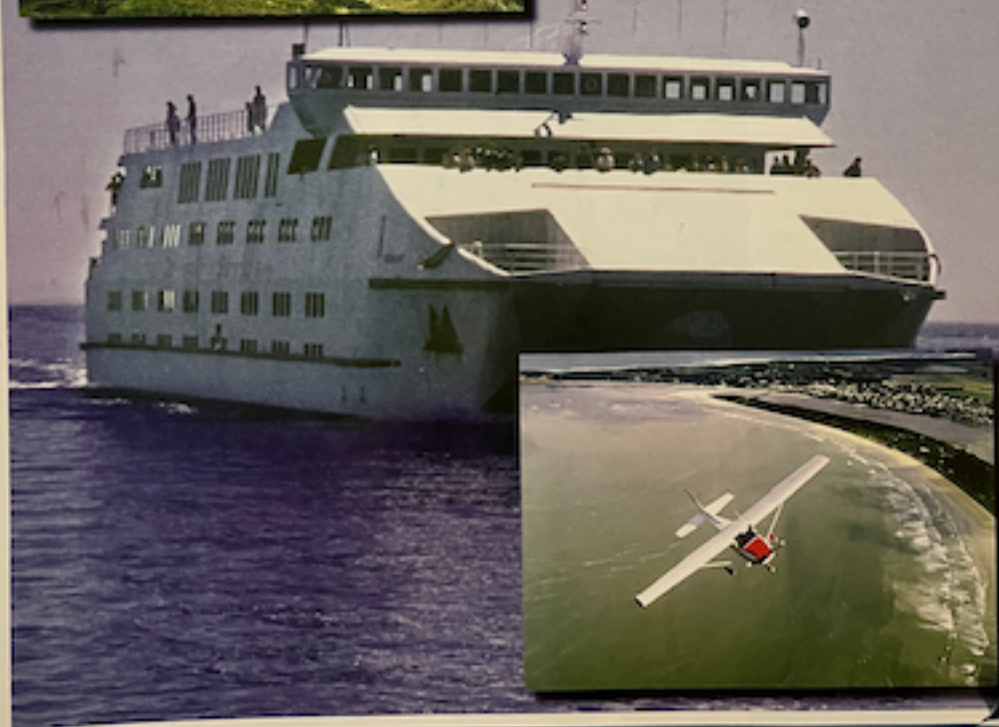




Tony Haines
Rotary International District 9780

Conference '96 Report



Friday 15 to Sunday 17 March, 1996



Official opening by Cr. Gerry Smith, Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT

Herbert G. Brown

"MESSAGE"

To all Rotarians and Guests attending the 9280 District Conference, Diane and I send warm greetings.

We wish to express our dedication and confidence, along with the hope of a comprehensive fellowship. You will find Rotary horizons together.

Rotary has shown us how to make their communities, men and women for our globe.

Being a Rotarian... Our unmet needs... Serving with bountiful hearts our world a

Until all the Conference Past Directors represent Rotarians. Please my company

Do not let your dreams toward for you world

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT

Herbert G. Brown

"MESSAGE"

To all Rotarians
and Guests attending
the 9780 District
Conference,
Diane and I send
warm greetings.



We wish to express our great appreciation for the dedication and commitment of your District Governor Henry. He, along with the Conference Committee, has put together a comprehensive program of Rotary information, fun and fellowship. You will make new friends and expand your Rotary horizons through shared experiences as you meet together.

Rotary has always been a place for visionaries, those who see how things could be and define a path toward making their dreams a reality. In our Clubs and our communities, we transform our dreams into reality for men and women from every culture, race and creed throughout our globe.

Being a Rotarian means extending oneself in service to others. Our actions can make the difference between an unmet need and a hope fulfilled. *By Acting with Integrity, Serving with Love, and Working for Peace*, we exhibit a bountiful heart which underscores our commitment to making our world a better place.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for Diane and me to visit all the Conferences. Please welcome Mr. E. Neil Inkster, Past Director RI, and his spouse Margaret, as our personal representatives. Neil is an extremely knowledgeable Rotarian, an enthusiastic leader, and a warm friendly person. Please make every effort to meet them and to enjoy their company.

Diane and I hope that you may be inspired to dream dreams and make the courageous choices to work boldly toward making those dreams into promises for a better future for your family, your Club, your local community and for the world in which we live.

Yours in Rotary,

Herbert G. Brown.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Henry A. Hudson

"THE CONFERENCE SCENE"

A conference is a time for challenge, an enjoyable time when we enter into the spirit of the program by becoming mentally involved in the sessions. The theme, *"The Rip to River Rendezvous"* reflects the natural environment of this area and the seaward territorial boundary of the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove. The "Rip" as the Entrance to Port Phillip is dominated by a set of lighthouses; the "River" is the Barwon River and the coastline between these two features is the interface between sea and land.

Rotary can be compared very neatly with lighthouses - both serve humanity. From seaward the lighthouses give you a lead, assist sailors in their journey through a dangerous or difficult stretch of water. By analogy, Rotary should be giving the community, either local or international, a lead, should be assisting people in their journey through life, particularly over difficult times. One of our functions as Rotarians is to provide a beacon of hope for any underprivileged people as well as for ambitious, positive people who need some assistance or direction towards their objectives.

Similarly, the river provides life and sustenance for the inhabitants along its course. Likewise, Rotary throughout the world provides opportunities for people to survive and to thrive. The coastline is the boundary, the interface between land and sea where natural forces occur. In our analogy, the coastline represents the interface between Rotary and our three communities, namely, local, national and international. There is a continuous interaction in Nature at the various boundaries, similarly in D-9780 there is evidence of a continuous reaction between our Clubs and their various communities. In all interactions energy is involved, the significant aspect here is that this is a very positive energy flow. This fact is the key to our thoughts at this Conference.

Think positively about our activities here - do not be complacent and negative! Conferences should not be comfortable occasions. There are challenges to make you think, review your ideas, to argue about, but, above all, make a positive contribution to this Conference and enjoy yourselves.



THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE

Past Director, E. Neill Inkster

"THE INTERNET, COMMUNISM AND MARKETING"

OPENING ADDRESS:

Past Director Neill Inkster expressed pleasure in representing President Herb Brown, whose message expressed "The wish that you have a very successful and enjoyable Conference." The theme "Act with Integrity, Serve with Love and Work for Peace" is a real challenge, Neill said, and reflects the feelings and experiences of President Herb and Diane in their closest family. The challenge comes in the connections between the words.

Action is demanded, Rotarians must set an example by acting with integrity, by being involved in various aspects of service, e.g. World Community Service in working as a volunteer in another country or in preserving our cultural heritage, thus gaining a greater understanding of the lives of the founders of this country, serving our heritage with understanding and admiration. Working for peace - peace internationally requires peace within local communities, which requires peace in the family. Neill suggested that the family must become a more stable unit in our pressure-ridden society. The loving family is an essential ingredient to an environment of peace. Neill expressed the view that Rotary is a matter of conscience "if you do follow this year's theme, you will play your part in making this a better world."

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The Internet.

Neill's aim was to motivate and make the audience think about Rotary. All aspects of life and business are changing including the life and business of Rotary. In 1986 the first "Fax" message came out of RI, now RI messages are on the Internet within minutes of events occurring. The speed of change is astounding. "We must plan for the future and take new initiatives."

Neill reported that "RI is in good heart. It costs about 60 million dollars per year to run the organisation, and reserves are such that a year's operations are covered. The Rotary Foundation funds are in excess of 40 million dollars."

Communism and Community Service.

Expansion into communist countries e.g. Siberia, Russia, China, is not an easy task. Service without monetary reward is "Service with Love" but in China there was no concept of community service. The Chinese have come to respect Rotary because of the PolioPlus campaign - "Giving is Good." For the PolioPlus program, China, India and Indonesia are the biggest challenge. The summation of all the title tasks makes our organisation great - what we each do is so very important. "It's the leaves on the tree and the fly under roots that make the great tree trunk."

Marketing.

Neill Inkster said "Rotary is at the cross-roads. We must come to grips with some real challenges." Neill's father, Harry, was 32 years old when he initiated the concepts of Rotary. "Rotary was an idea by young men; today the life of Rotary is shaped by those who have been Rotarians

for 10, 20, even 30 years. Most of those shaping the future of Rotary are over 60 years old. Today we are more concerned with preserving Rotary the way it is, the way it operates, preserving its so-called well-proven standards and procedures without knowing what will make it more attractive, more relevant to those we really want to have as our members - the young business executives, entrepreneurs, tradesmen, young scientists. Are we going about things the right or wrong way? We should not fit Rotary to outsiders, but to younger members."

Neill raised the perennial question - "How do we ensure growth in our membership?" Our communities need Rotary - therein lies the challenge for Rotary everywhere in the world "To market Rotary to people who are not like us."

FINAL ADDRESS:

Neill expressed the thought that "This Conference is so different. I truly say that today I want to give the best concluding comments I ever have, you deserve nothing less. We owe a debt of gratitude to the thought and planning and the building of the special character of this Conference, which, no doubt, is the work of DG Henry. We have been fortunate in the weather, that has kept us together. We are grateful for the work of the Conference Committee, its Chairman, and the work the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove has put into this Conference. My personal congratulations and thanks to those people who made this a special Conference."

"What should we leave this Conference thinking about? It's been something special - it is the people, the heritage and a very special District. This Conference may be a milestone in the history of this District - new ideas, decorations for sale, it kept us together. Why a special District? Because there is something quite different here. This Conference is about you and how Rotary enlarges your perspective of your heritage. Heritage is about all those things which together make up the character of this part of Australia: your friendliness, pride in this part of Australia, your fun-loving nature, competitiveness, your concern to serve the complete environment."

"The task of Rotary is somehow to bring all cultures, all heritages together in an environment for peace and progress for all. This can only result if we act with integrity, really serve with love and really try hard to work for peace. Thank you all for so many good moments at a Conference Margaret and I will long remember."



THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE:

District Governor:
Chairman:
Deputy Chairman:
Host Club President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Partners' Representative:
Sergeant-at-Arms

SUB-COMMITTEES:

Catering:
Children's Program:
Decorations:
Displays:
Entertainment:
Home Hosting:
House of Friends

Logistics:
Production:
Program:
Publications and
Registration:
Sponsorship:
Stage:
Transport:
Venue:

SPECIAL:

Photographer:
Roof Blackout

CONFERENCE:

No. Rotarians:
No. Clubs in attendance:
No. Clubs represented

Registration:
Rotarians:
Guests (including family):
Youth Exchange:
Group Study:
Children:
TOTAL

Attendance:
Friday

Saturday

Sunday

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE:

District Governor:	Henry Hudson.
Chairman:	Geoff Chandler.
Deputy Chairman:	Frank Mountford.
Host Club President:	Gerry Spencer.
Secretary:	Geoff Morphett.
Treasurer:	Tony Haines.
Partners' Representative:	Helen Robinson.
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Rod Birrell.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Catering:	Trevor McArdle.
Children's Program:	Ed Pescott (Grovedale).
Decorations:	Coral Barker.
Displays:	Felicity Dales.
Entertainment:	Graham Bath.
Home Hosting:	Rob Cameron (Drysdale)
House of Friendship:	Graham Bath and Helen Robinson.
Logistics:	John Dodgshun.
Production:	John Webb.
Program:	Henry Hudson.
Publications and Publicity:	Frank Mountford.
Registration:	Bob Osbourne.
Sponsorship:	John Galvin.
Stage:	Wal Kelly.
Transport:	David Cook.
Venue:	Eric Bare.

SPECIAL DUTIES:

Photographer:	John Fox.
Roof Blackout:	David Tyrrell and Alan Joyce.

CONFERENCE STATISTICS

No. Rotarians in D-9780	2249
No. Clubs in D-9780	56
No. Clubs represented at Conference	54 (96%)

Registrations	
Rotarians	484 (22%)
Guests (including partners)	360
Youth Exchange	47
Group Study Exchange	10
Children	18
TOTAL	919

Attendance at Session	
Friday - opening session	810
Saturday - morning session	803
- afternoon session	822
- evening functions	
Fort Queenscliff	273
'MV Queenscliff'	270
Suma Park	130
Sunday - morning session	762



Geoff Chandler



Frank Mountford



Gerry Spencer



Geoff Morphett



Tony Haines



Helen Robinson



Rod Birrell

Friday Evening, 15 March 1996

"A SENSE OF OCCASION"

What better way to begin a Conference than have the music and atmosphere provided by Australia's finest military band, the Australian Army Band Melbourne under the direction of Lt Col. Peter Jackson, DC and Musical Director, supporting artist Ms. Simone Dew and composer Mr. Tony Charlton.

A trumpet fanfare began a truly magnificent introduction to a memorable Conference! Following the national anthems of New Zealand and Australia sung by Simone Dew and accompanied by the Band, Tony Charlton lucidly expressed the wishes of all present thus:

"May the kinship and service for which this organisation is revered be enhanced by this Conference and may its agenda be fulfilled and a credit to all concerned. We are assembled now under the guiding power and influence of a great organisation."

Whilst the Band played, Tony Charlton introduced the flag bearers and other students associated with 13 different countries involved in the District Youth Exchange Program. Later in the evening the Band performed magnificently in their concert which completed a memorable opening session to our Conference.



OPENING THE CONFERENCE

Sergeant-at-Arms, Rod Birrell, after appropriate comments, invited Conference Chairman Geoff Chandler to proceed with the Official Opening of the Conference. Geoff introduced the Official Party.

The following message of good wishes sent by PP Heinz Tonn of the Rotary Club of Salzgitter-Wolfenbüttel was read by the Conference Chairman:

Rotary Club President Manfred Flotho and all the members of the Rotary Club of Salzgitter-Wolfenbüttel send best wishes for the forthcoming District Conference at Ocean Grove in March. That will be a highlight in the history of the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove. Furthermore, the public of the Bellarine Peninsula will get very much insight into the work of Rotary International, its Districts and Clubs. The Rotary Club of Salzgitter-Wolfenbüttel, D-1890, Germany, is very pleased to maintain a bridge of personal friendship with Ocean Grove. Good Luck and Best Wishes for your fascinating event.

*Yours in Rotary,
Manfred Flotho and all the members of
Salzgitter-Wolfenbüttel.*

(By way of explanation, this German Club has been very successfully matched with Ocean Grove for 13 years since the latter's Charter, forming a mutually productive, friendly relationship between members).

The Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, Cr. Gerry Smith, welcomed visitors to this region and declared the Conference officially open after he had described the features of Geelong and the proposed development of the area resulting from the present challenges and future predictions of change.

THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA

Hon. Richard McGarvie

"THE GOVERNOR AND DEMOCRACY"



Hon. Richard McGarvie compared the similarity in aim, approach and activity within the community by the Governor with those of the objectives of Rotary International, namely:

- Develop acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High standards of ethics in business and the professions;
- Application of the ideal of service in private, business, professional and community life, and
- Advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

He said "Governorship in Australian States today is substantially a free-standing institution."

It is "The responsibility of a Governor to serve and support our democracy - a priceless possession" and the Governor represents the whole community. An analysis of "Democracy" indicates three vital components:

- Constitutional structures - free elections, government, parliament, courts;
- Attitudes - a respect and concern for others, acceptance of responsibilities; and
- Confidence - citizens to have confidence in their community and its democracy.

It is the responsibility of the Governor to use all influence available to strengthen, improve and embrace these three components.

Constitutional Structures:

Hon. Richard McGarvie described how we are a democracy by convention, i.e. by custom or practice and the Governor complies with convention because it is constitutionally proper to do so.

"The Governor is the guardian of the Constitution of a representative democracy."

The Governor serves the democracy by ensuring there is a workable government and counsels Ministers. Counseling by a Governor is designed to ensure the principles of good government are practised and the integrity of the operation is maintained. This counselling process is entirely confidential. The Governor has "reserve power" which may be used to prevent the democratic process from being or being abused.

Attitudes:

The Governor described how he and Mrs. McGarvie worked together to build cohesion, not division, in the community. He emphasised that the things binding us are stronger than the things which divide us. He said:

"It is essential to encourage and praise volunteers in a community, to strengthen the family unit, to consider and attend to ethical values taught in education which defines the basic structure of a good civilisation and democracy. In Australia in the last 30 years most students have not been taught about our system of Government. If people are to make wise decisions, they must understand the present system of Government. All is aimed at serving the community."

Confidence:

The Governor and the Governor's spouse must be non-political. The Governor must be trusted by the community to do things properly and fairly, thus building confidence. People must have confidence in the democratic system.

Hon. Richard McGarvie concluded by saying:

"Rotary is a ray of hope. My observation is that an organisation which serves democracy extremely well, building the attitudes essential to democracy is Rotary International. On behalf of the whole community of Victoria, I wish you every strength and success in what you are doing."

THE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Friday evening, District Governor Henry presented a cheque for \$2,000 to Commodore Dacre Smyth, Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Shrine. The donation is to go towards the construction of the Rotary Auditorium and Gallery of Remembrance in the undercroft of the building.

Comdr Smyth said:

"Pilgrimages to the Shrine are a weekly occurrence. The Trustees hold a service on the third Sunday of every month. The Gallery of Remembrance is to remind the young of the sacrifices of their ancestors on their behalf, as well as being a reminder of the horrors and madness of war."

Comdr Smyth challenged us all, when in Melbourne, to take our children and grandchildren to the Shrine in order that they might appreciate the past and get the feel for sacrifice and service to others.

Saturday, 16 March 1996

**DIRECTOR,
KORIE RESEARCH
CENTRE,
MONASH
UNIVERSITY**



Rtn. Sharon Firebrace

**"IS THERE A PLACE FOR INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE IN MODERN CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIA?"**

Sharon, the first aboriginal member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, stressed the importance of applying Christian principles in seeking to answer this question. She referred to the tragic history of the indigenous Australians since Captain Arthur Phillip landed in Sydney Cove in 1788. This included inhumane treatment on mission stations, children removed from their parents, mass killings and many other acts of savagery aimed at destroying and eliminating all aboriginal people.

"The land is the mother and the giver and provider of everything", said Sharon.

Despite recent efforts to improve the living standards of aboriginal people, there is still a long way to go, she said. She quoted current statistics which showed:

- that child mortality among aborigines is three times that of the general population;
- youth suicide is the highest in the world;
- adult life expectancy is 15-20 years less than whites;
- child malnutrition is 20 times greater than whites.

"These are the hard cold facts which hinder us, haunt us, restrain us and weaken our ability to move on, to better ourselves, to achieve in the education system or in a job or to advance ourselves, our families and our communities. This is the evidence and source of our socio-economic frustration,

marginalisation and the binding shackles of welfare dependency and low economic status",

said Ms. Firebrace. In searching for solutions to these problems Sharon emphasised:

"The need for aborigines to break the shackles of welfare dependency and strive for economic self-sufficiency. Access and ownership of land, the acquisition of skills and education for all were necessary prerequisites."

She lamented the fact that only 29% of aboriginal students progress to Year 12 in our secondary schools but praised the increasing involvement of aboriginal women in higher education.

"We need to be organised, skilled, educated, articulate and able to contribute to our communities and be accountable for every cent we are funded for and to act with integrity at all times."

Human rights for all Australians and the elimination of racism are two great challenges we face, said Ms. Firebrace. She quoted Martin Luther King, who said "We should not be judged by the colour of our skins but by the content of our characters." She expressed strong support for a Bill of Rights which includes recognition of the indigenous people as the first Australians, with rights to the land and full citizenship rights - already achieved in Canada in 1982.

In closing, Sharon called for all Rotarians to become involved in the reconciliation process and to set an example to other Australians.

"We must take our place alongside all other Australians and show courage, show leadership, raise awareness, find solutions and be part of the solution. Let us build together a place for all of us."

MEMBERSHIP

District Committee Chairman, PDG Dennis Wilson, reported on membership trends in D-9780 during the 1990s. He stated that there were some disturbing features, including:

- falling numbers in many Clubs;
- increasing average age of Rotarians;
- a narrowing mix of classifications.

Dennis said "These factors reduce the capacity of Rotary Clubs to meet their goals."

The audience was shown a slide of a membership graph which indicated a peak in 1990. Since that time D-9780 has lost around 100 members in spite of the formation of two new Rotary Clubs. As well as attracting new members, Clubs need to answer the question "Why do we lose members?"

Assistance is available to Clubs in the form of publications which, in many Clubs, languish in filing cabinets unused. "The District Committee is ready and willing to assist Clubs when asked," said Dennis.

In closing, Dennis challenged all Rotarians to:

- Check your Club's performance re membership;
- Make sure it uses all the avenues of information and assistance available to it;
- Insist that it has an active, vigorous, successful and continuing strategy to obtain and retain members - particularly young members;
- Remember you are the most important part of the process.

Rotary's future depends on you!

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

District Committee Chairman, Rtn. Barbara Abley, attributed the success of her Committee to its broad-ranging membership and to its willingness to travel to all parts of D-9780.

The Committee's focus was on YOUTH with particular emphasis on encouraging "at risk" children to continue with their schooling. Barbara congratulated the many Clubs who had established productive relationships with their local schools.

"Operation Livewire" was alive and well in D-9780, said Barbara when introducing Rtn. Rob Thomas of the Rotary Club of Torquay. Rob was mentor to Lee Thompson who had a passion for yabby farming and wanted to turn it into a viable business enterprise. Rob spent many hours with Lee at conferences and researching various aspects such as finance and marketing. Ultimately Lee made an excellent project submission and presentation to the judges who awarded him 2nd place in Victoria - an outstanding achievement.

Barbara urged Rotarians to use the full range of classifications in their quest for new members. She made a light-hearted challenge to the audience to enter in the Conference competition to provide a unique classification. The prize was a computer software package "Microsoft Money" donated by Think Technology, Geelong.

Barbara believes

"Vocational Service rocks the cradle of Rotary."

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

District Committee Chairman, PP Kevin Donaldson, outlined the objectives of RYLA which reflect Rotary's respect and concern for Youth. These aims are realised at the annual RYLA Camp currently held at Kangarooie, near Princetown.

Kevin listed the goals of the Camp which include helping young people:

- train for youth leadership roles;
- develop greater confidence and self-esteem;
- explore new career paths;
- exchange ideas and make new friends;
- consider peaceful means of conflict resolution.

The co-operation of the Host Club is essential for the success of the RYLA Camp, said Kevin. He praised the Rotary Club of Colac West for its contribution. The provision of the "Camp Mum and Dad", holding a weekly dinner meeting at the Camp and assisting with the daily organization are just some of the ways in which the Host Club contributes.

Experienced professional seminar leaders, assisted by former Rylarians, provide a varied and worthwhile program throughout the week. Numerous opportunities for socialization of the participants are provided, culminating in a Concert and presentation of Certificates by the District Governor. The Camp rules are strictly enforced and accepted by all participants. Alcohol and tobacco are banned and special provision is made for those with health problems.

Kevin quoted examples of former Rylarians who benefited from the Camp as demonstrated by promotion in their work, taking new career paths and in a general lift in their self-image.

Kevin closed by thanking all Rotary Clubs who sponsored the 53 young people who attended the 1995 Camp.

ROTARACT

District Representative, Scott Campbell, reported on the activities of Rotaract in D-9780. He made the following points:

- Rotaract's name is derived from Rotary and Action;
- Rotaract has a membership of 150,000 young adults in 6,000 Clubs in 134 countries;
- The aims are similar to Rotary's with an emphasis on personal development of members;
- The District Assembly promotes such topics as public speaking, motivation and self-esteem, personal and club goal setting;
- The liaison between a Rotaract Club and its sponsor Rotary Club is critical to the success of Rotaract;
- Three major events are the District Conference, the District Camp and the District Project;
- D-9780 Rotaract has in excess of 150 members in 12 Clubs placing it in the top two Districts in ANZO;
- Rotaract in D-9780 has raised many thousands of dollars for charities through fund raising efforts like wheelathons and the annual Santa project.

Scott referred to the problem of recruiting young people in today's environment. He asked for Rotary's continuing support so that Rotaract can continue to provide a service to young adults and to their communities.

POSTER

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POSTER DISPLAY

In order to involve as many Rotarians as possible in the production of this Conference, a major contribution from our Clubs was requested through the District Governor/Group Representatives. They were invited to contribute to the Poster Display by developing appropriate presentations relevant to the Clubs in their Group and their area of this District.

In addition, some researchers who had received finance from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund were each invited to contribute a poster on their work and to be available to discuss their project with Conference registrants. This provided a valuable occasion for researchers to speak and to explain the significance and relevance of their projects. The researchers were very enthusiastic for this opportunity. The Chairman of the ARHRF was co-operative in this new approach.

This innovation of a major Display at a Conference gave Rotarians and friends an opportunity to examine the activities and interests of the District's Clubs as well as other aspects of Rotary such as Siemens Science Schools (Science Schools Foundation), Preserve Planet Earth, Preserve Our Cultural Heritage, Rotary Australia World Community Service, National Science Youth Forum, Rotary and Modern Technology - the Computer, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary Documents, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Vocational Service and Inner Wheel. In addition, sponsors of the Conference were given the chance to exhibit.

The interest, complimentary comments and time spent by the audience in examining the material justly rewarded the contributors to the presentation.



Cathy Roth



Brendan Howard

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chairman, PDG Ellis Bickley, reported that D-9780 contributions to Rotary Foundation in 1994-95 were the second highest on record, 141% of target, 880, 40 persons were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows. Although 23 Australians were awarded scholarships, in the same year 67 scholars came to Australia, hence financially Australia ANZO region lags behind the rest of the world in per capita level of contributions. Unfortunately no scholar will be sponsored in 1995-97 because none of the three applicants was judged up to standard.

Rotarians as individuals can help the Rotary Foundation by writing out a cheque which is tax deductible, and by becoming a benefactor. Tangible evidence of the Foundation's Program is the 1200 Scholarships, about 500 teams and 800 matching grants around the world during the year.

Clubs should invite returned Scholars and GSE members to speak, and to take the opportunity to be involved in joint meetings of GSE teams visiting the District.

PolioPlus is an ongoing program - commenced in 1986 and continues as a general immunisation program in the world, e.g. in Turkey, Albania, Cuba, Central Asian republics.

Make a positive commitment to the Rotary Foundation please!

MATCHING GRANTS

PP Cathy Roth said "The paper work is really easy; use the District Committee to assist you. The Foundation matches your Club's dollar."

In D-9780 projects are being pursued in Fiji (Water), Java (Water), South Africa (Mobile Polio vaccine facility). Already approved is a project in Bangladesh, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Geelong in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka. This project is a long term program based on a revolving loan fund of capital for disadvantaged youth as a self-help employment concept. In essence, through a Matching Grant the Rotary Club of Geelong raised \$5,000 but with assistance from "Ausaid", the initial \$2,500 gave a \$20,000 benefit.

"Why don't you too seize such an opportunity!!"

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Brendan Howard, the D-9780 Scholar in 1994, indicated that this scholarship gave him the opportunity to fulfil a dream to further study "Town Planning" and gain new skills and ideas through a program in England. He said:

"The experiences gained and the friendships made are immeasurable; the people met come from a wide range and diverse set of backgrounds - all this leads to an understanding of the host country and its people. The strength of the scholarship is in being an ambassador, as well as the educational value. In addition, mixing with other scholarship holders is immensely beneficial."

Brendan acknowledges scholars have a responsibility to respond and contribute to the community through their work and new skills. This knowledge will enable him to more effectively appreciate our fragile environment, the cities and the communities we serve.

To appreciate the challenges ahead and promote better communities is a fundamental objective. Scholars are grateful for Rotary's support and realise Rotarians are responsible for these outcomes.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

District Sub-Committee Chairman, Rtn. Peter Hudson, introduced the visiting team and our own team. The GSE program is unique in that Rotarians can experience it, see, hear, and touch on a first hand basis - a person to person educational and vocational opportunity, thus leading to better understanding and friendly relationships among people of the world. Team members have the opportunity to study their own particular vocation, the institutions, ways of life and culture of another country. Rotarians have the chance to exchange ideas and develop acquaintances which can become lasting friendships, particularly by participating as a host family which is a rewarding experience.

D-9780 Team:

Leader: Rtn. David Hatherell.
Members: Fereal Allie, Tanya Barnes, Martin Dunstan and Michael Saunders.

D-7280 Team from Pennsylvania, USA:

Leader: Rtn. Ralph Detweiler.
Members: Kathleen Brenneman, James DeDad, Pamela Fickes and Edward Grode.

Rtn. Ralph Detweiler expressed greetings and salutations from USA and, in particular, from DG Dr. George Hart. The D-7280 team followed with their presentation.



D-9780 Team
L to R: M. Saunders, T. Barnes, D. Hatherell, F. Allie and M. Dunstan



D-7280
Team Leader:
Rtn. Ralph Detweiler



Kathleen Brenneman



James DeDad



Pamela Fickes



Edward Grode

DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

Rtn. Graham Morris

"WILL MUSEUMS BE RELEVANT IN THE 21st CENTURY?"



Graham Morris spoke of the principles behind the design and thinking of the new museum in Melbourne, a \$250 million project with an opportunity to re-examine the museum's impact on and requirements of the community. "Life is full of opportunities, not full of problems" said Graham.

According to Graham Morris "Musty, crusty, dusty, fusty and perhaps trusty" are words to describe the classical museum. The problems with museums: "They are universally boring and the impressions are boring".

Are we condemned to build another boring place? Can we deliver something different?"

"What can a museum do?" he asked. Firstly, examine the truth about itself, particularly about the people going to use it. The Exhibition Building is one of the world's great buildings. The brief to architects in essence was "Design a museum that people want. They do not want a dreadful experience."

The public must find it easily, with a car park on site, get in easily, find a toilet, find their way around the place. They do not want to see the whole thing in a day. The idea is to incorporate a series of museums within a museum, e.g. children's museum, aboriginal centre run by the aboriginal community. Museums with stuffed animals in them turn children off. The symbol of a contemporary museum is the "Gallery of Light - with living things in it, living world, walkways in the trees."

Graham said:

"Anthropologists study the vanquished - Historians study the vanquishers. Aboriginal culture is turning around to history." Graham Morris explained that the museum for the 21st Century must be designed to respond to the needs of people, programs will change every two to three years - new exhibitions, new thinking, new technology. "Musty, crusty, dusty and fusty must go, but trusty and fun are to be the keynotes of a museum."

"Our museum is the world leader in information technology but everyone still loves to see the real object." Graham Morris raised some fundamental issues - "An experience is more important than just seeing." The fundamental question is "What is the impact of the museum on the community and the real relevance of a museum?"

"A museum should be stimulating the desire to learn. The real purpose is to provide experiences backed up with some real objects to give the sense of reality, but it is essential to send people out the front door wanting to know more."

The basic questions to be asked:
"What will people go away with? What moves them, what triggers them? What provides a genuine impact?"
Then Graham applied the same questioning to Rotary:
"Are Rotarians having a real impact, a genuine full-scale impact on the community? If the answer is 'yes', you can walk home with your head held high!"

PRESERVE PLANET EARTH THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION.

PDG Ken Neil, a member of RI's Environment Concerns International Committee, presented a report on Rotary's continuing involvement with the environment.



Since Past RI President Paulo Costa introduced Preserve Planet Earth in 1991 a great deal has been achieved by Rotarians around the world. A wide range of issues have been confronted by Clubs including tree planting, landcare, cleaning up areas, recycling, preservation of natural resources, global warming, salinity problems and the greenhouse effect.

Ken deplored the fact that the environment was being used as a "political football" when it should be above party politics. It was up to Rotarians and others to promote action in favour of a healthier environment for all. Ken called on the many Rotarians who have the chance to influence decisions on the environment to do so.

RI was working closely with the United Nations on environmental issues with RI PP Paulo Costa, Rotary's representative at the UN. Ken reported that "The work of Rotary in 'Preserving Planet Earth' has been recognised by its nomination for the Nobel Prize."

Australia's Rotary Clubs have an excellent record of achievement in PPE projects such as:

- seeding and planting programs in schools;
- campaign for eradication of rabbits;
- trees for saline soils;
- greening projects along freeways;
- freshwater research in the Murray-Darling basin.

"D-9780 is to be commended for its many and varied contributions" said Ken. Tree planting, gardens for the elderly, Rotary parks, creek ecological developments are just some of the successes.

In conclusion, Ken congratulated D-9780 on its great support for PPE and affirmed that:

"Rotarians are making a difference."

RABBITS AND OTHER FERAL ANIMALS.

PP Dr. Tony Della-Porta, a leading scientist at the CSIRO's Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, spoke on the incredible damage done to our environment by rabbits and other feral animals. Tony referred to the fact that Australia was in a delicate state of balance with Nature.

"As an island continent with its own unique range of animals and plants, Australia was protected from predators prior to the arrival of the First Fleet. The introduction of exotic animal species such as the rabbit has had disastrous results for our environment. There were many other feral animals which were doing untold damage to our native fauna and flora."

Examples were foxes, cats, goats, mules, horses, camels, buffaloes and pigs which were also major sources of exotic diseases. The sea star and the European carp were creating serious damage to our marine environment and inland waterways.

In the 1940s it was estimated that there were 600 million rabbits across Australia. This was reduced to 60

million in the 1960's thanks to Myxomatosis. Today the figure is up to 300 million which compete with livestock for pasture, eradicate native species and cause massive soil erosion.

Tony outlined some of the rabbit controls such as baiting, biological control, shooting, fumigating which have had limited success in the past. He went on to explain the most recent control - the Rabbit Calicivirus which has been used successfully in Europe and China since 1994.

Tony assured the audience that the Calicivirus was "rabbit specific" having been tested on 28 different species including domestic and feral animals, as well as native animals, e.g. birds and reptiles. "It only kills rabbits" he said. He strongly criticised the controversial 60 Minutes program which raised unwarranted fears about the Calicivirus affecting humans. "There is absolutely no evidence of any human being affected since its introduction in 1994 in Europe and Chile", said Tony.

The Calicivirus has been trialled on an island off the coast of South Australia and has now spread to the mainland killing 98% of rabbits along the way. Already there was evidence of the regrowth of native grasses not seen for decades. In conclusion, Tony urged that "We reject the RABBIT as a warm and cuddly animal and replace it with the gentle BILBY as our Easter chocolate offering."

PRESERVE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE (POCH).

Chairman of the POCH District Committee, Ptn. Roger Trudgeon, summarised the progress made by this new committee formed at the behest of DG Henry Hudson. Roger explained that cultural heritage was a broad concept which covered many things. Historic buildings, monuments and sites such as the Eureka Stockade, old photos, diaries, books, movable objects and equipment used in our daily lives - are just some of the main areas of our cultural heritage which we need to preserve for future generations.

"The storehouses are museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, national parks and national trust buildings and sites" said Roger.

Roger went on to state that D-9780 was rich in resources having nearly a half of all the museums in Victoria located within its boundaries. Outstanding examples were found at the National Wool Museum (Geelong), Sovereign Hill (Ballarat), Flagstaff Hill (Warrambbool), Pioneer Settlement (Swan Hill), The Maritime Centre and Fort at Queenscliff, and museums at Mt. Gambier and Naracoorte.

"Rotarians were among the many volunteers who contribute approximately 20,000 hrs/week to historical societies and museums around Victoria" said Roger.

Outlining the progress made by the POCH Committee during its brief existence, Roger made the following points:

- all Clubs had been informed about POCH;
- a survey of existing Club activities in heritage had been undertaken;
- a data base for D-9780 was being compiled;
- advice, support and speakers were offered to Clubs.

Roger commended a number of Clubs for initiatives they had taken to Preserve Our Cultural Heritage.

He praised the following Rotary Clubs:

- **Casterton** - for establishing a new museum precinct,
- **Horsham** - surveying past and present district school sites,
- **Nhill** - assisting in the refurbishment of the old Historical Society building,
- **Geelong** - on leasing the old Geelong Gaol, providing guided tours and other activities inside the walls.

Many other Clubs were supportive of their local historical societies, said Roger, who concluded by urging all Rotarians to become involved in preserving our priceless cultural heritage.



Before



"I am sure they'll work", Coral Baker, the aquarium manager



After - what a transformation!



The happy registration team-
Geoff Brentnall, Bob and Shirley Osbourne and Jan Chandler



The band in concert



"My word, you do look swell", Sergeant-at-Arms Rod Birrell

Peter Smith
"I've been to Samoa!"

Barbara Abley, Vocational Service



The House of Friendship



Knitting for Henry!



The Party is over! Well done, Ocean Grove!



Food and Fellowship



"Do you understand that?" Dennis Wilson



The Rotary Choir



"I am thinking!" Ellis Bickley



Lone Piper, Fort Queenscliff

OLYMPIC ATHLETE AND SCIENTIST

Mr. John Landy

"ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN SPORT"



Before John Landy was introduced, a tape was played of the historic mile race at the 1954 Commonwealth Games held at Vancouver when Roger Bannister narrowly defeated John Landy with both of them breaking the four minute barrier.

John listed three fundamental ingredients for success in sport, namely talent, dedication and focus. He cited Don Bradman as an outstanding example of a sportsman with all of these three qualities in abundance. Others in the same category were athlete Herb Elliott, unbeaten in mile races, and swimmer Dawn Fraser who won gold medals at successive Olympics. Geelong footballer Gary Ablett is the most talented ball player John has ever seen.

While talent is God-given, dedication and focus are open to influence by the individual's attitude and character. John illustrated this by reference to two current Australian champions, Cathy Watt and Kieren Perkins. Cathy was an outstanding junior athlete but her career was cut short by problems with her Achilles tendons. She switched to cycling and her dedication and desire to succeed resulted in her winning a gold medal at Barcelona. Kieren Perkins walked through a plate glass window at the age of 12 and took to swimming to become world champion at the 1500 metres.

John referred to a few outstanding athletes whose creative thinking had influenced those who came after them. The great Czech distance runner Emil Zatopek with his repetitive training had influenced people's attitude to physical fitness. Polly Farmer had changed football tactics with his clever use of handball.

The main differences between athletics in the 1950s and today were then outlined. The first of these was finance. John related that the citizens of Geelong paid for his fares and expenses to attend the Helsinki Olympics in 1952. Today sufficient funding is available to send over 400 Australians to Atlanta. Today, athletes have no limits placed on the rewards they can receive, with Carl Lewis, for example, earning millions of dollars in sponsorship. In John's day, an athlete was barred for accepting a camera as a gift for winning an event.

Other significant changes were in the areas of organisation, science and sports medicine, diet, training tracks, footwear and equipment. In regard to diet, John confessed that in December '52 he ran one of his best ever races after attending a cocktail party the night before and devouring two pies and a chocolate nut sundae an hour or so before the event. However, he didn't recommend this to today's young athletes.

ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (RAWCS)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Chairman, PDG Ken Broadbent, explained that RAWCS was Rotary Australia's umbrella organisation for its World Community Service. He listed the five major divisions of RAWCS:

- FAIM Fourth Avenue in Motion
- IPAC International Projects Advisory C'Tee.
- DiK Donations in Kind.
- SWSL Save Water, Save Lives.
- RAM Rotary Against Malaria.

Ken reported on current re-organisation of RAWCS to improve efficiency and to ensure that we are supplying the help that the recipients actually need and want. He stressed that, contrary to some rumours, FAIM and IPAC will continue under RAWCS.

The importance of training and positive feedback was emphasised by Ken. He referred to a recent project in PNG when a team of Rotarians built three ferro-concrete water tanks with the help of the local people. Ken was thrilled to learn that, since the visit, a further 16 tanks had been built by Papua-New Guineans.



Ken Broadbent

FAIM.

PP Barry Bell reported recent and current projects include:

- Kokoda Trail Project which was opened by Prime Minister Keating in September 1995. Some 250 Rotarians were active participants in this worthy project which involved construction of a hospital, a museum, an airport shelter and hikers' huts.
- Western Samoa where a FAIM team built cyclone shelters with materials provided by the NZ Government.
- Tonga, where the Vaiola Hospital is in need of renovation and upgrading.

Barry nominated Samoa, PNG and Torres Strait Islands as future recipients of FAIM projects.

PP Peter Smith, who had just returned from Samoa, spoke of his experience. He was loud in his praise for the Samoans who worked with him on the FAIM project. The highlights of his stay were firstly the wonderful singing at the church service with Samoans in their immaculate white dress and secondly, the reserved welcome for the FAIM team and the unreserved, emotional farewell on their departure. Peter stated that the FAIM trip had been a most rewarding and heart-warming experience and urged all Rotarians to consider being involved.



John Oswald

INTERPLAST.

Rtn. Dr. John Oswald outlined the aims of this program to provide plastic surgical services to countries in the SW Pacific. Over the years, teams of volunteer Australian plastic surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses have visited countries such as Mauritius, Fiji, PNG and more recently Indonesia. A major aspect of their visit is to train local surgeons and health workers in modern plastic surgery techniques. In addition, a number of health workers have been brought to Australia for training in our hospitals. John showed slides to illustrate some of the children who had benefited from plastic surgery for burns and other facial injuries.

Each trip costs approximately \$20,000 and Rotary contributed 10% of the \$325,000 spent last financial year. John thanked D-9780 Clubs for their support of Interplast. He concluded by saying that he believed:

"Interplast represented the best value for the Rotary International Aid Dollar and that Rotary was the oil in the wheels of Interplast."

TUALLY SHIELD.

Chairman of the Selection Committee, PP Cathy Roth, reported that a number of excellent entries had been received for this new award for the best inter-Club or joint-Club project. PDG Geoff Tually presented the trophy to the Rotary Club of Ballarat West for its twinning project between the St. John of God Hospital Ballarat and the Vaiola Hospital in Tonga.

SPECIAL AWARDS.

Recognition of outstanding Community Service was made to:

Rtn. Dr. John Oswald
for his excellent leadership and organisation in Interplast and in the Vaiola Hospital project.

Rotary Club of Cobden
for its miniature railway project and lakeside development.

SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Three activities were available:

"Beating the Retreat"
at the Command and Staff College, Fort Queenscliff. Thanks to Brigadier P. McNamara, who willingly rescheduled this military ceremony so that our registrants could have the opportunity to attend this impressive event. Despite the cold weather 273 visitors attended and were well rewarded for their stoicism.

"Suma Park."
A dinner with supporting jazz singer provided 130 patrons with a pleasant evening of entertainment, food and fellowship.

"MV Queenscliff"
Despite the bad weather and no distribution of seasickness tablets, 270 brave people boarded the ferry at 9.15 pm. Their sense of adventure was well rewarded, not only by the voyage around Southern Port Phillip, but also dancing (normal and line) and musical entertainment.



"Beating the Retreat" - Brm!



At Fort Queenscliff

Sunday, 17 March 1996

INTERNATIONAL
ECUMENICAL
SERVICE

Rev. John Roberts

**"THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF SERVICE"**



The Sunday morning service was conducted by former Rotarian, Rev. John Roberts, who was ably assisted by two Youth Exchange students, Santawagomon Yada from Thailand and Alistair Scarrott from Colac. Alistair read from the Old Testament while Santawagomon, resplendent in her national dress, read from The Sayings of Buddha. A Rotarian choir led the hymn singing under the baton of PDG Alf Swan with PP Cec Stott at the organ. John quoted the late Lord R.G. Casey when he was Governor of Bengal and a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta which had a diverse membership of Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims:

"The principles of Rotary have always appealed to me as reflecting some of the worthwhile admonitions of the Bible in respect of the attitudes of humans towards one another."

John went on to say that the priceless concept of "Service Above Self" together with integrity, love, compassion and a passionate desire for peace were principles to be found in all the major world religions. These principles are encompassed in RI President Herb Brown's theme for the 1995-96 Rotary Year - "Act with Integrity, Serve with Love and Work for Peace." "Act with Integrity", the undergirding principle of service, "Moant probity, honesty, justice, trust in our dealings with others" said John. He affirmed that integrity provides the moral impetus for service to others and nothing in Rotary ever calls for a Rotarian to compromise with integrity. John quoted the old adage - "What you do speaks so loudly I can't hear what you say."

"Serve with Love" was analysed as being "Not just a glorious feeling but as a conscious choice of will, as a gift of ourselves to others and the road that leads to life." John called on Rotarians to release the energy of love which helps to build a better society.

"Work for Peace", was considered at length. John claimed "That 'peace' was not just freedom from war but had a much more positive, deeper and wider meaning." He quoted the Jewish Rabbi who said - "The highest task of any individual is to establish right relationships with other people."

In working for peace, John stated that we must be right within ourselves before we can establish right relationships with others. Rotarians must have inner peace and inner resources if they are to contribute to this worthy goal.

In closing, John told the story of a Catholic Priest working at a rice kitchen in Saigon soon after the end of the Vietnam war. Across the road stood an old Vietnamese woman, her body twisted and scarred by napalm. After a while she crossed the street and spoke to the Priest. "You feed Christians?" she said. "Yes" the Priest replied. "You feed Buddhists?" "Yes." "You feed Communists?" "Yes." The old lady looked the Priest in the eye and said "I have always believed there are people somewhere in the world like you."

"Rotarians are these kind of people" said John.

PRESIDENT, THE ROYAL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Prof. Weston Bate
"A PAST WORTH DYING FOR"

The Cultural Heritage of D-9780

Prof. Bate described the relevance and impact of the past on the present state of our region. He asked us to recognise two aspects of the "Past"

- "Those people who made it and are now dead deserve celebration, and
- we must be proud of it as a most precious possession."

He described D-9780 from the time of the Aborigines, then the transformation of this whole area by European pastoral development, the impact of gold discovery, the energy sources driving these developments ultimately succumbing to technology as it moves across the land.

"The great basalt plain stretching to the west was an aboriginal Eden. The plain, mountains, forests, wonderful coast and big rivers have provided aboriginal people with a place they inhabited, with spirituality and it was occupied with a sense of sharing. Their philosophy, we should embrace, a philosophy of sharing and that we belong to the land, not the land belongs to us."

Prof. Bate discussed the first great experience of the Europeans in our region, namely pastoral development which moved from the Western District across New South Wales. With the coming of the sheep industry of 1850s, homes changed from the simple pioneer dwelling to the bluestone homestead, towns developed and the ports of Portland, Port Fairy and Warrambool became significant.

"One of the world's most remarkable gold rushes existed in this Rotary District. A huge heritage for us has resulted from the discovery of gold."

Gold transformed the pastoral industry. Now, to offset fluctuating wool prices, sheep were sold for meat, properties grow fodder for the teams of horses which were the energy providers of townships and gold fields. Weston outlined the radical liberal politics of the mining industry - fair go for all, eight hour day, ideal of a vote for everyone.

He used Ballarat as an example - immense gold deposits, water, forests, volcanic soils, skilled educated entrepreneurial migrants who created a magnificent city in one generation. Practical democracy after Eureka, when authority was unable to understand that these people were "real, thinking, creative beings." Diggers organised their own rules for mining - the strongest democratic move of the time: out of the gold fields came "unionism".

Weston told a fascinating story of the far reaching outcomes of the gold fields, e.g. transformation of farming, interest in machinery. In 1862, the railway came to Ballarat, in 1870s to the Wimmera thence the wheatlands were opened up and agricultural machinery became the driving force, otherwise they could not work the vastness of the region. Part of the drama of our heritage is Victoria's pivotal place in the 19th Century history of Australia. Cattle and sheep from even Queensland were driven down and held on the Murray-Darling frontages. Through 1860s, Echuca was called the "oesophagus of Victoria." Swan Hill was an important entry point for the "on the hoof" great protein supply that fuelled the diggers on the goldfields.

Prof. Bate then discussed a side issue associated with the "gold rush" and the colonisation of Victoria, namely the incidence of shipwrecks along the coast of south western Victoria. Because of the activity and vitality of the migration, many great clipper ships sailed to Port Phillip, but some met disaster after entering the western approach to Bass Strait. This mighty heritage is acknowledged as one of Victoria's tourism features.

Following the gold rush in the great body of gold towns and pastoral expansion, consolidation occurred, closer settlement of farming, irrigation, fruit, dairying, engineering works for water and irrigation supply. Technology became the driving force - horses fuelled by fodder, steam engines by wood, gas from New South Wales coal, electricity from Victorian brown coal. Local communities lost their drive, disempowered by technology and change - where have flour milling, brewing, baking, gone? The motor car, barbed wire fences, superphosphate, trace elements were other aspects of the march of technology.

Prof. Bate declared:

"The 'Past' is evidenced all the time in the communities in which we live. Heritage is not about objects, heritage is about meanings. Heritage must have a framework. Rotarians can encourage and assist in our understanding of who we are and what has made us by assisting their communities develop a sense of place."



Professor Weston Bate



Clare Death

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAM OF ENRICHMENT

District Committee Chairman, Ftn. Ron McLeod, reported on this important youth activity which aims to give living skills to young people in the age group 15-17 years.

Ron explained that the 1995 RYPEN took the form of a weekend seminar at a motel in Warrambool. He thanked the Clubs who sponsored participants at a cost of \$120 per student. The program included:

- a public speaking session;
- a mock trial in the Courthouse;
- visits to a funeral parlour and to the Surf Club;
- a Tai Chi session;
- a formal dinner and guest speaker;
- a disco;
- forums on alcohol abuse, the environment; police and road safety, etc..

The whole program is "hands on" and good fun, said Ron.

The feedback from past RYPEN students has been very positive and proved that RYPEN is a worthwhile Rotary project.

In closing Ron challenged D-9780 Clubs to consider hosting RYPEN for the next three years. *"If they do they will find it a very rewarding experience."*

CRA NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

Clare Death, one of the 288 participants at this year's forum, spoke in glowing terms of her experience in Canberra. Clare was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ballarat East.

During the two weeks in Canberra, Clare made half day visits to nine different scientific institutions including:

- the NASA Space Science Centre;
- CSIRO Plant Science Centre;
- John Curtin School of Medical Research; and
- the Research School of Biological Science at the ANU.

She mixed with a wide range of scientists and participated in a number of small experiments using sophisticated equipment not available in schools.

The need for scientists to be able to communicate was emphasised with sessions on public speaking, mock job interviews and forum debates. Clare came to appreciate that Science was no longer an experiment in a textbook but was a wonderfully diverse, challenging and exciting career.

Clare thanked CRA and Rotary for giving her the opportunity to be part of this forum. To conclude, Clare quoted from her diary at the end of the fortnight:

"The CRA National Youth Science Forum was an extremely beneficial and simply amazing experience. I loved everything about it and I had a ball. I made some fantastic friends. I saw many things that broadened my scientific horizons and my ideas about life and myself."

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

District Committee Chairman, Rtn. Ian Weekley, congratulated D-9780 Clubs for having the highest participation rate, 88%, of all 23 Rotary Districts in Australia.

Ian reported that new links were being forged with South Africa, Sweden, Poland, the British Isles and Indonesia.

This would provide a greater diversity of cultures for our exchange students.

It was stressed by Ian that Youth Exchange is not a holiday. Exchange students undergo considerable stress with homesickness and in adapting to their host countries' customs. In the end however, nearly all exchange students agree that "The year was the greatest experience of their lives."

Is YEP still worthwhile? The answer, in Ian's view, is very much in the positive despite problems which arise from time to time. He quoted one former student who spoke for many others when he said:

"We now have families over here and over there and we understand some of their problems and the way they live because we have lived it."

Ian reported that D-9780 was involved with 50 outbound and inbound students. 600 young Australians participated in YEP during the past year with 9,000 YEP students worldwide - an outstanding contribution to youth and international understanding. He claimed that Australian Rotary has an enviable reputation for the quality of its YEP.

To conclude, Ian thanked all Rotary Clubs and their Counsellors for their excellent support. He singled out *"The host family MUMS as deserving of special praise."*

Three young people gave brief talks on their experiences as exchange students. They were Nicola Wendisch (Germany), Amanda Marshall (Horsham) and Yukari Ogawa (Japan). Here are a few of their comments:

Nicola -

- "I found Warrambool has more than one season in a day."
- "As a 16 year old, coming to Australia was the biggest step to undertake."
- "Thanks Rotary for the most exciting and wonderful experience in the world."

Amanda -

- "My year in Wisconsin, USA has changed my life as I am now a more mature and independent person."
- "My host Club knew nothing about Australia. They do now."
- "US life is not what you see in the movies."
- "US people are very proud of their country."

Yukari -

- "I love Australian animals except for the flies in summer."
- "I like schools here where students are called by their first name. In Japan you are called by a number."
- "Rotary and host families have been very kind to me."
- "When I return to Japan I will try to be a good ambassador for Australia."

"Everyone associated with Rotary should take pride in the fact that YEP is the greatest opportunity that could ever be offered to a teenager." Amanda.

The audience was then entertained with a delightful Scottish Dance by Debra Rossol from Canada, followed by a heart warming rendition of "Heal the World" by all exchange students on stage.

DG Henry congratulated all students on their appearance and outstanding contribution to the Conference. He presented retiring District Chairman, Ian Weekley, with a special award to recognise his selfless service to the YEP over many years.



Ian Weekley



Debra Rossol, Canada and Piper Jim McLure



Aquiles Delgado from Mexico

ROTARY
FOUNDATION

PDG Dr. John Thorne

**"ROTARY IS TODAY
AND TOMORROW"**

A View of the Future of Rotary



John brought greetings to our Conference from the many Rotarians who were attending the Rotary Foundation Zone Co-ordinators' Seminar in Evanston, USA.

Dr. Thorne asked "What will be Rotary's role 25 years from now?" Over just ten years there have been major changes in our world, e.g. new concept of a library, electric cars, computers, working from home, less human contact, cleaning of water. His examination of scientific research papers indicates that by 2020 AD women will become more powerful in Society. "Current rash of violence against women is probably a back-lash of the thinking of men who cannot cope, thus causing women to be the target."

John suggested there is much to be said "For being realistically gloomy about the future and not much to be said for being irresponsibly cheerful. If you are gloomy you are unlikely to be proved wrong by history! Yet I believe the future will be positive and even marvellous. Already there are numerous hints at a better world in health and general life aids that have followed on from the space program. There are hints that childhood diseases could decrease with appropriate care and, of course, Rotary in this matter is a leader."

Dr. Thorne listed some of the spinoffs of "Space Research" according to Kennedy Space Centre, e.g. continuous insulin infusion pumps, an advanced wheel chair, vehicle controller for handicapped, water recycling, laser heart surgery, safety for fire officers. But he indicated there were some negatives, for example, today "privacy is a myth, a CD ROM will replace books." 1,500 scientists have warned all humanity of future problems with respect to the current rate of population growth, water resources - there are serious shortages in 80 countries, the environment - river pollution, atmospheric pollution, forests, state of the oceans, soil degradation.

"What of the Future?", he asked. John proposed that there were "three futures" -

- Probable Future - futurists talk - tell what it will be like;
- Possible Future - series of alternatives reasonably likely - different events; and
- Preferable Future - the alternative that an individual or organisation, e.g. a Rotary Club can select - an ideal vision of future. This action empowers you or your Rotary Club or your family. "Control of one's destiny is taken into one's own hands - a critical role for individuals in their personal, professional and social life. The Path to the Future may not be perfectly smooth, but we can control how wild it will be."

The troubles of youth have increasingly captured the attention of all citizens because they affect the entire nation. Growing up has never been easy for anyone.

"We are not doing a good job in helping young people down the difficult road to adulthood. Most frightening, children get into trouble at younger ages in Australia."

Marvelous and dreadful things are happening. Many young people are troubled. What can we do? Human issues - values, capabilities and leadership.

"No matter how fantastic the scientific and other advances, to just cope we must upgrade our human relationship skills to higher and higher levels. Rotary is all about values, capabilities and leadership. Difficult to grow leaders. All management skills are entwined with integrity, character and sound judgment."

"Rotary's assets are its people. We must create environments in our Clubs that attract and nurture talented people of leadership. Our destiny is not a matter of chance, but a matter of choice."

John indicated there is currently a gulf between the rate of technology progress and the rate of progress in human relationships. It is the critical difference between management and leadership and we need leadership to even reach 2020 with dignity.

"We need to redesign our own Rotary around values so that we can increase our productivity, i.e. Service. The future belongs to those people who believe in the beauty of their own dreams."

Dr. Thorne explained the one factor in the equation for success in say twenty years' time is the human factor. Most informed commentators believe we have not kept pace in our human skills with technological advances.

"Rotary therefore has this great responsibility to do what we can do very well - develop our skills in relationships, in dealing with each other, in caring for each other. Local Rotary clubs have the framework in place now and we should go forward to the basics. Let's show our family, our local Rotarian colleagues and our local communities that we can relate to each other positively and that it is important. Let's do it now, for tomorrow."

John challenged us to "Get our communications going, challenge yourself, do it!

"ROTARY IS TODAY FOR TOMORROW."

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

1995/1 Recommendation to the RI Board.
"THAT the pre-convention Youth Exchange officers' meeting in Calgary 1994 seriously consider the adoption by Rotary International of a uniform global policy of insurance for Rotary Youth Exchange students which is acceptable in all participating countries."
Proposed by Rtn. Ian Weekley and Rtn. Alan Earnock and supported by the Rotary Club of St. Arnaud. Carried.

1995/2 Proposal for the Council on Legislation.
"THAT Rotary International adopt 'Youth Service' as the P99 Avenue of Service and to include in that New Avenue all other related activities, including Youth Exchange, and to organise SP&SWs accordingly."
Proposed by PP Brian Thomas and Pres. Tom Cowles, and adopted by the Rotary Club of Maryborough. Carried.

1995/3 THAT the Rotarians of District 9780 assembled at their District Conference on the recommendation of District Governor Nominee 1997/98, John O'Leary, agree to participate in two Group Study Exchanges in the Rotary year 1997-98, with the priorities of countries with which an exchange is desired being: (1) Israel, (2) France, (3) United Kingdom, and further, that DGV Anderson's actions at the recent International Assembly in this regard be endorsed."

Note: Because of insufficient discussion at Club level, it was moved to defer this motion to a postal ballot of all Clubs.
Proposed by PP Ian Lyall and PP Jim Dwyer. Carried.

1995/4 THAT the Rotarians of District 9780 assembled at their District Conference, on the recommendation of the District Rotary Foundation Committee, agree to take up our \$US 59,735 allocation from the Rotary Foundation SHARE scheme for designated district funds in the following manner: 2 x Ambassadorial Scholarships - \$44,000; 1 Extra Group Study Exchange Team - \$14,000;

1 x Matching Grant Allocation - \$1,000. Total \$59,000."
Note: The extra GSE team is dependent upon the result of Resolution 3.
Proposed by PP Jim Dwyer and POG Geoff Tully. Carried.

1995/5 THAT the Rotarians of District 9780 assembled at their District Conference, on the recommendation of POG Geoff Tully, formally adopt the audited statement of receipts and payments of the District 9780 fund for the year 1994-95 as submitted by him last year to each Club."
Proposed by POG Geoff Tully and POG Jeff Binder. Carried.

1995/6 THAT the Rotarians of District 9780 gathered for "Rip to River Rendezvous" Conference at the "Sunside" Community Centre, Ocean Grove, express their continued allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and their loyalty to the Commonwealth of Australia."
Carried by acclamation.

1995/7 THAT we convey and record our sincere thanks to His Worship, Cr Chris Dyer, Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe, for his hospitality in hosting a Civic Reception for Rotary International President Representative, Past RI Director E. Neil Inkster, together with past, present and incoming officers of Rotary International and their partners, and to His Worship, Cr Gerry Smith, Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong for officially opening the Conference."
Carried by acclamation.

1995/8 THAT we, expressing our loyalty to Rotary International, wish to sincerely thank President Herbert Brown's representative, Past RI Director E. Neil Inkster and his wife Margaret, for their presence at Conference. We thank Neil for his thoughtful messages, his friendliness, and his dignified contribution to the overall success of this Conference. We also thank Margaret for the warmth of the friendship she has shown to us all."
Carried by acclamation.

1995/9 THAT we record our thanks and gratitude to the dedicated and efficient Conference Committee so ably led by Chairman PP Geoff Chandler and Secretary PP Geoff Morphett with total support from their Club members and partners. Their efforts have ensured a memorable and enjoyable time for all Rotarians and guests."
Carried by acclamation.

1995/10 THAT we record our deep appreciation to DG Henry Hudson and his wife Isabella, and thank them most sincerely for their contribution of time and energy to the continued advancement of Rotary in District 9780."
Carried by acclamation.

N.B. Conference Resolution 1995/3 'Result of Ballot':
For your information the result of the 'Postal Ballot' as required by Resolution 1995/3 is:

No. Clubs in D-9780	56
No. Clubs voted	45
No. agreeing with Resolution 1995/3	37
No. disagreeing	8

Conclusion: In 1997-98, there will be two outgoing GSE teams from D-9780 and two incoming GSE teams to D-9780.

INNER WHEEL

District President, Barbara Lamont, expressed her thanks for this opportunity to speak about Inner Wheel. What is "Inner Wheel?" An organisation for wives and widows of Rotarians, worldwide, clubs in 88 countries, was formed in UK in 1924. It became international in 1931 when President of Rotary Club of Ballarat wrote to UK for details, information and advice. This resulted in the formation of the Ballarat Club, Australia, the first club outside UK and Ireland.

Barbara described the objectives as to foster international understanding, to promote true friendship and to encourage the ideals of personal service. "Inner Wheel" may assist Rotary at any time it is asked.

"Inner Wheel" is primarily a friendship organisation; members are bound by an international constitution. A new evening club in Belmont will be chartered next month. The theme this year "Open your heart and your home."



Barbara Lamont

AWARDS

1. DISTRICT ANNUAL AWARDS, 1995-96:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| ● Holmes Trophy | Hopetoun |
| ● De Garis Trophy | Ballan |
| ● Club Bulletin Shield | Ballarat South |
| ● Brumley-Carr Shield | Torquay |
| ● Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Shield | Ballarat South |
| ● Tully Shield | Ballarat West |

2. SPECIAL AWARDS OF APPRECIATION in 1995-96:

Rtn. Dr. John Oswald (Ballarat West) - Leadership and organisation of Twinning Program between Valola Hospital, Tonga and St. John of God Hospital, Ballarat and involvement with Interplast.

Rtn. Ian Weekley (St. Arnaud) - As the Chairman of the District Youth Exchange Program many years.

The Rotary Club of Cobden - A community service award

CALL TO CONFERENCE 1997

DGN Geoffrey Anderson invited all Rotarians and partners to "Rotary Bayside '97."

After a video presentation about the attractions of Geelong, Geoff informed us that the venue will be the Great Hall, Geelong City Campus (Western Beach) of Deakin University from 28 February to 2 March 1997. He assured us there would be a friendly welcome, an exciting, stimulating program and great fellowship.



Geoff Anderson

The Sponsors:

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Henry Hudson

CLOSING REMARKS

Have the objectives for this Conference been achieved? Only you will know.

- Are you more aware of Club activities in the District?
- Have you been challenged - to examine Rotary in greater depth, to react positively to change, to think more about Rotary?
- What positive action will you and your Club take to ensure Rotary is relevant in the 21st Century?
- Do you appreciate the internationality of Rotary?
- Did this Conference regenerate your commitment to Rotary so that you appreciate the work of the Rotary Foundation, understand Vocational Service, realise the need to Preserve Planet Earth and Our Cultural Heritage, visualise the opportunity to be involved in World Community Service and Youth Activities and realise the need for more members?
- If this was your first Conference, did you enjoy the experience?

Thanks:

In order to create a Conference, assistance is essential from many people, some of whom are not Rotarians. I would like to express my appreciation to the following for their support and co-operation:

- The Mayor, Borough of Queenscliff, Cr. C. Dyer, for the Civic Reception at Queenscliff.
- The Mayor, City of Greater Geelong, Cr. G. Smith, for opening the Conference.
- You, the Rotarians and partners for coming to Ocean Grove.
- Brig. P. McNamara, Commandant, Command and Staff College, Fort Queenscliff.
- Lt. Col. P. Jackson, OC and Music Director, Australian Army Band Melbourne and Mr. Tony Charlton for constructive advice and assistance.
- The sponsors, the management of "Surfside", "Checkmate" catering and the Geelong Schools Chaplaincy Support Group
- The DGGRs, District Chairmen and contributors who took up the challenge of the Poster Display.
- The Rotary Clubs of Drysdale and Grovedale.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove, a sincere tribute and thanks.
- Isabella, many thanks for your support and dedication to Rotary's welfare.
- Margaret and Neill Inkster for being such gracious, helpful and lovely people.

From my perspective, this event has been a gratifying, uplifting experience. I sincerely hope you all found similar rewards by attending Conference '96.

Many thanks to you all!

Henry Hudson



The President, Herb Brown, Diane and Family



Margaret and Neill Inkster with Isabella and Henry Hudson

