

CHAPTER ELEVEN

ROTARY WORLD LEADERS

AUSTRALIA has given Rotary International three great presidents and another has been chosen to assume leadership responsibilities in 1997.

SIR ANGUS MITCHELL

Angus Sinclair Mitchell was born in Shanghai, China, in 1884, son of a Scottish sea captain father and a Scottish-Australian mother. At the age of one year, his father having "swallowed the anchor", the wee Angus was brought to live in Melbourne.

After early schooling in Williamstown, he went to Scotch College, where he excelled both scholastically and at sport. He was Dux of the school in his final year and became an A Grade tennis player and a first team member of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

He left school at the age of 18 and went into business with his brother and brother-in-law, founding the firm of Mitchell and Belair which became, by alliance with a British firm, Mitchell, Belair and Lees, grain and mercantile brokers operating in Australia and the U.K. The business prospered, becoming the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Angus did not devote himself entirely to business. He remained a keen sportsman, adding trout-fishing to his interests, and was deeply involved in church affairs as a founder of the Presbyterian Church at Gardiner. In 1910 he found time to marry Miss Teenie Robertson McKenzie of "Warra", Trawool, near Seymour. They made their first home at Gardiner, later moving to Malvern and finally to a suite in the Windsor Hotel. They had three daughters, Joan, Nancy and Marjorie.

In 1927, Angus was elected to membership of the Rotary Club of Melbourne and, though younger than most members, quickly showed his talent for organisation and leadership, serving as president in 1931-32 and governor of the 65th District in 1934-35, and again in 1938-39. The district, then, it will be remembered, covered New South Wales south of the Murrumbidgee, all of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania (the present Districts

9450, 9460, 9470, 9500, most of 9520, part of Districts 9700 and 9780, and all of 9800, 9810, 9820 and 9830). Then, as now, the governor was required to visit every club in the district and to attend the international assembly and convention in the U.S.A., travelling by steamer.

In 1936, while still a young man, Angus retired to devote himself to Rotary, retaining wide ranging business interests through directorships of Australian Cement Ltd., Australian Portland Cement Pty., Noske Industries (flour millers and grain merchants), Queen's Bridge Motor and Engineering Company and Queen's Bridge Investments Company.

Within the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Angus was an ardent campaigner for the relinquishing of territory to form new clubs. It may seem strange to the modern Rotarian that such a move was vigorously resisted by some of the conservative members who were convinced that the interests of the area and the effectiveness of Rotary could be best served by one strong club, the members of which were men of considerable influence. It would be unwise, the thought, to diminish the high status of Rotary membership by making it available to men of lesser influence. (Was it to be tolerated that the education classification, for example, held in the club by the redoubtable Frank Tate, should be entrusted to the principal of a three-teacher school in the outer suburbs, entitling him to attend the Melbourne club and be treated as the equal of his Director of Education?)

Against this entrenched attitude, Angus worked persistently; not aggressively but with patience, gentle persuasion and characteristic courtesy. In the years 1935 to 1937 clubs were formed in suburban Essendon and Footscray and rural Dandenong; but when a keen friend from Essendon asked: "Why not a Rotary club in every suburb? Are we so bad that you are ashamed of us?" Angus gently replied: "Be patient, Joe. All will come right in time." But it was not until 1949 that the next suburban club, Williamstown, was formed; and the era of rapid expansion did not begin until 1951-52.

During these years Angus was not alone in his campaign. He had the support of several Rotary leaders of the time: Horace Bedggood and Frank Ayre among them. It is now conceded that these

"reformers" were enlightened and that their contention, that Rotary could render more effective service through a large number of clubs exerting a wide influence in the increasingly important suburban and country areas than through one large club of eminent men, was correct; for the clubs formed as a result of the later expansion have given unstinting service of inestimable value to their communities and to the world.

Another Angus Mitchell initiative that had positive results was his encouragement of inter-club visits.

During these years began the long association between Angus and Rotary Founder Paul Harris and other Rotary leaders. He persuaded Paul Harris to come to Australia in 1935 to attend the combined conference of the 65th and 76th Districts; and then, with his family, travelled with Paul and Jean Harris through Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. This was when the now famous Rotary Grove of Friendship was established in Melbourne in which Paul and Jean Harris planted trees.

The contribution and the friendship of these two men is permanently recorded in the red granite seat placed in the Grove of Friendship in 1953, "Erected by the Rotary Club of Melbourne to commemorate the work of Rotary's Founder Paul Harris and of Angus S. Mitchell the first Australian President of Rotary International".

In 1937-38 Angus was a director of Rotary International and, striving to build international friendships, organised a goodwill mission to Japan by 67 Rotarians and families. On board the ship he welded the whole party into a choir and taught them to sing the Japanese National Anthem, which they sang, in Japanese of course, at their first reception. To the slight embarrassment of the party, their hosts responded with all three verses of "God Save the King", the words of the second and third verses of which were unknown to most of the Australians.

During the war years Rotary had no hope of influencing world events, but Rotarians, including Angus as shown by his correspondence, were planning their role in post-war reconstruction and the contribution Rotary might make to the future preservation of freedom and peace.

Immediately after the war, Angus led the campaign to restore Rotary to Japan; not the most popular proposition at that time. After the atrocities perpetrated at the instigation of the military dictators, it was easy enough to believe that there was not a shred of human goodness in the whole nation; but Angus remembered the friends he had made in Japan and had learned that, though they dared not meet openly, many Japanese former Rotarians had continued a clandestine association. He was convinced that they would want to return to the Rotary fold and that their influence would be helpful to the process of re-education needed to bring a defeated and humiliated people into the family of democratic nations. He eventually convinced his fellow-Rotarians – many of whom had no reason to harbour friendly feelings towards their recent foes – that, if our great movement really believed in international understanding, goodwill and peace, then here was our opportunity to prove it. Rotary was restored to Japan and the rest is Rotary history.

In 1947, he suffered a grievous loss. His beloved wife, his help and support in all his Rotary service, died.

At the Rio de Janeiro Convention in 1948, Angus Mitchell was elected President of Rotary International for 1948-49, the first Australian to hold this high office. His first tribute was to Teenie.

"My inmost feelings are of gratitude, and first among those to whom I am grateful is my wife, whose memory I cherish and to whom I owe so much. She was always a help and inspiration to me in everything I did and loved Rotary as I love it."

In that acceptance speech after his election, Angus gave his personal view of Rotary.

"I hope that Rotary never departs from the simple but vital principle of friendly service," he said. "Often I have heard the question, 'Why doesn't Rotary use its power to do this or that?' And again, 'Why doesn't Rotary have the courage to take sides?' I believe that if we were to take sides and be a pressure group and assert our power, our friendships would be threatened, our house would soon be divided and the decline of our great unique movement would be under way... I believe in the simplicity of Rotary. It starts when we become so friendly with the members in our Rotary club that we

just cannot help pulling our weight in the club for their benefit. This experience in the art of living makes it natural to become so friendly with our associates in business, whether they are competitors or employees, that we just cannot help giving a fair deal to everyone, all day and every day. And then we develop such a friendly regard for our fellow citizens that we just cannot help making our contribution to the welfare of the community where we live. And then as we grow, our communities expand to take in other countries and other people, and we seek to promote world-wide understanding and co-operation."

Before leaving to take office, Angus told the Rotary Club of Essendon that, during his presidency, he would stress the intensification of the basic principle of friendship among the nations; development of work with youth; Rotary education within clubs; and a renewal of moral and spiritual values. He said that he hoped to be privileged to help Rotary to become the great organisation that it should be.

Angus Mitchell's quiet sense of humour was legendary. When he presided at the Council on Legislation he opened proceedings with an unusual announcement: "According to the Constitution of Rotary International I note that the business of this meeting should be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Unfortunately I am unacquainted with these Rules. So I am going to carry on according to the rules of cricket." Coming from a man who was noted for his adherence to correct procedures and appropriate behaviour, this expression of a most unlikely intention brought unseemly mirth from the members.

He was as generous with his time to the smallest as well as the largest clubs. The story is told of his acceptance of an invitation to visit a tiny, remote club in the State of Texas, contrary to the advice of the General Secretary of Rotary International. The club president, on hearing the good news, combed the district to fill the modest hall. More than 300 gathered to hear the distinguished visitor and, as Harold Hunt described the occasion, "Whatever the function lacked in decorum and procedure was compensated for by warmth and fellowship. Angus gained scores of friends where formerly the mighty had passed by."

Harold also recounts the sequel. When Angus was knighted the Queen received a letter from a past president of a small and obscure Rotary club in Texas congratulating Her Majesty on her good sense and discernment in honouring one so worthy as Angus. To his amazement, the writer received a reply, almost by return mail, in the Queen's own handwriting expressing her pleasure that an American citizen should praise the services of one she had chosen to honour. When Angus heard of this his comment was: "Considering his letter to me I would love to see what he wrote to the Queen."

Angus made literally thousands of friends in Rotary, including most of the leaders of the movement. As well as Paul Harris, New Zealand's Harold Thomas was another intimate friend. They enjoyed each other's company, respected each other's opinions and held each other in high esteem. One friend of both men remarked, shortly after Harold's term as president ended: "Angus Mitchell and Harold Thomas constitute an elite Antipodean mutual admiration society."

Angus was a dedicated worker for a number of good causes.

One was the accommodation of international students; hence his interest in International House. Another was the Port Melbourne Settlement; a club for underprivileged youth which eventually became a valuable part of the YMCA as the Port Melbourne Youth Centre. Then there were the Austin Hospital and the Lord Somers Camp for Boys; the Victorian Society for Crippled Children and Adults, of which he was a Council member from 1950 until his death; and the Victorian Boy Scouts Association from 1930 also until his death in 1961.

To the delight of his fellow-Rotarians, Angus was created a Knight Bachelor in 1956, an honour he wore with becoming modesty. To Rotarians, of course, he was forever "Angus"; and one would be very gently reminded if one addressed him as "Sir Angus".

Memorials to Sir Angus Mitchell abound. There is Angus Mitchell House at Armadale; a hostel for the handicapped. An Angus Mitchell Scholarship was endowed by the Rotary Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A. An Angus Mitchell Ward was furnished by the Rotary Club of Williamstown in the local hospital. At International House at Mel-

bourne University is the Angus Mitchell Library. The portrait of Angus by William Dargie, commissioned by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, hangs in the club office. There is the granite seat in the Grove of Friendship (mentioned earlier) and, in Rotary Grove, Centennial Park in Sydney is another granite seat with the inscription "This stone erected by the Rotary Club of Sydney was unveiled by Angus S. Mitchell, Past President of Rotary International, on September 26th, 1950, to commemorate the planting of two wheel trees (*Stenocarpus Sinuatus*), that on the east in memory of Rotary's Founder, Paul Harris, that on the west in appreciation of Angus Mitchell's work during his term as President of Rotary International." The Australian Rotary Institute in 1977 inaugurated the Sir Angus Mitchell Memorial Address, to be delivered annually by a distinguished person. One memorial, on a site that certainly would have appealed to Angus, even if he had modestly deprecated the memorial to himself, is the cairn, erected by the Rotary Clubs of Gippsland at the instigation of Roly Hill of Traralgon, high on Mount Tassie, with panoramic views of the land he loved.

Concluding his memorable address as a tribute to Paul Harris in 1947, Angus Mitchell said: "Let no Rotarian think his efforts futile and unimportant, provided they are the best he can do, because it is the sum total of individual efforts which counts. Let us remember again that our membership in Rotary is a sacred trust, and that we must live up to the obligations which we assumed when we joined."

SIR CLEM RENOUF, AM

Clement William Bailey Renouf was born at Ingham, Queensland, in 1921, two days before the first Rotary club was formed in Australia; and it is reasonable to assume that those in attendance at each blessed event remained in total ignorance of the other.

Clem's father, son of a migrant from the Channel Islands, qualified as a school teacher but, because of delicate health, turned to farm work which improved his physical condition to such an extent that he was accepted for service in the Australian Light Horse, sailing with the first contingent to go abroad during World War I. After war service he went into business, but the disastrous floods of 1927 followed by the great depression of the 1930s effectively demol-

ished the family fortunes.

The eldest of six children, Clem and his brother and sisters attended the State primary school at Ingham. There being no secondary school in the town he went on to Thornburgh College at Charters Towers. Because of the family's straitened financial circumstances and the decision of his fair-minded parents that each should have an equal educational opportunity, he left school after reaching junior secondary standard, declining two scholarships that would have taken him on to senior level.

Despite the financial struggle, Clem and his siblings enjoyed a secure and happy childhood. They were conscious, however, of the dreadful effects of the depression: the extreme poverty and the hopelessness of men robbed of their dignity; men who wanted work, not handouts. This awareness of the plight of others awakened in Clem a deep and lasting compassion. And the effects of strong drink on men who had already given up hope wrought from him a silent vow never to touch alcohol; a vow he has kept throughout his life.

Clem's most vivid memories of the year he left school are of the endless procession of unemployed men on the move, pathetically grateful for any work they could find along the way and for his mother's generosity with whatever food she could spare for those itinerants who called at the house. He also remembers his mother's gentle reminder that, though the family was in difficult financial circumstances, millions were worse off, some suffering extreme privation. In many, their experiences of the great depression sowed the seeds of bitterness, anger and cynicism. In Clem they sowed the seeds of service.

Clem's ambition was to read law, but to be articled to a legal firm in those days cost £200 (\$400), the equivalent of a year's salary in the lower-middle income range at the time. Jobs were hard to find, but he was fortunate enough to be offered an opening as a junior clerk in an accountant's office at sixteen shillings and sixpence (\$1.65) per week. Promptly and pragmatically substituting accountancy for law as his vocational ambition (a decision he has never regretted), he immediately enrolled as a correspondence student. Working by day and studying at night, he determined to complete

all the examinations to qualify him for registration as an accountant by the minimum age of 21 years. And he would have done it, but for the events of 1939-45.

In May, 1940, aged 19, Clem enlisted in the RAAF, initially as ground staff and later re-mustering to air crew. Despite defective vision, which by some miracle of medical oversight was not detected, he qualified as a pilot, was commissioned and flew combat missions against the Japanese from Milne Bay, Darwin and Goodenough Island. He sometimes reflected sadly that the troopship on which his father had sailed to war, a mere 26 years earlier, had been escorted by a protective Japanese destroyer.

As a flying instructor during the final months of the war, he found time to return to his studies with the objective of qualifying as an accountant as soon as possible after the war's end.

Demobilised in October, 1945, he quickly completed his course, passed his final examinations and, after working for six months for a commercial firm, set out to establish his own practice. Fate, a friend and good fortune combined to lead him to Nambour, a growing town on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. There he established himself in a tiny office above a café.

To suggest that C.W.B. Renouf, Accountant, was an immediate success would be taking liberties with the truth. In fact his slender capital was almost exhausted before he had found enough clients to assure him a modest living. But successful he was in time, not only as an accountant but also in a series of wise business ventures in real estate, finance, commercial building and investment.

During his early years in Nambour, with few clients, even fewer friends and with time to spare, Clem became interested in community work as an outlet for his energies. He joined the Returned Services League, holding office as president. He also joined Legacy, in which he was to serve for 29 years.

When he was invited to be a charter member of the Rotary Club of Nambour, he accepted and was promptly elected secretary.

"They needed a secretary with office space and plenty of spare time," Clem later explained. The records of the charter night in 1949 show that "Charter Secretary Clem Renouf's guest was Miss June Day." What the records did not reveal was that they had

recently become engaged. Those same records, however, do reveal that the cost per head of that memorable dinner was ten shillings (\$1).

Clem and June were married in 1951 and made their home in Nambour, raising two children. Rotary remained part of their lives, becoming increasingly important with the passing years. Clem served as club president in 1954-55 (Rotary's Golden Anniversary year) and enjoyed the experience as he has enjoyed every Rotary task to which he has been called.

In 1958 he attended the Pan-Pacific Conference in Sydney where he felt privileged to meet R.I. Past President Gian Paolo Lang (1956-57), Kiyoshi Togasaki (to serve as president 1968-69) and General Secretary George Means, whose address, "Rotary Around the World" made a lasting impression.

His first R.I. Convention was Tokyo in 1961. Clem and June travelled with some 1200 Australians and New Zealanders on the Iberia. Clem was tremendously impressed by this gathering of Rotarians, including more past officers of R.I. than he had ever encountered. When he held open a door for Harold Thomas (president 1959-60) he remarked that this might be his only opportunity to hold a door open for a past president of Rotary International. Harold accepted the courtesy with his usual charm and friendliness.

It was on the ship that Clem was first introduced to the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, attending seminars on deck with two youth exchange enthusiasts, Past Governors Joe Bradbury and Arnold Forsyth. He caught their enthusiasm and, a few years later, happily accepted his district governor's invitation to join the district's first youth exchange committee.

The Tokyo convention influenced and inspired Clem, recalling the address by Nitish Laharry (R.I. president 1962-63) and the electrifying impact of his message. He returned home with renewed enthusiasm.

Clem's first district assignment was as conference secretary in 1963, closely followed by his membership of the youth exchange committee. He found his work at district level as exciting and interesting as his club responsibilities, in which he remained deeply involved.

One day in 1963 he answered the telephone at home. It was District 260 Governor Ted Router. The conversation was brief.

"Clem?"

"Yes."

"Ted Router here. Have you ever thought about being district governor?"

"No."

"Well, think about it," commanded Ted; and hung up.

Within a few days of this interesting conversation, Clem received a formal invitation to accept nomination for district governor, 1965-66. Feeling that this would be unfair to his business partner, a young man named Doug Clarke who was not then a Rotarian but was an enthusiastic Apexian, Clem was about to decline the offer. Doug urged him to accept, demonstrating how the duties in the practice could be re-allocated to make it possible. Clem said that he was indebted to his young partner whose devotion to the ideal of service enabled him to serve as governor and so paved the way for his subsequent service to Rotary. Doug later was elected to membership of the Rotary Club of Nambour and served as president.

After his year as district governor, Clem was chosen as a discussion leader at the international assembly, after which he served as a leadership forum moderator and member of the membership development committee. He was elected a director in 1970-72, chairman of the world community service committee 1972-74, member of the finance committee 1976-77.

Clem had retired from the accountancy firm in 1973 to manage a small land development company in which he had an interest as well as other investments. This enabled him to devote more time to other activities, including the University of Queensland International House, of which he was deputy chairman of the board; his church finance and investments committee; and the Sundale Garden Village, a residential and nursing home for the elderly, of which he had been treasurer since its inception.

There came the announcement by the nominating committee that Clem Renouf had been chosen to be president of Rotary International 1978-79. His election at the San Francisco convention in 1977 was an occasion for rejoicing by Australian Rotarians, partly

because we were to have another Australian president after 30 years but mainly because it was Clem Renouf, already esteemed by Rotarians across the continent for the warmth of his friendship, his sincerity, his modesty, his courtesy and his enthusiasm; the very qualities for which Angus Mitchell had been so greatly admired. Like Angus, too, he enjoyed a warm friendship with the one living Antipodean R.I. past president, Harold Thomas of Auckland.

In his short acceptance speech at the convention, Clem said, "I am here because Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible. I am here because Rotary cares for people."

His theme was simple but inspiring: "Reach out!" And Rotarians around the world responded to his call to reach out: across the desk or the bench or the counter to colleagues and employees and clients and customers in vocational service; across the room to fellow members in club service; across the street to those in need in community service; and across the world to offer friendship in international service.

His first message to his fellow Rotarians expressed his hopes for the year ahead: "The immediate future of the world is in our hands ... the hands of people who care, people who serve, people who reach out to other people; men with hands extended in service, willing to reach out to enrich the lives of others.

"As pioneers in the paths of service, Rotarians for nearly three quarters of a century have been motivated by a spirit of adventure in service by doing what makes them Rotarians, not just by being members of Rotary clubs. The 'doing' Rotarian reaches out to meet human needs, confident in his ability to help shape the future.

"Service above self is not a common philosophy.

"In a world deficient in compassion, friendship and understanding, service is an uncommon philosophy, worthy of our time and talent . . . deserving of our dedication. Let us, then, reach out to others in service. Let us extend ourselves.

"In the year ahead I trust that my prayer may be yours - a prayer expressed by Helen Keller in the words: 'It is for us to pray, not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks

- to go forward with a great desire forever beating at the door of our hearts.'"

Clem's presidential year was memorable. It was the year in which the Health Hunger and Humanity (3H) program was launched; to promote health, alleviate hunger and improve the human condition. For years many Rotarians had been demanding that Rotary, with its vast resources of talent and experience, should do more than meet local needs in our own and overseas communities and send a few young people overseas. Rotary should be doing something big; something on a grand scale of real significance. The 3H program was about to give those holding this view an opportunity to participate in projects at an international level.

There were many opponents. Those who deplored this departure from Rotary's traditional role of identifying and meeting needs, club by club, saw this as an attack on club autonomy and, despite assurances that individual club participation in any 3-H activity would be quite voluntary, there were still rumblings of discontent.

However, when President Clem launched the 75th Anniversary Fund to provide initial funds for the 3-H Program, inviting clubs to contribute \$15 per member to receive a banner or \$30 per member to be awarded a plaque, they responded with enthusiasm, laying the foundation of the funds that are now available for allocation through The Rotary Foundation to 3-H projects around the world, of which Australian clubs, as seen in earlier chapters, have taken full advantage.

Because of Clem's leadership based on sincerity and friendliness, the Rotary world soon learned that the 3-H program made it possible to undertake vast international projects without surrendering club autonomy; that it was possible for a club to participate in such projects without neglecting local needs or those world community service projects best organised by individual clubs.

No one kept count of the number of banners and plaques Clem presented personally to clubs in all Rotary regions of the world.

Clem carried the simple message to "Reach Out" around the world, meeting not only Rotary leaders in clubs and districts but heads of state or vice regal representatives in many lands, including U.S. President Carter whom he invested as a Paul Harris Fellow in

recognition of his work for world peace.

Perhaps because 1979 was designated International Year of the Child by the United Nations, Clem and June were given greater opportunities to meet children in all countries. They were particularly interested in handicapped children; and schools and institutions in which these little ones were to be found seemed to draw the Renoufs like a magnet. They made many small friends.

In his final president's message to Rotarians, published in all the Rotary magazines around the world, Clem referred to the ebb and flow of the tide which replenishes the food source for the sea life that abounds on the shore. He pointed out that the ebb and flow in Rotary, represented by the annual change of leaders at every level, gives vitality to our movement.

"One year is such a short space of time, especially in retrospect. There is so much to be done and so little time, if we measure time in terms of our period in office and the task in terms of what can be accomplished in one year.

"But the immensity of our task demands a different perspective: the perspective of the old man in the Chinese fable, a man who had to cross a small hill every day. Each day he took a stone in each hand from the top of the hill to the bottom. Asked why, he answered: 'I'm moving this hill. Not in my lifetime, nor in my son's lifetime, but in time this hill will be gone.'

"We may not have moved any hills during this Rotary year, but I have been thrilled and encouraged to see the number of stones which have been moved. There is evidence of great vitality in our movement, as we stand on the threshold of our 75th year. As I write this message, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are up 35 per cent on last year's record figures. We are ahead 28 per cent on new clubs formed at the same stage last year. There is great activity in World Community Service, FAIM and Rotary's various youth programs. The Health, Hunger and Humanity program has been launched and the generous financial support of clubs seems assured. Of course, its full potential will be realised in succeeding years.

"It has been said that the agenda of Rotary is the unfinished business of mankind. It is a long agenda. Certainly it is not possible to

finalise it in one year. We hand on to our successors much unfinished business.

"For what has been accomplished I shall always be grateful to the leadership team of 1978-79: to the 18,000 club presidents, the 280 R.I. committeemen, the 20 fiscal agents, the seven administrative advisers, the 375 district governors, the 11 trustees of The Rotary Foundation, the 16 members of the board. They have provided great leadership and enthusiasm.

"Now we are on the ebb tide, but it will come back on July 1, stronger than ever, with a new vitality as we enter what can be the greatest year in the long history of our movement - our 75th year.

"To all of you who have reached out to June and me in friendship and encouragement this year, I want simply to say: "Thank you for the greatest experience of our lives."

Of course, in the manner of past presidents, Clem's service to Rotary continued. He served the usual six years as a member and chairman of The Rotary Foundation Trustees and has accepted presidential assignments in many areas of the world. He also continued to devote much time to charitable causes. In all these activities he was supported by June, who shared his Christian faith and commitment to service.

Clem was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1978 and was created a Knight Bachelor in 1988. Sir Clem and Lady Renouf carried the title with the dignity one would expect of them, but they remained Clem and June, as they always had been known, in Rotary and to their wide circle of friends.

In 1993, Clem lost his life partner. After courageously facing two major operations, June died, very suddenly, while still in hospital. One need not dwell on the effect this had on Clem.

By a strange twist of fate, Clem and June lived next door to another former RAAF pilot, Ted Coates, and his wife, Firth; and the two couples had become close friends. Though Ted was not a Rotarian, he was no stranger to service club work, having served many years in Legacy, so they had much in common. When June and Ted died within weeks of each other, Clem and Firth were left to console each other. In the fullness of time their friendship ripened and, with the blessings of both families and their many

friends, they married.

Firth's own friendliness and warm personality have endeared her to Rotarians everywhere as she accompanies Clem on his Rotary assignments, making light of her early confusion in attempting to distinguish between conferences, conventions, assemblies and institutes.

Clem Renouf takes quiet pride in the achievements of his two children. Noel, an Arts and Honours Social Work graduate, works with psychiatric patients and was awarded a Ph.D degree for social research in that area. Noel and wife Coll live in Melbourne. Daughter Judy, with Science (BSc,MPhil) and Public Sector Management Degrees is a Biochemist and works in Brisbane. During their school years, both were Rotary exchange students and, having been brought up in a Rotary family, both absorbed the ideal of selfless service from an early age.

Clem served as president when Rotary was about to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its birth in Dearborn Street, Chicago and, to mark the occasion, launched his absurd 3-H program which, though clearly doomed to failure, succeeded. Now, as Rotary in Australia is celebrating 75 years of service in the Antipodes, Clem is still challenging Rotarians to reach out to new horizons with a proposal of an impossibly ambitious 75th anniversary project described in Chapter Six. May he be long spared to propose and promote preposterous projects and programs for the betterment of Rotary and the benefit of humankind.

ROYCE ABBEY, AM,DCM

Albert Henry Royce Abbey was born on June 8 in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray, the fifth child in a family of seven. His father, a second generation Australian of Scottish ancestry, was a railwayman, a train examiner. He was an avid reader, a devout Christian and elder of the Presbyterian Church who conducted Bible classes and was superintendent of the Sunday school. His wife was similarly engaged in church activities. They were strict but loving parents, inculcating in their children a love of God, respect for the law, high moral standards, scrupulous honesty and a sense of personal responsibility for those in need. They also insisted on

cleanliness. The small house was always spotless and so, also, were the children: scrubbed, neat and tidy with boots cleaned and hair brushed.

They also instilled in their children those attitudes to work that were to influence all their lives. Royce still recalls some of his father's homilies: do the best with what you've got; if it's worth doing at all, it's worth doing well; put your best foot forward; best side to London; give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

"What our parents were doing," said Royce, "was establishing standards of behaviour and concern for others that we might not have acquired without their precept and example."

The family had few material possessions; but what all the children did have was an abundance of love and emotional security. In consequence it was a very happy family.

Young Royce attended the local State primary school, going on to the local technical school. His extra-curricular interests were fairly typical of boys of his age. Not a star on the "footy" field, he was good at tennis and cricket and engaged in other sporting activities, almost all associated with church or Sunday school. He also learned to play the guitar, took a leadership role in the church youth club and was sent to a YMCA leadership course, beginning a lifelong association. He also helped his elder brother, who, to earn some extra money, made toys and scooters in a backyard workshop.

The world was still struggling painfully out of the depression when, at the age of 14, Royce left school to take a job in a shoe store. His start in business could hardly have been lowlier. He was the shoe-shine boy, ran messages and tidied up the shop when there were no customers. Soon, on Friday nights (late shopping) and Saturday mornings, he was allowed to help out as a sales assistant, graduating next to the warehouse and then to the sales staff.

He left the footwear business to take a job with a real estate agent who had taken a "shine" to the smart young shoe salesman and was convinced that he could make a successful career of real estate. His first task was rent-collecting; on a bicycle in all weathers, being evaded by tenants unwilling to pay and evading dogs unwilling to allow him access to their territory. His other interests

continued much as before, mainly associated with church and YMCA.

By studying at night, he gained his Real Estate Sub-Licence, the first step to a career in his chosen vocation. Unfortunately his plans, like those of so many others, were seriously disrupted by World War II. As soon as he was old enough, he enlisted in the Army and soon found himself serving in New Guinea.

In common with most war heroes, Royce is reluctant to talk about his own exploits, but contemporary newspaper reports tell the story of the heroism of Acting Sergeant A.H.R. Abbey who, having assumed command when his officers became casualties, identified and led an attack on an enemy position in the face of the most determined resistance by a vastly superior and well-entrenched force. A few weeks later he was sent off to officers' school; and while there learned that he had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). After he was commissioned he continued to serve with distinction.

Royce's own comment on his decoration is typical: "I lost many good friends who were just as worthy of recognition. All they got was a letter to their parents expressing regret."

When the war ended, Lieutenant Abbey was appointed Officer in Charge of Properties, divesting the army of the properties it had acquired or requisitioned during the war. His office was in Melbourne and, while there, he renewed acquaintance with Miss Jean Armstrong, a friend of his sisters, who worked in a nearby office and lived close to his own parents' home. What more natural than that they should travel to work on the same train? They became good friends; such very good friends, in fact, that they eventually formed a life partnership.

After demobilisation in August, 1946, Royce's first civilian job was in the office of a manufacturing company. "It was a position of no great responsibility," he recalled. "It offered no particular challenge and no visible prospects of advancement; but it was a job; and it helped me to make the adjustment from military to civilian life."

At week-ends, Royce helped his brother in a small part-time business making venetian blinds in the back-yard shed. The tiny business began to grow; and they were joined by their father and other

brothers in what was becoming a lucrative sideline for the family. For Royce the extra income was particularly welcome as he and Jean were striving to establish a home.

Suddenly there was a dramatic increase in the demand for venetian blinds. The back-yard factory could no longer meet the orders with limited space and part-time operatives; so, at a family conference, Royce was persuaded to resign his job and become working manager of the little enterprise.

A family company was formed, Dural Leeds Pty. Limited; larger premises were rented. Royce responded to enquiries, visited the potential customers' homes to measure up, prepared quotations, returned to the factory to make the blinds and then delivered them in a borrowed vehicle. The business prospered and one by one the other members of the family followed Royce into full time employment with the company. They designed and built new machines and developed new manufacturing techniques.

From the smallest maker of venetian blinds in the country, Dural Leeds became the largest manufacturer of blinds, awnings, screen doors and windows in the Southern Hemisphere. And throughout the history of this remarkably successful business, and until after it had merged with a huge international undertaking, the marketing director was Royce Abbey, a man without marketing, promotion or business training but who, nevertheless, conducted highly successful sales courses throughout Australia and planned marketing and advertising strategies for the company.

In 1974, having resigned from the company, Royce established another successful business: Abbey Marketing Services, a business consultancy specialising in sales promotion training.

It was in 1954, during the early years of business challenge and almost ceaseless activity that Royce was invited to membership of the Rotary Club of Essendon, the first suburban club sponsored by Australia's first Rotary club. At his very first meeting he met Sir Angus Mitchell, who sat with him at the luncheon and told him how much he was going to enjoy his service in Rotary.

"He continued to take a personal interest in me, as he did with many other younger Rotarians," said Royce. "I realise now that he was a great influence in my Rotary life; and I am often reminded of

Angus and his influence when I think of how much more we might all do to help new Rotarians."

Royce did not aspire to high office in Rotary. Like most of us when we first become Rotarians, he did not even see himself as a potential club president, much less a president of Rotary International; but Rotary awakened, or at least sharpened in him a sense of civic responsibility which led to his offering himself for election to the Essendon City Council ". . . so that I might be in a position to do something about improving the local administration instead of just complaining about it". He served for three years as a councillor, a job he would have considered beyond his capabilities before he joined Rotary.

Rotary captured his imagination. He saw it as an organisation of "doers" rather than "talkers". Having seen so many groups, clubs and associations in which the work was done by a small board or committee while others watched and criticised, he found that Rotary was the opposite. The work was done by everyone and no one criticised. Royce found it refreshing.

While Rotary began to claim more of his attention and interest, he found renewed interest in the YMCA, which he was to serve in a variety of offices, including Melbourne Metropolitan President 1970-75 and president of the National Council of YMCA's of Australia 1982-86 and remained, thereafter, an active and enthusiastic worker for this great international body.

He was given a series of Rotary club appointments, all of which he enjoyed because of the fellowship and co-operation he received as well as the sense of achievement and the opportunities for further service offered.

Preparing his first address to his Rotary club taught him what he still regards as an important lesson, not only in Rotary but in business and any voluntary activity.

"Always prepare," he says. "Do your homework. Speaking without preparation is an insult to your audience. I think we should apply a one-way test to every address we deliver: 'what's in it for them?'"

In 1963-64 Royce served as club president and this was followed by a series of district appointments, including youth activities chairman in 1967-68. Intrigued by the glowing reports of the RYLA pro-

gram being conducted in some districts and by the fervour evident in its adherents whenever they attempted to describe it, he decided to see it in operation. He flew to Sydney and attended part of the District 275 (9750) seminar. An immediate convert, he promptly introduced the program to his own district.

In the following year he was nominated district governor 1969-70. A friend who was a member of the nominating committee tells the story of his call to Royce during the committee's deliberations. "The conversation was very brief," he recalls. "I said: 'Royce, the nominating committee would like to know what school you went to.' And Royce answered, 'David, if the nominating committee's decision is likely to be influenced by what school I attended, I'm not their man.'" He got the nomination.

After service as governor, he was chosen for membership of the youth activities committee 1975-76, received The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in 1976, and was elected to the board of directors for 1976-78, serving as a vice president and member of the executive committee. He was a member of the Rotary Down Under executive committee from 1975 to 1984, serving two terms as chairman. He was also a member of the RYLA advisory committee appointed by the Australian and New Zealand Institutes.

Following his two years on the board of R.I., Royce was a member and chairman of the R.I. Planning Committee, Pacific Regional Conference Chairman in 1981, International Assembly Group Leader 1982, International Assembly Moderator 1983, Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Chairman 1983-87, chairman of the R.I. Youth Committee 1983-85, International vice chairman of the PolioPlus Committee 1985-88, member of the committee to study the International Assembly 1986-87.

During his years of service on various R.I. committees and the board, Royce's closest Rotary colleague and close friend was Ken Scheller of Sydney. Their Rotary careers were remarkably similar and Royce followed Ken as a board member and vice president. Being of similar build, similar disposition and having the same irrepressible sense of fun, they were accused by some friends on the R.I. staff of being the same person. They asserted that the Aussies

had given the one Rotarian two separate identities to keep him on the board for four years. This myth was finally dispelled by a photograph of the pair engaged in a snow-ball fight outside the old R.I. secretariat building in Evanston. It was captioned "There are two of them!"

The Sydney-Melbourne rivalry expressed in the sharp wit of these two in their Rotary appearances on the same platform was a permanent source of mirth for which their fellows were always grateful. They were, of course, demonstrating that it is possible – and desirable – to take Rotary responsibilities seriously without taking ourselves seriously.

Royce and Ken remained close friends until the untimely death of the latter in 1974; and when Royce was elected R.I. President for 1988-89 he generously acknowledged his friend's great contribution and the possibility that Ken might have been chosen for this high office, with a very simple but moving tribute: "I'll try to do it for both of us," he said.

In the midst of the almost frenetic activity leading to Royce's nomination for president, he managed to find time to consult his doctor about some nagging symptoms. It is as well that he did so, for within days he was in hospital undergoing major heart surgery; after which he applied to the task of recovery the same determination and will to succeed as he did to Rotary and business.

Following his recovery and his nomination for president, only two years later, he received what he described as "an unexpected fringe benefit". He was asked to help in a publicity campaign for extension of the heart unit at the Epworth Hospital. He was interviewed by radio stations all around Australia, resulting in donations of more than \$160,000 and the opportunity to talk about Rotary and its programs.

Before taking office as president of Rotary International Royce made a few comments that remain no less pertinent a decade later.

"In Rotary," he said, "as in your vocation, as in life, if you think the world offers too few opportunities you are right. You must make an effort to recognise opportunities when they do present themselves; and if none appear to be offering, you must create your own.

"No Rotary club will ever be a great club by sitting down and waiting for opportunities to serve. The club must identify needs before it can ever begin to plan to meet them. It must create its own opportunities for service. And great clubs will not remain great unless they introduce fresh ideas from innovative thinkers.

"Many great, well-established businesses have been overtaken by young, vigorous competitors because they thought they knew all the answers. They were not willing to change with the times. The same can be applied to Rotary clubs and all of Rotary International.

"We must make more efficient and more extensive use of the talent we have in Rotary. Every Rotarian who has succeeded in his profession or trade or craft or business has knowledge and experience and skills to share. We must learn to utilise these vast resources of talent for the benefit of the whole human family through really great Rotary projects.

"At the same time we must not neglect the local community and its needs. Therefore we need more and younger Rotarians to share the workload. They are out there, in our communities, just waiting for an invitation to serve with us."

In the 1988 Australia Day Honours List, the name of Royce Abbey appeared as a Member of the Order of Australia, A.M.

Royce chose, as his presidential theme, an appeal for vitality: "Put Life into Rotary – Your Life" and his year was marked by some remarkable successes. The PolioPlus initial target of \$US120 million was reached and Rotary returned to countries in the area then known as "behind the iron curtain" with the formation of the Rotary Clubs of Warsaw, Poland and Budapest in Hungary, in both of which Royce was personally involved.

Since his year as president, of course, he has continued to work tirelessly for Rotary, as a member and chairman of The Rotary Foundation and in many other capacities.

As was to be expected, as president, Royce travelled the world with Jean at his side. And, of course, wherever they went they made friends; for people everywhere naturally respond to their genuine and unaffected friendliness.

Royce once said of Jean: "She is one of those rare people who always find good in people, overlooking or making allowances for

their shortcomings. Marriage has strengthened my own commitment to service because of Jean's influence." Referring to her ability to accept reverses philosophically he recalled when she suffered a fractured leg at Munich and had to leave the convention to fly home. "It could have been much worse," she told him. "It could have happened to you."

The Abbays have four children, all married. In order of seniority they are Susan (Schoene), a former teacher, mother of two; Robyn (Simmie), noted horsewoman and pony-club leader, mother of two; David Royce, lawyer, a past president of the Rotary Club of Echuca and president of Echuca YMCA, father of two; and Leigh, involved in promotions, production and advertising, father of two. Royce and Jean are, not unnaturally, very proud parents and grandparents.

Royce Abbey, whose service has been recognised with many awards in addition to his DCM and AM, was named Victorian of the Year on Australia Day, 1989. His name will be perpetuated by International House at Melbourne University in the Royce Abbey Room.

GLEN KINROSS

Within the period under review, April 1921-April 1996, only three Australians had served in the office of Rotary International President; but another has been called and has been officially declared President Nominee for the year 1997-98. As president-elect he will be a member of the board from July 1, 1996.

Without pre-empting what might be written about him in the usual brief biography to appear in all official Rotary magazines when he takes office on July 1, 1997, it seems appropriate that readers be given some information about the Rotarian who is to serve as the 88th president of Rotary International (actually only the 87th person to be president, because Paul Harris served two terms: 1910-11 and 1911-12).

The Kinross family migrated from Scotland and settled in Townsville, where John Kinross established his furniture manufacturing business in 1883. His son, Malcolm Glennie Kinross, established the present business in Brisbane in 1911, retaining the name, John Kinross & Co. It is believed to be the oldest family furniture manufacturing business in Australia.

Glen William Kinross was born in Brisbane on January 9, 1931. He attended Eagle Junction State School and Brisbane Grammar School. After reaching sub-senior level he was apprenticed to his father in the family business, where he began by learning the trade of carpentry and joinery. Progressing through the firm, he gained on-the-job experience in all departments, showing a particular interest in furniture design. At the same time he became experienced in business management and marketing. This practical training and experience developed in the young man a love of craftsmanship and a firm belief in business integrity and the pursuit of vocational excellence.

He is now joint proprietor and chairman of directors of John Kinross & Co. He is a past president of the Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers and is a life member, past president and counsellor of the Queensland Guild of Furniture Manufacturers.

Glen was elected to membership of the Rotary Club of Hamilton in 1960 and held several club offices before serving as president in 1966-67.

In 1973-74 he was governor of District 260 (9600), after which he was chosen as an international assembly study group leader, subsequently serving on several R.I. committees and as an information institute counsellor.

Elected a director of Rotary International for 1982-84, he was vice president in 1983-84. Since his service on the board, his involvement has continued as a member or chairman of several R.I. committees and a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation.

Glen and Heather were married in 1954. They have four children, the eldest, Glen, is a dental surgeon in private practice in Brisbane; daughter Helen is a registered nurse working in aged care, also in Brisbane; Julie is a social worker, currently director of the Conciliation, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Sydney; and Malcolm has entered the family firm with his father and uncle.

As teenagers, Glen and Heather were members of a youth organisation which had a fourfold program: worship, study, recreation and service. He has said that Rotary has been an extension of their teenage years, giving them untold opportunities to serve in a mean-

ingful way and has constantly challenged their thinking and philosophy of life.

He refers to the importance of the number four in their lives: the fourfold program in their youth, which has continued to be important in Rotary with the four-part Object of Rotary, the four avenues of service and the Four Way Test.

Describing himself as an "average Rotarian from an average Rotary club who is being given an opportunity that is anything but average", he is sustained by the thought that he will have the support of 1.2 million other "average" Rotarians for, he says: "I believe that the average Rotarian is an individual committed to a life of service . . . who will give enormous amounts of time and energy fighting poverty, alleviating hunger, promoting literacy, eradicating polio, working with young people and performing the countless other tasks that occupy an average Rotary club."

Glen Kinross is one of those who believe that vocational service should be restored to its original place in Rotary.

"Vocational service forms the very basis of our membership," he says. "Anything else we do in Rotary, other organisations can do just as well." He would like to bring back the days when Rotarians brought to their own trades and professions the high ethical standards that Rotary espouses.

He also believes that the pioneering spirit needs to be re-kindled in Rotary; and that initiative, imagination, ingenuity and determination must be encouraged.

In this review of Rotary's past in Australia, Glen Kinross represents the future; and his view of the challenges ahead are given in the epilogue.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS

The first and second R.I. directors from the Antipodes were New Zealanders: Charles Rhodes in 1923-24 and S.L.P. Free 1930-31.

Fred Birks

The first Australian elected to the Board of Directors of Rotary International was G.F. Birks of the Rotary Club of Sydney who had been Australia's first district governor and who, it will be recalled,

served two terms as governor of the 65th District, which then covered all of Australia, in 1927-28 and 1928-29. Fred served on the board as second vice president in 1932-33.

Fred Birks was described by Paul Harris in 1935 as "the grand old man of Rotary in Australia". He was known to be a person of great compassion, showing particular concern for the disabled, the disadvantaged and the oppressed. The Pinion, in September, 1929 tells an interesting story of Fred's youthful involvement in a fascinating piece of Australian history: the Utopian New Australia settlement in Paraguay led by William Lane. Fred, with his young wife and two children, joined the now historic expedition to found an ideal socialist colony. When the experiment failed, Fred went on to London, secured agencies and returned to Sydney in 1897 where he built up the firm of Potter and Birks.

When the school for crippled children was built in the grounds of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in 1930, so that the children could receive their physiotherapy and daily medical treatment without losing too much schooling, Fred, for many years, donated towards the cost of hot midday meals for the children. In 1942 the school was re-named the Fred Birks Activity School.

Sinclair McGibbon

After Angus Mitchell's service as a director in 1937-38 and again in 1940-41, the next Australian to serve on the R.I. Board was Sinclair J. McGibbon of the Rotary Club of Perth.

Sinclair was one of those who had gathered in Sydney in 1924 for the first (informal) Australasian Rotary conference attended by representatives of 19 clubs, which led to the first official conference in Australia, held in Melbourne in 1926.

He served as governor of the 65th District in 1932-33 when there were two districts in Australia (65 and 76).

Sinclair McGibbon believed most firmly that it was ". . . the duty of every Rotary club and its officers to educate its members as to the ideals and objects of Rotary and the individual Rotarian's responsibility to Rotary"; and he advocated frequent club discussions of Rotary topics and the use of club forums as educational tools. He also believed in the value of Rotary magazines as impor-

tant educational media. At the 1935 Australian Rotary Conference he addressed the gathering on the need for every Rotarian to read *The Rotarian*.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of R.I. for 1943-44 when World War II was still raging and any activity not directly associated with the war effort was extremely difficult. Despite the problems, Sinclair McGibbon recognised the continued existence and growth of Rotary as an important ancillary service in wartime and as a basis on which to develop the many post-war services that surely would be required; and with this in mind he discharged his duties conscientiously and effectively.

O.D.A. Oberg, C.B.E.

Australia was represented on the board by Angus Mitchell as president in 1948-49 and as immediate past president in 1949-50. In Rotary's Golden Anniversary year, 1954-55, the colourful Ollie Oberg served on the board, becoming first vice president in the following year.

Ollie Oberg was known as a flamboyant character whose presence in any gathering was unlikely to go unnoticed. An imposing figure, an imperious manner and an authoritative voice commanded attention. One might disagree with what Ollie said (one often did), but one had no alternative but to listen.

A well known timber man, he played a leading role in the Timber Merchants' Association and in the formation of the Timber Development Association. He had been appointed to a special committee by the Australian Government to advise on the most effective use of timber in war time. Timber was needed, of course, for a multiplicity of military and civilian uses, such as army huts, camp hospitals, wharves and bridges, rifle stocks – and coffins.

A member of the Rotary Club of Sydney, Ollie was invited to serve on the International Affairs Committee of R.I. in 1948-49, the year before his year as governor of the 29th District in 1949-50. In the following year he was appointed to the Aims and Objects Committee and then the Program Planning Committee. Following his year as first vice president, he was again called upon to work and provide leadership in several capacities.

Ollie Oberg was often described as a man who worked best under pressure and who made sure he was always at his best by accepting every voluntary assignment offered by his vocational associations, his community and Rotary.

A.D.G. Stewart

Douglas Stewart was also a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Sydney, serving as governor of the 29th District in 1954-55. A most impressive district governor, he was noted for his personal interest in and encouragement of every new Rotarian inducted during his year. He was also famous for the inordinate length of meetings during his official visits to clubs, when an adjournment at midnight was considered not unusual. After his gubernatorial year he was immediately chosen for international assignments, of which he held many until his election to the board in 1960. In the second year of his term he was first vice president.

After his service on the board, Doug's considerable experience was utilised by a succession of R.I. presidents as a committee member and chairman. Included among his many appointments were Trustee of The Rotary Foundation and Chairman of the Council on Legislation.

Doug was jealous of Rotary's reputation and had a firm conviction that any Rotarian whose behaviour was found to be less than honourable should be invited to resign. Anyone who failed to avail himself of such a generous offer, in Doug's opinion, should be removed by due process.

His counsel was frequently sought by Rotarians – often newly-elected club presidents or directors – who had encountered constitutional or procedural problems. Doug would seldom give an immediate, direct answer. He would encourage the member to find the answer to his question in the constitutional documents. Then he would discuss the interpretation of the written word. This, he claimed, was a better way of educating new members in the ways of Rotary than merely answering questions. Doug is still remembered by many as Rotary's "elder statesman" during his later years.

Stephen J. O'Halloran

A member of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Steve O'Halloran was governor of the 30th District in 1956-57. In the following year he was appointed a Rotary Information counsellor, then a member of the Vocational Service Consultative Group, member of the Convention Committee and International Assembly Group Leader. He was elected to the board of R.I. for 1966-68 and was first vice president in the second year of his term of office, during which he travelled widely in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa which were then part of the one Rotary region, known as ANZAO.

It was Steve O'Halloran who successfully applied to the R.I. board, during his term as a director, for official recognition of the annual conference of incumbent and past R.I. officers in Australia as a Rotary Institute.

After his service on the board, as is usual for past directors, he was given a succession of important committee assignments, including, on several occasions, the committee to nominate the president of R.I.

Steve, a successful architect, was one of the ten children of a simple farming family, the eccentricities of which provided him with a rich store of anecdotes on which he drew liberally to enliven his talks to Rotary gatherings. He eventually collected these tales into a valuable little book titled *The Days that are Gone*, which paints a vivid picture of life on a small Riverina selection in the early part of the 20th Century.

Kenneth A. Scheller

After Clem Renouf, the next director from Australia was Ken Scheller, a member of the Rotary Club of Bondi Junction (later the Rotary Club of Sydney) who had been governor of District 275 (9750) in 1964-65. Ken was a director in 1974-75 and second vice president in 1975-76.

Following his year as governor, Ken had been chosen for a series of Rotary International appointments, including International Assembly group leader and membership of the planning committee for three years.

It was Ken's able advocacy, as a district governor, against the strongest opposition by some past governors, that led to the successful establishment, by the Rotary Clubs of Newtown and Bayswater, of Rotary Down Under. And it was his equally able representation as a board member that resulted in the adoption of an acceptable plan for the granting of official status to regional magazines. He remained closely associated with Rotary Down Under for 20 years, either as committee chairman or member.

In recognition of his services to the magazine, Ken's great contribution is commemorated in the annual Ken Scheller Award, which is conferred each year for the contributed article that most effectively expresses the Rotary ideal of service.

Following his membership of the Rotary International Board, Ken was selected by successive presidents for assignments. The one that probably gave him the most enjoyment and enabled him to demonstrate his talent for hard work, efficient organisation and effective leadership with tremendous fun as the principal ingredient was International Assembly moderator.

Always modest about his attainments, Ken insisted that preference in Rotary is largely a matter of chance: "being in the right place at the right time and coming under the notice of the right person to give you that first opportunity to show your mettle." He was also wont to say (just to bring everyone down to size) that "...anyone who thinks he gets a Rotary International job because he's the best only demonstrates the size of his own inflated ego. Many - in fact the great majority - of Rotary's most talented people are never offered or will never be available for an international appointment;" and: "For every R.I. committee member and every director there are hundreds of Rotarians who could do the job as well, or better. You've got to be smart to miss the Rotary gravy train."

Leslie W. McGregor

The Rotarian who followed Ken Scheller as a director was Royce Abbey (1976-78). The next Australian director was Les McGregor, in 1979-81, serving as R.I. Treasurer in the second year of his term. He is the first Australian to have held that office.

A member of the Rotary Club of South Sydney, New South Wales, Les was governor of District 275 (9750) in 1965-66, after which he was entrusted with Rotary International assignments – including the publications committee – every year until his election to the board (and, incidentally, has held appointments every year since, including a term as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation).

Les was a member of the first Rotary Down Under Board of Governors and editorial committee, later serving as a member and chairman of the management committee. As a director, he was also largely responsible for supervising the establishment in 1980 of a Rotary International literature depot in Australia which, until the South Pacific regional office of the R.I. Secretariat opened in Sydney, was attached to the Rotary Down Under office in Parramatta.

When the Australian Institute appointed a Rotary History committee to publish the 50 years history of Rotary in Australia in time for the 1971 convention in Sydney, Les McGregor was the member responsible for co-ordinating the production of the book. He was called upon to do the same job when the Institute history was published in 1979; and now finds himself on the History and Archives Committee responsible for publishing this book. He was also responsible for the production of his own club's history in 1971 and again in 1996.

Les held the printing and publishing classification in his club and it is clear that his vocational skills and experience have been put to very good use for Rotary.

Brian H. Knowles

After Les McGregor came Glen Kinross and then Brian Knowles in 1986-88, who also was elected R.I. Treasurer for the second half of his term.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Sandgate, Queensland, Brian had served as governor of District 960 in 1969-70, after which he was selected for several international assignments, including membership of the finance committee, while still retaining his district interests and his membership of the International House Board, of which he was deputy president. He also served as a mem-

ber and chairman of the Australian International Projects Advisory Committee (IPAC).

Before his election to the R.I. Board, Brian moved to Queensland's Gold Coast, becoming a member of the Rotary Club of Southport North; but the perennial holiday atmosphere of his new environment failed to have an enervating effect on this indefatigable worker.

Becoming chairman of the Council and a member of the Rotary Down Under committee during his term as director, Brian was subsequently elected to serve on that committee for two three-year terms. He has also continued to serve Rotary International in a series of important assignments, including chairmanship of the West Pacific Region PolioPlus Committee.

In recent years Brian has been involved in several important Polio-Plus missions in China and has negotiated agreements with the Chinese Government, having been nominated by The Rotary Foundation to work with the World Bank in establishing facilities in China and other Asian countries.

Back in 1973 Brian Knowles startled his fellow Rotarians by declaring that Rotary did not need more members. He pointed out that there were then 14 steps involved in the election of a new member and he suggested a further 14 steps to make each new member a Rotarian. More than 20 years later, he still emphasises the importance of Rotary education for new members of Rotary clubs to ensure that they are, indeed, Rotarians; and he continues to set a fine example. He is currently (1995-96) Pacific Area Co-ordinator of the Membership Task Force.

Kevin Hards

A member of the Rotary Club of Taree, New South Wales, Kevin Hards served as governor of District 265 (9650) in 1974-75. He was appointed to the Rotary Down Under committee, serving as treasurer and chairman. His major Rotary International appointment was to the demanding Rotary Information Seminars, involving the leadership of seminars in Queensland, Papua New Guinea and Northern Territory. He was a Rotary International director in 1990-91 and treasurer 1991-92.

Because his own father had died of Polio, Kevin had a particular interest in PolioPlus and volunteered to lead the campaign team in

his own district, which made the highest per-capita contribution in Australia. He continues to work for the eradication of polio in his own district and at large as a member of the PolioPlus Speakers Bureau. He is also a member of the Family and Community Concerns Task Force of R.I.

Among Kevin's other interests is membership development because, he argues, Rotary cannot hope to achieve its objectives in the world without many more members, particularly those who are willing to accept the responsibilities of leadership. For the 1996-97 year he has been appointed South Pacific Area Co-ordinator of the Membership Task Force.

The encouragement of service by the younger members of the community has been expressed by Kevin Hardes in his continuing interest in Rotaract.

Vocationally, Kevin is a former vice president of the National Australian Automotive Dealers' Association and in 1984 received the Time Magazine Quality Dealer of the Year Award.

John Carrick

Formerly a member of the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill, New South Wales, John Carrick is now a member of the Rotary Club of Lindfield. He served as governor of District 968 (9680) in 1977-78 and is currently director of Rotary International 1994-1996.

John's involvement in Rotary has been widespread. One of his earliest district assignments was to the then newly-formed RYLA committee in which he played a significant part in mounting his district's first RYLA seminar in 1969. Thereafter successive governors made use of his talents and Rotary commitment in a series of appointments.

After his year as governor, he was similarly employed by presidents of Rotary International until his election to the board, probably his most demanding assignment being his leadership of the Polio Plus campaign in New South Wales as State co-ordinator.

John has been a board member of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and has been active in the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal as a regional officer.

John is one of those who believe that Rotary's future effective-

ness - perhaps even its survival - depends on the recruitment of younger members, both men and women. Aged membership, albeit of the finest quality, he asserts, will not be sufficient for survival as numbers dwindle. The destiny of Rotary, he believes, still lies in service to others and in the continuing search for international understanding, goodwill and peace.

"Of one fact there is no doubt," says John. "We will never run out of customers."

John Carrick will complete his term as a director on June 30, 1996; but, in the manner of all former directors of R.I., his service to Rotary will continue undiminished.

Barry Thompson, OAM.

Rotary International Director Elect is Barry Thompson, Rotary Club of Padstow, New South Wales, who was governor of District 969 (9690) in 1985-86.

He has served Rotary International with distinction as an International Assembly Group Leader, Presidents' Rotary Information Counsellor, Assistant Co-ordinator of the Functional Literacy Task Force and as a member of the Vocational Service Committee, Membership Development Task Force, the Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force and the Recreation and Fellowship Task Force.

Vocationally, Barry is operations general manager of the Federal Airports Corporation with national responsibility for the provision and operation of airport facilities in Australia's major cities. He was a member of the Australian Government Transport Industry Advisory Committee and was a member of the Aviation Committee of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

Barry Thompson's contribution to Rotary as a board member has yet to be made; but his past performance suggests that it will be not inconsiderable.

The New Zealand directors

The ANZO Region of Rotary International includes New Zealand and the Pacific Island nations and some of our great R.I. directors have been from across the Tasman.

New Zealand representation began in 1923-24 with Charles

Rhodes, followed in 1930-31 by S.L.P. Free, who was second vice president.

Henry J. Guthrie was a director in 1935-36.

In 1943-44 The Hon (Sir) George Ilott served as a director and as second vice president in the following year.

Harold T. Thomas was elected to the board for 1950-52, and was first vice president in the second year of his term. Harold, of course, was to serve with distinction as R.I. president in 1959-60, giving us a theme that is still remembered: Build Bridges of Friendship.

The director for 1958-60 was Charles H. Taylor, remembered for his contribution to the development of Interact.

Leslie V. Phillips was director in 1964-65 and second vice president 1965-66. He attended the Canberra conference at which the foundations of the Australian Institute were finally and firmly laid. Thereafter, R.I. directors from New Zealand, by virtue of their office, were responsible for convening the institutes in Australia and New Zealand during their terms on the board.

The first New Zealand convener of an Australian Rotary Institute was Ted de Joux, 1972-74, who had been chairman of the combined New Zealand Golden Anniversary Conference in 1971. It was he who first seriously suggested an official role for regional Rotary magazines.

J.S.(Bob) Yarnon was director in 1978-80 and, with his warmth and sincerity, became very popular with the Australian Rotarians he met at institutes and conferences.

Neill Inkster, best known in the region for his pioneering work in arranging cultural exchanges with the People's Republic of China, was director in 1984-86.

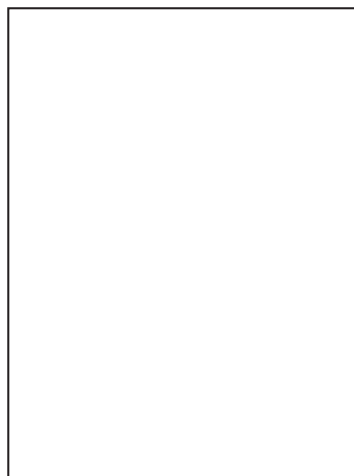
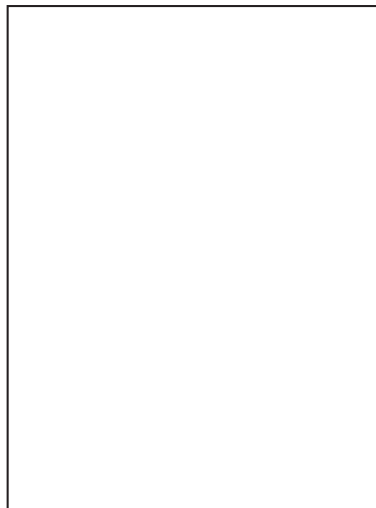
In 1988-90, Dr. Grattan O'Connell was director. Already well known throughout the region for his work leading up to and during the PolioPlus campaign, Grattan was a popular board member and continues to make an important contribution in many areas, not least of which is his long involvement with Rotary Down Under.

Our last director from New Zealand was Owen McDowell, in 1992-94, whose cheerful presence was welcome at many Australian Rotary gatherings before and during his years of service

on the board.

All our Kiwi directors since 1973 have taken their turn as chairmen of the Rotary Down Under governing body (the Council) and have also served on the committee of the magazine. Since 1976 all directors from the region have provided the direct link between the R.I. board and the magazine.

Angus Mitchell unveils a plaque which reads:
Rotary International - The Rotary Club of
Essendon dedicates this House of Friendship to
the City in gratitude to the pioneers who by
their foresight and courage have made
Essendon a city of which we are justly proud
- The spirit shall not grow old - This plaque
was unveiled on the 8th of April 1952 by
Angus S. Mitchell - Past President of Rotary
International.

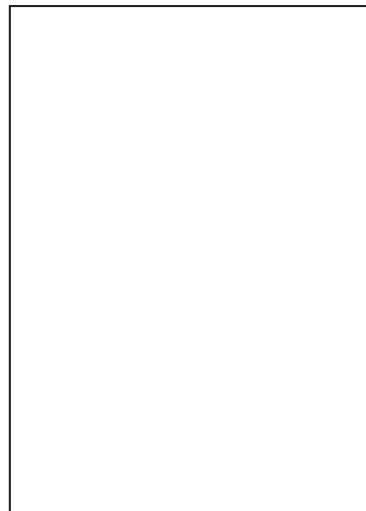


Left - Clem Renouf, Rotary Club of Nambour,
Queensland, Australia, President of Rotary
International, 1978-79.

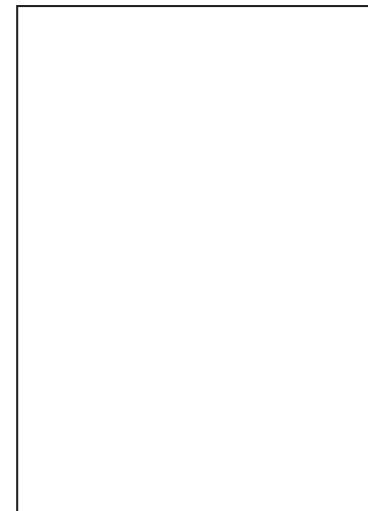
Leaders at a Rotary
gathering: Glen Kinross,
Grattan O'Connell, Brian
Knowles and Les
McGregor.



258



Kevin Hardes

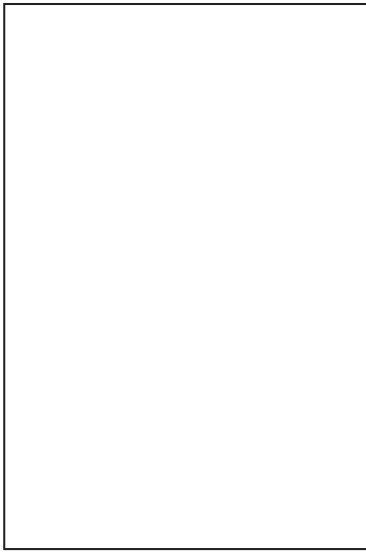


Royce Abbey, President, Rotary
International, 1988-89.

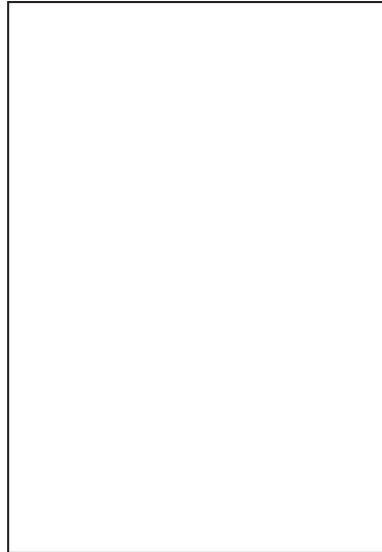


Pictured in 1949 is
President Angus
Mitchell surrounded by
a bunch of mates from
Down Under. From left:
Maurice Lloyd
(Melbourne), Merrett
Wilkinson (Dunedin),
Harold Thomas
(Auckland), Roy Blake
(Armidale), President
Angus, Alf Wynne
(Maryborough, Q.),
Ollie Oberg (Sydney)
and William P.P. Gordon
(Stratford).

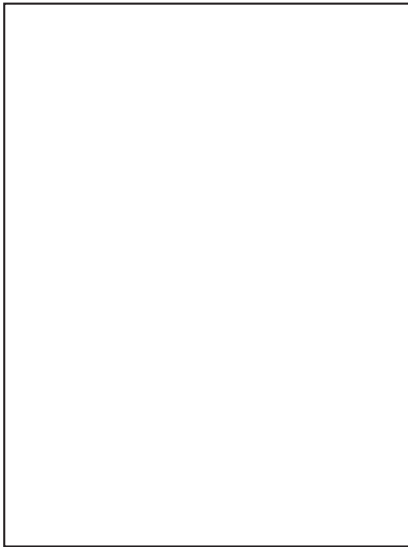
259



Brian Knowles



Sir Ninian Stephen (left) and Royce Abbey



Angus Mitchell



Glen Kinross

CHAPTER TWELVE

ROTARY COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

COMMUNICATIONS within Rotary encompass a range of publications from weekly club bulletins to a sophisticated international magazine and an array of leaflets, pamphlets, handbooks and manuals; and a battery of audio-visual slide/tape programs and videotapes.

BULLETINS

The basic regular publication for every member of every club is the weekly bulletin which can be anything from a duplicated single A4 sheet to an expensive printed publication of four to eight or more pages, the quality of the production often reflecting the size of the club.

Bulletins, issued under many odd names (Wheel, Spoke, Cog, Keyway, Gear Wheel, Rotator, Millwheel, Synchronesh) contain reports of last week's meeting, details of next week's program, duty rosters, calls for volunteers for projects requiring personal effort, sometimes an item of Rotary Information, reports and information from president and directors, extracts from district governor's newsletter, general announcements and anything else the bulletin editor chooses.

Many bulletins carry a full list of club members with classifications, spouses' names, telephone and fax number. Most list current directors and chairmen of all committees and past presidents and secretaries; the Object of Rotary and the Four Way Test. Thus, as well as the club news medium, the bulletin is often a club directory and source of general information.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S LETTER

Every month the district governor issues a newsletter to all club presidents and secretaries and district committee chairmen. Many print enough additional copies for all club directors and a few provide copies for all Rotarians in the district. Like the club bulletin, the form of the governor's newsletter varies from a simple, duplicated publication to a small, professionally-produced magazine

or newspaper.

Essentially the newsletter is to remind clubs of coming events and requirements. For example: "February is World Understanding Month during which we celebrate the anniversary of Rotary's birth on 23rd" followed by suggestions about how the club might mark this occasion; or "November is The Rotary Foundation Month. . ." and so on for all the months of the Rotary calendar. In addition, clubs are reminded that semi-annual returns are due; that capitation fees to Rotary International and the district are payable; the dates of the district conference and district assembly, with the usual promotion. Any recent decisions of the R.I. Board that might be of interest to clubs are also included, as is the attendance report for the previous month, in which the attendance percentage of every club in the district is recorded. Some governors include an "inspirational message" of their own composition but, happily, most resist this temptation.

REGIONAL MAGAZINES

Next in the hierarchy of regular publications is the official regional magazine, which publishes material, provided by the secretariat, concurrently with the official magazine of Rotary International, The Rotarian, and the other 28 regional magazines around the world, published in 21 languages.

The Pinion

The first regional magazine for Australia was The Pinion, which began as a monthly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Sydney in January, 1924 and was adopted as the "official organ of Australian Rotary" in 1928.

The magazine, in 1924, was a handsome, octavo publication, printed on good quality art paper with a cover design depicting a stylised Rotary emblem as a large gear wheel with a small pinion wheel intermeshing - a device that would be quite unacceptable to-day.

The driving force behind The Pinion was W.G. (Jim) Conley, a charter member of the club holding the Newspaper Publishing classification as general manager of The Sydney Morning Herald.

After an overseas tour in 1923, during which he had studied Rotary in Britain and North America, he placed his new-found knowledge at the disposal of the Sydney club. Among his several recommendations were that a publication should be established and that a Pacific regional conference should be held.

Jim Conley was the first editor of The Pinion, remaining in the job until he became president of the club in 1926 when T.S. Summerhayes took over.

Among the many interesting reports appearing during its first years was a summary of an address by Rotarian C.E.D. Meares describing the new Federal Capital, then under construction. The population was now between 3,000 and 4,000, of whom 2,000 were employed on construction work and buildings. The weekly wages bill was a massive £9,000 and to-date £3 million had been expended on the project.

Tom Summerhayes was founder of the Metropolitan Business College and gave his name to a system of shorthand. During his editorship advertisements first appeared. Gowings were offering made-to-measure dinner suits for 10 guineas and full dress suits for 11 guineas; and a new Packard was available from Ira L. and A.C. Berk for £875 and the family could have a new Beale piano for £198. The AMP Society proudly announced that its funds had risen from £27,035 in 1887 to £15,261,219 in 1925.

In 1927 Aubrey Dye became editor (for one year) but was still doing the job in May, 1928 when the first issue of the new series as the organ of Australian Rotary was published, identified as Vol.1, (New Series) Number 1. That issue, of 128 pages, carried a full report of proceedings of the first conference of the 65th District, which covered the Commonwealth of Australia. It was held in Hobart.

Still serving all the clubs in Australia, the magazine continued until, in 1930, a third series began with another Vol.1 Number 1 to usher in a new format: full quarto size with a modern newspaper-style layout and display headings. In July of that year The Pinion reported that Australia had been divided into two districts: 65 and 76.

By September, 1930, the sudden and drastic effects of the

great depression were being seen. Articles referred to the problems of unemployment. Club projects were being geared to the alleviation of distress among the unemployed. Advertisements had all but disappeared and it was announced that the next issue would return to octavo size with fewer pages.

Another change of appearance occurred in May, 1932, with a new design and interesting pictures on the cover with gravure printing. Then, in 1934, the paper stock was changed completely from glossy magazine paper to bulky newsprint.

The District 76 Conference was fully reported in the September, 1936 issue of 88 pages and this was followed in October by a similarly comprehensive coverage of the conference of the 65th District in 103 pages.

In June, 1938, with Lance Fallaw of The Sydney Morning Herald, formerly a Geelong Rotarian, shown as editor, the magazine returned to its glossy paper and donned its original costume, the front cover designed for it in 1924. Again it was a 16 page journal with few advertisements.

In 1940-41 we were in the midst of war. Rotarians who were not on active service were busy with war work and had no time to write notes for The Pinion. A licence was needed to buy paper. The editor's wartime commitments made it impossible for him to carry on and there was no replacement editor in sight. It was decided that publication should be suspended "for the duration of the war"; but it did not reappear at the end of hostilities and was never reissued, despite several attempts to revive it.

Those who served as editor of The Pinion were not always named, but included Jim Conley, Tom Summerhayes, W.A. Buzacott (charter president of the Rotary Club of Townsville), Aubrey Dye, John Bishop, Ralph Maynard and Lance Fallaw who, after his retirement, returned to Geelong and served as governor of District 76 in 1943-44.

When The Pinion first appeared in 1924 there were no Rotary clubs outside the capital cities. When it became a regional magazine it served 19 clubs in one district. When it ceased publication - the last year in which it was listed in the Official Directory of Rotary International - it was shown as the regional publication of

Districts 56, 65 and 76 covering the Commonwealth Of Australia with a total of 89 Rotary clubs.

By the time Rotary Down Under, the successor to The Pinion, appeared in April, 1965, there were 11 Districts with 512 clubs and some 21,750 Rotarians in Australia.

Rotary Down Under

The regional magazine for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific began as a project of two Rotary clubs, the members of which had neither the experience nor the wit to accept the assurances of a series of senior Rotarians that what they were proposing was not only impossible but also inimical to the best interests of Rotary. They were Bayswater in Victoria and Newtown, New South Wales.

Perhaps the writer, having been personally involved, may be excused for repeating what he has written previously on this subject.

In Bayswater it began with an elephant. It was 1963 and the Rotary Club of Bayswater (chartered 1961) had devoted hours, days, weeks of planning and design and skill and sheer hard work to the construction of the elephant; a magnificent, massive structure of stainless steel tubing, lovingly welded and moulded into the shape of a huge pachyderm over which hordes of happy children could clamber in perfect safety. There it stood, in the park, a monument to the enthusiasm and dedication of the Bayswater Rotarians.

Photographs were taken from every angle to accompany the story written in hope and expectation for The Rotarian; but, oh, the disappointment! It was never published.

Charter President Jim Robinson and his friend Les Gilbert pondered the problem. They realised that The Rotarian had to cover the whole Rotary world; but they wondered how many more stories of good projects were never told.

"You know Les," said Jim, in his carefully measured tones, "I think what we need is our own Rotary magazine; not instead of The Rotarian but as well as - so that we can share ideas in Australia and New Zealand."

"By cripes, Jim," expostulated Les (who is much given to expos-

tulation when the occasion demands), "you're right! Let's do something about it!"

They took the proposal to their club, which sponsored a motion at the District 282 Conference at Lakes Entrance, where a ways and means committee was appointed to make a feasibility study and report back to the next conference.

In Newtown it began with a make-up. The writer was a visitor to the Rotary Club of Narrabri, New South Wales, and heard an address on world hunger by Professor John McMillan, a Sydney Rotarian and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Sydney.

Who could fail to be impressed by the immediate action of the Narrabri Rotarians in establishing a local Freedom From Hunger committee and providing leadership?

Suddenly one realised that Rotary clubs in all parts of the country were working in isolation; that a project or a program idea in one club was confined to that club or, at best, to that district; that Rotary service surely could be considerably enhanced by a sharing of ideas and experience. Was it not possible to share valuable ideas through a national or regional magazine or newsletter?

The idea was put to Newtown club President Dick Bell, who promptly formed a committee to investigate the need and, if appropriate, to plan the operation.

The committee sought the advice of a good friend: a past district governor, who responded, in the lofty manner befitting his exalted status, by asserting that it couldn't be done. Rotarians did not want a local magazine and wouldn't support it. It would be impossible to get enough material to fill it. "R.I." would never permit it; and even if "they" (presumably the hereinbefore mentioned "R.I.") did allow it there was no chance of getting an identical resolution through all 11 district conferences to authorise such a project. Moreover it had been tried before and hadn't worked. The magazine, he said, had been published by Sydney club and was called *The Pinion*. It didn't last long. Failed. A disaster.

The committee was deflated; but still thought it worthwhile to seek a second opinion. Douglas Stewart (past first vice president of Rotary International and a Sydney club member) gave a different

version of *The Pinion's* value and the reason for its demise. It was, he said, an early casualty of World War II. He confirmed that suggestions for its revival since the war's end had met with little support; but he was unable to recall any serious attempt to re-establish the magazine or to provide a successor. He also confirmed that, with 11 districts in Australia and three in New Zealand, it would be no simple task to gain the support of all.

Newtown club decided to change tactics. They would by-pass conferences and seek the authority of each district governor to write to the clubs in his district inviting them to participate in a "pilot" program in which three issues of a proposed magazine would be published, after which the members of all clubs would be asked to decide whether or not the magazine project should continue.

District 275 (9750) Governor Ken Scheller, with the support of neighbouring District 268 (9680-9690) Governor Mick Shephard, agreed to write to all his fellow governors. Ken's support and the response from District 282 (9810-9820) Governor Bill Brett advising of Bayswater club's interest in a similar project, provided the breakthrough.

The Newtown committee wrote immediately to Bayswater's Jim Robinson, providing a full briefing of what was proposed, what had been done so far and what was planned for the future and suggesting that the two clubs work together, with a not very subtle implication that, since Bayswater's plans were almost certainly further advanced than their own, Newtown would be more than happy to throw its full weight behind the Bayswater effort. The Bayswater members gladly accepted the suggestion of a joint project but politely declined to accept the "buck" that Newtown was attempting to pass, sending it back by return mail in the form of a counter-proposal that Newtown should implement its plans, with Bayswater's full support.

One need not dwell on the obstacles still to be overcome; but overcome they were, largely because it proved to be twice as difficult to dismiss two impudent infant Rotary clubs as it is to dismiss only one.

The governors were not unanimously in favour of the proposal,

but decided to discuss the matter fully at the forthcoming conference of past, incumbent and incoming governors (precursor to the Australian Rotary Institute) in January, 1965 where the reaction of past officers was not exactly encouraging, as the minutes testify: "This matter was discussed at length with particular emphasis on the need, the likely demand, editorial and news gathering problems and finance. The history of previous attempts in this field was discussed. Without resolution the attention of the clubs was directed to the constitutional procedures to be adopted to launch such a plan and while warning of the great difficulties and financial risks in the project, and while generally believing that there was no need for such a magazine (the conference) nevertheless commended the clubs for their enthusiastic and thorough investigations and planning."

That, of course, should have been the end of the matter; but it wasn't. Ken Scheller called the incumbent governors together and, with the support of Bill Brett and Mick Shephard, suggested that they disregard the advice of their elders. The governors agreed that they would raise no objection to the Bayswater and Newtown clubs writing to the clubs in their districts. They also agreed to supervise the production of the magazine in accordance with the policy laid down by the R.I. board in relation to district and regional magazines, appointing Ken Scheller and Mick Shephard to be their on-the-spot representatives. Few of them, it appears, gave the enterprise very much chance of success; but, since the two clubs had agreed to underwrite the cost of the project and had agreed that a referendum should be held at the conclusion of the pilot program, and as the clubs had planned each step strictly in accordance with Rotary International policy, they decided that these two fledgeling clubs should be permitted to "have a go".

Of the 22,000 Rotarians in Australia at the time, 10,200 agreed to subscribe to three issues of a magazine during the pilot program. Many also contributed material. The first issue appeared in April, 1965 under the "provisional" title it still carries, the suggested name, The Rotary Family, having been rejected as unsuitable by the general secretary of R.I. who pointed out that ". . . any regional Rotary magazine should be primarily a Rotary pub-

lication and its name and content ought to reflect that position. This is essential if the Rotary name and emblem are to be used."

The proofs of all pages of each issue, during the pilot program, were submitted to all 11 district governors before the magazine was published. The governors also authorised and supervised the referendum held after the third issue had appeared in which more than 70% of the Rotarians of Australia made it quite clear that they did want a regional magazine to complement The Rotarian.

At the 1965 international assembly at Lake Placid, the incoming district governors formed themselves into a "board of governors" effective from July 1 and adopted interim rules for the conduct of the magazine, appointed editorial and management committees, adopted an editorial policy based on that of The Rotarian, invited the editor of the pilot issues to continue in that position until the next meeting and decided that the board of governors would meet again in conjunction with their conference.

On July 1, 1965, representatives of the Rotary Clubs of Bayswater and Newtown formally handed over their completed joint club service project for 1964-65, a regional magazine, to representatives of the now 12 1965-66 district governors who constituted the governing body of the magazine.

At the November, 1965, conference the decisions made at Lake Placid were confirmed and the "Organisation and Procedures" for the government of the magazine were adopted. This document provided for the election each year of an editorial committee of three incumbent governors and appointment of a management committee of Rotarians including at least one officer or past officer of R.I. and one governor nominee. It was decided that the annual meeting of the board would be held in conjunction with the conference (institute).

In the following year (1966-67), circulation was extended across the Tasman and the three New Zealand governors joined the board of governors.

At the instigation of Governors John Moon of 268 and Bert Dreaver of 292 (New Zealand) the "temporary" editor, a Newtown Rotarian who had been re-appointed each year, was invited by the

1968-69 board to accept a permanent appointment.

Until 1970 Rotary Down Under was published in Newtown, first from a tiny office in Brennans Chambers, a few doors from the old Elizabethan Theatre. The rent was purely nominal because the owner of the building was Rotarian Jim Brennan who just happened to be the first treasurer of Rotary Down Under. Later a somewhat larger office with a small room to accommodate the addressograph equipment (bought in the first few months because of unsatisfactory service from the commercial mailing house) in the same building were acquired on equally favourable terms. Some of the furniture and equipment (i.e. typewriters) were donated; the rest came from a second hand dealer.

During the pilot program and for several months thereafter, the magazine was staffed by volunteers from Newtown club while Bayswater Rotarians solicited material. One other Rotarian who joined the team of volunteers and who remained associated with the magazine for the next five years was Bob Johnson, a stained glass artist from the Rotary Club of Hurstville, who was named art editor but who helped with everything from licking stamps to proof-reading and page design. Bob selected photographs and provided illustrations. He was later to serve as governor of District 275 (9750).

In 1970 the magazine, now with a staff of four, was re-located in Parramatta, at 100 George Street in an office above a garage. In the multi-storey building that now occupies that site is to be found the South Pacific offices of Rotary International. The next move, late 1972, was around the corner to a rented cottage at 107 Phillip Street, Parramatta where the staff, committee and visitors enjoyed the luxury of space. It was then that, for the first time, the magazine bought its own simple typesetting equipment and was able to supply camera-ready artwork to the printer.

In 1973 the Organisation and Procedures, the constitutional document under which the magazine operated, was replaced by the Rotary Down Under Constitution, providing for the appointment of an executive committee, replacing the editorial and management committees, to be responsible to the incumbent officers of R.I. for all aspects of the magazine's administration and

the implementation of editorial policy. It seemed appropriate that Ken Scheller should be recalled to be the first chairman of the new committee. He remained in that office during his years (1974-76) as a board member and vice president of R.I.

In 1973 Ted de Joux of New Zealand, who preceded Ken Scheller on the R.I. board, suggested that Rotary regional magazines should be "taken over" by R.I. as regional editions of The Rotarian, beginning with Rotary Down Under. A suggestion that official status be granted to regional magazines in return for agreement to publish official material, advanced by Rotary Down Under, had been canvassed at the 1970 seminar of Rotary regional editors but had received little support because it was considered highly unlikely that the governing bodies of 23 regional magazines would willingly surrender their autonomy. Ted was undismayed by this intelligence, placing his proposal before the board.

At Lake Placid, the site of the international assembly, in 1974, President Elect Bill Robbins convened a meeting to discuss Ted's proposal that the possibility of establishing Rotary Down Under as a regional edition of the official magazine be investigated. Present were Bill Robbins and Ted de Joux representing the R.I. board; General Secretary Harry Stewart and The Rotarian Editor Willmon White from the R.I. staff; and from Down Under, Douglas Stewart, Ken Scheller (incoming R.I. director and chairman of Rotary Down Under) and Paul Henningham (Rotary Down Under editor). Arising from this discussion the board instructed that a feasibility study be undertaken by the secretariat. In this study the major problems identified were those of publishing a regional edition of the official magazine in a location so remote from the secretariat and of registration under a different ownership.

The Rotary Down Under committee now suggested that, instead of "taking over" Rotary Down Under, the board should accord it a previously unheard-of status: that of an "approved" magazine which would be required to surrender a certain proportion of its editorial space to the general secretary, advised by the editor of The Rotarian, in return for "official" status for the purpose of applying the constitutional provision requiring that all Rotarians subscribe to the official magazine. In other words, that Rotary

Down Under become a de facto regional edition of the official magazine in editorial content, retaining its own governing body, constitution, management and regional editorial autonomy.

The board of R.I. authorised an experiment on these lines beginning on July 1, 1976. The experiment was subsequently extended for a further year; and the 1977 Council on Legislation amended the constitutional documents giving the board authority to approve certain regional magazines as acceptable alternatives to the official magazine and to prescribe them for the Rotarians in given regions. The first magazine so approved and prescribed for Rotarians in Australia, New Zealand and the English-speaking island nations of the South West Pacific, was Rotary Down Under, from July 1, 1978. The Japanese and South African regional magazines were granted official status in the next year and others were soon to follow.

Meanwhile, in late 1977, Rotary Down Under acquired its own premises; another cottage at 3 Station Street West, in the Parramatta suburb of Harris Park. To do so it was necessary to form a non-profit company, RDU Pty. Limited, to purchase the property; for the organisation known as Rotary Down Under, the members of which were all the Rotarians who subscribed to the magazine, was not a legal entity and the Associations Incorporation Acts were still of the future. The company still exists to hold property in trust for the Rotarians in the region.

The magazine continued to develop, with more sophisticated production equipment. The Rotary Down Under premises also housed the newly-established Rotary Supplies operation and, for a short time, the R.I. Literature Depot. In 1980 the leadership role of Rotary Down Under in the Rotary World Press was recognised when its editor was appointed moderator at the 1980 seminar of regional magazine editors.

In 1984 the original editor was succeeded by Bob Aitken, a past president of the Rotary Club of Parkes, New South Wales, who had been trained in the craft of journalism in the regional newspaper, of which he had become editor. (Bob is 1996-97 district 9690 governor nominee.)

By now larger premises were needed and the move was made in October, 1984 to a three-storey building at 21 Argyle Street,

Parramatta. This was made possible by two past governors of District 968: Les Whitcroft, who generously purchased the property and held it while funds were raised, and John Moon who spearheaded the Rotary House Appeal in which all Rotary clubs were asked to donate funds for a permanent home for their magazine. In 1986 the appeal was completed and Rotary House was acquired by RDU Pty. Limited and eventually accommodated Rotary Down Under, the South West Pacific Office of Rotary International, RDU Rotary Supplies, the Probus Centre - South Pacific, the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, Trees for Survival and storage bases for Inner Wheel, and Rotaract.

The constitution of Rotary Down Under was amended in 1985-86 to provide for the election of members of the committee by incumbent governors from five groups of districts, ensuring wide representation from the whole region.

Rotary Down Under was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act of New South Wales in 1989.

In 1991 the magazine received an award for excellence from Rotary International as the Rotary publication "that best promotes the true image of Rotary".

In 1992 Rotary Down Under was host to an Asia and Pacific seminar for Rotary regional magazine editors, which was also attended by editors or representatives from France and South Africa. The seminar was judged highly successful by the visiting editors. It was also used as an opportunity to promote the 1993 convention in Melbourne.

The final move for the Rotary Down Under organisation occurred in 1993, when RDU Pty. Limited completed purchase of a modern, four-floor building at 43 Hunter Street, Parramatta. The new building was officially opened by R.I. Past Presidents Sir Clem Renouf and Royce Abbey.

Many Rotarians regret that the South West Pacific office of Rotary International was separated from the Rotary Down Under office at this time. Visitors found it very convenient to have Rotary Supplies and Rotary Literature at the one location. The new Rotary Down Under House will be adding the Rotary Archives to its family of facilities in the near future.

Rotary Down Under was initially printed on newsprint with a glossy cover, all in black and white. The circulation was 10,000 and the annual budget was £12,500 (\$25,000) and it had a staff of two.

When it achieved official status in 1978 it was being printed on high quality glossy paper with full-colour covers. Its circulation exceeded 36,000; it had a staff of five and its annual budget was \$260,000.

In April, 1996, Rotary Down Under is dressed in full colour throughout, attracts many national advertisers, has a circulation in excess of 50,000 and is an integral part of the total Rotary Down Under Incorporated organisation with a staff of 15 and a budget in excess of \$2 million. Not bad for a project for which inevitable failure was gloomily predicted.

The Rotarian and the official regional magazines, including Rotary Down Under, are important communications media in Rotary, for they are the only means available to the board of R.I. for communicating direct with individual Rotarians. Perhaps more importantly, they are also the media through which Rotarians everywhere can share project and program ideas for the enhancement of Rotary service.

A happy consequence of the 1964-65 Bayswater-Newtown joint project was the continuing association of the two clubs for the next 25 years with official visits annually and the exchange each year of a "chain of friendship". A great deal of Rotary information was also exchanged, but no one is prepared to vouch for its accuracy.

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

The Rotarian is the official magazine of Rotary International. It first appeared in 1911 as a four page newspaper titled The National Rotarian, edited by General Secretary Ches Perry.

A quality magazine with an international circulation, The Rotarian serves not only as an instrument of Rotary policy and a news magazine for Rotarians, but also as a public relations tool. In addition to Rotary news and information, it carries feature articles of general interest.

Though most regional magazines have become official publica-

tions, publishing the same essential Rotary material concurrently with the official magazine, The Rotarian remains the flagship of the fleet of Rotary magazines.

For the purposes of disseminating official information through the official magazine and the official regional magazines, the editor of The Rotarian is, in effect, the editor-in-chief of the Rotary World Press.

OTHER ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Several regular publications emanating from the R.I. secretariat have been included in the Rotary communications network. These are mainly for R.I. officers and club leaders and have undergone many changes with the passing years. Though important to Rotary at large, they cannot be said to have any particular relevance to Rotary in this part of the world and do not form part of this story.

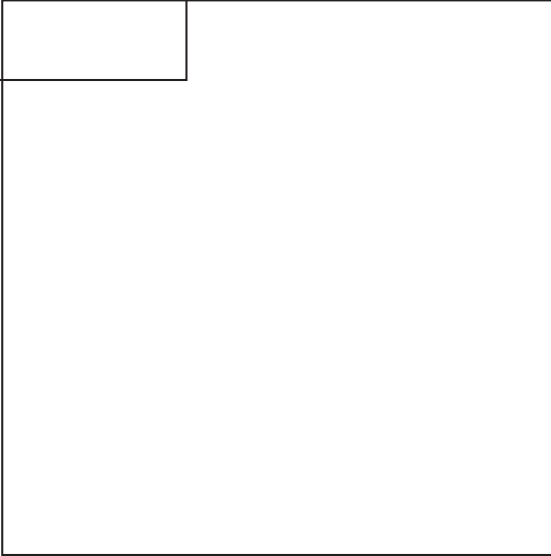
Similarly there is a treasure-trove of information and guidance on every aspect of Rotary service available for the asking from the offices of Rotary International. There are manuals, guidebooks, handbooks, pamphlets, leaflets, audio tapes, audio-visual sets, video-tapes.

Chief among them, of course, is the Manual of Procedure, published every three years after the council on legislation, which contains the constitutional documents of Rotary clubs, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation; and "a compilation of statements of policies and procedures adopted by the annual convention, the council on legislation, the R.I. Board of Directors and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation.

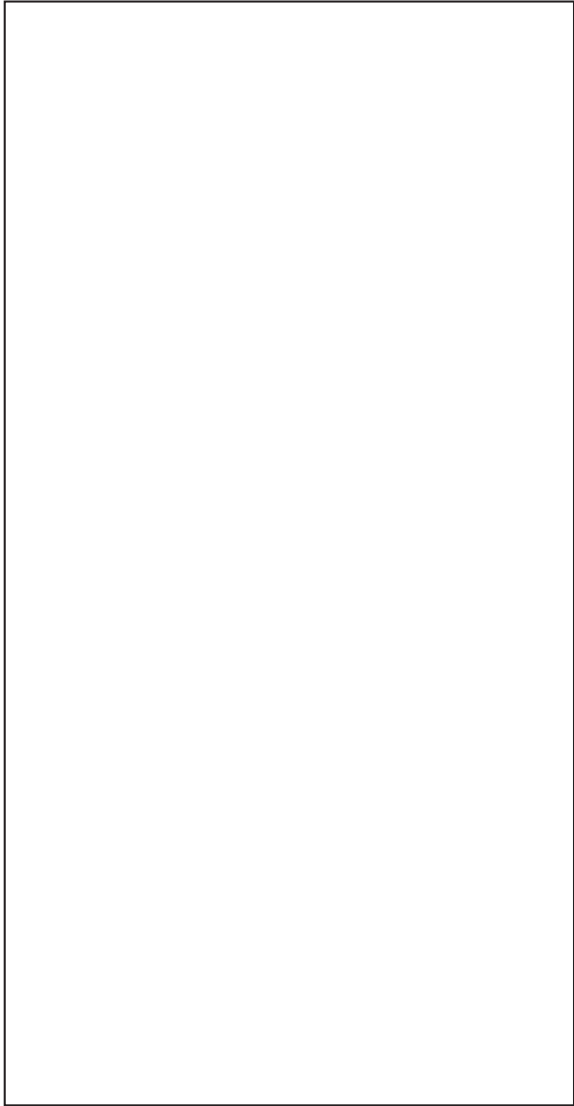
The Official Directory of Rotary International is published annually and contains the name, meeting time, day and venue and name and address of the president and secretary of every Rotary club in the world. It is also a mine of historical and statistical information.



Rotary Down Under Editors
 "hand over" - Bob Aitken
 from Paul Henningham.



Left to right - Ross Bowden (chairman), Charles Brown (speaker), Algot Aldell (PP Karlshogen, Sweden) and President John Wise pictured at Magazine Week at the Rotary Club of Adelaide East, S.A..



In October 1922, Rotary Regional Magazines editors and various support people met at Rotary House in Argyle Street, Parramatta, to consider magazine matters relating to the Asian or Pacific Rim area - and to be informed of planning for the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne in 1993. Convened by RDU editor Bob Aitken, it was a unique gathering and those present included (back row from left) Naga Murata (Rotary No Tomo, Japan); Art Gacotan (Philippine Rotary, The Philippines); PDG Ophas Kanchanivijaya (The Tai Rotarian, Thailand); Robert Yin (The Rotarian BI-monthly, Taiwan). Middle row, from left, Allan Scott (Special Events Manager, Victorian Tourist Commission); Herman Gamboa (Philippine Rotary, The Philippines); Peter Winch-Schultz (Rotary Africa, South Africa); Don Campbell (Rotary Down Under, New Zealand); Kamol Hampraditkul (The Thai Rotarian, Thailand). Front, from left, Candy Isaac (Regional Magazine Co-ordinator, Rotary International); Wuchang Chung (Rotary Korea, South Korea); and Marc Levin (Le Rotarien, France).

Montage of club bulletins