

Chapter 7

Rotary Foundation

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Rotary Foundation Programs</i>	164
<i>Ambassadorial Scholars</i>	165
<i>Group Study Exchange</i>	166
<i>Rotary Foundation Matching Grants</i>	168
<i>Carl Miller Discovery Grant</i>	171
<i>Helping Grant</i>	171
<i>District Simplified Grants</i>	172
<i>Rotary Volunteers</i>	172
<i>The Royce Abbey Awards Program</i>	173
<i>The Royce & Jean Abbey Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship</i>	173

Rotary Foundation Programs

Over the years our Club has taken an active role in supporting the projects and initiatives of The Rotary Foundation.

To underline the importance placed by Rotary International on The Rotary Foundation, it was recommended to all clubs that "The Rotary Foundation" be made a board portfolio. Our Club implemented this recommendation in 2007-2008.

At District level, the involvement particularly of PP Paul Fitz, PDG John Reddish, PDG Gregory Ross, PP Tony McLean and Dick Johnson stand out and PDG Greg Ross is registered as a Rotary Volunteer.

Many members of the Club have been awarded Rotary Foundation District Service Awards by respective District Governors.

However, over the years only twelve District 9800 Rotarians have been presented with a higher award by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International--the Citation of Meritorious Service. The Citation is awarded: 'In Recognition of Devoted Efforts for the Furthering of Better Understanding and Friendly Relations of People of the World' and is presented in recognition of dedicated and exemplary service rendered to the Foundation. Two of the twelve District D9800 recipients are members of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn.

In 1996, Paul Fitz was presented with the Citation for his work for the Foundation in our District over a thirteen year period as Chairman and Committee member of the District Rotary Foundation, GSE, Humanitarian Grants, and Contributions and Marketing Committees, GSE Team Leader, Foundation Seminar Leader, Ambassadorial Scholar Counsellor and presenter at many District Conferences and District Assemblies.

John Reddish was awarded his Citation in 2006 for his work for the Foundation in our District and beyond over a twelve year period as Chairman and Committee member of the District Rotary Foundation, GSE and Humanitarian Grants Committees, Australian Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign Committee, Royce and Jean Abbey Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee, Zone 8 Polio Plus Partners Task Force Coordinator, Zone 8 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, GSE Team Leader and presenter at many District Conferences and District Assemblies.

The Club has always been one to respond quickly to meet challenges. A particular example of this was seen in regard to The Rotary Foundation program for PolioPlus. PP John Etkins accepted the challenge to ensure that we contributed quickly and arranged for all members to be part of a community collection campaign when we challenged our friends and neighbours to also support this major initiative.

NBTT

Who can remember Paul Fitz's three successive weeks of "Name Dropping"?

24.1.2008 – "When I was 6, I swam against Murray Rose....and beat him".

31.1.2008 – "When I was a youngster growing up, one of the other boys of my neighbourhood that I used to knock around with was Johnny O'Keefe".

7.2.2008 – "Most of you will have heard of Mr. Justice Marcus Einfeld. Well, he and I had the same piano teacher".

PP John Etkins, President John Robson and PP Geoff Steinicke display the RI banner recognising the Rotary Club of North Balwyn as a 100% Polio Plus Club (1986).



As a Club we have been very actively involved as a contributor to the Annual Program Fund of The Rotary Foundation and in annual personal donations and bequests to the Permanent Fund of The Rotary Foundation. Over 100 people have received Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions. A number of members have become Benefactors by recognising the Foundation in their wills. Three are members of the Paul Harris Society of District 9800 and 28 are Every Rotarian Every Year Centurions. As of the 30th June 2009, the Club and its members had given a total of approximately US\$207,000 to The Foundation

We also have sponsored many Matching Grants and PDG Greg Ross and PDG John Reddish have been actively involved, alongside the late PDG Jack Nankervis, in Literacy programs in S.E. Asia and the Pacific Region. The Club has been a strong supporter of the GSE program as well as Ambassadorial Scholarships.

Ambassadorial Scholars



Over the years our Club has been fortunate to host many Ambassadorial Scholars and provide Counsellors for them. We have gained from their participation in our activities. It has also been most gratifying to hear what these outstanding young people, and those hosted by other clubs, have had to say.

Universally we have gained from the experience of having insight into world problems provided by the world's future leaders, and can feel gratified that we have had the privilege of participating in one of The Rotary Foundation's outstanding programs.

The Club has interviewed a number of candidates but, regrettably, we have not as yet been successful in having a nominee gaining the one scholarship awarded each year by our District.

Year	Scholar	Home Country	Counsellor
1993	Dorothea Bringmann	Germany	Geoff Clark
1984	Tomiko Hashimura	Japan	Ron Roy
1989	Lucy Martin	USA	Geoff Steinicke
1994	Noriko Shibaki	Japan	Mark Harrington
1997	Julie MacFarlane	Canada	Paul Fitz
1997	Betsy Valente	USA	Ken Maxfield
1997	Roohi Choudhury	Bangladesh	Geoff Steinicke
1998	Vicki Stogiannes	USA	George Swanston
1999	David Watson	USA	Paul Fitz
1999	Ninnette Eliason	South Africa	Ken Maxfield
1999	Anita Kishore	USA	Rob Head
2000	Alexandra Seele	Germany	Tony McLean
2000	Tony Clutter	USA	Geoff Steinicke
2005	Michael Morris	Canada	Graeme Bird

A very special moment occurred at the Club's Xmas party in 1994 when our Ambassadorial Scholar, Noriko, played the piano and joined in song with our Exchange Student, Mika Makita, singing both Japanese and English carols. It was true testimony to international understanding and fellowship and the wonderful experiences Rotary provides.

Group Study Exchange

Over the years our Club has taken an active role in the GSE program through membership of the District Committee, nominating several potential team leaders and team members. We have hosted visiting teams and had involvement with them at the Club and at District Conferences. We have also held special meetings to farewell or welcome back our own Districts' teams. Paul Fitz remains very committed to the GSE program and his leadership has had a marked influence on the Club as a whole.

District Committee

PP Paul Fitz	Committee member	1987-88, 1992-95.
	Committee chairman	1988-91
PP Tony McLean	Committee member	1997-98
	Committee chairman	1998-2001

GSE Team Leader

PP Paul Fitz	D5050 Canada / USA	1992-93
PP John Reddish	D3280 Bangladesh	1994-95



President Geoff Steinicke and PP John Etkins introduce our first successful GSE nominee Jill Earnshaw to the Club in 1986.

Welcoming the 1988 GSE team from India when the team presented to the Club at a dinner meeting are President John Robson and Chresley



Team Members Nominated by our Club

Jill Earnshaw	D7980 Connecticut USA	1985-86
Amanda Dawkins	D1910 Austria	1988-89
Jenni Coburn	D5050 Canada / USA	1992-93
Kate Tucker	D3350 Thailand	1993-94
Maria Moffat	D4680 Southern Brazil	1995-96
Alexis Lloyd	D1650 Brittany, France	2000-01

GSE Team Member in 1995-96, Maria Moffat. presents North Balwyn Rotary and Rotaract banners to the Rotary Club of St Laurenz. Maria had been President of our Rotaract Club in 1994-95 and joined the Rotary Club as our first lady member in November 1996.



Visiting Team Hosting

D5520 New Mexico	Final Week and Farewell	1983-84
D1410 Finland	4-day Hosting	1985-86
D1910 Austria	4-day hosting	1988-89
D763 Delaware USA	Final Week and Farewell	1990-91
D4680 Brazil	Final Week and Farewell	1995-96
D5520 New Mexico	5-day hosting	2004-05
D2203 Spain	3-day hosting	2009-10



PP Paul Fitz and his team to D5050 Canada / USA in 1992-93 (L-R) Samantha Hellen, Simon Zdraviski, Jenni Coburn, Stephen Davis & Karen Williams

Those who have experienced hosting will remember with a smile the teams from New Mexico who spent little time at their hosts' homes. They rather sought the attractions of other parts of Melbourne!! It takes all sorts!!!!

Rotary Foundation Matching Grants

The Rotary Foundation provides funds for worthwhile international projects identified by clubs. These projects, which benefit or assist development of the local communities, must be in association with a club in the district in which the grant is to be expended. By this means each dollar given by the two clubs is matched by a grant from Rotary Foundation. So when the home club can provide a sum equal to our contribution the funds available become four times our original contribution. However, the major role of the home club is to monitor the progress of the grant program and report on its completion.

Frequently it takes some time for an identified project to be ratified as being eligible for a matching grant and the expenditure of funds allocated is thus sometimes spread over two years.

Over the years we have been involved in eleven matching grants although several other proposals did not progress for a variety of reasons.

Through P.P. Tony McLean our sister club in Thailand, Patmunwan, has worked with us on two matching grant projects to support schools in Thailand. The first of these in 1993-94 provided 100 bicycles for 17 rural schools to allow students better access to the local education available. The second in 1994-95 provided Waste Water Treatment Plants for 9 rural schools. In that year we also contributed to the D9800 R-Birds project which aimed at setting up cottage industries to assist villages in



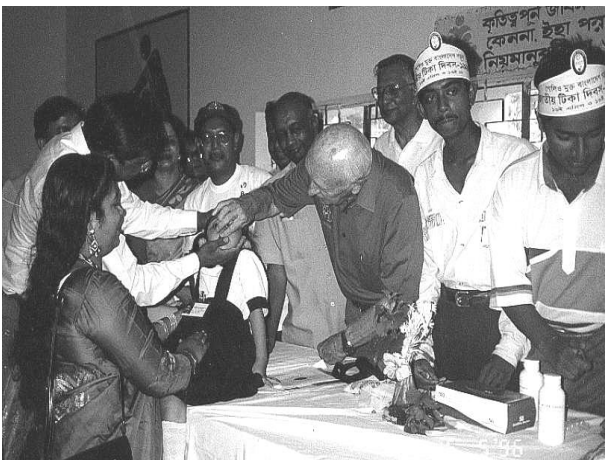
Thailand to move towards self-sufficiency. Subsequently, because of local problems the funds allocated to this were redirected into the training of local teachers to support literacy and numeracy programs sponsored by Rotary.

A similar project was with our sister club, the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Khulna, and provided sewing machines and weaving looms to a group of destitute women.



Over the period 1996-1998 there were two matched grants with clubs in Bangladesh. The first was sponsored largely through the generosity of Ken Maxfield and his friends. In association with the Rotary Club of Dhaka this provided 50 sewing machines to the Gulshan Ladies Community Club to assist in making them more self-sufficient.

The activities based at the Gulshan Ladies Community Centre have expanded as a direct result of our support and there is now an active medical centre. PDG Jack Nankervis visited the centre when it was used as a base for the PolioPlus campaign in the area and he again saw first hand the amazing impact that the original Matching Grant has had.



“Doctor” Jack Nankervis administers PolioPlus vaccine to a 4-year old boy at Gulshan Community Centre

Ladies wait at the Gulshan Community Centre for their turn to use the sewing machines.



In 1996-97, we joined with three of the other clubs who had sponsored members for the GSE team to D4680 in Southern Brazil. This grant provided an electronic auditory language laboratory for training 300 children in a school in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

In 1997-98, we became associated with the project to supply and install 25 ceiling fans, 40 tube lighting units and 23 power points in Rotary College, Austagram in Bangladesh. This College in D6171 serves a community of 252,000 people and had become impossibly run down. The college is now known as the Rotary Degree College.

During 1998-2000, we successfully funded a substantial literacy grant to D3360 in Thailand. This was again made possible by the generous contribution from two of our own members.

In 2000-2001, we agreed to contribute \$2,000 with a number of clubs in our District towards a Matching Grant to purchase a portable sawmill for a village mission in Madang, PNG.

During 2001-20/02, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Toongsong, Thailand, the Club, with the assistance of a Matching Grant, funded the provision of medical equipment costing \$47,560 to a hospital in the small community of Toongsong, Thailand. The equipment consisted of a Haemodialysis machine and a Reverse Osmosis System used in the Haemodialysis process. The Club contributed \$500, \$6890 came from District Designated Funds, the Rotary Club of Toongsong gave \$11,890 and the Foundation \$23,750.

As mentioned in the International Service chapter, the biggest international project ever taken on by the Club was the 'Adopt a Village' program in Tulagi in the Solomon Islands which ran over a number of years. The Rotary Foundation was of great assistance in contributing to two Matching Grants to support the project.

The first, in 2005-2006, paid the cost of 200 desks, a new toilet block, fans, lights and three water tanks for the Tulagi's McMahon School. The Rotary Club of North Balwyn contributed A\$8,500 and the Rotary Club Balwyn gave A\$4,400 to the project. However, all this could not be put into the Matching Grant as the fans and lights could not be funded by the Grant and were paid for directly by the two clubs. The contributions from North Balwyn and Balwyn to the Grant were US\$760 each and they were supported by the Rotary Club of Istanbul-Goksu through its District, District 2420, Turkey, with US\$4,000 and US\$10,000 from District 9800 District Designated Funds. The Rotary Foundation contributed US\$14,760, resulting in a total of US\$30,000.

The second grant was awarded the following year, 2007/08. This totalled US\$46,650 and paid for six water tanks, one 38KVA generator, 400 x 2 metre security fencing and bed nets for the Tulagi Hospital. Our Club contributed US\$9,000 through our District, The Rotary Club of Istanbul-Goksu US\$4,500 through its District, The Rotary Club of Werribee US\$4,000, six Rotary Clubs in Mississippi, Oxford, Clarksville, Corinth, Batesville and Memphis East, each gave US\$1,000, District 6800, Mississippi, gave US\$3,000 and the Rotary Club of Honiara US\$100, making a total of US\$25,600. The Rotary Foundation contributed US\$21,600.

The involvement of the USA in the project resulted from a friendship Tony McLean made with the leader of a GSE team from Mississippi which visited our District during Tony's term as the District GSE Chairman, 1998/01, who had fought on Guadalcanal with the American forces during the Second World War. This was a truly an international Grant!

Carl Miller Discovery Grant

During the initial development of the 'Adopt a Village' project, discussions centred on which village. John Reddish sought information from his RAM colleagues in the Solomon Islands and it was thought that Tulagi may be a possible candidate.

The planning committee decided it should investigate Tulagi further by visiting the island so the Club applied successfully to The Rotary Foundation for a Carl Miller Discovery Grant. This Grant had been set up in 1990 with the purpose of subsidising the travel and related expenses for a limited number of club and/or district representatives to investigate and plan international projects prior to starting these projects with the possible assistance of either a Matching Grant or a 3-H Grant.

The Grant covered the air fare costs for Duncan Ansell, Bob Bott, Tony McLean, John Reddish and Garth Symington to travel to Tulagi and carry out the investigation which ultimately led to Tulagi being adopted.

Helping Grant

In 1995, at the commencement of Paul Fitz's term as the District Rotary Foundation Chairman, he met a young Australian humanitarian worker by the name of Moira Kelly. Moira was an extraordinary young woman who worked in different parts of the world assisting people who needed help. At the time she was working in Romania and returned to Australia once a year for some R&R with her family. He asked her if she would be a presenter at the annual District Rotary Foundation Seminar and she readily agreed and did so at two further Seminars in the following years.

One evening Paul received a call from Moira who had moved from Romania to Bosnia and was running three refugee camps for women and children. She was in desperate need of fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs and did not have the money to pay for them. The health of the women and children was slowly deteriorating. Could he help?

Paul discussed the issue with PDG Jack Nankervis who was the District's Humanitarian Grants Chairman. The Rotary Foundation had introduced a new form of grant in 1995 called a Helping Grant. It provided support for worthy projects that were not true Matching Grant projects because significant participation of local Rotarians was not possible due to the absence of Rotary in a particular country or where a local Rotary club

could not provide involvement and oversight. They provided 50% of a club or district contribution up to US\$15,000. Jack and Paul raised the money from the District and prepared a submission which was successful and we received the fourth Helping Grant approved which allowed Moira to feed the camps for 18 months. The speed with which the Grant was approved bore testament to the standing of Jack Nankervis in Evanston

In the late 1990s, Humanitarian worker, Moira Kelly, was a guest speaker at the Club. During her presentation she mentioned her time in Bosnia when she was running refugee camps after the war in that part of the world. She also mentioned Paul Fitz's role in organising a Helping Grant from The Rotary Foundation to assist her with feeding the women and children in the camps and referred to him as 'a gift from heaven'!

For a while, Paul 'copped it' from fellow members who referred to him from time to time as St. Paul, the Pope, and a number of other similar terms. At least he did admit that the new names were vastly superior to the others he had previously been called!!

District Simplified Grant

In 2009, as part of the major international project undertaken by the Club in the Solomon Islands, the Club applied for and was granted its first District Simplified Grant. We contributed \$10,000 and the District through its District Designated Funds, provided \$5,000 making a total of \$15,000 which was used to construct large rice storage and drying facility on Guadalcanal. This facility was in support of a large program mounted by the Club to increase significantly the amount of rice being grown in the Solomons and is detailed in the International Service chapter of this history.

Rotary Volunteers

"Rotary Volunteers" is a vocational service program of The Rotary Foundation in which Greg Ross participated in 1994. Along with Jack Nankervis, our DG when our club was chartered, Greg travelled to Thailand as a Literacy Volunteer.

Using the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE), a new teaching method formulated by Queensland academic PDG Dick Walker, a small Australian literacy team spent a month teaching Thai teachers how to successfully utilise CLE.

For the first few days in Bangkok, Greg recorded in a studio every possible English phrase imaginable that could be used in a classroom situation. He also recorded well known children's stories and poems, and popular songs, such as *Old McDonald Had a Farm*.

From there, Greg joined the team in Nakom Pathom, 56 kilometres west of Bangkok. There were two workshops held over a fortnight, the first teaching the finest teachers in Thailand about CLE and how to implement it. At the second workshop, those teachers taught a second group of Thai teachers who had travelled from all parts of the country.

It was a most successful experience and the Thai government subsequently adopted the CLE method to be used by all government schools throughout Thailand. Greg's recorded voice can still be heard in Thai classrooms as the children learn English.

The Royce Abbey Awards Program

This award is to recognise Club members in their early years of Rotary membership who show enthusiasm and commitment to the ideals of Rotary.

The selection is by the Club President and it is hoped that, by early recognition, members will be encouraged to continue to enjoy their membership and appreciate the contributions Rotarians can make to the community, both locally and internationally.

Three of our have been recipients of the Award- Terry Gretton in 2007, Mathew Pauli in (2008, and Mary George in 2009.

The Royce & Jean Abbey Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship

The Royce Abbey awards Program encourages clubs to contribute \$1,000 through The Rotary Foundation to The Royce & Jean Abbey Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, a program which is available to assist the training of young men and women in developing countries.

In 2007-2008, our club successfully nominated Joseph Aaron for this scholarship. Joseph is a teacher with the don Bosco Rural Farm in Tetere, a mission training school located 23 kms. north west of Honiara on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

In February 2008, Joseph arrived in Australia and undertook a three month training course at the Rice Research Centre in Jerilderie and during his stay, spoke at our club and at the 2008 District Conference.

Joseph returned to the Rural Farm where he began teaching rice growing to the students and grows rice on the Farm.

NBTT

Ted Wilkins: A fine on Bob Bott, well known racehorse owner, who is celebrating his 53rd wedding anniversary this year, but who can reflect on the fact that he has actually had more success as a breeder.

NBTT

Brian Hurnard (on the occasion of his wife's Paul Harris Fellow recognition):
Tonight, for the first time in my life, I am going to get into bed with a fellow!