

HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KEW

Rotary




Fifty Years
1967 – 2017

Supplementary reports for 2007-17



Rotary Club of Kew



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Presentation of Charter

==

Kew City Hall

Cotham Road, Kew

THURSDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 1967

==

J. BARTON HACK
Governor

280th District Rotary International

Introduction

This publication coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the granting of the Charter to the Rotary Club of Kew and has been compiled by Ron McCartney with assistance from Murray Chessell and others.

It updates the 40th anniversary history prepared by Ron McCartney in 2007 and includes reports on each of the subsequent years, largely based on the reports of the Presidents. While the vitality of the Club has been derived from the continuous contributions of all members to projects and events and the fellowship that is generated in the process, this edition also adds an outline of a limited selection of the Club's projects during the 50 years which have been a source of particular pride and satisfaction.



History of the Rotary Club of Kew



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Beginning of the Rotary Club of Kew

The 1950s was a decade of active expansion of Rotary in the suburbs with the formation of many Clubs including Hawthorn in 1953, Camberwell 1956, Heidelberg 1956, Box Hill 1957 and Collingwood 1959, but Kew had to wait until 1967 - though the possibility of a Club in Kew was considered in 1959 when past President Doug Seeson of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn made the first survey, but it was decided not to proceed at that time. Kew has always essentially been a residential suburb and the lack of a balanced list of classifications, because of the absence of industry, was the main reason for not proceeding with developing a Club in Kew.

The possibility of a Rotary Club in Kew was next raised by District Governor French at the District Governor's Assembly on September 27th 1966, and in October 1966 the Rotary Club of Hawthorn was asked to conduct a survey, which Past President Jack Cathie conducted in November of the same year, and reported:

"The survey of the municipality of Kew was conducted by me during the month of November, 1966. The area could not be described as industrial. There are a few small manufacturing businesses and several schools, colleges and institutions. The commercial centre consists mainly of retail shops which are grouped into two main areas, Kew and East Kew. There also exist a number of small personal businesses servicing the general community, such as electricians, painters, plumbers etc.

The survey shows approximately 70 classifications available.

There are seven members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn residing in the Kew area and some of these may join the Kew Club if it should be formed. I am of the opinion that a successful Rotary Club could be formed in the Municipality of Kew, although it would not have the same cross section of business and professional men as is the case with most metropolitan Clubs."

The survey was sent to the District Governor in January and he approved it and sent a copy to Rotary International Headquarters. In February, interviewing of prospective members began.

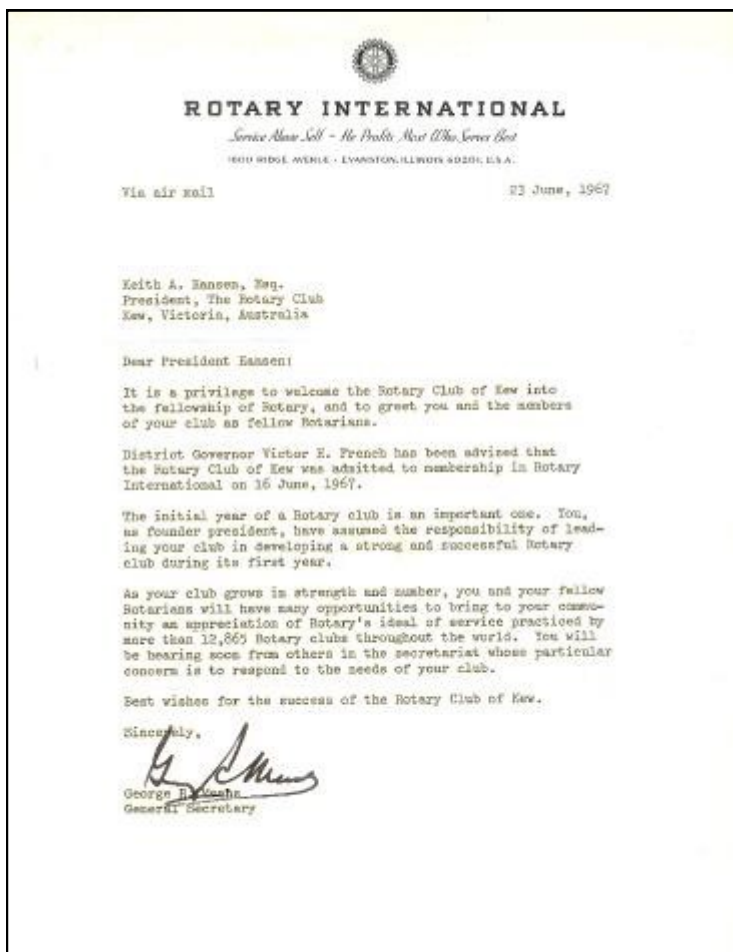
Success of this initiation is owed much to the enthusiasm of Past President Jack Cathie but a pending overseas trip brought the need for an equally enthusiastic successor who was found when Geoff Stevens became the District Governor Special Representative (DGSR). It is clear that the key men in making possible the Rotary Club of Kew were Jack Cathie, Geoff Stevens, District Governor Vic French and the Chairman of Rotary Membership Committee District 280, Frank Gill. By April 28th there were 14 prospective members and on May 5th, a meeting was held at the home of Rotarian Bib Stillwell and it was obvious that sufficient momentum had been expended to form the Rotary Club of Kew.

The Provisional Rotary Club of Kew

By the middle of May, Frank Gill had approved of the list of proposed office bearers and arrangements were made for the first meeting of the Organising Group which took place on June 1st at Sunninghill Reception Rooms in Kew, with Geoff Stevens in the Chair and twenty four prospective members present.

Many visiting Rotarians were present including Frank Gill, and representatives of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn who's Charter President, Ron Fowler, spoke stressing the need to foster the fellowship in the formative years of a new Rotary Club. Among the resolutions passed, the first was that DGSR Geoff Stevens request District Governor Vic French to "Constitute the Provisional Rotary Club of Kew" and another nominating Keith Hansen for appointment as Charter President.

On June 29th, the granting of the Charter (dated June 16th) was announced and Keith Hansen was inducted as Charter President in a private ceremony conducted by DGSR Geoff Stevens who, at the same time, inducted another member who was going overseas. At the completion of the induction, elected Charter President Keith Hansen read the following letter from George Means, General Secretary, Rotary International, Illinois.



The remaining members were inducted at the next meeting on July 6th by Charter President Keith Hansen, and presented with their badges which the visiting Rotarian Ken Blair of the Rotary Club of Melbourne referred to as "the outward symbol of your entry into Rotary".

The Charter presentation was made by District Governor, J. Barton Hack, at Kew City Hall on September 28th, 1967, and the distinguished gathering included representatives from 31 other Rotary Clubs. The night will always be remembered as a remarkable demonstration of Rotary Fellowship as District Governor Hack in the presence of the Mayor of Kew, Councilor W. D. Hope and a large gathering of Rotarians, members of other Service Clubs, members and their wives and friends, handed over to President Keith Hansen, the Charter of the Rotary Club of Kew.

Charter Members

ANGUS Ron	Construction Services: Highway Construction
BALDWIN Ivan	Hardware: Staple & Staple Machine Manufacturing
BRADEN Jim	Education: Inspection
CUNNINGHAM Bill	Clothing Industry: Men's Clothing Manufacturing
FAIRSERVICE Gavin	Religion: Christianity, Presbyterian
FOWLER Bob	Hotels & Restaurants: Hotels
FRAZER Len	Consulting Engineering: Civil Engineering
GANNON Jim	Veterinary Medicine: Veterinary Clinical Practice
GLYNNE Des	Government Road Research
HIGGINS Harry	Business Service: Accounting Service
HOLDSWORTH Keith	Animal Training: Guide Dogs for the Blind
HANSEN Keith	Chemical Industry: Pharmacy
INCE Ken	Clothing Industry: Men's Clothing Retail
LANGDON John	Medicine: Dentistry
LAWSON Norm	Agriculture: Flower Retail
LEPPITT John	Education: Independent Schools
Mc CARTHY Frank	Designing Industrial Engineering: Industrial Design
Mc KENZIE Mac	Recreation: Sightseeing Services
MANDER Clive	Finance: Banking Savings
MEADOWS Keith	Wood Industry: Timber Merchant
MURPHY Steven	Food Industry: Grocery Retailing
PECHER Hans	Jewelry: Jewelry Retailing
PHILLIPS Cliff	Electrical Industry and Electronics: Electrical Repair Service
ROOZEN Leo	Electrical Industry and Electronics: Light Fixture Distributor
RUSSELL George	Municipal Services: Engineering
SANSOM Joe	Religion: Christian, Church of England
SHAW Fred	Automobile Industry: Automobile Retailing
SIMMS John	Real Estate (Property) : Real Estate Agency
STONE Bert	Law: General Law Practice
WESTLAND Jim	Government Traffic Commission

1967 - 1968

President: Keith Hansen

On June 1st, a formal "Organisational Meeting" was held, chaired by DGSR Geoff Stevens. 24 prospective members attended with several apologies. Also present were 14 members of Hawthorn Rotary Club. Geoff outlined the procedure for the formation of the Rotary Club and distributed copies of the constitution and By Laws.

The meeting proceeded with arrangements to formally apply for the establishment of the Provisional Rotary Club of Kew, open a bank account and name signatories, to recommend a joining fee of \$17.00, and an annual subscription of \$20.00 and to nominate Keith Hansen as Charter President.



Inductions: Jack Balloch, Colin Amos, Ian Scott, Bill Pick, Les Austin, John Hope, Geoff Andrews.

Resignations: John Langdon, Hans Pecher, Frank McCarthy, Ron Angus, Joe Sansom.

Deceased: Len Frazer

1968 - 1969

President: Bert Stone

The first annual Change-Over Night was held at "Sunninghill" and was a great success, the feeling being that a milestone had been passed and the Club was well on its way.

Inductions: Don Patterson, Bernie Smith, Perc Watts, Laurie Johnson, Hugh MacKenzie, Bas Abery, Stuart Warmington, Peter Mackie, George Vardon, Gordon Brown, Bob Handley, Gordon Hinrichsen, Laurie Johnson.

Resignations: Gavin Fairservice, Fred Shaw, Les Austin,

1969 – 1970

President: Clive Mander

Inductions: Mac McIlroy, John LeBoeuf, Ned Spark, Jim Perry, Bob McGilp, Rod Matthews, Alan Capell, Tom Harrison, Keith Solomon, John Scanlan.

Resignations: Bob Fowler

1970 – 1971

President: John Simms

Inductions: Roy Blyth, Peter Manton, Bert Anderson, Tom Davidson, Jim Gray, Bill Burne, Jock Hay.

Resignations: Ken Ince, Jim Gannon, Clive Mander, George Russell, Bert Stone, Ian Scott, Bernie Smith, Ned Spark, Tom Davidson.

Deceased: Bob Fowler

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History of the Rotary Club of Kew

1971 – 1972

President: **Keith Holdsworth**

Inductions: Alan Pryor , John Boadle, Ian Docker, Dick Nathan, Ken Little, Selby Steele, Harry Wiltshire and George Redfern.

Resignations: John Scanlon, John Boadle.



1972 – 1973

President: **Cliff Phillips**

Inductions: Bob Bates, Syd White, Ian Doherty, Peter Hatherley, John Kennedy, Hamish Christie-Johnson and Murray Chessell.

Resignations: Keith Solomon, Jim Braden, Peter Mackie, Bert Anderson, Alan Pryor, Perc Watts, Laurie Johnston, Bob Bates, Ian Docker, Mac McIlroy, Syd white and Harry Wiltshire.



1973 – 1974

President: **Norman Lawson**

Inductions: Frank Bolton, Leo Roberts, Brian Robinson, Dennis Cahill and Rich Bennett.

Resignations: Ian Doherty, Roy Blyth, Jim Gray and Selby Steele.

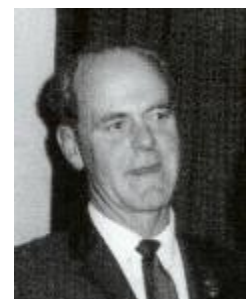


1974 – 1975

President: **Leo Roozen**

Inductions: Fred Kent, Don Mc Kinnon, Frank Donald, Alex Stewart, John Robertson and Jim Hayes.

Resignations: Bob McGilp, Leo Roberts, George Redfern, Frank Bolton, Jack Balloch, John LeBoeuf, Rod Matthews and Alan Capell.



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1975 – 1976

President: **John Hope**

Inductions: Mike Freeman, Lindsay Hannel, Fred Bevis, Stewart Edwards, David Currie, Robert Hart, Rob Moulder, Roy Bresnahan, John Brooks, Bill Bell and Charles Davis.

Resignations: Don Patterson, Gordon Hinrichsen, Jock Hay, Lindsay Hannell, Brian Robinson and Jim Hayes.



1976 – 1977

President: **Geoff Andrews**

Resignations: Mac Mc Kenzie, Hamish Christie-Johnston, Roy Bresnahan, David Currie, Jim Westland, Robert Hart and Norm Lawson.

Deceased: Ken Little, John Leppitt



1977 – 1978

President: **Steve Murphy**

Resignations: Frank Donald, John Robertson, Fred Bevis, Stewart Edwards, Charles Davis, Gil Matters, Brian Quilligan, Geoff Fowler, Ivan Wilkes, John Leppitt, Eddie Lusk, Gordon Brown, Stuart Warmington and Peter Evans.

Deceased: Fred Kent



1978 – 1979

President: **Des Glynne**

Inductions: Alf Salter, George Rogerson, Roy Horan, Bill Hargreaves, Reg Braddy, Peter Kellaway, Reg Simmonds, Michael Stillwell, Leo La Vella, Peter Harkin, Vic Moll, Lou Moll, Lou D'Alterio and Reg Hickey.

Resignations: Peter Manton, Dennis Cahill, Duncan McGilp, Dennis Sear, Lex Bendixen, Leo La Vella and Leo Roozen.



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1979 – 1980

President: Tom Harrison

Inductions: Marshall Inman, Jeff Prentice, Don Cameron, Bruce Haycraft, Alex Jamieson, Peter Kellaway, Alec Jamieson, Walter Haidun, Bob Thwaites, Viv Stevenson and Rob Tucker.

Resignations: Vic Moll, Michael Stillwell and Mike Freeman.



1980 – 1981

President: Murray Chessell

Inductions: Neil Guerin, Vin Doquile, Rod Brennan, Frank Hartley, Frank Mummery and Ray Woods.

Resignations: Bob Handley, Peter Hatherley, Walter Haidun and Reg Hickey.

Deceased: Colin Amos



1981 – 1982

President: Bill Pick

Inductions: Rod MacDonald, Geoff Rerry, Ted Kahanoff, Martin Samuel.

Resignations: Jeff Prentice, Marshall Inman, Laurie Styles, Ivan Wade, Peter Kellaway and Bill Bell.

Deceased: Hugh MacKenzie and Rich Bennett.



1982 – 1983

President: Peter Hoban

Inductions: Allen Martin, Doug McLaren, Alan Fluck, Raymond Martyres, Kevin Hughes, Rodney Jupp, Merv Williams, Bryan Mackenzie, Charles Crellin, Peter McCance, Paul Collyer, David Brown.

Resignations: Raymond Martyres (made Honorary Member), John Simms, Roy Horan, Alex Stewart and Rod Aitchison.

Deceased: Jim Perry.



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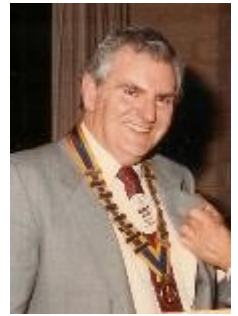
1983 – 1984

President: **Harry Higgins**

Inductions: Graeme Lindsay, John Travers, Geoff Hillman, Con Gekas, Hilary Ellis, Guy Warner.

Resignations: Peter Hatherly (made Honorary Member), Les Fell, Rod Mc Donald, Rod Brennan, Reg Simmonds, Bill Hargreaves, Joe Ormando, John Waugh, and Con Gekas.

Deceased: Steve Murphy and Don Balsillie.



1984 – 1985

President: **Don McKinnon**

Inductions: Ray Walker, Geoff Boxer, Maurice Langford, Ron Seymour, and Michael Stillwell.

Resignations: Dick Nathan, Alex Jamieson, Bruce Haycraft, George Rogerson, Neil Hamilton, Ray Walker, Alf Salter and John Travers.

Deceased: Ron Seymour.



1985 – 1986

President: **Vin Doquile**

Inductions: Bob Black, Tom Roberts, Tom Eggers, Peter Gillies, Kevin O'Loughlin, Reginald Simmonds and David Bloom.

Resignations: Bas Aberly, Rodney Jupp, Martin Samuel, Rob Tucker, Peter Gillies, Geoff Boxer, David Brown and Paul Collyer.



1986 – 1987

President: **Neil Guerin**

Inductions: Terry Honan, Rod Whittaker, Ian Collis, Phylip Doughty, Brian Clark, Ian Harvey, Frank O'Sullivan and John Savage.

Resignations: Geoff Perry, George Grant, Kevin O'Loughlin and Bob Black.

Deceased: Frank Mummery.



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1987 – 1988

President: **Viv Stevenson**

Inductions: Roger Fasken, David Kelly, Carl Sherman, Howard Ellis and Michael Conyers.

Resignations: John Hope, Peter Mc Cance, Maurice Langford, Frank Hartley, David Kelly.



1988 – 1989

President: **Charles Crellin**

Inductions: Paul Wise, Leo Blake, Kevin O'Loughlin and Peter Jacobson.

Resignations: Reg Braddy.

Deceased: Ivan Baldwin.



1989 – 1990

President: **Alan Fluck**

Inductions: Robert Levin, Alan McDonald, Malcolm Hutchinson and Michael Conyers.

Resignation: Howard Ellis.



1990 – 1991

President: **Raymond Martyres**

Inductions: Tony O'Shea, Wolf Deane, Daryl Oldaker.



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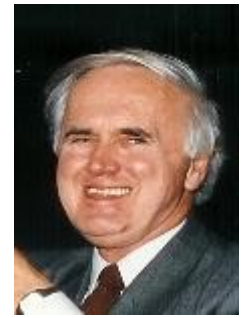
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1991 – 1992

President: **Ian Harvey**

Inductions: Maeve O'Brien, George Verginis, Ken Blair, Doug Killmister, Derek Prinsley, Prue Gillies, Eileen Marquis.

Resignations: Rob Moulder, Doug Killmister.



1992 – 1993

President: **Dennis McDonald**

Inductions: Rod Branson, Jenny Begent, Leo Adams, Kathy Nall, Stephen Kelly, Ludwick Hertschel.

Resignations: Bill Burne, John Brooks, Geoff Andrews, Lou D'Alterio, Bob Thwaites, Ray Woods, Kevin Hughes, Guy Warner, Tom Roberts, Terry Honan, Tom Eggers, Ian Collis, Phylip Doughty, Carl Sherman, Ivan Baldwin, Malcolm Hutchinson, Tony O'Shea, Daryl Oldaker, William Burne, Howard Ellis, Ludwick Hertschel and Reginald Braddy.



1993 – 1994

President: **Merv Williams**

Inductions: Jenny Richards, Jim Donnelly, Gerry Detrie, Mah Hoon Tan.

Resignations: Bryan Mackenzie, Leo Adams, Eileen Marquis, Rod Whittaker, Rod Branson, Prue Gillies, Tom Harrison, Ted Kahanoff, Maeve O'Brien, Ken Blair, Paul Wise, Peter Jacobson.



1994 – 1995

President: **Roger Fasken**

Inductions: Toni Bruin, Vernon Wood, Roy Blyth, Rod Whittaker.

Resignations: Gerrie Detrie, Keith Meadows, Roy Blyth, George Verginis, Alan McDonald, Kevin O'Loughlin.



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1995 – 1996

President: Peter Hatherly

Inductions: Terry Cooper, Michael Glennon, Harry Belli, Malcom Kinloch and Lindsay Noss.

Resignations: Geoff Hillman, Wolfe Deane, Michael Glennon, Reg. Simmonds, Stephen Kelly and Peter Harkin.



1996 – 1997

President: David Bloom

Inductions: Susan Holliday, Gregor Mason, Mark Houston, Laurie Bird, Adrian Huber, Margaret Owen, Judith Voce, Anam Khoirul and Richard Price.

Resignations: Rod Whittaker, Terry Cooper, Jenny Richards and Rod Branson.



1997 – 1998

President: John Savage

Inductions: Beth Foley, David Kegele, Julie Anne Laird, David O'Brien, Peter Carrigan.

Resignations: Jennifer Begent, Toni Bruin, Cathy Nall, Anam Khoirul.



1998 – 1999

President: Brian Clark

Inductions: Keith Walter, Durham Strachan, George Grant, Geoff Green, John Patrick, Gillian Rees, George Vardon.

Resignations: Richard Price.



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1999 –2000

President: **Derek Prinsley**

Inductions: Peter Stewart, Derrick Goh, Geoff Stevens, John Jessop.

Resignations: Adrian Huber, Raymond Martyres, Gregor Mason,
Gillian Rees.

Deceased: Keith Hansen



2000 – 2001

President: **Harry Belli**

Inductions: Andrew Kors, Graeme Sheahan.

Resignations: George Varden, Gillian Rees.



2001 – 2002

President: **Lindsay Noss**

Inductions: Ron McCartney, Michael Conyers, Rohan Brown, Liz Webb,
Craig Young.

Resignations: Julie Anne Laird, Brian Clark.

Deceased: George Varden

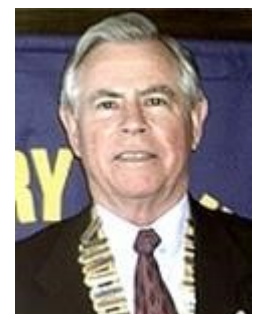


2002 – 2003

President: **Allen Martin**

Inductions: Mike McFarlane, Don Priestley, Andrew Scheffer, Ron Swartz,
Fred Payne, Ron Swartz and Rohan Brown.

Resignations: Derrick Goh, Margaret Owen, Rohan Brown, Geoff Green,
Malcolm Kinlock, Michael Conyers and John Jessop.



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2003 – 2004

President: **Frank O'Sullivan**

Inductions: Richard Crawford

Resignations: Harold Fraser , Alan Fluck (both made Honorary Members),
David O'Brien, Ron Swartz, Des Glynn, Barry Minster,
Mark Houston, Donald Cameron, Jim Donnelly.

Deceased: Des Glynn



2004 – 2005

President: **David Kegele**

Inductions: Michael deVincentis, Ed Koken, Jock Chudacek,
Jonathan Shepherd, Kevin Berry, Bob Crozier.

Resignations: Andrew Scheffer, Geoff Stevens.



2005 – 2006

President: **Michael Conyers**

Inductions: Paul Curcio, John Green, Geoffrey Laver, Barry Minster,
Jill Forsyth and Sameer Babbar.

Resignations: Richard Crawford, Doug McLaren, Liz Webb, Craig Young.



2006 – 2007

President: **Mike McFarlane**

Resignations: Ed Koken, Kevin Berry, John Patrick and Don Priestly,
John Green and Lindsay Noss.



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2007 – 2008

President: Fred Payne (Education - Electronic Engineer)

PP Charles Crellin died during the year. He had been a generous, warm hearted and much admired member and his loss was mourned by all. Pres Fred reported that the Club had met all its obligations and many of its aspirations, giving many a 'hand up' in the process. Fred was particularly pleased with the Club's support for the purchase of a fire attack vehicle for the Axdale RFB to replace one lost in the devastating fires in the previous season. Funds were generated at a major dinner auction.



Fred was also responsible for a visit to the Rotary Club of Daylesford and the development of close ties with that club, which continued for some years. Net membership grew by 1 to 54, meetings were well run and the club officers all thanked for the performance of their tasks. Laurie Bird instigated the regular weekly wine raffle and Frank O'Sullivan mustered 18 members to travel to Shepparton for the District Conference. We hosted 2 students, Jenny Silvestre from Brazil (who was visited by her parents during the year) and, together with the cluster clubs, Camille Steverynch from France. We also selected a candidate for the upcoming National Science Summer School.

Three 'soiree's' were held for local disadvantaged citizens. Peter Hoban organised an Australia day cleanup workforce, and ran a garden working bee for an elderly citizen, while John Savage organised aid for those effected by drought in Moira shire as part of a Cluster project. The shelter box program was championed by Roger Fasken and we were visited by its English founder Tom Henderson, who spoke at a special evening dinner meeting of the club where many other clubs were represented and pledges received for 9 boxes with a total value of \$11800.

Roger and Merv Williams continued to support the DIK working bees and Jill introduced the Aloha soap wrapping project in support of the Timor Leste social enterprise program. The Club proudly received a public relations award from RI for its work on the GDF. Nearly \$32000 was raised by Trivia Nights, an Open Garden, at the Kew Festival, art show equip hire, fines, market sales, raffles etc. and, in addition to the causes mentioned, these were donated to Camcare, Boroondara Cares, Foundation, Computers for Kids, Interplast, Life Education Centre and Open Family Australia.



Inductions:
Mario Alfonso,
Colin Hiles,
Wayne Morgan

Resignations:
David Kegele

Deceased:
Charles Crellin

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

2008 – 2009

President: Andrew Kors (Funeral Services)

In the advance planning, much thought was given to ways to underpin the long term viability of the Club by re-engaging members and de-formalising procedures. The administrators played their roles successfully during the year, and it ended with many targets achieved, much good work completed and with the club in good heart.

The GDF was completed with a record profit of \$63500 available for distribution. We were assisted by the Rotary Club of Daylesford and the cluster clubs in running the event and Graeme Sheahan was presented with a sapphire PHF pin as an acknowledgement of his critical contribution to the management.



Vin Doquille ran fellowship with his usual enthusiasm with the highlight being an evening at the Moonee Valley Races, at which the visiting Turkish GSE team were our guests. There was also the first of the Sumba nights (then called an Indonesia night) with the RC of Glenferrie which raised \$14000 for the first Sumba Eye Project.

Twelve members attended the District Conference in Launceston, the web site was reviewed for upgrading, and the art show equipment sold.

Fred Payne initiated the Club's involvement with the Police Mentoring Program and the club enjoyed the contribution of his mentoree, Inspector Andrew Humberstone.

John Savage maintained a close relationship with the newly formed Boroondara Cares especially in its support for the Moira Shire, and Roger Fasken continued our support for Shelterbox.

Support was provided for 3 students to the Siemens Summer School, our members attended the DIK store on a regular basis, and soap wrappers met at Jill Forsyth's.

Mike McFarlane was the official Rotary observer on an Interplast trip to the Philippines and was active in the promotion of Interplast in the District on his return, and Peter Stewart attended his first Sumba Eye Project as a vital team member.

This year was also the first of a number of successful Golf days organised by Peter Hoban, Vern Wood, Harry Belli and Graeme Sheahan.

By the year's end \$99400 had been distributed to 13 charities and a further \$4500 to other Rotary Clubs for assistance with the GDF.

Members keenly felt the loss of Past President Neil Guerin who died during the year.

Inductions: Maurice Di Marzio, Leigh Mathews, Meron Powers.

Resignations: Mario Alfonso, Laury Bird, Roy Blyth, Paul Curcio, Ian Harvey, Colin Hiles, Wayne Morgan, Derek Prinsley, Durham Strachan, Keith Walters, Vernon Wood

Deceased: Neil Guerin

2009 – 2010

President: Barry Minster (Television Production)

PP Cliff Phillips, and Jock Chudacek, both died during the year. Cliff was a charter member and had made an enormous contribution to the life of the club over many years. Jock had joined more recently (after first attending as a memorable guest speaker), but was a vibrant contributor.

Pres Barry came to the role with plans for a year of consolidation and membership growth in which the Club was well administered (Peter Stewart completed his 3rd consecutive year as secretary), and relations with cluster clubs were developed. The GDF planning committee was established in preparation of the event in the following year.

Peter Stewart was again a vital part of an eye treatment team in Sumba, following a RC Glenferrie and RC Kew, Sumba fund raiser which delivered \$23000 for the cause.

Peter Hoban organised a team of willing volunteers to participate in Clean Up Australia and introduced a garden working bee for an elderly citizen identified by Boroondara Council social workers.

Vin Doquile and his committee fostered fellowship with film nights, a Xmas picnic at Hoban's Bonbeach property, an anniversary dinner which was well supported and a visit to a Moonee Valley race meeting.

Five members and their partners travelled all the way to Perth to enjoy the District Conference. We attended the Stillwell business in Clayton for an interesting vocational visit and members continued to attend and assist at the DIK store.

Michael Stillwell mentored Inspector Michael Sayer who visited the Club on a number of occasions to the Club.

\$44291 was distributed to 15 worthy causes.



Inductions: Nicholas Waters, Andrew Dalziel.

**Resignations: Andrew Kors, Geoffrey Laver, Leigh Mathews, John Savage,
Harry Higgins (made Honorary Member)**

Deceased: Jock Chudacek, Cliff Phillips

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

2010 – 2011

President: Jonathan Shepherd (Real Estate)

The club was diminished by the losses of PP and charter member Harry Higgins and PP Harry Belli, who both died during the year.

Despite a very wet weekend, the GDF was completed with a record profit in excess of \$80000 with Graeme Sheahan and Jill Forsyth being credited as the main contributors .

We were proud to support Jill Forsyth's Projects in East Timor which this year saw the opening of a Kindergarten play area and a Soap factory, while local sales of soaps topped \$8000.

The enthusiasm of Greg Rodsted for support for the rural poor in Cambodia resulted in the remarkable accumulation of 100 sewing machines and 50 motor bikes, as well as funds for rice and water wells, while Peter Stewart was again a vital part of an eye treatment team in Sumba, participating in 4000 consultations and 400 operations.

We continued our involvement with DIK including a joint working bee with the RC Daylesford.

Peter Hoban again organised the club for the Clean Up Australia weekend with the usual fanfare while Vin Doquile ran a successful fellowship program.

Twenty members attended the District Conference in Adelaide, the web site was upgraded by the web master George Grant, we visited HMAS Cerberus on a vocational visit and Mike McFarlane continued the club's police mentoring contribution, introducing Inspector Richard Reid to the Club.

President Jonathan, an enthusiast for the student exchange, ensured a renewal of the Club's involvement in this long running District program. We enjoyed hosting Marco Simmini from Denmark and were pleased to support Shelby McKeown on the out bound journey.

Jonathan also built bonds with Canterbury Girls Secondary College (where the incoming student in 2011 was to be educated), and was pleased to present a cheque for \$50000 to establish a Foundation at the school to support needy students.



Resignations: Sameer Babbar, Michael Devincentis, Nicholas Waters

Deceased: Harry Belli, Harry Higgins

Garden
designfest.



2011 – 2012

President: Michael Stillwell (Automotive - Retail)

Michael's father Bib Stillwell was a prominent figure in Hawthorn Rotary for many years and an important sponsor of many of our early art shows. Michael had joined Rotary at an early age and his induction as our President seemed his natural destiny.

Although Michael expressed some frustration that some of his more ambitious early plans were unable to be realised, he presided in a year of consolidation marked by well run Club meetings with interesting speakers every week from all walks of life.

The year started with Michael and Jonathan meeting our French exchange student Maude Werle at Tullamarine. Her first stay was at the Stillwells. She proved a popular and successful visitor who added to the life of the club.

The club was represented at a District membership and marketing seminar, District Leadership training and a District Vocational seminar, and Michael continued to serve on the Interplast Board during his year.

Mike McFarlane arranged a memorable vocational visit to the Police Academy at Mt Waverley.

We attended two theatre nights and a picture night and gathered in local restaurants for a number of fellowship dinners, and we visited the Shepherds holiday house in Anglesea in January.

Andrew Dalziel continued Police Mentoring with Inspector Dave Cowan and Roger Fasken worked for a time in the Moira Shire in practical drought relief projects.

Don McKinnon and Leo Blake rode their bicycles from Laos to Phnom Penh to raise funds for the Epworth Heart surgery program and lived to tell the tale!

Jill Forsyth and Roger and Elaine Fasken visited Timor Leste and reported back to the club on the current projects and the opportunities that remained, while Jill was able to secure a supporting grant from Foundation to advance the projects.

Peter Stewart continued his fine work in Sumba as part of the visiting eye treatment team, following a Sumba fund raising dinner which delivered \$20000 for the cause. This time he was accompanied by Mike McFarlane as the official observer and photographer and Mike later presented to many clubs providing valuable promotion for the project. He also obtained a Foundation grant of \$30000 which provided funds for important equipment.

Peter Hoban again organised a team of willing volunteers to participate in clean up Australia and 16 members participated in the District conference which was held in Melbourne.

Inductions: Louise Westwood, George Verginis.

Resignations: Judith Voce (later made Honorary Member), Peter Carrigan and Barry Minster



History of the Rotary Club of Kew

2012 – 2013

President: Jill Forsyth (International Service)

Pres Jill created history in the club, the District and probably the wider Rotary community when she became the first daughter of a past President to succeed to this role, and she was one of our busiest.

After taking the pulse of the club with a detailed questionnaire, she was successful in developing popular partnerships and local projects with groups such as the Kew Traders Assn, Kew East PS Kitchen Garden, Burke Rd Billabong Rehabilitation, Polio Australia, Camcare, Bendigo Bank, Villa Maria and St George's Hospital vocational mentoring program.

Jill ably resolved 2 major distractions to her program. The first was the need to find another venue while the Kew GC was renovated. She settled on the Kew RSL, which had some advantages but required much higher levels of 'hands on' management.

Simultaneously, we organised the GDF which raised nearly \$90,000, bringing the total over the past 10 years to nearly \$0.5m. Jill paid tribute to designer, John Patrick and Mike McFarlane for their vision and Mike McFarlane and Graeme Sheahan for developing the idea and refining all the elements which make it such a success.

The GDF expanded this year. Presidents or PE's of all of our Cluster partner clubs joined in harnessing the support of their members to help us with the mammoth task of supervising 26 gardens throughout Melbourne for the whole weekend. Our major partner, RC of Brighton North also stepped up at the planning phase and provided their honed project management skills. We also partnered with some charities Camcare and the Alola Foundation who provided volunteers for the first time from their supporter base.

Our involvement in the cluster included a Camcare concert run by RC of Hawthorn led by Tony Charlton, the Sumba evening, a night of dancing and fun with the RC of Glenferrie, and we worked well with the RC of Kew on Yarra which organised the Rotarians at Work day. Finally we shared responsibility with our cluster partners for our exchange student Anemone.

The other distraction was the unfortunate GDF like event run by the Rotary Club of Malvern which consumed many hours of time and energy for everyone involved.

We were proud of George grant's granddaughter, Danielle Grant who was accepted into the RYLA training, then also selected from a very able field to attend a Rotary Peace forum in Hiroshima.

We maintained 2 very active International projects. Peter Stewart and Glenferrie's Mark Ellis again visited Sumba and planed a visit to Timor-Leste in September. In Sumba they screened 779 patients, fitted 692 pairs of glasses and completed 87 sight saving eye operations. We continued to make a big difference in Timor-Leste. The Timorese Economic development and soap making project creates jobs to lift families out of poverty and continues to sustain close to 100 workers who all provide for extended family of around 10, which means that we feed 1000 people every day through providing them with sustained work. The District is very supportive of this project, with many clubs using these fair trade gifts for guest speakers, and for selling at markets. Sadly we lost two of our very active members, Mike McFarlane and Kathleen Grant. Mike had devoted great energy to Rotary both at club and district levels, visited all of our international projects, was chair of the GDF and was always a generous donor to Foundation. Kathleen has transferred to Canberra for work.

Inductions: Grant Cavenagh, Kathleen Grant, Leota Faama, Janice McWhinney, Anthony Verga.

Resignations: Maurice Di Marzio, Mike McFarlane, Dennis McDonald (made Honorary Member)

Deceased: Keith Holdsworth,



2013 – 2014

President: George Grant AM (Religion– Uniting Church)

Pres George Grant is fondly remembered and admired by all who knew him. He took on the Presidency after many years in the club and threw himself into the job with the energy of a man half his age. His most enduring contribution is to increase membership by a record 16 new members giving the Club a new lease of life. His efforts earned the District membership award.

We farewelled past Presidents Allen Martin and Viv Stevenson who both died during the year. Each had made significant contributions to the life of the Club.

During the year Australian Honours were awarded to two of our members: Professor Derek Prinsley, AM, for significant service to medicine and Peter Stewart, OAM, for service to the international community through the provision of eye health programs. Peter and his specialist eye care team again visited Sumba to perform their sight saving operations.

Jenny Cheng contribution was also recognised when she was made 'The Boroondara Citizen of the year' for her work in establishing the Boroondara Stroke centre.

In the Club, the stroke mentor program initiated by Bob Slater, was begun under the direction of Jill Forsyth with mentor training commencing for 8 members.

George and others spent considerable time researching the feasibility of two ambitious fund raising projects; a Secondary Schools Music Concert and an Online Arts Sale.

Mike McFarlane organised a Mini Garden DesignFest, arranging for several bus loads of garden lovers to visit some of the best Melbourne Gardens, and earning \$4,800 for the Sumba Eye Program.

In Timor Leste, Jill's projects, which had started with 5 soap makers and 5 sewing ladies, this year trained and found work for locals in agribusiness (in banana chips, taro chips, sea salt, organic tea and coffee), and in paper making, packaging, traditional weaving, jewellery making, fashion, business, panel beating, horticulture, finance, and sales and marketing.

In addition we sponsored a young Timorese woman to join the RC of Dilli in response to a request from their President Elect to help grow the number of Timorese members in that club.

At Christmas Jill (who was described by George as 'everyone's sister and queen of the Club') organised a Pop up shop, at Kew Junction to raise additional funds for the cause.

We were able to send two young women to RYLA and we hosted the Kew traders at a meeting at the Hellenic Republic.

With the assistance of Joses Tuhonuku and his wife Mary-Louise O'Callaghan plans were initiated to assist with the prevention of Diabetes 2 in the Solomon Islands.

President Elect Andrew Dalziel arranged for a Visioning evening which was held at Samir's Cafe in North Balwyn.

In addition to the usual fellowship program and thanks to Dalys Grant, 2 wonderful social functions were held at the President's home, one for all members and the other focussing on the new members.



Inductions: Hans Carlborg, Paul Evans, Paul Pentony, Simon Phipps, Derek Prinsley, Jennifer Cheng, Peter Coates, Moh Dadafarin, Chris Ewart, Lloyd Knight, Keith Kendall, Peter Liu, Mike McFarlane, Samir Freijah, Marilyn Shepherd and Joses Tuhonuku.

Resignations: Kathleen Grant

Deceased: Allen Martin

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

2014 – 2015

President: Andrew Dalziel (Management Consultancy)

Past Presidents Rev. George Grant OAM PHF and Dennis McDonald PHF, and Graeme Lindsay PHF, all dear friends of the Club died during this year. Andrew efficiently Presided over a full list of activities in all avenues of service and was able to report at year end that 'the club' had met most of its key objectives engaging in a range of worthwhile projects both locally and internationally and distributing in excess of \$140,000 from funds raised.



Eight new members were inducted resulting in a net membership increase of three.

The GDF under the Chairmanship of Chris Ewart with support from Graeme Sheahan and Jill Forsyth Simon Phipps and others, raised in excess of \$110,000 for distribution at a special Cheque Donation Event held in February 2015.

The other significant fundraising event for the year was the 'Pop-up-Shop' in December organized by Jill Forsyth with a band of willing helpers both from within and outside our club. This raised nearly \$15,000 whilst BBQs, Sergeant's fines, Theatre Night and the like raised in total a similar amount.

The Club continued to support Rotary Foundation, including the 'Seeds of Peace' program for secondary students who visited Turkey for the centenary of ANZAC celebrations, Cluster Functions and Boroondara Cares activities, and we increased our Paul Harris Society membership to 5.

The Strategic Plan for 2014-17 was approved and uploaded onto the website.

Other highlights included:

A fellowship event at the Athenaeum Club organized by Peter Hoban.

A new Members Dinner with the Board hosted by Elizabeth & Jonathan Shepherd.

The Allen Martin scholarship initiated by George Verginis and Ron McCartney.

14 members attending District Conference.

Eight members completing LAS Mentoring training.

Vocational Visit to the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute.

DIK working bees by Roger Fasken and Merv Williams.

Clean up Australia organized by Peter Hoban.

Janice McWhinney arranged for us to sponsor candidates to RYPEN and NYSF, and for two students from Kew HS to attend the International Women's Day Breakfast and we continued to support Jill's projects in Timor Leste and Peter Stewart's eye operation project in Sumba. A committee led by Jill continued to investigate the Solomon's Diabetes project.

Inductions: Yvette Phipps, Kathleen Buchanan, Grant Ferry, Mervyn Kiley, Bob Slater, Margaret Turner, Stephen Wolf and Carl Zammit.

Resignations: Derek Prinsley (made Honorary Member), Grant Cavenagh, Paul Evans, Louise Westwood

Deceased: George Grant, Graeme Lindsay, Denis McDonald, Vivian Stevenson.

2015 – 2016

President: George Verginis (Entrepreneurship)

President George's enthusiasm for Rotary and its causes was infectious throughout the Club.

He was moved by the plight of refugees then flooding into Europe from Syria, and organised a highly successful and enjoyable 'Big Greek Charity Dinner' at Yianni's Tavern raising \$18,000 which was donated to the Rotary clubs of Politia Kifisia and Nea Smirni in Athens District 2470 to support their efforts to relieve the overwhelming humanitarian crisis in Athens. Further support for this cause was provided in a picture night held jointly with RC West Footscray.



A similar event later in the year - the 'Kew Charity Dinner' which launched the Kew Festival, raised \$4,000 which was divided between St Paul's school for children with special needs and Boroondara Cares Foundation.

The GDF organising committee was established in preparation of the event in the following year, Peter Stewart was again supported in his vital work as part of an eye treatment team in Sumba and DIK workshops were organised.

Jill Forsyth established a second pop up shop, this time in Camberwell selling books, handmade items from a number of 'social enterprises', and a wide range of other products. Members helped with the set up and initial staffing but the shop was so successful that it developed into a wider Rotary co-operative, then known as the Sustainability and Fair trade Store' raising money for Camcare and the Districts DIK store in West Footscray. The shop had raised \$35000 in the period to changeover.

We were successful in our submission to Boroondara Council for a new Victorian Stroke Community Centre at 533 High Street Kew East. This involved accessing Federal Grant funds and lobbying for support from Council, amongst other things.

We have also maintained our successful collaboration with the Boroondara Stroke Group and St Georges hospital and maintained our commitment to Life After Stroke.

We established the VBIRA Victorian Brain Injury Recovery Assoc' \$15,000 Scholarship fund to support research into Acquired Brain Injury by a student at Latrobe University, to honour the life and work of PP Allen Martin.

We also launched a schools project "Kew Remembers" to research the WW1 diggers who's names are on the Kew Cenotaph at the Junction, with the aim of tracing their descendants and inviting them to the re enactment of the 1st commemoration service at the memorial, 100 years after the end of WW1 at 11AM on 11th November 2018

Jill Forsyth led a small group to the Solomon's Islands to investigate first-hand the implementation of plans to assist with the diabetic epidemic

\$68000 was distributed throughout the year to worthy causes

Resignations: Leo Blake, Frank O'Sullivan (both made Honorary Members), Hans Carlborg, Paul Pentony, Simon Phipps, Yvette Phipps, Das Devidas, Amanda Harrington and Jenny Gale.

Deceased: Vincent Doquile, Greg Rodsted

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

2016 – 2017

President: Bob Slater AM (Military Engineering)

Our loyal and long serving PP Frank O'Sullivan died during the year following many years of failing health and his loss was mourned by his many old friends at the Club.

Bob Slater was catapulted into the role of our 50th President just two years after transferring from Carlton Rotary. He prepared detailed plans and set himself the task of engaging the 15 most recent members into more responsible and fulfilling roles in the club.

Major activities included the 7th biennial Garden DesignFest (GDF) led primarily by Graeme Sheahan, Murray Chessell, and Chris Ewart (who were all recognised with PHF awards for their efforts), Alola soap wrapping and goods sales - Jill Forsyth, Sumba - Peter Stewart, Life After Stroke (LAS) - Bob Slater, Margaret Atkins and Jill Forsyth, Blood Pressure Awareness (BPA) - Bob Slater and Das Devidas, and Kew Remembers, - Andrew Dalziel

Michael Conyers also organised Kew's annual Clean Up Australia effort and members took part in District Showcase activities in Federation Square, Bendigo, Shepparton and Echuca. We helped organise a Cluster RI Foundation 100th Anniversary celebration and Andrew Dalziel participated as a board member of Boroondara Cares.

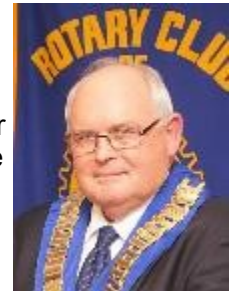
The club services team was efficient. Meetings were enjoyable, with one a month set aside for fellowship or forums and with one dedicated to a Vocational visit to inspect the nearly completed Monash Childrens Hospital. George Verginis organised 18 members and partners to attend the District Conference in Shepparton and PE Carl Zammit facilitated a Club Planning Forum..

Members involved in District activities were Jonathan Shepherd (AG Eastside), Jill Forsyth (RAWCS Coord), Kathleen Williams (RYLA Coord) and Bob Slater (LAS Coord and External Awards Coord).

Membership dropped by a net 3 from 48 to 45, with four new members inducted, four retiring through frailty, one leaving the district and two members resigning. .

With Yarra Bend Rotary, we co-hosted Eszter Bozoki a Rotary Exchange Student from Hungary, and Kathleen Williams did a great job as her Counsellor. Over \$85,000 was raised from the GDF, a Sausage Sizzle at the Kew Festival, a Wine & Cheese Night at Samir Freijah's restaurant, commodity sales arranged by Mah Hoon Tan, and Jill Forsyth's Rotary Shop and other sources. With these funds we were please to support the work of Camcare, Stroke Association of Victoria, RI Foundation, SUMBA, Alola, Monash Hospital Foundation,, Rotary DIK, the Spinal Research Institute, and Refugee Relief (Greece).

Kew's 50th year, culminated in an enjoyable anniversary lunch, gathering together old and current members, and well wishers from throughout the district, to celebrate the achievements and friendships of 50 years of Rotary endeavour in Kew.



Inductions: Mark Bourke, Sue Jaeger, Kym Jaeger, Bradie Kristy.

Resignations: Janice McWhinney, Jenny Cheng, Leota Fa'ama, Merv Kiley.

Don McKinnon (made Honorary Member)

Leo Blake (made Honorary Member)

David Bloom (made Honorary Member)

Deceased: Frank O'Sullivan

PROJECTS

The Art Shows

Our 10th President Geoff Andrews was a young and committed Rotarian looking for a project to consolidate the good work that had gone into the formative years of the Club, and an annual Art Show proved to be an excellent choice.

In 1976 the club was meeting at Angeluccis. A large reception centre then located at Kew Junction, and this was chosen as the venue for our first event.

Murray Chessell chaired the first Committee and David Johnstone, a banker turned artist, was engaged to provide some valuable insider insights, but it was the enthusiastic response from the club to a seemingly endless string of working bees that ensured the success of the event. Keith Meadows a skilled builder (and a wonderful man), managed the construction of the framed wire mesh stands for the paintings and Peter Hatherley, our energetic club photographer, organised the elaborate lighting so that the event could be mounted with little cost to the Club.

725 paintings were received and hung in a very long session before the first opening night. The whole club worked till late and then backed up to fill rosters over the week or more the paintings were on display. They also faithfully completed another major working bee to 'bump out' at the end.

The opening of the first event was a grand occasion with the official opening by Sen. Margaret Guilfoyle, with local and Rotary dignitaries in attendance. Sales stickers soon appeared on the best paintings much to the relief of the anxious organisers.

Later events were also opened by some distinguished figures. State Premier, John Cain opened the 7th art show in 1983 and Jeff Kennett - then leader of the State Opposition opened the event in '84. Andrew Peacock as Leader of the Federal Opposition did the honours in 85. The 10th event was opened by The Lord Mayor of Melbourne Thomas Lynch and the 11th by Paul Fitzgerald the Royal Portrait Artist. In 1988 Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop kindly agreed to open the show and various Mayors Of Kew - including our own Allen Martin when he held that position, helped out in other years.



\$13000 worth of paintings were sold at the first event and \$4000 net made for club charities - a very satisfactory result for the time. Never had the club members been more united or more pleased with the result

of their efforts .

A total of 15 annual Art shows were held with the final event in 1991 producing \$10000 for distribution to club charities.

In that time, the venue was moved first to the Kew Civic Centre as it then was, then to Carey, and finally back to the Kew Civic Centre which had by then become 'the Old Library Building'.

Over the years the price of the catalogue rose from 40 cents to \$2.50 and prize money from \$1500 to \$8500, a permanent inventory of art show equipment was established, many distinguished artists gave of their time to judge the entries, and generous support was received from Bib Stillwell, the Kew City Council and other sponsors.

Whilst most years were more successful than the last, and each was a major event in the life of the Club, by 1991 it was felt that the event had run its course. Pres Raymond Martyres wrote in the catalogue. *"Art is now available to everyone; art shows, galleries and displays are common. We at Rotary feel it may be time to move on..."* The equipment was rented out from time to time but then

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

given to another Rotary club wanting to start its own event.

The Art Show achieved its stated objective of giving local artists an opportunity to display their work and in doing so foster a community appreciation of art. It also contributed significantly to the camaraderie in the club and enabled us to contribute regularly to mostly local causes, ranging from equipment for the new Kew East primary school music centre, a minibus for the elderly citizens, a skate park and various building appeals.

The Club produced three contributing artists, Don Cameron, (who had been an art teacher at Scotch college), Ray Woods (also a teacher at Trinity) and Stuart Warmington (an architect), all entered paintings from time to time which were much sought after.

Many a club member, both past and present, still proudly display 'treasures' purchased over 15 years of art show on their walls, giving the event an enduring quality which is difficult to match.

Rotary Bone Marrow Donor Centre

John Opie was the father of twin daughters, one of whom had been able to supply the perfect match of bone marrow for a life saving transplant for the other when she contracted leukaemia. John wanted, amongst other things, to establish a research facility at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and was determined to establish a worldwide Bone Marrow donor register to provide all Australians with access to life-saving stem cell transplants.

In 1990 John Opie approached DG Gordon McKearn for assistance with fund raising for his project, and he in turn asked Dr Raymond Martyres (President 1990-91) to chair the fund raising committee and have Kew jointly lead the District fundraising appeal with an initial target of \$2m, later increased to \$4m.

Raymond was the right man at the right time. Despite a busy medical practice, he assembled and managed a hard working committee from within the club, the district, and the wider business community, and devoted countless hours to planning and driving the appeal.

Many generous donations, both large and small, were made by Rotarians throughout the District but it was not until Channel 9 took their cameras inside the cancer wards at the Royal Children's Hospital that vital public funds were tapped and the target finally achieved.

The two storey Rotary Bone Marrow Donor Centre building in Royal Parade Parkville was opened by the then Premier Jeff Kennett and for many years housed the important research facilities and the donor registry that John Opie had originally envisaged. In more recent years, as the reliance on Bone marrow transplants in leukemic treatment has declined in favour of alternative treatments, the BMDI is still making an important contribution to the treatment of leukaemia and other cancers at the Children's. Now rebranded as the 'Fight Cancer Foundation' it continues to do outstanding work in cancer treatment and the provision of accommodation and support for families of children who are often hospitalised for treatment for long periods.

Many share credit for this project. DG Gordon McKearn showed admirable confidence in the Rotarians in his District when he accepted the challenge of raising such a large sum of money, and the media were wonderfully supportive. But it was the commitment of Raymond Martyres assisted by Murray Chessell and others in the Club, that ensured the appeal was a success and the Rotary Bone Marrow Donor Centre in Royal Parade stands as a permanent reminder of one of Kew's finest contributions. Raymond was awarded an AM in 1997 for his contribution to this project.

Centennial Project - VATMI

Rotary International turned 100 in 2006 and RI urged the clubs of the World to mark the occasion with a significant local Project.

Under the Presidency of David Kegele, we chose to support a rebuilding project for NetworkQ, a local charity which ran a sheltered workshop and provided other support to disabled people. Durham Strachan and Graeme Sheahan co-ordinated the Club's efforts in bringing this Centennial Project to fruition.

NetworkQ had at the time, lost its traditional premises due to government land development and PP Lindsay Noss, in his role as General Manager of the organisation, had persuaded the government to

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grant it some land on which to build a new facility. The land grant and financial support for a new building came with the proviso that VATMI, another similar charitable organisation located in Hawthorn, be merged with NetworkQ.

The Government's allocation merely covered the cost of the 'bare bones' building and the Club took on the role of providing some creature comforts for the disabled people working at and using the facility.

The project was agreed and \$50000 funding approved under the Presidency of David Kegele. The formal handover to VATMI occurred during Michael Conyers' presidency the following year, and with some diligent management the whole project was brought in significantly under budget.

But financial support was only a small part of the story. Because of PP Lindsay's close involvement in NetworkQ, the club was fully invested in the success of this important local charity.

We first furnished a lunch/recreation room, catering for some 150 people, with tables, chairs, a PA system and picture hanging facility for the walls, saving money by purchasing furniture in knocked down form, building cupboards and installing the picture hanging system ourselves.

On completion of the main building works, Kew Rotarians turned their attention to the major landscaping work at the front of the building and the construction of a paved patio area with outdoor seating and tables.

A series of working bees of 20 or so Rotarians descended on the site and transformed the outdoor area, moving dirt, laying paths creating gardens, planting trees and installing an automatic watering system, all under the watchful eye of President David Kegele, our own professional landscape contractor..

This project ticked all of RI's boxes for the centenary year. The whole club was involved, financial and practical support was provided and the expertise of many within the club was utilised.

By the time of the unveiling ceremony (which we also funded) we could be satisfied that we had played a significant role in assisting NetworkQ to continue - albeit with a new name (VATMI) - it's important work enriching lives of many disabled people.

Villa Maria - St Paul's School Kew

St Pauls School for the Blind, run by the Villa Maria Society, stands at the heart of Kew Junction and has provided services to blind children since 1957. At the start of this century Villa Maria expanded its services to care for and educate profoundly disabled children at its school, and set out on a \$3m building appeal to fund the changes

Kew first became directly involved following an approach to Lindsay Noss in his year in 2001-2.

Following speakers from Villa Maria and visits to the facilities, the cause was enthusiastically supported by Alan Martin and Frank O'Sullivan and by subsequent Presidents and many others in the club.

Our first target was the funding of the fit out of a new sensory room which would provide a valuable educational environment for profoundly disabled children through touch and other sensory stimulation. The Club approved an initial contribution of \$25000 from funds released following the closure of the Swinburne Bursary fund and a further significant contribution the following year.

Several years later, in 2012, with Jill Forsyth's support, we raised and donated \$12,000 for the purchase of the school bus which still proudly bears the name of the Rotary Club of Kew.

Our proud involvement in the wonderful work of this school has been one of our most significant local financial contributions.

Golf

Kew is the home of some fine Golf Clubs and keen golfers have always been active in our membership.

John Kennedy, our longest serving Rotarian with 52 years of service so far, was on the Australian PGA tour in its early days playing with such greats as Player, Niklaus and Thompson and working, when he first joined us, as the club professional at Greenacres. John playing off scratch, together with the Don McRae, then President of Camberwell, won the World Rotary Golf Cup played at Royal Melbourne during the World Convention in 1971.

For many years we have met for lunch at golf courses, firstly at the Par3 public course in Studley

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Park Rd and now at Kew Golf Club, and we have often held change-overs and other functions at Greenacres. It was to be expected therefore that we should base some Club activities around the Royal and Ancient game.

In the 90s, hole in one competitions were a popular form of fund raising and ours was one of the earliest. John Kennedy demonstrated just how easy it would be by chipping a ball across the room at one of our meetings into a waste paper basket and we were sold on the idea.

The then Kew Council kindly made the first hole on the par 3 course available for a weekend and we went to work. Murray Chessell formed a committee, rules were formulated and sponsorship for the prize was obtained from our old art show supporter Stillwells and elsewhere. Arrangements were made to publicise the event with large real estate boards - courtesy of Collins Sims (PP John Simms' old firm) - which were set up on Studley Park Rd. Rosters were organised for the weekend with many helpers on each shift to collect entry fees, marshal competitors, return golf balls and pick up the many errant shots that made their way to adjacent fairways.

The passing traffic stopped and the event, and 2 others which followed in subsequent years, were well patronised. Extraordinarily the prize money, normally the cream of the fund raising, was won each year and on one occasion, only after a play off.

A much more sophisticated golfing connection was made by a committee including Vernon Wood, Graeme Sheahan, Harry Belli and Peter Stewart who organised and ran 3 successful Golf day at Kew Golf Club drawing on an enthusiastic group of Rotary and Corporate contacts to provide significant funds for various Club projects.

Garden
designfest.

District Governors often point out that great Rotary projects are always generated from one person's idea. In the case of the GDF, John Patrick was that person, and his idea has resulted in an event that has raised over \$500000 for Rotary charities to date, is administered in a unique "partnership" with two other District 9800 clubs, involves many other clubs across Victoria, and has been exported to NZ where it is run by an Auckland based Rotary Club.

Mike McFarlane chaired the first organising committee in 2004 and, with a lot of hard work, a format for the event was put in place which has underpinned all subsequent events.

By featuring the work of garden designers, and by giving visitors the chance to meet the designers in their gardens, the event distinguishes itself from the usual open garden schemes and attracts a dedicated following of local, interstate and international garden design enthusiasts.

The event has been held every second year and has been supported by some of Victoria's leading garden designers and up and comers alike. The designers appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution to the fund raising causes and welcome the opportunity to discuss their work with the visitors to their gardens. In all, 212 gardens have been opened to the public and 80 individual landscape designers have exhibited their work. Of the 80 designers who have been involved, four, John Patrick, Rick Eckersley, Paul Bangay and Steve Taylor have shown at least one garden each year since the beginning. Over the seven GDF events staged so far it is estimated that there have been close to 100,000 garden visits!

Not only has GDF been a highly successful fundraising event, it has also significantly helped in raising the profile of Rotary in the community. For many years as a component of the overall promotion of GDF, we participated in the ABC Garden Show Expo held at Caulfield racecourse. Our stand at this Expo gave us an opportunity to speak to the public about Rotary in general, while promoting the GDF. So successful has the event become that it is now recognised as a 'major event' by Tourism Victoria.

The task of the organising committee is formidable. Sufficient willing designers with suitable gardens must be identified, owners must consent, a volunteer work force to manage each garden must be recruited and coordinated, sponsorship and advertising secured, the event publicised and all collateral



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produced and distributed.

Since the beginning a guiding principal has been the aim to cover all costs associated with staging the event by securing major sponsorship and selling advertising space in the high quality GDF Booklet. There have been many loyal businesses that have provided continued financial support by way of advertising. Over 50's Insurance, Your Garden Magazine, Anston Paving and Fletcher's Real Estate and ASA Cultural Tours must be acknowledged as having provided major cash sponsorships.

Kew managed the organisation of the event exclusively from 2004 to 2012. In 2014 we were assisted on the organising committee by some members from Brighton North Rotary Club and in 2016 we organised the event as a joint venture with Brighton North and Central Melbourne RC. Many other clubs, starting with our cluster and now extending to all locations where the event is



held, assist with the manning of sites over the open days, as do some of the target charities and other volunteers.

Gardens in the metropolitan area and Mornington Peninsula have always been included and one major rural garden was also opened in 2008. In 2016 the event was expanded to include gardens in regional areas.

Many members have contributed their time and resources to the success of this event and in the early years we were greatly assisted by Jenny Wade, a volunteer with industry experience, and Simon Howe who did the early work on the highly successful

website that complements the event. Ian Dalton, a professional graphic artist, has designed all the graphic artwork including advertising, signage and the garden booklet, pro bono, for every GDF since 2004. This has been, and continues to be, the most significant contribution by a non-Rotarian to the financial success of the event. Another friend of the Club, David Maiden, made a major contribution in 2016 by formalising our marketing campaign and putting in place a marketing template to guide us in the future. In 2016 we also engaged with Swinburne University who volunteered the services of appropriate undergraduates to establish a complementary social media program which will no doubt be built upon in future years. Other important input and support has been received from John Patrick who has been the patron of the event since his retirement from membership, and has assisted in various ways in all events. Club chairs of the OC have included Mike McFarlane, Michael DeVincentis, Graeme Sheahan, Jill Forsyth and Chris Ewart. Fred Payne made a major contribution for many years by organising the hundreds of volunteers required to man the gardens. Andrew Kors and Murray Chessell and others have also made important contributions. However the long term success of the project is undoubtedly due to the commitment of Graeme Sheahan who has been a major contributor since the early days. The Club has relied heavily on his knowledge, skill and judgement on all aspects of the project and his tireless contribution has been recognised by the Club with a number of PH awards over the years.

ALOLA

The Club is proud to have Jill Forsyth amongst our membership.

The generosity of her response to humanitarian causes, in both time and resources, is admired by all. One such enduring cause is Alola.

Jill was deeply involved at the outset of the Timor Leste based Alola Foundation which was formally established in 2001 by Kirsty Sword Gusmão. In 2006 she arranged for Kirsty to speak to a highly successful fund raising breakfast at Leonda organised by the Club, chaired by Mike McFarlane and widely supported by the cluster and beyond.

The initial focus of the Foundation was to raise awareness and campaign against sexual and gender-based violence in Timor-Leste but it has grown to include a wider range of programs - advocacy, economic empowerment, education, literacy, and maternal and child health, that assist the women and children of Timor-Leste.

Jill has facilitated connections for the Club with Alola at a number of levels, with soap wrapping being perhaps the most visible. Faithful supporters of this project have been meeting regularly at

History of the Rotary Club of Kew

Jill's house for many years to wrap soap made by women working in Alola enterprises in Dili, for sale in Australia. Products from this and other such social enterprises are regularly presented by Kew and other Rotary clubs to guest speakers.

Social enterprise projects, such as soap making, provide significant benefits in Timor Leste. Soap making alone provides families with income that has been estimated to supply over half a million meals each year.

Other Alola projects now train and find work for women in a range of agribusinesses, and in paper making, packaging, traditional weaving, jewellery making, fashion, and business.

The Club, and some of its members have been able to provide some financial support and in 2014 we sponsored a young Timorese woman to join the RC of Dili. However it is Jill who has taken fund raising to a new level with a new enterprise.

In 2015 Jill organised a pop-up shop over the Christmas season in High Street Kew with space kindly donated by Bob Stewart. The success of this short term project which focussed on the sale of Alola products and products from other social enterprises, led Jill to secure long term retail premises in Camberwell Junction the following year.

Here with a massive commitment of time and energy, she has now established a 7 day a week second hand goods shop which has evolved into the 'Good Deeds and Good Reads' shop selling mostly books while still supporting Alola and other social enterprise products although its principal beneficiary is now the DIK store.

Many in the club have supported the shop including Graeme Sheahan and Carl Zammit in the establishment phase in particular, but practical support for the project day to day, including a small group of rostered 'shop managers', has mostly come from other rotary clubs and elsewhere.

However the success of this project has, and will continue to be, wholly dependent on Jill's steely determination to make a difference and her willingness to shoulder an unusually heavy load in the process.

The Sumba Eye Program

RC Kew has been a keen supporter of this program since its inception and takes great pride in the work done on the program by our long time member Peter Stewart OAM.

Peter - an optometrist, together with Rotarian and ophthalmologist Mark Ellis from Glenferrie - and another optometrist - Peter Lewis were the founding members of the Program.

Since 2006 they have been travelling each year to the remote Indonesian Island of Sumba, where the population live a subsistence lifestyle. Here they provide professional eye care to Islanders who would otherwise be unable to afford, or have any opportunity to get proper treatment.

In the years that have followed the team has grown, and training local Para-medicals and nurses has become an important part of the plan.

To date, in 14 one week visits, the team has

- seen over 10000 patients

- performed over 850 cataract operations

- dispensed over 8000 pairs of glasses and over 2000 pairs of sunglasses.

In 2009 Mike McFarlane travelled to Sumba with the team and returned with remarkable footage of the life changing operations and the heartwarming pictures of the first experience of sight restored when the bandages are removed.

The Sumba Eye Program has been a collaborative association with Rotary, The Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS) and many others who have donated generously to date. At Kew Rotary we have been able to support the program through various projects, most notably the Garden Designfest, and by facilitating Rotary grants for the purchase of extra equipment.

As trust in the program has grown, it has gained recognition in Indonesia and Australia. Over 35 different professional and other observers have travelled on the projects over the years and substantial progress is being made in collaboration with, and training of local professionals.

Peter writes, "A side effect of this journey has been the wonderful friendships that have developed between all members, Australian and Sumbanese, over the years. The many Ophthalmologists and nurses, the Rotary volunteers, the local people who give wholeheartedly of their time to be our interpreters and assistants, the staff of the Sumba foundation who assist us, they are now our friends and part of our family".

Life After Stroke

President Bob Slater AM is a Rotarian, with a proud history of Rotary service and a remarkable capacity to analyse a problem and to plan and manage a Rotary solution, no matter how daunting the task.

When his own wife Ruth suffered a stroke, Bob was struck by one gaping hole in the road to recovery. When patients are discharged from medical care and formal rehabilitation programs cease, in many cases they still face enormous challenges in returning to 'normal life' and, for those of working age, in finding suitable employment. To make matters worse these challenges are often experienced by people without connections to families or other support networks.

Bob's solution, 'Life After Stroke', is a program to link stroke survivors seeking employment with a Rotary mentor who has the vocational and network connections and capacity to assist.

Bob was a Carlton RC member when he conceived the idea. He first connected with Kew in his two years as AG in the (now) Riverside Cluster. His advocacy of the plight of stroke survivors and his proposed solution struck a chord at our Club and Bob moved to Kew in 2014, becoming our president in 2016.

Mentor training, facilitated by Justin Wibrow at the Rotary Club of Yarra Bend, was undertaken by a number of our members in 2014 and 2015 and the scope of the program has broadened over the years. It is now conducted in partnership with Stroke Association of Victoria (SAV), which, via the program, is able to source Rotarians and Friends of Rotary to mentor stroke survivors wishing to re-engage with community activities and/or paid work. Rotary has also provided much needed financial support to SAV to expand its important work in early peer support and confidence building during the early recovery stages.

The project was given a District 9800 endorsement in 2015 with Kew as the lead club and plans are in place for local Rotary clubs to support the development of SAV hubs, e.g. in Bendigo, Newport, Wyndham, Shepparton, Whitehorse and Ballarat, to add to those already established in Boroondara and Barwon.

Bob has been well supported at the Club by Jill Forsyth, Michael Conyers, Jenny Chang and Lloyd Knight in particular, but it is his unswerving commitment that has driven its progress. He received a D9800 PHF recognition, and an RI Vocational Service Leadership Award in 2015, and a Service Above Self Award in 2016 for his contribution.

The Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



Years Of Rotary Club of Kew

Life After Stroke



Sumba Eye Program



End Polio Now



Good Reads,
Good Deeds



Garden Designfest



The Kew Golf Club - 120 Belford Road, Kew East Victoria