explained that a group of Rotarians and their families and friends from Melbourne were coming in three groups to assist the main stadium caterers and were donating their earnings to charity. He stood for a moment then silently removed his leather gloves and extended his right hand to Paul with "I would be proud if you would shake my hand!"



The first "crew"; what a polished lot?

An independent fire assessment of the Scout Hall was in progress. When it was realised that the wooden hall could be a firetrap, the assessor was asked to quote for smoke alarms. A very embarrassed man indicated a price of \$60 each. Greg Matthews bought some locally and installed them at a cost of \$10 per alarm!

Bill Oakley organised the food purchases necessary to feed 50 people and the local liquor store became very friendly when the first order came to more than \$600!

Finally the hall was ready to receive the first group. A circuitous route needed to be found for the bus when it was found that the Lindfield railway underpass was 2" too low and overhead bridges would not carry the weight. The bus finally arrived at 10.30pm and, as its weary passengers alighted, there was an expectation of what they would think of the "Lindfield Hilton". Bob Adams briefed the group and he was left with the message, "After a while, it grows on you!" Not one complaint was received, and the North Balwyn crew was ready to take on the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

To ensure that the bus trip and stay at the Lindfield Hilton was an enjoyable experience for all, Bus Captains, Head Honcho, Den Mothers, Liquor Captain, Head Chef and apprentices were elected from the volunteers. Their responsibilities were wide and varied ranging from organising sleeping arrangements to gourmet cooking as well as ensuring a great time was had by all.

The Lindfield Golf Cup and a sightseeing bus trip of Sydney's lights & bridges were just a couple of the fellowship highlights. An enjoyable social night was organised with three of the Sydney based Rotary Clubs of Lindfield, North Sydney & Woollahra.



A home away from home. Gregor Matthews and Ian Taylor “dry” while Areta Hurnard “gets in the sink!”



R & R time. Part of the “crew” outside the “recreation hut”!

Special T-Shirts with the Rotary Wheel incorporated in the Olympic Rings on the front and "The Rotary Olympic Team" on the back were provided to all volunteers by our Club. These shirts clearly identified the team with Rotary and created awareness among staff and spectators alike in the Olympic Precinct, of Rotary's Olympic involvement.

Our team worked in a variety of food and liquor outlets in the main stadium. We quickly became experts in cooking fish and chips, pizzas and hot dogs as well as serving that wonderful brew, Fosters. Also, as a bonus during the quieter work moments, we were able view the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Kathy Freeman's 400 metre final and other major events. It also provided us with the opportunity to explain to the young people working along side of us what Rotary was all about and what we were trying to achieve from our involvement in the Olympics. We quickly gained their respect and often found ourselves providing guidance on day to day work matters.

The event proved to be a great promotion for Rotary, both internally and externally, as well as being an excellent fundraising venture with some \$46,000.00 gross being raised.

The fellowship was overwhelming. A strong bond was built with other Rotary and Rotaract Clubs and long-term friendships were cemented, the latter resulting in new members to Rotary.

If sleeping on a mattress on the floor of a Scout Hall sounds like your idea of fun, we had that too! I also didn't realise that there were so many women out there who were able to snore at a noise level far exceeding some men I have known (I'm talking about father, brother and other relatives here). The snoring was funny, at first!!

And now for some sidelights on the experience!

From our own Ann Kerr

In trying to write of some of the funny incidents, I don't see anything funny about rising from a warm, comfy bed at 5.00am on a Friday morning to join another forty or so people to travel on a bus to Sydney. It wasn't funny, but we had some fun. Everyone was required to introduce themselves using the microphone – there were long versions, short versions and some humorous stories. Introductions were essential because we had a number of Rotaractors and young non-member volunteers to assist us.



Paul and Sue Fitz pose outside the Sydney "SuperDome"

Our first shift on duty was funny too – that's because it took one of the young lads and me about two hours to find our duty stall. We reckon by the time we had finished looking in numerous lifts, stairwells, fire exits and the like, we were probably ready for any emergency – we had such a good look around. Although come to think of it, we were still getting lost by the last day! Sometimes it was handy to get lost; you could always find a

seat in the arena and watch the athletes! After all, wasn't that why we volunteered our services?!!

Working for sixteen to seventeen year-old "bosses" was amusing at times. Very often they were full of instructions for us, but, often, with very little common sense. One young lady had me rotating pies from the top shelf of an oven to the next shelf and so on, meanwhile pies were being sold from any section when things were really busy – I lost track and gave up on that job. It was easier to disappear to fill up the condiments bar which was on the outside of the food outlet, one was able to have some fun, there, with the public who were all enjoying themselves.

On the way home, our bus was expected to pass the bus with the third group of volunteers heading north. We were hoping to meet for lunch and I was looking forward to this particularly because my fellow Rotarian/partner/lover, Graeme, was on the other bus. Alas, as close as we got was a phone call describing our positions on the highway, thus allowing us to wave to each other for a few seconds when the buses crossed paths. That was not funny; I was looking forward to a little kiss at least!!

My friend Jenny and I were not too popular on the trip home because we were a little noisy by having too much of a giggle remembering the silly things we did as younger things. All the others had worn themselves out having such a good time (and working so hard), that they wanted to sleep all the way back to Melbourne. Well we were having fun!!

Overall, the whole Olympic event was fun for club members and friends; we were privileged to be a part of such a wonderful experience.

And a poem from the Albert Park Club

On behalf of the team from Albert Park Club,
We thank you for letting us share,
A small part of history, we will never forget
The experience of just "being there".

The memories we made we will treasure forever,
Some thrilled us and some horrified,
Like sleeping together with 31 men,
Making noises from all orifices.

A Rotary team is all chiefs and no braves,
As our bus driver learnt very fast,
Go this way, go that way, the poor guy had kittens,
Till we picked up the bedding at last!

Well the party's all over, it's all over Marcell!
But we're left with so many new friends
And we've added a page to the Rotary tale
A story we hope never ends.

Albert Park Rotarians, when attending a joint meeting at North Balwyn, also decided to make some "Medal Presentations to:-

Gold Medal for Foresight
Gold medal for Staff Work
Gold medal at "Mother Superior"
Gold medal as "Chief Cook"

Terry Keyhoe
Lindsay Pegg
Bob Adams
Bill Oakley

Thank you North Balwyn!!

Another great Olympic and Rotary success story

The Torch Bearers

Prior to the Sydney 2000 Olympics all members were delighted that Eve Lustig and Ron Liner were selected as Torch Bearers for the great Torch Relay. What a proud moment for Eve and for Ron and their families and friends, and for our Rotary Club!



*Eve Lustig (above right) with her mother and friends.
Rotarian husband Lewis at far right*



Ron Liner with sons Mark and Daniel

Jazz at the Farm

In November 2005 the club embarked on a new type of fund raising event – Jazz at the Farm – held at the Collingwood Children’s Farm.

The venue was perfect – a grassy paddock on the banks of the Yarra and surrounded by high banks that operated as a natural soundshell. A stage was erected and the public sat on the grass or on their own folding chairs.

The event was to raise funds for the Organ Donor Foundation – a charity that has had Rotary support for a number of years.

A seven person organizing committee was set up 9 months prior to the event and each member was responsible for one of the major segments of the event – advertising, musicians, program, catering, site infrastructure, administration and finance.

The music was “trad jazz” and the program featured a range of top-line bands – school bands from Balwyn High and Wesley and eight of Melbourne’s top trad jazz groups. A highlight was the appearance of Bob Barnard - an icon in Australian trad jazz.

Entry was \$30 per day with discounts for seniors and children.



The Balwyn High School Band

The weather was hot on both days so the drink stall (beer, wine and soft drink) was very busy.

The public was able to walk around the farm and special tours were arranged for the children to “meet the animals”.

Jazz at the Farm gave every Rotarian an opportunity to participate and it was very pleasing to see that over 80% of the Club became involved.

While not a financial success due to a shortfall in attendance figures, the event was applauded by the 700 – 800 people who did attend. The Club was encouraged to continue to hold the event, and was congratulated by all the musicians for the professional manner in which the event was organized.



Some of the spectators relaxing and enjoying the music.

Rotary River Ride

In mid 2003, a number of members, at the initiative of Michael Barden, considered organising and running a community bike ride. The club has always had a significant number of recreational cyclists amongst its membership and it was felt this would help the event get off the ground by using their experience and contacts.

After a number of meetings, it was decided to proceed with the event on Sunday 16th November 2003 and organise the route and administration of the event. A number of different routes were considered and eventually it was decided to settle on the bike paths

along the Yarra which wound up to the back of Eltham. This had the added benefit of providing the obvious name for the event - The Rotary River Ride.

A promotional poster for the Rotary River Ride. The top half features a photograph of two cyclists riding on a paved path through a park-like setting with trees and a wooden bridge in the background. Below the photo is a dark blue banner with white and yellow text. On the left of the banner is the Rotary logo. On the right is a circular portrait of a woman. The text on the banner includes the event name, purpose, date, location, distances, a prize offer, and contact information. At the bottom is a yellow banner with the website URL. A small image of a blue bicycle is also present on the right side of the blue banner.

 **Rotary River Ride**
Supporting Cancer Research
When: Sunday 21st November
Where: Starting and Finishing at Hays Paddock, Kew.
Rides: 5km, 25km and 50km from 9am.
Pre Register for a chance to **WIN**
Valued at \$500 DONATED BY 
CONTACT
www.rotaryriverride.com.au

The aim from the beginning was to make the ride a community event that would hopefully raise some funds for the club without incurring any significant risk. The fixed costs to run the event are quite low so it only needed a small number of riders to participate to ensure we did not lose any one.

Many of our club riders undertook the task of detailing the route and setting up the necessary marshalling points to ensure a safe ride. The City of Boroondara was supportive of the event and the committee worked with council to secure Hays Paddock as the start/finish venue, allowing the setting up of catering and entertainment facilities to further enhance the event for the riders.

The marketing of the event was a key to the success as publicity was needed to make sure potential riders were aware of the event. It was not really going to appeal to “serious” cyclists so the main target group was family riders. In the first year, the Club was fortunate to receive good support from local real estate companies to sponsor the advertising boards, and then it was a time consuming task to find high profile locations to place the boards.

It was then felt necessary to link ourselves to a sponsoring charity so riders knew where their money was going. After a review of various worthwhile charities, it was decided to approach the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Centre and they were very happy to have us supporting them and, in turn, they were happy to give the event as much publicity as possible. Permission was gained to use Olivia's image on our promotional material which no doubt helped to gain recognition for the event.

From the beginning, sponsorship was needed for the event but not to be seen as a major focus. In the first year, the committee was fortunate to get the support of the clothing company “Yarra Trail” which had a terrific synergy with the event.



“They’re off” on the 5, 25 or 50 kilometre trails

After a lot of planning, the first event attracted 280 riders and was claimed a success by all concerned. A lot was learnt in the first year but nevertheless we vowed to improve the event in subsequent years.

Over the next 5 years, the event continued to run in late October or early November and we continued to focus on the community aspect of the ride. In general the weather was kind and helped develop a loyal following which assisted the event to grow to a maximum of 700 participants, resulting in a healthy profit. One of the riders in 2004 was Geoff Haddy who was tempted to join our club and subsequently became a major contributor to the running of the event.

Geoff and others helped the event to become professional, enjoyable and safe, and a regular fundraiser on the Club’s calendar. Virtually all members and many partners are involved in the running of the event as either a marshal or admin/catering assistant. The event requires an early start by a number of members to set up the Hays Paddock facility and then the professional organisation of the event allows it to run smoothly during the day. The Scout band has become a regular feature, providing entertainment during the day to complement the good food served by our catering crew. In 2008 we took the opportunity to upgrade our tent which is easier to erect but also helps to provide a more professional image.

Finding sponsors is an ongoing challenge however the Club has been lucky the event can run successfully and profitably without the need for outside funding. However, potential sponsors are always being sought.

In early 2009 it was decided to investigate ways to inject a new lease of life into the event, given it was now 6 years old. It was decided a change in route was the best way to provide new interest for the regular riders as well as create awareness for new riders. A number of routes were considered and it was decided to take advantage of the new bike paths to Croydon through Mullum Mullum Creek, a path developed in conjunction with the new Eastlink freeway. Riders can still utilise Hays Paddock as the start/finish venue. The new route for 2009 led to increased participation. The Ride changed its name accordingly to the "Rotary Ride".

In preparation for the 2009 event, the opportunity was taken to update the website and introduce on-line registration. Members Geoff Haddy, Dick Johnson and Michael Barden can be justifiably proud of the professional look and performance of the website and can be confident that these initiatives will help to consolidate the event as a worthwhile community event and a regular fundraiser for the club.



A welcome rest after the Ride, and time to enjoy the delights of the North Balwyn Rotary Caterers

Werribee Equestrian Centre

Since the mid 1990's when Ian Adams was Fundraising Director, the Club has been invited to assist in providing people to help in the running of the "Horseland Melbourne International" three day event at Werribee Park, organized by the Equestrian Federation of Australia.

The task of arranging for members to assist eventually fell to Ian Richardson, and he has been in charge ever since. It has proven to be a most popular event with regulars Duncan Ansell, John Moyle, Phil Francis, Ralph Lee, Peter Courtney, Don Bowden and many others over the years.



Duncan Ansell and Ian Richardson hard at it!

During the dozen or so years of involvement, over \$60,000 has been raised from our participation in crowd control, checking tickets, and car parking.

Members attend the three day event (dressage, show jumping and cross country); dressage and “jumping with the stars”; and the Victorian Futurity.

Former Olympian, Bill Roycroft has been a regular attendee and popular with our members. ‘Richo’ recalls having a cup of tea and a chat with Bill on a number of occasions.

Peter Courtney recalls the day he was casting his eyes over the various trophies. He was mumbling the inscription on the silver tray on the table (the Bill Roycroft Perpetual Trophy) when he heard a dry farm-type voice right behind him say “who would want that cheap old tray?” To Peter’s surprise, it was the big guy himself!



Horses and riders preparing for action

Trivial Pursuit Nights

In February 2007, the Fundraising Committee and the Fellowship Committee combined forces to hold a Trivia Night at the Hawthorn Town Hall and it was agreed that it would take the place of a normal dinner meeting.

Despite the sweltering weather and the lack of air-conditioning, it was a highly successful evening not only for the more than 300 people who attended but for the members of the organising committees as well.

The following year, another Trivia Night was held on 4 April and followed a similar format to the previous year. In 2009, the year the club organised the District Conference, another Trivia Night was held on 17 June but unfortunately the numbers were down compared with the previous two years' attendance. However, most people felt that it was a better night because it was less crowded.



Trivial Pursuit Night at the Hawthorn Town Hall.

Barry Mitchell, who was inducted as a Friend of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn in 2009, generously donated his services as Trivia Master for each of these events, devising questions and activities that ensured everybody was kept on their toes and actively involved throughout the night.

It was fascinating to observe people as they scratched their heads trying to remember the Prime Ministers of Australia, the flags from around the world, what year Columbus sailed and what TV show had that theme tune.

Additional activities that added to the strong competition and a good deal of hilarity included heads and tails, rock paper scissors, pitch the gold coin and silent and bidding auctions. Committee members were very active in sourcing excellent donated items for the auctions from various businesses while in 2009 most of the items for the silent auction were donated by club members and friends - for example: Jim Romanis kindly donated a holiday at his holiday home at Merricks.

A busy side activity on each occasion was the bar which sold alcohol and soft drinks and also made a few dollars. These evenings have proven to be an enjoyable way of raising around \$20,000 for our community service activities.

Community Cafe

With the construction of the new sports complex in Macleay Park, our club entered into an arrangement with the North Balwyn Cricket Club to open a community cafe on Saturdays during the cricket season, and for us to supply afternoon teas for the teams playing at home. Spearheaded by Terry Keyhoe, and ably assisted by Nino Sofra and an array of other club members, the cafe ran during the 2007/08 and 2008/09 cricket seasons, supplying food and good coffee for the many parents and other supporters watching the variety of sport in and around Macleay Park.

The community cafe contributed around \$5000 to club funds in each of these two years.

NBTT

Geoff Griffiths (from his autobiography):

(i) My brother was born in 1944 while Dad was still away.

(ii) They had a very advanced sex education program at Box Hill Grammar and I do recall that, from that time on, a few things stuck out.

(iii) I've had 10 jobs since 1991. Five of the companies I worked for went bankrupt so if you want advice on winding up a business, I am a specialist.

NBTT

Dick Johnson (His email response to those distressed at receiving only a single-page Grapevine on 27.7.2003):

"Please direct your concerned perplexity to Editor, John Rennie, who, I am sure, will soothe your worry lines and bring a sense of relaxed peace to your breast".