

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SERVICE

By its very existence and because of its rigid classification system and attendance requirements, the Rotary movement influenced the formation of several more service clubs, all of which are modelled on Rotary in organisation and structure but none of which adopted similar restrictions.

Some of these have a close relationship with Rotary; others have little contact. Though in some small communities a few of the clubs might find themselves competing for members, the various service clubs are not in competition. Often they work together to meet community needs, sometimes undertaking complementary tasks. It is probably fair to say that, to most Rotarians, the members of other service clubs are seen as sisters and brothers in service.

This short chapter introduces some of them.

#### APEX

With a little help from Rotary (see Chapter Four) Apex was established in Geelong, Victoria, in 1930 and has a membership of 6,500 in 500 clubs in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Apex clubs are open to young business and professional men of good character aged between 18 and 40 years, at which advanced age Apexians retire. Clubs meet fortnightly and are organised in zones and districts. The zone is the equivalent of a Rotary district and is administered by a zone president. Within the zone there may be four to six districts of up to ten clubs, each led by a district governor.

Apex selects projects at club, district, zone and national levels, those beyond club level mainly involving fund-raising. There are some exceptions.

In 1970 the Association of Apex Clubs commissioned a national study of community welfare services (including those provided by the service clubs) in which all Apex clubs participated by delivering and collecting questionnaires in their own communities and conducting interviews with key people. This became a major

research project of Sydney academic Dr (now Professor) Tony Vinson of the University of New South Wales.

Apex Clubs identify and meet community needs; and their projects mainly require physical exertion and are frequently to assist individuals, such as painting a house for a needy pensioner, mowing the lawns or chopping firewood for disabled or elderly people. To meet wider community needs, Apexians may be found physically building a Guide or Scout hall, establishing a park or a picnic ground, building wheelchair ramps at a local sports ground or working on any one of literally thousands of projects.

Another and equally important aspect of Apex work is to encourage good citizenship by participation in service activities and to provide opportunities for leadership.

Though still a male-only movement, Apex sponsored the formation, in 1991, of women's Apex clubs and the Association of Women's Apex Clubs. Apex also sponsors Apex Youth clubs, formerly known as Summit clubs.

#### KIWANIS

The first of the service clubs inspired by the success of Rotary was Kiwanis, formed in Detroit in 1915 to provide opportunities for fellowship and service for men who had been denied Rotary membership because of its single classification principle. There are now 8,000 Kiwanis clubs in 80 countries with a total membership of 330,000.

Kiwanis clubs are organised in districts administered by district governors and divisions within each district under the supervision of lieutenant governors. Membership is open to men (and, since 1987 to women) of good character, actively engaged in a business or profession. Clubs meet twice a month and begin their service work at local level with the major emphasis on the needs of young children. The current world project is treatment of iodine deficiency. They sponsor junior service clubs (Circle K) in schools and in the community (Key clubs).

Kiwanis clubs were first established in Australia in 1967. By early 1996 there were 110 clubs and 2,500 members.

#### LIONS

The first Lions club was established in Chicago in 1917 and there are now some 1,400,000 members of 43,000 clubs in 179 countries, making it the world's largest association of service clubs.

Organised in districts, each with a district governor and a vice governor, Lions operate initially at community level but are more likely to assist existing organisations by raising funds than to identify needs and initiate new agencies to meet them. Lions clubs usually have a national project to which all clubs are committed and an ongoing international program to save or restore the sight of the visually impaired, for which they have raised more than \$140 million. Lions clubs are also responsible for the remarkable Hearing Dogs program which has brought incomparable benefits to the profoundly deaf. Most of their activities involve fund-raising, at which Lions are highly skilled.

Meetings are held fortnightly. Members of Lions clubs must be persons of good character and repute, actively engaged in a business or profession but not necessarily in an executive position. While striving for a balanced membership with as many occupations represented as possible, there is no limit to the number of members from any one vocation. Membership has been open to women since 1987.

Lions clubs sponsor junior service clubs called Leo clubs, open to school children from the age of 15 and carrying through into the community. Former members of Leo clubs are automatically eligible for membership of Lions clubs.

They also sponsor Lioness clubs, which were originally established to give women the opportunity of service in clubs similar to Lions clubs when they could not be admitted to Lions clubs. Though sponsored by Lions clubs, they are totally independent clubs within Lions International. Lioness clubs meet monthly but in all other respects perform service activities in the same way as do Lions clubs. Thus women in the Lions movement can be Lions or Lionesses (or even, as Lions' wives were popularly known, "Lions' Ladies").

Lions clubs were brought to Australia in 1947 by an Apexian. William Tresise was national president of the Association of Apex Clubs in the closing days of World War II and was given the task,

during his two year term, of re-establishing the association as Apexians returned from war service.

He was nearing the Apex retiring age and, being aware of Rotary's rigid classification system which denied many former Apexians the opportunity of continuing service, proposed a change in the Apex constitution to raise the upper age limit. In this he was unsuccessful but, when representing Apex at the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs in the U.S.A., he learned that there were other service clubs not represented in Australia.

His first approach was to Kiwanis which, at that time, had no interest in expanding beyond North America. By chance he met Lions International Past President Fred Smith of California who quickly arranged interviews with other senior Lions, including Lions Secretary General and Founder Melvin Jones.

After a crash course, Bill Tresise was appointed a provisional district governor empowered to form Lions clubs in Australia. He called together a group of business and professional men in his home town of Lismore, New South Wales, and the Lions Club of Lismore was duly formed on July 1, 1947. When asked whether he was not forming an "opposition" club to Apex he replied: "How can there be opposition in the field of service?"

Lions, apart from Rotary, can be said to be the most visible service club movement. In Australia there are 1,400 clubs and 30,000 members. Also there are about 50 Lioness clubs with 1,200 members and, though they have been encouraged to become Lions clubs (which some have done) many prefer to remain independent, largely, it seems, because they are not willing to accept the requirement to meet fortnightly.

#### ZONTA

The first Zonta club was established for business and professional women in Buffalo, N.Y., U.S.A. in 1919. There are now 1,100 clubs with 36,000 members in 65 countries. The qualifications for membership were exactly the same as for the Rotary clubs on which they were modelled, except for the gender of members. Their service work has remained very similar to that of Rotary - a balance of vocational, community and international service with an

additional objective: advancement of the status of women. Zonta clubs meet monthly and they are organised in districts administered by district governors who are assisted by lieutenant governors. Districts are divided into areas, of five to 10 clubs, each of which has a director to maintain personal contact with clubs. Men have been admitted to membership of Zonta since 1988.

An interesting international program is the Zonta Foundation which awards Amelia Earhart fellowships in aero-space science and engineering to honour the memory of the famous aviatrix who was a Zonta member.

The first Australian Zonta club was chartered in Sydney in 1966. There are now 2,500 members of 90 clubs and the movement is very active in extension work, both in recruitment of members into existing clubs and the formation of new clubs. Their projects cover a wide range of community activities and world community service with, at present, a strong emphasis on education of the dis-advantaged.

#### QUOTA

Formed in the same year (1919) in the same city (Buffalo) as Zonta, the Quota movement has spread to 14 countries in which there are some 10,000 members of 450 clubs. Membership is open to business and professional women in what is referred to as a "decision-making" position. Membership has been open to men since 1987, but few have been recruited. Clubs meet twice monthly and are organised in districts, each with a governor and a lieutenant governor.

Projects are local and "unified" and, in addition to its community project, each club is expected to support the two chosen unified projects each year, one of which, currently, is aid for disadvantaged women and children. Quota adopts a club-to-club approach in world community service: the club in the more affluent country assisting a club in a developing country to meet a pressing community need that would be beyond the latter club's resources.

First established in Australia in 1933, Quota made little impression and disappeared from view in 1940 to be revived in 1944. There are now 140 clubs and 3,000 very active members in

Australia.

#### SOROPTIMISTS

Soroptimist clubs first appeared in Oakland, California, U.S.A. in 1921, taking their name from an amalgam of "sorority" and "optimum", implying that the clubs represent women at their best but, according to some, they are an optimistic sisterhood (or a sisterhood of optimists). There are more than 90,000 members of 2,900 Soroptimist clubs in 110 countries. Clubs are organised in regions within federations, there being four federations covering the world. Regions are administered by a region president whose duties are similar to those of district governor in most other service associations. Projects are mainly in the areas of health, education, environment, economic and social development, human rights and international understanding. Each club chooses its own local projects within these areas of concern but is also expected to support the quadrennial international project. They are also encouraged to raise funds for the annual international president's appeal the proceeds of which are allocated by her to a worthy cause of her own choosing.

Soroptimists came to Australia in 1937 and now have a membership of some 3,000 in 120 clubs (of about 4,000 members of 160 clubs within the South Asia and Pacific Federation).

#### INNER WHEEL

Inner Wheel is an association of female relatives (mainly wives) of Rotarians. Unlike other service associations, it has no other membership qualifications. Originally formed as a women's auxiliary to support Rotary clubs in their work, it has long since acted quite independently of Rotary, adopting its own projects at a club, district, national or international level.

Inner Wheel was first established in 1924 in England. There are now more than 3,600 clubs with 104,000 members in 88 countries. Clubs meet monthly and are organised in districts under the leadership of a district chairman. Clubs choose their own local projects and usually support those proposed by their district or international leaders. Thus a club may be working to

establish a neo-natal clinic in the local hospital while collecting clothing and blankets for flood victims as a district activity and injecting funds into an educational program in Africa in response to a request by their international board.

Inner Wheel was not immediately popular with the Rotary International hierarchy and in the 1960s was being actively discouraged in some areas (including, one regrets to record, by some confused Rotarians in Australia), allegedly because the existence of an Inner Wheel club might tend to split the family effort, particularly if Rotarian husbands were expected to assist with I.W. projects at the expense of their Rotary commitments; however, the Council of R.I.B.I. (Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland) was always supportive in the face of opposition from Rotary in other areas. The perhaps cynical but widely-held view of Rotarians in some Commonwealth countries at the time was that Inner Wheel was opposed because it had not been initiated in the U.S.A. All opposition had been withdrawn by the mid 1970s and most Rotarians are proud of their Inner Wheel clubs.

Inner Wheel was first established in Australia in 1934 with the formation of a club in Ballarat, Victoria. There are now some 200 clubs and 5,200 members in Australia (and one in Papua New Guinea), making it by far the largest but probably the least known of our women's service clubs.

While Inner Wheel operates quite independently of Rotary, many clubs still choose to support Rotary projects and programs. In Australia they have access to the IPAC list from which to select projects in world community service. An important international service project supported nationally was the collection and distribution of more than 10,000 articles of clothing for "Russia's forgotten children" while an ongoing project is support for Dr Catherine Hamlin's Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. Recent club and district projects have included provision of trauma dolls to children in hospital awaiting surgery and assistance to drought-affected families.

Australia has given the world two international presidents of Inner Wheel and has been host to two international conventions.

There are other service clubs: Altrusa, Civitan, Sertoma, Twenty-Thirty, Optimists and others with varying levels of support in different countries. There are those with a specific mission: such as Australia's Legacy to provide personal family support to the widows and children of "fallen comrades".

#### LEGACY

Legacy had its origin in the Remembrance Club formed by Major General Sir John Gellibrand in Hobart in March, 1923. As Police Commissioner of Victoria, John Gellibrand had been a charter member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne but, as a result of a disagreement with the Victorian Government, he had resigned and gone off to Tasmania to grow apples.

Like Rotary, the Remembrance Club of Hobart began as a mutual assistance group for comradeship (fellowship) and to guard the interests of ex-soldiers; and the success of the enterprise encouraged John Gellibrand to place a proposal for similar organisations to ex-servicemen in Melbourne and Sydney. In Melbourne the preliminary organisation was left in the hands of Captain (later General) S. G. Savige and, largely due to his energy and determination, the first Legacy club was formed in Melbourne in September, 1923.

It was in 1925 that Frank Doolan, as recorded in Legacy history, "suggested a truth of which he and some fellow-Legatees had become increasingly convinced - that a field of great importance was the care, guidance and encouragement of the families of those comrades who, through death, were themselves no longer there to give those benefits. . . in a great many cases someone was needed to act virtually as guardian and sponsor with the thought, help and advice that our dead comrade would have given. This help Melbourne Legacy, in a moment of splendid inspiration, decided to supply."

The second Legacy club was formed in Sydney in 1926 and thereafter it spread rapidly throughout Australia.

While comradeship remained an essential component of Legacy, the welfare of the families of departed comrades became its *raison d'être* and has so remained.

One cannot be sure that the traditional Legacy luncheon, with a

sergeant-at-arms, emphasis on comradeship and a guest speaker, and the formal induction of new members, was influenced by Rotary; but the similarities are remarkable. Joint fellowship with Rotary began early. On April 8, 1930, it is recorded that 132 Rotarians and 130 Legatees were present at the Melbourne Rotary meeting.

Many Rotarians are or have been active Legatees. Sir Clem Renouf was a member in Queensland for nearly 30 years and only retired when he was elected to the R.I. board. Douglas Stewart of Norwood, South Australia (formerly Lower Blue Mountains, New South Wales), a past governor of District 9690, Vietnam veteran, manages to serve both Legacy and Rotary with equal vigour. Bart Richardson, a past governor and a member of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay (formerly Newcastle) is an ardent worker for international friendship despite his treatment at the hands of his Japanese captors on the infamous railway. He has been an active Legatee for more than 40 years; while Roy Hitchens of Raymond Terrace and Sam Snape of Nelson Bay in the same area are also giving service to both organisations. Steve Payton of Lismore (formerly of Bourke) is another who contrives to work assiduously for Rotary and Legacy, while a busy "non-resident" member of Sydney Legacy is Ned Lenthall of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Island, a past governor of District 9910.

Though there are now few children in Legacy's care, there are still more than 50,000 widows who have a Legacy adviser whom they can call upon for help or advice when needed.

#### VIEW CLUBS

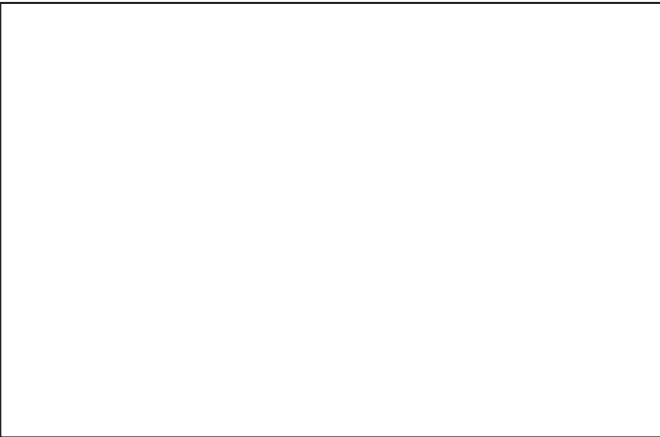
Another interesting Australian variation on the service club idea is the View club (Voice, Interest and Education of Women) formed in 1959 by The Smith Family, a well-known Sydney charitable institution, as a very clever public relations exercise and fund-raising agency. The clubs operate independently, meet monthly for luncheon and hear a guest speaker, in the same manner as other service clubs, but are precluded by their constitution from assisting causes other than their sponsoring charity. By 1996 there were more than 30,000 members of 380 View clubs which, last year,

raised more than \$1 million.

All of these organisations of clubs can be said to have been modelled, to a greater or lesser extent, on the Rotary original. The principal objective is service; membership is by invitation; regular attendance at meetings, almost always in conjunction with a meal, is encouraged (or demanded); fellowship is important; and a high level of member participation in projects and activities is expected.

No attempt has been made, in this brief study, to discuss the numerous other organisations with a voluntary workforce in local divisions, branches or chapters, such as the International Red Cross, the United Nations Association, Save the Children Fund, the numerous hospital auxiliaries, voluntary carers' groups, crisis counselling groups and Australia's own Country Women's Association. No doubt their work is equally valuable; but it cannot be claimed that they form part of the service clubs movement which began on February 23, 1905 with a meeting of four men in an upstairs office in Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Apex, Lions, Inner Wheel an Legacy badges



Hatuna and  
Maria Kaladze,  
Soviet  
Georgian  
refugees.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### OMNIUM GATHERUM

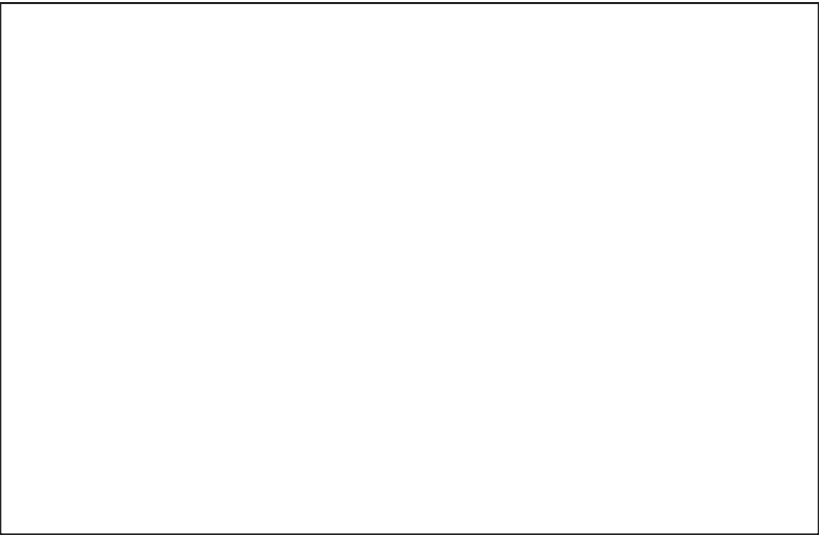
THIS story of Rotary has been divided into sections, with most of the recorded aspects and activities neatly placed under their various headings or avenues of service; but there are many aspects of Rotary service, many occurrences, many activities that cannot be classified within this tidy arrangement but which, nevertheless, merit inclusion. A small miscellaneous collection is presented in this chapter.

#### A STORM AT SEA

When Angus Mitchell led a Rotary goodwill mission to the "Far East" (in other words the North - Hong Kong, Japan and China) in February, 1937, they sailed on the Taiping, encountering, between Sydney and Brisbane, a terrifying cyclone.

Australian newspapers of the day gave graphic details of the ordeal, in which much damage was done and one of the Rotary party was injured. Hero of the hour was Captain A. M. Frame, who was on the bridge for 60 hours. Angus Mitchell declared that the mission owed the preservation of their lives to Captain Frame and his officers who brought them through one of the worst cyclones experienced since 1886. From Melbourne to Hong Kong Captain Frame had been "the exemplification of a real Rotarian and was a shining example of service above self".

The captain's own report to the owners was couched in rather more subdued language: "I beg to report that during the voyage from Sydney to Brisbane the 'Taiping' encountered a severe intensive cyclonic disturbance operating on the Queensland coast. At 11.30 p.m. 18th February, when off Point Danger, the vessel was hove to having previously laboured heavily to strong South East to East winds with rough high sea shipping much water. The weather gradually became worse, the barometer falling, wind increasing to gale force, with confused mountainous sea, frequent hard rain squalls and poor visibility. Conditions remained unchanged till noon on the 20th inst., when the storm centre having passed the weather gradually moderated, and at 2.30 p.m, the 'Taiping'



Important to the development of international friendships have been the various international fellowships established in Rotary. The first of these, which began in the U.K. in 1947, is the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians. Pictured is the current International Commodore PDG Frank McDonald, right, of the Rotary Club of Concord, N.S.W., sailing on Newport Harbour, U.S.A., with fellow Rotarian Ken Allen, Commodore of the IYFR Newport Harbour Fleet.

proceeded towards Brisbane, arriving at that Port at 11.45 a.m. on Sunday, 21st inst., two days behind schedule." He then noted the damage and the injuries sustained by passengers and crew ("Dr Ewing, a member of the Rotarian party, sustained a fractured wrist and a wound over the eye . . .") and gives all credit to his ship: "Considering the severe nature and intensity of the cyclone, the vessel behaved admirably" and adding that the Taiping should arrive at Hong Kong "in time to transfer Rotarian party and baggage to 'Scharnhorst' leaving that day for Shanghai".

What Captain Frame did not mention in his report was that the Rotary flag, flying proudly at the masthead, was hauled down at the height of the storm at the request of some members of the Chinese crew who declared that it was making the storm go round and round and was "bad joss". (Mr Douglas Frame, Captain Frame's son, who provided this information, wonders what happened to that flag.)

Sydney Rotarian Ernest Proud left the ship in Brisbane because of his anxiety for his brother, who was a passenger on the Stinson aircraft brought down by the same violent storm in the McPherson Ranges.

Another passenger, Jack Ritchie of the Rotary Club of Parramatta, was rather proud of his little niece and in later years was wont to proclaim that she had "a very promising voice". His judgement was not at fault. We know her to-day as Dame Joan Sutherland.

#### A MISPRINT

Kenneth A. Scheller, whose name appears elsewhere in this volume, was serious about his Rotary responsibilities; but he was seldom serious about Ken Scheller – or his many friends. He could be depended upon to find humour in almost any situation or circumstance and on any occasion.

One day in 1978, as chairman of the Rotary Down Under committee he received his notice of meeting and agenda, in the latter of which a typographical error listed an "editorian report". He wrote immediately to the editor (to fully appreciate Ken's references it should be known that Rotary Down Under, at that time, was the first and only "approved and prescribed" regional maga-

zine; and that the editor was a member of the R.I. publications committee):—

"Thanks for the agenda for the next meeting.

"Could you please define Item 4 – 'Editorian'. The term is not used in my now outdated copy of the M.O.P., so I assume you are using the latest edition. Meanwhile my imagination is not merely stirred, but captured, which is the proper thing for imagination to be these days. (What a flimsy, tiny jail would be required in some cases.)

"Is, I ask myself with indignant righteousness, an Editorian the term for yet another type of membership in Rotary and thus a further dilution of fundamental principles? It seems to me that if this is the case, it has stemmed from pressure from the Publications Committee to create a special type of membership for editors of approved magazines. Surely if it is necessary to do this, it would have been preferable to add to the provisions of Article V, Section 6 of the Standard Club Constitution – religion, media and diplomats – thus developing a really mixed bag!

"While remaining vehemently opposed to this obstruction of principles held so fervently dear by many and at the same time energetically broken by them, I believe that if it was felt to be necessary, superior terminology could have been used. An editor, my dictionary tells me, as well as being a publisher, is a rectifier. Why not, then, a Pubarian or a Rectarian? Both terms are so apt for the one and only person in the world at this time who could hold such a type of membership. Pubarian would be my choice because it describes not only the vocation but the favourite extra-curricular activity as well, the location of the Pub being irrelevant.

I look forward to your explanation.

Sincerely,  
Ken.

P.S. I now realise that there could have been a typing error in the agenda. Perhaps you could simply answer by telling me whether you are an editorian or a misprint.



## REFUGEE FAMILY

The Rotary Club of Leeming, Western Australia, was chartered in 1993 and, in the same year, following a talk by an officer from the Department of Immigration, assisted a Soviet Georgian family to settle into the community, providing furniture and bedding, clothing, financial support for selected educational expenses, opportunities for work experience, guidance and translation of medical, Department of Social Security and Commonwealth Employment Service data, fellowship and inclusion in suitable club activities.

Reporting, at the time, Rotarian Lyn Muir said: "The joy we received from being able to help the family settle into the community was ample reward for our efforts." However she was subsequently rewarded further by the club for her personal contribution to the welfare of this family by being named a Paul Harris Fellow.

This project was listed under international service; but it is a good example of those projects that do not fit comfortably into any avenue of service. Was it international, vocational or community service? Who knows? Who cares?

## SECRETARIAT BRANCH OFFICE

No one seems to know precisely when the possibility of a national or regional office of Rotary in Australia was first suggested or by whom. Certainly it was discussed as early as 1935 during a joint conference of the two districts covering the continent.

At the first conference of past, incumbent and incoming governors in 1955, participants discussed "the creation of a central bureau of information to provide (a) co-ordination of thought and effort, (b) reference library and (c) local distributing for Rotary literature etc . . ."

The oft-expressed fear of regionalism subdued the requests for a regional office thereafter, but the demand for a depot for the distribution of Rotary literature continued. In 1972 Ron Pate, as Rotary Down Under Management Committee Chairman reported to the Institute that, "at the request of R.I. Director Clem Renouf, consideration was given to ways in which the facilities (of the magazine office) might be utilised for the distribution of Rotary International

literature." And Clem was able to report in 1973 that the board had made a recommendation to the incoming board that positive action be taken. It wasn't. The next board responded by improving the service with better use of airmail, without solving the basic problem. Airmail was prohibitive and those clubs that needed material urgently for some special occasion were penalised for not ordering all their literature months in advance.

When it was finally acknowledged that European Rotary clubs could obtain material from the Zurich office, U.K. and Irish clubs had only to telephone the R.I.B.I. office, the Japanese clubs had been given a literature depot and American clubs could call the R.I. office and receive supplies within a day or two, someone "up there" (strongly influenced, as we know, by General Secretary Herb Pigman) relented and the ANZO region was given its bulk depot for the distribution of Rotary literature at the office of Rotary Down Under early in 1980.

Shortly thereafter, again resulting from Herb Pigman's influence, four regional offices of the R.I. secretariat were established around the world, including one in Sydney to serve the ANZO region.

The first manager was Alan Moore of the Rotary Club of Parramatta, formerly of Nyngan, New South Wales and past governor of District 267 (9670). Alan recalls that he did not see the advertisement for a manager in Rotary Down Under and that it was brought to his attention by another applicant for the job, the late Jim Stanford, who persuaded him to apply also.

"That," said Alan, "was the action of a true Rotarian."

It was intended that the successful applicant would go to Evanston for a three months training period, but this was reduced to two months because of Alan's wide experience of Rotary. At the end of his training, Alan had learned a good deal about the secretariat and its operations and had taught some of the senior staff something about Australia.

"A classic example," he said, "was when I explained some of the employment conditions, such as four weeks annual holiday and the payment of extra money while on holidays (the holiday loading) they doubted my word; and someone telephoned an Australian past director to check whether I was joking."

Despite Alan's strong preference for Parramatta as the ideal location for an office, the City of Sydney was chosen and the first office opened on the 12th floor at 37 York Street in January, 1981 – without power or telephones, making the first two weeks a rather trying time for the new manager and the very temporary, emergency part time staff: Alan's own family.

Gay Jones (now Kiddle) was the first permanent member of staff and, as Alan Moore says: "Without any previous office training, what a gem she turned out to be. She was still with the office as executive secretary when I left in 1987." (In fact she was still there, after taking a sabbatical to acquire her children) in 1996. Other office staff came and went; and finding a suitable Rotarian as service supervisor proved difficult. The first provisional supervisor was Colin Jenkins, who was forced to withdraw for health reasons. Eventually Alan engaged fellow-solicitor Harley Tarrant, who was still on duty in 1996.

Still working under difficulties with the office in the city and the bulk store still in the Rotary Down Under annex more than 20 kilometres away, Alan continued to suggest Parramatta as a more convenient location, being the geographical centre of metropolitan Sydney, which is roughly the geographical centre of the total region, with easier access and better parking facilities for visitors and deliveries.

When the lease of the Sydney office was to be renewed, with the rent increased by 98%, a move to an outer metropolitan area was authorised.

"The day after I returned from the international assembly in 1984," recalls Alan Moore, "I received a telephone call from Bob Aitken, the new editor of Rotary Down Under, asking if we were still interested in sharing premises; because the committee had been offered a good site at 21 Argyle Street, Parramatta. I thought he was joking because that was the very building in which I had first established my legal practice when I moved to Parramatta. However, he was serious and when Rotary Down Under acquired the premises, we were given some space in it; which proved to be a good arrangement and most convenient to Rotarians who wanted to do business with the R.I. branch office, the Rotary Supplies

division or Rotary Down Under – or, as was often the case, with all of them. The other great advantage was that our office and the literature depot were in the same building. In due course, Charles Morrison, a past governor of District 975, joined us to look after finance matters."

Looking back with pleasure on his years as manager, Alan referred to the warm friendships established with each of the new batch of governors each year.

"Among these was a very special friendship with the late Bill Rufus. Because he was taken to hospital in America the day before his required attendance at the international assembly, I had the privilege, back in Sydney, of carrying out his training program for district governor. At the conclusion of his training we organised a special graduation ceremony with several of his fellow-governors present and with a large copy of the assembly banner 'Enter to Learn – Go forth to Serve' prominently displayed."

Despite many frustrations and obstruction by some of the bureaucrats of the time, he said, he was pleased to have been able to introduce the use of modern business practice and the use of modern equipment – computers and facsimile machines. Alan described his years in the position of initial manager as a wonderful experience for which he was grateful.

Max Shepherd, from the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill, South Australia (now a member of South Penrith, New South Wales) succeeded Alan Moore as manager. His appointment coincided with an added responsibility for the branch office: the processing and handling of Paul Harris Fellow awards for the region, resulting in a procedure that previously could take up to three months being completed within a matter of days. The office now issues about 2,000 certificates, medallions and badges each year.

The computer equipment has been steadily upgraded to meet changes and growing demands. In addition to all finances being on record, data for club information and enquiries is stored.

By 1990, the office had taken over responsibility for paying expenses to R.I. directors, governors and committee members. For The Rotary Foundation, education and accommodation expenses and allowances are paid for ambassadorial scholars.

The office also handles matching grant contributions, Rotary Volunteers and G.S.E. teams.

In 1992 the office was given the task of handling the Melbourne Convention registrations for the ANZO region – a first for a branch office. With no additional staff, more than 25,000 pieces of paper were processed during the operation which, of course, continued until May, 1993.

The next technological advance was electronic mail with Evanston and other branches in 1993, improving communications and providing more flexibility but requiring enhanced skills at short notice by staff members.

In 1994, when the Rotary Down Under organisation moved to Hunter Street, Parramatta, the R.I., branch office was re-located on Level 2 at 100 George Street, Parramatta, which has the advantages of four large lifts, goods lift, loading bay and underground parking. The building is a few blocks and five minutes walk from Rotary Down Under House.

In 1995 the office was placed on the compuserve internet.

"This," said Max Shepherd, "speeds up communications in our daily involvement with World Headquarters and other offices; enthusiastic Rotarians have the opportunity to communicate with each staff member if they wish."

Also in 1995, the branch office was given a new title: the Rotary International South West Pacific Service Centre; which now serves 1,500 clubs in 29 districts in Australia, New Zealand and the Island nations of the South West Pacific.

When The Rotary Foundation Trust was set up in 1995, the office was required to maintain records and handle finances, with the manager acting as secretary to the Trust. From July, 1996, the service centre will be responsible for Benefactor Certificates.

The office has a full-time staff of seven with a part time person engaged when necessary. Manager Max Shepherd said that the work-load has increased by 50% in the past decade without any increase in staff. He also referred to the loyalty and dedication of the staff members, all long-term employees of Rotary, who support him in trying to provide the best service they can give.

#### ROTARY SUPPLIES

Jim Stanford of the Rotary Club of Padstow, New South Wales, could not understand why Rotary had no depot to supply Rotary lapel badges, presidents' collars of office, gongs, gavels, lecterns, district governors' insignia of office and other merchandise bearing the Rotary emblem. As a life member and past district governor of Apex, he was familiar with the Apex supplies department and wanted to know why Rotary clubs were content to buy their goods from commercial firms when Rotary itself could be gaining some benefit from sales.

No one could give him an answer, so he decided to take action.

Gaining the support of his own club, with the firm offer of financial backing in the form of loans from several members, he submitted a proposal for a Rotary supplies department to the committee of Rotary Down Under. The member to whom he first spoke told him, of course, that such a proposal was absurd: no one wanted such a facility; no one would support it; it would never gain the approval of the district governors; R.I. would be opposed to it; and it would be detrimental to the legitimate business interests of fellow-Rotarians who were making an honest dollar by selling Rotary merchandise.

With his perspicacity, Jim was quickly aware that this was intended partly as irony (where had we heard such advice before?) but partly to warn him of the difficulties that lay ahead.

As governor nominee of District 969 (9690), Jim outlined his proposal to the Perth Institute in 1979 and gained qualified approval from incumbent and incoming governors to pursue the matter further, with the Rotary Club of Padstow conducting a pilot study.

He sought the assistance and advice of the Association of Apex Clubs and also accepted an invitation from Lions International Regional Manager Jim McLardie to inspect the extensive supplies department at the Lions office.

An initial supplies depot, conducted by the Rotary Club of Padstow and under Jim Stanford's supervision, was established in his garage at his home in Dundas. Clubs were advised of the availability of the new service and discreet advertisements were placed in

Rotary Down Under.

After his year as governor, Jim began planning in earnest and, with the approval of the 1980-81 governors, Rotary Supplies opened with a small display at the Harris Park premises of Rotary Down Under. The Padstow club transferred to RDU Pty. Limited the R.I. licence to market Rotary emblem merchandise and Jim accepted the invitation of the board to manage the operation. (The exact words in which this invitation was issued were: "Alright Jim, you started it. You're stuck with it!" Such is the formality with which so much important Rotary business is conducted.)

Jim's next move was to approach the major retailers of Rotary merchandise in the capital cities and offer to buy all their stocks. They agreed.

The little "shop" and mail order business grew with the growth of Rotary, becoming a major part of the total Rotary Down Under operation as it added Interact and Rotaract items to its stocks and later, at the request of the Probus Centre - South Pacific, incorporating Probus supplies into its services. Rotary Supplies also began to do a brisk trade in souvenir items for Rotarians, G.S.E. teams and exchange students.

The New Zealand office of Rotary Down Under was utilised for distribution in New Zealand and outlets were established in each of the Australian States under the supervision of selected Rotary clubs.

Despite declining health after 1981, Jim Stanford carried on as manager until major incapacity forced him to retire in 1992. His service was recognised by the Rotary Down Under committee with a five-sapphire Paul Harris Fellow award and the Rotary Down Under Distinguished Service Award. Jim retained his association with the service he had founded in a consultative rôle until his death in 1994.

In 1981 a young woman named Judy Donovan had joined the staff and had become Jim Stanford's right hand and understudy; so that when Jim retired, she was fully competent to take over management of Rotary Supplies. The 1996 directory lists Rotarian Judy Donovan, secretary of the Rotary Club of Parramatta City, as manager of Rotary Supplies.

#### THE WRONG GEORGE

When, in 1955, a handsome, coffee-table book was published by

Rotary International to celebrate Rotary's golden anniversary, Australian Rotarians (and no doubt British, Canadian and New Zealand Rotarians) were surprised to find therein a cheerful little story about the visit to South Africa of Prince George in 1934.

It appears that Prince George attended the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, where he was fined two shillings for being the distinguished guest (and had to borrow the florin from his aide-de-camp), after which every member whose name was George was fined a shilling and everyone whose name was not George was similarly penalised. The florin was mounted and auctioned for the club's charity fund, being knocked down for £10.

So far, so good. It was then stated that: "Two years later, Prince George succeeded to the British throne, reigning until his death in 1952. Among his distinguished titles was Patron of Rotary International in Britain and Ireland."

The question being warmly debated at the time was, should this inaccuracy be brought to the attention of friends at the secretariat, to their embarrassment, or should they be left in happy ignorance? The consensus opinion was that the error should be overlooked in the interests of international friendship.

Prince George, Duke of Kent, of course, did not become King. It was his brother, Albert, Duke of York, who succeeded Edward VIII to become King George VI. George of Kent, who had been chosen to be Governor General of Australia, was killed in World War II. Prince William, Duke of Gloucester was his substitute.

The Duke of Kent's wife was Princess Marina. Their daughter is Princess Alexandra, who represented her cousin, the Queen, at Queensland's Centenary celebrations in 1959, to whose youthful and charming presence the beginnings of RYLA can be attributed.

#### DIAMONDS

The 60th anniversary is usually known as a diamond anniversary (jubilee or wedding); but someone in Rotary decided to be different; and when the 75th anniversary of Rotary's advent was being celebrated in 1980, it was proclaimed our Diamond Anniversary; and districts and clubs around the world contrived to introduce diamonds into their celebrations.

At the District 9690 conference, an interesting little ceremony was introduced. On stage was a large blackboard-sized card bearing only the legend: "Rotary 75 - Diamond Jubilee". Each club president walked forward and placed, in a pre-determined position on the card, a small segment of a strange design which finally became a huge diamond, complete with sparkle.

The creator, designer and maker of this device was Bruce Ruston of the Rotary Club of Cabramatta, New South Wales; one of those Rotarians who is always there to undertake any club or district assignment offered, to volunteer for any difficult job that no one else wants and who can be always relied upon to carry it out cheerfully, with quiet efficiency, without complaint, without fuss and often without acknowledgement because they seem to have been always there, and their selfless service is taken for granted.

You find them in every district; usually past presidents of long standing who have no ambition to be district governors and probably have already declined nomination. They are the ones who keep the Rotary wheel turning; the ones who are indispensable to Rotary: people like Bruce Ruston; and Bill Harwood of Scarborough and Tim Lee Steere of Bunbury Leschenault in Western Australia; and Cliff Allnutt of Hamilton and Dr Garry Lilycrap of Townsville, Queensland; and Colin Brideson of Adelaide; and Dr Bill Hardy of Lilydale and Bob Bott of St. Kilda, Victoria; and Lew Fowler of Glenorchy, Tasmania; and Bill Page of Coffs Harbour, New South Wales; and many more.

There are Rotarians who are described as pure gold; there are those who are said to be gems; but these are Rotary's diamonds, whose service sparkles throughout the land and in whose reflected glory we all bask and are illuminated.

#### WOMEN IN ROTARY

When was it first suggested that business and professional women should be admitted to Rotary? Some older Rotarians recall that the question "Why not women Rotarians?" was sometimes asked and debated in the early post-war years, but without any specific proposal to change the Constitution.

As more women were appointed to positions of leadership in their

vocations, the question was asked more often; until by the mid 1960s it had become a subject of widespread debate; usually terminated when Rotarians were reminded that there were service clubs for business and professional women who would not welcome competition for their potential members. An equally common argument was that, because wives of Rotarians had been so important to Rotary and had given so much of their time and energy to Rotary projects, the election of other women to Rotary clubs while housewives remained ineligible for membership would be divisive.

A proposal to change the constitution was considered and rejected by the Council on Legislation in 1972 and again in 1974 (the first of the new triennial councils). In 1977 the proposal, sponsored by clubs from several regions, gained a small majority of votes in favour but failed to get the two thirds majority required for a constitutional change.

In the meantime, the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, U.S.A. had precipitated legal action by admitting three women to membership and thereby breaching the constitution. The board of R.I., of course, had no alternative but to withdraw the club's charter. The club challenged the decision in the California courts and won. R.I. appealed.

When the proposal came before the 1980 Council on Legislation it was co-sponsored by the board of Rotary International, two district conferences and 11 individual Rotary clubs from India, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

In the three-hour debate, speakers in favour pointed out that failure to admit women would involve Rotary in further costly litigation; Rotary was being seen as discriminatory and anachronistic; Rotary could no longer recruit business and professional leaders in each club territory because many of these were women; some Rotarians were being disadvantaged by their membership because Rotary was being seen by the bureaucracy and governments as discriminatory.

Speakers against repeated the traditional arguments, also pointing out that Rotary discriminated against clerks, shop assistants, factory workers, truck-drivers and many others who did not meet qualifications of which being male was only one; Rotary did not discriminate against women as beneficiaries of its services, there

being as many or more female exchange students, Rotary Foundation scholars in certain categories, Interactors, Rotaractors and recipients of RYLA and other awards: Rotary should refuse to be intimidated by politicians.

There is no doubt that the way in which the U.S. Government's anti-discrimination legislation was being interpreted at the time was counter-productive, many American Rotarians having "dug their toes in" against what they saw as attempts to interfere in Rotary's affairs.

The defeat of the proposed enactment was described variously by disappointed Australian proponents of change (in articles and letters in *Rotary Down Under*) as "a victory for male chauvinists", "a win for senile activists" and "a walkover by wives whose orders to their husbands were obeyed without question". However, it would be a mistake to conclude, as so many did at the time, that the decision did not reflect the views of most Rotarians. One Australian member of the council, explaining his decision to vote against the proposal, pointed out that he had gone to the council on legislation with a clear instruction from 92% of the clubs in his district. While he could have disregarded 60% or even 70% if new information had been introduced, he could not ignore the democratic decision, at his district conference, of 92% of his clubs, even though he was personally in favour of the proposed change; and, in fact, no new evidence had been produced, only much better arguments.

The proposal met with no more success at the 1983 and the 1986 councils on legislation.

The matter was finally resolved in the Supreme Court of the United States, which held that by denying membership to women, Rotary was in breach of anti-discrimination laws.

It was patently absurd for Rotary to have women members in the U.S.A. and not elsewhere. What should clubs in other countries do when American female Rotarians arrived for a make-up? So, in the midst of grumblings that Rotary around the world was being forced to comply with an American political decision purporting to be a legal judgement, the 1989 council on legislation adopted the proposed amendment to the constitutional documents; with safe-

guards to meet the special requirements of those countries in which mixed-gender clubs would be illegal or culturally unacceptable.

A few Australian clubs took advantage of the "escape" clause which provided for a club outside the U.S.A. to remain a single-gender club by resolution of its members. Some simply did not nominate women to fill vacant classifications. A few Rotarians resigned; but the predicted mass exodus did not occur and most clubs welcomed or at least accepted the change and began to recruit qualified women.

It is only in the first half of the current decade that women have been serving in Rotary but already many have accepted club leadership positions. It is confidently predicted that the first female district governor will be elected to serve within the next few years (a few Australian women could be eligible for election to serve as governor in the 1998-99 year). Already there are many women serving as governors in North American districts.

While no reliable study has been made at this time, all available anecdotal evidence suggests that women have revitalised Rotary clubs, showing themselves to be willing workers, effective leaders and imaginative in devising new projects. It is also reported that clubs showing the strongest membership growth are those with women members.

#### ROTARY ANNS

The rise, decline and fall of the term Rotary-Anne (Rotary Ann or Rotarianne) is interesting, though many Rotarians would prefer to forget that it ever existed.

The story of its origin varies; but all versions have one thing in common: it began on a train, somewhere in the U.S.A.

Several Rotarians were on a train en-route to (a) the International Assembly, (b) a convention; (c) a district conference. (a) One of them had a wife named Ann (or Anne); (b) three of them had wives named Ann(e). The Rotarians, on discovering this, referred to (a) her or (b) them as "Our little Rotary Ann(s)" and wives of Rotarians thereafter, were condemned to be known as Rotary Anns.

It is known that the term was being used in the 1930s because there were objections raised, even then. By the 1960s its use was

apparently widespread, some women's auxiliaries being referred to as "Rotary Annes Clubs" or "Annes Clubs". In the late 1960s several Rotarians railed against the name at a Rotary Institute and Rotary Down Under was requested not to use it. There were some States in which Rotary Anne was never mentioned. In Victoria they hadn't used it for years. Many wives of Rotarians flatly refused to accept the appellation.

No known research project has been funded to discover the reason for the decline and fall of Rotary Ann(e); but decline it did from about the mid 1970s.

During the 1980 council on legislation, at the height of the women in Rotary debate, Rotary World Press representatives are known to have been speculating on the most likely name to be given to husbands of female Rotarians, with "Rotary Andy" as the firm favourite.

With the election of women to Rotary membership, the term seems to have been quietly dropped.

In 1935, Angus Mitchell suggested four mileposts "which I hope will soon come into view." The first was an appeal for wider representation in Rotary; the second was an appeal to seek out and remove the root causes of social ills; the third was an appeal to supplant intolerance and mistrust with goodwill and "the fourth mile post is surely a domestic one, and I think it should soon be left behind, and that is the discontinuance of the term 'Rotary Ann'."

Amen.

#### HOSTS TO A CONVENTION

The Rotary Club of Melbourne was host club to the 1993 Rotary International convention from May 23 to 26 at which there were 21,558 registrants from 4,867 clubs in 115 countries. What is involved in such an undertaking?

The first invitation to Rotary International to hold its convention in Melbourne was extended in October, 1988; but the year specified was 1995. The invitation was prepared by an interim committee chaired by John Urbahns (president 1988-89). It was an elaborate book, presenting the attractions of Melbourne and Victoria, the suitability of its meeting venues and their ease of

access by public transport and a comprehensive report on the accommodation available in Greater Melbourne. To meet the requirements of Rotary International it was also necessary to obtain letters indicating support in principle from the five district governors in Victoria, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and the State Premier and Opposition Leader.

After a visit to Melbourne by the R.I. assessment team, the club was advised, in October, 1989, that Melbourne had been awarded the 1995 convention and immediately began to make plans.

In early 1990, the club was asked to bring its plans forward and host the 1992 convention. This was seen as too much of a good thing. Less than two years to prepare for a convention of this magnitude? Acceptance would have been foolhardy. With reluctance, Melbourne said no.

The next request was that the club be host in 1993. The club decided that, by moving the planning into top gear, removing the "interim" label from the committee and alerting the clubs throughout the metropolis, they could manage it. They accepted; and, for the first time, a host club convention committee chairman became a voting member of the R.I. convention committee. This resulted from the adoption of many of the club's recommendations for amendments to the convention manual.

In April, 1991, the Victorian Government changed its "in principle" endorsement to a firm commitment, which was confirmed with a \$1.25 million grant, in return for which the club was required to participate in a Ministerial co-ordinating committee, which met monthly to audit progress and proper expenditures of the funds.

It was clear that, while the Government grant would enable the club to meet basic expenditures, it would not provide the extra funds needed to inject the necessary ingredients to make this a very special as distinct from an ordinary convention; so Rotary clubs were invited to assist and 89 clubs responded with \$30,000. A sponsorship committee was formed and raised \$270,000 in cash and \$160,000 in goods and services.

The Government provided rent-free premises and the services of an experienced officer from the public service. The Melbourne City Council provided a senior secretary and for some months a junior

was engaged under a job training scheme. Several Rotarians gave their services, some full time, some part time and many who responded to calls short-term during peak-load times.

A complete committee structure covering 31 main areas was developed and was operated entirely by volunteers, the members who served being recruited from numerous clubs. Many non-Rotarians were also involved.

It was recognised from the beginning that special attention needed to be given to certain matters of concern, resulting in some action that was not formerly seen as acceptable by the board of R.I.

Few members had attended a convention and it seemed desirable that some should do so, observe proceedings and learn what a host club should do, could do better and, in some instances, what it should not do.

This would be only the third convention held in the Southern Hemisphere, in late autumn, not high summer. Also Melbourne, for most Rotarians, probably is the most distant tourist destination, involving the longest travel time at highest cost. These factors required an earlier launch with more active and more sustained Rotary promotion.

The need for vigorous promotion among Australian Rotarians was recognised; as was the need to have an adequate host club area defined by R.I., given the unusual boundaries of districts in and adjacent to convention venues.

Consideration was given to the ways in which Rotary could reach out to the community by participating in civic events and gain media coverage before and during the convention so that the community could join with Rotarians in friendship.

Strategies to meet these various needs were successfully implemented, partly due to a major gift from Qantas enabling teams to attend the Mexico and Orlando conventions and to attend the Kansas City institute. The host club's promotion book was a feature at both Kansas and Orlando and won acclaim from tourism authorities.

The Australian Government made a notable contribution by issuing a special Rotary emblem visa and by having Immigration Depart-

ment staff on duty at both Kansas and Orlando to issue visas on a 24 hour turn around. Also available were staff from Qantas, Tourism Victoria, Australian Pacific Tours, Concorde International Travel, Melbourne Tourism Authority and the Australian Tourism Commission.

R.I. agreement to advance the normal schedule for world-wide promotion and to permit limited recognition of sponsors was important; as was acceptance of host club advice on the definition of host club area.

A major task of the accommodation committee, which occupied 18 months, was to persuade the owners of some 3,500 hotel and motel rooms to sign agreements to reserve rooms for registrants.

The House of Friendship and the Youth Hub demanded particular attention, for it featured displays of Australian flora and fauna (including protected species), static displays showing the great contrasts to be found on our continent and a sustained program of entertainment to which the Koori community made a great contribution. All the requirements for a relaxed atmosphere with the provision of facilities for eating, shopping, postage, telephone and information were met in abundance. The Youth Hub was particularly popular, featuring Lost Forest themes and interactive displays.

More than 1,800 hosts entertained 6,500 visitors during the home-hosting evening and there was a unanimous view that the friendships made at these gatherings were a highlight.

Melbourne retailers co-operated fully with special window displays to welcome visiting Rotarians. Almost all used the special convention posters.

Co-ordinated public transport made travel from hotels to the convention venue a pleasure for most, with many new international friendships established on buses.

The arts and crafts fair arranged in the International Trade Centre was well patronised by visitors; and the system devised for visitors to attend the theatre and sporting events enabling them to make bookings before leaving home proved so helpful that it is now being used for other conferences and conventions.

After the convention, all the clubs that had contributed to the



funds received their gifts back in full. In addition \$40,000 was given to the Royce Abbey Endowment of The Rotary Foundation; \$20,000 went to the District 9800 Bone Marrow Appeal and \$5,000 each to the Rotary Health Research Fund and the District Aboriginal Vocational Fund.

"When the convention ended," reported the host club, "Australia and Victoria had received a major financial benefit. The Australian community had gained a significant insight into the meaning of Rotary and what Rotarians do. The overseas Rotarians had enjoyed Australian friendliness and Rotary International had staged one of the most successful conventions in its history."

#### RECORDING HISTORY

Many clubs and districts have published their histories to mark particular anniversaries: five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 60 and now, for a few, 75 years; but, until 1971, there was no history of Rotary in Australia.

As long ago as 1932 Fred Burley of Sydney suggested that the history of Rotary's first 10 years should be written; but no one, it seems, accepted the challenge.

The first recorded reference to a Rotary history by the Australian Rotary Institute was in 1965 when Leonard Trigg sponsored a motion which was unanimously supported, that a history of Rotary in Australia should be written and "that this important work should commence forthwith." A committee was appointed to make preliminary plans and Professor Harold Hunt of Melbourne was suggested as a possible "co-ordinator". The committee members were Steve O'Halloran, Len Trigg and Charles Butler. Ollie Oberg undertook to seek the advice of Fred Hall Jones of Invercargill, who had written a comprehensive history of Rotary in New Zealand.

At the 1965-66 conference a suggested questionnaire to clubs and district governors and past governors was considered and the question of an author was further discussed, one suggestion being that a scholarship be offered to a graduate student to write the history as a thesis.

Reports were presented at the following institutes, with the surprising statement that considerable difficulty was being experi-

enced in eliciting information from some clubs. Again Harold Hunt's name was advanced as a suitable author.

In 1968 it was suddenly remembered that 1971 was fast approaching which would mark 50 years of Rotary in Australia and that a convention was to be held in Sydney in that year. It was decided that "every effort should be made to complete the history by 1971". In the following year considerable progress was reported: Professor Harold Hunt had agreed to co-operate and Alan Rome, also of Melbourne, was helping with tabulation of material. Len Trigg was asked to continue gathering material and it was suggested that a publications committee should be appointed to complete the task.

In 1970 it was reported that most of the material had been assembled and the remainder would be handed over to Harold Hunt within a few months. Douglas Stewart was asked to head a committee of his own choosing to handle the production of the book. He almost immediately announced that he had chosen Les McGregor, Ken Scheller and Sleath Lowrey. It was agreed that the production would be financed by an advance from districts based on 25 cents per Rotarian; and it was announced that publication date would be May 15, 1971; 5,000 books would be printed and it would be on sale at the convention at \$4 per copy.

In March, 1970, Len Trigg telephoned Harold Hunt inviting him to call. Harold did so and Len handed over the balance of the material he had assembled, expressing his happiness at having completed his part of the task. That night Len died.

No one knows how much work was involved in the preparation of The Story of Rotary in Australia 1921-1971. Harold Hunt sent the chapters to the committee as he completed them; and as the committee members read one chapter, checking every name, every date and every fact, Harold was writing the next. As has been said before, for an eminent professor of classical studies, accustomed to painstaking research and scholarly presentation, this must have seemed like working on a production line. Meanwhile Les McGregor was compiling the extensive appendices and the committee was making arrangements with typesetters, proof-readers and printers.

Having published the book, the committee remained in existence

to sell it, which it did most successfully. Before it was disbanded, the committee's final task was to implement the institute decision to publish a history of the institutes in Australia, which was accomplished in 1978.

#### Harold Hunt

Harold Hunt (born March 16, 1903) was given scant recognition in his own book. No brief biography of the author appeared and, apart from his by-line (Rotarian Harold Hunt, Rotary Club of Melbourne, Emeritus Professor of Classical Studies in the University of Melbourne), readers were given no inkling of his attainments. A University of Melbourne Professorial Board Minute of Appreciation dated March 18, 1969, might serve to enlighten us:

"From Newington College and the University of Sydney, Harold Arthur Kinross Hunt went in 1924, as Cooper Scholar in Classics, to Queen's College, Oxford, where he trod the well-tried path of literae humaniores.

"Soundly taught in humane learning, he in turn quickly established his own reputation at Melbourne Grammar School where, as Senior Classics Master, he made the study of Classics a living study of secular wisdom. These were the years of the Depression when universities stagnated, but the resumption of growth in 1936 brought him to the University to begin as Lecturer in Classics thirty-three years of devoted service, as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor to his students in particular and to the University in general. In 1938 he became the first Sub-Dean in the Faculty of Arts, and in 1944 the Director of Service Studies for the University. In between these offices he had served, as Captain Hunt, in the A.M.F. and A.I.F., being concerned, among other war service, with devising and practising methods of rapid instruction in Japanese. He put these methods to good effect after the war in the Summer School of Greek, thereby pioneering the Summer Schools of Language, which are now an established part of the University.

"Hunt has always thought of the University as a community engaged in a variety of activities proper to a well-balanced life, and he happily added a variety of tasks to his teaching and research. So

he served as Dean of his Faculty, as a member of Council and of the Executive Committee of the Professorial Board, of which he was for a time Acting Vice Chairman. To these duties he added membership of the Union Board and terms as President of the University Ex-Servicemen's Association, of University House, of the University Boat Club and of the Fine Arts Society. The Classical Association has, of course, been close to his heart and, a member of its council since 1932, he has been its Treasurer and its Vice President, its President, and, since 1962, its Patron.

"In 1955 he succeeded Cecil Scutt in the Chair of Classics, now re-named Classical Studies."

The Minute goes on to praise Harold for his scholarship, his work in Classical Archaeology and his contribution to human knowledge and his writings, including *The Humanism of Cicero* (1954) for which he was awarded the degree of D.Litt.

As a Rotarian, Harold Hunt was equally conscientious. Elected to membership in February, 1958, he had served terms on all major committees, discharging his duties conscientiously and with obvious enjoyment.

With a delightful sense of humour, Harold poked gentle fun at his fellow committee members in a brilliantly witty but scurrilous composition which purported to be the preface to his Rotary history. The genuine preface followed in the next mail. To get even, Les McGregor arranged for this highly libellous piece to be printed and bound, in place of the real preface, into one copy of the book; which was sent to Harold as "the first off the press". After explosive telephone calls to Doug Stewart and Les McGregor, he realised that he had been hoaxed and agreed that honours were even.

Harold Hunt was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Institute in recognition of his services to Rotary. He died in April, 1977.

The Institute History Committee was disbanded in 1979 and no more was heard of Rotary history until someone realised that the 75th anniversary of Rotary's arrival in the Antipodes was looming.

In 1972-73 a History and Archives Committee was appointed by the institute. This is a standing committee of six Rotarians, two of whom retire and two are elected each year for a three year term.

The first task of the committee is to publish this book to mark 75 years of Rotary service in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The second and more important continuing responsibility will be to establish and maintain an adequate Rotary archive to preserve records and documents of historical importance for the use of future researchers. It will also attempt to locate club and district archives so that a central index of significant archival material can be maintained.

The initial members of the committee were Sir Clem Renouf (R.I. past president) District 9600; John Carrick (R.I. director, 1994-96) District 9680; Don Durie (chairman of Rotary Down Under Inc. and RDU Pty. Limited) District 9680, chairman; Les McGregor (R.I. past director and treasurer) District 9750; David Wills, District 9800) secretary; and Paul Henningham (District 9690), appointed without his consent and against his better judgement to write the story. Co-opted were Basil Shaw, District 9600; and Bob Aitken (editor, Rotary Down Under) District 9690.

#### A NEW FACE

One night in a Karimojong camp in Northern Uganda, an eight-year-old girl was dragged from her hut by a hyena. When it was realised that she was missing, the tribesmen who followed the bloody trail with spears and grass-flares held no hope of finding her alive. Miraculously, the badly mutilated child survived the animal's attack and the long, rough trek to a bush hospital.

In December, 1973 a story appeared in The Rotarian titled "A new face for Margaret Rose" by Nightingale Kalinda which told of the attempts by Rotarians in Kampala to give the little girl a new life by reconstructing her face.

The local doctors had reached the limit of their resources. A program of reconstructive surgery was needed and the facilities were not available in Kampala.

The story of how Margaret was brought to Australia by the Rotary club of Toronto, New South Wales, with the support of all the clubs of District 9670, how she underwent a long series of painful operations at Newcastle as she attended school and gained her Higher School Certificate; how the surgeons developed new

techniques and procedures to solve problems not previously encountered; and how she trained at Gosford District Hospital and graduated as a Registered Nurse would occupy at least a chapter of its own. In fact it needs a book of its own; and the book exists. Child of the Karimojong, by Margaret Ilukol, is her own story of her life and how it was changed by an animal attack, by many caring people in Africa, by the skill of surgeons and by Rotary; but most of all, though it is unstated, by her own courage.

Margaret Ilukol was one of those on stage at the 1993 convention in Melbourne. Her story demonstrates how it is possible for Rotary clubs, without neglecting projects to meet great and small social needs at home and abroad, can still mobilise resources of knowledge and skill, and can devote time to the care and attention of people as individuals when the need arises.

#### SOME NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS

Before Federation, New Zealand was considered no more separate from the other colonies than Van Dieman's Land or Western Australia. In 1915, the ANZACS forged new and unbreakable links in the chains that bind Antipodeans together as one people.

When Rotary was brought to Australia by Layton Ralston and Jim Davidson in 1921, it was brought to New Zealand by the same commissioners and at the same time.

Our Rotary International director is elected from Australia and New Zealand. We share an official regional Rotary magazine. We developed programs together. The first multi-district RYLA committee, for example, was made up of Rotarians from both sides of the Tasman; and the committee appointed to prepare a RYLA handbook was an ANZO committee. In the early days we held combined conferences and in more recent years there have been combined institutes. New Zealanders serve on the Probus Centre committee, which is another joint enterprise. Australian and New Zealand Rotarians have been working together on major projects and programs, of which PolioPlus is probably the best known example.

It is difficult to consider Rotary in Australia as a separate entity from Rotary in the whole region; and it is regrettable, perhaps, that we did not decide to write a combined history. This may be some-

thing for Rotarians to think about when the centenary history is being planned for 2021. (The author of the present work regrets that he will not be available to contribute.)

Apart from some excellent club histories, Rotary history in New Zealand has been recorded by two great Rotarians: Fred Hall Jones, O.B.E., a barrister from Invercargill and A.R.Dreaver, M.B.E.,E.D., who served Rotary in several clubs during his long career in education.

The first volume by Fred Hall Jones appeared in 1955. The second, Rotary in New Zealand 1921-1971, which incorporated the first, was published to coincide with the 50th anniversary in 1971.

Bert Dreaver's effervescent and eminently readable story, Rotary in the Seventies, brought the story up to 1981. It is to be hoped that someone is busily engaged on the task of telling the story of the next fifteen years.

To add to these, of course, are the two books by Harold Thomas: It's All in a Lifetime, his autobiography which contains a great deal about Rotary; and Rotary Mosaic, which should be required reading for all Rotarians.

Bert Dreaver, who was Antipodean as well as New Zealand in outlook, was a remarkable Rotarian. He was involved in the ROTA (Rotary Overseas Travel Award) program, which was taken up by The Rotary Foundation as Group Study Exchange. As a school principal he pioneered the Servact club, similar to Code clubs, for girls in the days before Interact was open to girls. As governor he chartered the first Rotaract club in New Zealand and held New Zealand's first RYLA seminar. He cheerfully accepted the task of managing the Rotary Down Under office in New Zealand and contributed numerous articles. Shortly before he died, he was working with his usual enthusiasm to introduce MUNA to his district.

Bert Dreaver, a frequent visitor to Australia, had scores of Australian Rotary friends.

Bill Carthew of Pahiatua is another Kiwi with a large circle of Rotary friends on this side of the Tasman. Among his many Rotary interests has been the encouragement of understanding of indigenous cultures. He served as chairman of the Rotary Down Under committee and is well known in Rotary rural circles as an authority

on sheep.

To these might be added the names of Bill Boyd of Auckland, Jack Dunlop of Napier and John Norman of Christchurch who make regular trans-Tasman visits for Rotary.

Because the Pacific Islands form part of New Zealand Districts 9910 and 9920, many world community service projects of Australian clubs in that area have involved close co-operation with New Zealand Rotarians. Therefore any attempt to compile even a short list of Kiwis with whom Aussies have been or are associated in Rotary service would be futile. One hopes that this close association will continue.

It may not be generally realised that there is one Australian club in New Zealand's District 9910: the Rotary Club of Norfolk Island, which conscientiously serves its small community and the cause of world understanding.

#### SINGING

Harry Ruggles, one of the earliest members of the Rotary Club of Chicago, is given the credit for beginning the tradition of singing in Rotary clubs. Apparently during a meeting at which little seemed to be happening, Harry jumped on a chair and shouted: "Fellows! Let's sing!" And he led his fellow-members in a quick burst of community singing.

The tradition - though followed still by many, particularly older clubs - is no longer as widespread as it was until the 1960s when the decline seems to have begun in Australian clubs.

At conventions, international assemblies and most district conferences the "warm-up" with community singing before each plenary session is still common.

Of course the value of singing to set the mood for the coming session depends largely on the song-leader. Some are good, some not bad and some are dismal. The worst is the one chosen merely because he has a good voice and uses the occasion and the microphone for a solo presentation, probably hoping that the audience will not join in. The best are true professionals, who manage to wring pleasing music from the least musical, gently leading the diffident vocalists into parts and harmonies and choosing the pieces

with skill and sensitivity to the occasion: an exuberant song to introduce a program with action at its core; something more subdued for a philosophical presentation and something appropriate to commemorative segments.

One such talented song leader is Chas Clarke who was first "discovered" when he served in the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe, Queensland in the 1960s. In a very short time he was being invited to be song-leader at district conferences in many other districts in Australia and New Zealand. After his service as district governor, of course, his musical and histrionic talents were also in demand by the institute.

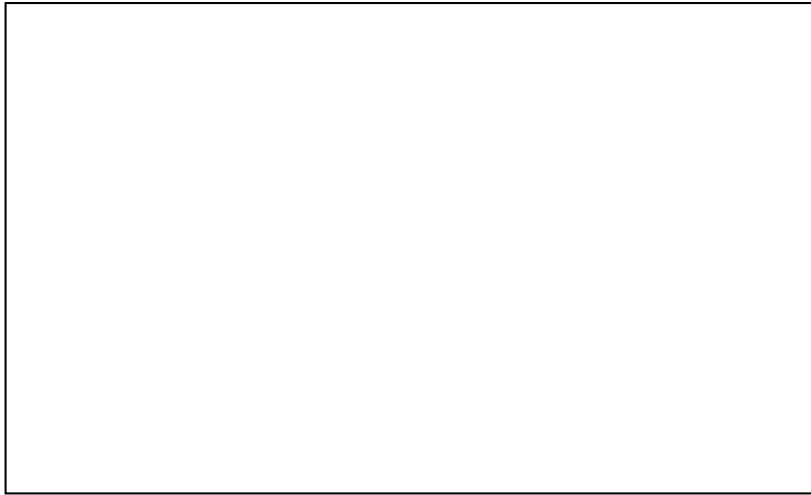
Harry Ruggles once said: "Rotarians in some parts of the world are sometimes puzzled about Rotary singing. A French Rotarian . . . once said he never knew before of sober men singing in the day-time."

Harry Ruggles said that singing ". . . was also responsible for another common Rotary tradition dating back to about 1906 in the Chicago Rotary Club. An out-of-town speaker one day started a smutty story. I knew what was coming - after all I was once a printer's devil - so I jumped to my feet and started singing one of our favourites. Others joined in and we drowned out the speaker. He was embarrassed - in fact pretty sore about it. Of course I apologised; but the club seemed to think I had done all right and agreed that our meetings ought to be the sort that a lady could attend without blushing. That feeling hardened into an unwritten rule that has since become a Rotary tradition."

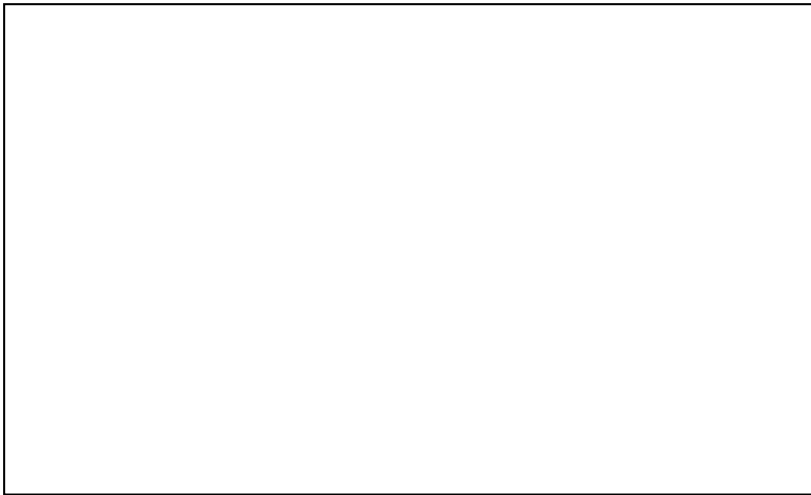
#### AND IN CONCLUSION

As your reluctant historian looks back over what has been written in the foregoing pages, he is conscious of the inadequacy of this chronicle of Rotary's service in the past 75 years. One was tempted to resent the restriction placed on the length of the work while being aware of the need to impose some limits. For every project, program or activity recorded, there were many hundreds

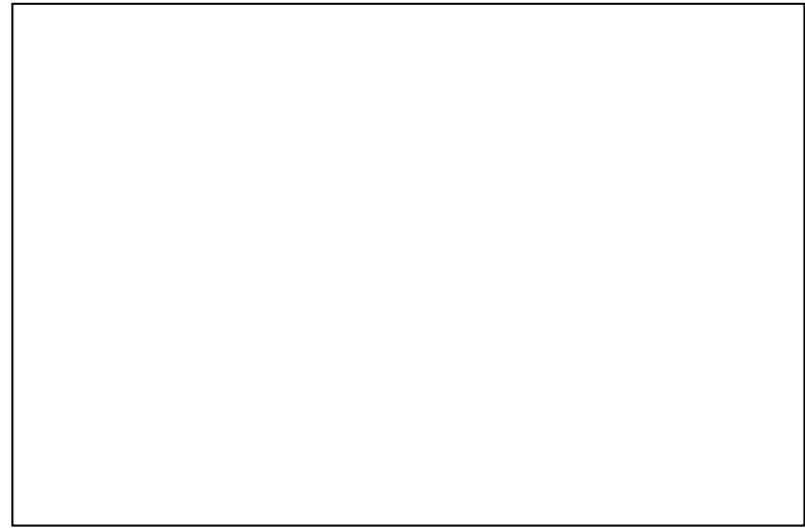
more, equally worthy of inclusion. For every Rotarian whose name appears, there were hundreds, even thousands more (including some of his dearest friends), whose names are not mentioned but whose contributions were no less important. One acknowledges their devoted service with admiration and with humility.



Wesley Rotary Lodge, established by Rotary districts in Southern Queensland, accommodates parents from country areas whose children are being treated in hospital in Brisbane. More than 50 Rotary clubs each sponsored a room in the lodge.

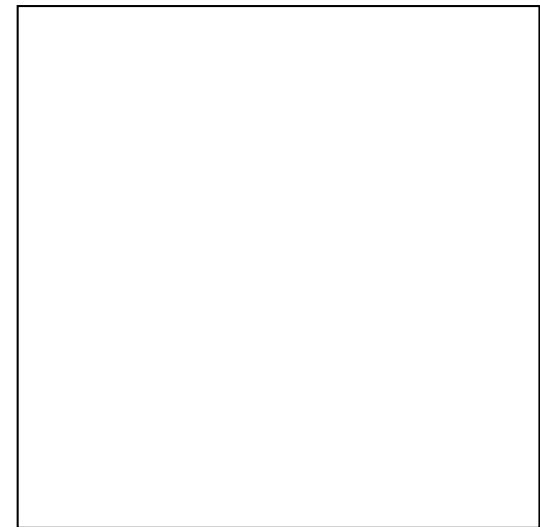


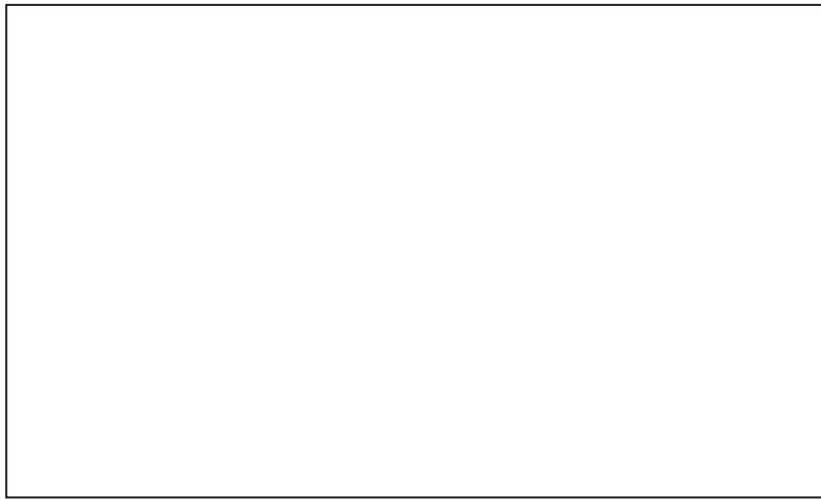
The finishing touch to the Bone Marrow Research Centre in Melbourne, the Rotary emblem, is placed in position.



The Rotary Club of Burnside, S.A., produced a series of videos as resource material for use in school discussion groups addressing issues of concern to teenagers. Pictured is Producer Paul Ryan with the cast of one of the videos.

They do odd things at  
Burnside to raise funds  
for their numerous  
projects, of which video  
production is but one.  
They even sell white  
elephants. Max Scrymgour  
and Jeff Wright are seen  
at the regular white ele-  
phant stall.





All eyes were on the Rotary flag when District 9690 took to the skies over Wollongong during the district conference in 1995. The spectacular parachute and flag drop was the highlight of the weekend. Skydiver Lew Mascord of the Rotary Club of Nepean was the star performer and the huge flag measured approximately 4,000 square feet. Lew repeated the drop for a much bigger crowd at Rosehill Gardens Raceway annual Rotary Race Day.



One of the fastest growing Rotary fellowships is the International Fellowship of Cricket Loving Rotarians. Launched at the Melbourne Convention in 1993, the Australian Branch of the Fellowship has been nurtured by Gordon Fenwick of the Rotary Club of Mount Lofty, South Australia. The first Australasian Fellowship team toured Great Britain in 1994. Gordon Fenwick poses with a crowded slips cordon comprising several of his team members on the English tour.