

## CHAPTER FIVE

### WORLD UNDERSTANDING

THE fourth part of the Object of Rotary, "The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service" is expressed in the avenue of service known as International Service, which covers two main areas: world understanding and world community service.

To advance international understanding, Rotary, at club, district and international level, has devised a number of highly successful programs, the two most notable being the scholarship and group study exchange programs of The Rotary Foundation and the Youth Exchange Program.

#### THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

In 1917, Arch Klumph, president of what was then the International Association of Rotary Clubs, successfully proposed to the convention the creation of "an endowment fund . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational and other avenues of community progress".

The fund mounted very slowly, but by 1928 it had grown to \$US5,709.07 and the convention of that year re-named it The Rotary Foundation and authorized the appointment of five trustees to "hold, invest, manage and administer" its property and, with the approval of the board of directors, ". . . expend the corpus of the income therefrom as a single trust for the purposes of R.I."

In 1931 The Rotary Foundation Declaration of Trust was executed, which, after citing the 1928 amendments, declared that "All property received and held by said Trustees shall be received and held in Trust to expend the principal and/or the income therefrom, as a single trust, for and only for philanthropic, charitable, educational or other eleemosynary purposes, objects, movements or institutions of R.I. . . ."

Throughout the 1930s the R.I. board encouraged clubs to donate to the Foundation with the object of raising \$2 million; but the great depression inhibited any spectacular response. In 1939 the

R.I. president concluded that "the apparent lack of interest on the part of Rotarians generally was attributable to the fact that the most appealing objects had not been selected nor developed on an inspirational basis".

Then came World War II and the Rotary movement was preoccupied with more urgent considerations.

In January 1947 Paul Harris, Rotary's Founder and President Emeritus, died; and, through the "Paul Harris Memorial Fund", donations poured into The Rotary Foundation as a tribute to the man who had founded the movement 42 years earlier. More than \$US1 million, almost twice as much as had been contributed in the previous 30 years, cascaded into the coffers, enabling the trustees to send some 12,000 packages of food and clothing to needy families who had suffered grievously in war-ravaged countries. But it also enabled them to plan for a more significant program of education and world understanding.

In 1948 The Rotary Foundation chose 18 outstanding graduates from seven countries, including Australia, as the first "Rotary Foundation Fellows for International Understanding" (later to be known as Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellows and, later still, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars). Each Fellow was given a year of post-graduate study in an overseas country with fares, tuition fees and accommodation paid for.

Since then, the annual scholarships have been extended to include vocational scholarships for technical trainees; journalism scholarships to enable young journalists to pursue further study at an overseas university; teachers of the handicapped scholarships, giving teachers of children with mental or physical disabilities an opportunity to study special education techniques in overseas countries. All are based on a full academic year of study in another country, preference being given to those willing to study in a country with a language different from their own.

Scholars are nominated by Rotary clubs and selected by the Rotary districts, which are awarded one scholarship each year. A Rotarian counsellor is appointed in the host district. During their scholarship year, scholars are expected to talk to Rotary clubs and other groups in the host districts about their own countries; and, on

their return, are expected to attend Rotary club meetings and district conferences so that they can share their experiences of another culture.

In 1965 the program was further diversified with the introduction of Group Study Exchange under which five or six young business and professional people with a Rotarian leader undertake a two months study tour in an overseas country with a selected Rotary district as hosts. In the next year, a reciprocal visit is made by a similar team.

This aspect of Foundation activity was pioneered by New Zealand as long ago as 1955 when one of the districts (there were then only two) established Rotary Overseas Travel Awards (ROTA), selecting six young men and a Rotarian leader to make an overseas study tour. The first tour in 1955 was to Great Britain. In 1957 a team visited the Pacific states of U.S.A.; and then followed biennial tours to India and Ceylon, Japan via Australia and Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. In the even-numbered years, teams from these countries made reciprocal visits until Group Study Exchange became a Rotary Foundation activity.

The purpose of all of these scholarships and group exchanges, of course, is to give future leaders – people who are likely to be in positions of influence – an understanding and appreciation of different cultures and customs and religious beliefs as a means of advancing "international understanding, goodwill and peace".

Australians have participated enthusiastically in all the educational programs of The Rotary Foundation and are able to point to many distinguished citizens, some of whom are now Rotarians, who have been Foundation scholars in their youth: churchmen (including the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Rayner) jurists, scientists, academics and business leaders; not forgetting District 9830 Past Governor Bill Bale, Rotary Club of Sandy Bay, Solicitor General of Tasmania – and, of course, His Excellency the Governor General, Sir William Deane.

Particular pride is taken in the briefing of scholars before they depart for overseas to ensure that the information they impart about their own countries is accurate and that their general knowledge is extensive. This is particularly so with Group Study

Exchange and was instituted shortly after the scheme began when District 267 (9670) Past Governor Dr. Ken McKerihan of East Maitland, reported to the Rotary Institute in 1967 that he was ". . . appalled at the ignorance of their own country . . ." of a visiting team and proposed a briefing program to be undertaken by all outgoing group study teams. The proposal was adopted and a "crash" course was devised covering Australian history, geography, economy, commerce and industry, politics, culture, education, lifestyle, sports and any other aspect that occurred to the mentors. The program was an immediate success and was quickly implemented. Resulting from articles in *Rotary Down Under*, the idea was taken up by the Rotary International Board and recommended to all districts around the world.

Each year, with the current number of districts, 23 young men and women from Australia enter universities in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia; an equal number of young people from around the world are welcomed by Australian Rotarians. Also, each year, 23 Group Study Exchange teams are sent out and 23 received. The pious hope of all Rotarians is that the friendships made by all these talented young people during their months or years abroad will endure and that the cumulative effect of these international friendships will help to advance understanding and peace.

In addition to its educational grants, The Rotary Foundation is responsible for special grants to enable clubs to undertake individual projects, mainly but not exclusively in developing countries - provision of an operating theatre, for example, or a clinic or school.

Co-sponsorship of projects under the 3-H (Health, Hunger, Humanity) program is an aspect of The Rotary Foundation operations that, according to some, has been under-utilised and should be given more consideration.

At the 1995 Institute, Rotary International Past President Sir Clem Renouf, who introduced the 3-H program during his presidential year (1978-79), threw out a 75th Anniversary challenge to his fellow Rotarians suggesting that they consider directing half of their Rotary Foundation contributions for one year

to an Australia-wide international 3-H Project which, as well as attracting matched funding from The Rotary Foundation could also attract an AusAid two-to-one grant. Among the suggestions he advanced for such a project was the use of certain species of *Acacia* for arid regions of Africa to provide a food supplement from the seeds, timber for fuel and furniture, wind breaks to protect new crops and revitalised soil by the return of nitrogen from the trees. Moreover, he suggested, Aboriginal people could be invited to participate in the project, so that it could become our 75th Anniversary Aboriginal *Acacia* (3-A) project. As this book was about to be printed, the suggestion was being considered by Rotary clubs.

As has been previously mentioned, the massive PolioPlus campaign also operates under the Foundation umbrella.

The Rotary Foundation is funded by the voluntary contributions of Rotary clubs and many individual Rotarians.

An ingenious means of encouraging support is the Paul Harris Fellow award which was first proposed in 1957 and was actively promoted from 1966. Any person who donates or in whose name is contributed \$1,000 (US) to The Rotary Foundation is named a "Paul Harris Fellow" and receives a medal, a lapel pin and a handsome certificate. By April 1996 the number of Paul Harris Fellows throughout the world exceeded 500,000, (including the Pope, Michail Gorbachev, the Duke of Edinburgh, Mother Teresa, King Baudouin, the President of the United States and Danny Kaye!). In Australia 15,922 people have been named Paul Harris Fellows. For each additional \$1,000 (up to five) contributed in the name of an individual, a sapphire is added to the insignia of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Strongly resisted by Australian Rotarians when first promoted, the Paul Harris Fellow awards are now fully supported and used by most clubs as a way of honouring their own members or non-Rotarians who have served the community.

#### THE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

There is a remarkable lack of agreement about the origins of the Youth Exchange program (also often known as Student Exchange) for secondary school students. Australians claim it as their own; but

Americans and Europeans are wont to make counter claims. It is probably fair to say that none of the claims is supported by any conclusive evidence extant. A strong claimant is the Rotary Club of Nice, France which is said to have initiated an exchange in 1927. A proposal by the Rotary Club of Copenhagen in 1929 was recorded and an extensive exchange between Californian and Latin-American clubs in 1939 is reported without specific details. It is known that Rotary clubs in European countries had been arranging short-term exchanges of students during school vacations many years before the program was initiated in Australia. Certainly regular two-way exchanges of the sons and daughters of Rotarians between Britain and Ireland and the European countries were well established by 1955, because in that year the General Council of R.I.B.I. appointed a youth exchange officer to co-ordinate the activity.

During the 1957-58 year, students were exchanged between District 545 in U.S.A. and 298 in New Zealand resulting from discussions during the international assembly between District Governors Harley Shaver and Malcolm Leadbetter.

The first recorded exchange of students from Australia was arranged between the Rotary Clubs of Myrtleford, Victoria, and Scottsbluff, Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1958 by the governors of the two districts in which those clubs were located. The two governors-nominee, Joe Bradbury of District 280 (9800) and R. Smethills, Harley Shaver's successor in District 545 (5440) had met and planned the exchange at the International Assembly at Lake Placid, N.Y., U.S.A. Four further exchanges between clubs in these two districts were arranged during that year.

There were no guidelines at that time. The parents paid the travel expenses and the host clubs arranged schooling at local secondary schools and accommodation in the homes of Rotarians.

The exchange was seen as highly successful and in the following year, District 280 Governor Horace Bedgood appointed a district student exchange committee with Peter Barnett, a past president of Myrtleford club, as chairman, to promote the idea and provide some general guidelines. The committee obviously discharged its

duties with considerable zeal, for in the 1959-60 year, clubs in the district exchanged 17 students - 13 with Asia, one with the Philippines and three with U.S.A.

A strong supporter of the program who actively promoted exchanges with Japan and was host father to the first Japanese exchange student to his district was Don Farquhar of the Rotary Club of Rosebud, later to serve in the Rotary Club of Caloundra, Queensland. Though blinded by Japanese anti-aircraft flak during his service as a navigator in the RAAF in World War II, Don was quick to encourage friendship between Australians and his former enemies and recognised Student Exchange as the ideal means of achieving that end.

Largely by the efforts and active promotion of Joe Bradbury, Clive Schliebs of Wangaratta and Peter Barnett, the Youth Exchange Program was soon adopted by other districts. In 1965 District 280 issued a booklet, Secondary Schools Student Exchange Handbook, which was made available to other districts; and the Rotary Club of Warringah in District 268 (9680) produced a highly professional 16mm colour film (with extensive professional help from Leon Becker of that club). By 1968 several districts were issuing "manuals" or "guidelines".

In 1971 Bill Forrest of Tamworth, enthusiastic Youth Exchange Chairman of District 265 (9650), sought the co-operation of R.I. Youth Activities Committee member John Moon in arranging a national meeting of district youth exchange chairmen to exchange ideas and information and possibly to devise standard procedures and effect economies. John was happy to lend his support to the idea and, when the meeting eventuated, was asked to preside. The gathering, after discussing numerous matters of common interest and concern, decided that an annual meeting should be called and elected Bill Forrest secretary to convene the next year's conference. So began the Australian Y.E.P. Conference, which has convened annually ever since.

"From the outset," PDG Bill Forrest recalls, "it was made clear, recorded in the minutes and repeated at subsequent conferences, that we were an unofficial group without authority, and that resolutions were recommendations to incumbent district governors

to be accepted or rejected at their discretion."

Notwithstanding this clear statement, however, the Y.E.P. Conference was not without critics who saw it as an unelected body attempting to usurp the authority of district governors; a misunderstanding, Bill Forrest believes, arising from poor communication.

By 1975 the mass exodus and influx of exchange students was being co-ordinated nationally. Special deals were struck with airlines and insurance companies to ensure that the best possible prices were negotiated. Liaison with the Immigration Department resulted in some normal requirements being modified and several procedures "short-circuited" for exchange students. Uniforms were designed with a distinctive Youth Exchange blazer pocket. Coach tours were arranged between districts so that students would have the opportunity of some "outback" travel during their stay. Application forms and other stationery and luggage identification were standardised. Most districts were publishing guide books containing similar material. Standard arrival and departure dates were introduced for all students.

In 1982 the Australian Rotary Institute granted the Y.E.P. Conference "advisory" status; and subsequently made good use of the experience of the members when a Youth Exchange Manual for Australia was published by authority of incumbent governors.

Youth Exchange has attracted hundreds of committed Rotarians to its service; far too many to list in this report. Many of them have later served as district governors and have been able to inspire a wider audience with their enthusiasm for the program. In fact it is sometimes said that the only way to persuade a dedicated youth exchange chairman to surrender his office willingly is to make him a district governor.

Bill Forrest remained secretary of the Y.E.P. Conference until he was succeeded by Ted Chinn in 1983. Australian delegates to Rotary International conventions have made a major contribution to discussions at the meetings of district Youth Exchange chairmen now held annually in conjunction with conventions.

The program enjoys continuing support and benefits from a highly sophisticated district and national organisation. Outgoing stu-

dents are nominated by clubs but, with very few exceptions, are selected by the district committee and allocated to the offering host clubs overseas. Before departing they are given two intensive week-end briefings. The exceptions are the very rare club-to-club exchanges, arranged without reference to district committees.

Youth Exchange Conference Chairman Brian Beardwood reported that in the 1995-96 year, 553 Australian students spent an exchange year overseas under the Youth Exchange Program organised by districts; and 549 overseas students were welcomed by Australian clubs. Exchange countries were Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

"Youth Exchange," he declared, "is one of the success stories of Rotary. Its very nature gives it the ability to build bridges of friendship and understanding between young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and countries.

"Since its inception we have continued to exchange with the 'traditional' exchange venues, but the Australian districts have forged new friendships in new areas, including Iceland, Estonia, Korea, Ukraine and Poland. The spirit of adventure within Youth Exchange is very much alive and will continue to grow in its stature and diversity well into the next century."

Youth exchange guidelines for districts, sponsoring and host clubs, host parents and students are issued now by the secretariat of Rotary International; but Australian districts continue to publish and issue their own local and more detailed guidebook.

A modified form of student exchange is the Matched Twin exchange between some New Zealand and Australian clubs, under which a student travels from an Australian town to live for a school term with a New Zealand family in which there is a student in the same age group and the same school year. The two attend school together for the full term; then both travel to Australia to attend school and live with the other exchange family. The scheme has been operating since the 1960s between a few clubs in New South

Wales and the southern part of the North Island. In 1970 it is recorded that 29 sets of "twins" crossed the Tasman; two years later there were 39 exchanges. The program was given more formal recognition in 1977-78 with the appointment of district committees.

Another local variation of recent origin is a program known as PACE: Pacific Australia Cultural Exchange, pioneered by District 9690 in 1984. Secondary school students are exchanged between an Australian district and one of the Pacific Island nations (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Tonga, Samoa) during a school vacation where they participate fully in family life and learn about the culture of the host country; and share their knowledge with their fellow students when they return. The numbers are, of necessity, small (not more than 15 each way) because of the limited number of Rotary clubs in the Pacific Islands able to participate; but the program is judged to be of considerable value to the young people who are chosen for an exchange.

#### VOCATIONAL EXCHANGES

From time to time, Rotary clubs have arranged exchanges of young employed people or apprentices to give them a broader understanding of how their trades or crafts are practised in other countries. Most of these have been arranged by individual clubs and have not been extended beyond a few years. Two continuing programs, both devised in New Zealand, are Rota-Pacific and Rotary Overseas Vocational Exchange (ROVE).

Under Rota-Pacific, which began in 1974 in the Rotary district covering the north of the North Island and the Pacific Islands, teams of young Pacific Islanders (mainly Polynesian but some Melanesian and Micronesian people) are brought to New Zealand to study their own vocations. Arrangements are made for them to inspect and sometimes work in the appropriate establishments (offices, schools, shops, factories, farms) during their stay, which culminates in attendance at the District RYLA seminar. This program, in early 1996, was being studied by clubs in Australian Districts with a view to its adoption.

ROVE, which has been operating in New Zealand since 1969 and

in Australia since 1973 is another program of limited appeal but considered valuable by those participating. A young apprentice or trainee is exchanged with another in the same trade in another country. Statistics have not been kept by the districts in which the program has been adopted because it has not been appropriated by district or national hierarchies, probably because of the relatively small numbers involved and the highly specialised and individual nature of each exchange. A wine-maker in South Australia, for example, exchanges his trainee with one from Germany; and a Swedish furniture manufacturer exchanges a second year apprentice with a New South Wales manufacturer.

The arrangements are normally made by the individuals concerned with the help of their Rotary clubs, which usually make the initial contact and arrange accommodation, but frequently also with assistance from the trade associations. An information booklet was prepared by a district committee of the district that devised the plan and remains available to interested clubs from the Rotary Supplies office in Parramatta.

#### INTERNATIONAL HOUSES

International Houses are university halls of residence in which both Australian and foreign students are accommodated in approximately even numbers. They are fully equipped, with dining halls, common rooms, libraries, recreation rooms as well as attractive and adequate, if far from luxurious bedroom-studies. Meals are wholesome but plain and fees are modest. Administrative, academic and domestic staff provide for the needs of the students. The houses are self-supporting and are run by boards of management.

The purpose of these facilities is to advance international understanding by enabling young people of different cultures to live and work together as they pursue higher education.

The concept was not original. The first International House was established in New York City, U.S.A., with a grant by John D. Rockefeller. By the time the first Rotary-sponsored houses were built there were 25 in U.S.A., 13 in the U.K., 10 in Germany and one in Australia (in Melbourne).

## Melbourne

Contrary to popular belief the Melbourne International House was not a Rotary project; but it has received a great deal of Rotary assistance.

Opened in 1957 for 42 students (and subsequently considerably extended), International House owes its existence to the joint efforts of a group of Indian students, the Student Representative Council and the Society of University Women, who raised the initial funds and launched an appeal in 1950, to which the Rotary Club of Melbourne contributed.

In 1954-55 the club adopted the furnishing of International House as its major project for the year; and in 1961, after the death of Sir Angus Mitchell, the club established the Angus Mitchell Memorial Library at International House. A huge book fair in 1969 in which all clubs in Districts 280 and 282 (the area now covered by 9800, 9810, 9820, and 9830) participated, raised \$7,000 for various activities of the House.

Members of Rotary Clubs, as individuals or because of their association with the university, have had a continuing association with International House. As Harold Hunt put it: "The story of Rotary's involvement in this International House has been one of advice and encouragement in the early stages, sustained interest and growing financial support."

## Brisbane

As its project for Rotary's Golden Anniversary in 1955, the Rotary Club of Brisbane, led by President Wal Gilbert, adopted the establishing of an International House at the University of Queensland. It may have been just a coincidence that Professor Frank White, a member of the club, was warden for overseas students at the University.

The club called a public meeting in the reception rooms of the Lord Mayor and opened the appeal with \$1,000, which was matched by equal donations from the Country Women's Association and Brisbane Jaycees. An International House Council was formed with District 260 Governor Bert Martin as president and Rtn Dr. Nor-

man Sherwood as vice president. Other service organisations were represented on the committee which, for the next decade, was busily engaged in fund-raising and planning. International House therefore became a joint enterprise of Rotary, the community, the Universities Commission, the University of Queensland and State and Federal Governments; but always with Bert Martin as the driving force.

Building began in 1964 and on March 1, 1965, International House was opened as a University College with 32 Australian and 32 overseas students. Extensions began almost immediately with further residential blocks and a Warden's residence. By 1969 the College was accommodating its intended student population of more than 150 with 18 countries represented by the overseas residents.

International House continues to function as intended with Australian and overseas students in equal numbers establishing friendships and advancing understanding. It also remains a popular residence for Rotary Foundation Scholars during their studies at the University.

The contribution of Bert Martin to the success of the project was recognised when the main hall was named Martin Hall.

## Sydney

In 1961 plans were drawn up for Rotary-sponsored International Houses to be located at the University of Sydney (founded 1850) and the recently-established University of New South Wales; an ambitious project of the Rotary clubs in the district covering the Sydney metropolitan and nearby country areas. This was the first major district project undertaken in the area; and before it was completed, as a result of re-districting, it had become a project of the clubs in two districts.

The venture had grown slowly from an early investigation by the Rotary Club of South Sydney in 1956. Then, at the 1956-57 District 275 (9750) Conference, which was held in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney, District Governor (Sir) George Proud, in thanking the Vice Chancellor, asked in what way Rotarians could show their appreciation to the University. The response was that

the greatest need was increased student accommodation, particularly for overseas students.

This statement was reinforced by a recommendation in the 1957 report of a commission set up to investigate the activities of the two universities (Sydney and New South Wales): "We would particularly stress the importance of university residences for overseas students. Australia is assuming responsibilities of the highest order in South East Asia. There is already a large flow of students, increasing every year. It is important that they should learn not only the particular academic specialism that the universities have to offer but that they should go home with an intimate knowledge of Australians - of Australian thought and of Australian ideals. These students represent the highest ability these overseas countries possess and they are the potential leaders in their particular walk of life. It is indeed unfortunate that they spend much of the day in isolation from those with kindred interests . . ."

From many informal discussions between university staff, students and Rotarians there gradually emerged the idea of establishing international houses, which would meet a real need, would provide the environment conducive to study and the ideal conditions under which Australian and overseas students might form friendships and develop understanding. The proposal was advanced at the 1961 District 275 Conference.

Rotary International Director Douglas Stewart, a member of the Rotary Club of Sydney and a past governor of the district, wrote to Sydney University Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn indicating Rotary's interest in sponsoring an international house and asking whether the Senate would make suitable land available and recommend the support of the Universities Commission.

Sir Charles invited Doug and three more influential Rotarians to lunch to discuss the offer. They were District Governor Colin Moore, PDG Dr. Geoff Howe and Sydney club President (Sir) Bernard Freeman.

As a result of this and subsequent discussions, the inaugural meeting of the Universities International Houses Appeal Executive Committee met. Nine Rotarians, including R.I. First Vice President Douglas Stewart and District Governor Sleath Lowrey, decided that

local Rotary clubs would support the appeal and, exceeding their authority, committed the clubs in the district to raise £400,000, which would be matched by equal contributions from both State and Federal governments, to provide international houses. The Universities would provide the land.

Over the next four years the clubs did raise the funds, claiming to have utilised every fund-raising activity known to man (and not forgetting to remind those who had committed them to this daunting task without their consent that they were far from content and would neither welcome nor support any future multi-club, multi-district fund-raising venture).

Nevertheless, when the International Houses were finally opened and the first students were installed, Rotarians appeared to be united in their satisfaction with the result of their labours. The Sydney University International House with accommodation for 130 students opened in 1967; the house at the University of New South Wales, for 120 students, opened in 1968. The Sydney House now has 200 and New South Wales 150 residents; and their existence is a matter of pride for the Rotarians of the three districts (9680, 9690 and 9750) now covering the same territory, in which there are now not two but five universities; but tentative suggestions that International Houses might be sponsored at Macquarie University, or one of the University of Western Sydney's several campuses, or the University of Technology Sydney, have fallen on very deaf ears indeed.

Some Rotary clubs in the districts in which international houses are located take a continuing interest in the overseas students in residence, often taking them on picnics with other young people or giving them short tours to places of interest in the surrounding countryside.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne maintains an avuncular interest in the students, takes them on outings and helps to find them vacation employment.

The Rotary Club of Newtown established an Australiana Section in the library of nearby Sydney University International House. Beginning with the donation of a book by each member and club gifts of relief-maps and celestial and terrestrial globes in 1970, the club



adds to the collection with donations of further books each year.

A group of overseas students from the University of New South Wales International House is taken on an annual excursion to Orange, where they are guests of Rotarians and are given the opportunity to inspect local rural industries and enjoy country hospitality. A reciprocal visit by year 11 students from secondary schools in Orange to International House is arranged to enable students to experience university life. Students at the House act as hosts and guides to the school students.

International House at James Cook University in Townsville was not a Rotary project, though Rotary was the catalyst for its foundation. The clubs in the Townsville area have provided assistance.

#### MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLIES

In 1980 the Rotary Club of Lake Cargelligo, a small town in western New South Wales, at the instigation of International Service Director Chris Budden, a Uniting Church Minister and former Rotary Foundation scholar, introduced the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) program to the secondary schools in District 970 (9700).

Each club in the district was asked to invite each secondary school in its territory to send a team of two delegates to the Model United Nations Assembly. Each team would represent a different nation at the assembly which would be conducted, on the lines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, by experienced Rotarians. At the first MUNA only seven schools in the district (covering 200,000 sq.km.) responded, providing 12 delegations (some obviously sending two teams).

The number of participants increased each year and by 1983 the 13-member Lake Cargelligo club, in an isolated part of the district, was finding its resources, both human and accommodation, severely strained; and the larger and more conveniently situated Rotary Club of Forbes assumed the responsibility of mounting MUNA for the district.

Fortunately every great Rotary program manages to attract its ardent adherents who, having been convinced of its worth, are impatient to share it with as many Rotarians as possible and

proceed to become its zealous missionaries, preaching its gospel at every opportunity. MUNA was no exception; and its principal evangelist was Dominic Williams, a past president of the Rotary Club of Forbes, who, in 1986, began to promote the program, sharing the idea with other clubs beyond the boundaries of 970. To assist him in his mission the Forbes club published a useful handbook and produced a video for the guidance of districts contemplating the adoption of the program. By 1987 MUNA was beginning in other districts, including Western Australia (and New Zealand); and by 1995 it was being conducted throughout Australia.

At the 1993 Rotary International Convention, District 9800 in conjunction with District 9700 presented MUNA for the interest of Rotarians from around the world.

In 1995 five Australian students, sponsored by Districts 9680 and 9800 and led by Dominic Williams and Michael Van Heeswyk, participated in MUNA conducted by the Rotary Club of San Francisco as part of the Rotary/United Nations Presidential Conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.N. At the Australian Rotary Institute held in Hobart in November, 1995, District 9700 Governor Dr. Henry Gardiner successfully sponsored a motion for the formation of a national MUNA Committee; which was duly established with Dominic Williams (9700) as its chairman, Michael Van Heeswyk (9680) as vice chairman, Trevor Jago (9800) as secretary and Barry Douglas (9800) as treasurer.

The purpose of MUNA is to encourage young people to learn about other nations and to understand and appreciate the workings of the United Nations while they develop debating skills and gain self-confidence in public speaking. Before the debate begins, a delegate from each nation delivers a brief address setting out the most important facts about the country he or she represents. The proposals to be debated are selected from those actually debated by the U.N. as well as a number of motions proposed by the teams. The debates reproduce genuine U.N. debates, often with a fine flow of rhetoric, points of order, motions of dissent, table-banging and bloc walk-outs. Teachers and Rotarian counsellors show evidence of enjoying the experience as much as the students.

Australian Rotary clubs do not claim to have originated MUNA, which was first presented as an International project by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in 1955, with more than 100 schools participating. Similar programs called "Into Their Shoes" were being encouraged throughout the Rotary world in the 1960s and were very popular in Australia; but these were usually events arranged once only by individual clubs.

MUNA has become an annual event in Australian districts, in most of which a different host club is selected each year by the incumbent governor from those volunteering their services; and the organisation of the program is the responsibility of the District MUNA Committee.

#### OTHER PROGRAMS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Friendship Exchanges are often arranged between Australian districts or groups of districts and districts in other countries. The visiting team (usually of Rotarians and spouses) attends meetings and, if the visit is at the appropriate time, the district conference in the host district. They show films, videotapes or slides and describe as many aspects of life at home as possible. Team members are billeted in the homes of host district Rotarians. In the following year the other half of the exchange takes place. This is not an "official" program and, as the team members are responsible for their own travelling expenses and accommodation (when not billeted), and since it is assumed that adult Rotarians are capable of making their own arrangements, no guidelines have been prepared apart from those that might be helpful to the people arranging the group travel. There is a subtle reminder, however, that they, no less than Foundation scholars and exchange students, are Rotary "ambassadors of good will" and that the objective of a Rotary Friendship Exchange is "the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace".

One of the most recent friendship visits occurred in February, 1996 between Districts 9630 in Queensland and 3130 in India. This inter-district international friendship resulted from a matching grant project to irrigate nearly 500 hectares of farmland to benefit 525 Indian families. Nevell McPhee reported that

Rotarians and spouses from eight Queensland clubs visited Poona, witnessed the beginnings of the project, attended the District 3130 Conference and participated in a memorable "Maharaja's Breakfast". The project, incidentally, had its genesis in a Group Study Exchange between the two districts in 1990 when a warm friendship developed between the leader of the Indian team, Dr. Philly Karani, and President Norm Jenner of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba South. They discussed the possibility of the irrigation scheme as a joint venture with a matching grant from The Rotary Foundation. Five years of work and careful planning later, with Philly as District 3130 Governor, their efforts were rewarded with the project begun and friendships between the Rotary families of the two widely different districts firmly cemented.

Each year, in the week in which February 23 occurs, Rotary for many years celebrated World Understanding Week. This has been extended to World Understanding Month, during which all clubs are asked to commemorate the anniversary of Rotary's birth in February, 1905, by organising some activity to emphasise world understanding and peace. As may be imagined, the means adopted vary widely - from inviting a foreign diplomat to speak at the club meeting to organising an international day in a local park with residents encouraged to wear the national costumes of their countries of origin. With a large immigrant population in Australia, particularly in the large city and suburban areas, such fairs or festivals are seen as a valuable means of accentuating the positive aspects of a multi-cultural society.

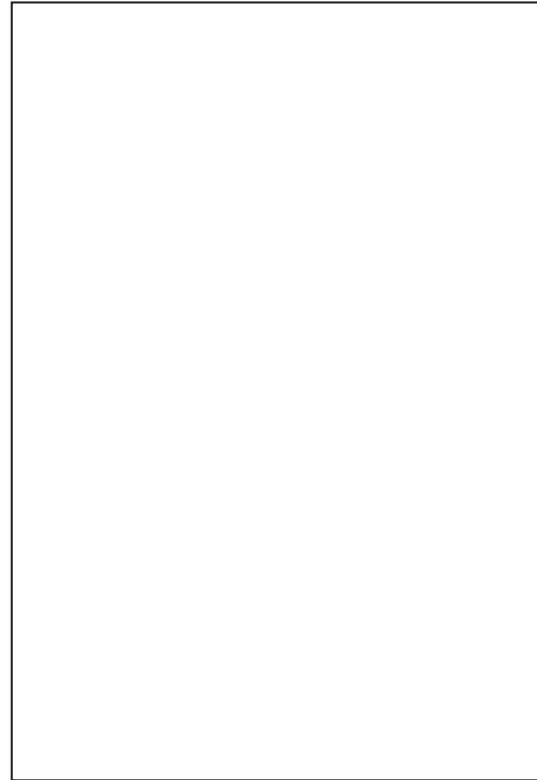
The Rotary Clubs of Darwin and Darwin North, Northern Territory, established a cultural exchange with near Asian neighbours, assisting in the exchange of librarians between Darwin and Ambon. This led to further contact with Ambonese authorities and the sponsorship by Darwin clubs of 72 athletes in the Arafura Youth Games. Continuing cultural contact is maintained, specifically in the fields of agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry.

An unusual World Understanding Week program was devised in 1962 by the Rotary Club of Bourke, New South Wales (on the edge of the Outback). Having no significant immigrant population and

having previously followed traditional Understanding Week activities, the club decided upon something different: an ecumenical church service with World Understanding as its theme. The local clergy of all denominations were happy to co-operate and so began the annual devotional service, held each year in a different church, always filled to overflowing, to promote world understanding and friendship beginning with religious understanding and friendship in the community.

Sometimes personal international friendships can lead to unusual opportunities for individual service; as, for example, in 1966 when Ian Hudson of the Rotary Club of Rydalmere, New South Wales and governor nominee of District 268 (9680) was assigned by District Governor Frank Meddows to take care of the R.I. president's personal representative, Bhichai Rattakul of Thailand, during and after the district conference. The two men formed a warm and enduring friendship which resulted in Ian's presidency of the Thai-Australia Association and his service for 12 years as Honorary Consul General for Thailand. During that time he became personally involved in an important project initiated by the King: to encourage and help poor farmers in remote hill districts, whose traditional cash crop had been the opium poppy, to grow alternative produce. More than \$30,000 was raised in Australia to help fund the project. For his services, Ian Hudson was honoured by the King as a Commander of the Crown of Thailand.

Many clubs choose an overseas club or clubs with which to correspond or exchange audio or video tapes; others toast an overseas club at each meeting and send a greeting card to the club so honoured. Some write a letter enclosing leaflets or brochures to a club in a different country each week or each month. All of this is in the name of world understanding; and if some Rotarians question the value of such activities (and even go so far as to suggest that it's all a bit futile) most declare that these simple measures have brought them friendships through which their own understanding of others is enhanced and from which they derive great pleasure.



Ken Collins of the Rotary Club of Kenwick, W.A., a past governor of District 947, Ken is one of Australia's most ardent Rotary volunteers.

Model United Nations Assemblies (MUNA) provide the latest success story for Australian Rotary youth projects. Although not originally an Australian idea, the project has been extensively developed in Australia and recently gained official R.I. project status. The format for MUNA is simple with high school age students taking the role of various United Nations countries and involving themselves in "mock" United Nations debates. The students often attire themselves in the national dress of the countries they represent.

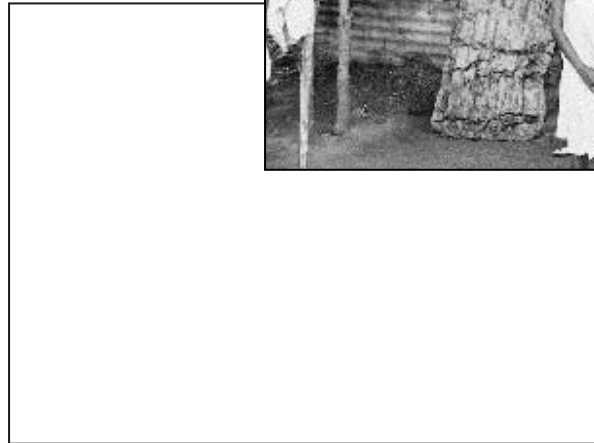
Inspecting the model for Sydney University International House in 1965 are Frank Meddows, Bernard Freeman, Douglas Stewart, Ian Hudson, Les McGregor, R.I. President C.P.L. (Sput) Teenstra (from The Netherlands), Seymour Shaw, Geoff Howe and H.W. (Mick) Shephard.

The visit to North Queensland of R.I. President Bill Huntley was on the television news and in the newspapers. He is pictured during a television interview.

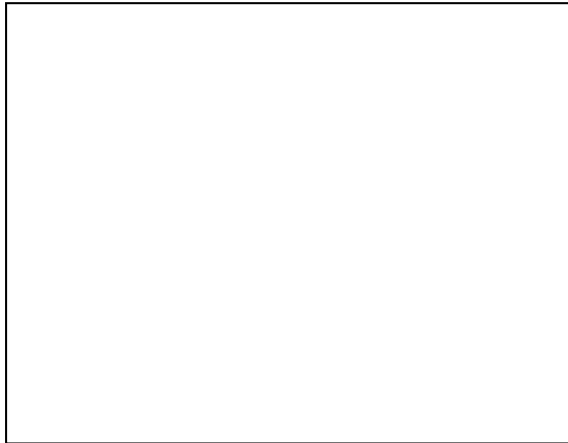
From left to right, John and Jill Carrick, Past President Tony Quinlivan, of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga-Kooringal, N.S.W., and Audrey and Bill Huntley. Tony was the driving force behind the building of the world peace monument in Wagga Wagga.

Rotary International House at the Curtin University of Technology, Perth (formerly the Western Australia Institute of Technology - W.A.I.T.), was established as a project of the Rotary clubs of District 245 (9450), which then covered the whole state. The project was sponsored on the initiative of the Rotary Club of South Perth in 1968. An appeal was launched in 1972, the foundation stone was laid in 1977 and the first students were admitted in 1978. In common with similar halls of residence in other universities, Rotary International House at Curtin accommodates overseas and Australian students to facilitate the advancement of international under-

Home is looking better for many people in Fiji because of the Rotahomes project initiated by the Rotary Club of Lautoka, Fiji.



Rotahome display featured at the Melbourne Convention in 1993. From left, those pictured include Anne Craig, Peter Drysdale, PDGs Fred Angus and Ross Craig from District 9920, New Zealand.



## CHAPTER SIX

### COMMUNITIES ABROAD

In their efforts to advance world understanding, Rotarians soon found that there were many overseas communities in desperate need of help.

The earliest response to the plight of fellow-humans in another land was the financial assistance that accompanied an outpouring of sympathy and concern for the victims of the great Tokyo earthquake of 1923. Thousands of dollars from Rotary clubs around the world (there were by then more than 1,000 of them) flooded in to the Rotary Club of Tokyo, which distributed the funds to the most needy areas. Rotarians everywhere have responded similarly to every major disaster of which they have become aware, usually resulting from appeals by the board of Rotary International.

It is not possible to pinpoint so precisely the beginnings of Rotary attempts to meet less dramatic but equally devastating social needs abroad. Australian clubs do not appear to have embarked on any such activities until the 1950s, if we exclude food parcels for Britain, which was a regular Rotary commitment during and immediately after World War II, and the relief packages sent to war victims in Europe and the extensive Rotary assistance to refugees and "stateless persons" in the immediate post-war years.

During the 1950s and 60s a number of Rotary clubs in Australia "adopted" some 50 orphan children in Hong Kong by paying their living expenses and school fees. The scheme was administered by the Hong Kong club and had been brought to the attention of local clubs by an Australian Rotarian visitor to Hong Kong. In March, 1969, Hong Kong club's International Service Committee Chairman, Peter Scales, reported that 28 children were being sponsored by 18 Australian clubs and that a further four clubs had agreed to sponsor 21 children.

Australian clubs also began to respond to appeals from Rotary clubs in Asia and the Pacific Islands by sending materials for schools, some of which lacked even pencils and paper.

When the first Rotary club was formed in the Territory of

Papua New Guinea (then a United Nations Trusteeship under Australian administration) in 1957, some needs of the people were soon identified and brought to the attention of Australian clubs. Relatively small projects – provision of medical equipment, books and school supplies for the various Christian missions and scholarships for secondary education – were begun.

Practical help was given to agricultural areas in India by the Rotary Club of Narrabri, New South Wales in 1962 when it adopted the recommendation of club members George Freeman and Nick Derera (both agricultural researchers) to establish the Namoi Valley Research Foundation which, three years later, brought young agricultural scientist Raja Ram from New Delhi to study at the North West Wheat Research Institute so that he could advise and assist farmers in his own country, especially those who had shown a reluctance to accept the advice of foreign "experts".

The Rotary Club of Robinvale, Victoria, in 1964, at the suggestion of Phillip Henry, who had served in Borneo during World War II, began its project to supply essential equipment to small schools in Sarawak and, finding the need extensive throughout the interior region of the country, gained the assistance of other Rotary clubs to extend the aid.

In 1965-66, at the behest of the Rotary Club of Corrimal, New South Wales, with Warner Reed of that club as project director, 225 Australian clubs contributed to a fund to plant a forest, high in the hills of Galilee, in the then only recently created State of Israel. The purpose was to prevent erosion, attract rainfall and rehabilitate the soil. A dedication was held in 1969 and at the forest entrance the contribution of Australian Rotary clubs is acknowledged on an inscription.

Sample drugs left in surgeries and pharmacies by medical detailers usually remain until the doctors and chemists eventually dispose of them. This seemed a wicked waste to Daryl Hazard of the Rotary Club of Oakleigh, Victoria, who persuaded his club to organise a collection and send the drugs, through the Red Cross, to be distributed by Rotarians in South West Calcutta, India; a simple but very valuable project.

In 1967 the Rotary Club of Toowoomba, Queensland, brought

two young Melanesian Salvation Army lassies from Papua New Guinea to Toowoomba for six months to learn the intricacies of the sewing machine; not only how to use it but also how to teach others to use it; so that, when they returned to their mission, they would be competent instructors in the art of machine-sewing. The club also donated 12 reconditioned industrial sewing machines for use in the small clothing factory being established at the mission by the Salvation Army.

In the same year the Rotary Clubs of District 260 (9600) sponsored two double-certificated nurses to serve as Australian Volunteers Abroad in New Guinea.

In 1968 the Rotary Club of Belgrave, Victoria, sponsored a study tour for an Indonesian rehabilitation worker to enable him to extend the training of handicapped people in Central Java.

As its Rotary 75th Anniversary Health Hunger Humanity project in 1980-81, the Rotary Club of Warringah, New South Wales, established a paramedic training centre in Tonga.

A community service project of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Island in 1975 became a world community service contribution from many Australian clubs when Sister Bonnie Quintal (wife of a Rotarian Bounty descendant) of N.I. Hospital flew a light aircraft around Australia to raise funds for the hospital. Project director Ned Lenthall arranged maximum publicity for the flight, resulting in strong support from Australian clubs wherever she landed.

During his Rotary work in Thailand to develop a literacy program (described later in this chapter), Dick Walker observed that, because literacy projects involve long and close contact with local Rotarians and schools, further needs are identified that can be met. Finding a high level of malnutrition among children and discovering that those involved in the Thai-Australian Fisheries Project knew that the problem could be alleviated by fish-breeding in large ponds with complementary vegetable growing and poultry or pig-raising, the Literacy project team set up fish-breeding ponds and gardens in project schools, sponsored by Rotary clubs in Australia and Thailand. These not only provided school meals to solve the malnutrition problems but also acted as what Dick Walker calls "lighthouses" because local subsistence farmers, traditionally

reluctant to adopt new methods, copied what had been done at school and could buy fingerling fish from the schools to stock their ponds.

A hostel for infant welfare and midwifery training was established at Telefomin, Papua New Guinea, in 1971 by the Rotary Club of Mount Isa, Queensland.

Rotary clubs in District 279 and 280, (9790 and 9800) in 1973 provided 2,000 chickens to stock a poultry farmyard at a Leprosy settlement village in Korea. In a letter of appreciation to Vic French, past governor District 280, the director of the centre said: "You have literally saved our lives . . . the income from poultry has solved our basic food problem and . . . we hope to start a hog-raising project which will give us self support."

These few, chosen at random from club reports and items in Rotary magazines, were among the very many projects for the assistance of overseas communities that began to expand rapidly during the late 1950s and 60s.

In 1962 the name "World Community Service" had been officially adopted to describe this aspect of International Service. The stated aim of this community service abroad was "to improve education, food production, health and social services".

FAIM (Fourth Avenue In Motion)

In 1963 a group of 47 people representing several religious and charitable bodies, recruited by Rotary clubs in five Australian districts, made a "goodwill tour" of Indonesia (in which Rotary was then an illegal organisation) where they discovered many areas in which practical help could be given to the village people.

Led by Sydney Rotarian the Rev Bertram Wyllie, the team travelled, under the banner of the World Council of Churches (of which Bert was a past president), as members of a hastily-constituted body known as FAIM. When they returned the leaders pondered the problem of bringing practical help to small village communities in developing countries such as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the small island nations of the South Pacific. From their deliberations they developed a new Rotary instrumentality, to which they gave the name under which they had travelled to

Indonesia: FAIM - "Fourth Avenue In Motion" - the object of which was to recruit volunteer work teams with a variety of skills to carry out projects in developing countries. (In 1966 it was declared to be the operative arm of the Rotary Institute International Projects Advisory Committee - IPAC. International Service, of course, is Rotary's "Fourth Avenue of Service" giving expression to the fourth part of the Object of Rotary).

The reason for the speedy formation of FAIM was severely practical: to gain group travel concessions on aircraft. Rotarians, even when travelling together as a group, did not qualify for affinity group travel concessions unless they were all members of the same club; so FAIM was born out of the need to save money - an important consideration to people who were paying their own fares and expenses to work abroad as volunteers.

The Founder of FAIM, on whom, many years later, that title was officially conferred, was Keith Hopper of the Rotary Club of Inverell and past governor of District 265 (9650), whose dedication was matched only by his dynamism.

In 1964 the first FAIM team of seven volunteers went to Indonesia where they built an orphanage, teaching local people a variety of building techniques as they did so.

The first FAIM project in Papua New Guinea was construction of a wharf at Wasu in 1967. The first request for aid to this area was for additional accommodation at a nearby leper hospital; but investigation revealed that the future of the hospital was in some doubt and also that the hospital and the 30,000 people in the surrounding areas were seriously disadvantaged because of isolation and inaccessibility. The only access to the area was by light aircraft via a tiny airstrip perched on a ridge, or by sea. Cargo was loaded or unloaded from ships 100 yards off shore and conveyed on small outrigger craft to and from the beach, an operation possible only in calm weather.

The Administration had plans for a wharf but there were no funds available. The cost was estimated at \$65,000 and it was expected to take seven months to build. Three FAIM teams, each of 20 volunteers, assisted by the local indigenous people who enthusiastically provided the labour, completed the wharf in six weeks at a total

cost of \$12,000. While doing so they also built a schoolhouse, a small nursing home and covered concrete walkways between the hospital wards. The Rotary clubs involved were Inverell, Coffs Harbour, Lindfield, Bellingen, and Hurstville in New South Wales and Caloundra, Queensland.

In 1972, in response to an appeal for a new building – office and meeting hall – a team of two Rotary volunteers, Cyril Richarde of Southport, Queensland and Norm Jones of Taree, New South Wales, went to Indonesia with a set of cement brick moulds and a cement tile-making machine. They taught the locals at the Kalawi Salvation Army Mission to make cement bricks, set up a small "factory" in which to manufacture the bricks, began construction of the building and trained some young men in the building trades and left them to complete the job. A team returned later in 1972 to build living quarters for the mission; and in 1974 a team of four Rotarians and a Rotaract member built a hostel, a residence for a doctor and extensions to the mission hospital, again using cement bricks. Norm Jones returned to Kalawi in 1975 to provide further instruction in building techniques.

Since those early projects, more than 500 FAIM teams from Australian Rotary clubs in all States have built hospitals, clinics, medical centres, a cultural centre, schools, dormitories, water tanks and training centres and have installed irrigation plants, wells, water-pumps, electricity generating plants, sewerage treatment works, methane gas converters and solar collectors. They have worked in Papua New Guinea, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Western Samoa, Vanuatu and the Philippines. Choosing just one year at random: serving in the 23 teams sent out in 1990-91 were 326 volunteers. It's no wonder that FAIM was once described by Keith Hopper as "Rotary with its sleeves rolled up."

As the number of FAIM projects increased in its early days, it was inevitable that someone would find it necessary to develop an administrative structure. In 1966, as mentioned earlier, FAIM was introduced to the Australian Rotary Institute and declared to be the "operative arm of IPAC" (International Projects Advisory Committee). Every district governor was asked to appoint a district

FAIM chairman and a committee of management was elected by the Institute. All Rotarians were invited to become members of FAIM for 50 cents a year or life members for \$10.

In 1971 a new constitution was adopted and four regions were established (Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western) each of which was represented on the National Co-ordinating Council. The role of the co-ordinating council is to consider the requests or applications for FAIM assistance, decide how many teams will be required, ensure that satisfactory arrangements can be made with the country receiving the aid and allocate the tasks to the regional councils. The regional councils recruit teams from the Rotary districts within the region and make travel arrangements.

Despite the extent of the operation, FAIM has no paid staff. Every aspect of the work, from administration to work in the field, is performed by volunteers. The co-ordinating council meets annually, for convenience and economy on the day before and at the same location as the Institute.

In 1994 two health clinics were completed at Sinarangu and Olumburi on the isolated east coast of Malaita, Solomon Islands. They were officially opened in March of that year, with Rotarians and Solomon Islands Government officials present, as The Keith Hopper Memorial Health Clinics.

In 1993-94 338 volunteers built, extended or renovated schools, hospitals, orphanages, aid posts and a workshop for the retarded at 29 locations in 10 countries. Estimated cost of the facilities was \$2.5 million.

IPAC (International Projects Advisory Committee)

The 1965 conference of incumbent, incoming and past officers of Rotary International in Australia, on the motion of Ern Granger, appointed an advisory committee to co-ordinate the work of clubs embarking on projects abroad. Concern was expressed at the duplication of effort when more than one club responded to a request for help from an overseas organisation, the uncertainty that aid would reach its intended destination, and the credentials of some of the groups seeking the aid. Members of the committee were Ern Granger and Tom Sides (Victoria), Bert Martin (Queensland), Keith



Hopper (New South Wales), and Harry Wheeler (Western Australia).

In the following year this annual conference was granted official status by the board of Rotary International as a Rotary Regional Institute and the International Projects Advisory Committee (IPAC) became the first Institute standing committee. Its brief was to investigate the many appeals for help from agencies, missions and other organisations in developing countries, to verify the credentials of those seeking the aid, to ensure that the aid would reach its intended destination and to help solve transport and customs problems.

By 1969 the IPAC Chairman, Ferg Ballantyne (South Australia) was able to report to the Institute that it had listed 49 projects and that there had been a "good response" from Rotary clubs. Completed projects included six hospital wards for a mission clinic, eight head of cattle as the nucleus of a cattle industry, wells sunk in New Guinea villages and 90 scholarships for underprivileged children in Hong Kong and Thailand. The Director of the Papua New Guinea Administration Central Secretariat attended the Institute to convey the appreciation of the Administration for Rotary's continuing contribution to the welfare of the indigenous people of the Territory.

At the 1974 Institute Brian Knowles (Queensland) reported that 300 Rotary clubs and some 40 Interact and Rotaract clubs had completed projects valued at more than \$30,000.

Each year the number of projects listed grew and clubs responded to the appeal for help. At first listed in Rotary Down Under, the list was later published as a booklet, issued each year to all Rotary clubs. With each project listed is the name of the liaison member of the International Projects Advisory Committee responsible for that project. A club selecting a project from the list first contacts the liaison member of the committee whose first duty is to ensure that no other club has undertaken the project. If another club has taken it up, he suggests others of similar extent. He is also required to give the club advice about transportation, official documents to be obtained and any government regulations or special conditions to be met. He then maintains liaison with the club

and the recipient agency until completion of the project.

Half of the six-member committee retire each year and three new members are elected by the Institute for a two year term. Each district makes a financial contribution to cover the costs of postage, telephone calls and the printing and distribution of the IPAC list; and, as indicated by the "State of origin" of the chairmen, the committee members are drawn from all parts of Australia.

In 1993-94, 106 projects in 20 countries were supported by clubs in all 23 districts in Australia. Donations totalled \$379,500 and many of the projects attracted The Rotary Foundation Matching Grants or AIDAB (AusAID) grants.

#### SAVE WATER SAVE LIVES

In 1991 a District 980 (9800) activity, initiated by the Rotary Club of Ringwood, after having operated for a decade, was adopted by the Australian Institute as a national program to provide contributions and volunteers to improve methods of water catchment, reticulation and storage tank construction in developing countries.

Of course the installation of tanks, sinking of wells and provision of pumps and other equipment was not new. In the 1960s clubs were undertaking such projects in India, Thailand, Borneo and Papua New Guinea; and IPAC lists of the time were recording further needs; but these were world community service projects of individual clubs with no national co-ordination.

Save Water Save Lives was an attempt to develop a national strategy to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in bringing help to the areas of need.

As with other national programs, each district governor is asked to appoint a district chairman who represents the district as a member of one of the five regional committees. The operation is co-ordinated by a national co-ordinating committee.

In its first year as a national program, "Save Water Save Lives" was able to report the construction of two tanks in Solomon Islands, 20 in Papua-New Guinea, 40 in Thailand and 68 in India.

## DONATIONS IN KIND

The Rotary Club of Longford, Tasmania (Chartered 1963) provided new X-ray equipment for the local hospital as its major community service project for the 1964-65 year. While awaiting delivery of the new unit, the club wondered how the old plant would be disposed of and asked whether it might be reconditioned and donated to a needy hospital overseas. The State Health Department was pleased to approve the plan; the suppliers of the new X-ray machine reconditioned and crated the old one free of charge; Air India flew it, also free of charge, to Calcutta; and it was duly installed by the Rotary Club of Serampore in the newly-established, Rotary-sponsored hospital.

When Geoff Bennett (classification: X-ray maintenance) of the Rotary Club of Nedlands, Western Australia, read about this "double" project in Rotary Down Under in 1969 he recommended that the club embark on a project to acquire any replaced X-ray equipment it could lay its collective hands on and transport it to some of the many hospitals in developing countries that were known to be desperately in need of equipment. The club agreed and reconditioned X-ray units were sent to hospitals in India, Thailand and Tanzania.

So began a continuing project that was to gain the support of the whole of District 245 (which, at that time, covered the State, now Districts 9450, 9460 and 9470): the recovery and despatch to developing countries of used hospital equipment; not only X-ray machines but operating tables and lights, dental chairs, sterilisers, electrocardiographs and such simple items as stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, forceps, scalpels, kidney dishes and even bed pans. Now enthusiastically co-ordinated by Gerald Davies of Nedlands, the project continues; the value of the equipment collected and despatched conservatively estimated to have reached millions of dollars.

Throughout the years hundreds of Rotary clubs all over Australia have followed this fine example: scavenging, repairing, packaging and despatching still-useful material, discarded by this wantonly wasteful, throw-away society.

Recognising that many members of Rotary clubs have access to

valuable items considered obsolescent or surplus to local requirements, the Australian Rotary Institute in 1990 formed another world community service committee known as Donations in Kind, which aims to co-ordinate the collection of goods and distribution in areas of greatest need.

The two main categories of goods sought through the Donations in Kind committee are for education (school books, classroom equipment, paper, pencils, teaching aids, tools, typewriters, computers, sewing machines) and health (medication, bandages, tapes, stethoscopes and other surgery equipment, large and small hospital equipment from bed pans and kidney-dishes to beds, trolleys, X-ray plants, operating tables and air conditioners). Equipment is stored in state capital cities and is sorted and packed by Rotarian volunteers. When the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown, New South Wales, was closed down and its small patients transferred, the three Rotary districts involved in the Rotary Wing of the New Children's Hospital acquired the unwanted furniture and equipment from the old hospital and, through DiK, have sent it to dozens of needy institutions overseas.

Goods were shipped in 1991-92 to Bangladesh, Nepal, Papua-New Guinea, Philippines, Fiji, Natal, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe. Donations in Kind Committee members attempted to estimate the value of goods shipped and produced what was described as a conservative estimate of \$5 million based on replacement value.

Donations in Kind is another of those activities that, having operated under a variety of names in several districts for many years, was adopted by all districts (per medium of the Institute) under a co-ordinated plan for greater efficiency and more equitable distribution to the agencies applying for aid.

ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE  
(RAWCS Ltd.)

In 1987 a company was registered as a legal entity and a "national voice" for the various World Community Service activities operating under the several committees of the Rotary Institute: IPAC, FAIM, Save Water Save Lives and now Donations in Kind.

To most Australian Rotary clubs the need for a super-organisation to "co-ordinate the co-ordinators" was not immediately apparent. The proposed new body would have no authority to direct or in any way influence the decisions of the various committees formed by resolution of and therefore accountable only to the Institute. Its purpose, however, was not to be one of co-ordination of activities but to be the unified mouthpiece for all in dealings with officialdom. One of the government instrumentalities to which all groups applies from time to time is the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), now known as AusAID, responsible for funding or subsidising projects of Non Government Organisations. As committees of the Australian Rotary Institute, FAIM, IPAC, SWSL and DiK had no legal status and were dependent upon the goodwill of officials to recognise them as Non Government Organisations or as representing Rotary as a N.G.O. Unlike Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, Rotary in Australia has no legally constituted national body (apart from the Council of Rotary Down Under Inc.). As a legally constituted registered company, RAWCS Limited was able to meet the requirements for a fully recognised N.G.O., authorised to negotiate with government instrumentalities on behalf of Rotary's World Community Service agencies. Moreover the new national body has been able to provide national press releases, issue a periodical newsletter to advise all clubs of world community service activities and opportunities for service as team members or by adopting a suitable project.

As its chairman claimed in a report to "shareholders": "the company had a turnover in excess of \$8 million, plus \$400,000 from AIDAB subsidies and humanitarian matching grants from The Rotary Foundation; 500 unpaid employees, 350 of whom would be travelling overseas as volunteers."

#### ROTAHOMES

In 1985 a disastrous cyclone struck Fiji, causing damage estimated at \$80 million in Lautoka and surrounding villages and leaving more than 10,000 people homeless. Many of those who had lost their homes were the very poor, some verging on destitution; and the dwellings they had lost had been no more than

sub-standard shacks made of scrap materials. As an immediate response, Peter Drysdale, an Australian temporary resident of Fiji who had become a member of the Rotary club of Lautoka, developed the Rotahomes project: the construction of small (4 x 3 metres), light-weight, cyclone-proof, galvanised iron and timber dwellings - far from luxurious except when compared with the structures they were designed to replace. Total cost of each dwelling was \$1,600.

New Zealand clubs in the same Rotary district quickly offered support to meet the immediate need and their assistance was soon supplemented by help from the other districts in both Australia and New Zealand. Thus Rotahomes became a world community service project of the ANZO region.

Having re-housed the cyclone victims, the Rotarians decided to set about eliminating all sub-standard housing in the area.

By 1991 the initial objective of 250 Rotahomes had been achieved and a long-term goal of 1,000 by the year 2000 had been set.

In addition to the construction of new dwellings, the program includes provision of basic necessities and finding employment for people in Rotahome families.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments provided financial assistance under their respective overseas aid programs and the special needs of many families have been brought to the attention of the Red Cross and the U.N. Save the Children Fund.

#### RESTORING SIGHT TO THE BLIND

##### Eye Camps

Rotarians in Australia first became aware of the camps established in India to perform delicate eye operations in 1961. Since then, hundreds of Rotary teams of surgeons have gone from Australia to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Papua New Guinea and other developing countries to save or restore the sight of many thousands of people.

One of the Rotarians involved was Ross Irvine, a past governor of District 950 in South Australia, who was appointed to the Interna-

tional Projects Advisory Committee in 1978 and assigned to projects in Bangladesh. At that time only four Rotary clubs in that country were receiving aid through IPAC but he soon discovered that there were other clubs conducting Eye Camps.

In 1980 Ross attended a Rotary International committee meeting in U.S.A. and there met a district governor nominee from Bangladesh. He asked which of the projects being funded by IPAC was the most important.

"Eye Camps," said his new friend without hesitation. "There are more than a million blind people in Bangladesh."

Returning to his district (which by then had been re-districted to become 950 and 952) he suggested a three-year commitment by the two districts to expand the Eye Camp project with funding of \$25,000. The districts agreed and, in their enthusiasm, raised \$34,000 in two years.

A joint district committee was formed and application was made to The Rotary Foundation for a matching grant; but, in the absence of any reply to the several letters to Bangladesh, the committee, in 1982, suggested that Ross board the first available aircraft and sort things out.

"The late Keith Hopper once told me that, if you plan to send money to an overseas country, you should wrap it up in a Rotarian," said Ross. "Wise words. My visit broke through all cultural and communication barriers; and after the Rotary leaders had conferred it was decided that all 28 Rotary clubs in Bangladesh would be involved."

A co-ordinating committee was formed for Eye Camps for Bangladesh and in the first year 15 clubs sponsored 30 Eye Camps, examined 27,027 village people, treated 20,441; and 3,665 had their sight restored by cataract operations.

By the end of the three years, 31 clubs had sponsored 201 Eye Camps; 192,278 people were examined; 157,361 were treated; and 23,337 had sight restored.

The emphasis by now was being placed on prevention of blindness through an education program. A joint application for a Health, Hunger and Humanity grant for "Treatment and Prevention of Blindness in Bangladesh" was successful. \$US377,900 was granted to

support the project for a further five years with 140 camps per year.

The total number of people examined as a result of both the Matching and 3-H Grants was 1,298,794, of whom 1,146,074 were treated and 143,194 underwent surgery to restore their sight.

The medical work and preventative education were carried out by surgeons of the Bangladesh National Society for the Blind, trained at the Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex where Professor Frank Billson of the Sydney Eye Hospital had set up a Diploma of Community Ophthalmology. More than 70 surgeons, 250 paramedics and many nurses had graduated from the course by 1994.

"It is a rewarding experience to visit Bangladesh Eye Camps," said Ross Irvine.

The day the bandages are removed is very emotional as the patients realise that they can see again. Some, who have been blind for years, see children and grandchildren for the first time. Many tears of joy are shed.

"The project has been good for Rotary, too. Because they admire the work of Rotarians, they are pleased to join Rotary when invited. On my first visit there were 28 clubs in Bangladesh. When I made my tenth visit in 1994 there were 83 clubs, 102 Rotaract clubs and 100 Rotary Village Corps."

The Treatment and Prevention of Blindness in Bangladesh Project still receives IPAC funding from Rotary clubs; and AIDAB (now called AusAID) funding is sought each year; but the task is far from complete. Many villages are still to be visited. Many people are still to be helped.

By the end of the 1995-96 Rotary year, more than 250,000 people will have received the gift of sight in this one country alone. Many times that number will have avoided blindness because of improved diet and hygiene.

This is a brief report of Rotary Eye Camps in just one small country on the Indian sub-continent. In each of the other countries in Asia and Africa in which Eye Camps are supported by Australian Rotary clubs, there is another story of dedicated people bringing their skills to the aid of those who need it.

### Mobile Eye Clinic

A variation on the Eye Camps is the Rotary Mobile Eye Clinic for Cataract Surgery in Indonesia, a joint project of Districts 9450 in Western Australia and 2400, Indonesia.

In 1991 a Rotary Foundation 3-H Grant of \$US157,545 was awarded to establish and run the project for two years. The sponsoring Rotary clubs, Perth and Bali Sanur, appointed management committees to ensure efficient administration at both ends.

John Pizey of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, a past governor of the district, was appointed honorary engineering consultant to supervise the conversion of a Mazda bus into a two-bed operating theatre. A trailer was designed to carry the generator, tents, stores and water.

By arrangement with General Peter Gratian, the then Defence Forces Chief, the mobile clinic was flown by RAAF Hercules to Denpasar Airport, Bali, on May 13, 1991.

Two Australian volunteer ophthalmologists, Dr. Peter Graham of Perth and Dr. Geoffrey Cohn of Sydney, were appointed consultants to the project and, on their recommendation, Dr. Wayan Dharyata of Bali was chosen as the ophthalmic surgeon. Three nurses were selected for the clinic by the Balinese Health Department. The team performed the first cataract operation in the clinic on May 29, 1991.

Between May, 1991 and April, 1996 more than 7,000 poor peasant men, women and children in the mountains and villages of Bali had had their sight restored, the majority by intra-ocular lens implant (IOLs) at a cost of only \$50 per implant. (Cost of a similar operation in Australia is in excess of \$4,000.) More than 50,000 people had been screened and glaucoma preventive measures taken where indicated. And the clinic was pioneering a community-based eye surgery program involving organised screening, co-ordinated scheduling and free government television and radio educational programs.

Australian volunteer ophthalmologists trained six local surgeons in the latest implant techniques. Specialist nurses from Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney trained local nurses in operating theatre disciplines and sterilisation. Australian volunteer orthoptists trained

the local staff in screening techniques. Dr. Dharyata spent three weeks in Perth for special training with Ophthalmology Professor Ian Constable.

In early 1996, Project Director John Hollingshead reported that the work was continuing and that, with AIDAB (AusAID) assistance, would be extended into other parts of Indonesia.

"It is believed that 1.6 percent of the Indonesian population is blind. That's 3,200,000 people," he said; "and 60 percent of these are blind due to cataracts - 1,900,000 people.

"The solution is to increase the number of Indonesian ophthalmologists trained in the latest technology; and the Mobile Eye Clinic provides an immediate training platform for IOL micro-surgery."

The most recent development in this continuing project was to establish a permanent Community Eye Care and Blindness Prevention Centre at Denpasar, to be opened in 1996.

It seems likely that Rotary clubs will continue to support projects to restore the sight of people who could never afford the necessary operations. Rotarians will not soon forget that the late Professor Fred Hollows received the Rotary International World Understanding and Peace Award for 1993 in recognition of his major contribution to this most worthy objective: the precious gift of sight to those who have precious little of anything.

### LITERACY

There are millions of illiterate people in the world. They are immediately disadvantaged by being unable to qualify for any but the most menial employment. They are at risk because they are unable to read public warnings in streets or in papers, health warnings on packages or simple instructions on any medication they are fortunate enough to be given. The sad story is told of an illiterate village community, in which the children were starving, using a gift of clearly-labelled powdered milk, which might have saved the lives of their children, to whitewash their simple dwellings. They are deprived of the benefits of education, the knowledge available only through the printed word and the pleasures of reading great literature. Literacy is the only solution to

the self-perpetuating cycle of poverty and ignorance. Literacy should be the birthright of every child born in the modern world.

Many programs to promote literacy in overseas countries have been developed by Rotary in Australia. Gifts of books and teaching aids for schools have been a part of world community service activities since the 1950s; but it was not until 1979 that widespread work for world literacy began as a unified Rotary program as part of President Clem Renouf's "Reach Out" theme, developed through the 3-H program in association with UNESCO.

#### The Literacy in Thailand project

The major campaign in Australia began in 1987 and was led by Dr. Dick Walker of the Rotary Club of Salisbury, Queensland, and past governor of District 9630, a retired educationist and head of the Reading Research Centre in Queensland which had developed teaching methods that proved effective in all languages.

The advancement of literacy through sponsorship of teachers and by the use of volunteers has become another of the community service activities supported regularly by a large number of clubs; but it is to Dick Walker that Rotary in Australia is indebted for the respect in which it is held for its advancement of literacy in Thailand, Bangladesh, the nations of the South Pacific, India, South America and Zimbabwe.

In the early 1980s the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) method of teaching had been developed by a staff member of the Reading Research Centre in Brisbane and had been seen to be highly successful; so that when Dick Walker was invited to Thailand to help the Srinakharinwirot University to set up courses in the teaching of reading within a Masters' program and also to develop a program at the University's Elementary Demonstration School, he and a colleague and fellow-Rotarian, Dr. Brendan Bartlett, were able to demonstrate CLE literacy teaching.

Dr. Saowalak Rattanaovich, who was in charge of the program, and her colleagues at the University saw the CLE methodology as a possible answer to Thailand's seemingly intractable problem of gross school failure among the millions of illiterate subsistence-farming families in the border provinces. Millions of these rural poor pack

into slums around the large cities, unable to participate in their country's industrial progress because they lack the basic skills necessary for employment.

In trials at the demonstration school, the teaching methods proved spectacularly successful.

In 1986 a Matched Grant project, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Salisbury and District 9630, was approved to pilot the first year of a Thai language literacy program in four schools near the Cambodian border; economically the poorest and educationally the most disadvantaged of the border regions. Dick Walker worked with teachers and government authorities in this region for two months as they learned and tested CLE teaching.

Later in the year, in an independent evaluation, Rotarian John Chapman of the British Open University confirmed that the previously almost total failure had been replaced by a high success rate in the pilot schools; and that the formerly negative attitude to school and learning had been completely reversed.

The next phase of the program was to gain agreement between the University, Rotary in Thailand and education offices to develop a full elementary literacy program to be piloted in 40 schools and then help them to extend it to 1,000 classrooms at each grade level across four provinces. Local administrators and teacher-trainers would be trained to go on extending the program; and printed program materials would be provided. When all parties had agreed to participate in a five year plan a \$US680,000 3-H Grant was approved by The Rotary Foundation for the "Literacy in Thailand Project".

Dick Walker's role now became that of consultant and contact person for The Rotary Foundation; and, until local expertise was developed, he was the sole member of the project team with experience and qualifications in large-scale literacy program development. He was thus called upon to do a great deal of "hands-on" work. The "language barrier" did not make his task any easier; but he received outstanding support from 3-H Project Chairman Noraseth Patjmanand and the District 3350 governors of those years.

By 1989 the work was seen as so successful that the Thai

Ministry of Education requested its extension to other regions of educational deprivation. Rotary clubs in Thailand raised funds to send the project team to train 27 teachers and supervisors to trial the program in the five provinces along the Malaysian border, more than 1600 kilometres away. Two months later the students in the trial schools were already far outstripping those in other schools.

In 1990 it was calculated that the cost of further developing the program in these areas – training teachers and teacher-trainers and providing materials – would cost \$US150,000; so Jack Nankervis of Melbourne, past governor of District 9800, answered Dick's call for help and co-ordinated the fundraising by Australian Rotary clubs with a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation and a subsidy from AIDAB.

The Thai Rotary clubs then funded the project team to train teachers in the "Hill-tribe" provinces of the far north, where early success was followed by an announcement from the Ministry of Education that the 1992-96 Plan for National Development would include adoption of Dick Walker's curriculum and methodology nationwide; and he was asked for help to put two demonstration schools in every other province in Thailand during 1992.

As Dick rather modestly puts it: "The project team in Thailand supplied that help without my involvement."

In just four years of the five year program, this literacy project had provided the means for Thai Rotarians, University personnel and Ministry of Education officials, by working together, to change the face of literacy education in their country. They now had the program, the strategies, the demonstration schools and the expertise needed to complete the task. Millions of children have benefited and millions more will become literate in the future.

Dick Walker went on to develop the teaching of English in Thailand, using the same methods, with the help of Jack Nankervis (again), Greg Ross (another past governor of District 9800) who also played a major role, and Dr. Basil Shaw (1995-96 governor of District 9600) and his wife, Beth.

#### Extension

The program was then extended to Bangladesh, the Pacific Islands nations, Zimbabwe, India and South America.

There were what Dick Walker referred to as "complementary" projects for which the literacy program was the catalyst. One such "fringe benefit" was the fish pond project, described earlier in this chapter.

In 1992, in recognition of his contribution to education in Thailand, Dick Walker was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction by the University of Srinakharinwirot, the Testamur being presented by Her Royal Highness, Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn. He was referred to by a senior Thai Rotarian as "Father of Thai Literacy".

#### Millions of books

An interesting development in 1986 was the sponsorship by the Rotary Club of Sydney of the Ranfurly Library Service in Australia.

After his military service in World War II, the Earl of Ranfurly was sent off to be Governor of the Bahamas as successor to the Duke of Windsor (ex-King Edward VIII). His Countess, a young woman of remarkable perception, great compassion, a highly-developed social conscience and extraordinary determination, soon discovered that there was widespread illiteracy in the Colony because so many young people, who had been taught to read in elementary school, had lost their reading skills simply because they had no books.

She asked for books. The Colonial Office suggested that it was a Ministry of Education problem. The Ministry of Education was satisfied that its responsibilities did not extend beyond the borders of the United Kingdom. The Governor's Lady was singularly unimpressed but equally undismayed; however, her continued entreaties, through His Excellency, to various officials at home, led only to frustration expressed in uncomplimentary references to the intelligence and competence of certain Civil Servants (no doubt carefully instructed in their duties by Sir Humphrey Appleby).

She wrote to her many friends and relations in England. "Send books!" she demanded.

They sent books. She demanded more. Her friends were mildly

nonplussed; but, if Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly, wanted books, then books she should have. They sent more books, and more; and by the time the Earl and Countess had completed their tour of Vice Regal duty, there were enough books in the local libraries established by this Governor's Lady to satisfy the needs of the young people and to ensure that their reading skills would not be lost.

Returning to Britain, they were invited by an impressed Colonial Office to consider helping in other British colonies and newly-independent former colonies.

So was born the Ranfurly Library Service, with the Earl as chairman and his Lady as vice chairman and field commander (after all, she was a general's daughter) who quickly commandeered premises in the old stables at Kensington Palace Barracks and conscripted her friends as volunteers; willing or unwilling, it really made very little difference. She recruited men with the influence to provide free space on ships (Naval or merchant), and aircraft (RAF or commercial) to take books to the outposts of what had been the Empire.

She called on Rotary for help with the collection of books; and the Ranfurly Library Service became the first continuing project of Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (R.I.B.I.); and hundreds of members of Inner Wheel joined the workforce of "Lady R" to sort, pack and despatch books.

By the early 1980s this voluntary organisation had sent more than 19 million books to developing Commonwealth countries, including the Island nations of the Pacific.

Both Lord and Lady Ranfurly had worked in Australia in the 1930s. In fact it was here that they met when she was a secretary to the New South Wales Governor's wife and he was an aide-de-camp to the Governor General. They had many Australian friends; and Lady Ranfurly suggested to one of them that the South Pacific and South East Asia could be better served with books by a centre in Australia than from Britain.

Being a Rotarian, he naturally sought the assistance of Rotary, first discussing the suggestion with R.I. Past Vice President Douglas Stewart and then, on his advice, submitting a formal proposal to President Tom Cappie-Wood of the Rotary Club of

Sydney, who promptly appointed a committee with Ken Horler as chairman to establish the service.

With initial funding and the workforce from the Rotary Club of Sydney, The Ranfurly Library Service was incorporated in 1986 as an independent charitable organisation strongly supported by Rotary clubs. By the beginning of 1996 it had shipped more than 800,000 books to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands and its chairman is confident that its millionth book will be despatched in 1997. The small workforce is made up of Rotarians, Inner Wheel members and some Probus members and Soroptimists.

The appointment of Ken Horler was soon shown to be a stroke of genius; for he became the chairman of the Ranfurly Library Service Inc., a position he still holds, and proved to be as resourceful as Lady Ranfurly in seeking out and persuading shipping companies, airlines and the Armed Forces to convey books to areas of need. Only when all else fails does the Ranfurly Library Service pay freight. Even the captain of the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*, was not immune from Ken Horler's blandishments and agreed to deliver a consignment of books, while a former Prime Minister of Australia found himself accompanied by several cartons of books on his VIP jet when he visited Vanuatu.

Though perennially short of funds, the Ranfurly Library Service in Australia continues to serve the cause of literacy in a very practical way. Support by making an annual collection of books and by making a modest donation to this service has been recommended to Rotary clubs by the Australian Rotary Institute as a simple and effective minor World Community Service project.

At the 1987 Rotary International Convention in Munich, Germany, Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly, was presented with The 1986-87 Rotary International Award for International Understanding. In the same year the Rotary Club of Sydney was chosen by R.I. President M.A.T. Caparas as the recipient of the World Community Service Project Award for establishing the Ranfurly Library Service.

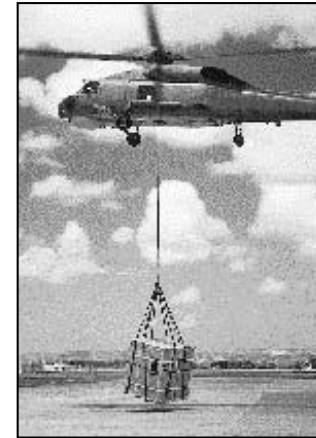
Though in the foregoing the major nationally or regionally-organised or co-ordinated world community service projects and



programs have been briefly described, only a few individual club initiatives and district programs in this vast area of service have been mentioned. Choose any issue of Rotary Down Under at random and the probability is several world community service projects, large and small, will be described; and these, of course, are only those reported – a small fraction of the total number undertaken. Those referred to in this chapter, therefore, can be regarded only as representative of the many, to suggest the scope and extent of Australian Rotary's world community service.



Above Left – Rotary Volunteer Patricia Canning, of the Rotary Club of Mill Point-South Perth, W.A., with the Mobile Clinic senior ophthalmologist Doctor Dharyata.

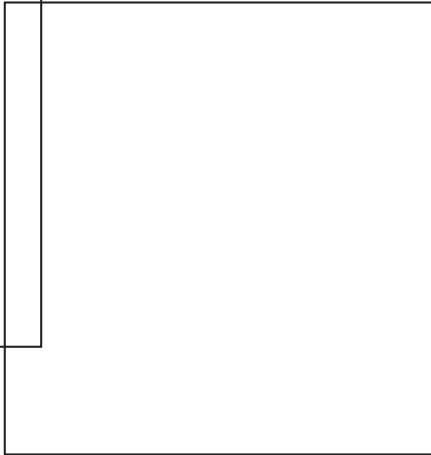
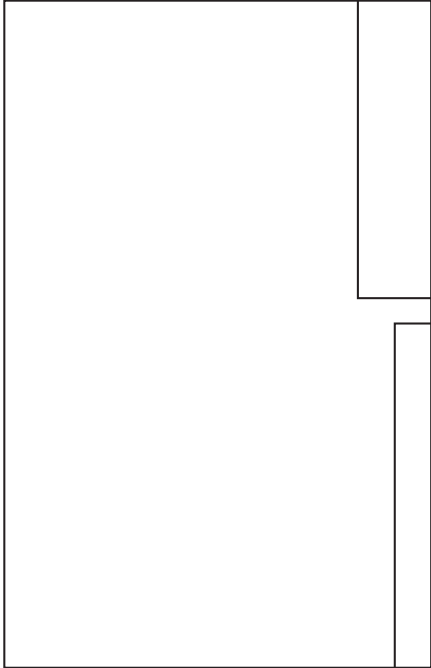
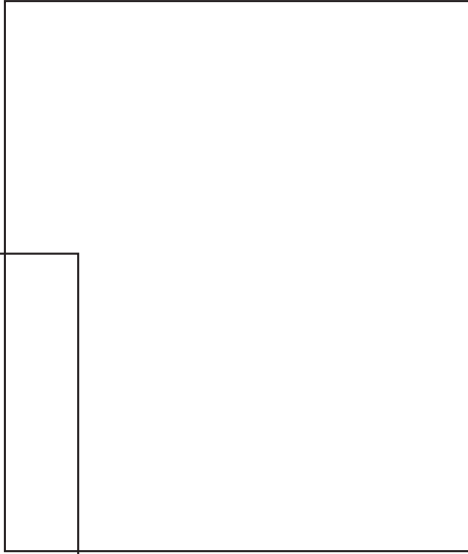


Above Right – The Royal Australian Navy guided-missile frigate HMAS Darwin took time out from a busy schedule to transfer medical equipment via a helicopter from the ship to Bali International Airport. The equipment was loaded at HMAS Stirling before the ship's departure for Exercise Kangaroo '95 and a South-East Asian deployment. HMAS Darwin conveyed the equipment to Bali on behalf of the Rotary



Australia's first PolioPlus committee: From left, standing: Rod Easdown (Eric White & Associates), Harley Tarrant, Ken Nall, Les Whitcroft, John Carrick, Bill Mahony, Royce Abbey; seated: Clem Renouf, Bill Thornton, Barry Dadson, Ray Sadler, Bill Rufus.

Official opening of The Wharf at  
Wasu, a FAIM project, in 1968.  
Assistant Ministerial Member Mr.  
Meck Singiliong, Administrator Mr.  
D.O. Hay and schoolteacher Mr.  
Abvent Tarosi walk along the  
wharf.



In 1968 Siew Lin Tang, 10, was  
brought to Australia from Kuching,  
Sarawak, by the Rotary Club of St.  
Peters, South Australia, for a delicate  
heart operation at the Royal Adelaide  
Hospital. In her six weeks in Australia  
she learned enough English to make a  
little farewell speech. She took home a  
special little friend.

1978-79 R.I. President Clem Renouf displays  
a 3-H Banner and Plaque presented to clubs  
raising \$15 and \$20 per member for the ini-  
tial Health, Hunger, Humanity appeal.