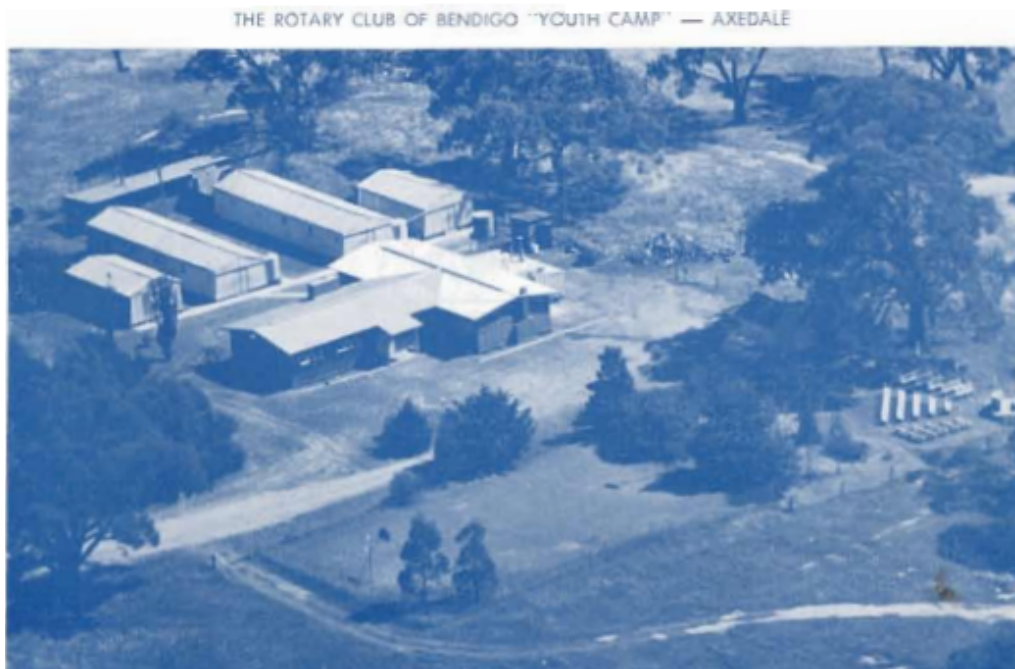


1973-1974 Frank McManus

The most popular song in 1973 was Angie by the Rolling Stones. The most popular film was The Exorcist with Linda Blair and Max von Sydow.

Frank McManus was born in Sydney. He worked at AWA in 1937 at Ashfield Works. Frank served in the A.I.F from May 1940 – November 1945 where he reached the rank of Lieutenant before re-joining A.W.A. in December 1945.

In January, 1946 Frank worked at 2AY in Albury before joining 3BO Bendigo in March 1946. He loved to play tennis in his free time and in 1973, he was appointed President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. The Rotary International theme for the year was 'A Time For Action' and that is exactly what President Frank undertook with the Youth Camp at Axedale.



The Youth Camp was the main topic of discussion at Board level throughout the whole of President's Frank's year. The problem with the Youth Camp was a result of its popularity with campers. It was a victim, if you like, of its own success as being the Youth Camp of choice.

For instance, if an organisation wanted to make a booking, they would normally have to book 12 months ahead of time. The popularity of the Youth Camp did come at an enormous price to the Club. With 3,000 campers attending in the last 12 months, repairs and maintenance constantly had to be undertaken. Consequently, the Reserve Fund for the Youth Camp became heavily overdrawn.

President Frank directed as many funds as possible raised during the year to the Youth Camp. Regardless, this appeared to be like simply putting a band-aid on a deep cut. It may stop the bleeding in the short term, but would it be a long-term solution?

The question was asked: can we get the Government to contribute significant funds into the Youth Camp? Or, as one Board member put it, 'is managing the popular Youth Camp too much to expect our Rotary Club to do?'

Should the overall responsibility of management of the Axedale Youth Camp be given to a government authority for example?

The Club did contribute \$4,250 during the year and the government did contribute \$5,000 and later, \$1,000. Regardless, the question still needed to be answered: is the Youth Camp too big a project for the Club to manage in the long term?

There were many issues at the Youth Camp which were causing major problems for the Club. The tank at the camp needed replacing. There were major problems with draining from the toilets. Many mattresses needed replacing. A new stove was needed for the kitchen. The Public Liability Insurance the Club had undertaken needed to be increased. The Caretaker's pay needed to be increased. General maintenance needed to be regularly undertaken at the camp.

If action was not immediately done to address these issues, the Youth Camp could be likened to a balloon, something just might burst the bubble of the Youth Camp's success.



If the Rotary Board of 1973/74 did not have enough on its plate to deal with, the issue of where the Club meets became an immediate concern. The growth in membership to 104 and many guests often attending luncheons made the present venue unsuitable for luncheons.

The Board immediately sought quotes from the Persian Room and the A.N.A motel. Early favourite from the Board members was the A.N.A.



A Rotaract District Conference was held in Bendigo. Bendigo Rotaract organised the event. Over 150 Rotaracters from all over the Rotary District attended the event.

The major project for the local Rotaract Club this year was to assist Freedom from Hunger.

Other highlights:

The Careers Week at City Hall attracted 270 students. There was also a special night for the parents of the students.

The Club selected a suitable applicant for the Rotary Foundation Education Awards.

The Art Show recorded a record profit of \$2,500.

73 Rotarians and guests attended the Progressive Dinner.

Members and their partners enjoyed a weekend away at the Hobart Casino.

Bruce Reid was chosen as the GSE leader to a team visiting Ohio, U.S.A.

Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe was the guest speaker at the Ladies Night.

Board of Directors 1973-74



BACK ROW (Left to Right) — KEN MILL, RON MEURER, WARREN CAMBRIDGE, NEVILLE STILWELL, MURRAY ADAMS, JOHN LITTLE, JOHN CARTWRIGHT.
FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — KEITH SCARROTT, DON LENNOX, FRANK McMANUS (President), LEIGH WILLIAMSON, EUGENE SANDNER.
ABSENT: WARWICK JOHANSON.