

HISTORY

of the

Rotary Club of North Balwyn

The First Thirty Years

1979-80 to 2009-10

Preface

The Rotary Club of North Balwyn has become one of the most vibrant and active Rotary Clubs in Australia.

Service to the community, both locally and internationally, has been the main thrust of the activities of the Club. The funding for such programs has been obtained by outstanding fellowship activities involving all members and partners. The high standards set and demanded through the 21 years have assured success in all avenues of Rotary service.

The Club has provided Rotary International and District 9800 with two outstanding District Governors and numerous members have served on various District committees.

It was a great privilege to have been the District Governor when the Club was chartered in 1980 and I extend my congratulations and very best wishes to all members for a rewarding and successful future.

Jack Nankervis
PDG Rotary District 9800
May 2001

Introduction to the Club's 21st Year History

In this year 2001, the Club celebrates its 21st birthday so it is appropriate that we publish the recorded history of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn.

Since the Club was chartered on 8 May 1980 over 170 Rotarians have been members of North Balwyn and each one has contributed to the club's growth and development over the past 21 years.

This history is a reflection of the club's personality, its culture and its endeavour to be a good community and international citizen and in this respect we can all be very proud of our collective effort.

North Balwyn boasts of having 13 Charter Members still as current members of the Club and this history will have added significance for them.

But it is hoped that every North Balwyn Rotarian, past or present, will enjoy this history and recall with pleasure some of the events, the projects and the people referred to in these pages.

John Mollison
President 2000 / 2001

Foreword to the 30th Year Edition.

In looking to the future we learn from the past and that is why this *History of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn* has been compiled and published.

The story of the North Balwyn Rotary Club (RCNB) is one of sustained achievement over a period of 30 years. It is a history of which the Club is rightly proud.

This publication is an account written by people who were present and participated in the Service Programs and Fellowship that have shaped our Club and made it what it is today. All the contributors have been direct participants in various aspects of the development and growth of the Club. Their accounts and recollections, supported by Club records, underscore the initiative and commitment made by the 200 or so people who have been or still are members of the Club.

The commitment to "Service Above Self" is clearly evident. So too is the part that Fellowship has played in our Club life and the personal enjoyment and satisfaction we all feel as members of NBRC.

The *History of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn*, in a formal sense, is our foundation for the future.

It updates an earlier history compiled for the 21st Birthday of the Club and marks our significant 30th Anniversary in 2010.

The publication has been very professionally edited by PP David Cheney supported by Past Presidents Ian Adams, Brian Hurnard and Paul Fitz. I am grateful for their efforts and on behalf of all who have been associated with the Club since 1980 I wish to thank everyone who contributed to this excellent *History of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn*.

Tony Wells
President 2009 / 2010.

First Edition - Editor's Note

The task of preparing this Club history has been a daunting but enjoyable experience. I am particularly grateful to the members of my committee, Ron Carnell, Geoff Perdriau and John Thwaites for the time, effort and good-natured support that they have given me. I also express my thanks to Paul Fitz for the many hours of extra effort he has put into proof reading most of the text and questioning "the facts" and to David Cheney for his willing responses to all my requests for additional information.

This exercise could not have reached the stage that it has without the support of many members and past members of the Club who have submitted material, photographs and "stories".

Our special thanks go to Nikki Sofra for her excellent cover design which of itself is a history of our club bulletin, The Grapevine.

I would also be remiss if I didn't thank my wife Prue for her forbearance and tolerance over the several months of research and typing, during which I was not readily available for "retirement activities".

There are many club programs and activities that have only been mentioned in passing and for this our committee apologises to those we may have unintentionally slighted by the selection we have made. Never the less we hope that there is enough here to jog memories and bring smiles to the faces of our Rotary family.

We have done our best to ensure that "memories" are historically accurate and as a committee we take responsibility for the end product but we have no intention of entering into discussion on the accuracy, selection or veracity of statements made.

We trust you have enjoyable reading and that this club history forms the basis for continuing fellowship and fun.

David Goldsmith (P.P.)
Chairman of the History Committee 2000 / 2001

Second Edition – Editor's Note

With the Club reaching its thirtieth year, it seemed timely to update the Club History written to mark our 21st Birthday back in May 2000.

In recognition of the excellent record created by David Goldsmith and his 2000/2001 History Committee, the 2009/2010 Committee has endeavored to retain most of the earlier edition, and, in the majority of cases, merely added the significant events of the immediately preceding nine years to ensure that little of the Club's activities during that period has been lost.

Thanks are due to the History Committee comprising Past Presidents Ian Adams, Brian Hurnard and Paul Fitz for their enormous efforts in pulling this project together, doing a great deal of the writing, plus tackling the enormous task of proof-reading the drafts a number of times.

My thanks also go to the thirty or so past and present Club members who contributed articles and updates relating to what has been an extraordinarily busy and diversified program during our club's third decade.

Two changes have been made to make this edition an even more enjoyable reading experience:-

- A few of the lighter moments have been inserted, and, to this end, I thank John Gartlan for his permission to include a number of his "Nothing but the truth" anecdotes, and,
- We have been able to print the 120 newly included photographs in full colour, due to the generous sponsorship of one of our members, Ian Mollison and his travel agency, Jetset North Balwyn, which has agreed to meet the costs of adding colour throughout this publication.

To John and Ian, my sincere thanks.

If nothing else, it is hoped that the members of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn who read this history will share, to varying degrees, at least some measure of pride that they and their families have been part of what has been an incredible journey.

I would hope that, in the year 2019, some keen and, hopefully, literate Club member will be prepared to take on, what for me has been most rewarding, the task of adding the next ten years of activity and involvement, leading to the publishing of the history of our first 40 years!

David Cheney (P.P.)
Chairman of the History Committee 2009 / 2010.

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