

First 50 Years

Charles Alexander's Diary records opens with the names of every President, Secretary, District Governor, and the number of the Rotary District (at the time) from 1925 – 1977. It also records the name of the World President in every year except 1979-1980.

For those of you interested in how Rotary first came to Australia, Charles provides us with the main players involved in the early days. Also, how Rotary Districts were first formed in the early years of Rotary in Australia.

Professor William Alexander Osborne is credited with forming the Rotary Club of Bendigo. The academic work undertaken by Professor Osborne is well worth reading in the Diary.

The meeting on March 12, 1925, to establish a Rotary Club in Bendigo was held at the Town Hall. Alexander provides the names of all those that attended this important meeting from Melbourne and Bendigo.

The Charter Member's names are all listed, and the names of the officers elected. The occupation of every member is also listed.

1925-26 (Pres. E M Vains)

The first luncheon was held on Thursday, March 19, at Favaloro's Café. From Melbourne, 6 members of the Rotary Club of Melbourne also attended (the Club was not chartered until July 30, 1925). The official mace was presented to the Sergeant-of-Arms. Telegrams, from prominent citizens throughout Australia and overseas, were read at the meeting.

Alexander provides the names of some of the prominent speakers that spoke during the year.

Donations during the year were made to Watson Sustention Fund, St Aiden's Orphanage, The Salvation Army, and the City Poor Box. Christmas cheer was extended to Bendigo Benevolent Asylum and other worthwhile causes.

1926-27 (Pres. M G Guidice)

The elected officers and the names of prominent speakers who spoke during the year are noted in the diary (Alexander undertook to do this in every year 1925-1975).

For those of you interested who spoke at the Club in the first 50 years, it is well worth reading the whole diary.

On July 9, a session of community singing by W J Long was held at the meeting with O Flight Snr at the piano.

During the year a movement was afoot by a committee to form an Australian District with its own Governor.

1927-28 (Pres. W J Long)

A special event was held at the Shamrock Hotel to acknowledge how well PP Guidice had represented the Club in Honolulu, Denver and at the Adelaide Conference. President Long presented a clock to PP Guidice.

O Flight Snr., President Long, and Rotarian Sydes, led the community singing during the year.

On February 23, details of the Club introducing Boy's Week were announced. The Mayor, local Principals and Ministers from the prominent churches were united in their support for the program. Furthermore, representatives from The Boy Scouts, Bendigo Legacy Club and the YMCA all discussed their plans for cooperation with the Rotary Club of Bendigo. With such supportive stakeholders, Boy's Week was a huge success.

1928-29 (Pres. O Flight Snr)

Boy's Week was held from April 27 – May 4. During the week, a father-son luncheon was held at the Club. Also, industry visits were provided for boys from 18 schools. The boys, during the visits, were supervised by Rotarians.

Enjoyable entertainment was provided for all ages by the YMCA. For example, senior YMCA boys demonstrated their skill level with parallel bars. There was also community singing and a Scout concert. Furthermore, a Hobby Exhibition was conducted by the Legacy Club.

During Boys' Week a special service was held at the All-Saints Cathedral. Also, football contests were held between schools with the winning team from both A and B grades presented with guernseys by the Rotary Club of Bendigo.

1929-30 (Pres. J Jeffrey)

In this year, we witness for the very first time, girls being invited to participate in Boy's Week. Importantly, they were also encouraged to attend industry visits.

In another first, 2 scholarships were provided for 2 school students. The money for the scholarships was raised by birthday levies handed out to Rotarians for celebrating a birthday during the week.

1930-31 (Pres. W Tredinnick)

Representatives of the Club attended the Rotary Conference on October 9. The focus was on the Ethics of Rotary. For example, a Rotarian's duty in public life. Also, the ethical relationship between buyer and seller.

Boys and Girls Week was once again very successful. The Exhibition of Hobbies at the School of Mines was officially opened by the Mayor, W. H. Taylor. During the week, the Club held a joint luncheon with Legacy. Also, a skills demonstration by Girl Guides and Boy Scouts was held at the Show Grounds.

The Geelong Rotary Club presented the Club with an aluminum Rotary wheel with the names of the Past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Bendigo.

1931-32 (Pres. W Tredinnick)

August 8, the Geelong and Bendigo Rotary Clubs held an interclub function at Macedon. A golf tournament was held in the afternoon. In the evening, formal addresses were given on several Rotary subjects. Also, there was community singing.

On March 31, it was announced that Boy's and Girl's week would be reduced from 6 days to 3 days.

1932-33 (Pres. F Levy)

On July 29, a detailed discussion of ethics took place in the Club.

On October 20, President Levy announced that on March 11, 1933, was the date chosen for the District Conference to be held in Bendigo.

Charles Alexander provides a detailed account of all the events held during the Conference. He also provides details of how the Club planned for the Conference. One whole page is devoted to listing the whole program on March 13.

During the year, the Club supported the St Luke's Toddler Home, Boy Scouts, and Girl Guides. The Ladie's Auxiliary of the Club supported the Rescue Home for the Blind, St Aidens's Orphanage, St. Luke's Toddler Home, and the Mayor's Unemployed Fund.

The Club introduced Daughter's Day. Members were encouraged to bring their daughters along to Rotary to hear a special address about Fathers and Daughters in literature.

1933-34 (Pres. A L Bolton)

Given the Club had held the District Conference the previous year, 12 members attended the Conference in Mount Gambier.

The Club was thrilled to welcome Dr Jong Joo Sec to speak at a meeting given his enormous standing in China.

During Youth Week, groups of 15-20 students from Bendigo schools were taken to visit different local industries. The Mayor formally opened the Hobbies Exhibition.

Funds from the Club were provided to the Mayoral Unemployment Relief Campaign, The Toddlers Home, the Mayor's Blanket Appeal, and the Boy's Employment Movement.

1934-35 (Pres. G V Lansell)

During the year, often mentioned in the Diary is the relationship the Rotary Club held with the Bristol Rotary Club. For example, sending a lamb from Australia to Bristol to raise funds at Xmas.

After an address by DG Angus Mitchell about the Detroit Rotary Conference, members continue to be interested in learning more from Rotary International. For example, Rotarian G Levy spoke at the Club about his experience with being in the presence of Paul Harris at a Conference in Melbourne.

A highlight during the year was President Colonel Lansell's talk to around 100 guests at a luncheon of the wonderful support the Education Department (through the Principals and District Leadership) had contributed to the success of the Hobbies Exhibition.

The Club, at this time was forming a Rotary Club in Castlemaine.

1935-36 (Pres. G Eathorne)

Much of the focus of the Club this year, according to the diary, was on Castlemaine Rotary Club being Chartered.

A comprehensive report of the proceedings of the Annual Assembly in Melbourne drew interest within the Club. Also, member, A L Bolton, was nominated to be the next District Governor. IDG Bolton organized to visit Atlantic City, U.S.A., for a tree to be planted in the garden of Paul Harris.

Questions were asked about whether the Club could improve attendance and fellowship by holding night meetings.

Rotary International changed the end of the Rotary year. This meant the next Rotary year would commence on October 1. Consequently, this Rotary year was extended to 15 months.

1936-37 (Pres. G Long)

Youth Week this year involved 500 senior students visiting factories, Postal, Telephone and Telegraph Departments, Electricity Supply Centers, Railway Workshops and other places of interest. The Club also conducted scholar writing contests.

This year, over 1,500 children listened to a lecture in the Lyric Theatre: Adventure in Antarctica. A Scouts Corroboree was held. Several Ladies Nights were also organized by Inner Wheel.

Donations this year were distributed to the Wonthaggi Disaster, King George Memorial Fund, Blind Home, Commercial Travelers' Travel Club, Easter Fair Charity Carnival (entered a decorated float) and the Toddlers' Home. Children with Disabilities and Young Farmers also received staunch support. On Mothers' Day, presents were sent to all Mums in Bendigo Hospital.

1937-38 (Pres. O V Morris)

During the year, President O.V. Morris was unable to complete his year as President. Vice President, Tom McNaught, completed the remainder of the year.

Youth Week was supported by the S.E.C. Over 3,000 students attended the lectures held during the week.

Members of the Club for the Easter Fair Carnival decorated a Pasadena Float.

An outbreak of infantile paralysis appeared in the community. An appeal was organized for aftercare of the sufferers. During the year, reports mention there was dedicated support from the Club for Crippled Children and Boy Scouts.

The Club provided funds for the Toddlers' Home (for toys), the Blind Home, and Bendigo Hospital.

1938-39 (Pres. T H McNaught)

The Club held an extraordinarily successful Youth Week. A National Fitness Campaign was in place with the assistance of doctors and dentists visiting local schools.

The Vienna Mozart Boys' Choir visited Bendigo. The Rotary Club entertained the boys. Club members ensured choir members also had opportunities to meet with local boys in our city.

At this time, the Club engaged in supporting the Childrens Library Committee, Bendigo Easter Fair Committee, Boy Scouts, the Bush Fire Relief Appeal, and the Bendigo Travelers' Charity Club.

To assist the Agriculture Society, the Club held a Rotary Ball. The Governor General, Lord Gowrie, attended the event which ensured it was an outstanding success.

During the year, funds were provided to the Bendigo Base Hospital, Bendigo Competition Committee, Travelers' Aid Society, Baby Health Centre, Benevolent Home, Mayoress Blanket Fund, Salvation Army, Toddlers Home, Crippled Children, and the Young Farmers Club.

1939-40 (Pres. H P Y Wright)

The Essay Topic during Youth Week was: Building for the Future. Members of the Club spoke to local students about the subject.

Prizes were provided for the best essays from each school.

The Club provided support to St. Luke's Toddlers' Home with organizing a picnic. Reports indicate it was an outstanding success. Rotarians also held working bees for the Blind Home which was appreciated by the residents.

1940-41 (Pres. W A Draper)

The Club provided free milk to pupils in need at Specimen Hill Primary School. (According to Charles Alexander, the Club had done the same the year previously).

The Club also provided shoes for all the children at The Toddlers' Home.

A Prisoner-of-War Fund was established. Also, funds for hampers for our soldiers, sailors, and air personnel.

M Jacobs and A M Bush were members serving in the AIF. W H Porteous and J Barton were both serving in the RAAF.

The International Service of the Club was focused on the victory of the allied nations. Furthermore, to also promote positive relationships with other democratic nations that had Rotary Clubs. The Club supported affiliation with the Australia-USA Cooperation Movement.

Individual members were asked to establish pen-friendships by posting greeting cards to a Rotary Club in Great Britain. The purpose being to communicate sympathy, encouragement and admiration for the marvelous spirit displayed.

Obviously with the focus on the war effort, little is mentioned about community programs. Mention is made of Youth Week being a tremendous success in June.

1941-42 (Pres. L L Dungey)

Support for the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund continued. G Eathorne, R E Guidice and T G Burgess (all A.M.F) were added to those Rotarians from the Club on Active Service.

With members of the U.S forces visiting the Club to entertain Rotarians with a Military Band at a luncheon, members of the Club took this opportunity to establish Rotary links with individual soldier's hometowns.

The residents of the Toddlers' Home continued to receive shoes from the Club. PP Bill Draper was given acknowledgment for his excellent work with the relationship he had with the Home.

Within the local community, the Club continued its annual visit to St Aidan's Orphanage providing a musical program and toys for all the children. Transport was also provided for a picnic for After Care patients of Bendigo Hospital with the assistance of sympathetic ladies.

With Japan now commencing bombing of Australia, Charles Alexander describes the times as a 'Time for courage, faith and resolution with Japan on our doorstep.'

1942-43 (Pres. G P Hibberd)

The Club undertook to maintain funds for 3 Prisoners of War. There was no Xmas party; instead, an evening of cards, games and competitions were held to raise money for the 3 prisoners held.

Youth Week was described as successful. Bill Draper's funds for the Toddlers' Home were maintained. Rotarians Tom Williams and Gerson Krost were major contributors to the musical program at St Aidan's Orphanage. And Owen Williams dressed as Father Christmas at local State Schools, Bendigo Hospital and The Benevolent Home.

Charles Alexander noted that 'The Tide of War was turning in our favor.'

1943-44 (Pres. A E Davies)

The Xmas Night proceeds this year were divided equally between Inner Wheel and the Prisoners of War Fund.

Youth Week was successful. Rotarian Hedley Jones and members of the Young Farmers visited local primary and secondary schools. Rotarian M G Guidice organized educational films for 3000 local scholars.

Bill Draper's funds for new shoes at the Toddler Home were maintained. Furthermore, a picnic at White Hills Botanical Gardens was held for the children. The Bendigo Highland Pipe Band provided Scottish music as entertainment. Rotarian Ern Cambridge also organized the band to entertain the children at St Aidan's Orphanage. Furthermore, Rotarian Owen Williams

was remarkably successful in raising funds for tobacco and pipes for the Benevolent Home.

Colonel Karl Baldwin, the U.S Military Attache, visited the Club and cabled his home Rotary Club of Kansas with greetings and the best wishes of Rotarians in Bendigo.

1944-45 (Pres. E B Pederick)

This year there were two bowls matches. One match was between Legacy and Club members, raising considerable funds for the Red Cross. Also, another match was between Bendigo and Castlemaine Rotary Clubs.

During the year, the Club divided up the funds from the Xmas Night, exactly like it did last year: between Inner Wheel and the P.O.W Appeal.

Gerson Krost and Ern Cambridge, once again visited St Aidan's Orphanage, supported with the musical program and a Pipe Band. Furthermore, funds were again provided for new shoes at the Toddler's Home. Support was also given to the Easter Fair.

One remarkable event this year was the cooperation between the Club and the general community, resulting in 179 sacks (5 tonnes) of clothing being collected for displaced residents in Europe. The U.N.R.R.A (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) had made the appeal.

M C Guidice loaned the Club the Lyric Theatre during Youth Week. Educational pictures were shown that were provided by the Shell Company.

Colonel Karl Baldwin again visited the Club with the War finally ending.

1945-46 (Pres. G A Pethard)

Rotary International divided the 65th District into 2, bringing in District 64. The dividing line between the 2 districts was the 144th Meridian. This happened on October 1, 1946.

The Club canvassed the whole of Bendigo, door-to-door, for the Food for Britain Appeal. Several tonnes of food (mostly tinned food) were dispatched to London.

One luncheon was held as a picnic in the Botanical Gardens, White Hills. Another luncheon entertained Navy Officers and Ratings from the Australian Navy. The Xmas Party funds were divided between Inner Wheel and the Club.

The visit to St Aidan's Orphanage went ahead as like in previous years. The Club provided donations for Rotarian Owen Williams' appeal for funds for the Benevolent Home and Rotarian Syd Mellis appeal for his Charity he had developed. The Bendigo Free Kindergarten was also supported with funds. An amount of 35 Pounds was awarded to the Bendigo Competitions Committee for prize money for a singing competition.

Club members functioned as gatekeepers and stewards at the Easter Fair. Also, at a Welcome to Home event for service personnel held in the Upper Reserve.

Charles Alexander comments on the overall role Rotary International played in endeavoring for other nations to be more cooperative now that the War is over. Also, with finding innovative ways Rotary International could play in increasing a more positive spirit among nations. Consequently, International committee Rotarians were encouraged to visit other nations to see whether this could be done between Rotary Clubs at an international level. Rotary International was also aware that extensive support would be needed for return service personnel.

1946-47 (Pres. F E R Biggs)

This year was a huge year for the Club given it was holding the 16th District Conference in Bendigo. The Club was also endeavoring to establish a Youth Camp at Axedale. A committee was established by the Board to look at the practicality of a Youth Camp for youth in the district.

A picnic had been organized for invitees to the Conference to view the proposed Camp site of 30 acres. The Club collected donations from visitors to the Conference at the House of Friendship. It was felt that 500-600 Pounds would be enough for necessities to begin a Youth Camp. The committee felt it was the responsibility of the Rotary District to raise the necessary funds given the whole district would benefit from the Camp. As a result, 700 pounds was eventually collected for the Youth Camp.

Three huts were purchased from Fortuna and were dismantled and moved to the Camp site with the assistance of members of both Rotary and Apex.

Conference visitors were also taken to visit local industries and invited to attend the customary Conference Ball. They were also invited to a Picture Night.

Tonnes of food were again collected for Britain. Likewise, the St Aidan's visit and Xmas Party went ahead as usual. The Benevolent Home, The Competition Committee and Inner Wheel were the main beneficiaries of Club funds.

1947-48 (Pres. B Mundy)

The major work for the year was the opening of the Youth Camp.

The St Aidan's Orphanage visit went ahead as usual with gifts given to the children and the Pipes Band providing entertainment. Owen Williams was Father Christmas again for the Benevolent Home and Bendigo Base Hospital.

The Food for Britain collection (with the assistance of Bendigo Council) continued during the year.

1948-49 (Pres. A H Jones)

The major work for this year was to build a Free Library Service for the citizens of Bendigo. With the assistance of Bendigo Council's donation of 675 Pounds, the assistance of Victorian Free Library Service Board and the State Government, the Club played a significant role in achieving the library being built. The State Government came to the party with offering 10,000 Pounds to build the library, along with: 1 Pound grant every year for each resident of the city (1,350 Pounds); 1,000 Pounds for books and furniture; and 2,700 Pounds each year to assist with costs of managing the library. 1,600 books from the School of Mines were also donated to the library.

The visit to St Aidan's Orphanage this year involved children receiving sweets and ice-creams. Parcels of food were sent to individual Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Accrington, England, which the Club had sponsored to assist. Camps were held for both girls and boys from financially disadvantaged families during the year. And Club members took on selling tickets for the Easter Fair.

The main beneficiaries of funds this year were Bendigo Hospital, Bendigo Kindergarten, The Competitions Committee and for the School of Mines Citizen Prize.

1949-50 (Pres. J Barton)

After the success of the Bendigo Free Library being built and opened in May 1950, the Club moved its attention to an Olympic size pool being built in the district. Also, an appeal was made for Memorial Gates for the High School and further equipment and suitable premises be made available for the Bendigo Creche.

Further extensions were recommended for the Youth Camp. A new fireplace was built, and regular working bees were organized for maintenance purposes. Trees were planted at the Camp. Unfortunately, due to the Polio outbreak, the Youth Camp was not used for 6 months of the year.

The Club continued their sponsorship of the food parcels sent to the Rotary Club of Accrington, England. There was no St Aidan's visit due to Polio, but Xmas cheer continued for the Benevolent Home. Talkie shows were held for patients of the TB Ward and Polio aftercare patients at Bendigo Base Hospital.

Donations were provided for the Blind Home, Salvation Army, Syd Mellis Appeal, Rev. Clanettes Appeal, Competitions Committee and Red Cross.

1950-51 (Pres. E F Granger)

The focus of the Club this year, membership-wise, was the poor attendance record of many members. Consequently, the Club terminated the membership of the main offenders. This had a positive impact with attendance dramatically improving in the second half of the year.

A total of 600 Pounds was provided for the Youth Camp. An office/first aid/sleeping quarters was erected for the supervisor of the Camp. The lining of huts was undertaken, and the mess hut was made birdproof. Also, 2 galvanized tanks were purchased to increase available water at the Camp. Furthermore, hot water became available for showers.

Preliminary planning was undertaken with how to ensure a Mothercraft Training Centre and a Residential Creche be built in Bendigo. Committees were given the task of exploring how this could be achieved.

Employer-employee relationships became a focus within the Club. Consequently, the Club obtained educational films on the subject made for various industries to be shown to employees and employers. Films were also sought to assist apprentices at night to increase their learning opportunities outside work hours.

TB patients continued to have free talkies once a month. A special Xmas party was held for children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

1951-52 (Pres. N J Oliver)

A Xmas Party was held for 50 children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds at the Youth Camp. Inner Wheel and Rotarians' partners entertained the children. A bicycle was donated to an 11-year-old girl who was, particularly in need. The President undertook this privately at her home.

Talking shows continued to be shown for patients in the TB ward. The Club installed a special radio installation system to assist the residents of the Benevolent Home.

The Club organized a car racing event to raise significant funds. It was held near the Axedale Camp. Many helpers were required as marshals, parking attendants for the 2,000 cars, ticket sellers and helping with transport to the event.

The Club received 500 Pounds from the State Government for the Youth Camp. This money assisted with minor repairs and maintenance which needed to be completed.

Donations were given to the Benevolent Home, Blind Home, Salvation Army, Syd Mellis Appeal, Competition Committee, Rev. Phillips, Red Cross and The U.N.O.

1952-53 (Pres. E A Cambridge)

Two Rotary signs were erected close to the City of Bendigo (on the Melbourne and the Echuca roads). TB patients continued to be shown talking picture shows each month. Also, once again, 50 financially disadvantaged children were entertained at the Youth Camp. Inner Wheel provided treats for all the children.

The Hobbies Exhibition was held at the School of Mines. A picture night was also shown for a deserving charity. 3BO held a live broadcast from a Club luncheon featuring a Vocational talk.

This year the Rotary year went on for only 9 months as the Rotary year was now to end on June 30.

1953-54 (Pres. R H Trethewey)

This year 18 Rotarians volunteered to be blood donors. Patients at the TB ward continued to be shown talking picture shows. An outing was organized for residents of Bendigo to visit the Youth Camp and for a drive in the country.

Two large buses were supplied to transport children from the Toddlers' Home to and from the Centre of Bendigo for the visit of Queen Elizabeth in Bendigo. The Club sold tickets for seats in the stand that was built at the QEO. The money raised was donated to Legacy.

The Club donated 50 Pounds for a Baby Contest. Five hundred babies were entered in the contest. The money, 709-6-8 (pounds, shillings, and pence) was donated to children with intellectual disabilities. Money was also donated to Rotary's International House during the year.

The Club installed a new electric pump for the power plant at the Youth Camp. New wiring was also undertaken in various huts. A brochure was also produced to note the advantages of the Youth Camp for attendees coming to the Camp.

1954-55 (Pres. C W Baker)

This year was the Golden Anniversary of the beginning of Rotary. The Club held a White Elephant Auction, and 252 Pounds was raised. Given it was the Golden Anniversary of Rotary, the Club decided to donate this money for scholarships to assist young students with their future.

The Youth Camp entertained 60 children with special needs. Entertainment and treats were organized for all the children. Fifty new mattresses were purchased for the Youth Camp which cost 250 Pounds.

The talking pictures (films) continued for TB patients. A special luncheon was held for employers and employees on the importance of a good relationship between both. A total of 56 employers/employees attended the luncheon.

1955-56 (Pres. K W Hesse)

The 4-way-test was introduced to senior and tertiary students from Rotarians providing talks explaining the meaning of the test. A framed copy of the 4-way-test was given to each school/institution.

The Modern Homes Exhibition was held in Bendigo which raised 1,000 pounds. Proceeds from the exhibition assisted Bendigo elderly citizens. The Club's goal was to form a local senior citizens Welfare Committee. President Hesse offered his home as a base to form such a committee. PP Trethewey offered his city office up for a Public Relations Officer of the Welfare Committee to use as a base.

A survey was conducted on all the potential jobs available for students in Bendigo. A Youth Advisory Committee was formed from representatives of different industries, commerce, sales and finance, food and processing, civil works, education, C.E.S and the Trades Hall Council.

Awards were presented to the Girl Guides Patrol winners and the winners of the Rotary Shield for Scouts. Also, the Club provided table tennis facilities and undertook improvements to the camp kitchen at the Youth Camp.

1956-57 (Pres. R V Brock)

The main project for this year was the formation of a Bendigo Police and Citizens Boys Club. Relationships were developed with the Police and Mayor to get this project up and running. An All-Charities Ball was held which raised 105 Pounds for the project.

The Colombo Plan was introduced by the government and as a result, 30 Asian students visited Bendigo. Rotarians functioned as hosts as the students' visited industries, educational institutions, sporting facilities and even experienced country life outside Bendigo.

The Olympic Games had come to Melbourne and 150 athletes visited Bendigo. The Club provided transport and refreshments when they arrived.

The Youth Camp received an Annual Grant from the State Government. As a result, the Youth Camp was improved during the year with the building of

basketball/tennis facilities. S.E.C power was also finally connected to the Youth Camp. Further renovations were also undertaken.

A Bendigo Careers Exhibition was held at the Showgrounds. All major industries in Bendigo were represented. The Club also organized vocational films to be shown. A school competition, with the focus of their essay being local industries in Bendigo, was won by a student who noted 357 products that are produced in Bendigo! There were 354 entries.

1957-58 (Pres. T B Keith)

A bowls tournament was held with Legacy and the Lions with all money raised given to Legacy. Prizes were awarded during the year for students in trades at the School of Mines. First Aid classes were also conducted for Bendigo citizens and students from the Teachers' College (over 200 attended).

The Colombo Plan provided funds to assist disadvantaged families. Local funds came from the proceeds of a billiard tournament held at Rotarian Norm Oliver's home and a picture night held with Asian students from the School of Mines. The Club helped Asian students who were studying in Bendigo obtain accommodation. New Asian students to Bendigo were also provided a tour of the Youth Camp and were invited to attend a Club luncheon.

The Homes Exhibition provided vital funds this year to the Girl Guides and Scouts. At the exhibition, 30 firms were represented, and 5,600 adults and 2290 children attended the event. From the funds received, a total of 600 Pounds was given to the Girl Guides to assist them obtain a new brick hut. A total of 369 pounds was given to the Scouts.

1958-59 (Pres. R Campagnolo)

Rotarians encouraged senior students this year to visit local employers. Two hundred students from Bendigo High School, Marist Brothers College and Bendigo Technical College were invited by the Club on visits to the State Saving Bank of Victoria, Hanro, Railway Offices and Workshop, Bradford, S.E.C, Telephone Exchange, and Frank Jones dental surgery.

Students from the School of Mines were encouraged to undertake work experience in businesses owned by Rotarians over the Xmas period.

Talks on vocational matters became quite common in the Club. Father's sons'/daughters' days were also ideal meetings for talks focused on youth employment.

An outdoor chapel was built at the Youth Camp with volunteer labor. This was a remarkable example of what can be done when service clubs work together. The Y's men of Bendigo, for example, provided highly skilled volunteers to complete the work. New entrance gates were also installed at the Camp. Ongoing maintenance continued at the Camp on a regular basis.

1959-60 (Pres. H A Moors)

A bowls match was again held between the Club, Legacy, and Lions. Funds raised were given to Legacy.

Fireside meetings were held for new members. Also, Drive-In nights became popular fundraising events. This year two such nights were held with proceeds of the nights going to The Bendigo Free Library and the Youth Camp.

A highlight of the year was a new Rotary Club being formed in Bendigo. The Club allowed for part of its territory to be ceded for the Rotary Club of Bendigo South to be created. This required an enormous amount of planning and work to form this new Club.

The Careers Night this year was held with Bendigo South Rotary Club. Senior students at schools were encouraged to contact Rotarians based on their classification to talk about career paths.

A White Elephant fundraiser raised enough funds to cover the cost of an 8-day camp for 50 financially disadvantaged children from Melbourne. Members also provided transportation for elderly citizens to attend a special Xmas treat and to attend the Mayor's Wood Appeal.

1960-61 (Pres. W G Sones)

With respect to new members, fireside meetings continued. Improvements were also made to the sound system at luncheons.

The relationship with Bendigo South also continued with both Clubs counselling school leavers at the Town Hall. Follow-up meetings with the students were held later in the year. There were 58 vocations, Rotarians could

assist students in. Of the 58, 65 students received helpful information from 49 of the vocations listed.

Three bursaries were awarded to 3 local secondary students. A total of 5-5-0 (pounds, shillings, and pence) was awarded to the 3 students at a Club luncheon. For the very first time, the same amount was awarded to the Apprentice of the Year. The Girl Guides and Boy Scouts were again awarded for their achievements.

A Drive-In fundraiser with Apex raised 142 Pounds. Lister House and the Benevolent Home both benefited from the funds. The Club also provided funds to the Save the Children fund, Blind Home, Bridge Street Charities, Salvation Army, Aged Care, Toddlers' Home, St Aidan's, the Pipe Appeal, Bendigo Base, Somers Camp, Central Welfare Committee, and a needy local family. Members also supported the Red Cross and Heart Appeal Door Knocks.

A new Recreation and Assembly Hall was built at the Youth Camp. The Home Exhibition this year raised 740 Pounds. A total of 35 boys and 25 girls that were financially disadvantaged were bussed from Melbourne (sponsored by Collingwood and Brunswick Rotary) to enjoy a free camp holiday.

1961-62 (Pres. S J Tongway)

This year the Club began with songs from the Rotary songbook. A Rotary Exchange student arrived from the Philippines. We also had 2 Outward Bound Exchange students to the Philippines. Also, the Club hosted 10 Officers from the Pakistan army during their stay in Bendigo.

Members were encouraged to display the 4-way-test at their business premises. Also, plaques and the explanation of the 4-way-test was provided to local schools. Members once again offered to assist school leavers with their vocational goals.

Inner Wheel donated a piano to the Youth Camp. With the assistance of volunteers from the YMCA, the Camp was repainted.

The White Elephant funds this year raised 230 pounds. This money was donated to support people with an Intellectual Disability. The Mannequin Parade held in the City Hall, raised a total of 158 pounds. During the year, 50 guineas were donated to the Bush Fire Relief Fund.

1962-63 (Pres. G E Mayne)

Vocation continued to be a prominent focus during the year. Employer-employee relationships was a popular topic with respect to many of the speakers. Members were also active assisting students on their career path. The 4-way-test plaques (or pictures explaining its meaning) began appearing in public places in Bendigo.

The Youth Camp had new stoves fitted in the kitchen. For campers, new beds were purchased, and a hot/cold system added for the showers. Trees were also planted.

The Modern Living exhibition raised 482-12-11 (pounds, shillings, and pence). The Mannequin Parade raised another 142 pounds. Given the YMCA, YWCA, Police & Citizen Youth Club and the Welfare Society for the Aged were all needing funds for extensions, the Club donated 156-3-3 (pounds, shillings, and pence) to the four organizations. Members also helped to donate money to The Freedom from Hunger Door Knock Appeal and provided volunteers for the Mayor's Picnic for elderly citizens.

1963-64 (Pres. A C Sandow)

A second microphone was purchased for the speaker/Sergeant-at-Arms for meetings. Increased cupboard space was also made available for the Club. In cooperation with Bendigo South, two new Rotary signs were added to the roads entering Bendigo. Long-term members were given the role of being mentors for newer members at meetings: making sure they are comfortable and answering any questions they may have. The senior members were a part of the Member Integration Committee.

During the year, members promoted the 4-way-test during a special Promotion Week. Occupational counselling continued. Likewise, school scholarships, the Apprentice of the Year Award and ongoing improvements undertaken at the Youth Camp (improved sleeping quarters, kitchen, new tanks, and drains).

One new program was the supervision of 40 school students coming to Bendigo from St Arnaud for the purpose of visiting Bendigo industries. The children were also entertained during the day and returned home safely. Furthermore, senior Bendigo students were sent to Melbourne, with the cooperation of Melbourne Rotary Club, to visit local industries and factories.

There were two major projects undertaken during the year. One was an audio-visual production which was produced highlighting Bendigo and the wider District. This ½ hour production was shown around Australia and overseas. Also, 1000 Bendigo children were transported for a day in Melbourne with the cooperation of Melbourne Rotary Club. The train that took the children was called: The Train of Knowledge. Once in Melbourne, Melbourne Rotary Club divided the 1,000 students into 68 groups for all the children to be supervised by Rotary members. Melbourne Rotary also entertained all the children and ensured all the school children were transported back to Bendigo at the end of the day.

The Coach run, which was to support the work of the Flying Doctors, came to Bendigo. A total of 1,000 pounds was received to support the service. Improvements were also undertaken, thanks to the support of the Club, to improve the Look-out Tower at Rosalind Park. Also, the Club played a role in having playground equipment, a drinking fountain, bird bath and wishing well all installed at Rosalind Park.

This year two Exchange students were sent to the U.S. With respect to Incoming students, there was one student from the U.S and one from the Philippines.

Members this year assisted with the Door Knock for the Red Cross and the Asthma Foundation. Over 85 pounds was raised from fines at luncheons. A total of 12 Bendigo organizations were recipients of funds this year.

1964-65 (Pres. E M Monotti)

This year was to be the last year our Club belonged to District 280. The following year it became a part of District 278. Rotarian Favaloro undertook some renovations at his restaurant to ensure there was more room for Rotary to conduct meetings there.

It was certainly a year of fun in Rotary this year. For example, a day was spent in Serpentine so Rotarians and their families could enjoy (with Bendigo South) a fun day with horseshoe throwing contests, hayrides, and an evening barbecue. Over 300 attended the fun event. A wine and dine night was held at Favaloro's. Also, a special picture night was held to entertain Rotarians. The highlight for many that year was the Xmas party held at the Axedale Youth Camp.

Vocation continued to be an important part of meetings. Members were invited to participate in a case study concerning Buyer and Seller relations. Job talks were also common talks, if only short talks from individual members.

The major project for the year was the erection of a First Aid room and shelter at Garden Gully Reserve for girls that played basketball and hockey.

Unfortunately, it was not completed until after the Rotary year ended.

Christmas cards were sold this year as a way of raising funds.

The Mannequin Parade contributed significant funds once again to the Club. It was sponsored by Myer who provided all the clothing/garments. The International Trade Fair was another major contributor to funds for the Club. There were exhibitors from Bendigo, Melbourne and overseas. Also, the Benola Choristers presentation at the City Hall was also extremely popular.

At the Youth Camp, extensions were made to the ladies' toilets and shower block. Also, a new sewer system was installed. When a weekend was organized to treat financially disadvantaged youth, volunteers from the YMCA ensured it was a fun weekend for all. The State Government donated another 500 pounds for the Youth Camp.

Scholarships were awarded to students and the Apprentice of the Year award was also awarded this year.

1965-66 (Pres. J N Sutherland)

This was the first year the Club belonged in District 278. It was formed by the combination of 24 Clubs in District 250 and in District 280 (Bendigo's former District). Special name badges of all 40 Past Presidents were attached to the President's Collar. Furthermore, Forty trees were planted at the Youth Camp to honor all the Past Presidents. The Club decided to host an Exchange Student from the U.S.A.

Social events were extremely popular with members; consequently, two Progressive Dinners were held for the first time for members and their partners. Each course (entree, main meal, and dessert) was held at a different home of a member of the Club. These dinner events were very well attended. A fancy-dress event was held at the Youth Camp and a Picture Night (and supper afterwards) was held at the Plaza Théâtre with Bendigo South Rotary

Club. Also, a family gathering was held in Marong at Rotarian Ron Andrews' property.

A Career's Night was once again held for students to attend at the City Hall. More than 500 students attended for the purpose of talking to Rotarians and specialist career counsellors about different vocations. The Mayor spoke at the event and a wide selection of both government and nongovernment organizations/industries had displays to assist students. Career films were also shown.

The main project for this year was for the McDonald House School for Deaf students. The White Elephant sale, the organized Drive-In events, and the sale of Xmas cards, all proved invaluable once again for raising funds.

The First Aid room and shelter at Garden Gully Reserve for girls to play basketball and hockey (which was begun in Merv Monotti's year) was completed this year and a formal presentation was undertaken with the media in attendance.

Maintenance of the Youth Camp continued. For example, bench tops and windows were replaced, and a new sink fitted. Bursaries continued for students and the Apprentice of the Year. Likewise, Girl Guides and Scout awards/shields were presented.

1966-67 (Pres. J C M Jeffrey)

The two Progressive Dinner events continued given their popularity. The Mannequin Parade is mentioned this year. Clark and Gwen Jeffrey arranged a special supper afterwards for all those involved in presenting the show. The Xmas party had 140 attend the event. The Xmas party was viewed as the most popular event in the Rotary year.

Importantly, for the Extension Committee, Eaglehawk Rotary Club received their Charter. This was only achieved due to the extremely demanding work for many months of those that represented the Extension Committee.

Fireside chats continued to assist new members understand more about Rotary. The Careers Night this year was held at the YMCA stadium (over 600 students attended). This year an Industry Visit was also held for students at White Hills Technical College.

A bowling green for Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged was the main project in the year. Given the size of the project, the formal handover of the bowling green received extensive media coverage. ***Charles Alexander goes into some depth with respect to what a huge achievement this was for President Jeffrey and other major contributors.***

A G.S.E (Group Study Exchange) team from the U.S.A visited Bendigo. Members from both Bendigo, Bendigo South and Eaglehawk Rotary Clubs hosted the seven team members during their stay for 3 days.

Goal and point posts donated from the VFL were installed at the Youth Camp. Trees were planted and during the year a special camp was organized for 60 girls who would never have had the opportunity to attend a Youth Camp. Both the YWCA and Inner Wheel provided volunteer leaders and all that was required to ensure all the girls not only enjoyed but benefited hugely from attending the Youth Camp.

1967-68 (Pres. K H G Ross)

Members of the Club at this time were provided with lots of social events which reports suggest they really enjoyed. For example, the Progressive Dinners were quickly booked out. Members also attended a Wine Tasting Dinner event, a Dinner Dance, a Drive-In Picture Night, the Plaza Theatre event (along with supper), Xmas Party and Changeover event.

Not only were the events fun to attend, but they were also excellent fundraising events for the Club. Other events that proved successful for fundraising were Walkabout 26, the White Elephant Sale, and the Art Exhibition. A total of \$7,181.83 was raised from the events.

As a result of the fundraising, a new classroom, amplifiers, and playback equipment were funded for McDonald House (the school for students that were deaf); Mirridong (for their Guiding Light Appeal) and the Sheltered Workshop both received \$1,000 each; and Mount Alvernia Hospital received funding for a Fracture Table.

The objective for the Youth Camp this year was to build a new Dining Hall. With a government grant of \$4300, based on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the Club built the Hall for \$8,700.

A new committee was formed during the year for Past Presidents to suggest projects for the Club. One of the ideas was to send Xmas parcels to our Army units in Vietnam. Another idea was the Club begin a compilation of our Club history. Both these projects proved to be successful.

The Train of Knowledge continued this year with 900 students visiting Melbourne to acquaint themselves with different vocations for when they leave school. It took 14 carriages to transport all the students. The Club also organized a Consulting Panel to assist 200 senior students at Marist Brothers and St Mary's Colleges.

The Scout and Girl Guide Awards, the Apprentice of the Year and Student Awards, also continued this year.

1968-69 (Pres. W N Johanson)

The social events continued given their popularity (e.g., Progressive Dinners, Xmas Party, Drive In night). With respect to programs, Walkabout 26 involved 615 walkers from the Club and YMCA. With 451 walkers completing the course, \$5,000 was raised for both the Club and YMCA.

At the Art Exhibition, with 101 artists displaying 307 paintings, another \$746 was collected. This year the Art Show had permanent stands which were built by staff of Malmsbury Youth Centre. A special Art Competition was held for secondary students. The focus of the competition was on danger awareness and ideas for safety measures to ameliorate such dangers.

A special Information Night was held for new members. Furthermore, Four-way-test plaques were sold to members. From projects suggested by Past Presidents last year, the history of the Club was compiled from 1925 to 1969. Also, Xmas parcels continued to be sent to our troops in Vietnam.

Another GSE team arrived from the U.S.A with our Club, Bendigo South and Eaglehawk all contributing with hosting the team members during their stay.

School Awards continued along with the Apprentice of the Year award. Likewise, Scout and Girl Guide awards were formally presented. Rotarians this year offered themselves as lunchtime speakers at White Hills Technical School and organized two visits of Bendigo local industries and businesses.

The Exchange student this year came from South Africa. Also, a camp was organized, along with the YMCA, for 40 boys that would benefit greatly from attending the Youth Camp.

The government offered 4 dollars for every dollar raised to build a Centre for the Sheltered Workshop. Consequently, the Club donated \$5,700, which equated to \$33,500 of funds, towards the cost of a \$70,000 Centre.

1969-70 (Pres. J W Henderson)

The main social events continued during the year. There was an addition of a Danish Night, a Dinner Dance at the Shamrock, and a Cocktail Night at Favaloro's.

A Career's Night was held at Bendigo High School. There were 40 counsellors in attendance and nearly 1,000 local students from Bendigo attended the event. Career discussions were also held for Marist Brothers, Girton and St Mary's at a separate event. Lunchtime talks at White Hills Technical College continued, along with visits for 180 boys to 24 different employment places. The Train of Knowledge this year had a change of direction, taking 100 students from Essendon (sponsored by Essendon Rotary Club) to Bendigo to visit our local industries and other points of interest.

Walkabout 26 this year raised \$5,600 to be shared between our Club and the YMCA. The Easter Art Show was affected by rain, but still raised \$691.37. The Mannequin Parade this year was sponsored by the Wool Board who provided three interstate female models, a male singer/model, a compere, musicians, and all the clothes. There were two shows conducted and close to 900 people attended the event. A total of \$626.26 was raised for Club funds.

Given the recent Tasmanian fires, the Club decided to promote fire safety in the community. The Club showed a fire safety film and organized a demonstration of fire safety by the Bendigo Fire Brigade for students at White Hills Technical College. Melbourne South Rotary Club sent 50 financially disadvantaged students to the Youth Camp at Axedale. Rotarian Favaloro organized the menus for the boys with Inner Wheel members assisting with providing the food during their stay at the Camp. The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) was awarded to two students this year. Also, school awards continued to be funded.

After Charles Alexander completed the history of the Club from 1925 – 1969, Charles continued to record the events of the Club for the purpose of our 50th Celebration and beyond.

It is important to remember that Charles Alexander only joined the Club in 1959-60. No doubt, to write the diary, Charles would have had excellent access to past historical documents. Also, he would have more than likely consulted with senior members of the Club as to the accuracy of what he recorded.

For the next 10 years, from 1970-1980, I will summarize the noteworthy events for each year in point form.

1970-71 (Pres. D L Martin)

- The Xmas Party was the social highlight of the year.
- More than 1,500 students attended the Careers Night at Bendigo High School.
- Sir Henry Bolte increased funding for the Axedale Camp given its popularity.
- The Club held the first Carols for Candlelight at Rosalind Park on Xmas Eve.
- Given increased government funding and the increase in the numbers of organizations wanting to attend the Axedale Camp, the Camp needed to be increased in size. Plans were made for extensions to the living quarters for the caretaker. For example, an extra room needed to be built with a toilet, bathroom, and laundry. A septic tank and hot water system also needed to be installed.
- For campers, a plan was made for a new toilet block, shower rooms, boiler room, and cool room to be built.
- New rubber mattresses and beds were immediately purchased for the campers. Inner Wheel donated new curtains.
- An Interact Club was formed at Bendigo High School. Their first project was to assist Bengal refugees.

- The Art Show was a real success with more local artists contributing and increased numbers of artwork being sold. Over 6,000 attended the event.
- The Club organized for 24 participants employed at the Sheltered Workshop in Bendigo to have a holiday at the Youth Camp. It proved to be a huge success. With assistance from the YMCA with activities and Inner Wheel providing catering services, the participants enjoyed a wonderful holiday at the Youth Camp.

1971-72 (Pres. C Bell)

- The Club continued with Progressive Dinners, Drive-In night, Wine and Cheese Night, etcetera, but this year a picnic was also organized in January for families. Children were taken on boat and yacht rides. Reports were that Rotarians enjoyed the event given the whole family was encouraged to attend.
- There was excellent publicity with the proceeds of Walkabout 26 being donated to Mirridong Home for the Aged.
- For the very first time the Art Show and Pottery Display was held indoors at the YMCA stadium. Reports confirm it was the most successful Art Show held. The Show made a profit of \$1,427.
- Approximately 2,000 attended the Carols. It was suggested by the committee that in future years it be held one week before Xmas.
- The Rotarians interviewing RYLA applicants could not agree on the 2 students being chosen from the final 4 selected: consequently, all four attended RYLA.
- Another 90 students from Essendon were supervised by Rotarians when they arrived on the Train of Knowledge. Rotarians acted as guides as they toured industries and places of interest in Bendigo.
- The major project for the year was a 2-day Seminar for 20 prefects from St Vincent's College, Bendigo Girls High, Bendigo High School, and St Mary's. Several Rotarians provided job talks and spoke on vocational

matters concerning employer-employee relationships. The YMCA were also involved with organizing speakers for the event.

- A Study Group from Japan visited Bendigo. Rotarians organized for the group to tour places of interest (Bendigo Pottery, Bradmill's, etc.). Past Rotary Exchange Students from Japan acted as translators for the Group.
- The Vice Premier, W. Hamer, toured the Youth Camp to inspect the extensions undertaken at the Axedale Youth Camp. The Vice Premier was impressed with the work undertaken and the Youth Camp, overall.

1972-73 (Pres. K Mill)

- With respect to their original classifications, 31 Rotarians were reclassified. A total of 240 unfilled classifications were published in the Club Bulletin. Members were encouraged to find prospective members to fill in those classifications.
- The Xmas party was not held at the Axedale Camp this year, but at Woodbury House. A total of 188 attended the new venue.
- Instead of a second Progressive Dinner, a Dinner Dance was held for those Rotarians and their partners attending the Rotary International Conference in Switzerland.
- Reports suggest the change to an indoor venue to host the Art Show and Pottery Show was a resounding success with record profits and more people attending. The \$1,866 profit this year was donated to Overton Childrens' Home.
- Walkabout 26 became metric with now the walk 26 kilometers, not miles. The \$1,450 received this year was donated to Overton Childrens' Home.
- The proceeds this year from the Carols were donated to Scope.
- The Picture Night this year was held in conjunction with Apex.
- At the Youth Camp, a carport was built for the caretaker, fences were realigned, a verandah built and draining improved.
- Members assisted with the Door Knock for Freedom from Hunger and The Red Cross.

- Interact members this year assisted with Meals on Wheels.
- A Rotaract Club was formed in Bendigo in conjunction with Bendigo South Rotary Club. The Rotaract Club was Chartered on June 23, 1973.
- Members of the Club were encouraged to undertake F.A.I.M (Fourth Avenue in Motion) membership.
- The Club was the first host of a GSE team from the U.S.A. Bendigo South and Eaglehawk Rotary Clubs both assisted with hosting the team.
- This year the Club hosted 2 Rotary Exchange students.

1973-74 (Pres. F A McManus)

- The Xmas Party this year took the form of a Dinner Dance.
- Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, was a guest speaker at the Club.
- The Trade Commissioner of Malaysia also spoke at the Club.
- Councilor Whatley, The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, was another dignitary to speak during the year.
- Member, Bruce Reid, led a G.S.E team to the U.S.A.
- This year was the largest Progressive Dinner held with 73 attending the event.
- The Rotaract District Conference was held this year in Bendigo.
- A total of \$1,900 was collected for Walkabout 26 which was used at the Youth Camp to undertake improvements.
- This year's Carols recorded the largest ever attendance.
- In conjunction with the C.E.S a special Careers week was held at City Hall. The Club organized and volunteered to transport students attending interviews from all over the district. During the week, 270 students were interviewed. A special night for parents was also held.
- The Exchange student this year came from the Philippines.
- A G.S.E team visited Bendigo for a short stay and a combined dinner was held, with other Rotary Clubs in the District, to welcome the students.

1974-75 (Pres. L Williamson)

- To ensure all members were up to date with communication from the Board, Club Bulletins were posted to all members each week, despite the cost of doing this.
- The Xmas Dinner meeting this year was held in the Persian Room. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a Dinner Dance after the formal part of the meeting was completed.
- A barbecue was held at Lake Eppalock for Exchange Students and friends attending the District 279 Conference held in Bendigo. There was water skiing provided for 30 young people at the Bendigo Yacht Club.
- The Art Show continued to grow in popularity and increased with the number of paintings on display and sold. This year, \$3,200 was raised by the event. The Childrens' Ward at the Bendigo Base Hospital received \$3,000.
- Interact this year decided to attempt to break a world record, set in England, of a table tennis match going on for 62 hours. They broke the record by playing for 63 hours! The \$300 they raised was donated to Bendigo High School for the cost of a duplicating machine.
- The proceeds of Walkabout 26, \$2,600, was also donated to the Childrens' Ward at Bendigo Base Hospital.

1975-76 (Pres. R W Cambridge)

- This year the Club celebrated its Golden Jubilee year. President of Melbourne Rotary, John Moir, came to Bendigo with 26 members to help the Club celebrate this important event. Melbourne Rotary assisted the Club from in 1925.
- The Golden Jubilee Ball was without doubt the highlight of the year. The Club had Presidents (and members) from all over the district. Also, politicians, councilors and representatives of other service organizations joined in to celebrate the important occasion.
- The Board decided to present the City of Bendigo with a talking clock costing \$5073 to celebrate the occasion.
- A booklet of the Club's 50 years in Bendigo was published.

- Member, Ray Downey, was nominated and successful in becoming District Governor in 1977-78.
- The Club raised \$12,000, which was a record. A total of \$11,800 was given to many deserving organizations.
- The Art Show this year raised a record of \$5,200 profit.
- Walkabout 26 raised \$2,500 and the White Elephant Sale raised \$1,520.
- Scope received \$1,520 and Legacy \$1,000.

1976-77 (Pres. J M Adams)

- The Club this year focused on increased fellowship with other Rotary Clubs.
- This year the Club held a Xmas barbecue, rather than a formal dinner. There was also an open President Xmas Day.
- To increase fellowship and raise money, the Club held a Gymkayana Trotting Trial. Members enjoyed the event and collected \$2,700 for the Club.
- The Art Show made a profit of \$5,100. For the first time prizes were awarded to the artists. This was achieved by having several organizations sponsoring the prizes.
- In another first, The Xmas Carols had a sponsor which meant it could then officially become a Community Service Event. The intention of Carols was to be a service event for the whole community, not for the purpose of making any profit from holding the event.
- Rotary Youth Awards were presented this year.
- Members were asked to participate in mock work interviews of students to assist a Youth Support Scheme Project. An extensive survey was undertaken of the effectiveness of the strategy for students.

1977-78 (Pres. W J B Derham)

- Our District this year changed from 278 – 978.
- The number 1 objective of Club members was to support our own Ray Downey (and his wife, Ollie) as District Governor.

- United and supported 100% by Bendigo South Rotary Club and Inner Wheel, the District Conference went ahead hosting 1,100 Rotarians and their guests in a professional, dedicated manner. Comments were heard that it was the best Conference held for many years.
- The highlights of the Art Show this year were the opening ceremony and the presentation of the award-winning paintings to the Bendigo Home and Hospital.
- The Club was able to donate \$8,000 to charities this year. (The Art Show raised \$4,615). The cost of a Gastroscope for the Bendigo Hospital and a Life Pack for the Ambulance Service were the main donations given.
- The Youth Camp had the largest numbers of attendees ever over the year. A total of 2,434 children and adults were accommodated at the Camp during the year. A government grant of \$6,900 helped with the cost of maintenance and repairs at the Youth Camp.
- In memory of Past President and Past District Governor, Ern Granger, the Ern Granger Memorial Apprenticeship Award was to be awarded each year.

1978-79 (Pres. J M Cartwright)

- The major event for this year was the chartering of Bendigo Strathdale Rotary Club. Hal Moors played a significant part in providing guidance for the new Club.
- The success of the Student Exchange Program and our support for the G.S.E Program was highlighted during the year with talks from present and past Rotary Exchange students and a recipient of a recent G.S.E team.
- The Xmas Party was held this year at the Youth Camp which proved to be a real success with entertainment from Wedderburn Old Timers. During the year, apart from our traditional social events, there was also a: car rally, an unusual but successful rotating dinner event and a combined cricket match with Bendigo South Rotary Club.
- The Carols this year had to be moved from the Sound Shell to City Hall due to inclement weather.

- 900 paintings and pottery were on display at the Art Show this year. Close to \$5,000 profit was provided for Club donations.
- Improvements and maintenance to the Youth Camp continued. There was also future planning undertaken.
- Approximately \$8,000 was donated to various charities this year.
- The winner of the inaugural: Memorial Ern Granger Award, went on to win the State Award.

1979-80 (Pres. R J Slattery)

- This year the 4 local Rotary Clubs built a Rotary Fountain as a 75th Rotary Anniversary Project.
- A Combined Anniversary Dinner was also held with a Combined Rotary Choir to entertain Rotarians and guests.
- A special Anniversary Bulletin was also produced.
- The Mayor addressed all the local Rotary Clubs in appreciation of their work for the community. (***Charles Alexander provides a very good account of the address in the diary. For example, Charles provides detailed quotes. He also lists all the dignitaries that attended the Combined Dinner with 400 guests in attendance).***)
- A total of \$30,000 was distributed to many community groups during the year. Club projects provided \$20,000 (the Art Show a record \$8,000). A total of \$7,500 was received for the Youth Camp and \$2,800 was received from Bulletin Sponsorship. A Monster Car Raffle was also held this year.
- 128 trees were planted at the Youth Camp.
- During the year there were many social events. For example, a family ten pin Bowls Night with a pancake supper afterwards. A bus trip, which 40 attended, to Barham RSL to enjoy a meal. A Wine Tasting event held jointly with the Y's Men Club of Bendigo. Members of Collingwood Rotary Club joined our members for a weekend in Bendigo. Collingwood Rotarians were taken on tours of the district by our members and then invited to a joint Dinner Dance.

- A Past President's Board was displayed at Club Meetings. Also, Past Presidents received a Past President's Badge. Inner Wheel members were also presented with badges.
- A Career's Night was held for students.
- The Club awarded 10 Courtesy Awards to citizens of Bendigo.